



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

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JANUARY 17, 2026

WEEKLY / JAN. 10-16 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

GROWTH & SAFETY 02 / SCHOOLS 04 / COUNTY SPORTS 06 / WEATHER 07

DATA-CENTER PLAN GETS CONDITIONS

County sets water and drainage requirements for Comanche Circle.



Hood County Courthouse, June 2018. File photo; cropped. Photo adaptation: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/. | Michael Barera; perspective correction by Jim Evans / CC BY-SA 4.0

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County commissioners conditionally approved the Comanche Circle concept plan Jan. 13, requiring additional information before the proposed data-center development can advance.

Sailfish Investors Acquisitions LLC's submitted plan describes a roughly 2,100-acre, nonresidential project with private groundwater wells, an on-site wastewater treatment plant and space reserved for potential power generation. Those features are proposals, rather than completed facilities.

The county's motion requires a comprehensive drainage plan and information addressing treated wastewater and sludge disposal within 45 days after the applicant receives written notice of the conditional approval.

Before submission of a site-plan application, the developer must also demonstrate adequate water resources for the project's total needs, including power generation. Other conditions address the watershed, neighboring land uses, rural character and compliance of

proposed power facilities with county standards.

In separate action, the court unanimously scheduled a Feb. 10 public hearing to review recommended changes to county development regulations and consider a moratorium. Commissioners emphasized the procedural nature of that step during the meeting. The Jan. 13 vote scheduled further consideration; it did not itself enact a moratorium.

Source: Hood County meeting, Jan. 13; Comanche Circle concept plan

GOVERNMENT & DEVELOPMENT

02

GROWTH AND
PUBLIC SAFETY

A QUIKTRIP PROPOSAL ADVANCES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Planning and Zoning Commission voted 5-0 Jan. 12 to support a planned-development amendment for a proposed convenience store and fuel pumps at 5260 E. U.S. Highway 377.

The VEN-KEN Inc. request concerns a 3.758-acre property already zoned Planned Development/Light Commercial. Senior Planner Cody Nolen told commissioners the site received that zoning in January 2023

for the same general use, and a plat was under review.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed development standards, building elevations and landscaping. Staff recommended approval subject to the ordinance's conditions and said the proposed zoning complied with the new comprehensive plan.

Applicant representative Ben Williams described the project as Granbury's first QuikTrip. Asked about truck fueling, he said such

facilities would typically be included at the start of a project and that a later addition was unlikely.

The commission's action concerns the zoning amendment. The meeting record establishes no construction schedule or opening date. In a separate discussion, Community Development Director Kira Wauwie reviewed possible ordinance updates involving public notices, food trucks, manufactured homes and retail zoning.

Source: Granbury P&Z minutes, Jan. 12

A REVIEW OF RADIO OPTIONS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County opened a search Jan. 12 for a consultant to evaluate the future of its public-safety radio network, with qualifications due Feb. 9 at 10 a.m.

The county wants independent advice on coverage, reliability, security, costs and communication with neighboring agencies. Its request calls for comparing continued participation in the Granbury Regional Radio Network, a county-owned and operated network, and participation in another regional system.

The county joined the Granbury network in November 2023 to improve first-responder coverage in cooperation with nearby jurisdictions, according to the solicitation.

The consultant's assignment would be analytical and advisory. The document excludes equipment sales, installation, maintenance and operation from the work and requires disclosure of vendor relationships or conflicts. The selected consultant could not benefit

from county radio-equipment procurement during the engagement.

Written findings and presentations would identify trade-offs and recommended next steps. The request seeks an evaluation rather than announcing a decision to replace the network.

Hood County prefers electronic submissions through its Bonfire portal. Questions about RFQ2026-03 are due to purchasing officials by Jan. 30 at 10 a.m.

Source: County bid index; County RFQ2026-03

FEBRUARY 9

Radio consultant qualifications due at 10 a.m.

RFQ2026-03

Independent evaluation of public-safety radio options.

ROADS & PUBLIC SERVICES

03

WHERE CITY RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS

HCE STAFF WRITER

A Granbury mailing address can belong to a property outside the city limits, the city reminded residents in a Jan. 15 public-information notice.

Postal addresses and ZIP codes extend into unincorporated areas of Hood County. That makes an address alone an unreliable guide to which municipal services, taxes and rules apply.

The city outlined several ways to check. Its interactive map shades land inside the city limits in green and allows users to search an address. Residents can reach the map through the Residents section of granbury.org.

A property-tax statement is another check: property inside the city typically lists the City of Granbury as

a taxing entity. Weekly Waste Connections curbside service billed through a city utility account is also described as a strong indicator, rather than a substitute for confirmation.

For a direct answer, residents may send the address in question to pio@granbury.org.

Source: City notice, Jan. 15

THE MAP

Search the city map to check whether an address falls within municipal boundaries.

THE TAX BILL

A City of Granbury taxing-entity entry is a useful cross-check.

ASK THE CITY

The Jan. 15 notice directs residency questions to pio@granbury.org.

NEXT WEEK ON FM 4 & PEARL STREET

HCE STAFF WRITER

Drivers using FM 4, also known as Lipan Highway, should plan for daytime lane reductions Jan. 20-22 under a schedule announced by the City of Granbury Jan. 15.

TxDOT milling operations are planned from east of Hill Country Court to Ruff County Court. The highway is to be reduced to one lane

as needed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

The city urged drivers to slow down, follow posted signs and remain alert around workers and other vehicles. The notice describes intermittent lane reductions during the work hours, rather than an announced all-day highway closure.

A separate Jan. 15 notice advises motorists to expect a brief delay on the Pearl Street Bridge at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, while an overhead banner is replaced. The two announcements cover different work locations and schedules.

Source: City FM 4 notice, Jan. 15; City bridge notice, Jan. 15

PEOPLE & SCHOOLS

04

NEW LEADERSHIP
FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

ROCKA CHOSEN FOR GISD HUMAN RESOURCES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD named Tim Rocka its next executive director of human resources in a January 13 announcement, setting up a leadership transition after Wes Jones retires at the end of February.

Rocka brings more than three decades in Texas public education. He had served as Carthage ISD's deputy superintendent since 2023, following work in career and technical education at Whitehouse ISD.

His earlier posts include interim superintendent, deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent for human resources at Bryan ISD, along with human-resources and finance roles in other Texas districts.

Rocka earned his doctorate at Texas A&M University and bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University. He holds Texas superintendent certification and the Registered

Texas School Business Administrator credential.

The district also cited his consulting work with the Texas Association of School Business Officials and graduate-level teaching at Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston State universities. The announced transition places his arrival after Jones completes his service.

Source: Granbury ISD, Jan. 13

MAMBRINO TRANSITION

HCE STAFF WRITER

The January board spotlight also reported Jessica Johnson's retirement as assistant principal at STEAM Academy at Mambrino. Trustees approved Meredith Payne as the school's new assistant principal.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, Jan. 13

SENIOR OF THE MONTH

HCE STAFF WRITER

Arthur Vilela Luvizari was recognized as Shottenkirk Senior of the Month. A Granbury High football and powerlifting athlete and Junior Optimist Club member, he plans to study computer science at Texas Tech and pursue cybersecurity.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, Jan. 13

CORNERSTONE SEEKS TENNIS COACH

HCE STAFF WRITER

Cornerstone Christian Academy asked its community for help finding a varsity tennis coach in its January 16 Cru Connect newsletter. The school said the coach previously lined up for its girls and boys teams was no longer able to take the position.

The notice invited interested tennis coaches to contact Coach Struikmans as the season approached. The same newsletter sought Monday and Friday volunteers for the school's Lunch Out program.

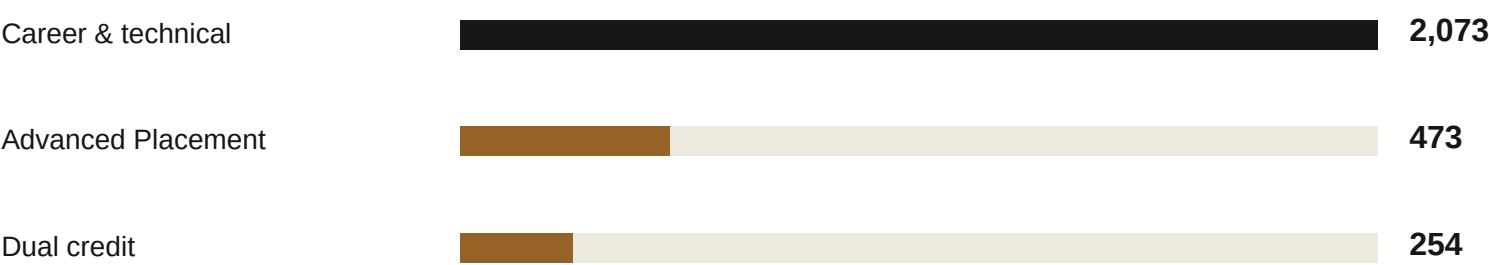
Cornerstone also announced a February 7 father-daughter dance at 4 p.m. for its students in prekindergarten through 12th grade. A January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day school holiday was on the upcoming calendar.

Source: Cornerstone newsletter, Jan. 16

MORE PATHS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

GHS course participation

Number of students reported to trustees January 12



Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, Jan. 13. Categories may overlap; these are program enrollments.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School administrators brought a campus snapshot to the January 12 school-board meeting: more than 2,200 students, 154 teachers and substantial participation in career preparation.

The district's January 13 recap reported 2,073 students in career and technical education, representing 94 percent of the student body. It also counted 254 dual-credit students and 473 taking Advanced Placement courses.

Principal Duane Fish and fellow administrators reported 1,876 students participating in 39 clubs and activities. The update said 84 percent of the 2025 graduating class met college, career or military readiness measures.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, Jan. 13

HYBRID VIRTUAL OPTION IN PLANNING

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD is planning a hybrid virtual-school option for fall 2026, Superintendent Courtney Morawski said in a Jan. 13 video update.

The proposal being discussed would serve ninth- through 12th-grade students and offer another route to a district diploma. Morawski emphasized that the district

remained in the planning phase and would release more information.

Under the approach she described, students would come to school at least once each day while taking some courses with greater flexibility at home. In-person opportunities could include athletics, fine arts, career and technical education, and Advanced Placement classes.

Morawski said the district also planned to seek family input through a survey to help shape the option. The announcement outlined the intended learning model and target season; it did not provide an enrollment opening date or a final course schedule.

Source: Granbury ISD video, Jan. 13

COUNTY SPORTS

LIPAN SWEEPS
TOLAR BOYS WIN TWO

LIPAN BOYS

Jan. 13: Lipan 70, Graford 47
Jan. 16: Lipan 83, De Leon 40

TOLAR BOYS

Jan. 13: Tolar 75, Early 46
Jan. 16: Tolar 64, Comanche 19

GRANBURY BOYS

Jan. 13: Aledo 70, Granbury 39
Jan. 16: Chisholm Trail 48, Granbury 36

LIPAN GIRLS

Jan. 13: Lipan 77, Graford 21
Jan. 16: Lipan 74, De Leon 19

TOLAR GIRLS

Jan. 13: Early 45, Tolar 39
Jan. 16: Comanche 60, Tolar 58

GRANBURY GIRLS

Jan. 13: Aledo 52, Granbury 15
Jan. 16: Chisholm Trail 50, Granbury 46

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan's varsity basketball teams each added two district wins during the January 13-16 week, while Tolar's boys also finished with a pair of victories.

The Lipan boys beat Graford 70-47 at home Tuesday and won 83-40 at De Leon Friday. Across those games, the Indians outscored their opponents

153-87. Lipan's girls beat Graford 77-21 and De Leon 74-19, holding both opponents to 21 points or fewer.

Tolar's boys won 75-46 at Early January 13 and followed with a 64-19 home victory over Comanche January 16. The two wins produced a combined 74-point margin.

The Lady Rattlers lost 45-39 at Early, then fell 60-58 at home to Comanche. The Friday result was the closest of the two games.

Granbury's boys lost 70-39 at Aledo on Tuesday and 48-36 to visiting Chisholm Trail on Friday. The Lady Pirates lost 52-15 at Aledo before a 50-46 home loss to Chisholm Trail.

Source: MaxPreps

GRANBURY AT ALEDO

HCE STAFF WRITER

Aledo built a 19-5 halftime lead over Granbury in the January 13 girls game, then outscored the Lady Pirates 19-2 in the third quarter. Granbury scored eight points in the

fourth, its highest-scoring period, but Aledo finished with a 52-15 victory. The recorded quarter scores show the home team held Granbury to five points across the first two periods.

Source: MaxPreps

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Produced October 4, 2026. Covers January 10-16. Reconstructed from dated records; no historic publication or distribution is claimed.

WEATHER & THE WEEKEND

07

A WINDY FINISH
TO THE WEEK

January 16 peak gusts

Selected stations in and near Hood County



Source: NWS Fort Worth, Jan. 16 / IEM archive. Individual observations; instruments and exposure vary.



Editorial illustration / Hood County Express

HCE STAFF WRITER

A Granbury weather station recorded a 37 mph peak gust Friday, January 16, during a windy morning across North and Central Texas.

The National Weather Service's afternoon summary identified the observation as Granbury 1WNW, recorded at 11:03 a.m. by a remote automated weather station. The same

regional report listed 41 mph at Wheeler Branch in Somervell County and 38 mph at Cleburne Regional Airport.

Mineral Wells reached 40 mph in the report, while Stephenville's Clark Field recorded 37 mph. These are individual station observations at

different times, rather than a uniform reading across Hood County.

The weather service cautioned that the reports came from varied equipment and exposures and that not every listed observation was considered official. The Granbury value is presented as a reported peak gust, not as sustained wind speed.

Source: NWS Fort Worth, Jan. 16 / IEM archive

A COLD, BREEZY WEEKEND OUTLOOK

HCE STAFF WRITER

The National Weather Service's January 16 forecast described a cold front moving through the region, with strong north winds, dry air and falling temperatures. Most of the forecast area was expected to drop below freezing Friday night.

For Saturday, forecasters expected cool, cloudy and breezy conditions. A weak disturbance could produce a

few sprinkles or faint flurries in parts of North Texas, but very dry air near the ground made measurable precipitation unlikely.

The bulletin highlighted an elevated risk of rapidly spreading wildfires across Central Texas because of gusty winds and low humidity. It also warned that strong north winds could move loose

objects and make travel difficult for high-profile vehicles on east-west roads.

This historical outlook covers the National Weather Service's North and Central Texas forecast region and was issued before the January 17 cover date.

Source: NWS Fort Worth forecast, Jan. 16 / IEM archive

ARTS & COMMUNITY

08

ART AROUND
GRANBURY

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

AIRPORT SCULPTURE PLAQUES PROPOSED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Cultural Arts Commission recommended purchasing two plaques for new airport sculptures during its Jan. 15 meeting, setting a ceiling of \$400 subject to approval by the City Council or city manager.

Commissioner Stacey Martin reported a \$178.90 quote for an aluminum plaque with black lettering from Laser Junky. Members supported that direction and said funds were available. Lourdes

Doonan made the recommendation, Mickey Parson seconded it, and the motion passed without opposition.

The panel also discussed programming and potential sponsorships for an Art Talk scheduled April 2 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. Staff liaison Tammy Dooley was to seek direction on the proposed sponsorship arrangements before next steps were settled.

Members discussed moving a presentation by Texas Commission on the Arts Executive Director Chris Kiley from March 5 to March 2 because of a scheduling conflict. Langdon Concert Hall was reported available for the new date.

Future work listed at the meeting included arranging a plaque-unveiling date and gathering travel costs for the airport artist. Those details remained to be worked out.

Source: Arts commission minutes, Jan. 15

DOWNTOWN MUSIC DATES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Live's archived January schedule paired a Queen tribute with a country-music date during the January 10-16 reporting week.

Queen Legacy was listed for Saturday, January 10, at 7 p.m. The venue advertised the act as a tribute to Queen, with historical listed prices of \$55 for VIP seats and \$45 for prime seating.

James Carothers was scheduled for Friday, January 16, at 7:30 p.m., with advertised prices of \$45 and \$35.

Source: Granbury Live archived show listings