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RADIOGRAM

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Tuesday
December 28th, 2021

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

The Weather

The high yesterday 72° This morning's low 66°
Today: Skies will be cloudy, then clearing with a high temperature near 78°, and a S-SW wind at 5-10 mph.

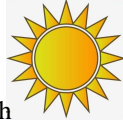
Tonight: Increasing clouds and the low temperature will dip to near 59°. Winds will become S-SW at 5-10 mph after midnight.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy in the morning, and then clearing with a high temperature near 78°. Winds will be 5-15 from the southwest shifting to the NW in the morning with possible gusts of 20 mph.

Overnight Wednesday: Partly cloudy skies and the low temperature will be near 51° with wind becoming calm.

Thursday: Mostly sunny skies and a high near 75°. Winds will be light from the W-SW.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy skies with a low near 57° and winds becoming calm.



Isolation Restrictions Cut

U.S. health officials on Monday cut isolation restrictions for asymptomatic Americans who catch the coronavirus from 10 to five days, and similarly shortened the time that close contacts need to quarantine.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials said the guidance is in keeping with growing evidence that people with the coronavirus are most infectious in the two days before and three days after symptoms develop.

The decision also was driven by a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, propelled by the omicron variant.

Early research suggests omicron may cause milder illnesses than earlier versions of the coronavirus. But the sheer number of people becoming infected — and therefore having to isolate or quarantine — threatens to crush the ability of hospitals, airlines and other businesses to stay open, experts say.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said the country is about to see a lot of omicron cases.

“Not all of those cases are going to be severe. In fact many are going to be asymptomatic,” she told The Associated Press on Monday. “We want to make sure there is a mechanism by which we can safely continue to keep society functioning while following the science.”

Last week, the agency loosened rules that previously called on health care workers to stay out of work for 10 days if they test positive. The new recommendations said workers could go back to work after seven days if they test negative and don't have symptoms. And the agency said isolation time could be cut to five days, or even fewer, if there are severe staffing shortages.

Now, the CDC is changing the isolation and quarantine guidance for the general public to be even less stringent.

The change is aimed at people who are not experiencing symptoms. People with symptoms during isolation, or who develop symptoms during quarantine, are encouraged to stay home.

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The Blotter



Lampasas Police Dept. blotter for Monday shows the arrest of Ronnie Romo, 21 of Lampasas in the 200 block of W. Ave B on a Lampasas PD warrant for burglary of a habitation at 11:24am. The afternoon shows a disturbance reported in the 300 block of College St. at 2:04pm, a suspicious person reported in the 800 block of N. Ridge at 2:55pm, and then another suspicious person reported in the 300 block of N. Key Ave. at 6:46pm.

The Sheriff's Dept. Blotter for Monday shows Lometa with livestock issues. In Kempner there were reports of suspicious activity, medical calls, an abandoned vehicle, a requested welfare check, and livestock issues. Out in the county there was an accident, a report of a stolen vehicle, civil matters, medical calls and a reported disturbance. Deputies went into Cove on reports of suspicious activity, a reported disturbance and a structure fire.

The Jail Log shows the arrest of 25 year old Brandon Cottingham of Austin for possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., and 20 year old Jaydan DeLeon of Copperas Cove for criminal mischief \$100-\$750.

Coronavirus Update

Statewide, according to the DSHS, there were 15,093 new and 2,238 probable new cases on December 27th, along with 43 deaths. There were also 3,965 Texans in the hospital with Covid-19. Locally, the DSHS dashboard was not available. The state estimates Lampasas County to have 49 active cases at this time.

Texas Centers Running Out of Antibody Treatment

Texas' health services department is warning that five of its regional infusion centers have run out of the only monoclonal antibody treatment known to be effective against the omicron variant of COVID-19, which now accounts for 90% of new cases in the state.

The Texas Department of State Health Services says its regional infusion centers in Austin, El Paso, Fort Worth, San Antonio and The Woodlands "have exhausted their supply of sotrovimab," the only monoclonal antibody treatment that appears to be effective against the omicron variant. The department said the scarcity stems from a national shortage of the treatment, which is made by GlaxoSmithKline and received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in May.

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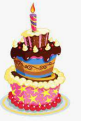
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The affected infusion centers will not be able to offer sotrovimab until federal authorities ship more supplies in January. Chris Van Deusen, a department spokesperson, said it's likely other infusion centers will use the remainder of their sotrovimab in the next few days.

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic how the immune system prevents the virus from entering healthy cells, and they have been used to treat patients at high risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19.

A scarcity of the treatment would leave the state's health department without an important tool to combat the virus as cases surge across the country. Some hospitals in the New York region have had to stop offering monoclonal antibody treatment because they've run out of sotrovimab. Those hospitals have said they will continue offering them when they receive additional supplies from state and federal agencies.

Badger Sports



Badger Basketball

The Badgers will be attending the Wimberley Tournament starting today.

The JV team was 6-7 going into the Christmas Break and will play Blanco on New Year's Eve at Lampasas High School.

Lady Badger Basketball

The Lady Badger basketball sub varsity is at the Lake Travis sub-varsity tournament through tomorrow.

Lady Badger Varsity will be at the Wimberley Tournament beginning today.

Death Notice

Mary Katherine Smithwick, 73, of Lampasas passed away on December 26, 2021, at her residence, surrounded by her family. Mary was born on July 24, 1948, in Lampasas to Willie Frank and Laura Frances Jones- Attaway.

Memorial donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in her memory would be appreciated. There are no services scheduled for Mary Katherine at this time. Arrangements are entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home of Lampasas.

Advertisement for Dr. James Mercer, Republican, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1. Includes an American flag, a 'VOTE' button, and a photo of Dr. Mercer. Text: Dr. James Mercer For Lampasas County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Republican Paid for by Dr. James W. Mercer for RJP, Sally Bozeman Treasurer