

Trinity Tank Car to close local plant

Second area facility will continue to operate

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Trinity Tank Car will close its location on Jordan Valley Road as of Sept. 30 as part of a restructuring plan, a company spokesman said Friday.

A second location, though — on Shady Brook Lane between Longview and Hallsville — will continue operating, with

the company planning to make capital investments there, according to Jack Todd, vice president of public affairs for Trinity Industries Inc.

Closing Plant No. 200 on Jordan Valley Road will mean 156 people will be laid off, leaving close to 300 people employed by Trinity Tank Car at Plant 19 on Shady Brook Lane. Some of the equipment from Plant 200 will be transferred to Plant 19, Todd said.

Todd said he couldn't pro-

vide details, but he said additional investments are planned for the Shady Brook Lane site.

Tank cars are manufactured at the Jordan Valley site, while the Shady Brook Lane site has been used for painting or adding coatings to the tank cars. Todd said that location will have a new focus on making specialty tank cars.

Todd said the decision to restructure operations in Longview was based on various market pressures.



The Trinity Tank Inc. plant at 708 Jordan Valley Road in Longview is seen in March 2016. The facility is set to close in September. (Kevin Green/Longview News-Journal File Photo)

WAGGIN' AND SPLASHIN'

Canines rule the pool at Dog Days of Summer in Longview



A pooch takes in the sights, sounds and smells Saturday during the Dog Days of Summer event at Ingram Pool in Longview. ( Les Hassell/News-Journal Photo)

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Four legs were in fashion Saturday at Longview's Ingram Pool for the annual Dog Days of Summer event.

Canines and their owners took over the pool from 10 a.m. to noon for dogs-only swim.

The event held every August is the official end of the city of Longview's outdoor pool season, although splash pads remain open.

Those facilities are:

- Jack Mann Splash Pad, 100 H.G. Mosley Pkwy.;
- Armstrong Splash Pad at Broughton Park, 801 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.;
- Rotary Park Splash Pad, 500 Baylor Drive; and
- Stamper Park Splash Pad, 400 Fair St.

The Spring Hill Park Splash Pad is closed for construction.

For information about Longview splash pads, go to [longviewtexas.gov/3174/Splash-Pads](http://longviewtexas.gov/3174/Splash-Pads).



Sara Willhoit plays in the water with her dog, Devo, on Saturday during the Dog Days of Summer event at Ingram Pool in Longview. ( Les Hassell/News-Journal Photo)

Texas Dems flee state in bid to block new congressional maps

KAYLA GUO  
The Texas Tribune

AUSTIN — Texas Democratic lawmakers fled the state Sunday in a bid to block passage of a new congressional map designed to give the GOP five additional seats in the U.S. House next year, raising the stakes in what looks poised to become a national fight over redistricting ahead of next year's midterm election.

The maneuver, under-

taken by most of the Texas House's 62 Democrats, deprives the Republican-controlled chamber of a quorum — the number of lawmakers needed to function under House rules — ahead of a scheduled Monday vote on the draft map. The 150-member House can only conduct business if at least 100 members are present, meaning the absence of 51 or more Democrats can bring the Legislature's ongoing special session to

a halt.

"This is not a decision we make lightly, but it is one we make with absolute moral clarity," state Rep. Gene Wu, chair of the House Democratic Caucus, said in a statement, in which he accused Gov. Greg Abbott of "using an intentionally racist map to steal the voices of millions of Black and Latino Texans, all to execute a corrupt political deal."

Most House Democrats left Texas Sunday after-

noon en route to Chicago, with some also headed to New York to meet with Gov. Kathy Hochul, who has condemned Texas' mid-decade redistricting effort and entertained the idea of retaliating with new maps in her state.

There are just over two weeks left of the Texas Legislature's special session, during which Abbott has also asked lawmakers to take up measures responding to the deadly July 4

Hill Country floods, stiffer regulations for consumable hemp, and contentious GOP priorities such as cracking down on abortion pills and the bathrooms transgender people can use. The prospects for those items, along with the new redistricting maps, were immediately thrown in doubt by the Democrats' departure.

In his statement, Wu said Democrats "will not allow disaster relief to be held hostage to a Trump gerry-

mander."

"We're not walking out on our responsibilities; we're walking out on a rigged system that refuses to listen to the people we represent," he said. "As of today, this corrupt special session is over."

Democrats have excoriated the mid-decade redistricting plan — which was demanded by President Donald Trump ahead of a

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Today's weather

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