



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

APRIL 18, 2026

WEEKLY / APRIL 11-17 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

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

COUNTY CANCELS FLOCK CAMERA CONTRACT



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

4-0

Commissioners vote / April 14

\$126,000

Refund sought

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County commissioners voted 4-0 April 14 to end the county's Flock Safety camera contract and seek a \$126,000 refund, the Hood County News reported. County Judge Ron Massingill was absent.

The decision followed debate over privacy, potential misuse and delayed installation. Emergency communications officials defended the cameras as an investigative tool; commissioners raised surveillance and vendor-performance concerns.

The vote called for cancellation and pursuit of repayment. It did not establish that the refund had been received.

Source: Hood County News, April 18

DATA-CENTER PLANS DELAYED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Commissioners postponed the Project Lion and Project Panther concept plans April 14. They also authorized Freese & Nichols to begin

updating county permit regulations, allowing up to \$130,000 for the first phase.

The court retained Bojorquez Law Firm to represent the county in Pacifico's lawsuit.

Source: Hood County News, April 18

CITY BUSINESS & COUNTY HEALTH

02

P&Z BACKS KIA
STORAGE EXPANSION

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

7-0

Recommendation votes / April 13

1.457 ACRES

Proposed heavy-commercial rezoning

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7-0 April 13 to recommend a zoning change and specific-use permit tied to the Kia dealership at 4301 E. U.S. Highway 377.

The proposal would change a 1.457-acre tract formerly known as 110 James Road from light to heavy commercial zoning and incorporate

it into the dealership's inventory-storage area. The permit discussion covered a 7.204-acre site.

Applicant Matt Powell said the new area would store vehicles. He said landscaping, rather than a fence, would line James Road.

A resident asked whether the land could later become a data center. Senior Planner Cody Nolen explained

that the request involved heavy commercial, not industrial, zoning. He said the permit was tied to a specific site plan and changes in layout or use would require another public hearing.

The commission's votes were recommendations in the city's approval process.

Source: Granbury P&Z minutes, April 13

HOSPITAL DISTRICT GETS PAYMENT RELIEF

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County commissioners voted 4-0 April 14 to defer hospital-district payments to the county for indigent health care from March through September, with reimbursement to follow after Oct. 1.

The Hood County Hospital District requested the delay because of a

funding shortfall. The action gave the district additional time to address its finances, rather than eliminating the obligation.

The hospital district and Lake Granbury Medical Center are separate entities. The district pays eligible indigent-care expenses; the

medical center provides treatment. County Judge Ron Massingill was absent from the vote.

The decision was detailed in the Hood County News' April 25 report on the district's finances.

Source: Hood County News, April 25 / April 14-16

COMMUNITY & LOCAL BUSINESS

VOLUNTEERS CLEAR
A TON OF LITTER



HCE STAFF WRITER

The Great Granbury Cleanup collected a ton of trash, the city reported in its April 16 update to residents. The result followed the April 11 community cleanup, part of Granbury’s spring effort to remove litter from roadsides and other public spaces.

The city’s cleanup program equips volunteer teams with trash bags, safety vests and instructions. Teams leave filled bags at their assigned sites for city staff to collect. Granbury organizes the volunteer effort in the spring and fall.

Source: Granbury city newsletter, April 16; City April 11 event notice

SHREDDING SERVES 88

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s Shred It Instead event served 88 people, according to the city’s April 16 newsletter. The April 11 program at American Town Hall offered residents a way to dispose of

personal documents rather than put intact papers into ordinary trash.

The free event allowed up to three bankers boxes of paper per resident. Its published arrangements included a drive-through option and

volunteers to help unload vehicles. The city also allowed residents to park and watch their documents being shredded.

Source: Granbury city newsletter, April 16; City April 11 event notice

HOME-CARE AGENCY ANNOUNCES AWARD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Visiting Angels Granbury announced April 13 that it received the 2026 Best of Home Care Leader in Experience award from Activated Insights. The awarding organization’s directory confirms the recognition for the agency at 505 S. Morgan St.

The award is based on client and caregiver satisfaction. Activated Insights says recipients must also qualify for its Provider of Choice and Employer of Choice honors, complete regular surveys and maintain an overall satisfaction score of at least

8.9. The Granbury agency’s directory entry lists both additional awards for 2026. The local announcement was distributed in a company-issued news release.

Source: Visiting Angels release, April 13; Activated Insights awards directory

SCHOOLS & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

EMMA ROBERSON STAFF
RECOGNIZED FOR CARE

LAURA BROWN

Teacher / EECU Customer Care Award

ANITA HEISER

Administrative assistant / EECU award

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD honored Laura Brown and Anita Heiser with EECU Customer Care Awards during an April 15 visit to Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy by trustees and district administrators.

Principal Kellie Lambert praised Brown, a teacher, for advocating for

students and families and maintaining those relationships after children move on from the early-learning campus.

Heiser was recognized for 30 years of service to children, parents, teachers and administrators, including 20 years at Emma

Roberson. Lambert described the administrative assistant as a dependable source of help across the campus.

EECU partnered with the district on the awards and provided gifts for the recipients.

Source: Granbury ISD, April 15

LIPAN SETS EARLY-GRADE
REGISTRATION SESSIONS

APRIL 16-17

Elementary office / In-person sessions

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan ISD’s registration plan for 2026-27 placed two in-person sessions for new Pre-K and kindergarten students on the April 16-17 calendar.

The district’s April 10 notice listed registration at the elementary office from 4-6 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday.

For returning students in kindergarten through 12th grade, online registration was scheduled to open May 4 and finish before the end of school. New students in grades 1-12 could begin online registration and upload documents May 11 through the parent portal.

Source: Lipan ISD registration announcement

TOLAR CALENDAR TURNS
TO SCIENCE & HISTORY

APRIL 14-16

Science and history testing schedule

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar ISD’s sixth and final six-week grading period began on the published calendar April 13, followed by a week of state science and history assessments.

The schedule listed fifth- and eighth-grade science tests for April 14, along with the high-school Biology end-of-course exam. The U.S. History end-of-course test was set for April 15, followed by eighth-grade history April 16.

The calendar placed the next round of grade-level math assessments the following week, with grades 3-6 scheduled April 21 and grades 7-8 April 22.

Source: Tolar ISD April calendar

LIPAN & TOLAR SOFTBALL

05

SPRINGSTEAD NO-HITS
SANTO IN LIPAN WIN

LIPAN 1

SANTO 0
April 14 / At Lipan

7 INNINGS

0 hits / 8 strikeouts / 3 walks

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lily Springstead pitched seven hitless innings as Lipan edged Santo 1-0 at home April 14.

Springstead struck out eight and walked three, protecting a lead the Lady Indians established in the first

inning. Ryan Atkinson tripled and scored Lipan’s run; she finished 1-for-2 at the plate.

Neither team scored after the opening inning. Santo remained within a run throughout the game,

but Springstead and the Lipan defense kept the visitors off the scoreboard through the seventh.

Source: MaxPreps, Lipan April 14 softball; Big Country Preps dated softball result

LATE RUNS LIFT LADY RATTLERS

EARLY 5

TOLAR 2
April 14 / At Tolar

TOLAR 7

COMANCHE 5
April 17 / At Comanche

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar scored five runs over the last two innings to beat Comanche 7-5 on the road April 17.

The softball game was tied 2-2 after five innings. Tolar scored twice in the

sixth and three times in the seventh, then held off Comanche’s two-run final inning.

The win followed a 5-2 home loss to Early April 14. Tolar led that game 1-0

after the second inning, but Early tied it in the third and moved ahead in the fourth.

Source: MaxPreps, Tolar April 14 softball; MaxPreps, Tolar April 17 softball; Star-Telegram April 14 softball scores; Star-Telegram April 17 softball scores

COUNTY BASEBALL

RATTLERS SWEEP DUBLIN

TOLAR 14

DUBLIN 0 / April 14

TOLAR 13

DUBLIN 2 / April 17

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar swept Dublin in baseball, winning 14-0 at home April 14 and 13-2 on the road April 17.

An 11-run fourth inning powered Tuesday’s victory, which ended after

the top of the fifth. The Rattlers had led 3-0 before the big inning.

Friday’s game was tied 2-2 after four innings. Tolar moved ahead in the fifth, then scored five runs in

each of the last two innings to finish the sweep.

Source: MaxPreps, Tolar April 14 box; MaxPreps, Tolar April 17 box; Star-Telegram April 14 baseball scores; Star-Telegram April 17 baseball scores

GRANBURY RALLY FALLS SHORT

ALEDO 7

GRANBURY 4 / April 17

LIPAN ANSWERS HICO ON ROAD

LIPAN 4

HICO 2 / April 17

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury scored four times in the fifth inning to close within a run of Aledo, but the visiting Bearcats held on for a 7-4 baseball victory April 17.

Aledo had built a 5-0 lead and added two insurance runs in the seventh.

The Pirates also lost 5-1 at Aledo April 14. Granbury scored in the third inning before the Bearcats added three runs in the fourth.

Source: MaxPreps, Granbury April 14 box; MaxPreps, Granbury April 17 box; Star-Telegram April 14 baseball scores; Star-Telegram April 17 baseball scores

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan broke a scoreless tie with three runs in the fifth inning and defeated Hico 4-2 on the road April 17, earning a split of the week’s baseball series.

The Indians added a run in the sixth. Hico scored once in each of the final two innings but could not erase the deficit.

Chris Collins pitched all seven innings and struck out 10 for Lipan, which finished with eight hits. The victory followed a 17-6 home loss to Hico April 14.

Source: MaxPreps, Lipan April 14 box; MaxPreps, Lipan April 17 box; Big Country Preps April 14/17 baseball results

ARTS & WRITERS

08

PHOTO-SHOW ENTRIES CLOSE FOR JUDGING



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

Applications closed April 16 for the Lake Granbury Art Association's National Juried Photography Competition, Exhibition and Sale. The association set an 11:59 p.m. deadline for a show offering up to

\$4,000 in cash awards and a place at Shanley House Gallery.

The competition invited U.S. photographers age 18 and older to submit original, lens-based work, including photographic composites. AI-generated images were excluded.

The published timetable called for image review April 18-21 and acceptance notices April 22, ahead of the exhibition's planned May opening at 224 N. Travis St.

Source: LGAA call for entries; LGAA photography prospectus

WRITERS' BLOC NAMES APRIL SPEAKER

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Writers' Bloc announced April 14 that J. L. Yarrow would speak at its April 25 meeting, scheduled for 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The notice introduces a writer moving from a long technology career into a new chapter devoted to fiction.

In the accompanying biography, Yarrow describes retiring from

Kyndryl in 2025 and writing with his wife, Leanne, under the shared pen name. Their Time Forward Trilogy is published by The Story Plant. The announcement describes a writing career developed over four decades alongside other work.

Source: Writers Bloc announcement, April 14

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

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