



APRIL IN REVIEW / ZONING VOTE 02 / CITY SPENDING 03 / SCHOOLS 05

GRANBURY CHAMPIONS

Birdwell honors national achievements in dance and rifle competition.



State Sen. Brian Birdwell presents a proclamation during his April 23, 2026 recognition visit to Granbury High School. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Brian Birdwell visited Granbury High School April 23 to present proclamations recognizing students' national achievements.

The GHS Stowaways received recognition for multiple titles and Grand National Champion honors in both team and officer divisions at the MA Dance Nationals. Director Shelby

Sargent and Assistant Director Emily Beane lead the dance program.

Birdwell also honored senior Viola Allen of the MCJROTC Rifle Team for winning an individual national title and setting an MCJROTC National Finals record of 469.0 at the JROTC All-Service National Championships. The district said the previous mark

belonged to Granbury graduate Kennedy Wells.

Allen planned to continue her rifle career at Texas Christian University. The presentation brought two different student programs together under a shared theme: Granbury competitors earning recognition beyond the local and state levels.

Source: GISD / April 23

GOVERNMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

02

Two votes. A deep divide.

5-1

Council vote for industrial zoning of the Highway 377 property

6-0

Council vote for separate data-center and power-generation standards

INDUSTRIAL ZONING PASSES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council voted April 7 to change the future land-use designation and zoning of roughly 2,000 acres at 2801 W. U.S. Highway 377 to industrial. Both votes passed 5-1, with Councilmember Angela Parker opposed.

The Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended denial of those property-specific changes by a 5-1 vote. Residents raised concerns about air quality,

water, neighboring homes, airport proximity and incomplete information. Applicant representative Connor Smith supported the change and pointed to rights associated with the property before annexation.

City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle told the meeting that a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality permit preceded annexation and described the implications of a legal

nonconforming use if industrial zoning were denied.

A separate action added definitions and supplemental standards for data centers and power generation. The council approved those standards 6-0, following a 5-1 Planning and Zoning recommendation for approval. The two commission recommendations concerned different actions.

Source: Council minutes / April 07

TRANSPARENCY DISPUTE REACHES COURT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Four Granbury and Hood County residents filed suit in April over the city's handling of land associated with a possible data-center development, according to reporting by Emily Holshouser of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The lawsuit, filed in Hood County's 355th District Court, named Mayor Jim Jarratt, City Manager Chris Coffman, Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Wadley and council members. It

alleged violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act connected to officials' tour of a Dallas data center before January's annexation decision.

The allegations challenged the openness of the process. They were claims in a lawsuit, not findings that the city or individual officials had broken the law.

The newspaper reported that Jarratt and Coffman declined

comment on the litigation. Jarratt separately said the city had not seen a serious development proposal and characterized earlier economic-development contacts as preliminary. As reported April 10, plaintiffs' attorney Steven Dias said an initial hearing date had not yet been set. The dispute remained unresolved in that report.

Source: Star-Telegram / April 10

GOVERNMENT & YOUR MONEY

03

Streets. Buildings.
Emergency services.

A TEN-YEAR STREET PLAN

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council adopted a ten-year street capital and maintenance plan April 21 and directed staff to prepare the first phase for implementation. The vote was 5-0.

Consultants from TNP described a 45-project list, with priorities scored

using pavement material, street function and connections, pavement condition, and city priorities. They said the list reflected what appeared practical over ten years rather than every street need.

Source: Council minutes / April 21

45 PROJECTS

City street plan adopted April 21

2026-2036

A framework for repairs, maintenance and improvements

ROOFING & EQUIPMENT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury approved a \$498,555.92 roofing award April 21 after rejecting proposals that exceeded an available cooperative-purchasing price. The work addressed damage associated

with a March 2025 wind and hail storm, with additional airport roofing discussed separately.

Council members also approved a \$134,419 International dump truck

for the Streets Department and an \$8,500 budget adjustment using Fleet Fund interest earnings.

Source: Council minutes / April 21

A NEW TEXAS EMS STATION

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council approved a lease agreement with Texas EMS during its April 7 meeting, setting a framework for a new emergency medical services station.

The city's April 8 recap described an arrangement lasting 25 years, with Texas EMS to build and operate the facility. Granbury would cover specified development costs, with its expected contribution capped at \$300,000.

The council's same recap also reported approval of contracts to relocate electric lines for the U.S. Highway 377 expansion, with the work to be financed through a state infrastructure loan. Both items tied long-lived public services to development and construction planning rather than a single month's day-to-day operations.

Source: City notice / April 08

25 YEARS

Lease term for the new EMS station

\$300,000

Expected cap on city development contribution

PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITIES

04

READY TO RESPOND

52 graduates complete Granbury Fire Academy training.



Fire academy training image published by the City of Granbury April 23, 2026. Exact photo date not specified. | City of Granbury

HCE STAFF WRITER

Fifty-two graduates completed the Granbury Fire Academy, the city announced April 23. Their class represented 11 volunteer fire departments, including seven in Hood County and four in neighboring counties.

Each graduate completed 434 hours of training through the

Granbury Volunteer Fire Department. The city said the resulting certification met State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association and National Fire Protection Association standards.

Source: City notice / April 23

434 HOURS

Training completed by each graduate

11 DEPARTMENTS

Seven from Hood County, four from neighboring counties

WATER SHUTDOWN POSTPONED

HCE STAFF WRITER

A planned overnight water-service interruption on Granbury's west side was postponed before work began April 29. The city said no replacement date had been set when it issued the update.

The earlier notice had scheduled water-main maintenance at Pirate Drive and West Pearl Street beginning at 10 p.m., with an estimated six-hour service window. Listed customers included Southwest Parkway, Granbury High School, Granbury Middle School, Howard Clemmons Road and specific nearby addresses on West Pearl and U.S. Highway 377.

The postponement superseded that original schedule. Residents should not treat the earlier April 27 notice as evidence that the shutdown actually occurred.

Source: City notice / April 29; City notice / April 27

LOCALIZED UTILITY WORK

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury issued several location-specific utility and road notices during the third full week of April.

A planned electric outage April 21 was scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and last about two hours. The city identified 37 residences on Anna Circle, Joshua Way and Seay Court as affected.

A separate April 23 power interruption was scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. for customers on Clive Street in Harbor Lakes. That notice did not include all of Harbor Lakes or the wider city electric system.

On April 22, the city also advised that Atmos Energy was continuing road work at the Lambert Road and Pearl Street intersection and asked drivers to use caution.

Source: City notice / April 20; City notice / April 22; City notice / April 22

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & FINANCE

05

A NEW FINANCIAL LEADER FOR GISD



Incoming Chief Financial Officer LaTisha Griffin, left, with Superintendent Courtney Morawski following the April 20, 2026 school board meeting. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD named LaTisha Griffin its next chief financial officer following April board approval. The district said she would begin in June, succeeding Emmett Whitefield after his announced retirement and 25 years with GISD.

Griffin most recently served as Duncanville ISD's director of budget and finance, overseeing work connected to a budget exceeding \$140 million. Her responsibilities included

budgeting, accounting, payroll, audits and financial reporting.

Her background also includes school operations and campus leadership. Before moving into finance, she worked in UIL compliance and facilities and as an associate principal of operations at Duncanville High School. Earlier roles included career and technical education leadership, teaching and coaching.

Griffin holds an MBA from Arizona State University and a marketing degree with an accounting minor from the University of Tampa. She also holds Texas principal and superintendent certifications. Her earlier career included work as a business instructor and head softball coach, linking her financial background with experience in classrooms and extracurricular programs.

Source: GISD / April 21

JUNE 2026

Griffin's announced start as CFO

SCHOOLS & THE NEXT YEAR

06

Three campuses. New principals.

ACTON ELEMENTARY	GRANBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL	EMMA ROBERSON EARLY LEARNING
AMMIE HILL	BEN SHERLEY	KELLIE POLLOCK
HCE STAFF WRITER Ammie Hill was selected in April as the next principal of Acton Elementary School, returning to a district where she previously served in secondary-school administration. The board-approved appointment was announced April 21 for the 2026-27 school year. Hill succeeds Maggie Walton, who was named the district’s director of strategic initiatives. Hill worked as an assistant principal at Crossland Ninth Grade Center and Granbury High School from 2013 to 2017. She subsequently spent seven years in Godley ISD, including service as principal of Godley Intermediate and Legacy Elementary after beginning there as a high-school assistant principal. Before entering administration, Hill taught high-school social studies in Keene ISD for seven years. She earned a master’s degree in education from Tarleton State University and a history degree from Texas Wesleyan University. Source: GISD / April 21	HCE STAFF WRITER Granbury Middle School assistant principal Ben Sherley was named the campus’s next principal following the April school board meeting. The district announced April 21 that Sherley would take the role for 2026-27. He succeeds Julie Rohleder, who planned to retire at the end of the current school year after nearly 30 years in public education and six years as a Granbury ISD principal. Sherley’s work at GMS included campus operations, discipline and safety procedures. Before joining Granbury, he spent more than two decades in a California high-school district, serving in positions including principal, educational-services director, assistant principal and dean of students. Source: GISD / April 21	HCE STAFF WRITER Kellie Pollock was named the next principal of Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy in an April 21 Granbury ISD announcement. Pollock will succeed retiring principal Kellie Lambert for the 2026-27 school year. Her experience at the campus spans more than two decades, including work as a kindergarten teacher and media specialist or librarian before becoming assistant principal in 2022. The district highlighted her early-literacy work, instructional leadership and familiarity with the school’s students and families. The promotion keeps leadership rooted in someone who has served the campus in several different roles. Pollock holds a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Tarleton State University and earned principal certification through Lamar University. Source: GISD / April 21

APPOINTED IN APRIL. READY FOR 2026-27.

WEATHER & COMMUNITY

07

APRIL'S WETTER TURN

4.75 inches of rain exceeds the month's normal by 1.72 inches.

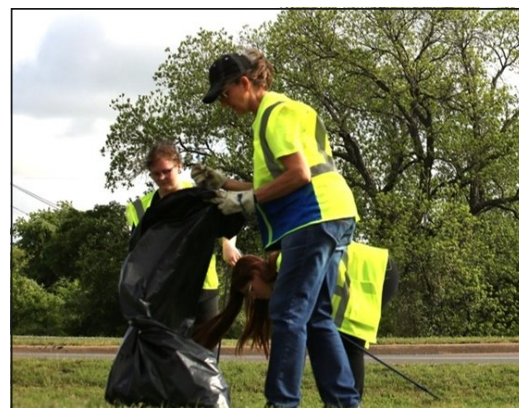
Granbury rainfall

April 2026 / 1991-2020 normal

April actual 4.75 in.

April normal 3.03 in.

Source: NWS Granbury climatology. NWS station data; not a countywide average.



Volunteers collect litter during the April 11, 2026 Great Granbury Cleanup. | City of Granbury

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's April rainfall reached 4.75 inches, topping the 1991-2020 April normal of 3.03 inches by 1.72 inches, National Weather Service data show.

It was the wettest month of 2026 through April. January, February and

March together had produced 3.58 inches; April alone exceeded that combined amount.

The January-April total stood at 8.33 inches, still below the four-month normal of 10.94 inches. The wetter month therefore narrowed, but did

not erase, the year's station-level shortfall. These totals describe measured precipitation at Granbury, not a countywide assessment of drought or lake conditions.

Source: NWS Granbury climatology

A TON OF TRASH

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's spring cleanup produced a tangible result: a ton of trash collected. The city reported the total in its April 16 recap following the community's April 11 cleanup day.

The accompanying Shred It Instead event served 88 people, according to the same report. The two programs addressed different household needs, pairing outdoor litter removal with document disposal.

The city published photographs and a video recap of the effort. Volunteers' work provided a community-service achievement measured in material removed and residents served.

Source: City notice / April 16

WHEN SIRENS SOUND

HCE STAFF WRITER

Hood County's emergency sirens can sound for severe weather, a Comanche Peak nuclear-plant emergency or scheduled tests, Granbury reminded residents in April.

Routine tests were listed for noon on the first and third Mondays, except major holidays. A siren at another time was a cue to go indoors and seek information from local television or WBAP 820 AM.

The city directed residents to Hood County Emergency Management and the plant's emergency-information website for details. Sirens prompt residents to seek information and follow instructions.

Source: City notice / April 16

LEARNING & COMMUNITY

08

LEARNING TO LEAD

LEAP ACADEMY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD recognized seven graduates of its 2025-26 LEAP Academy in April, highlighting a district program intended to prepare future campus and district leaders.

The graduates were Brittany Aiken, Kristen Taylor and Summer Melendez of Acton Elementary; Lacey Clark of Baccus Elementary; Brook White of Oak Woods; Auva Ball of Acton Middle School; and Megan Reyna of Granbury Middle School.

LEAP stands for Leadership Experiences for Aspiring Professionals. The district described the academy as a combination of coaching, collaboration and professional learning focused on both individual and organizational growth.

Source: GISD / April 21

CAMPUS HONORS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced April 8 that it had received a National Showcase Schools District Award from Capturing Kids' Hearts. The program recognizes work centered on relationships and supportive school culture.

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

The districtwide recognition followed GISD's earlier Rising Star designation in the same program. The district credited staff efforts to build relationships and a positive learning environment.

Source: GISD / April 08

TOP OF THE CLASS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School announced its leading Class of 2026 students April 29, naming Grace Blevins valedictorian and Nathan Walters salutatorian.

The remaining ranked students were Kate Crum, Kenna Black, Miller Schenewark, Jennifer Espinoza-Rangel, Paisley Walker, Scarlett Farner, Hannah Dafoe, Reagan Lloyd and Sara Swor. Ties at sixth and tenth place meant the Top 10 ranking included 11 students.

Graduation was scheduled for May 22 at Pirate Stadium. Blevins and Walters both planned to attend the University of Texas at Austin.

Source: GISD / April 29

A SPRING WEEKEND ON THE SQUARE

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Wine Celebration returned to the Historic Square April 24-25, bringing Texas wine, regional food and entertainment into a two-day spring event.

The organizer's published schedule offered tasting hours Friday

afternoon and Saturday, with advance general tickets listed at \$45 and a \$50 door price. A \$125 VIP option offered separate seating and curated food and wine features.

Hood County News photographer Mary Vinson documented the

weekend's tasting activity, craft and food vendors and entertainment in the newspaper's spring-event recap. Her coverage showed winery representatives pouring samples for visitors around the square.

Source: Wine Celebration organizer; Hood County News / May 2

HISTORICAL EDITION

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