

Lake Watch

Lake Level
on June 14

533.50'

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

Lakeline

MHMC to host free clinic Sat.

Mission Hillsboro Medical Clinic, located at 120 East Franklin Street in Hillsboro, will be open Saturday, June 20, 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 to be seen. 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.

BBQ fundraiser planned at VFD

Cedar Creek Volunteer Fire Department will hold a barbecue fundraiser Saturday, July 4, from noon to 4 p.m. Plates are \$15 each, and the event will include a raffle. The department is located at 319 FM 2604 in Whitney.

HCHC marker dedication set

The Hill County Historical Commission will meet at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 27, at St. Peter Lutheran Church/Walling Cemetery in Malone. The event will include a dedication of historical markers for the church and cemetery. Refreshments will be available preceding the ceremony. The church is located at 538 HCR 344.

Farmers market open in Whitney

The Lake Whitney Farmers Market is operating on Saturdays through September from 8 a.m. to noon. The market is located along South Brazos Street in downtown Whitney. Shoppers can find produce, fresh jams and jellies, baked goods and other items. The market will be held each Saturday, weather permitting. For more information, follow Lake Whitney Farmers Market on Facebook.

Al-Anon, Alateen offered locally

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

Federal suit moves forward despite county reversal

The federal lawsuit filed against Hill County over its now-rescinded data center moratorium remains pending, County Attorney David Holmes said at a Hill County Commissioners Court meeting last week.

Following an executive session during the Tuesday, June 9 meeting, Holmes told those in attendance that county officials had hoped rescinding the moratorium would lead to a quick dismissal of the lawsuit filed by RCM Hill LLC. How-

ever, he said the company has not indicated that it plans to drop its legal challenge.

The lawsuit stems from a one-year moratorium approved by commissioners in May that temporarily halted new data center development in unincorporated areas of the county. Commissioners rescinded the moratorium June 4 amid concerns about the county's legal authority to enforce it and after RCM Hill filed suit in federal court.

The company is suing the

county, County Judge Shane Brassell and commissioners Jim Holcomb and Larry Crumpton. RCM Hill claims that the county exceeded its authority and interfered with the company's ability to move forward with its project after a significant investment of time and money.

The plaintiff says that the moratorium could expose the county to more than \$100 million in potential liability.

In other agenda items, the court observed the coun-

ty's "Zero Lost Time Award" from the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) workers' compensation program. For 2025, the county had no lost-time claims resulting from accidents.

County Treasurer Rachel Parker said that the award reflects the commitment and teamwork of the county's departments and employees in maintaining safe workplaces.

The court also observed and recorded District Judge Justin Lewis' appointment of

Amy Peavy as county auditor and Susan Swilling as assistant county auditor. Swilling, the county's longtime auditor, will remain as an assistant to help Peavy through the upcoming county budget process.

Commissioners accepted a donation from 3W Solar in the amount of \$50,000 to assist with improvements and maintenance of HCR 1330 in Precinct 2.

Commissioner Larry see COURT on back

Summer fun at the library



Children learned about wildlife and conservation during last Thursday's summer reading program at the Lake Whitney Public Library. Guests from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shared information about animals found in the area and the important role they play in the local ecosystem as part of the library's "Unearth a Story" summer reading theme. Families are invited to a special storytelling event with Ms. Maria on Thursday, June 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. See weekly updates in the library's column for more information.

Texas A&M Forest Service issues grants to area VFDs

Texas A&M Forest Service recently approved \$29.3 million in funding for grants to Texas volunteer fire departments through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program. Several local departments were among the recent awardees.

In the fourth funding round of the year, the program awarded 531 grants addressing volunteer fire department requests for personal protective equipment, slip-on units, fire and rescue equipment, water tenders, small brush trucks and training aids.

In Hill County, grants went to the following:

Cedar Creek (formerly 2604) Volunteer Fire Department - \$45,000 for a slip-on unit

Bynum Volunteer Fire Department - \$25,000 for fire and rescue equipment

City of Blum Fire and Rescue - \$10,000 for training aids

Itasca Volunteer Fire Department - \$45,000 for a slip-on unit

Lakeview Volunteer Fire

Department - \$10,000 for training aids

Mertens Volunteer Fire Department - \$25,000 for fire and rescue equipment

Mount Calm Volunteer Fire Department - \$25,000 for fire and rescue equipment

Whitney Fire and Rescue - \$25,000 for personal protective equipment

Bosque County departments receiving grants were:

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department - \$45,000 for a slip-on unit

Cranfills Gap Volunteer Fire Department - \$45,000 for a slip-on unit

Iredell Volunteer Fire Department - \$25,000 for personal protective equipment

Kopperl Volunteer Fire Department - \$25,000 for personal protective equipment

Morgan Volunteer Fire Department - \$25,000 for fire and rescue equipment

Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department - \$45,000 for a slip-on unit

West Shore Volunteer Fire see GRANTS on back

Comptroller releases June sales tax to cities, counties

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced last week that he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.3 billion in local sales tax allocations for June, 7.4 percent more than in June 2025.

The City of Whitney's June payment from the comptroller was \$89,514, up about 1 percent compared to June 2025. Year to date, allocations to the city have been \$615,416, up about 19 percent over the same period last year.

Hill County's monthly payment was \$526,297, up about 15 percent over last June. So far in 2026, the county's allocations are running a little over 3 percent higher than the same period of 2025.

In the county seat, the City of Hillsboro's June allocation came to \$479,728, down close to 5 percent compared to last June. Year to date, the city's sales tax payments have amounted to \$3,014,423, up about 1 percent compared to the first

six months of 2025.

Allocations and changes over last June for all Hill County cities were: Abbott - \$4,980.48, down 63.16 percent; Aquilla - \$1,934.65, up 15.39%; Blum - \$4,203.65, down 14.91%; Bynum - \$1,009.40, up 15.60%; Carl's Corner - \$7,003.18, up 22.15%; Covington - \$7,512.98, up 3.54%; Hillsboro - \$479,728, down 5 percent; Hubbard - \$30,036.47, up 4.62%; Itasca - \$51,024.33, up 84.36%; Malone - \$3,745.96, up 61.05%; Mertens - \$549.20, down 40.65%; Mount Calm - \$2,837.83, up 28.06%; Penelope - \$798.77, up 9.78%; Whitney - \$89,514.09, up 1.29%.

Bosque County's June allocation was \$129,809, up almost 46 percent compared to last June. Year-to-date figures show Bosque County's rebates up 29 percent for January through June of this year compared to the same period last year.

Allocations and changes for Bosque County cities in June included: Clifton see SALES TAX on back

Grand jury returns June indictments

A Hill County Grand Jury that convened Friday, June 5, returned the following indictments:

Donald Ray Anderson, 54, of Whitney, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon

Jacob Conley Anderson, 33, of Whitney, possession of methamphetamine under one gram in a drug-free zone

Christopher Charles Blair, 49, of Elm Mott, theft of property between \$30,000 and \$150,000

Jade Michael Cantwell, 49, of Whitney, burglary of a habitation

Tiffanie Gail Chappell, 43, of North Richland Hills, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle

Daniel Lee Christian, 42, of Whitney, possession of methamphetamine between one and four grams

Sabrina Dawn Cooper, 46, of Whitney, collision involving injury

Leann Diss, 44, of Whitney, injury to a child - intentional bodily injury

Tra'vion Shamel Ephraim, 17, of Hillsboro, sexual assault (3 counts), possession of child pornography depicting sexual assault

Valarie Loven Gilchrest, 45, of Fort Worth, possession of methamphetamine under one gram

Jacob Chase Hallmark, 24, of Whitney, failure to comply with sex offender's duty to register - 10 years

Redeana Harris, 43, homeless, possession of methamphetamine under one gram

Xavier Carmond Itzcalli Jr., 23, of Mesquite, abandon/endanger child - imminent danger of bodily injury (x 2), evading arrest/detention with a vehicle, aggravated assault date/family/household member with deadly weapon

Kimithi Deon Johnson, 48, of Ennis, driving while intoxicated - third or more

David Blake Nugent, 34, of Whitney, possession of methamphetamine under one gram

Joey Pierce, 19, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, possession of THC under one gram

Gaspar Reyes, 41, of Edinburg, unlawful use of a criminal instrument

Kendra Denise Ross, 48, of Hillsboro, burglary of a habitation

Kenvia Michelle Lashon Ross, 33, of Hillsboro, bur-

see INDICTMENTS on back

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