



HOOD COUNTY EXPRESS

TRUTH. ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMUNITY.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

WEEKLY / SEPTEMBER 12-18 IN REVIEW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS 02-03 / SCHOOLS & SPORTS 04-05 / COMMUNITY & ARTS 06-08

DATA-CENTER RULES DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY



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 postponed proposed data-center and power-generation zoning changes until February 2, 2027, on September 15, according to draft minutes.

An initial motion backing the Planning and Zoning recommendation, with state-law preemption language,

failed 1-5. Angela Parker cast the supporting vote. Council later voted 6-0 to reconsider and 6-0 to postpone.

The debate included a proposed 1,000-foot setback and Specific Use Permit requirement. Neither became law through this action.

Source: Granbury draft minutes, September 15

CITY OUTLINES \$49.985 MILLION WATER LOAN

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury outlined a new round of drinking-water financing in a September 15 announcement, reporting that the Texas Water Development Board had approved \$49.985 million in assistance on September 10.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan would support

improvements to the existing treatment plant and construction of a new plant designed for 5 million gallons per day. State officials estimated potential savings of about \$14.6 million over the loan's life compared with conventional financing.

The city said the assistance builds on an earlier \$57.8 million state grant. The newly announced financing is a loan; the planned treatment capacity is not yet operating.

Source: Granbury water announcement, September 15; Texas Water Development Board, September 10

WATER & CITY AFFAIRS

HOUSE BILL INCLUDES GRANBURY WATER WORK

\$8 MILLION

Proposed authorization in House-passed legislation

HCE STAFF WRITER

A water-projects bill passed by the U.S. House September 16 includes an \$8 million authorization for water infrastructure, including water supply, in Granbury.

The provision appears in the environmental-infrastructure section

of H.R. 9497, the Water Resources Development Act of 2026. The House approved the amended bill 415-9, according to its official roll call.

House passage was a legislative step, not a payment to Granbury. The proposed authorization did not

establish that the city had received construction money. It is separate from the Texas Water Development Board financing announced by the city during the same week.

Source: Congressional Record, September 16; U.S. House Clerk, roll call 313

DISPATCH PROPOSAL RETURNS

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury council voted 6-0 September 15 to have the city manager coordinate with Hood County and bring back a dispatch proposal, draft minutes state.

The proposed annual city payment was \$697,575, compared with \$146,723 under the existing agreement. Council did not approve that price or execute a new contract.

Source: Granbury draft minutes, September 15; City dispatch staff report, September 15

RECALL HEARINGS REQUESTED

HCE STAFF WRITER

Draft minutes record a September 15 announcement acknowledging recall-petition certifications and hearing requests involving Mayor Jim Jarratt, Bruce Wadley, Greg Corrigan, Skip Overdier and Zeb Ullom. This procedural step did not remove anyone from office or order an election.

Source: Granbury draft minutes, September 15

CITY SEEKS VOICES FOR LEGISLATIVE WORK

FIVE CITIZENS

Applications open for Granbury legislative task force

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury opened applications September 15 for its five-citizen Legislative Task Force, moving the newly created advisory group into recruitment.

The city invited people interested in local issues to apply even if they live outside city limits or lack policy experience. Members would work with staff to study

proposed state legislation, discuss potential effects on Granbury and make recommendations to council.

The announcement also described possible opportunities to travel to Austin and speak with state lawmakers or their staffs. Those visits were possibilities, not confirmed trips.

Source: Granbury application notice, September 15

BMY CEREMONY ON CHAMBER CALENDAR

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce scheduled a Sept. 17 ribbon cutting for BMY Wealth Management Group.

The Chamber's announcement described the event as a grand opening and placed the ceremony at 1115 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 106. The advertised time was 11:30 a.m. to noon Thursday.

Source: Chamber Sept. 17 BMY ribbon-cutting notice

COFFEE & CANVAS AT CRAFT HOUSE

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Craft House scheduled a September 16 Coffee & Canvas session in Granbury, offering a painting project with supplies and step-by-step instruction.

The noon-to-2 p.m. class was advertised at 205 Kings Plaza, Suite 100, with a \$32 fee covering a 12-by-16-inch canvas and supplies. A coffee-bar drink was included.

The monthly program was described as suitable for both experienced painters and beginners. Craft House owner and artist Andrea was named as the host.

Source: Chamber Sept. 16 Craft House notice

SCHOOLS & LEARNING

DIAGNOSTICS SET A STARTING POINT

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD’s beginning-of-year academic report, posted Sept. 15 ahead of the Sept. 21 school board meeting, identifies reading comprehension and targeted math instruction among the district’s priorities.

The report says 44 percent of third-graders and 37 percent of sixth-graders began at or above grade level in reading. Foundational word

skills were relative strengths, while comprehension, informational text and support for students below grade level remained areas for attention.

In sixth-grade math, 72 percent began within one grade level of expectations. The report calls for continued classroom and small-group practice in numbers and operations.

Stacie Brown, executive director of Teaching and Learning, was scheduled to present the update. The district emphasized that these diagnostic results establish students’ starting points for instruction; they do not predict end-of-year achievement.

Source: GISD beginning-of-year academic report, posted Sept. 15; GISD Sept. 21 agenda attachment posting record

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

EDUCATORS SHARE THEIR APPROACH

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD’s September 17 feature highlighted Karla Willmeth and Angie Payne and their approaches to teaching, mentoring and school-family communication.

Willmeth, director of Teaching and Learning, was in her 30th year in education and 25th with the district. Her career includes classroom teaching, gymnastics coaching, instructional support and campus administration.

Payne, Acton Middle School assistant principal, was entering her 17th year in education and 10th in Granbury. Her profile emphasized sharing instructional ideas, clear communication and keeping families connected.

Source: GISD Sept. 17 leadership profiles

SCHOOL CALENDARS

GRADING PERIOD CLOSES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Sept. 18 marked the end of the first grading period on the published calendars for Granbury, Tolar and Lipan schools, with different schedules awaiting families the following Monday.

Granbury and Tolar listed Sept. 21 as a student holiday and staff day. Their second grading periods were scheduled to begin Tuesday, Sept. 22. Lipan’s next six-week period was scheduled to start Monday, Sept. 21.

Granbury’s calendar listed first-period report cards becoming available in Skyward on Sept. 24 and a high school open house Sept. 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Lipan’s calendar set aside Sept. 25 for parent conferences.

Source: Granbury ISD September calendar; Tolar ISD 2026-27 calendar; Lipan ISD 2026-27 calendar

FOOTBALL & VOLLEYBALL

ALEDO TOPS GRANBURY

SEPTEMBER 18 / IN GRANBURY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury lost its District 3-6A football opener 69-0 to Aledo at Johnny Perkins Field on Friday, Sept. 18.

The Bearcats led 21-0 after the first quarter and 56-0 at halftime. Aledo added 13 points after intermission while keeping the Pirates scoreless.

The Pirates' next scheduled opponent was Arlington Bowie on Sept. 25.

Source: GM Sports Media Sept. 18 football scoreboard; MaxPreps Aledo-Granbury Sept. 18 game; NTX Varsity Granbury report, Sept. 22

TOLAR FALLS TO MILLSAP

SEPTEMBER 18 / FOOTBALL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar fell 44-40 to visiting Millsap on Friday, Sept. 18, in the Rattlers' district football opener.

The teams combined for 84 points, with Millsap finishing four ahead. The result began league play for Tolar after its three non-district games.

Source: Dave Campbell's Texas Football Millsap results; MaxPreps Tolar football dated schedule

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury beat Arlington on the road Sept. 15 before losing 3-1 at home to Weatherford on Sept. 18.

The Lady Pirates took the opening set against Weatherford, but the Kangaroos won the next three. From Granbury's side, the sets finished 25-23, 24-26, 15-25, 18-25.

Source: NTX Varsity Granbury report, Sept. 22; GM Sports Media Sept. 18 volleyball scoreboard; MaxPreps Granbury Sept. 15/18 volleyball games; NFHS dated Granbury volleyball broadcasts; GISD Athletics Sept. 14 weekly schedule notice

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Tolar defeated Eastland 3-0 on the road in district volleyball Sept. 18. The Rattlers completed the match in straight sets, giving them a Friday victory during the early portion of league play.

Source: GM Sports Media Sept. 18 volleyball scoreboard; MaxPreps Tolar dated volleyball schedule; Tolar ISD September sports calendar

LIPAN VOLLEYBALL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Lipan defeated Lingleville 3-1 on Sept. 17, then beat Garner at home by the same match score Sept. 18.

Against Lingleville, the Lady Indians recovered after losing the first set. They won 19-25, 25-15, 25-23, 26-24, taking the last three sets.

Source: GM Sports Media Sept. 18 volleyball scoreboard; MaxPreps Lipan dated volleyball records; Lipan ISD Sept. 18 Garner match notice

COMMUNITY & LOCAL GIVING

MERCY MANOR REPORTS
PROPERTY MILESTONE

A HOME IN THE MAKING

First newsletter outlines preparations and a director search

HCE STAFF WRITER

Mercy Manor announced in its first supporter newsletter, dated Sept. 15, that it owned the property for its planned Granbury home for women.

The newsletter summary also identified an executive director search, fundraising, furnishings, fencing and volunteer opportunities as subjects of the update.

The ministry describes its planned program as a yearlong, Christian residential program for women facing homelessness in Hood County.

Source: Mercy Manor Sept. 15 newsletter archive; Mercy Manor official program description

LAUNDRY LOVE
PLANS COST RELIEF

HCE STAFF WRITER

Acton Methodist Church scheduled its monthly Laundry Love outreach for Sept. 17 at Lakeside Laundromat, 3126 Oak Trail Drive, at the entrance to Oak Trail Shores.

The 4-to-5 p.m. program was designed to assist residents facing financial difficulty by paying washer and dryer costs and providing detergent, fabric softener and dryer sheets.

The church's announcement also listed food and a children's area with a Bible story and craft. The outreach is organized for the third Thursday of each month.

Source: Acton Methodist Sept. 17 Laundry Love notice

WINE BENEFIT
SUPPORTS GARDENERS

HCE STAFF WRITER

D'Vine Wine pledged 20 percent of its Sept. 17 sales to the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners as part of a Sip & Support program.

The free-admission gathering was advertised from 5 to 8 p.m. at 107 E. Bridge St., with Emily Clifton providing music. Organizers planned to offer three potted milkweed plants to the top three donors.

The event also promoted the gardeners' Oct. 3 Romancing the Monarch program at the demonstration gardens, with information about the butterflies' southward migration through Granbury and ways residents could help.

Source: Visit Granbury Sept. 17 Master Gardeners benefit

AROUND THE SQUARE

07

IRISH HERITAGE
ON SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

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 Pub McDonough advertised the Granbury Irish Heritage Festival for Sept. 12, with a program scheduled from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The venue described the new cultural event as a halfway-to-St. Patrick's Day celebration.

The Traveling Murphys' concert listing placed the Houston band on the festival program at 11 a.m. at Langdon Center Concert Hall, 308 E. Bridge St. The group's repertoire blends Celtic music, bluegrass, folk and old-time country.

Source: Pub McDonough Sept. 12 festival listing; Traveling Murphys Sept. 12 artist listing

FALL MARKET
AT SQUARE PLAZA

HCE STAFF WRITER

CCMarkets4Days scheduled a fall market for Sept. 12 at Granbury Square Plaza, pairing outdoor shopping with a daytime music program.

The free event was advertised from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 201 E. Pearl St., with artisan goods, boutique merchandise, gifts and food vendors.

Edwina Gray was listed for an 11 a.m. set, followed by the full band Natural Occurrence at 2:30 p.m. Organizers also encouraged visitors to explore downtown shops and restaurants during their visit.

Source: Visit Granbury Sept. 12 plaza market notice

AIDAN BERLIOZ
AT SILVER SADDLE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Silver Saddle Saloon advertised Texas musician Aidan Berlioz for a Sept. 18 show on the Granbury Square.

The free performance was scheduled from 8 to 11 p.m. at 124 N. Houston St. The venue's tourism listing welcomed all ages and advertised a midnight closing time.

Source: Visit Granbury Sept. 18 Silver Saddle notice

ARTS & FAMILY CALENDAR

SQUARE MERCHANTS SET TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS

OCTOBER 29 / 3-5 P.M.

HCE STAFF WRITER

A September 14 city announcement put Trick-or-Treat Around the Square on the calendar for Thursday, October 29, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Square merchants were expected to welcome families with candy. The city emphasized that the event is

merchant-run and that it does not set the date or hours. Caregivers were urged to watch children closely around traffic and street crossings.

Source: Granbury merchant-event notice, September 14

FOOTLOOSE ON OPERA HOUSE BILL

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Theatre Company scheduled Footloose to begin Sept. 18 at the Granbury Opera House, 133 E. Pearl St., with the Friday curtain set for 7:30 p.m.

Garrett Hollowell was listed as director, with Caitlan Leblo leading music and Miranda Barrus handling choreography. The production calendar called for technical rehearsals Sept. 13-17 before the opening.

The musical follows a Chicago teenager confronting a small town's ban on dancing. The advertised run extended through Oct. 18, with Friday evenings, Saturday matinee and evening shows, and Sunday matinees.

Source: GTC Footloose production calendar and team; Visit Granbury Footloose production listing

WRITERS GROUP PREVIEWS TALK

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury Writers' Bloc announced Sept. 17 that Courtney Marquez would discuss social media and wellness for authors at the group's Sept. 26 meeting.

The announcement listed the session for 10 a.m. at Fellowship Hall. Its advertised topics included author-focused social-media work, creative blocks and burnout.

Marquez founded Sol Creative Wellness LLC, which has provided social-media, graphic-design and website services to authors since 2021, according to the group's speaker announcement.

Source: Writers' Bloc Sept. 17 Marquez announcement

RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Produced October 5, 2026 (Central Time). Covers September 12-18, 2026. Reconstructed from records; no historic publication or distribution is claimed.