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The Little People Paper

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RADIOGRAM

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Monday
February 6th, 2023

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News at 7:10am & 12, 6pm & 10pm

The Weather



The High Yesterday: 51° **The Low This morning** 73°

Today: Look for skies to be mostly cloudy with a high temperature topping out near 71°. Wind will be S near 15-20 mph with possible gusts of 35 mph.

Tonight: Look for increasing clouds and the low temperature will be near 59°. Wind will be S near 15-20 mph gusting to 30 mph.

Tuesday: Look for cloudy skies with a 70% chance of rain. The high temperature will be near 65°. The wind will become W at 5-15 mph gusting to 20 mph.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy skies with a low temperature near 43°. Wind will be N-NW near 15 mph gusting to 25 mph with a 70% chance of precipitation.

Wednesday: Partly sunny skies with a forecast high near 58° and a 70% chance of precipitation. Wind will be NW near 15 mph with possible gusts of 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear skies with a low near 41°. Wind will be W-NW at 5-10 mph shifting SW overnight.

Some Austin Homes Still Without Electricity

(Texas Tribune) Nearly 95% of Austin now has electricity after last week's winter storm, but the city's utility says some of the fewer than 30,000 homes and businesses still without power Sunday night might have to wait another week for it to be restored.

Austin Energy said Sunday it has moved on to addressing the most complicated and time-consuming outages around the city and it expects that many customers will get their lights on before Feb. 12.

Ice from last week's winter storm broke tree branches, felled entire trees and pulled down power lines across Central Texas and a large swath of the state. On Wednesday, more than 400,000 Texas households and businesses were without electricity.

I'm sorry for how long this is taking," Austin Energy general manager Jackie Sargent said at a Sunday afternoon press conference.

But even as progress has been made, more outages could be on the horizon this week with strong winds forecast for Tuesday. City Manager Spencer Cronk said more tree limbs could fall on power lines and advised residents to avoid parking under trees. Tuesday's winds could slow down ongoing repairs.

Austin-area schools will reopen campuses Monday after the freeze prompted closures last week. Austin Independent School District said all but one of its campuses of have power restored. Student at that school will have class at another nearby school on Monday.

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for seven counties on Saturday. Austin was the epicenter of the ice storm's damage. The local and state disaster declarations mean repairs in Austin will

be reimbursed by Federal Emergency Management Agency. Cronk also said the city will "explore options" for reimbursing citizens financially.

More than 170,000 Austin Energy customers lacked power Wednesday. Leaders in the city, the tech capital of Texas, fumbled digital communications amid the crisis, drawing scorn and frustration from residents.

Getting the power back on has been hindered by the sheer number of incidents crews are trying to fix. Improper pruning and drought may have contributed to the massive amount of damage to Austin's urban tree canopy, which prompted many of the power outages.

The destruction and prolonged loss of electricity renewed a debate about whether Texas cities should prioritize extreme weather preparedness even though it can be extremely costly.

For many Texans, the ice storm stirred up memories of previous crises, like 2021's deadly winter storm that caused the state's power grid to nearly collapse and plunged millions into darkness amid subfreezing temperatures.

Austin crews slowly began restoring electricity last week, neighbors rushed to help each other remove fallen trees from roofs and yards. Residents who still lacked power this weekend spent their days searching for refuge in libraries, tossing out spoiled groceries and finding places to charge electronics.

Raises for Texas teachers:

(from the Texas Tribune) Texas teachers are hopeful that this session lawmakers will use some of the historic \$32.7 billion budget surplus to fund raises for educators. Texas currently ranks 28th in the nation for teacher pay, \$7,652 less than the national average, according to the latest report from the National Education Association.

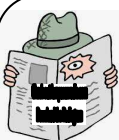
Both Republicans and Democrats have signaled that they intend to use some of the extra money for teacher raises. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick already listed teacher pay raises as one of his legislative priorities late last year, (*cont'd on back*)

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The Blotter



The Lampasas Police Dept. blotter for Saturday shows the arrest at 1:28pm of Wesley Bo Shannon, 28, of Lampasas in the 500 block of S. Walnut St. on 2 Lampasas Municipal Warrants (no driver's license and failure to yield right of way). A suspicious person was reported in the 200 block of E. Ave J at 4:09pm, a harassment was reported in the 700 block of Old Georgetown Rd. at 5:30pm, a suspicious person was reported in the 1400 block of S. Key Ave. at 9:59pm and a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 100 block of Olive St. at 10:34pm.

The Lampasas Police Dept. blotter for Sunday shows a suspicious person reported in the 200 block of E. 5th St. at 12:54pm, an assault was reported in the 1400 block of W. Ave B, a criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of W. 1st St. at 4:07pm, and a theft was reported in the 600 block of S. Western St. at 4:52pm. There was a minor accident in the 700 block of S. Key Ave. at 5:04pm, a noise complaint came in from the 700 block of E. 5th St. at 9:19pm and a minor accident took place in the 700 block of W. Ave. B at 9:44pm.

The Lampasas County Sheriff's Dept. Blotter for the weekend shows Lometa with reports of stolen vehicles. In Kempner there was a shots fired call, medical calls, reports of suspicious activity, livestock/animal issues, a reported theft and a reported disturbance. Out in the county there were utility problems, requested welfare checks, reported disturbances, noise complaints, medical calls, a structure fire, a grass fire, animal issues, civil matters, juvenile problems and a warrant was served. Deputies went into Cove on a reported disorderly conduct.

The Jail Log shows the arrest of 53 year old Robert Lee Higginbotham of Kempner for assault causing bodily injury/family member.

The Burn Ban has been lifted.

(*cont'd from front*) and Gov. Greg Abbott's office said in a statement last week that he will "continue working with the Legislature to support our teachers."

But while teacher raises may be a bipartisan issue this session, Republicans may be at odds with Democrats over how to get it done.

A couple of bills calling for teacher raises have already been filed, including one which would give teachers a \$15,000 pay raise and other school employees a 25% pay raise. At least one estimate from the Association of Texas Professional Educators says those raises would cost \$12 billion every two years.

Current budget proposals from both the Senate and House have also pitched raises for teachers, including allocating additional funding for a program that gives teachers raises based on their performance. Some educators have voiced concerns that raises could be used as a bargaining chip as Republicans seek more support for "school choice" programs.

But some teachers say that any across-the-board raise would be helpful even if the amount drops.

Constant Coverage
CBS News KCYL 1450AM

Jupiter has 92 Moons

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronomers have discovered 12 new moons around Jupiter, putting the total count at a record-breaking 92. That's more than any other planet in our solar system. Saturn, the one-time leader, comes in a close second with 83 confirmed moons.

The Jupiter moons were added recently to a list kept by the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center, said Scott Sheppard of the Carnegie Institution, who was part of the team. They were discovered using telescopes in Hawaii and Chile in 2021 and 2022, and their orbits were confirmed with follow-up observations.

These newest moons range in size from 0.6 miles to 2 miles (1 kilometer to 3 kilometers), according to Sheppard.

"I hope we can image one of these outer moons close-up in the near future to better determine their origins," he said in an email Friday. In April, the European Space Agency is sending a spacecraft to Jupiter to study the planet and some of its biggest, icy moons. And next year, NASA will launch the Europa Clipper to explore Jupiter's moon of the same name, which could harbor an ocean beneath its frozen crust.

Sheppard — who discovered a slew of moons around Saturn a few years ago and has taken part in 70 moon discoveries so far around Jupiter — expects to keep adding to the lunar tally of both gas giants.

Jupiter and Saturn are loaded with small moons, believed to be fragments of once bigger moons that collided with one another or with comets or asteroids, Sheppard said.

The same goes for Uranus and Neptune, but they're so distant that it makes moon-spotting even harder.

For the record, Uranus has 27 confirmed moons, Neptune 14, Mars two and Earth one. Venus and Mercury come up empty.

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