



October 2026 Newsletter

51ST ★ ANNUAL
PIONEER DAY
Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future
★ **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026** ★
DOWNTOWN WHITNEY, TEXAS

CARNIVAL ARRIVES
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 1ST

LAWNMOWER RACES!
SOUTH SIDE
OF CARNIVAL

PIONEER DAY PARADE
★ 3:00 PM ★

LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY!
STREET DANCE
& BRING YOUR
LAWNCHAIRS!

**FOOD ★ VENDORS
ARTS & CRAFTS**
Shop Local ★ Fun For All!

Lake Whitney ★ Celebrate Our Heritage. ★ Support Our Community. ★ Have a Great Day! -  Find us on Facebook!



Kelly Watson: Whitney's 2026 Grand Pioneer

For Kelly Watson, being named this year's Grand Pioneer is a meaningful honor. His roots run deep in Whitney, and his memories tell the story of a town built on family, faith, friendships, and Wildcat pride.

Born in Brownwood, Texas, Kelly moved to Whitney when he was in first grade, beginning a lifelong connection to the town he proudly calls home. He grew up on his family's 146-acre farm along FM 933, where they raised cattle and other livestock. His father worked as a truck driver for Santa Fe Railway, and his mother was a housekeeper, a wonderful cook, and a Christian woman whose example remains close to his heart.

A proud 1974 Whitney High School graduate, Kelly treasures his days as a Whitney Wildcat. While he wore number 41 on the basketball court and proudly earned his letter jacket, baseball was where his heart and passion truly belonged. He remembers Whitney's baseball teams reaching the regional playoffs each year from 1970 through 1974. Among those who made a lasting impression was baseball coach Nelson Bryan, whom Kelly remembers as a mentor who was always good with the kids.

That Wildcat pride has never faded. Today, seeing Whitney's young people compete and watching local sports programs grow brings him great joy. His love of sports extends beyond the Wildcats—he enjoys golf and cheering for the New York Yankees. His favorites to watch include Lonesome Dove and Field of Dreams.

Kelly also remembers the everyday places that made growing up in Whitney special. After games, friends would stop for drinks at Cato's and play pinball at Dairy Queen. He recalls music and concerts at the Tabernacle near the dam, and a little downtown restaurant called the Squeeze In. With only three booths, he says you really did have to "squeeze in"—but the home cooking made it worth the visit.

His school memories include attending classes in the armory before spending his junior and senior years at the high school where the Hangar gym is today. He also remembers hometown physicians Dr. Hill and Dr. Barton caring for the community at Whitney Hospital.

Hard work has been a steady part of Kelly's life. He spent 18 years as a surveyor, working on projects that included rebuilding Love Field Airport and several major highways. He also spent 10 years farming and later worked as a groundskeeper at White Bluff. His family includes two sons, Jared Watson and Jeremy Watson, and a granddaughter, Farah Watson.

Through the years, Pioneer Days has remained a familiar tradition, with the street dance holding a special place in his memories. Although Whitney's population has grown, Kelly believes the heart of the town has stayed much the same: good people who care about one another.

Having attended the Church of Christ, Kelly speaks fondly of the way Whitney comes together through prayer, support, and a willingness to help. That is what he wants newcomers to know about their community.

His advice to young people is simple: listen to your teachers, coaches, and parents; get involved in church; and take opportunities to participate. For young athletes, he encourages playing different sports, learning what their bodies can do, and growing stronger along the way.

As Whitney celebrates its 150th birthday, we are proud to honor Kelly Watson as our 2026 Grand Pioneer—a longtime neighbor whose memories, faith, and enduring Wildcat pride reflect the heart of Whitney.

Thank you

Chamber Appreciation

Thank You!

The Lake Whitney Chamber of Commerce extends a heartfelt thank you to Glenn and Jeanne Koons for once again allowing the Chamber to use their property for Pioneer Days.

Your continued generosity helps make this community tradition possible.

Another Thank you goes to the Jeanne and Glenn Koons for letting the Chamber decorate their store front to Pioneer Days, honoring the 150th Birthday of Whitney. With the help of Sandy May, Donna Johnson and The McMahan & Basham Families, along with Classic Finds Antiques and Crafts for helping make this project successful.

Another thank you to Terry Boyer for her research on the History of Whitney, to be presented at Pioneer Days.

Thank you to Justin Hewitt of Triple J Fencing for volunteering to Emcee the event.



Thank you

Pioneer Day Sponsors:



Whitney Tax Experts
Huntington Bank
Peoples Bank
Go Store It-Storage
Whitney Nursing & Rehab
TNMP
White Bluff POA
Bosque Resort
Shilling Sand & Gravel
Whitney Family Eyecare
Austex Mechanical & Design
Judd Family Preserve
HILCO
4U Rentals
4U Construction &
Remodel LLC
Guild Mortgage
Lazy S RV Ranch



Tshirt sponsors are:



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Jamie Siddons Realtors
Dave Busky REalty
Representative Angelia Orr
M & D Services
Ranchmasters Real Estate
Reed Holiday Lighting
Reed Moving Company



We could not do it without our sponsors!



Whitney Athletic Booster Club has entered the contest! They will Judge the contest AND add 4 reserved seats, 4 cheeseburgers from Home Concession stand to the winner!!!! Mike Carter is adding 4 Whitney tshirts into the winners pot!

Whatcha gonna say about that??? #GameOn
#ChallengeAccepted

Winner will be announced on social media pages and announced at the game....Dinner, entertainment AND advertising!



Mark Your Calendar

Downtown Whitney Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 31

Beginning around 4-ish!

Downtown businesses will be handing out treats...

...or maybe a few tricks!

**Bring the kids, wear your costumes, and enjoy Halloween in
Downtown Whitney!**





Hill College 2026 Women's Soccer Roster

- 0 Gracie Mancillas, freshman, GK**
- 1 Emily Chavez, freshman, GK**
- 2 Braelynn Gross, freshman, D**
- 3 Yzabella Camarillo, freshman, D**
- 4 Savannah Reyes, freshman, F**
- 5 Daisy Alanis, sophomore, D**
- 6 Karli D'Spain, sophomore, MF**
- 7 Libia Rodriguez, sophomore, MF**
- 8 Jade Taylor, sophomore, D**
- 9 Carla Sanz-Jorquera, sophomore, F**
- 10 Aitana Diez, sophomore, MF**
- 11 Trinity Hill, freshman, D**
- 12 Rylee Bennett, R-sophomore, MF**
- 13 Madyson Harris, freshman, F**
- 14 Rubi Solis, freshman, D**
- 15 Jaelynn Zelaya, sophomore, D**
- 16 Lilia Gonzalez, sophomore, MF**
- 17 Leah Warren, freshman, F**
- 18 Jordyn Willams, freshman, F**
- 19 Crystal Lovo, freshman, MF**
- 20 Hannah Stannell, freshman, D**
- 21 Kiona Tulloch, freshman, D**
- 22 Nolen Condif, freshman, F**
- 23 Rachel Delgado, sophomore, F**
- 24 Clara Martins, sophomore, GK**
- Head Coach: Jason Bond**
- Assistant Coach: Luis Garcia**

**LAKE WHITNEY STATE PARK
PRESENTS THE 3RD ANNUAL...**

HALL[🎃]WEEN IN THE PARK 2026

Community Vendors Needed!



**Saturday, [🐱]
24 October 2026**



**(Meet & Greet)
6:00pm-9:00pm**

- Chance to vote for your favorite decorated campsites



**at Horseshoe Camping Loop
(6:30pm-8:30pm)**

Email: Lory Alaniz at
laura.alaniz@tpwd.texas.gov or call
(254) 694-3793
Lakewhitneysp@tpwd.texas.gov



🌲 Coming Soon...
17th Annual Grinch Festival
Saturday, December 12
Join us for:

- 🌲 Christmas Parade
- 🎵 Live Entertainment
- 🛒 Holiday Vendors
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Family Fun
- 🍔 Great Food

Sponsorship opportunities are now available!

The
LAKE WHITNEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
is
ATTENDING
The
STATE FAIR
OF
TEXAS

 We're proud to represent our amazing
community & local businesses
at the State Fair of Texas!

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR
PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
to hand out to visitors!



Please drop off at:

**101 E. JEFFERSON AVE.,
WHITNEY, TX**

Thank You!

LAKE WHITNEY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE





Chamber News



Welcome!

**The Chamber meets the first Wednesday of every month at Noon in the
Lake Whitney Public Library.
Everyone is welcome!**

Meet Your Board of Directors

**Connie Terry
Todd Throckmorton
Jayson Lam
Debbie Clay
Donna Peyton
Lori Proctor
Billie Fields
Rudy Reyna
Lisa Miller**

♥ Shop Whitney!

SHOP LOCAL • STAY LOCAL • EAT LOCAL • PLAY LOCAL

**Our restaurants, boutiques, antique stores, thrift shops, and small businesses
appreciate your support.**

You'll always find a warm Texas welcome in Whitney!