



# HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

WEEKLY / FEB. 7-13 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

GOVERNMENT 02 / BUSINESS 03 / SCHOOLS 04 / AGRICULTURE 05 / SPORTS 06

## COUNTY REJECTS DEVELOPMENT PAUSE

**A 3-2 vote leaves the proposed six-month moratorium unadopted.**



Hood County Courthouse, June 2018. File photo; cropped. Photo adaptation: [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/](https://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 rejected a proposed six-month pause on new industrial development, including data centers, February 10 after hours of public testimony.

County Judge Ron Massingill and commissioners Kevin Andrews and Jack Wilson voted against the moratorium. Commissioners Dave Eagle and Samuelson supported it,

according to Texas Scorecard's account of the meeting.

Supporters wanted time to examine water demand, energy use, air quality and other effects of proposed projects. The Texas Tribune reported that the county attorney disclosed a letter from state Sen. Paul Bettencourt challenging counties' authority to impose such a pause.

The dispute centered on both growth and the legal tools available to county government. The proposed moratorium was not adopted. Its defeat did not itself establish that every pending development had received all required approvals. A separate debate over the county's regulatory authority continued during the week.

Source: Texas Tribune, Feb. 10; Texas Scorecard, Feb. 11

## GOVERNMENT &amp; GROWTH

02

## WHO CAN REGULATE THE NEXT PROJECT?



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

## HCE STAFF WRITER

The February 10 vote drew competing interpretations of county power from Texas lawmakers, with the disagreement continuing in public accounts during the week.

State Rep. Shelby Slawson, who represents Hood County, argued that a 1999 law gives the county specific development-regulation authority connected to protecting the

watershed draining into Lake Granbury and the Brazos River. She cited Chapter 231, Subchapter K of the Texas Local Government Code.

Her response challenged the position of Sen. Paul Bettencourt and Rep. Jared Patterson, whose letter to Attorney General Ken Paxton said counties lacked power to impose

development moratoriums and urged investigation of attempts to do so.

Rep. David Cook also criticized the commissioners' decision and said he would propose legislation addressing data-center growth. These were lawmakers' positions in an ongoing dispute, rather than a court ruling resolving the county's authority.

Source: Texas Scorecard, Feb. 12

## THE FEBRUARY 10 VOTE

Source: Texas Scorecard, February 11

## AGAINST THE PAUSE

Ron Massingill, Kevin Andrews and Jack Wilson

## FOR THE PAUSE

Dave Eagle and Commissioner Samuelson

## BUSINESS &amp; DEVELOPMENT

03

A NEW ADDRESS  
FOR SOUTHSIDE

3701 FM 4

Granbury branch opened February 9

FEB. 9

Relocated branch  
Standalone building

HCE STAFF WRITER

Southside Bank opened its relocated Granbury branch February 9 at 3701 FM 4, moving into a newly constructed standalone building.

The bank described the new location as an investment in its Granbury operation, with changes

intended to improve accessibility and the workspace for employees. It said familiar team members would continue serving customers there.

Personal and business banking services remained part of the branch's offerings, according to the

company. The announcement concerned a relocation of the existing Granbury branch, rather than the establishment of a newly named local bank.

Source: Southside Bank relocation release

## CONNECTIONS OVER MORNING COFFEE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Coffee & Connections returned to the Granbury Chamber's calendar February 12, with a 9-10 a.m. program built around introductions and local business networking.

Glenn Aire was listed as presenting sponsor. Organizers invited participants to arrive between 8:45

and 9 a.m. for coffee, a light breakfast and informal conversation before the program.

The advertised format included connecting activities and an opportunity for attendees to share upcoming events. Advertised admission was \$10 for members and

\$20 for the public, with payment required during registration rather than in cash at the door.

The archived listing still identified the location as to be announced. It records the planned program and admission terms, without providing an attendance count.

Source: Granbury Chamber networking listing

## PLANNING PANEL BACKS PARKING RENEWAL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of a truck-parking specific-use permit February 9 by a 6-0 vote, according to a later city staff report documenting the action.

The request concerned the Super Sod business at 5901 E. U.S. Highway 377. Applicant Michael Pender sought

renewal of the permit allowing eighteen-wheelers used to deliver the business's orders to park on the property.

The approximately one-acre site already contained the business building, and the application proposed no new construction. The staff report explained that truck

parking required a specific-use permit.

The February 9 action was a recommendation to City Council. This account records that in-week planning vote and does not report a later council decision.

Source: City planning staff report, p. 3

PEOPLE & SCHOOLS

04

SCHOOL STAFF

EARN CARE AWARDS

|                                                                             |                                                                   |                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RENEE TERRITO</b><br>Agricultural-science teacher<br>Acton Middle School | <b>ASHLEIGH WILSON</b><br>Life Skills aide<br>Acton Middle School | <b>AUDRA YOUNG</b><br>Little Buccaneers<br>Customer Care Award |
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| <b>HCE STAFF WRITER</b><br><p>Renee Territo and Ashleigh Wilson received Granbury ISD's EECU Customer Care Awards at Acton Middle School February 11.</p> <p>The presentations took place during monthly campus visits by school trustees and district administrators. Principal Jennifer</p> | <p>Pennington recognized both employees' work with students.</p> <p>Territo, an agricultural-science teacher new to the campus that school year, was praised for supporting her students in the classroom and attending their after-school sporting events.</p> | <p>Wilson, a Life Skills aide and special-education paraprofessional, was recognized for her dependable presence and willingness to help students with varied needs.</p> <p>The district credited EECU for its partnership and the gifts provided to the award recipients.</p> <p>Source: Granbury ISD, Feb. 11</p> |
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LITTLE BUCCANEERS HONORS YOUNG

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| <b>HCE STAFF WRITER</b><br><p>Audra Young received Granbury ISD's EECU Customer Care Award at Little Buccaneers February 11.</p> | <p>Director Avery Gray praised Young's flexibility in taking on different roles and her ability to connect with the program's young children. The district's</p> | <p>announcement described the recognition as part of its employee Customer Care awards and thanked EECU for supporting the recipients.</p> <p>Source: Granbury ISD, Feb. 11</p> |
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HISTORY FAIR REACHES PAPER DEADLINE

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| <b>HCE STAFF WRITER</b><br><p>February 13 was the submission deadline for research and creative-writing papers in the 2026 Student History Fair, a partnership between Granbury ISD and the Texas Heroes Foundation.</p> <p>The published schedule set later intake windows for exhibits, artwork</p> | <p>and performances: February 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. or February 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. Each entry required one registration form before its deadline.</p> <p>The awards ceremony was scheduled for February 27 at Acton Methodist Church, with a 5 p.m.</p> | <p>reception and the program at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Acton Elementary teacher and foundation board member Heather Flannery was listed as the district contact. Winners had not been announced in the reporting-week schedule.</p> <p>Source: GISD 2026 history-fair schedule</p> |
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AGRICULTURE & YOUTH

TOLAR EXHIBITOR SETS STEER RECORD

\$550,000

White Castle / Caiman Cody / Fort Worth Junior Sale of Champions / February 7

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar's Caiman Cody brought Hood County into the spotlight February 7 when his grand champion steer, White Castle, sold for a Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo record of \$550,000.

Azle-based Trico Electric submitted the winning bid at the Junior Sale of Champions. The 1,459-pound European crossbred steer was exhibited by Cody, 13.

The price exceeded the show's previous grand-champion-steer

record of \$440,000, set in 2023, by \$110,000. That amounts to a 25 percent increase over the prior mark.

The sale followed White Castle's championship in the Fort Worth junior steer show. Sullivan Supply's same-day stock-show report confirmed the buyer, amount and Hood County exhibitor.

The wider Junior Sale of Champions generated \$10,193,084 in total sales, RFD News reported February 10. That auction-wide figure includes other

exhibitors' animals; the winning bid for White Castle was one part of the total.

Cody's family raises and shows cattle. His father, Bret, is a fourth-generation cattleman, and the family planned to expand its cattle operation with the proceeds, according to the February 9 report.

Source: Dallas Express, Feb. 9; Sullivan Supply, Feb. 7; RFD News, Feb. 10

A higher grand champion bid

Fort Worth grand champion steer sale records



Source: RFD News, Feb. 10. The prior record was set in 2023. Dollar amounts are winning auction bids.

\$10,193,084

Total Junior Sale of Champions sales, as reported by RFD News February 10

COUNTY SPORTS

SIX TUESDAY WINS  
ACROSS THE COUNTY

LIPAN BOYS

Feb. 10: Lipan 99, De Leon 25  
Feb. 13: Lipan 79, Poolville 26

LIPAN GIRLS

Feb. 10: Lipan 79, De Leon 20

TOLAR BOYS

Feb. 10: Tolar 54, Comanche 31  
Feb. 13: Tolar 66, Dublin 63

TOLAR GIRLS

Feb. 10: Tolar 49, Comanche 29

GRANBURY BOYS

Feb. 10: Granbury 39, Chisholm Trail 37  
Feb. 13: Fossil Ridge 68, Granbury 49

GRANBURY GIRLS

Feb. 10: Granbury 51, Chisholm Trail 39

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury, Tolar and Lipan each won their boys and girls varsity basketball games February 10, producing six victories across the three communities.

Lipan hosted De Leon. The Indians won 99-25 and the Lady Indians won 79-20. Together, they scored 178 points and allowed 45.

Tolar's teams won at Comanche, with the boys taking a 54-31 result and the girls winning 49-29. Granbury also swept its road games, beating Chisholm Trail 39-37 in the boys contest and 51-39 in the girls game.

The boys returned to action Friday, February 13. Lipan defeated Poolville

79-26 at home, while Tolar edged Dublin 66-63 on the road.

Granbury hosted Fossil Ridge and lost 68-49. The Pirates' Friday result followed Tuesday's two-point win at Chisholm Trail.

Source: MaxPreps dated season results

FEBRUARY 10 & 13

Boys and girls varsity basketball  
Dated final scores only; later playoff results and final season records excluded

## CIVIC LIFE &amp; CALENDARS

07

LOCAL RACES  
ON THE AGENDA

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

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce scheduled a public candidate forum for February 9 at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center, focusing on the county judge and Precinct 4 commissioner races.

The invitation named Mark Lowery and Ron Sutton for county judge, and Kenneth Copeland, Dave Eagle and Brad Yarborough for commissioner. The listed participants were invitees; the advance notice does not establish who attended or what they said.

The program was advertised for 6-8 p.m. at 621 E. Pearl Street, with free public admission. The Chamber had set February 2 as the deadline for submitting questions, allowing organizers to collect topics before the forum.

Source: Granbury Chamber forum listing

## BOARDS ON THE CITY CALENDAR

## HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's February calendar placed two board meetings on Monday, February 9: the Airport Board at 8 a.m. and the Planning and Zoning Commission at 6 p.m.

The Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for Thursday, February 12, from 4-5 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers.

The dates show the week's announced municipal meeting

schedule. Apart from the separately documented planning recommendation reported here, the calendar provides no vote totals or adopted actions for those sessions.

Source: City February meeting calendar

## GISD CLOSSES FOURTH GRADING PERIOD

## HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD's fourth grading period ended Friday, February 13, according to the district's February calendar.

A student holiday and staff workday were scheduled for

Monday, February 16, with the fifth grading period beginning Tuesday, February 17. Fourth-period report cards were scheduled to become available in Skyward February 19.

The week's calendar also included a Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee meeting February 12 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the administration building.

Source: GISD February 2026 calendar

## ARTS &amp; COMMUNITY

08

# A FINAL WEEKEND FOR BASKERVILLE



Granbury Opera House, 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

The February 7-8 weekend marked the scheduled close of *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* at the Granbury Opera House.

Granbury Theatre Company's Broadway on the Brazos engagement was advertised from January 23 through February 8. Ken Ludwig's

comic adaptation follows Holmes and Watson through the case at the center of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

The production listing described five actors playing more than 40 characters. It advertised floor seating

at \$44 and balcony seating at \$39, with discounts for eligible patrons.

The Opera House is at 133 E. Pearl Street. This retrospective preserves the advertised closing weekend; it is not a performance review or an attendance report.

Source: TheaterMania production archive

## AUTHOR VISIT ON BOOKSTORE CALENDAR

## HCE STAFF WRITER

Arts & Letters Book Store advertised an opportunity to meet Trevor Reed, author of *Retribution*, on Saturday, February 7.

The Granbury Chamber calendar listed the event from 1-3 p.m. at the

bookstore, 113 E. Bridge Street. The notice invited readers to stop by and meet the writer; it did not publish an attendance count or a report of the conversation.

Source: Granbury Chamber author listing

## RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

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