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

Wednesday May 17th, 2023

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

The Weather



The high vesterday 84° This morning's low 58°

Today: Look for sunny skies and a high temperature near 85°. There will be a light W-NW wind near 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear skies and the low temperature will dip to near 63°. Wind will be SE near 5 mph.

Thursday: Skies will be sunny with a high temperature near 88°. Wind will be S-SE near 5-10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy skies with a low near 68°. The wind will be from the S-SE near 10 mph.

Friday: Skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature near 91° and a 20% chance of showers and storms in the afternoon. S winds will be near 5-10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy skies and the low temperature will be near 65° with a 60% chance of showers and storms. Wind will be S near 10 mph shifting N overnight.

Texas Senate Approves Bill to Increase Charges in some Fentanyl Deaths

(Texas Tribune) Texans who provide someone with a fatal dose of fentanyl could face a murder charge under a bill the Texas Senate advanced Tuesday. As part of the Legislature's war on opioids, House Bill 6 would classify overdoses from fentanyl as "poisonings." The bill passed in a 30-1 vote.

HB 6 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 645, could effectively increase the penalties related to the sale and production of fentanyl.

On Tuesday, Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, the author on the Senate version of the bill, introduced an amendment to the bill to include the term "fentanyl poisoning" as an alternative to "fentanyl toxicity" when medical examiners complete the death certificate. If State Rep. Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth, signals support for the

Senate amendment, this legislation would be very close to becoming law.

HB 6 passed the House with a 124-21 vote on April 28. The Senate had previously passed Huffman's version of the legislation in March.

Supporters of the legislation argue the enhanced penalties give law enforcement more tools to help address a growing crisis in the state by holding dealers accountable. Critics say increasing penalties for sale and production of fentanyl could discourage people from seeking help for someone suffering from an overdose.

In other states that have increased penalties for people who sell or make fentanyl, overdose deaths have increased and family members and friends of those present when the victim took the drug have been charged.

State May Approve Money to buy Parklands

(Texas Tribune) The Texas House on Monday gave preliminary approval to two bills, Senate Bill 1648 and Senate Joint Resolution 74, that would, with voter approval, create a Centennial Parks Conservation Fund to invest up to \$1 billion to buy more land for the state parks system.

Advocates are calling it a "historic" and an "unprecedented" level of investment in the state's park system, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The bill and resolution by Sen. Tan Parker, R-Flower Mound, already have received an OK from the Senate and need a final vote in the House before heading to the governor's desk for final approval. The governor has called for an increase in the budget for state parks, and advocates are optimistic that he will approve the bills.

If he does, the issue will go before voters as a constitutional amendment in November, and the state could begin spending the money as early as Jan. 1. The state ranks 35th in the nation for state park acreage per capita, (cont'd on back)

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The Blotter



Lampasas Police Dept. blotter for Tuesday shows a reported burglary of a habitation in the 800 block of S. Walnut St. at 9:32am. At 9:48am, Cameron Brack, 18, was arrested in the 2700 block of 281S for possession of a controlled substance PG2 less than a gram in a drug free zone. The afternoon shows a minor accident in the 100 block of EE Ohnmeiss Dr. at 12:56pm, a reported theft in the 400 block of N. Ridge St. and a report of criminal mischief in the 1200 block of S. Western St. at 2:09pm. Craig Gatske, 25, of Lampasas was arrested in the 1200 block of Barnes St. at 2:36pm on 3 Lampasas Municipal warrants (possession of drug paraphernalia, violating driver's license restriction and fail to yield right of way/turning left). Suspicious activity was reported in the 1900 block of 281S at 3:26pm, a minor accident was reported in the 900 block of W. Ave C at 5:43pm and a criminal trespass was reported in the 1000 block of E. 4th St. at 6:43pm. There was a reported disturbance in the 100 block of EE Ohnmeiss Dr. at 7:07pm.

The Lampasas County Sheriff's Blotter for Tuesday shows Lometa with a reported trespassing. In Kempner there was a mental health call, animal issues, a reported disturbance, medical calls and civil matters. Out in the county there was a reported fraud, requested welfare checks, civil matters, animal issues, and delivery of a message. Deputies went into Cove on an alarm call, an accident and a report of an abandoned vehicle.

The Jail Log shows the arrest of 39 year old Bradley Barlett of Temple on 3 out-of-county charges. Also arrested was 23 year old Brent Johnson of Burnet on 2 out-of-county charges.

(cont'd from front) with about 636,000 acres of parkland for a population of over 29 million as of 2019. The report suggests that Texas needs to add 1.4 million acres of state parks by 2030 to meet the needs of its residents.

"The fund would be an essential tool in ensuring Texans have access to public park lands for generations to come," said state Rep. Armando Walle, a Houston Democrat. "This effort is a transformational effort, a Teddy Roosevelt kind of initiative." Parker said the state is struggling to keep up with increasing demand, and that's "why it's important for us to have a park fund to go and acquire new parks on behalf of the people of Texas."

Parks became a hot political topic at the Capitol after Fairfield Lake State Park, about 100 miles south of Dallas, announced it was closing because it's on leased land and the owner was selling the land. It is one of 14 state parks that sit on leased land.

Lawmakers have been in negotiations with the park's new owners to keep the park open to the public, and advocates have been pushing for funding to buy more parkland so there won't be a repeat of the Fairfield debacle.

As lawmakers make big investments in Texas parks, Kent said he hopes they will find a way not only to buy land for new parks but to preserve existing ones, too.He pointed to another set of bills, House Bill 3165 and House Joint Resolution 138 by Rep. Justin Holland, R-Rockwall, that might do just that. The bill would create a conservation fund that would provide grants to preserve water resources as well as local and state parks. The resolution would put the fund on the November ballot for voter approval.

Sports

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