



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

JULY 4, 2026

MONTHLY / FIRST SATURDAY

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

JUNE IN REVIEW / DEVELOPMENT 02-03 / STREETS 04 / SCHOOLS 05

A COUNTY DIVIDED

Comanche Circle advances. Questions over growth keep coming.



Hood County Courthouse, June 2018. Archive; cropped. License: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/ | Michael Barera / CC BY-SA 4.0

HCE STAFF WRITER

HOOD COUNTY | Commissioners voted 3-1 on June 9 to advance the Comanche Circle data-center concept plan, moving the proposed 2,100-acre project into another stage of review after months of resistance.

Commissioner Nannette Samuelson voted against the motion. Commissioner Dave Eagle was absent, KERA reported. Residents raised concerns about water, wastewater, traffic, noise and the effect on the county's rural character.

The dispute centered on whether developer Sailfish Investors had met conditions attached to January's concept approval. The company argued that it had satisfied the requirements and that remaining engineering details belonged in the site-development process.

County officials and outside counsel agreed that further technical review would occur at that later stage. The June vote advanced the

concept; construction still required additional review.

June also brought a state directive on data-center electricity costs and withdrawal of an air-permit application for a proposed Tolar power plant. Those were separate developments in a debate reaching from local neighborhoods to Austin.

Source: KERA / Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, June 9; Governor Abbott directive, June 10; KERA / Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, June 25

DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL CONTROL

02

Big projects. Different powers.

THE SCALE OF THE PROPOSALS

HCE STAFF WRITER

A June 2 Texas Tribune examination identified eight proposed data centers spanning more than 7,600 acres in Hood County. The scale helped explain why the issue had become a recurring focus of public meetings.

The Tribune found substantial gaps in the proposals submitted to the county: most did not estimate electricity demand, and some lacked projected water consumption or a proposed source. It also reported a disagreement over water figures for Sailfish's projects. The developer said an earlier estimate given to a water district was incorrect.

Developers emphasized private investment, expanded tax bases and jobs. Residents and some commissioners questioned how the benefits would compare with demands on water, roads and surrounding properties.

The reporting also distinguished cities, which have zoning powers, from unincorporated areas with more limited county authority. Hood County's special watershed-development provisions remained central to local arguments over what officials could require.

Source: Texas Tribune / Alejandra Martinez et al., June 2

8 PROPOSALS

More than 7,600 acres identified in The Texas Tribune's June 2 reporting. Proposed, not operating.



Official 2025-2026 council and staff portrait; not a June meeting photograph. | City of Granbury

AUSTIN: WHO PAYS?

HCE STAFF WRITER

Gov. Greg Abbott directed the Public Utility Commission and ERCOT on June 10 to protect households from infrastructure costs associated with data-center expansion.

His letter called for data centers to fund the electric infrastructure needed for their operations. It also requested a joint memorandum identifying further protections for residential and small-business customers by July 17, with action to reduce residential transmission costs by July 31.

Abbott separately outlined work for the next legislative session: water-efficient cooling, accurate electricity and water-use reporting, changes to older tax incentives, and neighborhood protections such as setbacks and noise reduction.

The legislative proposals still required future action.

Source: Governor Abbott directive, June 10

CITY: THE APRIL RULES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury responded to the state announcement by highlighting its own Ordinance 26-14, adopted in April to address data centers and power-generation facilities.

In a June 10 statement, the city listed noise mitigation, landscaping and visual buffers, water-conservation measures, annual outside inspections, lighting controls, construction-management plans and emergency-response coordination among the requirements.

The statement presented those rules as protections established before a potential project would be reviewed. It was the city's account of its regulatory approach, separate from the county's Comanche Circle action.

Source: City data-center statement, June 10

THE PUBLIC RECORD

03

A permit withdrawn. A plan made public.

TOLAR POWER CENTER

HCE STAFF WRITER

NRG requested withdrawal of its air-permit application for the proposed Tolar Power Center on June 18, according to KERA's June 25 reporting.

The proposed 2-gigawatt natural-gas plant would have supplied power to the Comanche Circle development near the Hood-Somervell county line. The application had drawn organized

opposition over air quality, water use and the area's rural character.

Protect the Paluxy Valley described the withdrawal as a victory. The group said opponents had submitted more than 11,000 public comments to regulators.

NRG gave a different explanation. Company spokesperson Erik Linden told KERA the decision was part of its routine evaluation of sites and

development options, rather than a response to public opposition.

The confirmed action concerned that air-permit application. It should not be read as proof that all data-center proposals in the area had ended. June's county concept-plan decision and the power company's permit withdrawal involved different approvals.

Source: KERA / Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, June 25

PROJECT PATRIOT

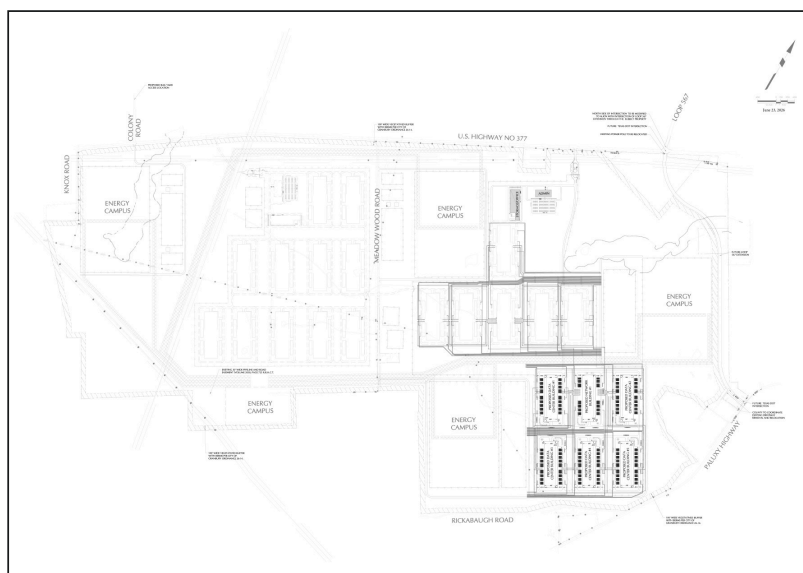
HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's Project Patriot document page, published June 25, linked a project concept plan dated June 23. The drawing gave residents a document to examine alongside the city's discussion of industrial development.

The city described a concept plan as an early, high-level feasibility document showing broad land uses, approximate building footprints and major utility or roadway connections. A site plan is the more detailed engineering document used later in development review.

That distinction limits what a drawing can establish. A conceptual arrangement does not by itself prove final approval, completed infrastructure or a construction start.

Source: City Project Patriot concept document, June 23; City document page, published June 25



June 23 concept drawing. A planning document, not a completed development. | City of Granbury / published project concept plan

JUNE 23

[Date on the Project Patriot concept document.](#)

FOLLOW THE DOCUMENT

Concept plan / site review / required permits

GOVERNMENT & YOUR MONEY

04

The dollars.

The work beneath the road.

Local sales-tax payments

Statewide allocations, June 2026



Source: Texas Comptroller allocation release, June 10. Comptroller. April sales by monthly filers.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Texas announced \$1.3 billion in June sales-tax allocations to local governments, a 7.4 percent increase from the same month in 2025. The June 10 Comptroller release said those payments were based on April sales reported by monthly filers.

Cities statewide received \$782.7 million, up 6.6 percent. Counties received \$80.1 million, up 9.8 percent; transit systems and special-purpose districts made up the remainder.

The reporting lag is important when comparing a city’s receipts with the business activity residents remember. A distribution labeled June is not a direct measure of June shopping.

Source: Texas Comptroller allocation release, June 10

AUTUMN RIDGE & SH 144

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s June 17 update described water and sewer relocation ahead of TxDOT improvements to U.S. 377 and SH 144.

Autumn Ridge Drive was closed at SH 144, also known as South Morgan Street, while crews installed a water line beneath the roadway. The city expected roughly four weeks of work

and directed drivers to Meadows Drive.

The notice said the intersection was expected to reopen after the water-line work, with another closure anticipated for a future sewer installation. It warned motorists to follow changing traffic controls and watch for crews.

Source: City utility-work bulletin, June 17

AT OLD ACTON

HCE STAFF WRITER

A June 12 city update traced U.S. 377 delays at Old Acton Highway to newly activated traffic signals operating without their planned radar vehicle-detection equipment.

According to information the city received from TxDOT, the temporary timing system could not respond to actual traffic. The left-turn phase was contributing to delays for through drivers.

The city said the contractor was expected to install the equipment during the week of June 15. That was an announced correction schedule, not a reported completion date.

Source: City traffic and beach bulletin, June 12

OTHER JUNE WORK

HCE STAFF WRITER

A sewer-connection project was scheduled to close Crest Road at Lakecrest Circle June 22-24. The city directed vehicles and pedestrians to use Service Road as the alternate route.

A separate June 29 notice scheduled maintenance closures on Bridge and Crockett streets at the Square from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. June 30. Both were dated work notices, not current travel alerts.

Source: City Crest Road and mosquito notice, June 18; City Square maintenance notice, June 29

SCHOOLS & STUDENT LIFE

05

A season of achievement



FFA recognition, June board meeting. | Granbury ISD

SIX TEAMS. STATE-LEVEL SUCCESS.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury trustees recognized six high-school FFA teams at their June meeting. The Range Team placed eighth in Texas and Land Judging finished 15th, according to the district's June 9 spotlight.

The Horse Evaluation, Entomology, Dairy Cattle and Wool teams also advanced to state-level competition. The district credited students and advisors for results earned in a field

that included more than 21,000 Texas FFA members.

The June ceremony recognized earlier competition achievements.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, June 9



Lemonade Day recognition in June. | Granbury ISD

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Brawner students Hank Scott, Jase Brooks and Bentley Bedwell were named Granbury ISD's Lemonade Day Top Entrepreneurs of the Year. Chamber CEO Holly Martin recognized their Black Hole Lemonade business during the June board spotlight.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, June 9

CREDIT RECOVERY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School scheduled in-person credit recovery from June 2 through June 25, with classes Monday through Thursday.

The program served students who needed to regain course credit. Counselors would contact families about individual requirements and timelines.

Source: Granbury ISD June credit-recovery schedule

AROUND GRANBURY

06

SUMMER AT THE LAKE



City Beach after the June sand project. | City of Granbury

150+ TONS OF SAND

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Beach received more than 150 tons of fresh sand in June, with the city announcing June 12 that the delivery project had finished ahead of schedule.

Parks and Recreation, Water Department and Streets Department

crews worked together to refresh the public lakefront gathering place.

The city paired the announcement with practical reminders: bring drinking water, use sunscreen, take shade breaks and closely watch children near the water.

Source: City Beach sand announcement, June 12

WHAT THE WATER ADVISORY SAID

HCE STAFF WRITER

In its June 12 summer update, Granbury relayed the Brazos River Authority's statement that the main body of Lake Granbury met contact-recreation standards. The same guidance cautioned that natural surface water is never entirely risk-free.

The authority identified canals and coves as areas that can have elevated bacteria levels. Conditions at one sampling point do not describe every part of a reservoir.

The city directed readers to BRA's Texas Clean Rivers Program for

monitoring records and to its waterborne-illness information for precautions. Those distinctions are especially relevant for people with health conditions that can increase the consequences of exposure.

Source: City traffic and beach bulletin, June 12

CITIZENS & POLICE



Citizen Police Academy graduates, city June 9 bulletin. | City of Granbury

21 GRADUATES

Ten-week program

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury announced 21 graduates of its Citizen Police Academy in a June 9 bulletin.

The ten-week program gave participants a look at routine policing and specialized work, including SWAT, the K-9 unit, criminal investigations and active-shooter response procedures.

Graduates joined the alumni association, which supports the department through volunteer work.

Source: City police academy and contest bulletin, June 9

PATRIOTIC PRIDE

HCE STAFF WRITER

More than 30 homes and businesses entered Visit Granbury's first patriotic decorating contest ahead of America's 250th anniversary.

The city's June 9 announcement named Stumpy's Lakeside Grill and Marina the commercial winner. Lisa Wright's historic home on Thorp Springs Drive won the residential category, and Lemon Drop Cottage received the George Washington Award.

Source: City police academy and contest bulletin, June 9

WEATHER & THE MONTH AHEAD

07

JUNE ENDS ON
THE WETTER SIDE

Granbury rainfall

Observed rain and 1991-2020 June normal



Editorial illustration / Hood County Express

Source: National Weather Service, Granbury climatology. National Weather Service. One station, not a county average.

HCE STAFF WRITER

The National Weather Service’s Granbury station recorded 4.37 inches of rainfall in June, compared with a 1991-2020 June normal of 3.82 inches.

The 0.55-inch surplus was about 14 percent above that normal. May

recorded 4.21 inches, while April’s total was 4.75 inches.

Despite three wetter spring and early-summer months, the January-through-June total was 16.91 inches against a normal of 18.99

inches. The year-to-date difference was 2.08 inches below normal.

These are station measurements, not a countywide average or a measure of lake levels, groundwater or drought status.

Source: National Weather Service, Granbury climatology

THE FOURTH: JUNE’S PLANS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s June 29 holiday guide set the Independence Day parade for 9 a.m. July 4, with barricades beginning around 8:30 a.m. and the route expected to clear around 11 a.m.

The city announced extended closures on Bridge and Crockett streets at the Square for holiday activities. Most city facilities, except Visit Granbury, were scheduled to close July 3; the City Pool was scheduled to close July 4.

Residents were urged to attend the Chamber of Commerce’s professional fireworks show over Lake Granbury. The city reminded readers that possession, use and discharge of consumer fireworks were prohibited within city limits.

The guide also highlighted the free life-jacket loaner station at City Beach: borrow a jacket, wear it in the water and return it before leaving.

Source: City Independence Day guide, June 29

MOSQUITO CONTROL

HCE STAFF WRITER

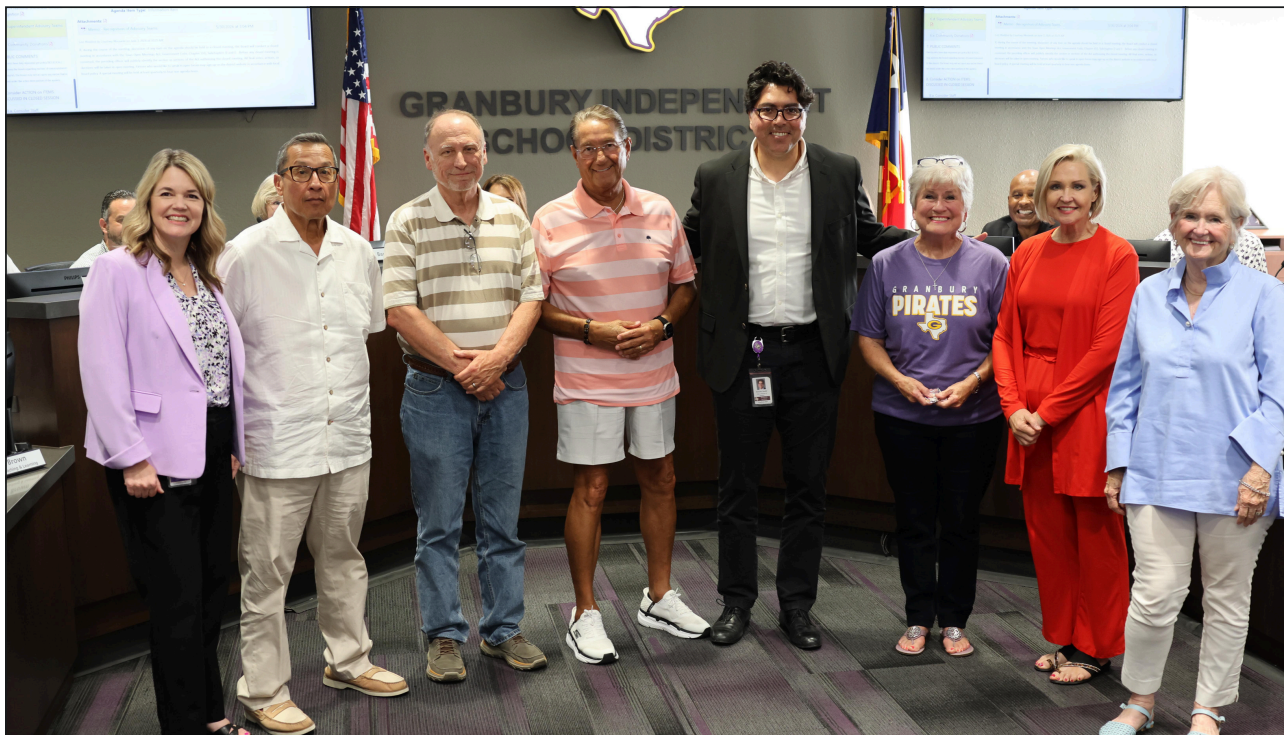
Granbury scheduled mosquito spraying for the evenings of June 18 and 19, weather permitting, as part of its seasonal control program.

The June 18 notice said spraying would be performed as needed and generally during evening hours, when fewer people and pets are outdoors. It also directed residents to city alerts, spraying maps and prevention information.

Source: City Crest Road and mosquito notice, June 18

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCHOOLS

08

SUPPORT THAT
REACHES STUDENTS

Community advisory group recognition in June. | Granbury ISD

JUNE GIFTS: \$2,654.81

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD trustees accepted \$2,654.81 in community donations at their June meeting, according to the district's monthly register.

Brawner PTO provided \$600 for fifth-grade field-day shirts, and Granbury Middle School PTO gave \$354.81 for end-of-year celebration expenses. Acton Middle School cheer received \$100 from Romney Carey and \$500 from First National Bank for uniforms.

The list also included \$500 from the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary for the high-school culinary program, \$100 from the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for MCJROTC, and \$500 from True North Home Loans for Lady Pirate volleyball camp shirts.

Source: Granbury ISD June donation register

FINANCE LEADERSHIP

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD's April announcement set June as the start of LaTisha Griffin's tenure as chief financial officer, succeeding retiring finance leader Emmett Whitefield after his 25 years with the district.

Griffin came from Duncanville ISD, where she had served as director of budget and finance and overseen financial services for a district budget above \$140 million. Her responsibilities included budget development, payroll, accounting, audits and financial reporting.

The announcement also described earlier work in district facilities, UIL compliance and school operations, along with teaching and coaching experience.

Source: Granbury ISD CFO announcement, April 21

HISTORICAL EDITION

Compiled October 4, 2026. Reporting through June 30.