

WEDNESDAY

January 7, 2026



THE LAKELANDER

EST. 1988

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON THE SHORES OF

LAKE WHITNEY

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Lake Watch

Lake Level
on January 4

531.47'

Normal Elevation 533.00'
Lake Watch is provided by the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
on Lake Whitney

Lakeline Call 2-1-1 for assistance

Texans can call the Texas Health and Human Services Commission information number at 2-1-1 for information about state and local health and human services programs. The 2-1-1 hotline is a free, anonymous social service available 24 hours a day. No matter where you live in Texas, you can dial 2-1-1, or 877-541-7905, and find information about resources in your local community. This includes finding food or housing, child care, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment.

Democrats to meet January 12

The Hill County Democratic Party will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, January 12. Holly Taylor, candidate for judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, will be the guest, and the public is invited to an evening of conversation. The meeting will be at El Taco Jalisco, 211 I-35 Hwy. NW in Hillsboro. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to eat and socialize.

Retired teachers to meet in Clifton

The Bosque County Retired Teachers Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 13 at Johnny's Place in Clifton.

Al-Anon, Alateen offered locally

Al-Anon meets on Monday and Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. Alateen meets Monday night from 7-8 p.m. Both meet at 327 FM 1713 in Whitney. Call 254-694-5007 for more local information.

Lake Whitney FISHING REPORT

(Dec. 31) Fair. Water normal stain; 58 degrees; 1.47 feet below pool.

Fishing patterns remain consistent between cold fronts.

Catfish are good using punch bait in 30 feet of water.

Striped bass are good on live bait and swimbaits in 25-30 feet of water.

Crappie are fair on the main lake brush in 20-30 feet of water.

White bass are slow on flats in 20 feet of water.

Largemouth bass are fair using soft plastics on deep structure and around docks.

Report by Captain Cory Vinson, Guaranteed Guide Service.

THE LAKELANDER & TACKLEBOX...TO ADVERTISE CALL: 254-582-3431 OR EMAIL: LAKELANDERNEWSPAPER@YAHOO.COM



Please Support Our Local VFDs

Fair projects begin arriving Sunday

County fair scheduled in Hillsboro next week...

Hill County youth will display their artistic and agricultural talents once again this year when the Hill County Fair gets underway next week.

Activity will begin at the Hill County Fairgrounds when ag mechanics projects move in and creative arts check-in is conducted Sunday, January 11.

Prior to the events in Hillsboro, a Commercial Steer Show will be held Thursday, January 8, starting at 1 p.m. Live visual evaluations, speeches and contest results are set for Friday, January 9, with

which is held in conjunction with the county fair, highlights the commercial cattle industry. It provides 4-H and FFA members an opportunity to learn about selection, record keeping, feeding, animal health, industry standards, public speaking and technical knowledge.

Commercial Steer Show check-in and testing will be Thursday, January 8, starting at 1 p.m. Live visual evaluations, speeches and contest results are set for Friday, January 9, with

the day's activities starting at 9:30 a.m.

In Hillsboro, ag mechanics projects will be moved into the fairgrounds from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, January 11. Creative arts projects will be checked in from 1 to 7 p.m.

Creative arts and ag mechanics judging will be Monday, January 12. Also on the schedule Monday will be rabbit check-in at 7 a.m., with the rabbit shows beginning at 10 a.m. and ag mechanics awards at 3 p.m.

Lambs and goats will be moved into the fairgrounds from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday ahead of the next morning's shows.

The Tuesday, January 13, schedule includes the lamb, sheep and goat shows starting at 8 a.m. The creative arts division also opens to the public Tuesday. "A Day in the Ring," the annual event for special needs students, begins at 1:30 p.m. Swine move-in and weigh-in will be from 4 to 8 p.m.

see FAIR on back



Hill County youth will once again enter the show ring with their livestock next week, and creative arts and agricultural mechanics projects will also be judged. The fair runs from check-in Sunday through the livestock auction Saturday, January 17. See schedule on page 6.

Elections administrator, ESD commissioners appointed

The Hill County Commissioners Court appointed an elections administrator and Emergency Services District (ESD) board members during a meeting held Tuesday, December 23.

The Hill County Elections Commission reviewed 27 applications and unanimously selected Ada Motherspau as the next elections administrator.

The court reappointed Chad Wilson to the ESD 1 board and Jimmy Lehmann, Kevin Bragg and Alan Nisbet to the ESD 2 board. Wilson's appointment was tabled at the court's previous meeting pending the ESD

1 board approving his bond as treasurer. With that bond in place, the court unanimously approved his appointment.

Commissioners approved a quote from Chime Master to replace the courthouse bell system. County Judge Shane Brassell said that the county is currently using a loaner bell after the previous one stopped working. The previous bell lasted longer than it was designed to, the judge said, and the new proposal includes a more modernized system.

The new bell will include an all-digital system as opposed to the five-disk CD changer that the county had been

using. It also comes with an amplifier and features that protect the most expensive pieces of equipment from lightning damage.

The total cost of the new bell system came to \$10,575, which was approved by commissioners.

Commissioners also voted to increase the county's on-site sewage facility (OSSF) permit fee to \$600 per application, up from the previous fee of \$475. An associated update of the OSSF permit paperwork was also approved.

In other action, the court accepted a \$14,000 donation from James Deapen for a rock

project on HCR 3413 South in Precinct 4 and approved a line of credit at Northern Tool for Precinct 4.

In open forum, Daniel Wilson spoke about the proposed reappointment of Chad Wilson to ESD 1, reiterating his issues with the ESD's operations. He responded to Commissioner Jim Holcomb's comments at the previous meeting, when the commissioner said that he asked Daniel Wilson if he wanted to serve on the board and suggested that anyone not willing to volunteer should stop "throwing rocks."

Wilson said that he is un-

see COURT on back

Business Review

Lake Whitney Yoga: Community, Wellness & Growth in Whitney



functional mobility and a variety of yoga styles ranging from slow and restorative to uplifting

and energizing. In 2026, the studio will expand its offerings with the addition of Pilates,

giving the community even more ways to build strength and

see YOGA on back

Motorcyclist dies in crash on Hwy. 22

A Whitney man was killed when his motorcycle struck a deer on Highway 22 Thursday, January 1.

The Department of Public Safety was dispatched to the scene near HCR 2401 northeast of Whitney just before 5 p.m. Officials reported that Neal Hull, 74, of Whitney was operating a Harley-Davidson motorcycle that struck a deer.

Hull was pronounced dead at the scene. His passenger, a 65-year-old female, was transported by air to a Fort Worth hospital, where she was listed in critical condition.

The Department of Public Safety conducted the investigation.

Candidate Announcement



Doyle "Trey" Jetton

Jetton to seek another term as JP

Hill County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Doyle "Trey" Jetton has filed for reelection to his position.

"I am honored to serve the people of Hill County as Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, and I am proud to announce candidacy for another term," he said. "It has been a privilege to work on behalf of our community, and I remain committed to delivering fair and impartial justice, while providing exceptional service to every individual who comes before the court."

Since taking the bench in April 2021, the court has undergone substantial modernization to address a rising caseload and to improve transparency, operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the people it serves.

As Hill County's popula-

see JETTON on back

Hill Co. CSCD supports food banks

The Hill County Community Supervision and Corrections Department presented \$13,371.75 in gift cards to Hillsboro Interfaith Ministry's (HIM) local food pantry and Our Daily Bread Food Bank in Whitney during 2025.

The Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Hillsboro coordinates

see CSCD on back

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