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Good morning, Michael Vestal

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Shaggy Chic open for pet cuts
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Full circle with Beasley ... From New York 40 years ago to local golf course now
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COVID updates
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Weather

TODAY, JULY 25
 PM T'STORMS
 RAIN CHANCE: 50%
 HIGH/LOW: 90/74
 WIND: E 12 MPH

SUNDAY, JULY 26
 SCATTERED T'STORMS
 RAIN CHANCE: 60%
 HIGH/LOW: 87/73
 WIND: ESE 9 MPH

MONDAY, JULY 27
 SCATTERED T'STORMS
 RAIN CHANCE: 50%
 HIGH/LOW: 90/73
 WIND: ESE 5 MPH

TUESDAY, JULY 28
 PARTLY CLOUDY
 RAIN CHANCE: 20%
 HIGH/LOW: 92/74
 WIND: SSW 6 MPH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
 PARTLY CLOUDY
 RAIN CHANCE: 20%
 HIGH/LOW: 91/75
 SSW 8 MPH



Survey says: More than half of student population will attend school

By Skip Leon
 sports@themexianews.com

A survey of parents conducted online by Mexia ISD suggests that between 50 and 60 percent of students will be attending school in-person when the district reopens on Aug. 13.

Mexia ISD Superintendent Dr. Lyle DuBus discussed results of the survey, which was conducted July 6-16, with the school board at its regular meeting on Monday.

See SURVEY, Page 3

Options: MISD plan includes in-class and at-home learning

By Skip Leon
 sports@themexianews.com

The days of students congregating in an area on campus before school and entering the school building and proceeding to their classrooms when the bell rings are over — at least for the time being.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced educators to re-imagine what school will look like, with regard to social distancing and mask-wearing and other preventive measures that must be taken.

With school scheduled to begin Aug. 13 in Mexia, the Mexia ISD school board heard a presentation

No pass through the doors, no play
In-person school attendance required to participate in extra-curricular activities.
 — Page 8

about what might be included in this year's instructional plan from Dr. Celia Drews, Mexia ISD Assistant Superintendent for Learning and School Improvement.

The plan is still in the process of being constructed, but Drews laid out a comprehensive approach as to how

the district will provide instruction for students who do not attend classes due to the ongoing pandemic.

Although the Texas Education Agency has given schools the option of phasing in school attendance over the first four weeks of the year, Mexia will begin with a hybrid approach of in-person and at-home learning.

Parents will have the choice to send their children to school or have them stay at home and learn. The choice will be binding for a six-week grading period, after which a parent will have the option to change their decision.

For those who stay at home, the

See LEARNING, Page 3

TURNKEY OPERATION

Keith Bassett, with SynergyNDS, the Melbourne, Fla., company that has reconstructed Gibbs Memorial Library after the Sept. 28, 2019, arson fire, officially hands over the keys of the building on Tuesday, July 21 to Library Director ShienDee Pullman and members of the library board. Shown here, from left, are board member Mitzi Eves, Board Vice Chair Robilyn Reed, Board Chair Susan Miller, Pullman, Bassett, Mexia Mayor Geary Smith and Mexia City Council Member Erica Navarro.



Photo by Roxanne Thompson/The Mexia News

Construction company officially hands library keys back to city

By Roxanne Thompson
 roxanne@themexianews.com

The city of Mexia officially received the keys to Gibbs Memorial Library from the company that restored it after the Sept. 28, 2019, arson fire.

The turning over of the keys took place Tuesday, July 21, and indicates the end of Phase 1 in bringing the library back into normal use.

Phase 2 involves adding shelves, computers and at one point closing the temporary library and moving the

books and other contents into the restored building.

Mexia City Manager Eric Garretty said he anticipates a "soft" opening around early November and a grand opening around Thanksgiving.

The library has been in operation at 318 E. Main since shortly after the fire.

Keith Bassett, with SynergyNDS was the project manager in the restoration, living in a trailer next to the building while the restoration was in progress.

Garretty presented a certification of

appreciation to Bassett for the high-quality work he did overseeing the restoration.

Afterward, Bassett presented the library keys to Library Director ShienDee Pullman in front of the building. Also present were Library Board President Susan Miller, Vice President Robilyn Reed and Board member Mitzi Eves.

The exterior and interior of the library have a clean, new appearance that library patrons are sure to appreciate. The checkout desk was rebuilt much wider to give library personnel more room for their work.

City moves forward on splash pad

Sports complex details will depend on money available

By Roxanne Thompson
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Mexia City Council agreed to move forward with having an engineering firm design a splash pad as the first step in a larger plan to start creating a new aquatics facility at Hughes City Park to replace the non-functioning swimming pool.

Council decided this at its Tuesday, July 21, meeting, when the Council members also heard a presentation from Kyle Stephens of Stephens Engineering on the details of building the baseball and soccer fields at the Sports Complex; heard an estimate of the tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year and made other decisions concerning the city's finances and quality of life.

As for the splash pad, the Council agreed to request a detailed proposal from Waterscape Consultants, of Houston, for the larger of the two splash pads he described, which could have up to 54 children.

The Council came to realize Tuesday, that the kind of aquatics facility the city wants will probably take several years to accomplish and must be done in stages: the splash pad, a shallow pool, and an adult pool.

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