



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

MARCH 14, 2026

WEEKLY / MARCH 7-13 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

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LIPAN CLAIMS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Indians defeat Martin's Mill in Class 2A Division II final.

LIPAN

47

STATE CHAMPION / MARCH 12

MARTIN'S MILL

34

UIL BOYS BASKETBALL FINAL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan defeated Martin's Mill 47-34 March 12 at the Alamodome in San Antonio to win the Class 2A Division II boys basketball state championship.

The Indians led 20-8 at halftime before Martin's Mill closed to 25-23

after three quarters. Lipan answered with a 22-11 fourth quarter and made all 16 of its free throws in the final period.

Court Gaylor led Lipan with 16 points. Evan Lott added 11, while Darius Steed scored eight and

collected nine rebounds. Lipan finished with a 25-19 rebounding edge.

The official box score recorded no lead changes; the Indians were ahead for 31 minutes, 33 seconds.

Source: UIL official championship box score; UIL 2A Division2 state results

GOVERNMENT

County adopts development rules and reverses project approval.

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March sales-tax allocations in Granbury, Tolar and Lipan.

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COMMUNITY

Jean Cate honored in bronze at Shanley Sculpture Garden.

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GOVERNMENT & DEVELOPMENT

02

COUNTY ADOPTS DEVELOPMENT RULES



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 unanimously adopted changes to the county's development regulations March 10, according to contemporaneous reports by Hood County News and Texas Scorecard.

The new requirements addressed data centers and related power facilities, including documentation

of water resources and environmental protections.

In a separate 3-2 vote, the court overturned conditional approval of Pacifico Energy's Fort Spunky concept plan. Hood County News reported that commissioners Kevin Andrews, Nannette Samuelson and Dave Eagle supported that action;

County Judge Ron Massingill and Commissioner Jack Wilson opposed it.

The reports described water-supply questions at the center of the dispute. Pacifico representatives argued that the company could pursue its own water utility.

Source: Hood County News, March 14; Texas Scorecard, March 10

COUNCIL EXAMINES ITS GOVERNING ROLE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury councilmembers met March 13 for a governance workshop facilitated by Ron Cox of Ron Cox Consulting. The session covered how

the council governs, expectations for elected officials and city staff, and the city's vision and mission statements. All councilmembers

were present, according to the minutes. No one requested to speak during public comment.

Source: Granbury workshop minutes, March 13

BUSINESS & COMMERCE

03

MARCH SALES TAX SHOWS A MIXED PICTURE

\$940,896

Granbury / Down 0.75% from March 2025

\$118,554

Cresson / Down 31.29% from March 2025

\$20,921

Tolar / Up 2.12% from March 2025

\$9,311

Lipan / Up 2.23% from March 2025

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's March sales-tax allocation was \$940,896.21, down 0.75 percent from the comparable payment a year earlier, according to Texas Comptroller data.

Tolar's allocation was \$20,921.07, an increase of 2.12 percent. Lipan's was \$9,310.87, up 2.23 percent.

Cresson, another Hood County jurisdiction, was allocated \$118,553.97, down 31.29 percent from March 2025. Its year-to-date payments were 17.72 percent lower.

Through March, Granbury had received \$3.54 million, 2.66 percent below the prior-year total. Tolar was

up 0.34 percent for the year to date, while Lipan was down 4.62 percent.

The March 11 state announcement said this distribution reflected January sales by businesses filing monthly. Statewide allocations totaled about \$1.1 billion, up 2.1 percent from March 2025.

Source: Texas Comptroller city allocation data; Texas Comptroller, March 11

PANEL BACKS CHURCH, HOSPITAL REQUESTS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7-0 on March 9 to support comprehensive-plan and zoning changes for The Bridge Church's proposed building at 250 Pirate Drive. The 14.682-acre property had been annexed in January 2025. The requests would change the plan designation from low-density residential to

retail/office and the zoning from interim holding to light commercial.

Commissioners also unanimously supported a planned-development amendment for updated hospital signage at 1310 Paluxy Road.

Other 7-0 votes backed zoning and a gas-pump convenience-store permit at 2000 Weatherford Highway, a storage-expansion permit at 1400

Weatherford Highway and an animal-grooming permit at 1413 N. Plaza Drive. Discussion of the convenience-store property included future water and sewer service; staff said its well would be abandoned only after those services were established. The votes advanced the requests at the commission stage.

Source: Granbury P&Z minutes, March 9

SCHOOLS & PEOPLE

TWO PRINCIPALS
PLAN RETIREMENT

KELLIE LAMBERT

Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy
32 years in education

JULIE ROHLEDER

Granbury Middle School
Nearly 30 years in education

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced March 9 that Kellie Lambert and Julie Rohleder planned to retire at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Lambert led Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy. The district credited her with 32 years in

education, including 23 in Granbury ISD and 22 at Emma Roberson.

Rohleder, principal of Granbury Middle School, had worked in public education for nearly 30 years. Her six years in Granbury ISD included

leadership at both Granbury Middle School and Baccus Elementary.

The district said it would begin selecting new principals for the two campuses and provide updates to families as that process moved forward.

Source: Granbury ISD, March 9

TWO GMS EMPLOYEES HONORED

LAURA WILLIAMS

EECU Customer Care Award
Classroom service

MELISSA MCWHORTER

EECU Customer Care Award
Campus service

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Middle School honored Laura Williams and Melissa McWhorter with EECU Customer Care Awards March 11 during the monthly campus visit by trustees and district administrators.

Principal Julie Rohleder recognized Williams' 34 years in education and her work creating science activities that challenge students.

McWhorter, a campus custodian, was recognized for helping keep the

school clean and welcoming and for supporting students and staff.

The district's announcement credited EECU with partnering in the recognition program and providing gifts for the award recipients.

Source: Granbury Middle School, March 11

SCHOOLS & OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE ARRIVES

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Hood County Livestock Raisers Association’s 2026 scholarship application set a postal deadline before March 10, with an in-person option still ahead at its March 19 meeting.

The association offered up to \$6,000 in total for the 2026-27 school year and could award as many as six

scholarships. Awards depended on qualified applicants.

Eligibility included graduating from a Hood County school, participating in the county junior livestock show during three of four high-school years, including senior year, and volunteering at least 20 hours at association events.

The application excluded chapter or club work during the junior show from those volunteer hours and required an association member’s signature on the log.

In-person applications were due at the 6:30 p.m. March 19 meeting at the Reunion Grounds. Recipients’ funds would go directly to their designated college or university.

Source: HCLRA 2026 scholarship application

MAMBRINO SPELLER REACHES REGIONAL BEE

MARCH 7

Fort Worth Regional
Scripps Spelling Bee

25 SPELLERS

Public, private and charter schools
Kindergarten through eighth grade

12 ROUNDS

Texas Wesleyan University
Fort Worth

HCE STAFF WRITER

Dane McCarthy, a fifth grader at STEAM Academy at Mambrino, represented Granbury ISD in the Fort Worth Regional Scripps Spelling Bee March 7 at Texas Wesleyan University.

McCarthy advanced by winning his campus bee and then the Granbury ISD/Area 17 competition.

The regional event brought together 25 spellers from public,

private and charter schools in kindergarten through eighth grade. It lasted 12 rounds before a champion was determined, the district reported March 10.

Source: Granbury ISD, March 10

LIPAN REACHES FINAL WITH GRUVER WIN

63-53

Lipan over Gruver
March 9 state semifinal

36 POINTS

Court Gaylor
Lipan scoring leader

MARCH 12

Championship game
Lipan 47, Martin's Mill 34
Full story on page 1

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan reached the state final by defeating Gruver 63-53 March 9 at Lubbock Christian University's Rip Griffin Center.

Court Gaylor scored 36 points, including 16 in the fourth quarter, and made five three-pointers,

according to Press Pass Sports' game report.

The Indians led 29-22 at halftime. Gruver rallied within 49-47 with 5:57 remaining before Lipan responded with a 10-0 run.

Gruver's Mason Lankford scored 24 and Jett Pittman added 14. The semifinal victory sent Lipan to San Antonio for Thursday's championship game.

Source: Press Pass Sports, March 10

PIRATES SWEEP FOSSIL RIDGE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's baseball team beat Fossil Ridge 10-0 on the road March 12 and 4-0 at home March 13, completing two shutouts during the reporting week.

In the Friday game, the Pirates scored in the second, fourth and sixth innings. Christian Allen drove in the first run with a single, while Eli Cockrell added an RBI double in the

fourth and a run-scoring single in the sixth.

The two victories gave Granbury a combined 14-0 scoring advantage against the Panthers.

Source: Hood County News, March 21 sports report; MaxPreps March 12 score

YOUTH FOOTBALL PLANS TAKE SHAPE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Youth Football Association's spring registration window ran through March 10 for its tackle-free program serving third-through sixth-grade players.

The association advertised Friday-evening games in Granbury and one practice each week, allowing

participants to continue other spring sports. The format prohibited blocking and rushing and was described as distinct from flag football.

The spring listing announced a partnership with Granbury ISD that would group players with classmates

from their grade and school, giving teams a campus identity.

Regular registration cost \$135. The advertised program period ran March 1 through May 15, with parent coaches encouraged to participate.

Source: Granbury Youth Football spring listing

LAKE GRANBURY AT 100 PERCENT



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

MARCH 11

692.62 feet elevation
133,248 acre-feet stored
BRA reservoir summary

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lake Granbury stood at an elevation of 692.62 feet and held 133,248 acre-feet of water in the Brazos River Authority's March 11 reservoir summary. The report listed the lake at 100 percent full. The

authority's broader reservoir system was at 91 percent, with 1,758,391 acre-feet in storage.

Granbury operates in a shared subsystem with Possum Kingdom

and Whitney. The report explains that drought-trigger storage levels for those lakes depend on their combined capacity. That main-stem grouping was also at 91 percent full.

Source: BRA reservoir summary, March 11

FOUNDERS DAY LISTED FOR MARCH 13-15

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Historic Granbury Merchants Association scheduled its Founders Day Jubilee & Cook-Off for March 13-15, with the event opening at 4 p.m. Friday.

The organizer's application set March 10 as the cook-off entry deadline and Friday morning and early afternoon as load-in time. Beans were required for all cookers,

with optional rib and brisket categories.

The published rules placed bean and rib judging on Saturday and brisket judging on Sunday. Awards were scheduled for Sunday afternoon at the Langdon Center stage.

The entry fee was listed at \$50 for beans, with another \$50 for each additional category.

Source: HGMA Founders Day application

SQUARE CLOSURES ANNOUNCED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's March 10 notice called for Crockett and Bridge streets on the Historic Square to close at 4 p.m. Friday, March 13, through 5 p.m. Sunday for events. The city advised alternate routes and extra caution around pedestrians.

Source: Granbury square notice, March 10

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

08

JEAN CATE HONORED IN BRONZE



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

A bronze portrait honoring longtime community leader Jean Cate was unveiled March 13 at Shanley Sculpture Garden, behind Granbury City Hall.

The work by Granbury sculptor Scott Myers was donated by Myers and Kathi Myers. The studio records the dedication date as March 13; later reporting also documented Cate taking part in the unveiling.

Cate's service spans parks, local celebrations, the arts and children's advocacy. The studio's biographical record lists 30 years as Granbury Park Board chairman and 28 years chairing the Fourth of July parade and event.

She helped establish the Granbury Soccer Association and Lake Granbury Art Association, and served on the Paluxy River Children's

Advocacy Center board. Her professional work included 15 years directing Mission Granbury's CASA program.

The studio also lists Cate as the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Ambassador of the Year.

Source: Scott Myers Studio, Jean Cate; Hood County News, March 28

ON LOCAL STAGES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Anything Goes was scheduled at Granbury Opera House during March 7-13 as part of a February 27-March 22 run. The Cole Porter musical follows romantic entanglements aboard an ocean liner.

Granbury Live's March 7 listing featured Royal Women of Country Music, honoring songs associated with Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Linda Ronstadt and Tammy Wynette.

Source: TheaterMania listing; Granbury Live ticket archive

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

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