



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 24, 2026

WEEKLY / JAN. 17-23 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

CITY ACTIONS 02 / SCHOOLS 04 / GOOSEBUMP JUMP 05 / COUNTY SPORTS 06

WINTER STORM WARNING ISSUED

Friday forecast brings concern over ice, travel and power outages.



HCE editorial illustration. Not a photograph of the January 2026 storm. | Editorial illustration / Hood County Express

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury entered the weekend under a winter storm warning as city officials urged residents Friday, January 23, to prepare for ice, hazardous roads and possible extended power outages.

The city's noon update said the warning would run from 6 p.m. Friday through noon Sunday. The forecast called for a mixture of freezing rain, sleet and snow, with a

quarter- to half-inch of ice possible and isolated amounts reaching three-quarters of an inch. Snow and sleet totals were forecast at 1 to 3 inches.

Officials warned that wind and ice could damage trees and power lines. They asked residents to postpone nonessential travel and prepare flashlights, batteries, warm clothing,

blankets, water, food and necessary medications.

City utility customers were directed to call 817-588-0488 for outages or water leaks. The update also urged neighbors to check on people who might need help. These were Friday warnings and forecasts; the storm's later effects fall outside this reporting week.

Source: City update, Jan. 23 noon

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE APPARATUS PURCHASE APPROVED

\$880,000

Maximum authorized purchase price

\$300,000

Previously accepted state forestry grant

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council voted 6-0 January 20 to authorize a pumper fire apparatus purchase from Siddons-Martin Emergency Group, with spending capped at \$880,000.

Deputy City Manager Michael Ross said a previously accepted \$300,000 state forestry grant would help pay for the apparatus. Staff

recommended the vendor after reviewing competing quotes.

Fire Chief Matt Hohon identified two trucks to be retired under the proposal. When delivered, the new apparatus would also allow another truck to move into reserve. He described reserve equipment as

important to the department's ISO rating.

Council separately approved the General Capital Fund budget amendment for the purchase, also 6-0. The votes authorized the purchase and funding; the meeting record did not establish that a truck had been delivered.

Source: City Council minutes, Jan. 20

POLICE AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

HCE STAFF WRITER

The January 20 consent agenda included 25 Axon Taser 10 devices with accessories and one Axon virtual-reality training system for the Granbury Police Department.

The Axon Enterprise agreement carried a five-year expenditure

ceiling of \$266,003. A separate renewal with Canon Solutions America covered office copiers, printers and maintenance, with a maximum expenditure of \$288,277 over 66 months.

Council approved the consent agenda 6-0 and authorized the city manager to execute the agreements. The figures are contract-term limits, rather than single-year spending totals.

Source: City Council minutes, Jan. 20; City Council agenda, Jan. 20

FIVE YEARS

Axon agreement: up to \$266,003

66 MONTHS

Canon renewal: up to \$288,277

CITY LIFE & PRESERVATION

03

VOLUNTEERS
TAKE THEIR POSTS

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

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council made appointments to boards and commissions January 20, filling posts in planning, parks, aviation, preservation and other areas of city business.

Jayme Cornwell, Richard Hoefs, Tony Mobly and Randall Moore were selected for the Planning and Zoning

Commission. The Regional Airport Board appointments were Kyle Michaelis, Greg Moore and John Roberts.

Mary Hattox, Claudia Southern, Kay Wasielewski and Carol Walton were appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. Mickey Parson, Mary Ella Riley and Alison

Ullom were reappointed to the Cultural Arts Commission.

The Parks Board selections were Phillip Benson, Jayme Cornwell, Kali Kuban and Kay Wasielewski. Paul Cornell, Richard Hoefs and Mickey Parson were chosen for the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee.

Source: City appointments record

CHANGES ALONG PEARL STREET

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Historic Preservation Commission approved two Pearl Street requests January 22, voting 6-0 on each after public hearings.

At Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St., the city sought to change three door awnings from brick-colored fabric to black. The facility was replacing 11 deteriorated, faded or hail-damaged awnings, but only three fell within

the Historic Preservation Overlay and required commission approval.

Planner Angela Durant reviewed photographs and the city's awning guidelines before recommending approval. Commissioners accepted the proposed color change.

The second case concerned a wall sign for Pho Vietnamese Cuisine at 407 W. Pearl St. Chelsi Davis applied

on behalf of Granbury Holding Group LLC. The proposed sign would use existing supports.

Members discussed the sign's dimensions and placement before approving the certificate of appropriateness. The approvals address the submitted exterior changes; the record does not give a restaurant opening date.

Source: Historic commission minutes, Jan. 22

MAMBRINO SPELLER WINS AREA TITLE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Dane McCarthy of STEAM Academy at Mambrino won the Granbury ISD and Area 17 Spelling Bee, the district announced January 21. Acton Middle School's Harper Fox was runner-up.

The result sends McCarthy to the regional spelling bee in March. The district identified seven campus champions in its announcement, representing five elementary campuses and both middle schools.

Rene Jackson coordinated the area bee, Jana Reid served as pronouncer, and Leah Dawson, Stacy Roeming and Angie Molinari were judges.
Source: Granbury ISD, Jan. 21

CAMPUS CHAMPIONS

- Acton Elementary: Cayden Stutz
- Baccus Elementary: Isaac Fuentes
- Brawner Elementary: Rafael Quinonez
- Oak Woods School: Hayden Pigrenet

CAMPUS CHAMPIONS

- STEAM Academy at Mambrino: Dane McCarthy
- Acton Middle: Harper Fox
- Granbury Middle: Luke Lewellen

GISD JOINS STATEWIDE FELLOWSHIP

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced January 23 that it had been selected for the first Raise Your Hand Texas Community Leaders Fellowship, joining an initial group of 29 districts identified in the district's notice.

The 18-month program is designed to bring parents, educators, business leaders and school trustees into local teams that study and participate in state education policy. It is part of the

organization's new Education Advocacy Academy.

The fellowship expands on a predecessor program centered on trustees and superintendents. The launch notice describes teams of seven to 10 people, including at least three community members who are neither school trustees nor district employees.

Organizers describe the work as nonpartisan and issue-based.

Training combines in-person, online and self-paced sessions covering the legislative process, community engagement and sustained advocacy.

For Granbury, the selection creates an opportunity to develop a broader local team around public-school issues. The district's announcement did not name the team's participants or state a grant amount.

Source: Granbury ISD, Jan. 23; Raise Your Hand Texas launch notice

A COLD PLUNGE FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

Goosebump Jump charity participation

January 17 organizer results, marked preliminary



Source: Visit Granbury results / HCN, Jan. 24. Three leading organizations reported; not the event total.

HCE STAFF WRITER

The January 17 Goosebump Jump brought participants to City Beach Park for a cold-water plunge, costume contests and the Chili on the Beach cook-off.

Preliminary organizer results listed the Salvation Army of Hood County first among represented charities with 66 participants, followed by Kiwanis of Granbury with 54 and Mission Granbury with 46. The

counts were explicitly preliminary, not a final accounting of proceeds.

Speith Street Chili Bellies took first in the cook-off, with Neptune's Revenge second and The Bomb Squad third. Good For Hood received the people's-choice award, while Siren's Call was named best dressed.

The organizer's advance notice described the jump as the kickoff to

Granbury's January-February Winter Guest Tourism Season. It paired the lake event with a warming area, vendors and a post-jump gathering. The charity competition counted registered participants who checked in, giving local nonprofit teams a reason to recruit supporters.

Source: Visit Granbury results / HCN, Jan. 24; Visit Granbury event notice



Lake Granbury in NASA World Wind. Public-domain geographic archive uploaded in 2006; not a January 2026 photograph. | NASA World Wind / Wikimedia Commons

COUNTY SPORTS

06

LIPAN AND TOLAR
SWEEP TUESDAY

LIPAN BOYS

Jan. 20: Lipan 76, Poolville 27

LIPAN GIRLS

Jan. 20: Lipan 60, Poolville 14

TOLAR BOYS

Jan. 20: Tolar 76, Dublin 61

TOLAR GIRLS

Jan. 20: Tolar 66, Dublin 22

GRANBURY BOYS

Jan. 20: Fossil Ridge 65, Granbury 58
Jan. 22: Saginaw 67, Granbury 54

GRANBURY GIRLS

Jan. 20: Granbury 49, Fossil Ridge 43
Jan. 22: Saginaw 46, Granbury 33

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan and Tolar each won their boys and girls varsity basketball games Tuesday, January 20, giving both communities a sweep of their district pairings.

Lipan's boys won 76-27 at Poolville, and the Lady Indians won 60-14 on the same road trip. Across the two

games, Lipan's teams scored 136 points and allowed 41.

Tolar hosted Dublin. The Rattlers won the boys game 76-61, while the Lady Rattlers posted a 66-22 victory. The girls' margin was 44 points.

Granbury's teams split their January 20 games at Fossil Ridge: the

boys lost 65-58 and the Lady Pirates won 49-43.

Granbury then played at Saginaw Thursday, January 22. The Pirates lost 67-54, and the Lady Pirates fell 46-33. Both Thursday games finished with 13-point margins.

Source: MaxPreps dated results

JAN. 20 & JAN. 22

Verified varsity basketball results from Granbury, Tolar and Lipan. No later season totals are included.

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Produced October 4, 2026 (Central Time). Covers January 17-23. Reconstructed from dated records; no historic publication or distribution is claimed.

WEATHER & SERVICES

07

PREPARING FOR A FREEZING WEEKEND

PRIORITY ROUTES GET TREATMENT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury crews were treating roads and surfaces serving emergency facilities Friday afternoon, January 23, as winter weather approached.

The city identified the Lake Granbury Medical Center emergency room, the police department, volunteer fire stations and Texas EMS headquarters among the priority locations. The work was intended to

help first responders and medical services keep operating during hazardous conditions.

TxDOT was also treating roads under its jurisdiction. Drivers were asked to be cautious at bridges and overpasses and to slow down around treatment vehicles.

The city announced that the Visit Granbury Visitor Center and trolley

service would close for the January 24-25 weekend. Other city departments were then expected to follow normal weekend schedules.

Hood County Emergency Management reminded residents to reserve 911 for emergencies. The same update listed nonemergency dispatch at 817-579-3307, option 2, or by text at 682-936-1306.

Source: City update, Jan. 23 afternoon

HOOD IN STATE DISASTER DECLARATION

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County was among the counties named in Governor Greg Abbott's January 22 disaster proclamation ahead of the approaching winter storm.

Texas emergency-management officials said the initial declaration covered 134 counties. The State Operations Center moved to Level II, described as an escalated response, and state resources had been activated earlier in the week.

Officials urged Texans to avoid unnecessary driving and gather supplies for several days of freezing weather. A temporary waiver allowed commercial drivers hauling essentials such as propane and groceries to operate outside maximum driving-hour requirements, while other commercial-vehicle rules remained in place.

The state directed residents to DriveTexas.org for road conditions, TexasReady.gov for preparation guidance and tdem.texas.gov/warm for locally operated warming-center information. The declaration documented advance mobilization, not the extent of damage that would follow.

Source: Texas emergency management, Jan. 22; Governor proclamation, Jan. 22

AT HOME: HEAT SAFELY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's January 20 cold-weather notice emphasized safe use of heating equipment before the freezing forecast became the week's dominant concern.

The city and volunteer fire department warned that space heaters placed near combustible materials can cause fires. A second message called for fireplace

maintenance, noting the danger posed by dirty chimneys.

Source: City cold-weather notice, Jan. 20

OPPORTUNITY & ARTS

08

LOOKING TOWARD
GRADUATION

SCHOLARSHIP DONOR DEADLINE ARRIVES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School's local scholarship timetable listed January 20 as the date for donors to submit their 2025-26 Scholarship Donor Update to counselor Lesley Hamilton.

That organizational step precedes the spring application process for graduating seniors. Scholarship

listings and the digital student application were scheduled to become available March 2, with completed applications due March 31 at 4:30 p.m.

After the application deadline, donors were to receive copies of applications through their

designated contact. The calendar set April 1-10 for donors to arrange interviews with Hamilton and April 20 for donors to provide recipient names.

The senior awards program was scheduled for May 14 at 6 p.m. in the GHS auditorium.

Source: GISD 2025-26 scholarship calendar

TEXAS HISTORY ON THE STAGE



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

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Opera House schedule included the closing day of *The Lion of Texas: A Conversation* with Sam Houston on January 17.

The one-man production was advertised as a portrait of the Texas

general and statesman, performed by his namesake, Hood County News publisher Sam Houston. Its advertised engagement was scheduled for January 16-17 at the theater on East Pearl Street.

The event archive listed floor tickets at \$35 and balcony seats at \$30. The program focused on Houston's role at San Jacinto and his service in Texas and national office.

Source: TheaterMania event archive