



## Analysis: World absorbs historic wartime oil disruptions

BUSINESS, 3A

# Abilene Reporter-News

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# Abilenians pick up the pieces



The Allsup's at 765 Veterans Drive was damaged after 75 mph wind gusts swept through Abilene when a severe thunderstorm struck the city Sunday. Much of the city was left without power for the rest of the evening.

RONALD W. ERDRICH/REPORTER-NEWS

## Power outages continue after storm rips through city

**Ronald W. Erdrich**

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USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Abilene and the Big Country continued to wrestle Tuesday with the aftermath of Sunday night's severe weather and the damage wreaked by the storm's 75-mph wind.

With Monday's weather clearing, residents turned to cleaning the debris left over from the previous evening's event. Numerous tree limbs were reported down across Abilene, and for much of

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the day, the sound of chainsaws were heard in most neighborhoods.

Electrical service continued to be spotty in its coverage and challenging in its restoration. Crews were spread across the city and broader area as they worked to repair damage. AEP estimated 26,000 customers were left without power in the wake of the storm.

By Monday, that number had dropped to 6,000 customers.

At noon Tuesday, the utility advised 2,300 customers were still without electricity, according to a post on the

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**BIG SPRING**

# Federal prison slated to close

**Trish Choate**

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A federal prison in Big Spring is permanently closing as the Federal Bureau of Prisons seeks to remedy a funding shortfall, a media release said.

The Big Spring Federal Correctional Institute and Satellite Camp for men is among six prisons shuttering in the wake of "decades of deferred maintenance and extreme staffing challenges," prison officials said in a recent media release.

There will be a reduction-in-force at Big Spring FCI and Satellite Camp, federal officials said.

Prison officials said the BOP has a deferred maintenance backlog over \$4 billion. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act will help take care of some of the needs but doesn't provide enough funding to fully meet them.

House District 72 candidate Shiloh Salazar said on Facebook that the closure will directly impact over 200 federal workers and 500 residents, as well as indirectly impact 1,500 people in Howard County.

Salazar said the Big Spring prison is one of the area's biggest employers.

The Democrat is challenging state Rep. Drew Darby in the Nov. 3 General Election. Darby of San Angelo is a long-time Republican lawmaker in the Texas Legislature.

The low security prison with an adjacent minimum security camp houses 505 inmates in the FCI and I12 inmates at the camp for a total of 617, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Other Texas facilities are among the prisons the BOP is besides Big Spring FCI:

- Beaumont FCI Low in Beaumont
- La Tuna FCI, Federal Satellite Low for low-security inmates, and Satellite Camp in El Paso County

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## Fire crews respond to multiple holiday blazes

**Ronald W. Erdrich**

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USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

A number of fires broke out over the Fourth of July weekend with one displacing some residents, according to Abilene Fire Department media releases.

On Sunday at about 1:45 p.m., crews responded to the report of a fire at Copper Creek Apartments in the 3500 block of Curry Lane. Upon arrival, firefighters observed heavy smoke and fire emerging from the second story of an apartment building.

Ladder crews established an aerial stream as crews attacked the fire from the interior. The blaze was contained to the single building, but after a partial collapse and extensive fire damage it was ruled a total loss.

The cause of the fire is undetermined, and the estimated damage is \$250,000. The building's residents safely escaped and the American Red Cross was contacted to assist them.

On Saturday, crews responded to a report of a residential structure fire in the 1200 block of Musken Road. Arriving crews observed a one-story apartment building with smoke coming from one of the unit windows.

The fire was quickly contained to an apartment. The resident was not home at the time. Adjacent apartments were evacuated out of precaution only, and the fire was determined accidental with an approximate damage estimate at \$15,000.

That same day, crews responded at about 11 p.m. to a fire in the 1400 block of Forrest Hill Road in far south Abilene. A single-story home there was emitting smoke and fire from the rear of an attached garage.

Crews attacked the flames and kept it from spreading farther into the house. The cause was determined to be accidental and pointed to fireworks being improperly discarded after use. The estimated damage was about \$3,000.

Half an hour later, crews were dis-

patched to a reported fire in the 1100 block of South 14th St. Firefighters arrived to find a single-story house with smoke pouring out the front door and bystanders at a front bedroom window trying to put the fire out with a garden hose.

Crews entered the house, found the fire to be contained to that same bedroom, and quickly put it out. Cause of the blaze is still to be determined pending further investigation, damages were estimated to be about \$3,500.

On Sunday just after 9:30 p.m., an AFD fire truck responding to a fire alarm observed a large glow in the sky. Upon further investigation they learned it to be coming from a large commercial building on fire in the 800 block of Walnut St.

Additional crews were called and upon entry, the fire was found on the southeast corner of the building's interior and quickly extinguished. The cause was traced to an electrical malfunction, and damage was estimated to be about \$5,000.

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