



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

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AUGUST 15, 2026

WEEKLY / AUGUST 8-14 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

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

COUNTY ADVANCES ROAD & JAIL FINANCING



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

Hood County commissioners approved road and jail bond orders August 11 after competitive bids were presented for financing designed to provide \$30 million for roads and \$24 million for jail expansion.

Hilltop Securities adviser Jorge Delgado reported winning bids from Morgan Stanley for roads and TD Financial Products for the jail, each rounded to 4.18 percent. He described 20-year repayment schedules.

The \$54 million described project funding, not total repayment including interest. Closing and receipt of funds were expected September 9, subject to remaining approvals; the money had not yet arrived.

Source: Hood County court recording, August 11

COURT AUTHORIZES CAMERA COVERINGS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Commissioners voted 4-0 August 11 to authorize Precinct 2 constable personnel to cover three county-contracted Flock license-plate cameras after termination of the agreement. The motion, amended to

include disconnection, called for temporary, non-damaging covers until removal. It authorized the work; no completion date was announced.

Source: Hood County court recording, August 11

GRANBURY LAND USE & PETITIONS

CITY REJECTS ZONING INITIATIVE PETITION

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury announced August 13 that it had rejected one initiative petition and found another insufficient after reviewing two filings received August 4.

The first sought zoning provisions involving specific-use permits and additional setbacks. The city said zoning could not be enacted through

initiative because state law requires notice and public hearings. That was the city’s stated legal basis for rejection.

The second proposed referendum requirements for economic-development grants exceeding \$40 million. The city said the signatures fell outside the

charter’s prescribed signing period, making the petition insufficient.

The announcement allowed the filer 10 days to submit a supplemental petition for further review of sufficiency. These filings concerned proposed ordinances, a separate process from the earlier petitions seeking officials’ recall.

Source: Granbury initiative review, August 13

P&Z OPPOSES PEARL STREET HOTEL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s Planning and Zoning Commission voted 4-1 August 10 against a specific-use permit for a proposed hotel at 830 E. Pearl Street.

Nearby residents raised concerns about traffic, pedestrian safety, emergency access, drainage and the effect on Brazos Harbor. The site is about 2.1 acres and was undeveloped.

The applicants said a traffic-impact analysis was underway with TxDOT and that the development would receive no city tax abatements or incentives. They offered additional screening and landscaping and discussed a shuttle into town.

The commission’s vote was a recommendation in the city’s land-use process. It was not a final City Council decision on the hotel.

Source: Granbury P&Z minutes, August 10

INDUSTRIAL ZONING AT DISCOVERY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury City Council approved an industrial comprehensive-plan designation and planned-development industrial zoning for 5500 Discovery during its August 10 joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Community Development Director Cody Nolen said the site already had industrial manufacturing activity. The requested zoning would bring that use into conformance; the presentation also covered variances and placement of new facilities.

Council adopted the comprehensive-plan and zoning ordinances by separate 6-0 votes. It also unanimously approved voluntary annexation of 5.413 acres at 4102 Glen Rose Highway to allow industrial development.

No one spoke during either council public hearing.

Source: Granbury council minutes, August 10

WATER SYSTEMS & CITY STREETS

SECOND WASTEWATER PLANT OPENING MARKED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury marked the ceremonial opening of its East Wastewater Treatment Plant on August 12, adding a second municipal facility to a system whose original plant opened in 1986.

The city reported initial treatment capacity of one million gallons a day and an eventual two-million-gallon build-out. It listed construction cost

after delays at \$34.4 million, compared with an initial \$25.8 million estimate.

Construction began in January 2024, with substantial completion reported July 1. The ceremony recognized infrastructure intended to improve reliability and accommodate additional residential and commercial demand.

Gracon Construction built the facility, with engineering by Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd. The plant operates under a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality wastewater-discharge permit. The city said operating two treatment facilities would improve system resilience.

Source: Granbury plant opening report, August 12

WATER OUTPUT RESTORED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s drinking-water treatment system returned to full capacity by the afternoon of August 12 after a mechanical problem temporarily reduced output that morning, the city reported.

Backup supplies and voluntary conservation allowed service to continue. The city said the problem never affected the quality or quantity of water delivered to customers.

To replenish storage tanks, residents were asked to suspend lawn irrigation until after 8 a.m. August 13. The city also encouraged leak repairs, reduced outdoor watering and postponement of unnecessary washing of vehicles and paved areas.

The notice linked unusually high irrigation demand to recent dry conditions.

Source: Granbury water update, August 12

STREET WORK PROGRAM FUNDED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury published its funded Street Improvement Program on August 14, listing work ranging from resurfacing to new concrete construction.

The program includes concrete on West Second Street between Meadowlark Lane and Calinco Drive, plus new concrete construction on Hill Boulevard from North Avalon Court to Old Cleburne Road and on Hurricane Fly Drive from James Road to the existing roadway.

Full-depth asphalt reclamation is listed for East Bluff Street, Elizabeth Boulevard, Penrod Drive and Raupe Lane. Parts of West Bluff Street and Ables Street are slated for milling and overlay, while North Plaza Drive receives a seal coat.

The announcement identified funded projects but did not provide construction dates.

Source: Granbury street program notice, August 14

SCHOOLS ACROSS HOOD COUNTY

GRANBURY ISD
EARNS ANOTHER B

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD received a B in the Texas Education Agency’s 2025-26 accountability ratings, the district announced Aug. 14. It was the district’s second consecutive year at that rating.

The state system evaluates districts and campuses using several

measures of student performance and progress. Granbury ISD said it would review the results to identify strengths and areas needing improvement.

The district’s announcement credited educators, staff and families for supporting students, while

describing the state grade as one measure of school performance.

Families seeking individual campus ratings were directed to the state’s Texas Schools website.

Source: Granbury ISD August 14 accountability announcement

THREE DISTRICTS SET
AUGUST 12 START

HCE STAFF WRITER

Aug. 12 was the first day of classes designated on the 2026-27 calendars for Granbury, Tolar and Lipan ISDs, aligning the county’s three districts on a Wednesday start.

Tolar’s academic calendar set the regular school day at 7:50 a.m.-3:35 p.m. Lipan listed 7:45 a.m.-3:40 p.m., with its first six weeks scheduled through Sept. 18.

Granbury’s opening-week calendar also listed sixth-grade Pirate Camp at Acton and Granbury middle schools Aug. 10, from 8:30-11 a.m.

All three districts’ calendars placed staff work or training days on Aug. 10-11, immediately before the scheduled student return.

Source: Granbury ISD August 2026 official events calendar; Tolar ISD 2026–27 official academic calendar; Lipan ISD 2026–27 official academic calendar

AUGUST 10: PIRATES
WIN FIVE-SET TEST

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury’s volleyball team won a five-set road match against Stephenville Aug. 10, taking the deciding set 15-13 at Gandy Gymnasium.

The Lady Pirates dropped the first set 25-21, then moved ahead by winning the second 25-20 and the third 25-22. Stephenville answered with a 25-18 fourth-set victory to force the deciding set.

Granbury finished the non-district contest with a 3-2 match victory. Each of its final two winning sets was decided by three points or fewer, including the two-point margin in the fifth.

Source: Ville Digital Sports August 10 match report; MaxPreps Granbury–Stephenville August 10 box score

AUGUST 11: LIPAN SWEEPS COMANCHE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan defeated Comanche in straight sets in an Aug. 11 non-district volleyball match at Lipan.

The Lady Indians opened with a 25-12 win, took the second set 25-19 and closed the match 25-15 for a 3-0 victory.

Comanche’s closest set was the second, when the visitors finished six points back. Lipan held Comanche below 20 points in all three sets and won the first and third by double-digit margins.

Source: GM Sports Media August 13 DFW volleyball scoreboard; MaxPreps Lipan-Comanche August 11 original box score

LIPAN RELEASES CROSS-COUNTRY DATES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan ISD’s cross-country schedule, posted Aug. 13, opened with a Brock date Aug. 14 and laid out a season that includes two home meets.

The district listed later August trips to Poolville on Aug. 19 and Keene on Aug. 26. September plans included a regional preview in Fort Worth on Sept. 11, Round Rock on Sept. 18 and a Lipan meet Sept. 30.

An Oct. 7 Hamilton date preceded the district meet scheduled at Lipan Oct. 14. The calendar also listed regional and state dates in Fort Worth and Round Rock; those entries were a postseason timetable, not confirmation of qualification.

Source: Lipan ISD cross-country schedule posted August 13

TOLAR CALENDAR PAIRS TOURNAMENTS & PARENT MEETING

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar’s school athletics calendar listed separate tournament destinations for two volleyball squads during the opening week of classes.

JV Purple was scheduled for the Hamilton tournament Aug. 13, while the varsity calendar listed the Brock tournament Aug. 14.

The same week’s schedule included a high-school football parent meeting at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 10 in the Tolar High School cafeteria.

Source: Tolar ISD dated August athletics calendar

WAGON HISTORIAN CALLS FOR GRANBURY GATHERING

HCE STAFF WRITER

An Aug. 9 update from wagon historian David E. Sneed said late inquiries were still welcome for the American Chuck Wagon Association’s Granbury conference, despite the published registration deadline having passed.

Sneed reported that Homer Roberson of the association had encouraged interested people to

contact organizers. The conference was scheduled to begin Aug. 14 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center, 621 E. Pearl St.

The announced program combined historic wagon displays with talks on identifying manufacturers, estimating construction dates and understanding vehicle parts. Friday’s schedule included vendor shopping

from 4 to 7 p.m. and an evening history presentation.

The association also advertised vendors representing trades involved in wagon preservation, including barrel-making, canvas work and blacksmithing.

Source: Wheels That Won the West Aug. 9 conference update; Visit Granbury Aug. 14 wooden-wheel conference program

AIR EVAC 69 MARKS 20-YEAR MILESTONE

CHAMBER COFFEE CONNECTS BUSINESSES

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce put a 20-year anniversary celebration for Air Evac 69 on its Thursday, Aug. 13, calendar, with an afternoon program at Lake Granbury Medical Center.

The gathering was scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m. at 1308 Paluxy Road, Suite C. The published timetable placed the ribbon cutting at 1:15 p.m., near the start of the two-hour event.

The invitation offered opportunities for visitors to meet the crew and tour the aircraft. Refreshments were also included in the announced anniversary program.

Source: Granbury Chamber Air Evac 69 anniversary notice

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce’s Aug. 13 Coffee & Connections program paired business introductions with a reminder that attendees needed to pay when registering.

The notice said cash would no longer be accepted at the door. Admission was listed at \$10 for members and \$20 for the general public.

Harbor Lakes Golf Club, 2100 Clubhouse Drive, was the scheduled location, with Stewart Title as presenting sponsor. The advertised program ran from 9 to 10:15 a.m., preceded by coffee, a light breakfast and informal conversation.

Planned activities included introductions, networking exercises and a chance for attendees to share upcoming events. The Chamber encouraged participants to bring business cards and offered the gathering as a way to introduce new employees.

Source: Granbury Chamber Aug. 13 Coffee & Connections notice

CASTING CALLS AT THE THEATER

07

FOOTLOOSE REACHES CASTING DEADLINES



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

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Theatre Company's casting schedule for Footloose reached two August milestones: an Aug. 9 deadline for video auditions and possible invitation-only callbacks Aug. 12 at the Opera House.

Applicants were asked for a single video with 32 bars of a song in the

show's style, accompanied by a headshot and acting résumé. The announcement welcomed performers across backgrounds and abilities.

Garrett Hollowell was listed as director, Caitlan Leblo as music director and Miranda Barrus as

choreographer. Rehearsals were scheduled to begin Aug. 17, ahead of a Sept. 18-Oct. 18 performance run.

The company advertised limited stipends for selected roles, typically \$100 to \$400 in total.

Source: Granbury Theatre Company Footloose audition notice

ACADEMY SETS SECRET GARDEN AUDITIONS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Theatre Academy scheduled auditions Aug. 10 and callbacks Aug. 11 for its fall production of *The Secret Garden: The Spring Version*, directed by Matt Beutner.

The program was open to ages 13-18, with students required to be 13

by Aug. 11. Individual audition appointments were offered from 5 to 8 p.m. at 400 S. Morgan St.; callbacks and dance auditions were scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. the following day.

Applicants were asked to prepare a short song with recorded accompaniment. The academy

emphasized that auditioning did not guarantee a part and said individual feedback would be available after the cast list was posted.

The published cost was \$220 per student, with additional siblings priced at \$110.

Source: Granbury Theatre Academy Secret Garden audition notice

TOLAR MUSIC & THE GRANBURY SQUARE

08

TOLAR HOOTENANNY

BILLS BLAKE DAGLEY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Blake Dagley was the announced main-stage musician for Sledge Distillery’s Aug. 8 Hootenanny in Tolar, a Saturday program combining live music with the venue’s food and tasting offerings.

Visit Granbury’s dated listing scheduled music from 6 to 9 p.m. at 8210 Paluxy Highway. It listed free admission and overall operating hours of 2 to 10 p.m.

The advertised timetable gave visitors several separate windows:

tastings from 2 to 8 p.m., retail sales until 9 p.m. and the food cantina from 3 to 9 p.m. The Social Hall and Outback/Coffee bars were listed for the full afternoon and evening.

Source: Visit Granbury Aug. 8 Sledge Distillery program

SQUARE SHOPPING PROGRAM

LINKS BOUTIQUES & DRAWINGS

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Historic Granbury Merchants Association’s Aug. 8 calendar placed Girls Night Out on the square from 3 to 6 p.m., using a shared shopping promotion to connect participating boutiques.

The announcement advertised store prizes and a monthly \$50

shopping-spree drawing, followed by drawings at D’Vine Wine at 6 p.m. Pink balloons were the published marker for participating storefronts.

The association’s program description said purchases of at least \$10 earned one or more drawing tickets. It also advertised special

discounts and trunk shows as part of the recurring second-Saturday event.

The promotion’s published format linked afternoon purchases at individual shops with a common end-of-day gathering.

Source: Historic Granbury Merchants Association Aug. 8 schedule and program description

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Produced October 5, 2026 (Central Time). Covers August 8-14, 2026. Reconstructed from records; no historic publication or distribution is claimed.