



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

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JULY 25, 2026

WEEKLY / JULY 18-24 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

CITY & COUNTY 02-03 / SCHOOLS & SPORTS 04-05 / COMMUNITY 06-07 / ARTS 08

WATER & SEWER RATES SET TO RISE 6 PERCENT



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 water and wastewater customers face a 6 percent increase in monthly minimum charges and usage rates under a measure adopted July 21.

The city's July 22 explanation cited rising costs for materials, equipment, construction and utility operations. It

said the revenue would support service and infrastructure improvements.

Ordinance 26-40 replaces the water and sewer portions of the fee schedule and takes effect after passage and publication as required by law.

Separate schedules cover residential and commercial customers inside and outside city limits. Each account's dollar increase depends on its category and usage.

Source: Granbury Ordinance 26-40, July 21; Granbury city bulletin, July 22

FILING OPENS FOR TWO COUNCIL SEATS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Candidate filing opened July 18 for two Granbury City Council seats on the Nov. 3 general-election ballot. The positions are Place 4 and Place 6, each carrying a three-year term.

The city's candidate packet sets the filing deadline at 5 p.m. Aug. 17 and identifies the city secretary as the filing authority. It includes application forms, campaign-finance guidance, city-limit maps and political-sign rules.

The secretary's letter reminds prospective candidates that reports are public records and that candidates are responsible for understanding city and state requirements.

Source: Granbury 2026 candidate packet

CITY FINANCING & CONSTRUCTION

02

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES STREET-FINANCING DEBT

\$18.475 MILLION

Debt principal authorized

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council voted 5-0 July 21 to authorize its Series 2026 combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation.

The financing presentation identified \$18.475 million in debt principal and a \$1,758,726.60 premium paid by TD

Financial Products LLC. The city received an AA rating from S&P Global, according to the minutes.

The certificates are backed by property taxes and a limited pledge of revenue from the combined water, sewer and electric systems. The principal figure is separate from the interest payable on the borrowing.

Source: Granbury council minutes, July 21

TWO PROJECT CONTRACTS INCREASE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Two contract changes passed with Granbury’s July 21 consent agenda, approved 5-0.

Revolution Power’s Highway 377 electrical-relocation contract increased by \$138,713. A separate \$51,912 change

order went to Granbury Excavating for the regional airport’s perimeter-road EDA grant project. The council authorized the city manager to execute both changes.

Source: Granbury council minutes, July 21

UPDATED BUILDING CODES TAKE EFFECT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s transition to updated construction standards took effect July 21, setting a new code baseline for projects submitted from that date forward.

The city’s building-inspection notice identifies the 2023 National

Electrical Code and the 2024 International Codes as the updated standards. The department says projects submitted on or after July 21 will be permitted under those editions.

Building Inspections reviews plans and checks both new construction and remodeling for compliance with the city’s adopted building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing requirements. The published cutoff concerns project submission dates.

Source: Granbury building-inspection code notice

COUNTY COURTS & ROAD NOTICES

03

HOOD COUNTY APPEAL
DISMISSED AS UNTIMELY

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

The Second Court of Appeals dismissed Dalton Thomas Burnam's appeal from a Hood County case July 23 because his notice of appeal was filed after the deadline.

The Fort Worth court's opinion said Burnam sought review of the 355th

District Court's May 26 judgment adjudicating him guilty of sexual assault. His notice was due June 25 but filed June 26.

The court had requested proof that the notice was properly mailed by the deadline. Justice Dana Womack's

opinion said Burnam did not respond and had not filed a motion for an extension.

The dismissal was for lack of jurisdiction. The appellate court did not review the merits of the underlying judgment.

Source: Second Court of Appeals opinion, July 23

FM 51 WORK
PLANNED AHEAD

HCE STAFF WRITER

A July 23 city notice warned drivers to plan extra time on FM 51, also known as Weatherford Highway, during road work scheduled for July 28-31.

The affected stretch runs from State Highway 171 in Parker County to Loop 567 in Granbury. TxDOT crews planned to reduce sections to one lane as needed between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day.

Flaggers and a pilot car were to move traffic through the work zone. The notice asked motorists to slow down, watch for workers and changing traffic patterns, and follow posted directions.

Source: Granbury FM 51 notice, July 23

EAST MOORE
CLOSURE EXTENDED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's July 22 bulletin extended the anticipated East Moore Street closure through Friday, July 24, for the infrastructure project between Switzer Street and Victoria Court.

The city directed Victoria Court traffic to approach via Barton Street, with detour signs planned. The updated schedule did not confirm a completed reopening.

Source: Granbury city bulletin, July 22

SCHOOLS & DISTRICT DECISIONS

04

GISD APPROVES
COMPENSATION PLAN

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD trustees approved the district's 2026-27 compensation plan July 20 on a 6-0 vote, with one trustee absent. Tim Bolton made the motion and Calvin Lawrence seconded it after the presentation by Tim Rocka.

In a separate unanimous vote among members present, trustees approved a consent agenda that

included the Facilitron facilities-management agreement, the Capturing Kids' Hearts contract and the annual Education Service Center Region 11 agreement.

The meeting also included the introduction of the district's strategic-plan scorecard. Proposed property and casualty insurance arrangements were presented for

discussion, while Policy Update 127 was introduced with action expected in August.

LaTisha Griffin presented the budget workshop earlier in the meeting. The minutes record that presentation separately from the compensation approval.

Source: Granbury ISD July 20, 2026 approved meeting minutes

TOLAR EXTENDS STILWELL'S CONTRACT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar ISD trustees voted July 20 to extend Superintendent Travis Stilwell's contract by one year and increase his pay by 2%. The four trustees present supported the motion after returning from closed session.

The board also approved a school-bus purchase and 2026-27

school-meal prices. The minutes do not list the bus price or the meal charges.

Brad Cooper was elected board vice-president without opposition. Trustees approved the student code of conduct, student and employee handbooks, and technology acceptable-use and

information-security policies for the coming school year.

The superintendent's report listed an Aug. 3 budget workshop and an Aug. 24 regular meeting.

Source: Tolar ISD July 20, 2026 signed meeting minutes

LIPAN SETS AUGUST BUDGET HEARING

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan ISD trustees voted July 23 to hold the district's budget and tax-rate hearing at 6 p.m. Aug. 27. Janelle Grau presented a proposed 2026-27 budget and tax rate during the meeting at the Sylvia Wilson Baccus Library.

The five trustees present also unanimously approved the 2026-27

student code of conduct and locally certified teachers presented under the district's innovation plan. The student handbook was reviewed as a discussion item.

An additional 5-0 vote approved a good-cause exception resolution concerning the HB3 armed-security-officer requirement.

Superintendent Jimmie Dobbs reported on bus repairs, air-conditioning repairs and a leadership meeting.

No public comments were made, and no executive session was held.

Source: Lipan ISD July 23, 2026 meeting minutes

SPORTS HONORS & BACK TO SCHOOL

05

LADY PIRATES EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury High School’s Lady Pirate volleyball team earned the 2026 American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award and an additional Academic Honor Roll distinction, the school announced July 23.

The regular award recognizes programs maintaining a year-long team GPA of at least 3.3 on a four-point scale, or 4.1 on a five-point scale. Honor Roll recognition places a team among the top 20% of GPAs in its division.

AVCA’s official list includes Granbury among the girls high-school honorees. Head coach Des Shahan credited the players’ classroom commitment and work ethic in the district’s announcement.

Source: GHS July 23 announcement of AVCA academic honors; AVCA 2026 Team Academic Award Honor Roll official PDF

OTERO’S CHEYENNE RUN ENDS IN SEMIFINAL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan barrel racer Carlee Otero reached the semifinals at Cheyenne Frontier Days but did not advance from her July 24 round to the championship final.

Otero had qualified by finishing third in the July 19 performance with a 17.43-second run. Emily Beisel led that group at 17.37, followed by Lisa Lockhart at 17.38.

On July 24, Lockhart, Katelyn Scott, Andrea Busby and Hailey Kinsel claimed the four finals places from the second semifinal. The organizer listed that day’s results as unofficial.

Source: Cheyenne Frontier Days official July 19 rodeo recap; BarrelRacing.com Cheyenne performance-by-performance results; Cheyenne Frontier Days official July 24 semifinal recap

RETURNING-STUDENT REGISTRATION OPENS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD’s returning-student registration opened online July 20 for families preparing for the 2026-27 school year.

The district directed parents to complete the process in Skyward Family Access using a web browser or desktop computer. Although Skyward moves an enrolled student to the next grade and appropriate campus, families still must complete the returning-student registration.

In-person help was scheduled at 217 N. Jones St. for July 29 from 2-7 p.m. and July 30 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Families were asked to bring photo identification and current proof of residency, such as a utility bill, rental agreement or lease.

Registration questions could be directed to 817-408-4103.

Source: GISD returning student registration notice

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS PLAN WELCOME NIGHT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced July 21 that all five elementary schools would hold Meet the Teacher night Aug. 10 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Teacher assignments were scheduled to appear in Skyward Family Access after 4 p.m. Aug. 7 for students whose registration had been completed.

Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy families were to hear from their child’s teacher in August to arrange an individual conference. The academy also planned to open during the district’s Meet the Teacher evening.

Source: GISD July 21 elementary Meet the Teacher announcement

BUSINESS & LOCAL CONNECTIONS

06

WOMEN IN BUSINESS
PLANS RUNWAY EVENING

BINGO, BLING & RUNWAY DREAMS

July 21 / La Bella Luna

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce scheduled a July 21 Women in Business evening combining professional connections with bingo and a fashion show at La Bella Luna.

Bingo, Bling & Runway Dreams was advertised from 5 to 8 p.m. at 7700 Glen Rose Highway. The program included prizes, snacks and music from DJ Amauri.

Listed admission was \$60 for members or \$75 for nonmembers,

with two drink tickets included. A reserved table for eight was priced at \$650. The invitation encouraged guests to dress up for an informal evening of business networking.

Source: Granbury Chamber July 21 Women in Business announcement

RIBBON CUTTINGS HIGHLIGHT
TWO BUSINESS MILESTONES

JULY 23 & 24

Massey's BBQ / Wild About Nutrition

HCE STAFF WRITER

Two business milestones appeared on the Granbury Chamber of Commerce calendar for July 23 and 24: a grand opening for Massey's BBQ and a 15-year anniversary for Wild About Nutrition.

The Massey's ribbon cutting was scheduled for Thursday, July 23, from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at 607 N. Houston St.

Wild About Nutrition's anniversary ribbon cutting was listed for Friday,

July 24, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at 228 S. Morgan St.

Source: Granbury Chamber July 23 Massey's BBQ ribbon-cutting notice; Granbury Chamber July 24 Wild About Nutrition anniversary notice

THEATER & TOLAR MUSIC

07

KIDS CAST BRINGS
MADAGASCAR TO THE STAGE

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

JULY 20-23 / GRANBURY OPERA HOUSE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Theatre Academy's kids cast was scheduled for four evenings of *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure JR* at the Granbury Opera House July 20-23.

The children's-series listing set curtain time at 7:30 p.m. each night

and priced all tickets at \$29. The Opera House is at 133 E. Pearl St.

The story centers on Central Park Zoo animals whose familiar routines are disrupted when Marty the zebra ventures beyond captivity with help from penguins. Alex the lion,

Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippo are among the characters in the musical adventure.

Source: Visit Granbury Madagascar JR July 20-23 listing

TOLAR HOOTENANNY LISTS TWO STAGES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Sledge Distillery's July 18 Hootenanny listing placed Nick and Brian Riggs on the main stage and Sam Night in the Speakeasy at the Tolar venue.

Visit Granbury advertised live music from 6 to 9 p.m. and free admission at 8210 Paluxy Highway. The

distillery's published hours for the day ran from 2 to 10 p.m.

The schedule also included tastings from 2 to 8 p.m. and cantina service from 3 to 9 p.m., giving visitors afternoon options before the evening music program.

Source: Visit Granbury July 18 Sledge Distillery Hootenanny listing

LIVE MUSIC & SUMMER EVENINGS

08

LARRY GATLIN ON
GRANBURY LIVE'S JULY BILL

FRIDAY / JULY 24

7 p.m. scheduled start / 110 N. Crockett St.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Live scheduled Larry Gatlin for July 24, with Visit Granbury listing the Friday program from 7 to 9 p.m. at 110 N. Crockett St.

The event was billed around Gatlin, the country and Southern gospel singer-songwriter known for his work with brothers Steve and Rudy in the Gatlin Brothers trio.

The tourism announcement highlighted his Texas roots and early gospel performances before his rise in country music during the 1970s and 1980s.

Source: Visit Granbury July 24 Larry Gatlin listing

FOURTH & FRANCIS
LISTED FOR THE GROVE

LIVE MUSIC / JULY 24 / 6-9 P.M.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Fourth & Francis was advertised for a free July 24 performance at The Grove Wood Fired Pizza, 6106 Rollins Road in Granbury.

The Visit Granbury event listing scheduled music from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, with the restaurant opening

at 4:30 p.m. Its description included wood-fired pizza, gelato, drinks and games, with seating available indoors and outside.

The listing gave 817-559-7770 as the restaurant's contact number.

Source: Visit Granbury July 24 Fourth & Francis listing

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Produced October 5, 2026 (Central Time). Covers July 18-24, 2026. Reconstructed from records; no historic publication or distribution is claimed.