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RADIOGRAM

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Monday
December 20th, 2021

www.LampasasRadio.com
News at 7:20am & 12, 6pm & 10pm

The Weather



The High yesterday 51° The Low this morning 39°

Today: Look for sunny skies and a high temperature about 57°. Wind will be light from the E-SE near 5 mph.

Tonight: Look for mostly clear skies with a low temperature near 37°. Wind will become calm.

Tuesday: Patchy fog is possible early in the morning, then sunny skies with a high temperature near 65°. Calm wind will become light from the southwest.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear skies with a low temperature near 40° and winds will become calm.

Wednesday: Sunny skies and a high temperature near 70°. Winds will become W-SW at 5-10 mph in the morning.

Wednesday Night: A low near 47° and mostly clear skies with winds from the S-SW at 5 mph, gusting to 25 mph.

Omicron Variant Spreading

(Texas Tribune) As the omicron variant of COVID-19 quickly spreads across the United States, public health experts fear that Texas' health care system could once again be overwhelmed by the disease within weeks.

"It's really accelerating fast," said Dr. Peter Hotez, a virologist at Baylor College of Medicine. "I think we're going to be in the middle of it by Christmas."

The new variant of the coronavirus was detected in Texas for the first time earlier this month, and outbreaks and surging case counts have since been tied to the strain. Although COVID-19 hospitalizations remain relatively low in most of the state, a fast-rising number of people are testing positive for the virus in the state's urban centers. Hospitals in the Texas Panhandle and El Paso are again filling up with COVID-19 patients, according to data from the Texas Department of State Health Services. As of Thursday, there have been 116 confirmed coronavirus cases related to the omicron variant in Texas, the state health department said. Although the delta variant is still prominent in Texas, medical researchers predict omicron will soon become the dominant strain. Early evidence suggests omicron may be milder but spreads faster and more often to vaccinated people,

medical experts said. They expect that people who have been fully vaccinated and recently gotten a booster shot will still be much better protected from serious illness or death.

"Those rural counties where we have low vaccination rates and have lost hospital infrastructure, those I think we should be the most concerned about," said Rebecca Fischer, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health. "The past 20 months we have seen hospitals close, we've seen hospitals lose their staff. ... We are not in a great place with our health care infrastructure to handle another mass influx of cases."

Coronavirus Update

Statewide, on December 19th, there were 5,958 new and 1,467 probable cases, along with 3,054 in the hospital. There were 25 deaths from Covid reported as well. Locally, in the last 14 days, Lampasas has seen 47 confirmed cases according to the DSHS website, with 1 being confirmed Sunday. The state estimate is 58 active cases in Lampasas County.

Holiday Travels

As many of you hit the road this week to visit family and friends, so will thousands of others meaning accidents can happen.



The Christmas season can be an extremely busy time for most people, but that's nothing compared to the many accidents that DPS troopers like Bryan Washko have to deal with. "We see it on a daily basis. We'll be the first one's on scene of a big accident and the ambulance may be 20-30 miles away, depending on where we're at," he said. According to a recent study by HelpAdvisor, Texas is the deadliest state for holiday driving. They found out that from 2015 to 2020, Texas had 298 fatal car accidents with many of them having alcohol or texting involved as a distracting factor. Even worse, Washko adds that the state has hit a grim mile stone this year. Right now, in Texas, we're almost at the 4,000 mark of fatalities just for this year," he said. "We normally average around 3,600 a year so we're already way past last year already and unfortunately, we still have a couple of weeks to go for this year." (cont'd on back)

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The Blotter



Lampasas Police Dept. blotter for Saturday shows suspicious activity; in the 400 block of N. Ridge at 3:41am, in the 900 block of E. 3rd at 11:15am and in the 400 block of S. Broad at 6:51pm. There was a noise complaint in the 2300 block of 281S at 7:49pm, and another noise complaint in the 2300 block of 281S at 11:52pm.

Lampasas Police Dept. blotter for Sunday shows a burglary of a habitation reported in the 400 block of N. Ridge at 11:09am. The afternoon shows a disorderly conduct reported in the 1700 block of CTE at 3:21pm, then a harassment in the 900 block of E. 3rd St. at 5:53pm. There was a reported theft in the 1700 block of CTE at 8:25pm and suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of W. Ave E at 11:36pm.

The Lampasas County Sheriff's Dept. Blotter for the weekend shows Lometa with a civil matter. Kempner shows livestock/animal issues, an alarm call, a reported trespassing, a juvenile problem, reported disturbances, and an accident. Out in the county a warrant was served, there was a report of lost and found property, there was a reported theft, an attended death, an intoxication call and medical calls. Deputies went into Cove on a missing person report, civil matters, a warrant was served, and an alarm call.

The Jail Log shows the arrest of 24 year old Jose Rodriguez of Georgetown for DWI. Also arrested was 24 year old Yonny Arias-Flores of Mesquite on an out of county charge.

Other factors that have caused these accidents include trailing too close behind others on an interstate or highway, jumping in and out of lanes, being distracted by a GPS or falling asleep at the wheel. So, how can Central Texas drivers be safe? "If you're traveling behind somebody, make sure you have enough time to react and slow down," he said. "If you need to send a message, have your other passenger send it for you and if you don't have that, either pull over to send the message or just wait."

Some more tips include getting plenty of rest before traveling, making sure your seatbelt is fastened, no drinking, and always being aware of your surroundings. While these things may sound simple, Washko says following them could make a difference in saving your life.

"These individuals are not bad people," he said. "They just made bad choices. We like to see people having fun and doing it responsibly. We want them to do it safely so they can get everyone back home to their families."

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Badger Sports

Badger Basketball

The Lampasas Badger Varsity defeated Whitney at home Friday night 74-59.

Top scorers were Borchardt with 24

points, Brookerson with 15 points and Pace with 12 Points. The team is now 12-6

The Lampasas Badger JV team won 61-21 with top scorers Caleb Harger with 15 points, Jason Brock with 12 points, and Demarion Middleton with 8 points. The boys are now 6-6 on the season

The Lampasas Badger freshman team fell to Whitney 61-42. Haegan Oncken led the scoring with 24 points.

Lady Badger Basketball

The Lady Badgers won on the road Friday night against San Angelo Lakeview 50-31. Top scorers were Addison Borchardt with 19 points, and Morgan Lovejoy, Abigail Williams and Jamie Ball with 6 points each. The Ladies are now 15-5 on the season. The Lady Badger JV team won 47-2.



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