



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

WEEKLY / FEB. 21-27 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

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COUNTY AGAIN REJECTS MORATORIUM

February 24 vote leaves a proposed six-month moratorium unapproved.



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 rejected a proposed six-month pause on data centers and other large industrial developments February 24, repeating the 3-2 division from earlier in the month.

County Judge Ron Massingill and commissioners Kevin Andrews and Jack Wilson voted against the proposal. Commissioners Dave Eagle

and Nannette Samuelson supported it.

Residents urged the court to allow more study of water demand, noise, traffic and other effects. Andrews argued that state law did not give counties moratorium authority. Massingill raised concern about the cost of litigation.

Eagle pointed to Hood County's special watershed-development

powers under state law. State Rep. David Cook also urged a temporary pause.

The vote left the proposed moratorium unapproved. Separate efforts during the week sought a state legal opinion and legislative action on data-center regulation.

Source: Star-Telegram, Feb. 24; Texas Scorecard, Feb. 25

GOVERNMENT & ENVIRONMENT

02

COUNTY SEEKS
A STATE ANSWER

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County Attorney Matthew A. Mills asked Attorney General Ken Paxton February 23 for a formal opinion on whether the county may impose an industrial-development moratorium.

The request, stamped received that afternoon, asked whether Subchapter K of the Local Government Code

gives Hood County implied authority to act. Mills described a dispute over the reach of the county's special development powers.

If that authority exists, the letter asked what restrictions would apply, whether a pause could last a year or more and whether it could extend to residential subdivisions. It also asked

about applications with accepted plans but no final Commissioners Court approval.

The submission was a request for an opinion, not a ruling. The letter and its supporting exhibits entered the state's opinion-request record as RQ-0633-KP.

Source: County attorney request RQ-0633-KP

SPECIAL SESSION REQUESTED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Alongside the failed moratorium, Hood County commissioners unanimously supported a resolution asking Gov. Greg Abbott to call a special session on data-center growth, according to contemporaneous reporting.

The resolution sought public disclosure of anticipated electricity

and water demand before project approval. It also called for independent assessments of grid and regional-water impacts, water-efficient cooling standards and a meaningful local-government role in land and resource decisions.

The document expressed opposition to additional Texas data

centers until enforceable safeguards were in place. Its requested protections covered grid reliability, responsible water use, infrastructure security and community needs.

The action was an appeal for state legislation. It did not itself enact the proposed development pause.

Source: Texas Scorecard, Feb. 25; County special-session resolution, Feb. 24

\$253,125 FOR LOCAL AIR-QUALITY WORK

HCE STAFF WRITER

The North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board approved an agreement with Granbury for up to \$253,125 in ozone-related air-quality work February 26.

The action was part of a \$281,250 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality funding package for the

2026-27 biennium. Approximately \$28,125 was designated for regional administrative costs, with no local match required.

The work would continue monitoring in Hood County, update its 2015 ozone conceptual model and support modeling to identify pollution sources. The minutes said

Hood County's ozone design values had risen in recent years.

The board adopted the item unanimously with its consent agenda. The approval authorized agreements and planning work; it did not announce new monitoring results.

Source: NCTCOG minutes, Feb. 26

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

RETAIL PROJECTS
REMAIN IN DEVELOPMENT

HOBBY LOBBY

September 2026
Target stabilization

ACADEMY SPORTS

November 2026
Target stabilization

HCE STAFF WRITER

Broadstone Net Lease's February 25 development update listed Granbury projects for Hobby Lobby and Academy Sports among its retail properties in progress.

The company's schedule gave both projects an October 2025 start date and 15-year lease terms. Its target

stabilization dates were September 2026 for Hobby Lobby and November 2026 for Academy Sports.

Those dates were company projections in a development report, rather than confirmed retail opening dates. Broadstone cautioned that

forward-looking expectations could change.

The two Granbury entries were part of the existing pipeline. The new projects announced in the release were in Sarasota, Florida, and Magnolia, Texas.

Source: Broadstone development update, Feb. 25

HOSPITAL CEO ON ROUNDTABLE CALENDAR

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Chamber scheduled Lake Granbury Medical Center CEO Curt Junkins to speak at a February 24 small-business roundtable at Healthy Connections, 1321 Water's Edge Drive.

The Leaders in Government program was advertised as a small-group discussion with breakfast provided and a limit of 30 attendees. The listing set a 9 a.m. start.

Admission was listed at \$10 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. The advance notice invited dialogue between the presenter and participants.

Source: Granbury Chamber roundtable listing

CARE CENTER CEREMONY LISTED

HCE STAFF WRITER

A ribbon-cutting for Granbury Care Center was scheduled February 26 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at 301 South Park Street.

Source: Granbury Chamber ribbon-cutting listing

CADETS CLAIM FOURTH STRAIGHT TITLE

FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
Female tug-of-war / Ruck march / Tire flip	Ironman / Rope bridge	Obstacle course

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School’s Marine Corps JROTC Physical Fitness Team won its fourth consecutive overall championship at the Longhorn Rodeo February 21. W.T. White High School hosted the 11th annual meet, which brought Dallas-Fort Worth-area JROTC	programs together for seven physical challenges. Granbury placed first in female tug-of-war, the ruck march and tire flip. The team took second in Ironman and rope bridge and third in the obstacle course.	The event lineup also included a bus pull. Marine instructor 1stSgt Guerra, a retired Marine, credited the cadets’ preparation, persistence and support for one another in the district’s February 23 announcement. Source: Granbury ISD, Feb. 23
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REGIONAL HONOR FOR LAUREN MCNEAL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Acton Middle School teacher Lauren McNeal represented Granbury ISD among the educators honored by Weatherford College February 25 at the Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration.	The academy marked its 30th year. Its annual February gathering recognizes teachers from across the region at the college’s Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building. The award commemorates Professor Emeritus Jack Harvey, who	taught at Weatherford College for 23 years. McNeal’s regional recognition followed her selection in May 2025 as Granbury ISD’s 2024-25 Secondary Teacher of the Year. Source: Granbury ISD, Feb. 25
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WFAA RECOGNIZES CARLEE JO BURNFIELD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School senior Carlee Jo Burnfield was named WFAA Scholar-Athlete of the Week, the district announced February 24. A four-year varsity soccer player, Burnfield had captained the Lady Pirates for two seasons. Her honors included first-team all-district, honorable-mention all-region,	Offensive Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year recognition. She also belonged to National Honor Society and the Superintendent’s Leadership Council. In UIL academics, she helped Granbury’s social-studies team place second at the 5A state competition the previous year.	The district said Burnfield planned to attend Baylor University and study business and nutrition sciences. WFAA scheduled her recognition for its March 1 Sports Special with Joe Trahan, after this edition’s reporting week. Source: Granbury ISD, Feb. 24
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SCHOOLS & PERFORMANCE

TOLAR POSTS
ACADEMIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 23

6:30 p.m. scheduled start
Public hearing and trustee meeting
305 South Oak Lane

2024-25

Texas Academic Performance Report
District and campus plans on agenda

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar ISD scheduled a February 23 public hearing on its 2024-25 Texas Academic Performance Report, followed by a regular trustee meeting. The notice set a 6:30 p.m. start in the board room at 305 South Oak Lane.

The agenda included recognition of Diamondback Rattler recipients, district and campus improvement-plan reviews and consideration of the elementary school’s targeted improvement plan. Other proposed business included Senate Bill 11, local-policy updates,

the 2026-27 district calendar and the financial audit for the year ending August 31, 2025. These were items posted for discussion or possible action; the notice did not establish the board’s decisions. Source: Tolar ISD meeting notice, Feb. 23

TREBLE CHOIR SETS CONFERENCE PREVIEW

FEB. 26

Hometown preview
7 p.m. scheduled
GHS auditorium

MARCH 5

Conference performance
11:30 a.m. scheduled
Albuquerque, New Mexico

UBI CARITAS

Patrick Vu
Commissioned by the
Granbury ensemble

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School’s Varsity Treble Choir scheduled a February 26 preview concert at 7 p.m. in the high-school auditorium before its planned Southwestern American Choral Directors Association conference appearance. The program identified Kendra Fisher as director, Andrew Walters as

assistant director and Dr. Oscar Dressler as pianist. Listed selections included Eric William Barnum’s Spark (To Music), Zachary J. Moore’s Hope and Joan Szymko’s The Peace of Wild Things. The program also listed Ubi Caritas by Patrick Vu as a work

commissioned by the Granbury ensemble. The conference performance was scheduled for March 5 at 11:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. That appearance was still ahead as the reporting week closed. Source: GHS Varsity Treble Choir concert program

COUNTY SPORTS

LIPAN TEAMS ADD FOUR PLAYOFF WINS

LIPAN GIRLS

Feb. 23 playoff
Lipan 51
Lindsay 25

LIPAN GIRLS

Feb. 26 playoff
Lipan 46
Honey Grove 29

TOLAR BOYS

Feb. 24 playoff
Henrietta 49
Tolar 31

LIPAN BOYS

Feb. 24 playoff
Lipan 75
Meridian 38

LIPAN BOYS

Feb. 27 playoff
Lipan 80
Windthorst 56

FOUR WINS

Lipan boys and girls
February 21-27
Dated playoff results

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan’s boys and girls each won twice during the February 21-27 reporting week, extending their basketball playoff runs.

The Lady Indians defeated Lindsay 51-25 on February 23, then beat Honey Grove 46-29 on February 26.

Across those two games, Lipan scored 97 points and allowed 54.

The Indians defeated Meridian 75-38 on February 24 and Windthorst 80-56 on February 27. Their combined scoring margin was 61 points.

Tolar’s boys lost 49-31 to Henrietta February 24. The dated results identify all five contests as playoff games.

Source: MaxPreps Lipan boys; MaxPreps Lipan girls; MaxPreps Tolar boys; UIL Lipan team record

Lipan winning margins

Combined margin across two playoff games each



Source: MaxPreps Lipan boys; MaxPreps Lipan girls; UIL Lipan team record. Lipan points minus opponent points, February 21-27.

LAKE & COMMUNITY

LAKE GRANBURY
AT 99 PERCENT



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

FEBRUARY 25

692.51 feet elevation
132,357 acre-feet stored
BRA operational snapshot

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lake Granbury was 99 percent full in the Brazos River Authority's February 25 reservoir summary. The report listed an elevation of 692.51 feet and stored water of 132,357 acre-feet.

Possum Kingdom, Granbury and the authority's storage in Whitney operate as a combined main-stem subsystem. Together, their listed storage was 659,682 acre-feet, or 90 percent full.

The authority explained that drought triggers for those reservoirs are based on their collective capacity. A nearly full individual lake therefore represents one part of the larger system picture.

Source: Brazos River Authority, Feb. 25 status

BURKS TEAM LEADS
BASS FIELD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Brandon Burks and Carter Burks won the February 21 MediaBass Cowtown team tournament on Lake Granbury with five bass weighing 23.48 pounds.

The results listed \$1,350 in first-place winnings. The pair also caught the event's biggest bass, weighing 7.18 pounds.

Colby Ray and Jordan Shea finished second with 18.73 pounds and \$718. Tyler Woods and Andy Starnes placed third with 17.78 pounds and \$432.

The tournament drew 16 boats. Seven teams brought in five-fish limits, and the field weighed 51 bass, according to the organizer's results.

Source: MediaBass Cowtown team results

PRESCHOOL
REMODEL COMPLETE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lakeside Baptist Church reported the completion of its preschool-wing remodel in the introduction to its February 26 newsletter.

The message described the project as two years in the making and said congregation members had seen the completed space in person or on social media.

Source: Lakeside Baptist newsletter archive, Feb. 26

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

08

ANYTHING GOES 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

Anything Goes was scheduled to begin its Granbury Opera House run February 27, with performances advertised through March 22.

The Broadway on the Brazos production used the version adapted from the 1987 Broadway revival. Cole Porter supplied the music and lyrics.

The comedy follows passengers aboard the S.S. American between New York and England. Singer Reno Sweeney and conman Moonface Martin become entangled in Billy Crocker's efforts to win Hope Harcourt, who is engaged to another passenger.

The archived listing advertised \$44 floor seats and \$39 balcony seats, with several discount categories. The engagement was at 133 East Pearl Street.

Source: TheaterMania performance archive

TWO DATES AT GRANBURY LIVE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Live's archive identifies February 21 performances by 7 Bridges at 3 and 7 p.m.

The venue's separate David Frizzell listing dates that show to February 27

at 7:30 p.m. Both engagements fell within the reporting week at the downtown venue, 110 North Crockett Street.

Source: Granbury Live performance archives

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

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