



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

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MARCH 7, 2026

MONTHLY / FIRST SATURDAY

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

FEBRUARY IN REVIEW / DATA CENTERS 02 / CITY SPENDING 03 / SCHOOLS 05

FOUR YEARS. FOUR TITLES.

Granbury cadets extend their Longhorn Rodeo championship streak.



Granbury MCJROTC's team at the February 21 Longhorn Rodeo. District photograph published February 23. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

GRANBURY | Granbury High School Marine Corps JROTC Physical Fitness Team brought home its fourth consecutive overall championship from the Longhorn Rodeo on February 21.

W.T. White High School hosted the 11th annual field meet, where Dallas-Fort Worth programs competed in seven events demanding

strength, endurance and cooperation. The district announced Granbury's results February 23.

Granbury took first in female tug-of-war, the ruck march and tire flip. Its cadets also finished second in Ironman and rope bridge and third in the obstacle course.

The meet included a bus pull and Ironman/Ironwoman challenges

alongside the other events. Overall standings brought those different tests together into one team result.

Marine Instructor 1stSgt Guerra credited the cadets' regular training, discipline and commitment to one another. The win extended an established streak while giving this year's team its own championship to celebrate.

Source: Granbury ISD / Feb. 23

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

02

THE PAUSE
THAT DID NOT PASS

3-2

February 10 vote against a six-month moratorium

3-2

February 24 vote against another proposed pause

FEB. 23

County attorney's request for an AG opinion

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County commissioners rejected a proposed six-month pause on new industrial development twice in February, leaving residents' demands for more study at the center of a widening data-center debate.

The February 10 proposal failed 3-2. County Judge Ron Massingill and commissioners Kevin Andrews and Jack Wilson opposed it; Nannette

Samuelson and Dave Eagle supported it, KERA reported.

Another 3-2 rejection followed February 24. Residents again raised concerns about water, electricity demand, noise and pollution, according to FOX 4's account of the meeting.

Andrews argued that the county lacked express authority to impose a moratorium and said he wanted to

protect it from litigation. Supporters sought time to examine the proposed developments' combined effects before additional approvals.

Rejecting the pause did not resolve those concerns or establish that every proposed facility had final permission to build. February's dispute centered on the county's powers and how to use them.

Source: KERA / Feb. 10; FOX 4 / Feb. 24

WHAT CAN THE COUNTY DO?

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County Attorney Matthew Mills sent a formal opinion request to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on February 23. The question was whether the county's special development authority includes an implied power to impose a moratorium.

The request, RQ-0633-KP, identifies Subchapter K of Chapter 231 in the Texas Local Government Code as the focus. Mills wrote that the county had received five data-center applications in recent months, some accompanied by power-plant proposals.

His letter recounts a 1999 county moratorium and a more recent

attorney general opinion about solar facilities in another county. It describes disagreement over whether Hood County's special statute changes the legal analysis.

Mills also asked about the restrictions and duration of any lawful pause, its possible application to residential subdivisions, and its effect on applicants whose plans had been accepted but not finally approved.

The dated request records questions submitted for an opinion. It is not an attorney general ruling authorizing a moratorium.

Source: County attorney / Feb. 23

AUSTIN
IS ASKED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution February 24 asking Gov. Greg Abbott to call a special legislative session on data centers, Texas Scorecard reported.

The appeal to Austin followed the divided moratorium vote. It sought state action while the county's own authority remained disputed.

The vote was a request for a session, not an announcement that the governor had called one.

Source: Texas Scorecard / Feb. 25

GOVERNMENT & YOUR MONEY

03

KEEPING THE
UTILITIES WORKING

\$245,000

Engineering for Lift Station 9 and Knox 1

\$510,134

Combined cost of two utility trucks

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury approved \$245,000 in engineering work February 3 for two aging utility facilities: \$140,000 for Lift Station 9 and \$105,000 for the Knox 1 ground-storage tank.

The lift station's settling wet well and foundation, creek-bank location and outdated equipment prompted the work. Officials estimated construction at about \$1 million, a

separate figure from the engineering authorization.

Knox 1, a roughly 30-year-old metal tank, had roof, hatch and vent problems. City staff said rehabilitating it alongside Knox 2 would preserve additional water capacity.

The council also approved a \$281,364 Altec service bucket truck for the Electric Department and a

\$228,770 Rush Truck Center crane truck for the East Wastewater Treatment Plant. Together, the vehicle purchases totaled \$510,134.

The minutes record approvals for the purchases and related lease-purchase financing. These actions committed resources to utility work; they did not mean the rehabilitation projects were already finished.

Source: Council minutes / Feb. 3

A 5% MANAGER RAISE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury council members voted 5-0 February 17 to increase City Manager Chris Coffman's salary by 5 percent after his annual review. Skip Overdier was absent.

The same meeting filled several civic-board vacancies. Ronnie Hurd, Terry Louvin and Paul Parker were appointed to the Charter Review Commission. Randy Emerson received the insurance-agent seat on the Building Standards, Plumbing, Adjustment and Appeals Board.

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

The minutes give the percentage salary increase without stating a revised annual salary.

Source: Council minutes / Feb. 17

AUDIT QUESTIONS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County commissioners voted unanimously February 24 to send District Attorney Ryan Sinclair a formal request for a response concerning the Hood County Appraisal District audit, according to Texas Scorecard.

The report said Granbury Mayor Jim Jarratt had asked commissioners earlier in the month to press for a decision. Jarratt said \$1.3 million remained outstanding after \$1.9 million had been returned.

Those amounts were Jarratt's account of the dispute. The commissioners' request did not establish a criminal violation, direct a prosecution or amount to a court judgment against anyone.

Source: Texas Scorecard / Feb. 25

PUBLIC SERVICES & STREETS

04

THE MONTH
AROUND TOWN

AFTER THE STORM

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's first February bulletin looked back at the recent winter storm and ahead to another traffic change. City Manager Chris Coffman's February 3 update recognized crews and covered infrastructure, tourism and long-term water planning.

The February 4 notice also scheduled Shady Grove Drive's

closure at U.S. 377 from 8 a.m. February 9 through 5 p.m. February 12 for road reconstruction. Drivers were directed to Old Acton Highway as an alternate route.

Most city facilities were scheduled to close February 16 for Presidents Day, with Visit Granbury excepted.

Source: City bulletin / Feb. 4

FEB. 9-12

Shady Grove Drive closure scheduled at U.S. 377

OLD ACTON

Alternate route in the city's roadwork notice

OUTSIDE ONLY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's February 27 bulletin told water customers that meter inspections would begin March 2. Its notice said personnel would be clearly identified and checks would be outside only.

The city emphasized that workers would not enter homes or businesses. Questions were directed to 682-205-1777, option 7.

That notice described the planned inspection process. It did not announce a water shutoff or a requirement for customers to let inspectors inside.

Source: City bulletin / Feb. 27

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury used its February 19 city bulletin to invite applications for the Citizens Police Academy, linking residents to the program's information page and an introductory video.

The invitation offered a way for residents to learn more about the department and its work. The city repeated the application notice in its February 27 newsletter.

The February 19 bulletin also reminded voters that early voting for the March 3 primary continued through February 27. It stressed that no Granbury City Council or other city positions were on that ballot.

Source: City bulletin / Feb. 19

WHEN THE SIRENS SOUND

HCE STAFF WRITER

The city's February 27 reminder said Hood County sirens serve weather warnings, emergencies at Comanche Peak and scheduled tests.

Tests were listed for noon on the first and third Mondays, except major holidays. For a siren at another time, the guidance was to go indoors

and check local television news or WBAP 820 AM.

Source: City bulletin / Feb. 27

SCHOOLS & SPORTS

05

THE NEXT LEVEL

A new UIL district and college commitments for Granbury athletes.

GRANBURY MOVES TO 6A

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School learned its new football, volleyball and basketball district February 2: District 3-6A for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.

The UIL assignment moves Granbury into the 6A classification alongside Aledo, Weatherford and five Arlington schools: Arlington High, Bowie, Lamar, Martin and Sam Houston.

Granbury ISD said alignments for other events would be released in the

spring. The announcement therefore did not settle every activity's future district opponents.

Athletic Director Lamont Moore welcomed the challenge of competing against strong programs and highlighted the locations' accessibility for families and supporters.

District play was scheduled to begin in fall 2026.

Source: Granbury ISD / Feb. 2

DISTRICT 3-6A

Granbury • Aledo • Weatherford

Arlington • Bowie • Lamar

Martin • Sam Houston

FOUR SENIORS SIGN



Four GHS athletes at the February 4 signing ceremony. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Family, friends and teammates gathered at the James Wann Sports Center February 4 as Granbury ISD recognized four seniors on National Signing Day.

Football players Aiden Ford and Bryson Hager signed to continue at Nelson University and Sterling College, respectively. Gannon Dolan chose Dallas Baptist University for track and field and cross country. Trey Wilkins signed for bass fishing at Oklahoma State University.

The district said the four signed National Letters of Intent. The ceremony brought several different sports into the same celebration, each marking a student-athlete's next step beyond Granbury High School.

Source: Granbury ISD / Feb. 4

FOUR SENIORS. FOUR COLLEGES.

PEOPLE IN OUR SCHOOLS

06

EXCELLENCE
IN THE CLASSROOM

Renee Territo and Ashleigh Wilson receive EECU honors February 11, with campus and district representatives. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Agriculture-science teacher Renee Territo and Life Skills aide Ashleigh Wilson received EECU Customer Care Awards at Acton Middle School February 11.

Trustees and district administrators presented the honors during their monthly campus visits. Principal Jennifer Pennington

praised both employees for the contributions they had made in their first year at the campus.

Pennington pointed to Territo's support for agriculture students beyond the classroom, including attending their sporting events, and the energy she brought to lessons and school activities.

She described Wilson, a special-education paraprofessional, as dependable and willing to help meet students' needs. The district thanked EECU for supporting the awards and providing gifts to the honorees.

Source: Granbury ISD / Feb. 11

A REGIONAL TEACHING HONOR



Lauren McNeal at Weatherford College's February 25 teacher celebration. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Acton Middle School teacher Lauren McNeal represented Granbury ISD at Weatherford College's Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration February 25.

The regional award program marked its 30th year. It honors the memory of Jack Harvey, a professor emeritus who taught at Weatherford College for 23 years.

Teachers from across the area gathered in the college's Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building for the February celebration.

For McNeal, the recognition followed another recent distinction: Granbury ISD had named her its 2024-25 Secondary Teacher of the Year in May 2025.

Source: Granbury ISD / Feb. 25

WEATHER & STUDENT LIFE

07

LESS THAN AN INCH

February precipitation finished 61 percent below the station's normal.

February rain in Granbury

Observed total compared with the long-term normal



Source: NWS Granbury climatology. NWS Granbury station / 1991-2020 normals



Editorial illustration / Hood County Express

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's National Weather Service climate record shows 0.93 inches of precipitation in February, compared with the 1991-2020 February normal of 2.38 inches.

That is a shortfall of 1.45 inches, or about 61 percent below normal. The

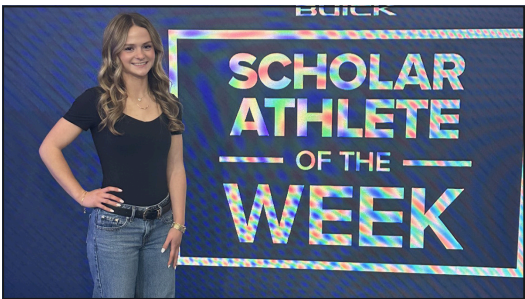
total was slightly above January's 0.83 inches, but both months were below their long-term benchmarks.

Combined, January and February produced 1.76 inches against a normal 4.63 inches, a deficit of 2.87 inches at the reporting site.

These observed station totals provide a local rainfall comparison. They are not a countywide average, a measure of lake storage or a forecast for the coming month.

Source: NWS Granbury climatology

A SCHOLAR ON AND OFF THE FIELD



Carlee Jo Burnfield in the district's February 24 award announcement. | Granbury ISD

CARLEE JO
BURNFIELD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School senior Carlee Jo Burnfield was named a WFAA Scholar-Athlete of the Week, the district announced February 24.

A four-year varsity soccer player and captain for two seasons, Burnfield had earned first-team all-district and honorable-mention all-region recognition. Her academic record also placed her among the top 15 percent of her class.

She belonged to National Honor Society and the Superintendent's Leadership Council and helped Granbury's UIL social-studies team

place second in the 2025 5A state competition.

Burnfield planned to attend Baylor University to study business and nutrition sciences. The district said she would be her family's 25th Baylor student and had received two university scholarships.

The February announcement scheduled her recognition for WFAA's March 1 Sports Special. It celebrated work already done on the field, in class and in school leadership.

Source: Granbury ISD / Feb. 24

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

08

FROM THE LAB
TO THE BOARDROOM

GHS researchers at the February 23 regional science fair. Published in the district's March 2 recap. | Granbury ISD

REGIONAL SCIENCE HONORS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury students earned awards at the 75th Fort Worth Science and Engineering Fair, held at the University of Texas at Arlington February 23.

Laney Matthews won environmental management with a low-cost soil-monitoring project aimed at understanding recovery after wildfires. She also received conservation and sustainable-development honors.

Shanice Gibson placed third in electrical and mechanical engineering with a sensor platform studying biomimetic skin membranes and earned two special awards.

Santiago Lumbreras took first in animal science using a custom

fruit-fly treadmill in research on recovery from stroke-like injury. Jamie Atcheson also competed in animal science with a fruit-fly genetics project.

Paola Lumbreras won cellular biology and biochemistry, placed eighth in Best of Fair and was named second alternate for the international fair. Her work used zebrafish embryos to study neuromuscular development.

The district's March 2 recap identified Matthews, Gibson and both Lumbreras students as advancing to the March 27-28 state fair. These were student research results, not established treatments for people.

Source: GISD / Feb. 23 competition

A BOARDROOM FULL OF ACHIEVEMENT



Spelling-bee honorees at the February 16 Granbury ISD board meeting. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury trustees celebrated students and a retiring administrator February 16.

Dane McCarthy of the STEAM Academy at Mambrino was the district spelling champion. Baccus student Dania Moreno earned the Spanish spelling title. Campus champions were also recognized.

Stowaway Captain Paislee Cogburn earned Texas Dance Educators Association All-State dance recognition and a Founders Scholarship. Braelyn Desormeaux

was honored as a Texas Music Educators Association All-State musician.

The board named Joycelene "Joy" Ezra its Shottenkirk Senior of the Month. She planned to study psychology at Tarleton State University.

Trustees recognized Human Resources Director Wes Jones as he announced retirement after 39 years in public education. He had led Granbury ISD's human-resources department since July 2016.

Source: Granbury ISD / Feb. 17

HISTORICAL EDITION

Compiled October 4, 2026. February coverage.