



# HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 10, 2026

WEEKLY / JAN. 3-9 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

**CITY ACTIONS 02 / STOCK SHOW 03 / SCHOOLS 04 / COUNTY SPORTS 06**

## GRANBURY EXPANDS ITS LIMITS

**Council annexes more than 2,000 acres at Knox Ranch.**



Granbury City Hall, June 2018. File photo; cropped. Photo adaptation: CC BY-SA 4.0, [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). | Michael Barera / Wikimedia Commons

### HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council voted 6-0 on Jan. 6 to annex more than 2,000 acres at the request of Granbury Reddy Land Partners, bringing a large tract known as Knox Ranch inside the city limits.

The property is addressed at 2801 W. Highway 377. A city staff report places the undeveloped land on both sides of Meadow Wood, south of West Highway 377 and north of Paluxy Highway. Staff said the purpose of annexation was to allow future development.

The public hearing included concerns about water use, infrastructure and what might eventually be built. City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle told the council that the city had received no development application. Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Wadley said annexation would allow city regulations and building codes to apply.

The staff report says the property will enter the city under Interim Holding zoning pending approval of permanent zoning. It also identifies

the tract as being within the city's water and sewer service areas, with those services potentially extendable to the site.

The council's action changes the municipal boundary. The staff report's reference to future permanent zoning identifies another decision in the process; it does not describe an approved construction plan for the tract.

Source: City Council minutes, Jan. 6; City agenda report 7.2; City video summary, Jan. 7

## GOVERNMENT &amp; DEVELOPMENT

02

RETAIL, EVENTS  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## ATWOODS CLEARS A ZONING STEP

HCE STAFF WRITER

A proposed Atwoods retail store at 203 Gateway cleared a zoning step Jan. 6 when Granbury City Council approved a change from Interim Holding to Planned Development/Light Commercial.

The request submitted by Kayla Wood covers 14.404 acres. The proposed lot includes a shared driveway along the western edge connecting the development to Highway 377.

Service and loading space, drainage improvements and a septic field appear behind the proposed building. The staff report says water service could be extended, while the distance to sewer service does not require the project to connect to the city system.

Ordinance 26-05 includes project-specific standards for outdoor merchandise displays, signs, storage screening and building design. It permits continuous

displays in designated areas and provides for a garden center and steel yard.

The ordinance also says the accompanying plans remain subject to administrative review for other requirements before permits are issued. The zoning decision therefore advances the proposal without establishing a store opening date. The council's vote was unanimous.

Source: City Council minutes, Jan. 6; City agenda report 7.5; Ordinance 26-05

BARRIERS FOR  
BUSY EVENTS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury police received City Council authorization Jan. 6 to seek grant funding for portable vehicle barricades and a trailer to store and transport them.

The department's proposal calls for a request of no more than \$125,000 through the fiscal 2027 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program administered by the governor's office. The barriers would help close parade routes and other designated event areas to vehicles.

Under the financing approach described to council, the city would make the initial purchase if funding is awarded, then receive reimbursement for the full purchase price. Staff said there is no requirement to buy equipment before a grant is awarded and accepted.

The Jan. 6 action authorizes an application; a grant award and equipment purchase remained future steps.

Source: City Council minutes, Jan. 6; City agenda report 6.3; Resolution 26-01

BULLS ON  
THE BEACH

HCE STAFF WRITER

Bulls on the Beach cleared its annual city land-use review Jan. 6, when Granbury City Council approved a temporary specific-use permit for the event at City Beach Park.

The authorization covers March 12-25, including setup and takedown, according to the staff report. Those dates describe the permit window rather than a daily performance schedule. The event is planned in conjunction with the larger Founder's Day Jubilee.

Applicant Kelly Clark sought permission for a temporary outdoor amusement use at the city-owned beach, 615 E. Pearl St.

Ordinance 26-01 establishes the March permit period and requires the event to follow the city's event and festival ordinance. Council consideration also addresses the city rule governing animals at the beach during approved events.

Source: City Council minutes, Jan. 6; City agenda report 7.1; Ordinance 26-01

AROUND HOOD COUNTY

A WEEK AT THE STOCK SHOW

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County's junior livestock calendar put young exhibitors from the Granbury, Tolar and Lipan communities at the center of the first full week of January. The 2026 show and sale was scheduled January 5-10 at the Reunion Grounds.

The week's program moved from rabbits and a skill-a-thon Monday to broilers and rabbits Tuesday, followed by sheep and goats

Wednesday. Agricultural mechanics, family living and swine filled Thursday's schedule; heifers and market steers were on Friday's program.

The association's eligibility rules connected the show to all three school districts through qualifying school attendance or residence and participation in Hood County 4-H, FFA, junior FFA or FCCLA. Entries

went well beyond animals: family living allowed as many as 15 items per exhibitor and agricultural mechanics allowed two projects.

The premium auction was scheduled for noon Saturday, January 10, after this edition's January 9 reporting cutoff. Auction proceeds and final sale results belong in the following week's coverage.

Source: HCLRA 2026 show rules; HCLRA 2026 schedule

JAN. 5-6

Skill-a-thon

Broilers and rabbits

JAN. 7-8

Sheep and goats

Ag mechanics, family living and swine

JAN. 9

Heifers

Market steers

THE PREMIUM SALE

HCE STAFF WRITER

The 2026 show rules linked premium-sale eligibility to placement. For market steers, lambs, swine, goats, agricultural mechanics and broilers, the qualifying group was the top half of each class or first through fourth place, whichever was greater. Rabbit eligibility used the top third of single fryers and meat pens.

Exhibitors could sell at most two projects. Family-living projects counted toward that limit, with up to 12 family-living entries eligible for the premium sale. The rules distinguished the premium sale from the family-living silent auction, giving the final day more than one route for supporting exhibitors.

Source: HCLRA 2026 show rules

JAN. 10 PLAN

HCE STAFF WRITER

The published January 10 program listed a buyer meal from 10 to 11:30 a.m., the close of the family-living silent auction at 11 a.m., and family-living auction checkout beginning at 11:30 a.m. The premium auction was set for noon.

Source: HCLRA 2026 schedule

**NOON**

Premium auction, January 10.

GRANBURY / TOLAR / LIPAN

The 2026 rules connect eligibility to all three school districts.

## PEOPLE &amp; SCHOOLS

04

A FIRST FOR  
GRANBURY HIGH

300

Regeneron Science Talent Search scholars nationwide

18

Texas students selected, according to Granbury ISD

\$2,000

Award to each scholar and an equal award to the school

## GIBSON EARNS NATIONAL SCIENCE HONOR

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School senior Shanice Gibson has been selected among the 300 scholars in the 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search, becoming the first student from the school to earn the distinction, Granbury ISD announced Jan. 7.

Gibson's project examines how skin models with different melanin concentrations retain moisture and respond to treatments. She used gelatin, melanin analogs and Raspberry Pi technology to build an

affordable model, including tests involving ceramide-based moisturizers.

The district said her research addresses the underrepresentation of higher-melanin skin in laboratory studies of conditions such as eczema. Its use of accessible materials also offers a less expensive way to pursue biomedical research.

Gibson was one of 18 Texas students selected, according to the

district. More than 2,600 high school seniors applied for the competition.

The Society for Science, which organizes the Regeneron-sponsored program, will award each scholar \$2,000 and each scholar's school another \$2,000. The next selection is scheduled for Jan. 21, when 40 finalists will be announced. Finalists will be invited to Washington, D.C., to present their work and compete for the top \$250,000 award.

Source: Granbury ISD, Jan. 7; Society for Science, Jan. 7

## BACK FOR A NEW GRADING PERIOD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD students began the fourth grading period Thursday, January 8, after a holiday break that extended through January 5. January 6 and 7 were staff workdays and student holidays on the district calendar.

The January 7 schedule also included a Future Ready Leadership Summit at Acton Elementary, listed from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The district calendar placed the Hood County Junior Livestock Show alongside the return-to-school week, January 5-10.

Ahead on the published calendar were a January 12 school-board meeting at 5 p.m. and Coffee with the CFO on January 13 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the administration building, 217 N. Jones Street. Those meetings were still upcoming at the reporting cutoff.

Source: Granbury ISD January calendar

MARKSMANSHIP

05

GRANBURY ON TARGET

299-26X

Mataya Turner led the precision field in CMP postal results released January 5.

1ST & 3RD

Two Granbury entries reached the top three in the Marine Corps precision team standings.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School's Mataya Turner finished as the leading precision competitor in the 2025-2026 JROTC Three-Position Postal Air Rifle Championship, according to final results released Jan. 5 by the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

Turner scored 299-26X. Fellow Granbury shooter Ethan Erwin placed second in the Marine Corps precision individual standings with

294-23X, behind Turner and ahead of IL Texas Keller-Saginaw's Alexis Wells.

Granbury also occupied two of the top three places in the Marine Corps precision team competition. One Granbury entry finished first at 1175-84X, while another placed third at 1154-63X. East Coweta High School of Georgia was second at 1162-72X.

More than 6,000 junior athletes participated in the postal championship, which ran from September through December. Competitors fired official targets at their home ranges and sent them to CMP headquarters for scoring.

The results determine advancement to the JROTC Service Championships, scheduled for February in Utah, Alabama and Ohio.

Source: CMP final results, Jan. 5

ALLEN SIGNS WITH TCU

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School senior Viola Allen has signed to continue her competitive marksmanship career at TCU after graduation, Granbury ISD announced Jan. 7.

Allen is scheduled to join the Horned Frogs' rifle program in fall 2026. The district's announcement highlighted a high school career that includes a national standing record in Marine Corps JROTC precision air

rifle: a perfect 200-point score with 19 X's.

She also helped Granbury's rifle program earn an eighth national championship team title. Her individual accomplishments include second place at the National Marine Corps Service Rifle Championship and a bronze medal at the Winter Air Gun Championship, according to the district.

Allen has been selected for the USA Shooting Junior Olympics and the American Legion Nationals as well.

Alongside her scores, the district recognized Allen's leadership within the MCJROTC program during her high school years. Her planned move to TCU gives the Granbury senior a collegiate destination as she completes her final school year.

Source: Granbury ISD, Jan. 7

COUNTY SPORTS & BUSINESS

THE WEEK ON THE COURT

LIPAN BOYS

Jan. 6: Lipan 97, Hico 42  
Jan. 9: Lipan 76, Hamilton 36

TOLAR BOYS

Jan. 6: Tolar 77, Eastland 8  
Jan. 9: Peaster 52, Tolar 44

LIPAN GIRLS

Jan. 6: Lipan 52, Hico 41  
Jan. 9: Lipan 47, Hamilton 28

TOLAR GIRLS

Jan. 6: Tolar 40, Eastland 15  
Jan. 9: Tolar 55, Peaster 20

GRANBURY BOYS

Jan. 9: Brewer 48, Granbury 34  
Basketball

NEXT: JAN. 13

Lipan boys host Graford  
Granbury boys at Aledo

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan's varsity basketball teams combined for four road victories during the Jan. 6-9 district schedule, while Tolar's girls also completed a two-win week.

The Lipan boys defeated Hico 97-42 on Tuesday and Hamilton 76-36 on Friday. Across the two games, the Indians scored 173 points and allowed 78. The Lady Indians

followed the same road itinerary, winning 52-41 at Hico and 47-28 at Hamilton.

Tolar's girls held both opponents to 20 points or fewer. The Lady Rattlers won 40-15 at Eastland on Jan. 6, then returned home to defeat Peaster 55-20 on Jan. 9. Their combined margin across the two games was 60 points.

The Tolar boys split their pair. A 77-8 victory at Eastland on Tuesday was followed by a 52-44 home loss to Peaster on Friday.

Granbury's boys lost 48-34 at home to Brewer on Jan. 9. The Pirates' next district trip was scheduled for Aledo on Jan. 13. Lipan's boys were scheduled to host Graford that night.

Source: MaxPreps; University Interscholastic League

JANUARY BUSINESS ROUNDUP

HCE STAFF WRITER

Visit Granbury's New Year newsletter listed Rise & Grind for Friday, January 9, at 9 a.m. in the Langdon Grounds Concert Hall. The gathering was presented as a place to

exchange local event and business news.

The same issue promoted Winter Guest Passport offers for stays, dining and shopping during January

and February. Together, the notices marked the shift from holiday events toward the city's winter visitor season.

Source: Visit Granbury New Year newsletter

## ARTS &amp; THE WEEK AHEAD

07

MUSIC AROUND  
THE SQUARE

Granbury Opera House in June 2018. File photo; cropped. Photo adaptation: CC BY-SA 4.0, [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). | Michael Barera / Wikimedia Commons

## THREE GRANBURY LIVE DATES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Live's first full January week spanned yacht rock, country and a ZZ Top tribute. The venue's archived listings place Windbreakers on Saturday, January 3, Mike Eli on Thursday, January 8, and ZZ TEX with Kraig Parker on Friday, January 9.

Windbreakers was advertised as a yacht-rock tribute, with a 7 p.m. start. Eli's listing identified a 7:30

p.m. show; the ZZ TEX and Kraig Parker date was listed for 7 p.m.

The shows also appeared in Visit Granbury's New Year entertainment roundup. Together, the three dates gave the downtown venue a Saturday opening to the week and consecutive Thursday-Friday bookings as the community moved out of the holiday period.

Source: Visit Granbury New Year newsletter; Venue ticket archive; Granbury Live archive

## AT THE OPERA

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Opera House scheduled Turn the Page, a Bob Seger tribute concert, for three performances across January 9-10. The listing placed the opening on Friday, within this edition's reporting week, with the engagement continuing Saturday.

TheaterMania's event record identified the venue as 133 E. Pearl Street and advertised floor seats at \$54 and balcony seats at \$49. Those are the historical advertised prices, not a current ticket offer.

The engagement was scheduled across the second weekend of January, with Granbury Live offering a separate series of tribute and country dates nearby.

Source: TheaterMania event archive

## WINTER GUEST SEASON

Goosebump Jump preview: page 8

## PUBLIC SERVICES &amp; COMMUNITY

08

VERIFY BEFORE  
YOU PAY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury officials warned residents and local businesses Jan. 6 about fraudulent emails claiming to come from the city and seeking money or payment instructions.

The city said the messages may include invoices, request payment or ask recipients to reply for wiring instructions. Its notice urged recipients to stop before interacting with suspicious messages and to

check with city staff when something appears wrong.

Official city email addresses end in @granbury.org, according to the warning. The city specifically cautioned that messages using look-alike addresses, including addresses ending in @usa.com, are not city communications.

Officials also said the city does not request payment through wire

transfers or unsolicited email attachments. Residents were advised against opening attachments or following links in a suspicious email, and against sending money or personal information in response.

The alert asked people to share the warning with neighbors and businesses.

Source: City warning, Jan. 6

## DOWNTOWN SIGNS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Historic Preservation Commission approved two requests involving downtown building signs and exterior work at its Jan. 8 meeting.

The commission voted 4-0 to approve a request from Vicki Nivens of Hotel Lucy for a hand-painted exterior wall sign at 122 N. Crockett St. The proposed sign would occupy a stucco area previously used for a tenant's painted sign.

The commission also voted 4-0 on an application presented by David Shaw for RAE Commercial Property LLC at 101 E. Pearl St., at the Houston Street corner. That request involved a west-side awning, a second-floor exterior wall and a window sign.

Members discussed building materials and design guidelines with the applicant before approving the request as described in the application. Both matters were considered in public hearings.

Source: Historic commission minutes, Jan. 8

## RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Reconstructed October 4, 2026. Covers January 3-9. Later official records verify in-week events; no historic publication or distribution is claimed.

## A JUMP FOR CHARITY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Visit Granbury was promoting January 17 as the next major winter gathering at City Beach Park: the Lake Granbury Goosebump Jump, paired with Chili on the Beach.

The city's visitor bureau listed a \$10 jump-registration fee and a separate \$10 chili tasting. Its announcement tied the charitable award to the nonprofit named by the largest number of participants who registered and checked in. Spectators could attend without taking the plunge.

The event announcement also listed costume contests, mascot races, vendors and a warming area, with a Hilton Garden Inn gathering after the jump. The New Year newsletter paired the beach event with an Ice Age 5K at Hewlett Park that morning.

Source: Visit Granbury New Year newsletter; Visit Granbury event notice

## JANUARY 17

Goosebump Jump / City Beach Park

Historical advance event listing.