

Lake Watch

Lake Level
on May 3

532.52'

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

Lakeline

Cedar Creek VFD
fish fry May 23

Cedar Creek Volunteer Fire Department will hold a fish fry Saturday, May 23, from noon to 6 p.m., or until sold out. Cost is \$13 per plate. The fire station is located at 319 FM 2604 in Whitney.

Friday night
dinner at Legion

American Legion Post 522 will serve dinner Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m. The meal is served every Friday night at the American Legion post, located at 303 Farm Road 2604 in Whitney. All are welcome.

Scholarships
for WHS seniors

The Place at Lake Whitney is offering two to four new scholarships for Whitney seniors who will be attending TSTC or Hill College to receive technical training or trade school. See Jody Ferguson at Whitney High School for details.

Retired teachers
to meet May 12

The Bosque County Retired Teachers Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, at Johnny's Place in Clifton. Guest speaker will be Debra Speer, District 12 president.

Democrats to
meet May 11

The Hill County Democratic Party will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, May 11. Guest speaker will be Texas House District 13 candidate Albert Hunter. The meeting will be held at El Taco Jalisco, 211 I-35 Hwy. NW, Hillsboro. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and connect with local leaders. For more details, contact the Hill County Democratic Party at 254-266-4745.

Meet & Greet
set for May 28

The Lake Whitney Chamber of Commerce will hold its next quarterly business meet-and-greet event Thursday, May 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. Go Store It, located at 1401 North Brazos, will host the event. All are welcome to bring a business card and a door prize and enjoy an evening of networking and socializing.

Whitney city, school incumbents
come out ahead on election night

Whitney incumbents had a good night when unofficial election results were released by Hill County Elections Administration Saturday, May 2.

It was a crowded race for three Whitney City Council seats, as incumbents Vicki Wilson and Cheryl Taylor-West sought reelection and six other candidates filed. Valery Peacock did not seek reelection this year. Expected winners were

Jason Sneed with 79 votes, Wilson with 53 and Taylor-West with 51.

Others in the council race were Rigo Farias, who received 48 votes, Ken Scales with 42, Teresa Wyatt with 35, Frank J. Baker III with 27 and Natalie Brennan with 11.

Incumbents won Whitney ISD board seats, with Nicole Corson receiving 153 votes and AJ Marino receiving 152. Connie Terry was also running and received 103

votes. Brent Marbut was the lone candidate for an unexpired term on the board and received 168 votes.

Note that all results are unofficial until any provisional ballots are reviewed and the elections are canvassed.

As of press time Sunday, the Whitney City Council had scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 7, to canvass the results of the city election.



Whitney City Council and school board incumbents who were running for reelection came out ahead after votes were tallied on election night. Jason Sneed, who previously served on the school board, was also expected to win a council seat. Election results are unofficial until canvassed.

Hill College 2024 solar eclipse team
now published in scientific journal

A Hill College team that conducted research from their post in Aquilla during the 2024 total solar eclipse has now had its work published in an international scientific journal.

On April 8, 2024, the second total solar eclipse in seven years commenced over North America. The 2024 path of totality spanned from as far south as Mexico, traveling through Texas, the Midwest and New England, culminating in Canada.

Months before the historic April total solar eclipse, a group of former Hill College students, under the direction of Dean of STEM Dr. Sagar Paudel, had the opportunity to work on a project called the Citizen Continental-America Telescope Eclipse (CATE) 2024.

The Citizen CATE team recruited and trained 36 teams of community participants—citizen scientists—along the path of totality to capture a 60-minute film of the inner and middle solar corona in polarized visible light.

The team's goal was to characterize the physical processes that shape the heating, structure and evolution of a solar corona by using high-cadence, high-dynamic-range (HDR) polarimetric observations, essentially a specialized imaging technique used primarily in solar astronomy, notably during total solar eclipses, to study the



A Hill College team of Nathaniel Cook, Nathan Dodson and Shekhar Pant, in addition to two students from Texas A&M University, was stationed in Aquilla during the 2024 total solar eclipse.

sun's corona in extreme detail. Understanding this particular area of the sun is said to have the ability to significantly assist scientists in predicting future solar events that can disrupt power grids and communication systems.

The Hill College team, comprised of former students Nathaniel Cook, Nathan Dodson and Shekhar Pant, in addition to two students from Texas A&M University, was stationed in Aquilla.

The team spent nearly two months preparing for the observation. An initial workshop hosted by the CATE team provided students with training to learn the skills necessary to operate the telescope and offered practice sessions for the day of the eclipse.

Each of the students learned

how to become efficient at setting up, aligning and using the specialized telescope to fully capture the imaging needed for the project. This included multiple specific instruments that had to be attached to the telescope and properly calibrated to ensure accuracy. In addition, students were also responsible for recording the data.

"This was an extraordinary opportunity for everyone involved. In addition to observing the eclipse, we organized a series of eclipse-themed engagement activities for both students and the broader local community. Our students gained hands-on experience operating the telescope and its data collection, while also developing teamwork, prob-

see HILL on back

Regular property appraisal
protest deadline is May 15

Property owners are reminded that May 15 is the regular deadline to protest their property tax appraisals with their local appraisal district.

Property owners can protest their appraisals until the deadline under most circumstances, although late protests are allowed for good cause, as determined by the local Appraisal Review Board.

The Hill County Appraisal District says that most problems or questions can be resolved on an informal basis without filing a protest. Those with questions are encouraged to call the HCAD office at 254-582-2508 or stop by 1407 Abbott Avenue in Hillsboro.

If the problem cannot be resolved informally with the appraisal district, a property owner has the right to have their case heard by the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that hears and determines protests regarding property appraisals or other concerns

about the property. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make the necessary changes based on evidence heard during the ARB hearing.

If you file a written notice of protest before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing and send you written notice of the hearing's date and time.

For a change of use — when the appraisal district informs a property owner that they are losing their agricultural appraisal because the use of the land has changed — the deadline to protest is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was delivered to you.

Property owners can use Comptroller Form 50-132, available at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax to file a written request for an ARB hearing.

If you are dissatisfied with the ARB's findings, you have the right to appeal the ARB's decision to the state district court in the county in which the property is located.

Hill County unemployment
rate reported at 3.8 percent

Hill County's March unemployment rate was 3.8 percent, according to data released last week by the Texas Workforce Commission.

That is slightly higher than the March 2025 rate of 3.7 percent and down from the February rate of 4.2 percent.

The March data shows that there were 711 unemployed individuals out of a total Hill County civilian labor force of 18,854.

Bosque County's March unemployment rate was at 4 percent, with 328 unemployed out of a civilian labor force of 8,271.

That is down from Bosque County's February rate of 4.3 percent and the same as the March 2025 rate.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Texas remained stable at 4.3 percent.

TWC reported that Texas added 46,800 nonfarm jobs in March to reach a total of 14,403,500. Over the year, the state added 117,200 jobs for an annual nonfarm growth

rate of 0.8 percent, outpacing the national growth rate by 0.6 percentage points.

Texas' civilian labor force registered at 15,916,600 after decreasing by 25,200 over the month. Over the year, Texas' civilian labor force has added 82,200 people.

The professional and business services industry had the largest private sector over-the-month increase in March after adding 14,900 jobs.

Trade, transportation and utilities added 13,500 jobs over the month, while leisure and hospitality added 6,800.

Construction posted the highest annual growth rate of any major industry for the 20th month in a row at 2.4 percent in March.

The Midland metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had the lowest unemployment rate with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 3.0 percent in March. It was followed by the Abilene, College Station-Bryan and San Angelo MSAs, each of which registered at 3.2 percent.

Whitney Fire Rescue
opens event registration

Whitney Fire Rescue is accepting vendor and 5K sign-ups for its first annual Smash and Dash event set for Saturday, June 27, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will start with a 5k run, followed by a vendor fair and a hands-on vehicle smash experience in downtown Whitney. The fire department will also demonstrate rescue equipment and display emergency vehicles.

For more information, contact Wayland Price at 254-266-2019 or Veronica Cadena at 254-205-9595.



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