

Lake Watch

Lake Level
on April 12

531.64'

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

Lakeline

Friday potluck at senior center

Lake Whitney Senior Center will hold its Friday night potluck social Friday, April 17. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and dinner begins around 5:30 p.m. All are invited to bring their favorite dish, and games will be available for those who want to participate. The senior center is located at 503 North Colorado in Whitney.

MHMC to host free clinic Sat.

Mission Hillsboro Medical Clinic, located at 120 East Franklin Street in Hillsboro, will be open Saturday, April 18, for its third-Saturday clinic. Registration begins at 6 a.m., and the clinic closes at noon. Residents of Hill County without medical insurance are eligible. Medical and dental services are first-come, first-served; no appointments necessary. Patients should bring all medications with them at the time of visit. Leave a message at 254-479-1489 for more information.

Wings of Faith revival planned

Wings of Faith Christian Fellowship in Laguna Park will hold a revival to unify the community Thursday, April 23 through Saturday, April 25. The service begins at 6:30 p.m. each night. The church is located at 140 CR 1700.

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.



From Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: There will be a brief pause in weekly fishing reports. Details are being finalized to bring you the best fishing hole information in Texas. You can view past fishing report information during this transition at tpwd.texas.gov.

For information
about fishing
in Texas, visit:
[tpwd.texas.gov/
fishboat/fish/](http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/)

Early voting to begin in city, school elections

Early voting in May city and school elections will get underway Monday, April 20. Locally, voting will be at the Whitney ISD Administration Building Board Room, located at 305 South San Jacinto in Whitney.

Early voting will be conducted weekdays April 20-28, with the exception of April 21, which is a state holiday. The early voting site will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, the final day of early voting.

Candidates for three Whitney City Council seats include (in ballot order): Vicki Wilson (incumbent), Natalie Brennan, Frank J. Baker III, Ken Scales, Rigo Farias, Cheryl Taylor-West (incumbent), Teresa Wyatt and Jason Sneed.

Two full, three-year terms are available on the Whitney ISD Board of Trustees. School board candidates (in ballot order) are: Nicole Corson (incumbent), Connie Terry and Adrian "AJ" Marino (incumbent).

Incumbent Brent Marbut

will also appear on the Whitney ISD ballot as the only candidate for an unexpired term on the school board.

Applications for ballots by mail are due by Monday, April 20. Contact the Hill County Elections Administration office at 254-582-4072 for more information.

Election day in the joint Whitney election will be Saturday, May 2. Election day voting will also be at the school's administration building, which will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters are reminded that

under Texas law, those who possess one of the seven acceptable forms of photo identification must present that ID at the polls when voting in person. They include:

- Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- United States Military Identification Card contain-

ing the person's photograph

- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States Passport (book or card)

With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, which does not expire, for voters aged 18-69, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired no more than four years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

For voters aged 70 or see VOTING on back

Last chance to see 'Little Shop of Horrors'



Three performances remain for Lake Whitney Arts' production of "Little Shop of Horrors" by Howard Ashman, with music by Alan Menken. Starring in the show, directed by Stacey Greenawalt, are: Carol Morris, Marissa Carmona, Greenawalt, Hoss Smith, Levi King, Mikaela Sako, Stephen Buse, Alden Smith, Vaughn Hardman, William Zimmerman, Jess Morris and Izzy Schwarz. Tickets remain for the performances scheduled for Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit lakewhitneyarts.org or call 254-694-5105.

Nexus pulls out of county tax abatement negotiations

The company behind a data center project in Hubbard has withdrawn its county tax abatement request, County Judge Shane Brassell announced Tuesday, April 7, after the Hill County Commissioners Court heard concerns from residents and met in executive session.

Site prep has been underway since November on the Nexus property, which encompasses over 2,000 acres between Highway 171 and County Road 3369.

Brassell said that the county was not told why Nexus withdrew its request. "It could be due to our negotiation tactics, I'm not exactly sure," Brassell told those gathered in the courtroom. "But we were advised that the Nexus data center project has walked

away from the negotiating table and will not be seeking an abatement from Hill County."

The specifics of the negotiations have not been shared publicly, but a Nexus representative said at a November Hubbard town hall that the company was seeking a 10-year Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with the county.

Multiple Hill County residents have been speaking out during recent commissioners court meetings, asking the court not to grant a tax abatement for the project. Concerns have ranged from the loss of farmland and rural way of life to questions about public safety and legal compliance.

According to The Texas Tribune, the growth of data centers in Texas is projected

to outpace any other state in the country over the next several years, and the projects are getting larger. Drawn by cheap gas, available land and a regulatory market more friendly to natural gas power, companies are flocking to Texas to build more data centers that will support the growth of the artificial intelligence industry.

State lawmakers have already signaled that data centers will be a focus of the next legislative session as debates continue over tax incentives, water use and how much local control communities should have over projects.

In the regular agenda, commissioners approved routine business related to cell phone accounts, bonds for elected officials and a budget amend-

see COURT on back

Data center summit Thursday in Hillsboro

Go Hillsboro, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Hillsboro and surrounding areas, will host this year's Hill County Summit at noon Thursday, April 16.

This year, the forum will be focused on the topic of data centers. Note that questions were accepted from the public through April 10, and there will not be a live question-and-answer session at the event.

Panelists scheduled to speak include: John Littlefield of Southwest Engineers; Larry McManus, Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism; Eric Meier, ER-COT; and a representative of Mohr Partners. Carlton Schwab of Texas Economic Development Council will be moderator.

The panelists have no active projects in Hill County, according to Go Hillsboro. They have been asked to speak on the fundamentals of data centers and the im-

pacts they have on communities. The summit will be open to the public and free to attend.

A light lunch will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 11:30 a.m.

Go Hillsboro promotes the Greater Hillsboro area through collaborative projects that support community and economic development, opportunity and success.

Members of Go Hillsboro include representatives from Hillsboro ISD, Hill College, the City of Hillsboro, Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, business and industry, and area nonprofits.

Past summits have featured renowned economist Dr. Ray Perryman (2024), Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar (2023) and Texas State Demographer Dr. Lloyd Potter (2022).

The event will be held at the Hill College Performing Arts Center, located at 112 Lamar Drive in Hillsboro.

City sales tax allocation up 52% in latest report

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced last week that he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.1 billion in local sales tax allocations for April, 10.5 percent more than in April 2025.

Locally, the City of Whitney's April payment came to \$110,679, up 52.08 percent compared to last April. Year to date, the city's payments have totaled \$407,044, up about 22 percent over the same time period last year.

In the county seat, the City of Hillsboro's April allocation was \$416,814, up just under 15 percent compared to last April. Year to date, the city's payments have totaled \$1,970,833, up 5 percent from the same time last year.

Hill County's April payment was \$348,749, almost 10 percent higher than last April. So far in 2026, the county's allocations have totaled \$1,548,080, up about 3 percent over the first four months of 2025.

Allocations and changes

from last April for other Hill County cities this month include: Abbott - \$11,416, up 15.47%; Aquilla - \$1,657.71, up 26.66%; Blum - \$728.02, down 79.98%; Bynum - \$959.89, up 28.24%; Carl's Corner - \$6,757.49, up 41.69%; Covington - \$7,194.24, up 19.57%; Hubbard - \$23,859.64, down 1.89%; Itasca - \$27,326.92, up 12.83%; Malone - \$3,080.65, up 66.74%; Mertens - \$808.53, up 112.58%; Mount Calm - \$1,942.24, up 25.81%; Penelope - \$731.47, up 10.13%.

Bosque County will receive \$90,406 from the comptroller this month, up about 26 percent compared to April 2025. Year-to-date numbers show the county's allocations up about 22 percent over January through April 2025, for a total of \$442,277.

Allocations and changes for Bosque County cities include: Clifton - \$106,967.71, up 30.60%; Cranfills Gap - \$4,078.29, up 16.19%; Iredell - \$3,697.90, up 46.17%; Meridian - \$20,171.95, up

see SALES TAX on back

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