

# Lampasas Dispatch Record



VOL. 116, NO. 105 ONE SECTION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021

75 CENTS

## Demographics reflect changes in education level, income

BY MASON HINES  
DISPATCH RECORD

Increasing populations seem to be the norm for the nation, as the life expectancy rates rise and improved living standards are noted within cities.

For Lampasas County, this population trend has proven true as well, with the county seeing an increase in overall population for the last 10 years.

In 2020, the United States Census Bureau confirmed the Lampasas city population at 7,291 people – an increase of roughly 9% from the 2010 Census number of 6,681.

Lampasas County saw a 10% increase in population, on par with what was recorded in surrounding counties such as Bell, Burnet and Coryell. Those entities all saw an increase of 10% or more in their population figures.

The American Community

Survey, taken yearly for demographic purposes, is useful for comparing certain statistics over the past 10 years. Its details on the area's education and earning rates seem particularly noteworthy, considering how the coronavirus pandemic has affected individuals over the past two years.

### EDUCATION RATE

Lampasas County has seen a slow drop in the percentage of high school graduates within its boundaries, with 29.4% of individuals over the age of 25 having a high school education or the equivalent. That represents a 2.5% decrease from 2010, when the marker was at 31.9%.

Compared to Mills County and San Saba County, Lampasas County has the lowest percentage of high school graduates. Those

SEE TWELVE, PAGE 7



MASON HINES | DISPATCH RECORD

## Central Texans gearing up for New Year's celebrations

Angelina Price of American Fireworks sells products to 16-year-old Ryan Tristan of Killeen. Tristan is one of hundreds of Texans who will buy fireworks for their New Year's celebrations. For information on safety precautions and some rules that govern fireworks usage in the county, see the story on page 2.

# Twelve percent of Lampasas County residents have bachelor's degree

FROM PAGE 1

neighboring entities show slightly more than 31% of their residents hold high school diplomas.

All three counties have a low percentage of college graduates, with Lampasas County at 12.8%, San Saba County at 11% and Mills County having the highest rate at 13.8%.

College-graduate males in Lampasas County have trended upward over the last decade, with 12.1% holding a bachelor's degree compared to 10.7% in

2010. College-graduate females in the county trended slightly downward — down 0.6% from 2010 to 2019.

Both Mills and San Saba counties saw a decrease of 2% or more among males with a bachelor's degree.

Female college graduates were up 1% in Mills County, but down 3.4% in San Saba County.

## EARNINGS RATE

Earnings for Lampasas County residents seem to be blossoming as the county grows.

The median income for both high school graduates and bachelor's degree earners has increased.

Average wages for those with a high school degree rose over \$9,000 to \$30,655.

Those with a bachelor's degree saw earnings increase over \$12,000 during the decade surveyed.

In Mills County, both groups had an increase of more than \$15,000 during the last decade with salaries ranging from \$37,000 to \$51,000. San Saba

County saw only a \$600 earnings gain for high school graduates, while wages rose \$10,000 for those with a college degree.

Males had the largest overall increase, with both Lampasas County and San Saba County residents increasing their median income more than \$15,000. No data was available for Mills County.

Females in both San Saba and Lampasas counties saw a drop in median earnings, with San Saba going from \$33,750 to \$31,250 and Lampasas County remaining very

close to the same.

Mills County females reported a \$14,000 increase in wages among the college graduates.

The biggest wage increase came from high school-educated males, with Mills County residents showing a nearly \$20,000 increase over the decade, earning up to \$50,000.

The remainder of the high school education demographics saw minor increases, except in San Saba County, whose female median earnings dropped nearly \$6,000 — from \$23,269 in 2010 to \$17,740 in 2019.