



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, March 4, 2023]

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Fire on the Square



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY

Crews from multiple volunteer fire departments responded to the scene of an early morning fire Thursday that broke out on the second floor of the Nutt House Hotel on the northeast corner of the Granbury Square. The hotel was named a Texas Historical Landmark in 1970.

Historic Hotel on Granbury Square burns in early morning fire

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

The historic Nutt House Hotel on the northeast corner of the Granbury Square, which has been under renovation for several years, sustained severe damage Thursday after a fire broke out on the second floor in the early morning hours.

According to a statement released by the city, the fire was discovered around 1 a.m. Multiple volunteer fire departments responded to the scene.

Although the blaze was contained to the second floor, the entire building suffered smoke and water damage, sources reported. Hood County Fire Marshal Jeff Young said that painters had been in the building on Wednesday until about 5 p.m. and that the hotel was about two months away from reopening.

According to Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley, the owner is Cindy Nobles. Young said that the city's fire

inspector, Kevin Jones, is investigating the fire and that his county office will have no role unless the city requests assistance.

According to the statement released by the city early Thursday, firefighters and investigators would be at the scene all day and nearby streets would be closed.

The city reported that firefighters were still "putting out hot spots" at 6:15 a.m. Thursday.

Paula McDonald, who owns two businesses on the square — Beam & Branch Realty on East Bridge St. and N on the Square, which is catycorner to the Nutt House Hotel at Bridge and Crockett Streets — spoke to the Hood County News by phone as she was arriving on the scene shortly after 8 a.m. to see whether her businesses had sustained damage. She said that she and other business owners on the square found out about the fire through social media.

"This is so much more far-reaching," she said, referring to surrounding businesses that



Debris from the fire was "everywhere," according to Paula McDonald, who owns two businesses near the Nutt House Hotel.

may have sustained smoke or other damage. "There is debris everywhere."

A post on the North Hood
PLEASE SEE FIRE | A2

SEE MORE INSIDE

Kids have a fun time at the YMCA's Kids Night Out. Please see story, B1.

Lipan ISD moves to five-day modified/ hybrid schedule. Please see photos, B1-B2.

Granbury Cigar Company offers a place to socialize. Please see story, B4-B5.

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Statistics: Granbury police focus on traffic safety, not tickets

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

In some cities, speed traps are a guaranteed source of revenue. Not in Granbury.

In the vast majority of cases, traffic stops by Granbury police officers bring only a warning.

According to the city, in 2022 police officers made 7,755 traffic stops but issued just 923 citations. That means that 88% of drivers who were pulled over went on their way without their day being ruined. Only 12% of traffic stops resulted in tickets or arrests.

Police Chief Mitch Galvan said that the Granbury Police Department is focused on making streets safer by educating motorists. That often can be done by simply making them aware of a driving infraction. Other motorists who see the stop tend to pay closer attention to their own driving, the chief indicated.

"We tell our officers that educating and getting our community and the drivers to comply with the laws is our main goal," Galvan said. "That's the whole purpose of traffic enforcement, is to get them to comply with traffic laws."

Galvan had a laugh over Richard Hoefs having "let the cat out of the bag" about the police department's citation statistics at a recent City Council meeting. Hoefs, a member of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and its Capital Improvements Advisory

PLEASE SEE TICKETS | A2

County, city partner on efforts for TxDOT light at Acton Highway/FM 4

BY KATHY CRUZ
Staff Writer

The Granbury City Council has agreed to work with the county on a plan by Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson that Wilson hopes will save lives and prevent future accidents.

The interlocal agreement involves the installation of a 440-foot right turn lane at Acton Highway and FM 4, where Wilson said many accidents have occurred, including two fatalities in 2021.

The commissioner said that he personally stopped to offer assistance

at the site of two accidents there. One was a five-vehicle crash last September, and the other was a three-vehicle accident last December. The one in December resulted in multiple injuries, he said, with one person airlifted and others transported to a hospital via ground ambulance.

Wilson said he has been in discussions with the Texas Department of Transportation "for well over a year" in an effort to have traffic control lights installed at that location. He said officials with TxDOT indicated that its budget currently does not have the funds to grant

the request but that if a right turn lane is in place, the state agency might be able to find the money to install traffic lights.

The city's assistance is due to the location being "barely" within the city limits, according to Wilson.

Loose ends on the agreement were tied up during this week's regular meeting of the Commissioners Court. Granbury Mayor Jim Jarratt and City Manager Chris Coffman were in attendance and spoke briefly in praise of the collaboration, and Coffman presented a check for just under \$5,000 to the county auditor.

Per the interlocal agreement, the city is paying for the materials needed for the turn lane and the county's Road Operations department will provide the labor.

Coffman noted that installing the traffic control lights will cost the state between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

The Commissioners Court approved the partnership at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 14 but voted on the matter again at Tuesday's meeting because some minor tweaks were made to the verbiage of the agreement. The court unanimously approved the idea

both times.

The Granbury City Council unanimously approved the plan at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Wilson said that TxDOT indicated possibly installing the light before the end of the year or during the first quarter of 2024, but he feels that installation of the turn lane might motivate TxDOT to move up the timeline.

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137TH YEAR, NO. 53

Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 16 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 16 pages

INSIDE

From My Front Porch — A3 | Obituaries — A4 | Crossword Puzzle — A4 | Classifieds — A7, A8



The statue of the Nutt House Hotel's most notable owner, Mary Lou Watkins, is barely visible amidst the chaos (top) as firefighting crews from across the county fought the blaze that consumed the second floor of the historic hotel early Thursday. The hotel was reportedly inhabited by harmless spirits and back in the day delicious southern buffets in the downstairs restaurant drew people from miles around.

FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

County Volunteer Fire Department's Facebook page stated that in addition to its crew, other responders included the Granbury, Cresson, DCBE-Acton, Lipan, Hood County Station 70, Pecan Plantation, and Tolar Volunteer Fire Departments.

The Cresson VFD reported that its "Truck 30" pumped more than 100,000 gallons of water onto the fire.

Drone footage posted online by the Granbury VFD showed a roaring fire on the hotel's second floor.

No firefighters were injured battling the blaze, according to Granbury Communications Manager Jeff Newpher.

HEARTBREAKING

News of the beloved hotel's tragic

fate began spreading on social media before the sun rose Thursday.

Former owner Melinda Ray, who sold the property to Nobles several years ago, posted, "My heart is broken. Even though she wasn't mine anymore, I still loved this grand old dame on the northeast corner of the Square. So many memories, so many good times, so much of Granbury's story witnessed by those proud limestone walls."

Just across from the hotel, by the courthouse, stands a bronze statue of the hotel's most notable former owner, the late Mary Lou Watkins, a descendent of the Nutt family who is credited with sparking the Granbury community's commitment to preserving its history. Watkins is depicted in a prairie dress and apron ringing her signature dinner bell to announce dinnertime at the hotel's popular restaurant, which was famous for its

hot-water cornbread, chicken and dumplings, and buttermilk pie.

Watkins sold the hotel in 1983 "under the proviso that all operations remain basically the same," according to Ray's book "Limestone Legacies."

Sam Winters said she was the manager of the hotel and adjoining candy store about 25 years ago and still has the original cookbook that was used at the restaurant. She said the establishment was "a very popular place" that "served over 100 every day for lunch." The restaurant would close after lunch but reopen for dinner, she said.

"People came from everywhere to eat our hot-water cornbread," Winters stated. "We had a buffet of southern food. My friend and I made the prairie dresses and small bonnets the waitresses wore. So many memories."

Winters said that the second-

floor hotel had eight rooms and one bathroom at the end of the hall and that Billie Sol Estes once stayed there. Estes, a businessman best known for his involvement in a scandal that complicated his ties to friend and future U.S. President Lyndon Johnson, was the father of Pam Padgett, who ran a business on the southwest corner of the square until her death in June 2014.

The Nutt House Hotel has been known for spirits that allegedly made their presence known to guests and employees. Those spirits are believed to include a county judge who once called the hotel home, a young girl who might have been the daughter of a Nutt family member, and possibly Watkins herself, who Ray believed might have been responsible for closing blinds as well as doors to vacated guest rooms where beds had not yet been remade.

AFTERMATH

As the HCN prepared to go to press Thursday, Newpher told the newspaper that further information would be released later that day related to road closings and parking restrictions.

This message was posted on the Granbury VFD's Facebook page about the Nutt House Hotel: "She's a tough old lady! The 2nd floor has extensive fire damage and the first floor suffered water/smoke damage. She will require extensive remodeling again."

The historic hotel, though crippled, still stands.

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TICKETS

FROM PAGE A1

Committee, cited the numbers while praising the police department and city leaders.

Galvan said he has never been pressured by the city manager or the City Council to issue more traffic citations.

"It's because I shared that philosophy with them long ago and told them that we're accomplishing

what we need to accomplish without having to run paper," the chief stated.

He cited the city's tourism industry as one of the reasons why speed traps are a bad idea for everybody.

"We're a tourist town, and we invite people here and we want them to come back," Galvan said. "And the quickest way to keep that from happening is if you're issuing citations for every stinking thing that happens. Just imagine if those numbers were reversed, we would

be known as one of those (revenue-focused) cities. It's not the image we wanted to portray, not one that I wanted to portray anyway."

Galvan said that officers are given full discretion on whether to issue a citation or let someone off with a warning. He said they are encouraged to write a ticket if circumstances such as road conditions, traffic, and the driver's behavior warrant it.

"You know, warnings go a long way," he said. "But, by all means, if

a citation is warranted, don't hesitate to write one."

Galvan indicated a belief that the public knowing the citation statistics will not result in drivers fearlessly disregarding traffic laws. Officers routinely pull people over, he said, and passersby don't know whether that person is being issued a ticket or not.

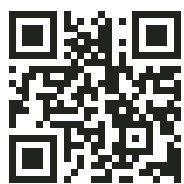
Galvan said that the city's police officers "do an incredible job" and that he often receives emails from members of the public informing

him of positive interactions.

"We really focus on that during the hiring process," he said, referring to officers' attitudes and personalities. "We take a long time to hire people because we're going to hire the right people."

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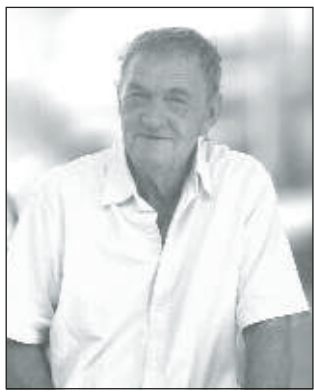
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Phillip Sherwood Wallace

June 26, 1943 - February 5, 2023

Phillip S. Wallace, 79, of Granbury, Texas, joined his Heavenly Father on February 5, 2023. Phil was born June 26, 1943 in Carnegie, Oklahoma, the son of William Sherwood and Mattie (Thomas) Wallace. He graduated high school in Burns Flat, Oklahoma. After graduation, he joined the United States Air Force in 1962. He also earned his degree in criminal justice. After his service in the Air Force, he moved to Fort Worth, Texas, with his family and worked for Bell Helicopter in Hurst until he retired after 29 years in 2003. In addition to working at Bell, Phil owned and operated his own window and door business. He was an extremely hard worker and a wonderful provider to his family and anyone needing a helping hand.

Phil married the love of his life, Joycelyn Maureen Acree, on October 27, 1972. They recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. He loved his family and many friends over his lifetime and looked forward to the many get-togethers: watching football, cooking his legendary barbecue and Christmas Eve chili, playing the guitar, harmonica and singing



with friends, fishing, being outdoors and enjoying the sunshine. He will truly be missed by everyone that knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Lola Mae, brother Thomas Dudley Wallace, Uncle Floyd Wallace, daughters Debbie and Angie, grandson Nathan, and many friends who he considered family. He is survived by his cherished wife Joy, children: Phillip and Leta Wallace, Susie Wallace, Cindy Vannoy and Ruthye and Chris Cox, fourteen grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren with one on the way, a sister-in-law JoAnn Wallace and nieces Pam and Petey.

A memorial is set for March 11, 2023, 2:00 p.m., at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

Leonard Austin (Buddy) Lamb, Jr.

October 27, 1943 - February 23, 2023

Leonard Austin "Buddy" Lamb, Jr., 79, of Granbury, passed from this life Thursday, February 23, 2023, with his loving family by his side. He was born October 27, 1943, in Glendale, California to Leonard Austin Lamb and Daphne Jane Ferris Lamb. Buddy married his loving wife, Patsy Thorp, May 25, 1963. They enjoyed a loving marriage of forty-five years. Patsy preceded Buddy in death in 2008.



When Buddy was young his family relocated from California to Oklahoma, and then later settled in De Leon, Texas. Buddy and Patsy were high school sweethearts and Buddy graduated with the De Leon Bearcats Class of 1962. He then went on to attend and graduate from Tarleton State University. In 1977, Buddy relocated his family to Granbury from De Leon to start a position with the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, a career that he ultimately retired from decades later. He loved a great chicken fried steak, anything history oriented, and tinkering with or building anything. Buddy loved sports, especially the Dallas Cowboys and the TCU Horned Frogs. His dog, Hank, was a great companion later in his life. The family was able to bring Hank to visit Buddy in his last days in the hospital ICU, a special time for both Buddy and Hank.

Over the last few years, Buddy enjoyed spending time with Linda Burlison of De Leon. They enjoyed going out to eat, going to sporting events, playing dominoes, and spending time with family and friends.

Buddy was a loving and

devoted husband, dad, and granddad; a special brother; and a loyal friend. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Buddy is survived by his daughter, Tracie Quan and husband, Tom; son, Cody Lamb; grandchildren, Corey Lamb and Brendan Quan; great-grandchild, Kaynen; brother, Bill Lamb and wife, Boba; sister, Judy Sadberry and husband, Earl; numerous nieces, nephews, and other extended family. Buddy has been reunited with his wife, Patsy; parents, Leonard and Daphne Lamb; brother, Wayne Lamb; and sister, Patsy Christie.

The Lamb family will receive friends for visitation on Friday, March 3, 2023, from 5-8:00 p.m. at Nowlin Anders Funeral Home Chapel in De Leon. Graveside funeral services will be held Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in De Leon Cemetery with Brother Daniel Burlison officiating. If desired, memorial donations can be made to CAPA - Comanche All Pets Alive (comancheapa.org, paypal@comancheapa@gmail.com, or CAPA - 104 Trevino, Comanche, Texas 76442, in memory of Buddy. Condolences may be offered online at www.nowlinandersfh.com.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries are submitted online at obituaries.hcnews.com. Advance payment is required and you may do so online when placing the obituary.

Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or the church where service will be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary.

The Hood County News deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Monday for the Wednesday paper, and 10 a.m. Wednesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.

Elected Officials

Dear Hood County Taxpayers, is it really okay with y'all that the County Clerk Katie Lang manipulated the Commissioners Court into authorizing her to hire a "specialist" to work on the Tyler Conversion? This "specialist" came with an increase of about \$15,000 over what the other county clerks make, those who did the same work in their offices. But Mrs. Lang didn't have to look far to find a "specialist," she was able to find one right in her own office! Granted, what this elected official did is not illegal, but it is also not right and not fair! So far this elected official has wasted close to \$400,000 of our taxpayer money on this. I spoke to the Commissioners Court again, asking them to please right this wrong. Those other county employees who did this conversion without a salary increase should be compensated somehow, or that "specialist" position should just be eliminated now, because every single day it wastes our money. If you are tired of our elected officials

thinking they can just get by doing whatever they want, short of illegal, please speak up! Please call your commissioner and let them know how you feel! Please call all the commissioners and let them know how you feel. Let's right this wrong!

Tina Brown Granbury

Guidelines for letters to the editor

Email letters to sam@hcnews.com. Letters must include author's first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

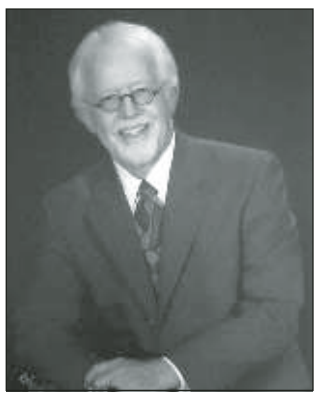
Letters should be 500 words or less. All letters are subject to editing. All submissions to the Hood County News will become the property of the Hood County News. Letters to the Editor will appear in the Saturday edition of the Hood County News.

Questions: Call 817-573-7066 or contact Publisher Sam Houston.

Bobby Lynn Boone

December 30, 1942 - January 12, 2023

Bobby (Bob) Lynn Boone was born December 30, 1942 in San Angelo, TX to parents Ray and Jessie Boone. He passed away in Fort Worth, TX on January 12, 2023 at age 80. Bob was a graduate of University of Texas in Austin and after graduation married Sharon Howard and they began their journey in life together. They were married for 57 years. Bob was a realtor in both Stephenville and Granbury, TX. They have three children: Cassandra Galvan (husband David), Corbett Boone (wife Stephanie) and Clark Boone (wife Alicia). Bob was Papa to Natalia Galvan, Zachary Galvan, Tyler Boone, Peyton Boone, Ella Boone, Marley Boone and Ryder Boone. Bob is survived by his wife Sharon, sister Joan Wilson,



and husband Fred Wilson. He was uncle to Laray and Jesse Adame (and their kids) and Jay and Cheryl Wilson. Bob donated his body to science in hopes of saving future lives.

A celebration of life will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on March 11, 2023 at Hico First Baptist Church, 211 Walnut St., Hico, TX 76457.

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Can you count on Social Security being enough?

CHAD CARROLL
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If you're getting closer to retirement, you might be thinking more about Social Security. Specifically, can you count on it to contribute part of the income you'll need as a retiree?

There's been an increase in alarming language surrounding the solvency of Social Security, but in reality, its prospects are not nearly as gloomy as you might have heard.

Here's the story: Under current law, Social Security

is estimated to exhaust its trust funds by 2035, after which benefits could be cut by 20%, according to the 2022 Social Security Trustees report. However, the large cost of living adjustment (COLA) (8.7%) for 2023 could cause the trust funds to use up their resources sooner.

But this outlook may represent a worst-case scenario. For one thing, the cost of the 2023 COLA will be somewhat offset by higher taxes on workers contributing to Social Security. The maximum amount of earnings subject

to the 6.2% Social Security tax jumped from \$147,000 in 2022 to \$160,200 in 2023. And in looking down the road, further increases in this earnings cap may also help reduce the gap in the trust funds. Increasing the payroll tax is another possibility for boosting funding to Social Security.

And here's a political reality: Social Security is a popular program and it's unlikely that any future Congress wants to be blamed for reducing benefits. Of course, there are no guarantees, but it seems fair to say that you can reasonably expect some benefits from Social Security when you retire.

But perhaps the bigger is-

sue is just how much you should depend on Social Security for your retirement income. On average, Social Security benefits will provide about 30% of a beneficiary's preretirement earnings, according to the Social Security Administration. But the higher your earnings before you retire, the lower the percentage that will be replaced by Social Security.

Still, you'll want to maximize the benefits that are available to you — and that means deciding when to start taking Social Security. You can begin as early as 62, but your monthly payments could be as much as 30% lower than your normal (or "full") retirement

age, which will likely be between 66 and 67.

Even if you were to wait until your full retirement age before collecting Social Security, you'll also need to draw on other sources of funding. So, while you are still working, it's a good idea to keep contributing to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

The amount you contribute should depend on your overall financial strategy and your financial needs, so, for example, you probably shouldn't put in so much into your retirement accounts that you feel significant stress in your monthly cash flow. But when you do get a chance to invest more in

these accounts, such as when your salary goes up, you may want to take advantage of the opportunity.

Ultimately, you should be able to count on Social Security as part of your retirement income. You may want to consult with a financial professional to determine when taking Social Security makes the most sense for you and how you can also get the most from your other retirement accounts. You'll want a retirement income strategy that's built for the long run.

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County Judge Ron Massingill presented with award from the Texas Rangers

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

County Judge Ron Massingill has long had a reputation for being a big supporter of law enforcement, and now he has a big award to prove it.

At the recent annual elk chili cookout that he and his wife Brenda host at their ranch for first responders, Massingill was presented a Distinguished Benefactor award from the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

Massingill said that the award is for a pledge of \$10,000 to the organization that he paid in installments over a period of several years.

The county judge related that he phoned a staffer at the foundation to find out how much remained of his pledge and to say that he would send a check for the final payment. He said that

he joked with her, eliciting laughter, when he said that he wanted something like "the Magna Carta with a lot of gold seals" to commemorate fulfillment of the pledge.

He received something that is perhaps equally impressive. The Distinguished Benefactor award is made of stainless steel and is of considerable size.

"It's heavy and beautiful and impressive," Massingill said.

Texas Rangers are among first responders who are invited to the Massingill ranch for the annual come-and-go elk chili lunch that will mark its 20th year in 2024. Other attendees include deputies, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, office staffers, and others. "Everybody that helps with the administration of justice," Massingill said.

He stated that Brian Booth of Hired Gun Chuckwagon

Events makes the chili for free as a way to give back to the community, and Brenda along with Pam Sandlin and Sherry Templeton prepare blueberry, cherry, and apple cobbblers.

"It's a huge undertaking," he said.

Massingill has a special affection for the Texas Rangers, created unofficially by Stephen F. Austin in a call-to-arms written 200 years ago, in 1823.

"I just love the Rangers," Massingill said. "Brenda and I love having the Rangers at the ranch for special training events which we have hosted for many years. This is the greatest group of dedicated individuals who deserve our respect and gratitude and we assist whenever possible."

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COURTESY OF RON MASSINGILL

County Judge Ron Massingill and his wife Brenda proudly hold the Distinguished Benefactor award from the Texas Ranger Association Foundation presented during their recent annual elk chili lunch for first responders. They are surrounded by current and former Texas Rangers. From left are, Johnny Waldrip, Tony Bradford, George Turner (burgundy shirt), Danny Briley (next to Brenda), and B.J. Hill on the far right.

Lipan Lady Indians living tradition, heading to state

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

If the Lipan Lady Indians are not still playing basketball come early March, well, something is amiss. The world has twisted off its axis. The stars aren't aligned, or whatever other phrase you want to use that indicates things just aren't normal.

That was the case last season when the Lady Indians lost in the regional final trying to defend their 2021 state championship. Everything is back as it should be this year, however, as they are in San Antonio this weekend at the Alamodome working to win another title.

At press time the Lady Indians (33-3) were facing another perennial powerhouse, Martin's Mill (31-6). Between the Lady Indians' 10 state appearances and the East Texas powerhouse's 17 appearances, the two schools have been to state

so many times you'd have to borrow the use of a friend's hands to count them all.

"We don't talk about it. They live it," Lady Indians coach Amber Branson said of her team and the Lipan tradition. "Most have been here their whole life. They grew up around it."

"It's fun to see the little kids come up to them (players), wanting to shake their hand or have their picture taken with them," Branson said. "They want to be Lady Indians and Indians one day."

While the Indians have been dominant on the state level for many decades, the Lady Indians only had two state appearances before Branson became head coach in 2008. This is her eighth time to lead a team to state, with championships in 2016 at the Class A level and 2021 in 2A.

And, per her trademark, Branson is quick to deflect credit for the success. She credits her assistant coaches and, of course, the players themselves.

All of which is certainly true. But when Branson became the head coach, something clicked to take the program to an even higher level.

For one thing, Branson had been there herself as a Lady Indians player. She led the 1995 team to its first state tournament appearance. They made one more in 2003 before she turned going to state into a regular thing.

"I don't really know if we did anything special. Even though it's changed some with X's and O's, it still comes down to good defense and shooting," Branson said. "And we're blessed with great people around us."

Whatever it is, it's working. The Lady Indians and Branson have reached state in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2021 and now this season.

And the family tradition that permeates both the girls and boys programs at Lipan, Branson knows that first-hand as in 2011 she made national news by delivering her daughter Telese in between the regional semifinals and finals. And yes, Telese will play for her mom in the coming years, just as her big sister Taylor is now.

This is the second time Branson will be coaching her daughter Taylor at state. Also, her son Tate is a standout for the Indians — who are looking to reach state themselves next week and are playing in the Region 2 Tournament this weekend.

"It's pretty special. She's a fierce competitor and plays hard every minute," Branson said of Taylor, who appears to be a chip off the ol' block. "She's become one of our leaders and I am proud to be her coach, but even more so to be her mom."

But don't go thinking Taylor gets any special treatment. Being a member of a basketball program in Lipan brings with it the heaviest emphasis on the word TEAM.

Whether it's Zully Martinez leading a 21-2 comeback over the final five minutes of the 2011 regional final in a 45-43 win over Newcastle or Lanie Roberts scoring 49 points in a 74-49 state semifinal win over Roby in 2016, the Lady Indians' success comes from team play.

"It doesn't matter how good a player is if you don't win as a team," Branson said. "As long as the team wins, everybody will get their own share of the success."

And in Lipan, there's a lot of success to go around.

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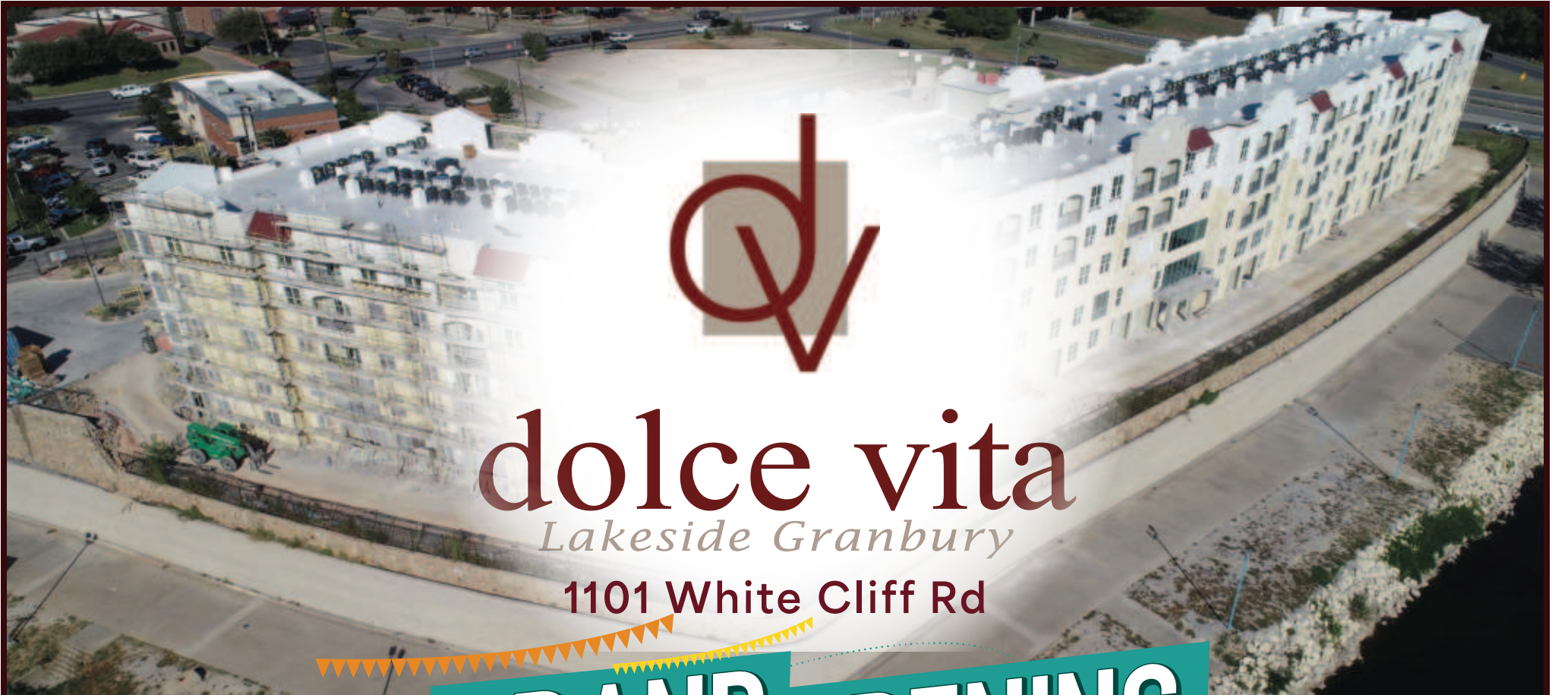


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B

SATURDAY, March 4, 2023

Hood County News

Lipan ISD moving to five-day modified/hybrid schedule

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

LIPAN — After months of discussion about potentially changing to a four-day school week, the Lipan ISD School Board voted unanimously on Feb. 22 to move to a five-day modified/hybrid schedule beginning in the fall.

The five-day modified/hybrid schedule will go into effect during the 2023-2024 academic year and will consist of students having four-day weekends every six weeks or a three-day weekend once a month — similar in structure to Brock ISD's calendar.

Discussion about possibly moving to a four-day school week first began last August as a way for the district to retain current staff and to draw in more applicants for open positions.

A committee consisting of 10 local parents and 10 Lipan elementary and high school teachers was formed to discuss the possibility of transitioning to either a four-day school week or a five-day modified schedule.

Vickie Posey, Lipan elementary and junior high math specialist,

spoke during the Lipan school board meeting on Feb. 22, detailing the committee discussion.

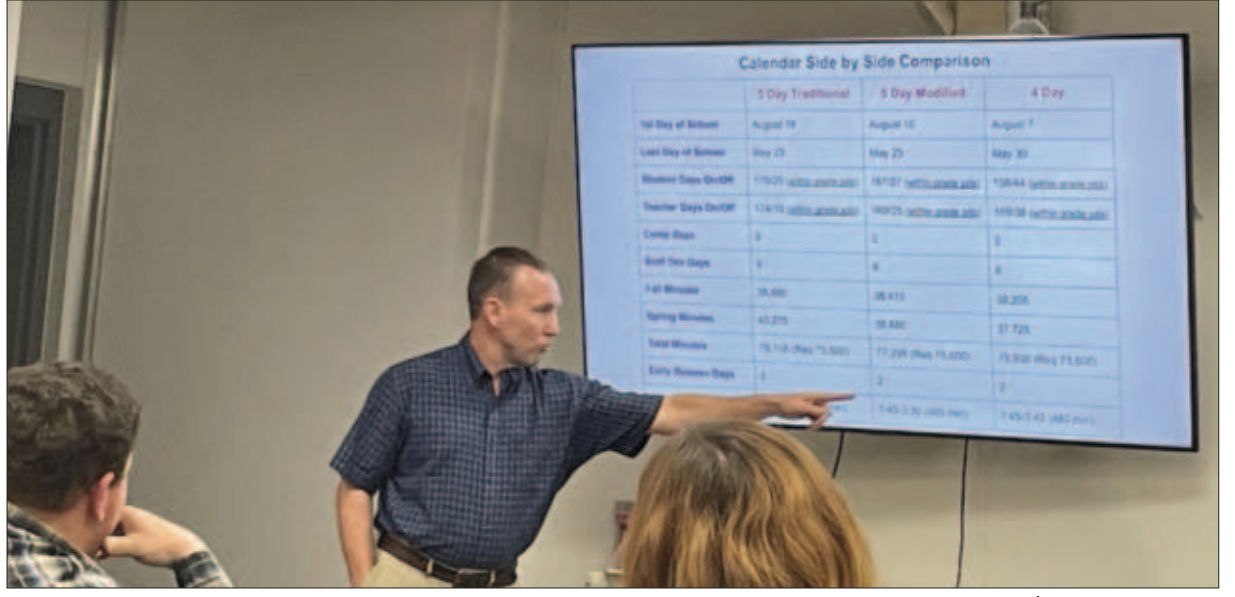
She said that teachers felt that it would be harder to plan with a hybrid schedule as the days off would be more sporadic than a four-day school week. Parents said finding childcare would also be difficult with a hybrid schedule.

Posey said the committee spoke with several administrators and teachers from other school districts like Strawn, Gordon, Mineral Wells, and Aledo, which have switched to a four-day school week.

She said after Strawn ISD conducted a community-wide survey with an overwhelming majority voting for a four-day school week, the district made the switch in the fall.

Strawn administrators said since changing to a four-day school week, their student enrollment has grown by nearly one-third, and their teacher morale has improved, with several teachers stating the four-day school week "has kept them in education."

Dewaine Lee, Strawn ISD superintendent, said he believes the four-day week is the "best thing for teachers," and that it has greatly



Jonathan Normand, Lipan ISD secondary principal, shows a side-by-side comparison of what the 2023-2024 academic calendar will look like with a five-day traditional school week, a five-day modified week, and a four-day school week during the monthly school board meeting on Feb. 22.

ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

helped with "teacher burnout."

After hearing from several parents and administrators from other schools, the committee took a vote

for the decision they felt was best for the district. Out of 16 that voted, 11 voted for a four-day week, three were for a hybrid schedule, and two

preferred a regular five-day school week.

James Lott, Lipan High School so-

PLEASE SEE LIPAN | B2



KID'S NIGHT OUT AT THE YMCA

While their folks enjoyed a getaway, kids got to play at the recent Hood County YMCA's Kid's Night Out- Disney Night. It was a cold and dreary night on Friday, Feb. 24, and the YMCA extended a warm welcome for kids like Cory, who is pictured, enjoying a dip in the YMCA indoor pool. Please see more photos, B2.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

Housewife Celia Campbell became a beloved Hood County sheriff at age 57

Here's a little historical tidbit that most readers probably do not know. Hood County had a surprisingly early start on diversity in hiring employees. Way back in 1948, Mrs. Celia Campbell was appointed Hood County sheriff to succeed her recently deceased husband, Sheriff Oscar L. Campbell, by a unanimous vote of the Hood County Commissioners Court.

Oscar was in his third term as sheriff when he died unexpectedly before his term expired in 1950. So, in November of 1948, Mrs. Campbell donned the sheriff's badge! Sadly, she held the position for only two short months. Her unique story in the pantheon



BY TOM HAMILTON

Dr. Tom Hamilton has been a Granbury resident since 1975, retiring from his dental practice in downtown Granbury after 40 years. He is a member of the Bridge Street History Center's Board of Directors and an avid golfer and gardener. Tom and Martha live in Water's Edge and enjoy the lake and their grandkids.

of Hood County history follows.

Appointed at age 57, Celia had always been a stay-at-home housewife at the Campbell farm in Lipan, bearing 10 children and also raising a pair of nephews and a niece while producing all the food and clothing for her extended family.

Without an outside source of income after her husband's death, she lobbied the Commissioners to let her finish the sheriff's term. They agreed, and shockingly, the new Mrs. Sheriff Campbell then

appointed a married couple, Mr. and Mrs. K.H. Faulkner, as her deputies! But only two months later, on Jan. 10, 1949, a newly elected set of County Commissioners proposed replacing her with Dick Umphress.

The tied 2-2 vote was broken by County Judge R.S. (Dolph) Long, who sided with Umphress. That decision proved disastrous for Judge Long since he lost his next election — due in large part to previous Lipan supporters turning against him. Celia Campbell obviously was a beloved figure in the Lipan community, described by a neighbor as "the dearest per-

son there ever was."

Still needing a source of income, Mrs. Campbell took a job as the jail matron for a few years. Besides feeding and looking after the prisoners, Celia received credit for preventing a jail escape. While preparing food one evening, she heard a sawing noise and reported it to a deputy. Investigation revealed several window bars sawed nearly in two, and the potential escape was foiled.

Eventually, Celia Campbell returned to her Lipan farm and the support of her family. She died in 1980 at age 89, leaving an indelible mark as the only female sheriff in Hood County history.



Celia Campbell

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The sign on the wall read "Toddler Room", but for these little ones, the Hood County YMCA Kid's night out was a virtual wonderland of Disney-themed activities.



Above: Niko and his Mom Molly Sanchez strike a quick pose for the camera. Sanchez is the Hood County YMCA's Playhouse Coordinator.

Left: Mickey Mouse ears for everyone! The Mickey Mouse ears put a smile on every face in the Toddler room, which is reserved for kids ages 1 to 4.



Good times at the Hood County YMCA's Kid's Night Out. Kids ranging in age from 1 to 4, and 5 to 12, are invited to participate. Registration is required, as space is limited. <https://bit.ly/Ymcakidsnightout>.

The next Hood County YMCA Kid's Night out themed St. Patty's Day @ the Y! takes place from 6:00 p.m. -10:30 p.m. on Friday, March 10.

LIPAN FROM PAGE B1

cial studies teacher and coach, said he was "largely in the minority" but didn't feel that a four-day school week was what was "best for kids." He explained that several students are involved in extracurriculars and sports and are already missing several days of school. He also pointed out that only attending school four days out of the week is "not preparing them for the real world," adding that his own children would "waste the day away" by sleeping in and playing video games. Lott also included a recorded video from Lee answering his question on if the four-day school week is what's best for kids. "I don't know if this is the best thing for kids," Lee said in the video. "I really don't, because we have kids who don't eat. They're up there run-

ning the streets. I'm not sure if it's the best thing, and I'm not here to tell you that, 'Oh, you better do it.' I'm not saying that. The attendance and in the scores, I don't know if anybody really knows at this point, but I know teachers love it and I know that our kids love it." Following presentations from both Posey and Lott, Lipan ISD Superintendent Ralph Carter read responses from seniors regarding the potential transition to a four-day school week. Some students mentioned the pros a four-day school week would have for students who work, but also noted the detriment it would bring to students who rely on the school for food. Jonathan Normand, Lipan secondary principal, said the primary reason for the four-day school week is to combat teacher shortages and improve their mental health, but added that the district needed to consider the disadvantaged and special needs

students. Carter chimed in that most of the bigger schools in Texas aren't even considering the idea of shortening the school weeks. "Dr. Glenn (superintendent) at Granbury, they're not even toying with the idea of a four-day week," Carter said. "They think it's bad for kids. There's only 67 districts out of over 1,200 in the state of Texas that are even considering this right now, which to me says a whole lot about how the state feels." Carter said he had recently attended a meeting regarding the four-day a week schedule but didn't see enough evidence that it was beneficial for students. "I kept hearing what was good for adults, I kept hearing that was good for staff, and I'm all for that, but I think there's other ways we can compensate," he said. "The other thing I would say is, nobody's given me anything that would say it's best for kids."

He then recommended that the district move to a five-day modified calendar. "My recommendation would be to consider a five-day modified with extra student and staff days in places where we normally have no breaks," Carter said. "For example, October was a long month. March can be a long month, February can be long, April can be long, so I think we can intersperse some days in there and modify our calendar in a way that would benefit both teachers and students to give them needed breaks — that would be my recommendation." Nikki Callaway, Lipan ISD board member, agreed that she didn't see enough proof that the four-day schedule would benefit students, while Lipan ISD Secretary Ellyn Grove said she needed more data on the four-day school week. After a unanimous vote to move to a five-day modified schedule, Carter said the board will put to-

gether a calendar for the 2023-2024 academic year. The calendar will list the new days off but will still include the mandatory 75,600 minutes that Texas schools must be open a year. Carter finished the discussion by adding that "this is a transition year," meaning the schedule may change again after the district reevaluates staff and student performance. "This is an opportunity for us to look to see if modifying that schedule affects kids in a positive way or a negative way and if it affects staff in a positive way or negative way," Carter said. "Is there something we need to pull back on or is it something we need to consider even more days off to be able to do that? We can transition into a four-day if that's what we want to do over a two-to-three-year period if we start seeing good things out of what's happening." ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

Hood County ACTIVITIES

YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO



Quick on the 'draw'

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tom Willis lights a cigar Tuesday afternoon at Granbury Cigar Company, a cigar shop that has been owned by David Lampert for the past three years.

Granbury Cigar Company 'smoking' out competition through camaraderie

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Many people hear the words "cigar shop" and immediately picture it as a place for older men to kick back and smoke — hence the phrase "fogies with stogies."

But David Lampert, owner of Granbury Cigar Company, has a different perspective.

"It's really a cool kind of energy," he said. "One thing about cigar people is they relax to find that space, that meditative state (and a way to) decompress. I've been in (the trade) long enough to know that (with cigars), it's a community and it's a culture."

Lampert, who has been in the cigar business for more than 30 years, started out as a sales representative in distribution before working for Rocky Patel — the cigar industry's most recognizable businessman — in manufacturing.

"I worked my way into training manager, sales manager, VP (vice president) of sales, and then I ended up somehow in Granbury," he said, chuckling. "Which is awesome."

He moved from Illinois to Granbury four years ago when he was asked to become the managing director of Micallef Cigars in Weatherford.

But the draw to pursue another business venture was too strong for Lampert to ignore.

With the help of three local cigar enthusiasts, he made the decision to open Granbury Cigar Company at 201 Kings Plaza in March 2020 — at the height of COVID.

"I opened at a really tough time, but the community has been so amazing," he said. "A lot of people moved here because of this shop, and they tell their stories all the time. How they were looking at different areas, and while the wife was looking at the house, the husband came in here for a cigar, loved the energy, loved the people, loved the views, so they moved here. It became a thing of its own."

The yellow and red walls at Granbury Cigar Company give off a cheery and homey vibe, while the lounge area provides a space for customers to relax, drink, and play a game of backgammon.

"What's cool about it is we have so many new people that move to our community and they don't know anybody, so what do they do? They come here," Lampert said. "You don't have to drink. You're welcome to, but

you don't have to. There are people, retired drinkers I call them, and they feel very comfortable, so there's no pressure to do it and the guys support each other."

With supporters from not only Granbury, but also Pecan Plantation and DeCordova, Lampert said his business has started to draw in more of a younger crowd — and females.

"We have a lot of women too. I would say 20% (of the customers are female)," he said. "During the day, it's usually retired guys who come and hang out. It's amazing. We have every walk of life here. We have young guys, 21, who are just starting to get into it, and they're getting more and more invested. We have a good crowd — a lot of regulars."

He said he's especially enjoyed hearing the "amazing" stories from retired athletes and Vietnam military pilots.

"I never served but it's really awesome," he said. "I really have a whole different view of the quality and character of those who served. We are so lucky."

In fact, it's because of those retired veterans that the walls of Lampert's shop are covered with war-related décor representing all the different branches of the military.

"I can't tell you how many of these guys have thanked me for giving them a place to go and meet people, but customer service is what it's all about," he said. "My goal here is to get people to just relax and enjoy themselves. I want them to find the best cigar they can for the best value and just enjoy it. It's fun for me."

Granbury Cigar Company boasts numerous display cases containing a variety of 600 different cigars or "facings."

Lampert added that if a specific cigar is well-liked by the public, it will stick around.

"We represent four or five different accessory companies," he said. "We can get anything if we don't have it. I pride myself on having a great selection, great prices, great service, and a great place to hang out— that's one thing that I hope I can always make sure that we offer."

Lampert said he loves the art form of cigars and how they're all handmade, adding that he likes to drink coffee, Diet Dr Pepper, or diet root beer while smoking one.

"There's not much left in this world that's all done by hand, aged, and consistent and that's the big part of what I love about it," he said.

As for the future of Granbury Cigar Company, Lampert said he hopes to expand

PLEASE SEE CIGAR | B5



Dave Jansen takes a long drag from a cigar Tuesday afternoon at Granbury Cigar Company, located at 201 Kings Plaza.



Backgammon is Granbury Cigar Company's game of choice — perfect for customers to smoke a fat stogie and relax from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

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CIGAR

FROM PAGE B4

the business into a 24/7 lounge with features like a movie theater and a game room.

"It's our third year. We plan on growing," he said. "So, that's kind of our long-term plan, and we feel the need for it with having a lot of pilots in different walks

of life, especially in Granbury. A lot of these guys want to come in at four or two in the morning if they're coming back from the airport. I think a dream would be to have a 24/7 separate lounge where everybody can enjoy and then have our retail space."

Granbury Cigar Company is open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12-5 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, visit the Facebook page, Granbury Cigar Company or call 682-205-3334.

"Our customers have really made something out of (Granbury Cigar Company)," Lampert added. "You're part of the family and that's really what it's all about."

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The yellow and red walls at Granbury Cigar Company give off a cheery and homey vibe, while the lounge area provides a space for customers to relax, drink, and play a friendly game of backgammon.



David Lampert, right, owner of Granbury Cigar Company, has more than 30 years' experience in the cigar business, and said he enjoys listening to the many stories from customers who are also retired military veterans.

BOOK REVIEW

"Device Free Weekend: A Thriller" proves to be a fine read

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You have a lot of catching up to do. How long has it been since you were all together last? Doesn't matter, the years fall away when you're with your oldest, longest friends. There was a time when you were inseparable and man, it feels good to reconnect, but as in the new novel, "Device Free Weekend" by Sean Doolittle, how well do you still know them?

Had it actually been 20 years since the Stillwater Seven was together?

Stephen Rollins added it up on his Chicago-to-Denver flight. Yep, it had been every bit of two decades since his college chums had all been in the same room. Last time was Will and Perry's wedding day, and yeah, it'd been awhile.

He'd kept up with everyone, sometimes, more or less. Will and Perry filled him in on Emma's life in Minnesota; he'd semi-followed Beau and Lainey (known as Blainey) on YouTube. As for Ryan, well, Stephen watched from afar; his old roommate was too busy running a multinational, multi-multi-million-dollar social media corporation to stay in frequent touch.



COURTESY PHOTO

Author Sean Doolittle

So when the fancy invitation arrived with glitter and silver and a number on the back, Stephen waffled; did he want to keep the window shut and skip the weekend at Ryan Cloverhill's private Pacific Northwest island? Then again, how could he pass up an all-expenses-paid three days of boating, whale-watching

and reminiscing?

He was really glad to see Emma on the same flight, Denver to Seattle. Once, Stephen was in love with her and so was Ryan, and there were regrets - but reconnecting with her felt right. This would be good.

Not good, though; once they'd arrived, Ryan confiscated everyone's cell phones, tablets and watches, and he acted weird. Also not good: Ryan looked awful, and he singled Stephen out to say that he had cancer, and that the weekend was his last hurrah.

It was so unlike him.

He begged Stephen not to tell the others.

And then he drugged everyone at supper the first night, and Ryan disappeared....

Draw the connections however you want, between social media, the online world, ubiquitous devices, techxperts and all - the fact is that with one finger on a digital pulse and one on a trigger, "Device Free Weekend" is a pretty fine thriller.

While you might sense what's going to happen in the first few pages - and you'd be right - author Sean Doolittle keeps readers guessing on the details of this novel - details that readers will be happy to note are believable without going full I.T. on anyone. Reading this book doesn't take you into CPU territory; no, it's current but with the usual, comfortably familiar elements of a thriller - revenge, bullets, spy devices, high-speed chases - perched on a tightrope between good and greed and killers with morals.

Like many thrillers, "Device Free Weekend" can lag sometimes, but take it as a chance to snag a breath before being plunged back into a story that turns you every which way. If you're up for that, it's a book to catch.



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HOOD OUTDOORS

Trolling method provides an effective way to locate fish

As the water warms and the fish get more active, trolling live or artificial baits can help you locate active fish. You can cover a lot of water in a short period of time. This is also extremely effective when the bite is slow and you have to search for those few fish that will bite.

Many anglers all over the country use trolling techniques to catch fish. Many different species can be caught in this fashion. In fact, it can be so effective it is generally against the rules in black bass tournaments. I never really totally understood why it is not allowed, but it has something to do with covering more water than the other guy who is casting and chunking baits. Trolling is typically allowed in striped bass tournaments.

The types of artificial baits that are normally trolled include jigs, crankbaits, and spinners. Sand bass and striped bass are the most popular fish caught trolling on our area lakes.

The simplest form of trolling and most widely used is to drag your bait behind the boat and go as slow as the big motor will allow. The fish will essentially catch themselves when they hit the bait.

When using crankbaits, try a variety of baits that dive to different depths. Some of the largest lipped crankbaits will get you down near 20 feet. Standard lipless crank baits such as the popular rattletrap will go between 2 to 4 feet. For colors that work on our area lakes, I prefer chartreuse-colored baits with an orange belly especially in murky water and/or overcast days. On clear days, I prefer a chrome, white, bone, or blue/chrome, or black back/chrome combinations. Bomber Long A's, Fat Free shad, rattle traps, shad raps and redfins are some consistent producing baits.

The line size you use will also affect how deep your baits will dive. The lighter the line, the farther the dive. Boat speed can be crucial. When using your big motor, you may be moving your bait too fast depending on the season. Other fishermen in specialized boats control their speed accurately. Most of us here just go as slow as we can. Early in the year, I will troll on occasion with my trolling motor to slow down the presentation. Other boats utilize kicker motors to get those slow trolling speeds, which is very effective and is desired if you can afford it.



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. A Granbury resident of more than 35 years, he has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

summer pattern but will work at other times of the year. I have used a downrigger in the winter with my trolling motor to cover more water when the fish are scattered. You can use virtually all types of artificial baits on the downrigger. If you don't have a downrigger, they sell several types of diving rigs that I call "pink ladies" that will get your bait down to a certain depth, depending on how it's connected and how much line you let out. These devices are inexpensive and do work. They work well with jigs and swimming soft plastics, but are not recommended for use with crank baits.

You can also troll live bait, but not with the big motor. This is more like a controlled drift with a trolling motor. Just let out enough line while moving to ensure you have the bait at the desired depth. You may have to use a heavy weight to keep the bait in the strike zone.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are rebounding around the 60-degree mark. Some parts of the lake are reporting a golden algae bloom based on the evidence of dead or dying fish. Fishing is slow in these areas. Other parts of the lake are not experiencing the bloom (the lower end, and in the river near Tin Top). Fishing for sand bass is good in the river near Tin Top on road runners and live minnows. Best striped bass action is on the lower ends on soft plastics and live shad. Largemouth bass continue to be caught near major creek entrances and near laydowns in the river. Catfish continue to be good on cut bait on several areas of the lake. Best crappie action continues near deeper structure.

OTHER AREAS

Comanche Creek reservoir continues to boast on great catches of largemouth bass and limits of channel catfish. I

do not have a tilapia report for Comanche Creek.

Lake Whitney striped bass continue to be good on trolled Alabama rigs and live shad. Best action is from McCown Valley north. Largemouth bass are good on crankbaits and soft plastics fished near main lake points and near The Bluffs.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan's RV Club remains on the go with trips, events

Pecan Plantation's Recreational Vehicle Club enjoyed a restaurant dinner at its most recent meeting when more than 40 members attended. At the meeting, folks received registration forms and held discussion about the upcoming spring rally. Several RV Club members were absent while camping in Port Aransas, and during this excursion, they attended Mardi Gras parades and toured the famous King Ranch. The next RV Club meeting will happen on Tuesday, March 14 at Pecan's Shady Campground pavilion. For complete information on the RV Club and its activities, contact David Kroon at dk1341@swbell.net.



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 28 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother and English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 15 years cumulatively. She spends her time gathering neighborhood news and teaching students how to avoid passive voice.



DAVID KROON | COURTESY PHOTO

The Pecan Plantation Recreational Vehicle Club recently met to discuss plans for spring outings. Pictured, from left, are Bill Winkler, Judy Winkler (RV Club treasurer), Gene Chiappe (RV Club vice president), and Carol Chiappe.

ELECTION TIME

Pecan's annual meeting is happening today, Saturday, March 4, beginning at 11 a.m. at the clubhouse. Pecaners will elect three new members to its board of directors. Vying for the opportunity to serve are Doug Bacon, Gene Barron, Chris Fair, Larry Johnson, Randy Larson, Robert Taber, and Tim Webster. Paper ballots must be delivered to the PAC or clubhouse before 9 a.m. today.

BATTER UP

Pecan's spring senior (ages 55 and up) softball league begins Monday, March 6 at 9:30 a.m. at the softball field next to the PAC. Contact Jerry Gazda for complete information: jvgazda@yahoo.com.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Breakfast Club will meet again on Wednesday, March 8 at 9 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse when Callie Crow will address the crowd. Callie has taught more than 5,000 people and 60 Texas first-responder units how to save an overdose victim. Callie's organization, Drew's 27 Chains, is named in memory of her son and dedicated to saving people from opioid overdoses, as well as bringing awareness to the opioid crisis. All Pecaners are welcome, and reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, March 7: 817-573-2641.

GUITAR LESSONS

Want to learn to play the guitar but not a music reader? If so, instructor and Pecan resident Carolyn Troland has a class for you. A new session (six to eight weeks) begins Thursday, March 9 at 5 p.m. at the PAC. The class holds a maximum of eight students and costs \$25 per week. Students should bring a guitar with newer strings on it as the first class will cover how to tune the instrument. Carolyn has been playing guitar for 60 years and will have students performing their favorite songs "in no time." Call the PAC to secure a spot in the class: 817-573-7952.

WELCOME HOME

The next new member orientation gathering will happen Saturday, March 11 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the Pecan clubhouse. New residents (as well as long timers who would like a refresher on our fabulous community) are welcome.

BAKE SALE

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical service auxiliary is preparing for its annual spring bake sale slated for Saturday, March 11 beginning at 10 a.m. at the EMS building meeting room on Monticello Drive. A "Flamingle" theme will make the day big fun. Cowtown Gold and Silver will also be on site to purchase

precious metals, donating a part of their proceeds to Pecan's emergency groups.

Furthermore, the next regular meeting of the auxiliary will happen Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in the EMS building. All Pecan residents interested in fundraising for our community's emergency service groups are invited to attend. The meeting will be preceded by a soup social beginning at 6.

BOOT SCOOTIN'

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's annual boot scootin' dinner and dance is on the calendar for Saturday, March 25, and tickets are on sale now. Folks who would like to reserve a spot may visit www.mypwpc.com/bootscootin to order tickets. All proceeds from the event will benefit Hood County charities as well as PPWC scholarship recipients.

CLEAN UP

In agreement with TXDOT, Pecan Plantation has adopted two miles of Fall Creek Highway beginning at our neighborhood's front entrance and will endeavor to keep it litter free and lovely.

The next clean-up day is Saturday, March 18 with volunteers gathering at the PAC at 9 a.m. All safety items, supplies, and water will be provided, and when work is complete, participants' names will be drawn for gift certificates from Pecan businesses.

Volunteers may sign up by contacting Roger Merrill at 817-243-9694.

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

PETS OF THE WEEK

Valentine is a female Husky mix dog. She is approximately 1-1/2 years old and weighs about 45 pounds. Valentine is good with other dogs and is friendly. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

Weston is a neutered male shepherd mix dog. He is approximately 2 years old and weighs about 62 pounds. Weston loves treats and gets along with other dogs. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes all things listed above.

Hood County Animal Control
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 03 March 2023 - Thursday, 09 March 2023

65 (PG13)
Thurs: 4:00PM, 6:25PM, 8:50PM

80 for Brady (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 12:05PM, 2:35PM, 5:05PM.
Sun: 1:45PM, 4:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:45PM, 5:15PM.
Thurs: 2:55PM

Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 1:10PM, 4:05PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 12:40PM, 3:40PM, 6:35PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:30PM

Cocaine Bear (R)
Fri, Sat: 12:05PM, 2:35PM, 5:05PM, 7:30PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 2:05PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM

Creed III (PG13)
Fri: 12:20PM, 1:20PM, 3:10PM, 4:10PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:50PM, 9:50PM.
Sat: 12:00PM, 1:20PM, 2:50PM, 4:10PM, 5:40PM, 7:00PM, 8:30PM, 9:50PM.
Sun: 12:55PM, 1:20PM, 3:45PM, 4:10PM, 6:35PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 3:10PM, 4:50PM, 6:00PM, 7:40PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM

Jesus Revolution (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 12:30PM, 3:20PM, 6:10PM, 9:00PM.
Sun: 12:35PM, 3:25PM, 6:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:15PM, 5:05PM, 8:00PM.
Thurs: 2:25PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM

Magic Mike's Last Dance (R)
Fri, Sat: 7:35PM, 10:20PM.
Sun: 6:50PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 7:50PM.
Thurs: 8:25PM

Scream VI (R)
Thurs: 5:30PM

Scream VI in 3D (R)
Thurs: 8:25PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice
(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

	2			1	7		5
				6			
	9		8	7	2		6
6	7			4			3
3							4
	2		8			6	1
2	3	1	5		4		
		6					
8	6	3			9		

Puzzle by websudoku.com

8	3	5	7	4	2	9	6	1
2	7	9	1	6	5	3	8	4
6	1	4	3	9	8	7	5	2
3	2	6	8	7	1	5	4	9
4	9	7	6	5	3	1	2	8
5	8	1	9	2	4	6	3	7
7	4	8	5	1	6	2	9	3
1	6	2	4	3	9	8	7	5
9	5	3	2	8	7	4	1	6

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Feb. 22 (Puzzle 107).

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GO PLAY

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11:15 a.m. chair yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club, ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game, noon at Texas Cottage, 5920 Henslee Court. \$8, earn Masterpoints. Details: 817-480-4472.

SONS OF the American Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night. 5 - 7 p.m. American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com.

MODERN SQUARE Dancing lessons every Monday at the Granbury YMCA at 1 p.m. For more information contact Ted at 435-720-6920 or Faye at 682-309-8504.

TUESDAYS

LINE DANCING 2 p.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY JAM Session 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brock's Food and Drink, 4012 Acton Highway. Bring your instrument or get up and sing! Details: 505-710-5100.

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot game day. 10 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County volunteers needed. Go to 3710 S. Sagecrest Court, Rancho Brazos. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch and tools provided. Details: visit habitatofhoodcounty.org or call 817-573-2812.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club offers a "fun duplicate" bridge game at noon at the Texas Cottage, 5920 Henslee Court. \$4. Details: 817-480-4472.

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. tai chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11:15 a.m. chair yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB, 5-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

GENERAL TRIVIA, 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

MELODY BELLES singers, women's choral group rehearsals. 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge Street. Details, please call 817-999-1364.

SATURDAYS

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County volunteers needed. Go to 3710 S. Sagecrest Court, Rancho Brazos. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch and tools provided. Details: visit habitatofhoodcounty.org or call 817-573-2812.

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meet every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Saturday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit, or

use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1 - 3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Granbury Doll House Museum, 421 E Bridge St. All doll appreciators are welcome!

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Historical Society meets the 4th Tuesday each month (except November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets on the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8aol.com.

SECOND SATURDAYS

2ND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets on the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit, or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1 - 3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.



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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Real estate ... never boring, and always changing

You would think by now I would have run out of things to talk about as they pertain to Real Estate, but the truth is I learn something new almost every day. The industry itself can change on a dime, which it has done recently, but more importantly it's the people. Young and old, single, married, filthy rich, or just scraping up enough for a down payment, all have different wants and needs and all deserve the very best representation. Which means we, as REALTORS® need to be stay current not just about today's interest rates, deed restrictions or



BY PAM KNIEPER

Pam Knieper, Broker/Owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 Top Producer for more than 15 years in Hood County and running. She is known as the Waterfront Expert and the Authority on Real Estate.

negotiating tactics but also about changing trends. It is critical we, as REALTORS® understand what is driving the market, because staying current 'helps us help you' make better real estate decisions. Did you know that the demand for second homes has grown almost 99% since 2015? There continues to be a strong and consistent need for more lakefront and resort properties. A large percent-

age of this increase can be attributed to the surge in vacation rentals. Many people that could not ordinarily afford a second home can now actually pay for that second home by renting it out during peak vacation seasons. Making owning a lake house a realistic goal for a lot of people. How about this interesting fact: It has been reported that an estimated 50% of Millennial Investors choose to invest in real estate. So,

while Baby Boomers are still the generation with the most reported wealth in real estate, Millennials are working hard to catch up. Saving an estimated 10% of their income for investments and consistently choosing real estate over the stock market, working with an agent who targets Millennials in its advertising should be high on home sellers' lists of priorities. Do you enjoy entertaining outdoors? If so, you are not alone. More than two-thirds of millennials and Gen Xers want large yards and outdoor spaces. Most millennials realize that their first house may not be their forever home.

However, outdoor space is at the top of their priority list. Outdoor kitchens, pools, and large covered porches are more popular than ever, so when considering home projects don't forget to look at your backyard. High-Tech is making a strong impact on home sales: An estimated 73% of home buyers say they would pay more for a home with smart devices. Multi-functional smart hubs are the most popular devices with video doorbells and smart lighting following closely behind. Being able to adjust your thermostat from the office, lock and unlock your door with your phone, or turn lights

on and off automatically while on vacation are just a few of the smart features tech savvy buyers are looking for. Fun Fact: Did you know that open houses used to last 12 hours? I think I can speak for everyone when I say Thank Goodness that trend has gone the way of the dinosaur...LOL! As always thank you for taking to time to read our article. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 of visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.
pamK@knieperteam.com | 817-219-0456

GHS program: Hands-on experiences can lead to medical careers

BY JILLIAN TREMBLE

Special to the Hood County News

In medical facilities all around Granbury, there are high school students as young as 16 getting the chance to gain hands-on experience in the career fields they hope to enter. This is through a medical internship program, referred to as clinicals, organized by the CTE department at Granbury High School. This program allows students to do two semesters, one junior and one senior year, interning at medical facilities.

These students are required to take principles of Health Science their first year and Anatomy and Physiology their second before they are allowed to enter into any class that would allow them to work in the medical field. Then they are allowed to take a semester of Health Science and Theory and then — during the second semester of their third year — they can finally begin clinicals at a hospital. For their senior year, students are allowed to specialize by choosing between three clinical

options: pharmaceutical, EMT, and CNA/EKG.

Alan Davila, a senior at GHS, speaks very highly of the program. He hopes to enter into a yet-to-be decided career in the medical field after graduating, and he believes that the program has "opened his eyes" to the many possible career paths he could pursue. He indicated that he believes that the ability to gain such valuable experience so young has made a "huge impact" on his life.

In addition to the invaluable experience the program offers, Davila — who is currently enrolled in the pharmaceutical clinicals — described the certification he will be able to earn at the end of his course. He has the opportunity to earn a PTCB card, which will allow him to work unsupervised in a pharmacy straight out of high school.

This program is not without its challenges, however. Alyse Hagar, another senior enrolled in clinicals, described the program as impacting her future in medicine in another way. She recalled one

specific incident in her first year of clinicals when she was in the room when a patient "coded" — an incident that convinced her that a career working hands-on with patients was not for her. She "still really wants to be able to help people," but this program has helped her realize that a position in pharmaceuticals or psychology would be the better way for her to do so.

In spite of her disillusion with working in a hospital, Hagar had nothing but good things to say about the program. She credits the program for allowing her to gain the experience to make an informed decision as to what she wants to do as a career at age 17 — instead of not coming to that conclusion until she is in college or possibly even medical school.

This speaks to the benefits that clinicals, and many other CTE courses, are offering GHS students. Students are leaving GHS with hands-on experience that allows them to make educated decisions about their future career paths, and get a step ahead in either the workforce or college.



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