



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

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FEBRUARY 21, 2026

WEEKLY / FEB. 14-20 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

GOVERNMENT 02 / BUSINESS 03 / SCHOOLS 04-05 / SPORTS 06 / ARTS 08

COUNCIL APPROVES MANAGER PAY RAISE

February 17 votes also fill seats on four city boards and commissions.



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 approved a 5 percent salary increase for City Manager Chris Coffman February 17, following his annual review. The motion passed 5-0 after council returned from executive session.

Council also filled seats on four boards and commissions. Randy Emerson was appointed to the insurance-agent seat on the Building

Standards, Plumbing, Adjustment, and Appeals Board. Ronnie Hurd, Terry Louvin and Paul Parker joined the Charter Review Commission.

Lewis James was appointed to the Ethics Commission. Dwayne Opella became a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with Louvin named an alternate. Each appointment motion passed 5-0.

Council received the Police Department's 2025 racial-profiling report through a consent-agenda vote. The meeting began at 6:01 p.m. and ended at 8:01 p.m.; Councilmember Skip Overdier was absent. The official minutes, approved March 3, document these February 17 actions.

Source: City Council minutes, Feb. 17

GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

02

PRIMARY VOTING
GETS UNDER WAY

FEBRUARY 17

Early voting began

FEBRUARY 27

Early voting scheduled to end

MARCH 3

Primary Election Day

HCE STAFF WRITER

Early in-person voting for the March 3 primary began Tuesday, February 17. The Texas Secretary of State calendar placed the final day of early voting on Friday, February 27.

Presidents' Day fell on Monday, February 16, a state holiday on which

early voting was not conducted. That pushed the opening of the period to Tuesday.

Another deadline arrived during the week: February 20 was the last day for the early voting clerk to receive applications for a ballot by

mail. The calendar required receipt before the close of regular business or noon, whichever was later.

The dates gave Hood County voters an early-voting window spanning parts of two weeks before Election Day.

Source: Texas Secretary of State election calendar

A LIMITED BALLOT FOR SOME MOVERS

HCE STAFF WRITER

A February 16 state advisory explained an option for certain Texans who had moved to a new county but whose voter registration there would not be effective by March 3.

To qualify, a voter had to meet the advisory's registration and eligibility conditions in the former county. A

limited ballot covered statewide races and district offices shared by the former and new counties, rather than every local contest.

The Secretary of State said eligible voters could use the option only during early voting, February 17-27. In-person limited ballots were available only at the main

early-voting location. Voting by mail also required separate mail-ballot eligibility.

The guidance was relevant to people settling in Hood County during the election cycle. Election officials, rather than a change of address alone, determined eligibility and the proper ballot.

Source: Texas Secretary of State, Feb. 16 advisory

NO CITY POSITIONS ON PRIMARY BALLOT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's election notice dated February 17 emphasized that no City Council seats or other city positions appeared on the March 3 primary ballot.

The city directed readers to Hood County Elections Administration for polling places, hours and ballot

information. Its notice distinguished the primary from municipal elections without endorsing a candidate or party.

Source: City primary-election notice, Feb. 17

BUSINESS & DOWNTOWN

ROADHOUSE PLANS
ENTER THE REGISTRY

7,926 SQ. FT.

Proposed restaurant and bar / 4061 East U.S. Highway 377

\$750,000

Estimated project cost
State registration: February 17

HCE STAFF WRITER

A proposed Texas Roadhouse in Granbury received a February 17 registration date in the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation's architectural-barriers project database.

The entry identifies a 7,926-square-foot restaurant and bar

at 4061 East U.S. Highway 377 in Hood County. It lists an estimated cost of \$750,000 and describes the work as privately funded new construction on private land.

Texas Roadhouse Inc. is identified as the owner, with GreenbergFarrow

as the design firm. The project number is TABS2026012778.

The registration was a planning milestone for the proposed Highway 377 restaurant. It was not an opening announcement.

Source: TDLR architectural-barriers registration

RISING LEADERS SET THE BREAKFAST TABLE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Rising Leaders of Granbury scheduled its February breakfast for Wednesday, February 18, from 8 to 9 a.m. at Decker Gym, United Way of Hood County, 301 North Hannaford Street.

The Chamber listing described a gathering for professionals to meet, exchange ideas and build leadership connections over coffee and small bites. Admission was listed at \$10 per person.

Callie Peterson, WIOA program manager at Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas, was the scheduled speaker on time management. Shottenkirk Granbury was listed as the series sponsor.

Source: Granbury Chamber RLG event listing

VALENTINE SATURDAY ON THE SQUARE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day coincided with the second Saturday of February, the monthly date for Girls Night Out around the Granbury Square.

The Historic Granbury Merchants Association listed the February 14 shopping event from 3 to 6 p.m., with participating stores offering door prizes and a drawing for a \$50 shopping spree.

The same calendar advertised live music that evening at Barons Creek Wine Tasting Room, 115 East Bridge Street, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Source: Historic Granbury Merchants event calendar

SCHOOLS & TRUSTEES

04

TRUSTEE TERMS
MOVE TO FOUR YEARS

2026

No November trustee election

2027

Places 1-4

2029

Places 5-7

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD trustees voted 6-1 February 16 to adopt four-year terms and hold regular trustee elections in odd-numbered Novembers. Tim Bolton voted against the resolution.

The signed measure states that no GISD trustee election will be held in

November 2026. Places 1 and 2 gain one year, aligning them with Places 3 and 4 for elections in November 2027. Places 5, 6 and 7 gain one year and next expire in November 2029.

The resolution cites election costs and leadership stability. Bolton

supported four-year terms but preferred even-year elections, citing participation. Courtney Gore argued that local school races receive less attention when sharing the ballot with national and state contests.

Source: GISD minutes and signed resolution, Feb. 16

SB 11 RESOLUTION DECLINED AS WRITTEN

HCE STAFF WRITER

GISD trustees voted 7-0 February 16 to decline the proposed Senate Bill 11 resolution as written.

A separate prayer-resolution proposal was tabled. The minutes describe that draft as reaffirming

existing district practices and say it had been submitted for legal review.

Source: GISD minutes and signed resolution, Feb. 16

HYBRID-LEARNING MODEL STILL A PROPOSAL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD's hybrid virtual-learning proposal outlined an option for grades 9-12 in materials presented to trustees February 16.

The proposed model would combine primarily online coursework with planned in-person participation. Students would remain enrolled in GISD, with academic support from district teachers and

access to selected campus courses and activities.

Graduation requirements, grading and state testing would remain unchanged. The proposal included teacher office hours, progress monitoring and check-ins, with an application and readiness review for participants.

A March 2-15 application window was proposed. The presentation still described the program as in development, with a readiness rubric and application to be finalized and further stakeholder input to be gathered.

Source: GISD board agenda, Feb. 16; GISD hybrid-model proposal

SCHOOL PROGRAMS & PEOPLE

05

CAREER CLASSES
REACH 93% AT GHS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Career and technical education reached 93 percent of Granbury High School students in at least one course, according to the program report prepared for the February 16 school board meeting.

The presentation listed high-school enrollment at about 2,200, with just under 3,800 CTE course requests and 38 CTE teachers. Students

participating in CTE averaged 1.8 such courses.

At Acton and Granbury middle schools, the report counted 894 students in three CTE courses, supported by nine teachers.

The program spans fields including health science, agriculture, business, culinary arts, engineering, public safety and construction. Its listed

credential opportunities include industry certifications and dual-credit coursework.

Student-run operations named in the report included Pirate Printing, Pirate Blooms, The Galley and Pirate Engineering, connecting course instruction with applied work.

Source: GISD board agenda, Feb. 16; GISD CTE board presentation

\$33,859.97 IN COMMUNITY GIFTS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD's February board materials listed \$33,859.97 in community donations supporting student programs and campus needs.

The report included gifts for outstanding student meal debt, athletic travel, FFA career-development events, choir travel and classroom activities.

Donors included local churches, businesses, booster groups and service organizations.

The Bridge Church and Neighbors Feeding Neighbors supported the Children's Charity Fund for meal debt. Other entries supported the GHS barbecue team, Acton Elementary leadership shirts,

Brawner's fourth-grade Austin field trip and Acton Middle School theater arts.

The list was part of the February 16 board meeting's community-donations report.

Source: GISD board agenda, Feb. 16; GISD February donations report

STUDENTS AND STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD's February 16 recognition program highlighted student accomplishments and the service of retiring human-resources director Wes Jones.

Stowaway Captain Paislee Cogburn was recognized as a 2026 Texas Dance Educators Association All-State Dancer and one of five statewide

recipients of its Founders Scholarship.

Braelyn Desormeaux was honored as a Texas Music Educators Association All-State musician. Joycelene "Joy" Ezra received the Shottenkirk Senior of the Month recognition; the district said she planned to study psychology at Tarleton State University.

Trustees also recognized campus and Spanish spelling-bee winners. Acton Middle School's Unified Robotics Team helped present the pledges.

Jones announced his retirement after 39 years in public education. He had served as GISD's human-resources director since July 2016.

Source: Granbury ISD, Feb. 17

COUNTY SPORTS

LIPAN GIRLS WIN TWO PLAYOFF GAMES

LIPAN GIRLS

Feb. 16: Lipan 74, Itasca 41
Feb. 19: Lipan 66, Windthorst 22

TOLAR GIRLS

Feb. 16: Tolar 44, Henrietta 39
Feb. 20: Wall 58, Tolar 42

GRANBURY GIRLS

Feb. 16: Ryan 51, Granbury 19

LIPAN BOYS

Feb. 17: Lipan defeated Keene

TOLAR BOYS

Feb. 17: Breckenridge 53, Tolar 47

GRANBURY BOYS

Feb. 17: Saginaw 51, Granbury 49

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan's Lady Indians won two playoff games during February 14-20, defeating Itasca 74-41 on February 16 and Windthorst 66-22 on February 19. The two victories produced 140 Lipan points and 63 for its opponents, keeping the Lady Indians moving through the postseason.

Tolar opened its playoff run with a 44-39 victory over Henrietta February 16, then lost 58-42 to Wall February 20. Granbury's Lady Pirates fell 51-19 to Ryan February 16. In boys games February 17, Lipan defeated Keene. Tolar lost 53-47 to Breckenridge, while Granbury fell

51-49 to Saginaw in another two-point game. These results cover the reporting week through Friday, February 20; subsequent playoff rounds fall in later editions. Source: MaxPreps dated season results; UIL Lipan team record

Two wins, 140 points

Lipan girls / February 16 and 19



Source: MaxPreps dated season results. Combined final scores against Itasca and Windthorst.

COMMUNITY & SERVICE

07

THE WEEK IN
COMMUNITY LIFE

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

FEBRUARY 19

Opera Guild program

Pecan Plantation Woman's Club

10 a.m. / country-club ballroom

Scheduled theater-season selections

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Two prior-year full-ride scholarships totaled \$16,000.

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club scheduled an Opera Guild program for its February 19 meeting and luncheon, bringing a preview of Granbury Theatre Company's 2026 season to the country-club ballroom.

The club's February column announced a 10 a.m. gathering, with performers expected to present

selections from scheduled productions. The plan connected a neighborhood club meeting with the wider community's theater calendar.

Club president Rhonda Humphreys also announced an evening fashion show for February 27 at 7 p.m. and a March 21 fundraising gala. Those

remained upcoming events at the end of this reporting week.

The column identified two-year college scholarships for girls graduating from Hood County high schools as a purpose of the club's Boot Scootin' fundraising. It reported that the prior year's two full-ride scholarships totaled \$16,000.

Source: Pecan Plantation Columns, February issue

LAKESIDE INVITES PRESCHOOL-WING TOUR

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lakeside Baptist Church used its February 19 newsletter to invite its congregation to walk through a new preschool wing the following Sunday, February 22.

The message asked church members to pray for the preschoolers, parents, volunteers and staff who would use the space. It also invited members to consider an

offering toward paying for the project.

The invitation was issued during the reporting week, while the Sunday visit was still ahead.

Source: Lakeside Baptist newsletter, Feb. 19

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

08

CHICAGO TRIBUTE ON THE OPERA 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

Beginnings: A Tribute to Chicago was advertised for a three-show engagement at the Granbury Opera House February 20-21, bringing the tribute act to the historic venue as the reporting week ended.

The concert archive lists February 20 as opening night and February 21

as the closing date. The Opera House address is 133 East Pearl Street.

Advertised ticket prices were \$54 on the floor and \$49 in the balcony. The listing said doors would open 30 minutes before showtime, with late seating at the house manager's discretion.

The advertised engagement continued into Saturday, February 21. Tickets were listed as final-sale purchases, with change requests due at least 24 hours before the event.

Source: TheaterMania concert archive

VALENTINE MUSIC AT GRANBURY LIVE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Live's archived listing dates Loving You Through the Decades to February 14 at 7 p.m., placing a Valentine's Day performance on the local music calendar.

The venue is at 110 North Crockett Street in Granbury. The show joined the downtown shopping and music offerings scheduled for the holiday Saturday.

Source: Granbury Live performance archive

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Produced October 4, 2026 (Central Time). Covers February 14-20. Reconstructed from dated records; no historic publication or distribution is claimed.