



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

APRIL 11, 2026

WEEKLY / APRIL 4-10 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

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

COUNCIL APPROVES INDUSTRIAL REZONING



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 voted 5-1 April 7 to change the comprehensive plan and rezone roughly 2,000 acres at 2801 W. U.S. Highway 377 for industrial use. Councilmember Angela Parker opposed both motions.

The votes followed a 5-1 Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation to deny the changes. Speakers raised concerns

about water, air quality, nearby homes and access to information.

In a separate action, council members unanimously adopted Ordinance 26-14, adding definitions and standards for data centers and power generation. Planning and Zoning recommended that ordinance 5-1.

City staff said the industrial zoning would accommodate a use covered by a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality permit issued before annexation. Planning commissioners questioned whether the entire tract needed industrial zoning and noted that no project application had been received.

Source: Granbury April 7 council minutes

GRANBURY EARNS FIFTH HISTORIC-TOWN TITLE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury again finished first in USA TODAY's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for Best Historic Small Town in America, with Visit Granbury announcing the honor April 8.

The 2026 selection gave Granbury its fifth title, following wins in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2025. Other communities in the year's top 10

included Ruston, Louisiana; Ludington, Michigan; and Abilene, Kansas.

Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley credited residents, businesses and partners who supported the community and voted. City Manager Chris Coffman pointed to planning

and partnerships behind the recognition.

The announcement highlighted the courthouse square, arts, festivals, lakefront attractions and local businesses as parts of the town's visitor appeal.

Source: Hood County News, April 11; Visit Granbury designations

CITY GOVERNMENT & COURTS

02

DATA-CENTER RULES
ADDRESS LOCAL IMPACTS

100 FEET

Required landscape buffer

90 PERCENT

Screening opacity within 3 years

ANNUAL

Independent inspections

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's April 7 ordinance places data centers and power generation in the industrial zoning category, subject to supplemental safeguards.

The standards require sound-absorbing barriers around mechanical equipment, acoustic construction and placement of noisy components away from neighboring homes or outdoor public spaces. A 100-foot landscape buffer must be

designed to reach 90 percent opacity within three years.

Water provisions call for closed-loop systems and capture and reuse methods. Annual independent inspections must assess noise, visual and resource-use requirements, with findings reported to the city.

Battery storage and on-site fuel facilities must meet applicable safety

standards, and annual coordination with local fire departments is mandatory.

Construction-management and lighting plans are also required. Council retains discretion to authorize extra building height at a public meeting with conditions to limit impacts.

Source: Granbury Ordinance 26-14

RESIDENTS FILE SUIT OVER
DATA-CENTER PROCESS

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

Four Granbury and Hood County residents filed suit April 6 challenging the city's handling of the land annexation connected to a data-center proposal, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported April 9, with an April 10 update.

The complaint alleges Texas Open Meetings Act violations involving a January tour of a Dallas data center. It also questions public access to annexation documents. Those are allegations, not court findings.

The residents sought to reverse the annexation, obtain injunctive relief and recover compensation for claimed property losses. Mayor Jim Jarratt and City Manager Chris Coffman told the newspaper they could not comment on the suit. Jarratt separately denied that serious negotiations with a developer had occurred.

The plaintiffs' lawyer said an initial hearing had not yet been set when the report was published.

Source: Star-Telegram April 9-10 lawsuit report

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SERVICE

SPRING CLEANUP
SET FOR SATURDAY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 11

Cleanup, bulk trash and document shredding

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury prepared for a busy April 11 morning, pairing the Great Granbury Cleanup with bulk-trash collection and the Shred It Instead document-disposal event.

The cleanup was scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St. Teams of four or more, with participants at least 7 years old, would receive bags, vests and safety

instructions before collecting litter from public areas. City crews would retrieve the filled bags.

Bulk-trash customers were asked to place items curbside by 7 a.m., with a six-item household limit. Bundled limbs had to be shorter than four feet. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners required certification that refrigerant had been reclaimed;

tires, paint, oil, liquids and construction debris were excluded.

Free shredding for Granbury residents was set for 9 a.m. at American Town Hall, 220 N. Travis St., ending at noon or when the truck filled. The limit was three banker boxes of paper, with clips and staples removed.

Source: Granbury cleanup notice, April 6-9; City notice archive

CITY APPROVES
NEW EMS STATION LEASE

25 YEARS

Station lease term

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury council members approved a lease agreement with Texas EMS April 7 for a new station, the city's next-day recap reported.

The agreement runs for 25 years. The city will cover certain development costs, with its contribution expected to be capped at \$300,000.

Source: City of Granbury April 8 recap

POWER-LINE WORK
PREPARES FOR US 377

STATE LOAN

Utility relocation funding

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council approved contracts April 7 to relocate electric lines for the Highway 377 project, according to the city's April 8 recap.

The relocation prepares for a Texas Department of Transportation road expansion. A state infrastructure loan will fund the work.

Source: City of Granbury April 8 recap

SCHOOLS & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

04

SCIENCE & SCHOOL
CULTURE EARN HONORSSTATE SCIENCE FAIR
HONORS ANNOUNCED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced April 8 that four high-school students represented the district at the Texas Science and Engineering Fair, held March 27-28 at Texas A&M University.

Shanice Gibson received the Deere Family Special Award, including a \$1,000 Texas A&M scholarship, for engineering research involving a low-cost sensor platform and a membrane model.

Laney Matthews placed third in Earth and Environmental Science with research on soil monitoring and post-wildfire recovery. Santiago Lumbreras placed second in Animal Science for work using a fruit-fly model of oxygen-deprivation brain injury.

Paola Lumbreras also qualified for the state competition. The district said this was its first year with more than one student earning a place on the state podium.

Source: Granbury ISD, April 8

NINE CAMPUSES
WIN SHOWCASE AWARDS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced April 8 that it received the Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools District Award, following its Rising Star District recognition the previous year.

The program recognizes efforts to build supportive school environments and relationships among students and staff, according to the district.

Nine campuses also received individual National Showcase School recognition: Acton Elementary, Acton Middle, Brawner Elementary, Granbury Middle, Nettie Baccus Elementary, Oak Woods Elementary, Roberson Early Learning Academy, STARS Accelerated High School and STEAM Academy at Mambrino.

Source: Granbury ISD, April 8

REPORT CARDS
LISTED FOR APRIL 9

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD's report-card calendar listed April 9 for the fifth grading period of the 2025-26 school year.

The district directed families to Skyward Family Access, where the Report Cards & Transcripts section provides the available reports. The next report-card date on the published schedule was May 21.

Source: Granbury ISD report-card calendar

SCHOLARSHIP
INTERVIEW WINDOW

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School's local scholarship timeline gave donors through April 10 to contact counselor Lesley Hamilton if they wished to arrange interviews with applicants.

The published schedule called for donors to provide recipients' names by April 20. The senior awards program was planned for 6 p.m. May 14 in the high-school auditorium.

Source: Granbury ISD local scholarship timeline

GRANBURY & TOLAR BASEBALL

05

FIVE-RUN SEVENTH LIFTS GRANBURY

GRANBURY 9

BREWER 5
April 7 / At Granbury

GRANBURY 8

BREWER 7
April 10 / At Brewer

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury scored five runs in the seventh inning to beat Brewer 8-7 on the road April 10, completing a two-game baseball sweep.

The Pirates trailed 7-3 after six innings. Their late rally erased a

deficit that began when Brewer scored five times in the second. Granbury finished with eight hits, while Brewer had 10.

The comeback followed Granbury's 9-5 home victory over the Bears April

7. Across the two games, the Pirates scored 17 runs and allowed 12.

Source: MaxPreps April 10 baseball box score; Star-Telegram April 7 baseball scores; Star-Telegram April 10 baseball scores

RATTLERS SWEEP COMANCHE

TOLAR 5

COMANCHE 2
April 7 / At Tolar

TOLAR 7

COMANCHE 5
April 10 / At Comanche

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar defeated Comanche 5-2 at home April 7 and 7-5 on the road April 10 to sweep the week's baseball series.

In Tuesday's game, the Rattlers scored twice in the second inning and twice in the third, then added a run in the fifth. Comanche's two runs came in the third.

Both teams recorded six hits in the first meeting. Friday's two-run victory gave Tolar a second close win over the same opponent.

Source: MaxPreps April 7 baseball box score; MaxPreps Tolar dated baseball results

LIPAN BASEBALL & ALIGNMENT

INDIANS REACH
A DOZEN TWICE

LIPAN 12

SANTO 3
April 8 / At Santo

LIPAN 12

SANTO 2
April 10 / At Lipan

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan defeated Santo twice during the week, winning 12-3 on the road April 8 and 12-2 at home April 10.

The Indians reached a dozen runs in each game and outscored Santo 24-5 across the pair. The Wednesday victory opened the series, and

Friday’s home win completed the sweep.

Source: Big Country Preps April 14 dated results; MaxPreps dated Lipan baseball entries

EARLIER IN APRIL: BASEBALL REALIGNMENT

GRANBURY

Class 6A / District 3

TOLAR

Class 3A / District 7

LIPAN

1A/2A list / District 14

HCE STAFF WRITER

The UIL’s baseball alignments released April 1 placed Granbury, Tolar and Lipan in new district groupings for the 2026-27 school year.

Granbury was assigned to District 3 in Class 6A, alongside Aledo,

Weatherford and the five Arlington schools listed in the alignment.

Tolar was placed in District 7 in Class 3A, with Comanche, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Hamilton, Millsap and Peaster.

Lipan appeared in District 14 on the combined 1A/2A list with Hico,

Itasca, Meridian, Bluff Dale, Blum, Covington and Three Way School. These assignments concern the coming school year, rather than the spring 2026 games reported here.

Source: Texas High School Baseball, April 1; UIL original 2026-27 6A baseball alignment; UIL original 2026-27 3A baseball alignment; UIL original 2026-27 1A/2A baseball alignment

LAKE & WATER RESOURCES

LAKE GRANBURY STANDS 99% FULL



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

692.61 FEET

Lake elevation / April 8

133,167

Acre-feet stored / April 8

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lake Granbury held 133,167 acre-feet of water and stood 99% full in the Brazos River Authority’s April 8 reservoir snapshot. Its reported elevation was 692.61 feet.

The authority’s entire water-supply system was 90% full, with 1,738,143 acre-feet in storage. Possum Kingdom

was 91% full, while BRA’s main-stem storage stood at 91%.

Granbury, Possum Kingdom and Whitney are operated together as a subsystem, so the report bases their storage-related drought triggers on the group’s combined capacity.

Whitney’s figures require care: the table listed BRA storage there at 65% full, but a footnote put the whole reservoir at 94%. The percentages describe different amounts of water, rather than conflicting measurements.

Source: BRA reservoir report, April 8

EVAPORATION EXCEEDED CUSTOMER USE

515,156

Evaporation / acre-feet / 2025

328,698

Customer use / acre-feet / 2025

HCE STAFF WRITER

A water-accounting report released by the Brazos River Authority April 8 showed evaporation exceeded customer use across its reservoir system in 2025.

The authority reported 328,698 acre-feet used for municipal, industrial, irrigation and mining purposes. Municipal demand represented about 48% of that total; industrial uses, including electric generation, accounted for 45%. Irrigation made up 5% and mining 2%.

Evaporation consumed 515,156 acre-feet during the year.

For Lake Granbury, the report recorded 798,018 acre-feet of floodwater released in 2025. The BRA said its three owned reservoirs have no designated flood storage and must pass water downstream when full to protect their dams.

Source: BRA water report, April 8

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

08

PODCAST PREVIEWS THE DROWSY CHAPERONE



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

Granbury Theatre Company gave audiences a behind-the-scenes introduction to “The Drowsy Chaperone” in the April 9 installment of its “Acting Up with GTC” podcast.

The approximately 52-minute episode featured director Colton Lively and cast members discussing the musical comedy. The company’s

episode description presented the production as a celebration of theatre and imagination, with a three-week run.

Music Theatre International’s production listing scheduled Granbury’s engagement for April 10-26 at 133 E. Pearl St., the Opera House address. The podcast’s release

arrived just before that advertised opening date.

The show’s promotion directed patrons to the theatre company’s website or its box office at 817-579-0952 for ticket information.

Source: GTC podcast, April 9; MTI production schedule

CIVIC CHORUS SETS SPRING PROGRAM

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Civic Chorus announced its spring concert April 9, setting out a program that pairs music about grief with reflections on peace and hope.

“Introspection and Inspiration” was scheduled for 7 p.m. May 14 at Acton Methodist Church. John Rutter’s “Requiem” was among the works selected, alongside choral pieces exploring loss, comfort and the beauty of the world.

The announcement identified the performance as the second concert led by artistic director Dr. Barry Scott Williamson and part of the chorus’s 25th year of bringing choral music to the community.

Admission was to be free, with donations welcomed. The chorus also credited sponsors for helping it prepare and present concerts without charging those who attend.

Source: Civic Chorus, April 9

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

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