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The Little People Paper On the side of truth and the common Lampasan.

**Friday** February 3rd, 2023

www.LampasasRadio.com News at 7:10am & 12, 6pm & 10pm

### The Weather

The High yesterday 36° The Low this morning 32°

Today: Look for mostly sunny skies and a high near 49°. Wind will be N-NW near 5-10 mph shifting E-NE this afternoon.

**Tonight**: Look for mostly clear skies and a low near 27° with patches of freezing fog early Saturday morning. Wind will become S-SW near 5 mph overnight.

**Saturday**: Look for areas of freezing fog before 9am, then mostly sunny skies with a high temperature near 58°. Wind will be S at 5-15 mph with possible gusts of 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Look for partly cloudy skies with a low temperature near 38°. The wind will be SW near 5-10.

**Sunday:** Sunny skies with a high temperature near 67°. Wind will be SW at 5-10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear skies with a low temperature near 46°. Wind will be S near 10-15 mph with possible gusts of 25 mph.

## Ain't Life Wonderful! Ronnie Witcher

#### Let's all wave!

I'm glad something came along to take our collective mind off of the ice and politics.

That Chinese spy balloon that's floating along over Montana and Idaho! They say it's up there at 66,000 feet or so. That would be a challenge for my cell phone camera, but I guess they've got a lot better one, and it can get pictures of an occasional cow or an antelope.



I guess nobody knows what the Chinese are lookin' for, so our spy-catcher folks have decided to let it be. They say they could



shoot it down, but it isn't worth the trouble, and the Chinese say they're sorry. They say it was a harmless domestic balloon that just strayed with the wind. I'm good with that, but our Radiogram lady, Mary, say's she thinks there somethin' more to all this. I tease her and tell her she believes in all the conspiracy theories.

Anyway, as long as our Chinese friends know we know... I think the best thing we can do is just all go outside and wave. Just think, If we all smiled real big and waved, they could get a real Kodak moment picture and, if they spread it around town Beijing...I guess they have Facebook... maybe they'd get the idea we were pretty nice folks after all... and we could start trading with them again. It would be good for everybody. That's what I think about that!

So, here's hoping the ice has thawed out at your house, and do me a favor when you go to the car...

Look up at the northwest sky. Smile real big now...and WAVE!

And remember, we're rootin' for ya!

### ...and the Beat Goes On

Music in Lampasas County, 1880-2023

The Lampasas County Museum and the exhibit focusing on the musical offerings in our county will remain closed today due to the weather.

However, the Museum will be open tomorrow from 10am to 4pm so be sure to stop by the hear the first of the Saturday Concerts: Zach Huckabee at 1pm and Zac & Marci Morris at 2pm.

Next Saturday February 11th will feature the Texas Elderly Brothers at 1pm and Rick Harrison on guitar at 3pm.

## **TxDOT to Hold Meeting on US281N Expansion**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to widen US 281 from US 183 in Lampasas to US 84 in Evant.

TxDOT will conduct an online virtual public meeting on the proposed project with in-person options. . The presentation will be posted online on next Tuesday, February 7th by 12pm. To log onto the virtual public meeting, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.TxDOT.gov and Search "US 281 - Lampasas to Evant." Following the virtual public meeting, the presentation will remain available for viewing until Monday Mar. 3rd at 11:59pm.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to hear a presentation that includes the same information as the online public meeting, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, (cont'd on back)

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#### Friday February 3rd:

And the Beat Goes On. Exhibit of Lampasas Music History @ Lampasas County Museum. For Info:

512.556.2224

#### Tuesday, February 14:

American Red Cross Blood Drive 1st St. Church of Christ 11:30am-5:30pm

#### Wednesday, February 15:

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### The Blotter

The Lampasas Police Dept. Blotter for Thursday shows the early morning arrest of Julien Amparan, 23, of Lampasas on Hillcrest Dr. for DWI at 2:52am. At 7:04am, Manuel Lopez-Marez, 47, of Lampasas was arrested in the 1200 block of Barnes St. on a Lampasas PD warrant for theft. The afternoon shows a burglary of a motor vehicle reported in the 200 block of Riverview Dr. at 12:12pm and an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle report in the 700 block of S. Pecan St. at 5:07pm.

**The Lampasas County Sheriff's Dept**. for Thursday shows Kempner with medical calls, a requested welfare check and an alarm call. Out in the county there were civil matters and deputies went into Cove on a requested welfare check.

The Burn Ban has been lifted.

(cont'd from front) and leave written comments.

The meeting date for Lampasas is next Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm at the New Covenant Church at 1604 CTE in Lampasas. There will be another in-person meeting in Evant on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm at Evant ISD 339 Memory Lane in Evant.

The project proposes to widen US 281, between US 183 and US 84 with two additional travel lanes in either a northbound or southbound direction for a total of four lanes; improve safety by separating traffic with a grassy median; and add crossovers along US 281 within the project to facilitate access to both sides of the highway. The total length of the project is approximately 28 miles. Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to: TxDOT Brownwood District Office, 2495 HWY 183 N., Brownwood, Texas 76802. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Jodie.Kelly@txdot.gov. All comments must be received on or before Friday, March 3rd to be included in the official meeting record. Responses to comments received, once they have been prepared, will be available online on the project page at TxDOT.gov and Search US 281 Lampasas to Evant.

# School Vouchers on the Horizon in Texas?

The State Board of Education on Thursday night took steps to walk back its previous decision to ask lawmakers to reject vouchers or anything that reduces "funding to public schools." It appears that the board may stay neutral on "school choice" policies.

The 15-member board had already voted on its legislative priorities in late November, which included rejecting school vouchers. But some board members like Keven Ellis and Tom Maynard believed it was wise for the board not to get involved in the voucher fight this spring. Members voted 8-5 to preliminarily strike the language from its priorities. A final vote will take place Friday.

The move from the board comes as Abbott on Tuesday night voiced his most explicit support yet for a school choice policy, saying that Texas needs to create an education savings account program.

"School choice" is a term used to describe programs that give parents state money to send their kids to schools outside of the state's public education system. Some Republicans in the Legislature believe this may be the year they expand school choice as some parents have been displeased with public schools over pandemic response mandates and about how race and history are taught in the classroom.

Texas already practices school choice, as parents can choose to send their children to free charter schools or transfer schools within or outside of their district.

In the Legislature this session, Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston, filed Senate Bill 176, which could become the most expansive piece of school choice legislation in the state if it were to pass. It would create an education savings account program that would allow parents to use state funds to pay for their children's private school, online schooling or private tutors.

Democratic members of the State Board of Education questioned why the priorities were brought up again when they had already voted in November ahead of the session that they would take a stance for public education and against vouchers.

### **Badger Sports**

#### Lady Badger Basketball

**The Lady Badgers** defeated the Marble Falls Mustangs last night 52-41 in a make-up game from Tuesday. Special congratulations goes out to Morgan Lovejoy for scoring her 1000<sup>th</sup> point! The Ladies play Jarrell next Tuesday to finish up regular season play.

#### **Badger Basketball**

**Badger Basketball** Varsity improved to (13-17/2-4) with a 63-54 win over Marble Falls last night. Top scorers were Carter Johnson with 12 points, Luke Shivers with 10 points, and Cameron Stokes with 9 points.

Tonight the Badgers host Gateway with 9<sup>th</sup> grade and JV tipping off at 5pm and Varsity at 6:15pm.

#### **Badger Soccer**

**Badger Soccer** will host China Spring today with JV boys and girls beginning at 4pm, the Varsity Girls at 5:30pm and the Varsity Boys at 7:30pm.

**Badger Soccer** will travel to Gatesville Monday to make up games postponed from 1/31/23. The Girls will play at 4:30pm and the boys will play at 6:30pm.

#### **Badger Baseball**

**Badger Baseball** travels to Cove tomorrow for a scrimmage there at 1:30pm.

