



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

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JUNE 6, 2026

MONTHLY / FIRST SATURDAY

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

MAY IN REVIEW / DATA CENTERS 02 / CITY HALL 03 / SCHOOLS 05

CLASS OF 2026

May brings graduation, scholarships and academic honors to Granbury.



Granbury's top academic seniors gather at the Lake Granbury Conference Center for the May 7, 2026 Education Foundation banquet. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School celebrated 482 seniors at its May 22 graduation ceremony at Pirate Stadium, according to the district's commencement report.

Valedictorian Grace Blevins and salutatorian Nathan Walters delivered student speeches. Principal Duane Fish and Superintendent Courtney Morawski also addressed the class. The GHS Varsity Choir,

directed by Kendra Fisher, provided musical performances during the evening.

Students took part in the presentation of colors, invocation and tassel ceremony before the cap toss marked their transition to alumni. The program placed student leadership alongside the formal awarding of diplomas.

For the graduating class, the stadium ceremony closed the high-school chapter that had filled May with awards, recognition events and preparations for the next step. The district's published photo collection documented the celebration for families who attended and those following from elsewhere.

Source: GISD / May 22

GOVERNMENT & GROWTH

02

The debate over data-center growth

RESIDENTS RAISE CONCERNS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Water, noise and the pace of industrial growth brought residents and political figures to a Granbury town hall May 13, according to reporting by KERA's Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela. The gathering drew people from different political backgrounds into a shared debate about proposed artificial-intelligence infrastructure in Hood County.

Speakers questioned water consumption, power generation and long-term environmental effects. County Judge-elect Mark Lowery said communities needed time to understand potential impacts. KERA also reported concerns from residents living near proposed sites, including the Project Patriot area.

The town hall followed unsuccessful efforts earlier in the year to impose temporary pauses on large developments. Attendees and officials called for stronger local authority, although the gathering itself could not establish county regulations or decide a project application.

The distinction mattered: an expression of public opposition was not a permit decision. May's debate centered on how much control local governments could exercise and what information residents should receive before major development moved forward.

Source: KERA / May 14

CITY STATES ITS POSITION

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury officials said May 21 that the city had received no development application for the recently annexed Reddy Land Partners property. The city's statement also said no tax abatements for a potential data-center project had been submitted to or approved by the council.

The response defended the city's decision to annex and regulate the privately owned industrial property. Officials said a landowner had requested annexation and that the action did not approve a particular development. They argued city zoning provided controls that the county generally could not impose.

The city listed standards addressing noise, screening, building height, water systems, fuel and battery storage, traffic, dust and lighting. It said a formal development application would begin review of a specific proposal.

Those were the city's stated position and status report on May 21. They did not resolve residents' separate concerns about transparency, the adequacy of safeguards or the eventual scale of a possible project.

Source: City statement / May 21

STREET FINANCING MOVES AHEAD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury moved toward borrowing for street improvements during two May council meetings. On May 5, council members reviewed financing options for a \$20 million first phase and voted 5-0 to bring back a 10-year debt-service plan rather than the alternative 20-year approach.

On May 19, the council voted 6-0 to authorize publication of a notice of intent to issue certificates of obligation. A Hilltop Securities representative explained the competitive sale process during that discussion.

The actions advanced the financing process. They did not mean every

project in the city's long-range street program was funded or under construction. The key May decision was to continue with the shorter repayment framework and begin the public-notice step for the proposed borrowing.

Source: Council minutes / May 5; Council minutes / May 19

CITY HALL & YOUR MONEY

03

The work behind city services

WATER-PLANT INVESTMENTS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Two water-treatment expenses won unanimous approval as part of the Granbury City Council's May 5 consent agenda.

The council authorized an increase of up to \$62,000 in an existing Eagle Labs chemical-supply contract. The listed products were citric acid, hydrochloric acid and sodium bisulfite for water treatment.

Members also approved a third-party construction agreement costing \$107,000 for the final fiber connection to the water treatment plant. City Manager Chris Coffman was authorized to execute the agreements. Both items passed in the same 5-0 consent vote, alongside the meeting's other routine approvals.

Source: Council minutes / May 5

\$107,000

Final fiber connection to the water treatment plant

\$62,000

Approved increase to a chemical-supply contract

AIRPORT SERVICE, PUBLIC WORKS



Andy Rash is recognized at the May 19, 2026 City Council meeting for nearly 50 years of airport service. Photo published in the city's May 20 recap. | City of Granbury

HCE STAFF WRITER

Nearly five decades of service to Granbury's airport earned Andy Rash recognition at City Hall in May. The city's May 20 council recap highlighted the tribute, while the May 19 meeting record documented the presentation of a certificate of appreciation.

The council also proclaimed May 17-23 Public Works Week. The recognition placed the employees who maintain essential city systems alongside

other staff accomplishments celebrated during the meeting.

City Manager Chris Coffman's update included promotions, certifications and new hires, as well as runway and taxiway improvements at the airport. Public art also appeared in the report, with an airport unveiling and the first art wrap for a Texas Department of Transportation signal-control box among the items acknowledged.

Source: Council minutes / May 19; City recap / May 20

YOUR QUESTIONS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury invited residents to send questions about city government for a new video series, "Granbury's 3

Questions," in a May 19 announcement.

The city directed submissions to pio@granbury.org. Its May 20

newsletter linked episodes addressing the possibility of a data center and introducing Assistant City Manager John Copeland.

Source: City recap / May 20; City / May 19

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH

04

Mosquito season starts at home

DRAIN IT

Empty standing water in buckets, pots, gutters and pools.

COVER UP

Use repellent and protective clothing at dusk and dawn.

CHECK ALERTS

City spray notifications are available by email and text.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's May 14 mosquito-control update asked residents to help reduce breeding areas before the seasonal spraying program moved into full operation.

Crews spray as needed, using mosquito activity and weather conditions to guide operations. The city said its usual treatment window was 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., with spraying suspended during rain or

unsuitable winds. The city is divided into four spray zones, and a section is treated on a given evening when needed.

The household assignment was simple: empty water from buckets, flowerpots, children's pools and other containers, and check gutters and birdbaths. The city also advised repellent containing DEET and

protective clothing around dusk and dawn.

Residents could obtain email or text alerts through the city's Notify Me service and consult the mosquito-control page for a zone map. People and pets should remain clear of spray vehicles during operations. The city said seasonal treatments generally continue through September.

Source: City mosquito notice / May 14

POLICE RECOGNIZED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's May council recap highlighted the police department's reaccreditation alongside National Police Week, bringing professional standards and public service into the same civic observance.

The city published a dedicated video segment on the department's recognition and another on the council's Police Week proclamation. Its May 7 newsletter also highlighted presentations about Forward Training Center and the community's Lemonade Day entrepreneurship program.

Source: City recap / May 7

WATER REPAIRS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury notified residents May 28 that crews were addressing water problems at multiple locations. Some repairs had been completed while others remained underway when the notice was issued.

The city warned that customers could see unusual pressure or discolored water until late that Thursday night. Its statement said the water was safe to drink.

Source: City water notice / May 28

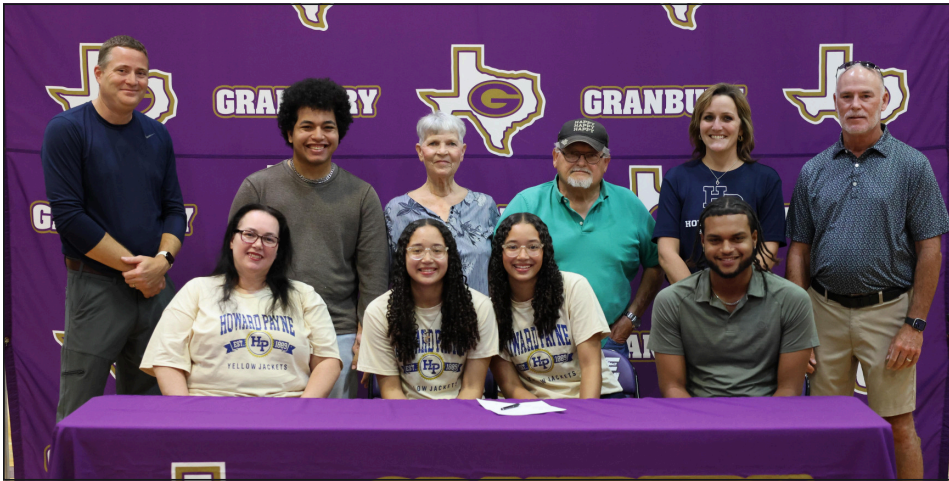
SPRAYING: 8:30 P.M. TO 12:30 A.M.

SPORTS & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

05

NEXT STOP: COLLEGE

Seven athletes sign. Every one earns Academic All-State recognition.



Jolie and Jayla Hayes celebrate their Howard Payne University basketball commitments at Granbury High School's May 13, 2026 signing ceremony. | Granbury ISD

7 ATHLETES

Four sports.

Seven Academic All-State selections.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Seven Granbury High School student-athletes marked their next step at the May 13 Spring Signing Day. All seven also earned Academic All-State recognition in their sports, the district reported.

Swimmer Cameron Ward signed with McMurry University. Powerlifters Estrella Diaz and Gavin

Osko chose Missouri Valley College, while fellow powerlifter Lucas Dimas signed with the University of Arkansas.

Basketball players Jolie Hayes and Jayla Hayes signed with Howard Payne University. Cheer athlete Raegan Boling signed with Abilene Christian University.

Families, teammates, coaches and friends attended the ceremony. The group represented four sports and multiple destinations, with the district emphasizing classroom achievement as well as competitive performance.

Source: GISD / May 13

THE MAY BOARD SPOTLIGHT



Miller Schenewark is recognized for qualifying for the UIL state high-jump competition at the May 18, 2026 school board meeting. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD's May 18 board meeting recognized achievements extending from the high-jump bar to school leadership.

Senior Miller Schenewark was honored for advancing to the Class 5A UIL state track meet in high jump. The MCJROTC Physical Training Team received recognition for national finishes of fourth for the girls and seventh for the boys at the National Youth Physical Fitness Championships in New York City.

The meeting also recognized Riley Breeden as Shottenkirk Ford's Senior of the Month. The district noted her soccer participation, certified-nursing-assistant clinical work and plans to study nursing at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Rachel Pakebusch was introduced as the new assistant principal of Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy. The board also thanked staff who helped implement the district's new mathematics curriculum.

Source: GISD / May 19

SCHOOLS & DISTRICT HONORS

06

A month to recognize Granbury's educators

STATE LEADERS VISIT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath visited Granbury High School May 6, joining district leaders and representatives of Education Service Center Region 11 for a morning inside classrooms.

The visit included Algebra I instruction using Bluebonnet materials and a stop in the Auto Tech career and technical education

program, according to Granbury ISD. Morath and his team also discussed district systems with local leadership.

The district described the visit as a chance to show state and regional officials the daily work of its students and teachers. ESC Region 11 Executive Director Brad Schnautz participated with the regional team.

Source: GISD / May 6

MAY 6

Education Commissioner Mike Morath visits Granbury High School.

ALGEBRA + AUTO TECH

Core academics and career training on the classroom tour.

STARS CELEBRATES 25 GRADUATES

HCE STAFF WRITER

STARS Accelerated High School held its spring graduation May 21 in the Granbury High School Fine Arts Auditorium. Granbury ISD reported that the ceremony recognized 25 graduates for completing their education.

JoAnna Walker, a spring 2025 STARS graduate, returned as the guest speaker. Her place on the program connected the newest class with a recent graduate who had followed the same school pathway.

The ceremony was a separate commencement from Granbury High

School's stadium event the following evening. It recognized the students whose high-school work culminated in the STARS spring program and gave families their own occasion to celebrate.

Source: GISD / May 22

DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced three overall district award winners at its May 28 Summer Launch gathering.

Josh Everts of Safety and Security was named Employee of the Year. Lori Williams of Oak Woods School received Elementary Teacher of the Year honors, and Acton Middle

School's Auva Ball was named Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Shottenkirk Ford Granbury General Manager Misty Sneed and dealership representatives presented gifts to the winners during the event, the district reported.

The awards recognized classroom service at two levels as well as work supporting the district's safety operations. They closed the month's series of student and staff recognition events with a spotlight on the employees selected for the districtwide honors.

Source: GISD / May 28

MAY RAIN NEARS NORMAL

4.21 inches at the Granbury station, just 0.02 inch shy of normal.

Granbury rainfall

May 2026 / 1991-2020 normal



Editorial illustration / Hood County Express

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

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury recorded 4.21 inches of rain in May, according to National Weather Service data. That was 0.02 inch below the 1991-2020 normal of 4.23 inches.

The month followed April’s 4.75 inches and brought the January-May

total to 12.54 inches. The same five-month normal totals 15.17 inches, leaving a 2.63-inch gap despite the wetter spring months.

The figures describe Granbury’s station record. Rainfall varies across Hood County, and one monthly

station total does not establish countywide drought status or conditions in every reservoir, pasture or neighborhood.

Source: NWS Granbury climatology

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

HCE STAFF WRITER

The third annual Honor The Fallen Memorial Day 5K ruck and walk was scheduled for May 23 in Granbury, with organizers inviting the public to remember service members who died and the families and friends they left behind.

The event listing set an 8 a.m. start at 561 N. Travis Street and described a route using walking paths around town. Participation was free, and organizers welcomed families, children and pets.

Its stated purpose was remembrance and support for Gold Star families and fellow service members. Organizers also reminded participants to dress for unpredictable May weather.

Source: Organizer / May 23

A WEEKEND ON THE SQUARE

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Historic Granbury Merchants Association listed a three-day Memorial Day Festival on the downtown square for May 22-24, placing the event at 100 E. Pearl St.

The published schedule began Friday afternoon and continued through Sunday afternoon. It gave downtown merchants and visitors a multi-day holiday gathering before Memorial Day itself on Monday, May 25.

Source: HGMA / May 22-24

MAY 22-24

HGMA Memorial Day Festival / Historic Square

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

08

INVESTING IN
THE NEXT CHAPTER

\$355,460

Scholarships announced at Senior Awards Night

132 SENIORS

365 awards supported by donors and community partners

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School’s graduating class received substantial community backing at Senior Awards Night. The district reported May 15 that 132 seniors received 365 scholarships with a combined value of \$355,460.

Businesses, civic organizations, colleges, universities, foundations and individual donors contributed

the awards. The number of scholarships exceeded the number of recipients because students could receive more than one award.

The ceremony recognized a broad range of accomplishments, including academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership, career and technical education, military commitments and community involvement. The

support joined school recognition with tangible help for students preparing for further education and other post-graduation plans.

The district thanked the organizations and families behind the awards and published a photo collection from the evening.

Source: GISD / May 15

STUDENTS HONOR THEIR TEACHERS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s top-ranked seniors shared the recognition with influential school employees during the Education Foundation’s 14th annual Academic Recognition Banquet May 7 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

The event honored the group identified by the district as its Top 25, while each student selected an employee who had made an

important difference in their education. Honorees worked across campuses and departments, extending the evening’s appreciation beyond the high school.

Students’ written tributes were read as part of the program, linking academic achievement to the relationships built during their years in school. The banquet fell during Teacher Appreciation Week.

First National Bank of Granbury and Hard Eight BBQ in Stephenville underwrote the event. The nonprofit foundation supports grants, scholarships and academic recognition through community donations, supplementing the school district’s tax-supported work. The banquet offered a personal view of that mission through the students and employees at its center.

Source: GISD / May 8