

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

Wednesday
July 1st 2020

www.LampasasRadio.com

The Weather



The High yesterday 92° The Low this morning 77°

The Heat Advisory remains in effect today with a heat index of 100°-110°. It will still be fairly windy, but not as windy as yesterday. The hot and humid days continue through at least Friday with high temperatures between 95° and 100°. The heat advisory will be in effect through Thursday due to the high humidity.

Today: Heat Advisory in effect. Partly sunny skies and a high temperature near 94°, with a heat index near 103°. Winds will be S at 5-15 mph gusting to 25 mph.

Tonight: The skies will be mostly cloudy with a low near 78°. There will be S-SE breezes at 5-15 mph gusting to 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 98°. The wind will be S at 5-10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear and a low around 73°. Winds will be S at 5-10 mph.

Friday: Sunny and up to 99° with a SW wind at 5-10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear skies and a low temperature near 75°. The S-SE winds will continue at 5-15 mph gusting to 20 mph

Joint Resolution Issued by County Leaders

Lampasas County Judge Randy Hoyer, along with Mayors Misti Talbert of Lampasas, Keith Harvey of Kempner, and Carlos Garcia of Lometa issued a joint resolution yesterday.



According to the City of Lampasas Website, "County Judge and City Mayors of Lampasas County adopt joint resolution encouraging all citizens to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a business, commercial entity or other locations that involve close proximity with others in addition to other hygienic measures to protect themselves, their family, their neighbors, and all members of the community and to further reduce the spread of COVID-19"

Part of the proclamation reads:

"Now, Therefore be it resolved, that the undersigned Judge and Mayors, through adoption of this resolution, *strongly encourages* all citizens to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a business, commercial entity or other locations that involve close proximity with others in addition to other hygienic measures to protect themselves, their family, their neighbors, and all members of the community."

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Workforce Postponing Work-Search Requirements

The Texas Workforce Commission decided Tuesday to postpone reinstating a work-search requirement for out-of-work Texans receiving unemployment benefits.



The requirement that Texans be actively searching for a job in order to receive benefits was initially slated to go into effect Monday. But agency officials cited rising numbers of coronavirus cases and hospitalizations across Texas — as well as Gov. Greg Abbott's June 26 executive order scaling back the reopening of Texas businesses — in the commission's decision to postpone the reinstatement.

"Due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in Texas, TWC has decided to pause the return of work search requirements at this time," Ed Serna, the TWC's executive director, wrote in a press release. "We will continue to monitor the situation and make further recommendations in late July."

The mandate would have required out-of-work Texans requesting unemployment benefits to prove they engaged in at least three work-search activities. Self-employed workers would have had to prove they took at least three steps to reopen their businesses.

Contact Tracing in Texas

According to an article in the Texas Tribune "As Texas becomes a national hot spot for the new coronavirus, the state is still falling short on the governor's months-old goal to employ up to 4,000 contact tracers — and the number of virus detectives dropped recently when the state health agency reassigned hundreds of state workers. (cont'd on back)"



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10300 FM 2657 Kempner-Estate Sale in Oakalla Fri July 3rd-5th. 7-2. Something for everybody. Antiques, collectibles, radios, farm relics, car and truck parts, tools.



Wednesday July 1st

The Kitchen The Lampasas Soup Kitchen 5:30-6:30 Bible Study to follow

Thursday July 2nd: **The Kitchen** The Lampasas Soup Kitchen 11:30am-2pm

Saturday July 4th:

The VFW's postponed Memorial Day Gun Raffle will be held July 4th @ noon in the parking lot of VFW 8539 Lampasas.



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The Radiogram

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The Blotter.

Lampasas Police Dept. blotter for Tuesday shows a suspicious vehicle early in the morning in the 2700 block of 281S at 1:53am. There was a reported disturbance in the 800 block of E. 4th St. at 2:21am. There was a minor accident reported in the 800 block of S. Key at 9:41am. A criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of 580E at 10:18am. The afternoon shows suspicious activity in the 600 block of S. Main at 4:17pm, a disturbance in the 1300 block of CTE at 4:23pm, and suspicious activity in the 100 block of EE Ohnmeiss Dr. at 4:42pm. The evening shows a suspicious vehicle in the 1000 block of S. Howe St. at 9:13pm and a reported fraud in the 700 block of W. 2nd St. at 9:50pm.

The Sheriff's Dept. Blotter for Tuesday shows Lometa with a civil warrant, a report of suspicious activity and an accident. Kempner had animal issues, a reported fraud, a harassment, a fire and a reported disturbance. Out in the county there were medical calls, and reported disturbances.

Earlier this month, 400 Texas Department of State Health Services employees who had been temporarily assigned to contact tracing were directed to other roles, including other COVID-19 response jobs, because there were sufficient personnel to track all the cases they were covering, spokesperson Lara Anton said.

Anton said the agency still has "enough tracers at the state level to meet our workload, and both we and local health departments continue to add staff."

In the parts of the state it is covering, she said, DSHS has enough workers to call every person who has a positive test result, as well as their contacts. The agency is also capable of providing "surge capacity" for the many local health departments that are handling the process themselves, Anton said, and the workforce can scale up as needed.

But experts say that a state with 29 million people where cases are climbing at an alarming rate needs as big a workforce as it can muster. "If you don't have enough people out there doing [contact tracing], it's difficult to stay on top of it. It's kind of like the dam's being broken open," said Rodney Rohde, a virologist and epidemiologist at Texas State University.

And health officials in some of Texas' biggest cities — some of whom have already asked the state for assistance — said they are struggling to keep pace with contact tracing as cases skyrocket. Of the state's 2,800 contact tracers, 1,250 are working in local health departments, Anton said.

Fox7 Austin reported Dr. Mark Escott, Interim Austin-Travis County health Authority said in a release: "Contact tracing in this time of uncontrolled widespread transmission is not going to be as effective, especially if people continue to have increased contact with others outside of their household."

"We're asking that people not depend on contact tracing at this stage of the outbreak, but instead lend us their support and engagement to join our mission to slow the spread of this relentless virus once again," Dr. Escott adds.

Contact tracing, the crucial but time-consuming process of reconstructing a patient's every move so that people who may have been exposed to the virus can self-isolate, has always

been considered an essential component of safely reopening Texas businesses after the statewide restrictions Abbott put in place in the spring. Workers painstakingly retrace a COVID-19 patient's steps and encourage anyone they may have infected to quarantine. Reaching every contact can take hours or even days.

If the state could test enough Texans, trace the contacts of those who tested positive and persuade those people to stay home, the theory went, the spread of the virus would slow, allowing Texans to slowly and cautiously return to work. Testing and contact tracing are "the centerpiece of any disease control strategy," said Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Problems with testing have complicated contact tracing efforts around the state. In some places, Texans must wait hours for tests — and then days or even weeks for their results. Those delays mean that an infected person could potentially expose more people before contact tracers can even begin their work.

Darlene Bhavnani, an infectious disease epidemiologist who leads a call center at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School with more than 100 contact tracers, said contact tracing is just one part of a strategy that needs to happen in conjunction with widespread testing and self-isolation by people who have been exposed to the virus.

Death/Funeral Notice

Danny Lee McNeil, 74 of Lampasas, Texas died Friday June 26, at Advent Health Central Texas Emergency Room.

He was born August 26, 1945 in Akron, Ohio to parents Harry and Jean McNeil. After high school graduation he entered the military and served proudly in the U.S. Army for 24 years. He retired as 1SG. Danny had lived in Lampasas since 1986 and was very involved in VFW, Amvets and American Legion. He was past Post Commander of VFW Post. He was an avid pool player and enjoyed watching golf.

He is survived by his Wife, Bonnie McNeil

Son, Brendon McNeil

Step-sons; Daniel Stone, William Kevish, Aubrey Carroll, Billy Carroll, Ray Pavey

Step-daughters; Donna Bardin, Connie Stapp

Sisters; Rickie Bond, Jackie Price

Numerous grandchildren

