



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

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AUGUST 8, 2026

WEEKLY / AUGUST 1-7 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

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

DATA-CENTER CHANGES DELAYED TO SEPTEMBER



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 City Council voted 6-0 on August 4 to postpone proposed data-center and power-generation zoning changes until September 15 for staff work and public input.

The citizen proposal called for specific-use permits and 1,000-foot setbacks. Staff offered a site-plan

approach with 500-foot separation from residential zoning and 300-foot separation from properties occupied by churches, schools, day cares, hospitals or nursing homes. Questions included engineering review and how setbacks would apply beside highways or industrial properties.

The Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended the citizen version 6-0 on July 13. That recommendation did not enact it. The August 4 postponement likewise left the proposed amendment unadopted.

Source: Granbury council minutes, August 4

TAX CEILING SET; PARK CONTRACT AWARDED

HCE STAFF WRITER

On August 4, Granbury set a proposed property-tax ceiling of 48.5 cents per \$100 valuation for later adoption and scheduled an August 18 budget hearing.

Council also awarded A&D Paving a \$186,883.50 Lambert Branch Park contract, plus a \$28,000 contingency. The project includes trail and accessibility improvements. Both votes were 6-0.

Source: Granbury council minutes, August 4

TOLAR & GRANBURY PUBLIC NOTICES

02

TOLAR WASTEWATER ORDER
OPENS FOR COMMENT

PROPOSED AGREED ORDER

Comment deadline / September 7

HCE STAFF WRITER

A proposed environmental agreed order involving the City of Tolar appeared in the August 7 Texas Register, opening a public-comment period before possible state approval.

The notice identifies Tolar's wastewater treatment facility, docket 2025-0070-MWD-E, and lists a \$68,687 penalty with an equal \$68,687

supplemental environmental project offset.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality notice sets September 7 as the comment deadline. Written comments may be sent to ENFCOMNT@tceq.texas.gov, identifying the docket, or to the agency's enforcement division.

The proposal was not an adopted enforcement order. The notice explains that the commission may withhold or withdraw approval if comments show the agreement is inadequate or inconsistent with applicable requirements. Copies were available through the agency's eFiling system or Commissioners' Integrated Database.

Source: Texas Register TCEQ notice, August 7

FOUR AREAS GET
NEW PARKING RESTRICTIONS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury announced August 6 that new parking restrictions had been approved at four locations, including trolley staging space near the Visitors Center and election-period controls by the county annex.

Two spaces on the east side of South Crockett Street were reserved for the City Trolley, with a no-parking area

along the Visitors Center's south side. Fire lanes cover both sides of the parking lot south of Building B at 201, 203 and 205 E. Pearl Street.

Six restricted areas were added along parts of Misty Meadow Drive and Clover Lane.

On Deputy Larry Miller Drive, the east-side restriction between West

Pearl and the creek bridge is permanent. West-side restrictions apply during early voting, Election Day and other organized annex events. The city said signs would be installed.

Source: Granbury parking announcement, August 6

PUBLIC SERVICE & ROAD UPDATES

03

HOHON APPOINTED TO
STATE RETIREMENT BOARD

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES

Term ends September 1, 2027

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Chief Matt Hohon was appointed August 5 to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System Board of Trustees.

Gov. Greg Abbott's announcement gives Hohon a term ending September 1, 2027. The board

oversees the dedicated retirement fund serving volunteer firefighters and emergency-services personnel in Texas.

Hohon also works as a territory representative for Delta Fire and Safety. His background includes manufacturing and aviation, and he

holds an aviation and business degree from Metropolitan State College of Denver.

He was among five trustees appointed or reappointed in the governor's announcement.

Source: Governor appointment announcement, August 5

ROAD PLANS
REVISED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's August 5 road update pushed the expected reopening of Autumn Ridge Drive at South Morgan Street to mid-September because of weather and other delays. Water and wastewater utility relocation continued beneath the road; motorists were directed to Meadows Drive.

The same bulletin announced a revised schedule for FM 3210, or Mambrino Highway. TxDOT resurfacing was planned overnight, 7 p.m.-6 a.m., starting August 12, after concerns from residents, the city and Granbury ISD.

One lane was to remain open with flaggers and a pilot car. Completion was expected the following week, subject to weather and material availability.

Source: Granbury city bulletin, August 5

PLANT CEREMONY
ANNOUNCED

HCE STAFF WRITER

An August 5 city invitation scheduled a ribbon cutting for Granbury's new East Wastewater Treatment Plant at 9:30 a.m. August 12, at 3210 Old Granbury Road.

The city described the facility as an investment in wastewater capacity, reliability and future growth. Residents were invited to join city leaders and staff. The ceremony was still ahead as the reporting week ended.

Source: Granbury city bulletin, August 5

GRANBURY SCHOOLS & PEOPLE

GISD PLANS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD trustees spent their Aug. 3 work session reviewing student achievement and the district’s plans for facilities and maintenance.

Superintendent Courtney Morawski opened the session. Maggie Walton, director of strategic initiatives, presented the

student-achievement portion, and facilities and maintenance director Hailey Veron discussed long-range and facilities-use plans.

Six trustees attended; Courtney Gore was absent. The district’s finance, human-resources, teaching-and-learning and

assistant-superintendent leadership also participated.

The approved minutes record no public comments and no action vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m., leaving the presentations as planning discussions rather than construction or spending approvals.

Source: Granbury ISD August 3 approved board work-session minutes

DOLLINS WINS STATE EDUCATOR HONOR

HCE STAFF WRITER

Heather Dollins of STARS Accelerated High School was named Alternative Educator of the Year by the Texas Association for Alternative Education, Granbury ISD announced Aug. 6.

The district described the honor as recognition for educators who combine innovation, compassion and leadership in alternative-school settings.

STARS Principal Margaret Rodriguez credited Dollins with building relationships that help students feel supported and recognize their potential. The district’s announcement emphasized her work helping students overcome obstacles while maintaining high expectations for their academic progress.

Source: GISD August 6 Heather Dollins award announcement

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHTS CAMPUS LEADERS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD’s Aug. 5 leadership feature focused on Mambrino STEAM Academy Principal Melissa Shipp and Keara Sharman, assistant director of special programs.

Shipp was entering her 25th year in education and 19th with the district. She credited mentors Donnie Cody and Julie Rohleder with encouraging her growth, and described school culture and strong staff relationships as central to improvement.

Sharman brought 18 years in education and nearly two years with Granbury ISD. Her career began as a Life Skills paraprofessional and included special-education teaching and specialist roles.

The profiles described both educators’ emphasis on collaboration: Shipp through campus relationships, and Sharman through coordinated support across special and general education.

Source: GISD August 5 leadership profiles of Melissa Shipp and Keara Sharman

CLASSROOMS & FALL SPORTS

STAFF PREPARES FOR STUDENTS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD’s staff schedule placed New Teacher Academy on Aug. 3-4, followed by a district convocation program Aug. 5.

The Aug. 5 agenda paired a mini vendor fair in the Granbury High School cafeteria from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. with convocation in the auditorium from 1-3 p.m. A leadership-team session was scheduled afterward in the library.

Professional-development plans called for specialty-group training Aug. 6, with other employees working on campus. Campus training was listed for Aug. 7-11.

The district’s schedule distinguishes those training days from annual compliance training, a separate requirement for all staff.

Source: GISD 2026-27 professional-development schedule; GISD August 5 convocation agenda

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL OPENS WITH SCRIMMAGE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar’s volleyball schedule called for varsity, JV Purple and JV White teams to participate in an Azle scrimmage Aug. 7, with a 4:30 p.m. start listed at Azle High School and Forte Junior High.

The district calendar then listed varsity and JV Purple scrimmages at Poolville for Aug. 8.

Holliday was scheduled to visit Tolar Aug. 10. Both JV teams were listed for 2 p.m., followed by varsity at 3 p.m.

Source: Tolar ISD August 2026 district calendar

LIPAN VOLLEYBALL SETS AUGUST 7 TEST

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan’s district calendar listed a varsity and junior-varsity volleyball scrimmage for 10 a.m. Aug. 7 at Lipan High School.

A second scrimmage, against Hico, was scheduled at Hico High School Aug. 8. The next listed date sent Lipan’s varsity and JV teams to Perrin High School for a meeting with Perrin and Vernon Northside at 1 p.m. Aug. 10.

The calendar also set a Comanche date for Aug. 11 and Lipan tournament dates Aug. 13-15, with junior varsity listed Aug. 14.

Source: Lipan ISD August 2026 calendar and original event entries

LIPAN SEEKS BUS DRIVER

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan ISD sought a driver for a school-bus route in a notice posted July 29.

The district required a commercial driver’s license with school endorsements. It directed interested applicants and people with questions to Justin Bullock at 254-646-2266 or bullock.justin@lipanindians.net.

Source: Lipan ISD July 29 bus-driver recruitment notice

BUSINESS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

TWO RIBBON CUTTINGS ON CHAMBER CALENDAR

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce listed two ribbon cuttings during the first week of August, beginning with a grand-opening celebration for Tractor Supply.

The Tractor Supply program was scheduled for 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 1, at 3730 FM 4. Its announcement

advertised food trucks, games and giveaways as part of the day’s activities.

Lake Granbury Mercantile followed on the Chamber calendar Friday, Aug. 7, with a 4:30 to 5 p.m. ribbon cutting at 618 E. Pearl St.

Source: Granbury Chamber Aug. 1 Tractor Supply notice; Granbury Chamber Aug. 7 Mercantile notice

MTM PARK ADDS ADULT MEMBERSHIPS

HCE STAFF WRITER

MTM Youth Ranch & Bike Park announced an Aug. 1 change in access for adult members age 21 and older, requiring a purchased membership pass after its free-admission period ended July 31.

The Visit Granbury listing said youth would continue to enter free and first-time visitors could try the park for a day without buying a membership.

The ranch at 760 Milton Court offers mountain-biking and hiking trails. Its announcement said membership revenue would support trail expansion, infrastructure and youth mentoring, including programs for orphans and vulnerable children.

Source: Visit Granbury MTM park membership notice

RADIO VOLUNTEERS PLAN RALLY SUPPORT

HCE STAFF WRITER

The 18th annual Blazin’ Saddle 75 bicycle rally was scheduled to start at 7:30 a.m. Aug. 1 from Granbury Middle School, 2000 Crossland Road.

Organizers offered four route choices, ranging from 20 to 75 miles, with volunteer direction, support vehicles and mechanics along the course. The registration page described the rally as a nonprofit event.

The Hood County Amateur Radio Club planned communications support, including coverage at the command post and rest stops and with support vehicles. The club also sought a radio operator to follow the last riders, extending its planned coverage across the ride.

Source: Blazin’ Saddle Aug. 1 organizer registration; Hood County Amateur Radio Club rally plans

THEATER & THE WRITTEN WORD

07

JOURNEY TRIBUTE ON
OPERA HOUSE SCHEDULE

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 31 & AUGUST 1 / THREE SHOWS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Infinite Journey was listed for a three-show visit to the Granbury Opera House July 31 and Aug. 1 as part of Granbury Theatre Company's tribute concert series.

The published schedule paired a 7:30 p.m. Friday show with Saturday performances at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at 133 E. Pearl St.

Advertised prices were \$54 on the floor and \$49 in the balcony. The listing also offered discounts for seniors 65 and older, military members and veterans, and children and students, with group rates available through the box office.

Source: Infinite Journey July 31-Aug. 1 program

WRITERS' BLOC ANNOUNCES SPEAKER

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Writers' Bloc announced Aug. 7 that novelist Leanne Kale Sparks would speak at its Aug. 29 meeting on developing and maintaining a writer's voice.

The Saturday session was scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall.

Sparks writes the Kendall Beck series, centered on an FBI agent investigating violent crimes. The group's introduction also noted her two short-story contributions to the Sisters in Crime Colorado Mystery Merge anthologies and the Colorado mountain settings of her fiction.

Source: Writers' Bloc Aug. 7 speaker announcement

TOLAR YOUTH SPORTS & LIVE MUSIC

08

TOLAR YOUTH FOOTBALL REACHES SIGNUP DEADLINE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar Youth Athletic Association’s fall football listings set Wednesday, Aug. 5, as the end of regular registration, with both flag and tackle programs on the schedule.

The association advertised flag divisions for first- through sixth-graders, plus a separate

prekindergarten and kindergarten offering. Flag games were planned for weeknights in Stephenville through SPARD, with practices in Tolar.

Tackle divisions covered first and second, third and fourth, and fifth and sixth grades. Those teams were

scheduled to play Saturdays with the Quad County Football Association and practice on weeknights in Tolar. The published tackle program ran Aug. 1 through Nov. 22.

Source: Tolar Youth Athletic Association fall registration

CHICAGO TRIBUTE ON FRIDAY BILL

TWIN CANYONS LISTS FREE MUSIC NIGHT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Live scheduled Chicago Tribute Authority Texas for 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, at 110 N. Crockett St.

The program promoted music associated with Chicago, including Beginnings, Saturday in the Park and Make Me Smile. The tourism listing described the tribute band’s performances around the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The venue calendar listed VIP admission at \$50 and Prime seating at \$40 for the August show.

Source: Visit Granbury Aug. 7 Chicago tribute listing

HCE STAFF WRITER

Ben McPherson and Matt Wayne were advertised for a free Aug. 7 music program at Black Star Grille & Music Venue at Twin Canyons Ranch Resort.

The listing scheduled the show from 7 to 9 p.m. at 7631 Hayworth Highway and said no ticket was needed.

The evening’s announced dining schedule included happy hour from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with \$2 off drinks and appetizers, and the full menu available until 8:15 p.m.

Source: Visit Granbury Aug. 7 Twin Canyons music listing