

# Katy Times



ASTROS WIN  
SEASON-  
OPENING  
SERIES  
PAGE 5

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THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

## Schools plan Aug. return

By R. HANS MILLER  
and JOSELYN HOFER

Parents and students have been left confused in the aftermath of mixed signals from officials at different levels. However, school officials said adjustments made after Harris County Health Authority Dr. Umair Shah issued a joint health order with Houston Health Authority Dr. David Persse requiring all public and non-religious schools in Harris County to postpone in-person classes to Sept. 8 will remain intact to help prevent confusion.

The order to keep schools closed through Sept. 8 was issued July 24, a day after Katy ISD announced that it was going to postpone classes to that same day. Classes will begin Aug. 19 for all KISD students in a virtual environment with those wanting in-person classes transitioning to the classroom on Sept. 8. After that date, students who are enrolled for all-virtual learning will continue through the Katy Virtual Academy, while those who opted for classroom education will move into their respective campuses.

The order, based on Texas Education Agency guidelines, was questioned by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in a nine-page letter issued July 27 stating health authorities did not have the right to issue the orders under Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. TEA officials reversed their support of school delays after the letter's release.

However, the point may be moot as the TEA's updated guidelines still indicate schools can remain closed to in-person schooling up to eight weeks past the original start date. The Sept. 8 date is only about three weeks past the district's start date.

### School registrations

"Even though all Katy ISD students will participate in online learning for the first few weeks, it's important to inform us of your preferred instructional option."

See **SCHOOL**, page 8

## Faith and religion during coronavirus

By SANDRA SADEK  
EDITORIAL INTERN

As the COVID-19 pandemic drags into the late summer months, many aspects of daily life have had to be modified for a new lifestyle that demands less interaction and more hygienic precautions. Places of worship are among the sites that have had to rethink years of tradition to ensure safety guidelines are met.

Fred Greco, senior pastor at Christ Church PCA congregation, a Presbyterian denomination, said his church, which offered a variety of programs alongside worship services, has had to cut back on many programs and rely on digital tools to reach his community. Among the offered programs and classes at Christ Church were ESL classes hosting between 80 and 100 students a week, Sunday school, and Bible studies.

"When COVID-19 hit, we had to scale back everything. We suspended our ESL classes because they were very crowded. We suspended Christian education classes and groups and Bible studies," Greco said. "Basically, everything but worship."

Sirisharani Gullapalli, chairman and founder at Sai Durga Shiva Vishnu Mandir, a Hindu temple in Katy, said devotees would average to 30 a day, up to 50 on busier days before the pandemic. The temple used to also host eight to nine major yearly events, bringing in around 500 people.



Rev. Bob Johnson and his wife, Susan Johnson watching the St. Peter's United Methodist Church's West Campus live-stream services.

"From the time of this COVID-19,

we have seen very much a decrease in devotees visiting the temple. Less than five members visit the temple on a daily basis," Gullapalli said. "Keeping in mind

See **FAITH**, page 8



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HECTOR CASTELLTORT

Lott Hall is prepared similar to a movie set to broadcast the Contemporary worship service for St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Katy.

### HAVE A NEWS TIP?

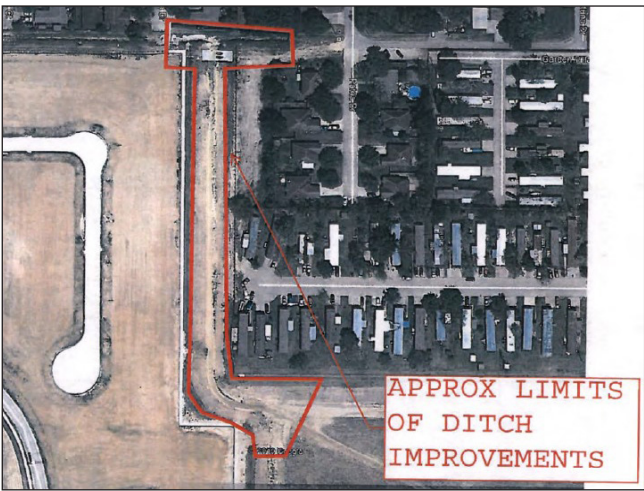
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CITY OF KATY

Katy City Council approved a purchase of land in the area highlighted in red during their July 27 meeting. The land purchase should facilitate a more robust drainage channel to let water flow out of the Riceland Terrace Subdivision and into the Town Park Drainage Pond to the south and east of the red-bordered area.

## Katy moves forward with drainage improvements

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Katy City Council awarded a contract for about \$3.8 million to Fused Industries, LLC out of Houston and approved the purchase of about half an acre of land on the south end of Patna Drive for \$90,000. Both are intended to facilitate drainage improvements promised by the city since Hurricane Harvey caused flooding throughout the Riceland Terrace neighborhood.

See **IMPROVEMENTS**, page 3

## Ex-deputy indicted in shooting of constable

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Former Fort Bend County Sheriff's Deputy Chadwick McRae has been indicted for Criminally Negligent Homicide in connection with the May 29 fatal shooting of Fort Bend County Precinct 4 Deputy Constable Caleb Rule according to a press release from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. Charges were filed July 20 according to the statement.

"Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family of Deputy Caleb Rule as they continue to deal with this tragedy," said Sheriff Troy Nehls.

A statement from Precinct 4 Constable Trever Nehls, Sheriff Nehls' twin brother, indicated that Constable Nehls had contacted Rule's widow, Eden Rule, personally to inform her of the indictment. The Rules have four children between the ages of 13 and 18.

Both law enforcement agencies kept their statements short, referring any additional questions to the Texas Rangers and the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office. However, FBCSO did state that McRae had been terminated for violating the department's Use of Force policy during the incident in which Rule was killed.

Both Rule and McRae had responded to a call of a suspicious incident at a home in Sienna Plantation, just south of the Katy area. Authorities reported that an officer had shot Rule while trying to clear a home in the subdivision.

Sheriff Nehls reported that first aid was applied immediately, but



CHADWICK  
MCRAE



CALEB  
RULE

See **SHOOTING**, page 3







R. HANS MILLER

The Katy Rice Festival usually fills the streets beneath the Katy Water Tower near Katy City Hall with thousands of revelers shopping for gifts and knickknacks from craftsman and partaking in live music and festival food. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual event has gone virtual to protect the public's health.

## Rice Festival goes virtual

By JOSELYN HOFER  
EDITORIAL INTERN

Katy demands the "show must go on" when it comes to the Katy Rice Festival. Because of the pandemic, the Katy Rice Festival has been altered to an online event with a virtual craft market, live-streamed band performances and other activities all run by the city of Katy and the Rotary Club of Katy.

The festival is set to take place over the course of three days beginning on October 9th and ending October 11th where people from all over Katy can come together and celebrate their heritage.

Those who are interested can find more information on their website, [www.katy-ricefestival.com](http://www.katy-ricefestival.com) or on the Katy Rice Festival Facebook page where updates will be added the closer the date comes. Craft vendors who are interested in participating in the festival can also discover more information on the website and apply to be included in the virtual market.

"Katy Times" will provide more information on this year's festival as it becomes available.

## Royal ISD board announces new superintendent

BY SANDRA SADEK  
EDITORIAL INTERN

Royal ISD's Board of Trustees has selected Richard Kershner as the district's newest superintendent.

Kershner currently serves as the assistant superintendent of leadership and culture in Splendora ISD. He began his career as a teacher in Sealy ISD and has also served as assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent of academic and human resource services in Katy, Royal and Splendora ISDs.

State law requires a 21-day waiting period before Kershner can officially take on the role.



RICHARD KERSHNER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Heat related issues are more common amongst dogs rather than cats although both face potential risk. Taking a pet to the vet after exhibiting signs of heatstroke is extremely important as heatstroke can cause organ failure, blood clotting, and seizures.

## Pets affected by hot summer

By JOSELYN HOFER  
EDITORIAL INTERN

With temperatures and humidity rising in Katy this summer, it is important for residents to take caution; not only with themselves but with their pets. When exposed to temperatures above 101 degrees, small animals like dogs and bigger animals such as horses are at risk for heat injuries.

"It certainly is a real concern that can have potentially fatal outcomes," said Kari Cleavinger, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in the Katy Veterinary Clinic. "If it's not addressed in a timely fashion and if the heat stroke is too severe, sometimes even with treatment, pets don't make it."

### Treatment for smaller animals

The two main concerns that arise when small animals like dogs are exposed to extreme temperatures are heat burns on the paws and heat stroke. If the pavement is too hot for us to walk with our bare feet then it is probably too hot for dogs' paws, Cleavinger said.

"We can see some, you know, some pretty intense burns of the pads of the feet when dogs are walking on the hot pavement during the summer. That's something that I think owners don't think about too often because we always wear shoes so we're not feeling how hot the pavement is," said Cleavinger.

While burns on the paws are harmful, heat stroke is deadly, Cleavinger said. That's why owners should watch out for specific symptoms in hot temperatures. Things such as heavy breathing and collapse are all symptoms that could potentially mean an animal has heat stroke.

"The first symptom that dog owners will see at home is usually collapse. Dogs will collapse (or) they're breathing heavily, potentially having some problems with heartbeat. They're dehydrated, that's hard for the owner to discern. But usually collapse is the first sign that an owner will see at home," Cleavinger said.

Owners can take action before or in the event these symptoms are recognized though. Walking dogs in the early morning or late afternoon, leaving options for shade, and removing dogs from hot cars are all things owners can do to prevent heat stroke, said Cleavinger. If a pet does



Concentrating on cooling areas with high circulation such as veins in the neck, hind legs or chest, can allow cooling to go to the bloodstream and lower the body temperature faster.

collapse, owners should take them to a clinic immediately, placing damp towels on the pet and using air conditioner generously.

"We always want to use damp, cool towels to place on the pet. When you're in the car either put the air conditioning on them or roll down the windows — some kind of air movement to move across those damp towels. You never want to use ice. Ice constricts the blood vessels and limits the heat dissipation from the skin so it can actually complicate matters," Cleavinger said.

Owners should go to a clinic whenever they feel concerned, said Cleavinger, since most damage from heat stroke can go unnoticed for up to 24 hours.

"But I would say if there's ever any concern that the pet owner has in their mind, they do need to seek medical therapy or medical treatments. (We just need to let our) owners know that this is a true concern," Cleavinger said.

### Treatment for larger animals

The effect on larger animals such as horses are much the same, said Katy Equine veterinarian, Bill Stone, but has its exceptions.

"Horses have a particular problem in this in this part of the country," Stone said.

"They'll occasionally stop sweating. And that's a challenge for them. Dogs don't sweat, but horses will sometimes stop sweating and their body mass can't be cool."

That's why owners should keep watch for increased breathing, increased body temperature, and lack of sweat, said Stone. These could be indicators of overheating and could potentially be fatal if it leads to collapse.

"(Collapse) doesn't happen often but if it does happen, they're real close to being in trouble. It's a huge emergency with a body mass as big as a horse," Stone said.

Luckily, treatment for overheating is simple and doesn't usually require a vet, said Stone. With things like mist fans, mixtures of alcohol and water, or even breaks from working, owners can effectively decrease the horse's body temperature.

"Our body (and) horses' bodies are cooled by evaporation. So, anything you can do to enhance evaporative cooling is going to help. Large volumes of water are great — they're going to cool you down to a certain extent — but the water has to evaporate for that," Stone said.

It all comes down to evaporation and ventilation, Stone added. Owners just have to pay attention and keep their horses comfortable.



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Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls and his brother Fort Bend County Constable for Precinct 4 Trevor Nehls deliver announcement the incident which lead to the shooting death of Caleb Rule in the early morning hours of May 29.

## SHOOTING

from page 1

later succumbed to his injuries.

The 100 Club, a nonprofit that supports the dependents of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed or seriously injured in the line of duty is assisting

the family and has provided a \$20,000 check to assist the Rule family as they navigate Deputy Rule's death. A GoFundMe fundraiser has also been established to

help the Rules with funeral and other expenses. It can be found on the GoFundMe website by searching "Deputy Caleb Rule Memorial Fund."

## IMPROVEMENTS

from page 1

"We'll start as soon as we can. I do know the consultant assisting with the GLO contractual obligations requires an environmental study up front and they're working on that right now. As soon as that's cleared up Costello will get started as soon as we can. Our anticipation is to start bidding and start construction on or about February to March of next year, if not sooner," said Costello Senior Project Manager Ralph Saldana during the meeting in regards to work to improve drainage on the south side of Patna Drive into the Town Park Detention Pond.

Work on improvements to drainage along Patna Drive is expected to begin sometime in August.

The land will be paid for using flood bonds approved by city voters in 2018, according to city officials.

Purchase of the land will facilitate putting a more robust draining tool at the bottom of the neighborhood, Council Member Janet Corte said via telephone.

An environmental study is also required according to Ralph Saldana of Costello Engineering. Council approved the study and authorized Costello to complete the engineering and surveying for drainage channel reconstruction and improvements to the existing channels in the neighborhood which are intended to help rainwater runoff flow out of the subdivision and into the new Town



Plans for drainage improvements include creating a more robust, cement-lined ditch at this location to prevent erosion and make transit of water more efficient out of Riceland Terrace and into the Town Park Drainage Pond. This ditch is near the land approved for purchase by the city during Monday's council meeting.

Park Detention Pond on its way out of city limits.

Residents in Riceland Terrace have expressed frustration with a lack of progress on drainage along Patna and Fortuna Drives as well as Rexora Lane which spans between the two drives. City officials had initially promised improvements along the three streets would begin in 2019, but city officials have said they are trying to stretch bond funding to accommodate more drainage projects than were initially planned during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

According to documents provided by the city, the scope of work for the second phase of the work on the south end of Patna Drive includes reconstruction of 820 linear feet of the exist-

ing drainage channel south and west of the Riceland Terrace subdivision, where the property was purchased. The design for the new construction includes providing cement side slopes to prevent erosion. Further, a new storm channel will be installed at the end of Caloro Lane going toward Patna Drive and will flow to existing drainage channels. Initial payment for this portion of work to be done in the subdivision is a lump sum of \$156,000.

"It is estimated that due to both (General Land Office) contract preparation and environmental study lead times required the final construction plans suitable for public bid are estimated to be ready at the first (quarter) of (2021)," Saldana said in a letter to city officials.

## Waller County OKs \$4.87 million for construction

By JOSELYN HOFER  
EDITORIAL INTERN

After discussing the issue for some time, the Waller County Commissioners Court approved the issuance of \$4.87 million Waller County tax notes to go to the construction and furnishing of new buildings under construction and scheduled for completion at the end of August during its July 22 meeting. The justice center, new jail, sheriff's office, new courthouse and purchase of new equipment for roads and bridges were included in the expenditures.

Bids from various banks and other financial institutions were also received and discussed in association with the issuance.

The county approved the payment of \$134,298.46 to Primary Care Store for the use of construction.

County Judge Trey Duhon awarded a Distinguished Service Award to the Waller County Historical Commission which broke down a plan for the commission's newest plans.

A variety of variances were discussed in regards to the Thoroughfare Plan and many families were issued exemptions based on existing guidelines.

The Waller County Fire Marshal also opened a discussion in regard to a burn ban. The Fire Marshal brought attention to the fact that the Keetch-Byram Drought Index - referred to as the KBDI - was at 551 out of 800 and that in the past two weeks three brush fires had occurred. Ultimately, the court arrived at an agreement with the fire marshal and delayed the burn ban a week due to predicted rainfall. The ban may be instated the week of July 27 if necessary rainfall does not occur.

"I would definitely want to convey to folks that if we don't get the rain we're anticipating and conditions don't change, there will be a burn ban in place by the end of next week," Duhon said.

## KATY TIMES PET OF THE WEEK

### MEET SAVANNAH



I'm a handsome, 2-year-old boy with a lot of love to give! I'd love to find a place to snooze in your window, on your bed, and even on your lap! The folks at Special Pals have been taking great care of me and I'm ready to go home neutered, up to date on shots, and microchipped. I'd love to show you my belly - come say hi!

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## SUDOKU

			2	4				
		2						
					7		1	
	5			2				6
		7		1				9
	3		8					2
7	4		3					
		1		6		8		
6		3			4		5	

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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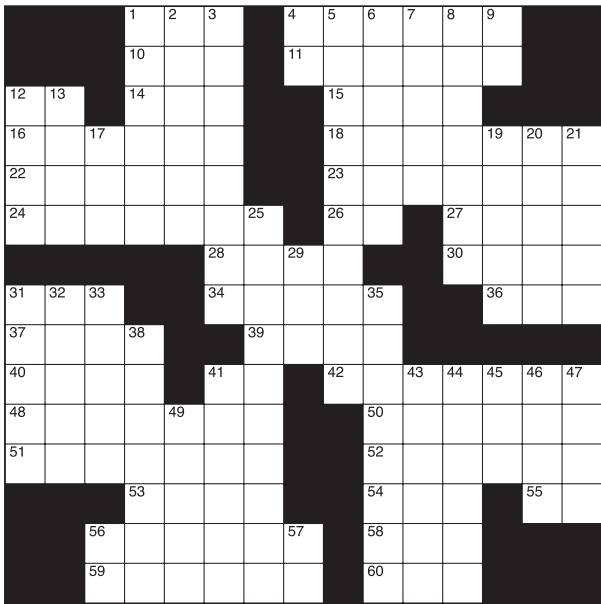
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

- Central processing unit
- Military action
- How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
- Unsafe
- Of (French)
- Autonomic nervous system
- Type of bean
- Accuse formally of a crime
- Promote
- Type of lava
- Meat from a deer
- Herbaceous plants
- Potato state
- Helsinki neighborhood
- Sports officials
- Shout wildly
- Reptile genus
- Frocks
- Born of
- N. Scandinavian indigenous people
- Poultry cage
- Aquatic insect genus
- Of I
- Ad \_\_: tirelessly repetitive
- Item
- Produce
- Seedless raisin
- Bond in a third party's control
- Legendary character — Finn
- Space station
- Note at the end of a letter
- In a way, contradicted
- Midway between northeast and east
- Bears important traffic
- Brooklyn hoopster



### CLUES DOWN

- Presides
- Artist's tool
- On a higher floor
- Commercial
- Something to watch
- Chased
- Commercial producers
- Keyboard instrument
- Blue grass state
- Phonograph recording
- Unusual
- Popular average
- A native or inhabitant of Asia
- N. Sweden river
- Related on the mother's side
- Mediator
- Partner of to
- Arm bones
- Korean seafood dish
- Tap of the foot
- Astronauts
- Carolina footballer
- Indiana city
- Of or relating to bears
- Not widely known
- Body part
- At the peak
- High-pitched cries of a cat
- A way to intimidate
- Prosecutor
- Atomic #66

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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# Three cheers for baseball

The 2020 Major League Baseball season is, in a manner of speaking, underway. Fans who can overlook the cardboard cutouts that have replaced them in stadium seats, or tolerate the piped-in music and masked players will be fine. Those who can't abide by the 60-game season's new guidelines will have to fend for themselves.

COVID-19 baseball has claimed many sports-related victims. Perhaps none will be more missed than the traditional presidential Opening Day pitch, a custom that dates back to 1910 when William Howard Taft tossed out the first pitch at the old Griffith Stadium for the Washington Senators' home debut.

Chief executives and first ladies have come and gone from the White House in the 110 years since Taft initiated the first-pitch custom. Some presidents, like Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman and Richard Nixon, were die-hard fans. Others, like Calvin Coolidge and Teddy Roosevelt, not so much. Roosevelt considered baseball "a mollycoddle game."

The most passionate White House baseball bug was Grace Anna Coolidge, Silent Cal's spouse. Cal could care less about baseball, and in 1924 was spotted trying to make a ninth inning exit during the crucial seventh World Series game between the Senators and the New York Giants with the score tied. Grace grabbed the president's coattails and jerked him back into his seat.

During her White House years, 1923-1929, Grace was a regular at Griffith Stadium and, when Coolidge was Massachusetts' governor, a fixture at Red Sox games. In the 1950s, Grace wrote to a friend: "I venture to say that not one of you cares a hoot about baseball, but to me it's my very life."

Her friends often wondered how Grace became such an avid fan. Some think that Grace turned to baseball to assuage her grief after the untimely 1924 sepsis death of her 16-year-old son, Calvin Jr. Others who had known Grace longer said that her baseball enthusiasm could be traced back to her college days at the University of Vermont when she was



the Catamounts' official score keeper.

Players and baseball writers acknowledged that Grace's scorecard was, in their word, "perfect" in every respect – a flawless technique, completeness in detail and legible handwriting. Grace took her scorecards back to the White House so she could treasure them during her advanced years.

Since the scorecard first appeared in 1845, the art of noting each play as the game unfolds has fallen out of vogue. Fans who want to resume the scorekeeping skills they developed earlier in their lives need only two tools. First, reject the flimsy, generally useless scorecard handed out at the gate before each game. Instead, buy a scorekeeper that has multiple pages, extra-wide lines, ample space for substitutions, rolling pitch counts and extra innings. If possible, find one with a heavy cover that can be easily and safely stored. Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin kept a detailed account of Brooklyn Dodgers' radio broadcast games so she could provide her father Michael with a pitch-by-pitch account when he returned home from work.

Second, buy a pencil that's worthy of the task. New York-based C.W. Pencil Enterprise has an affordable, pencil – about \$1.50 – specifically designed for scoring. Among the pencil's most practical features are its soft eraser and dark smudge-proof core. For a total investment of less than \$10, scorekeeper plus pencil, fans will be set for the season to, like Grace, keep a "perfect" scorecard.

But remember this cautionary note found inside the Baltimore Orioles program-scorecard: "Warning! Scoring a ballgame can be habit forming. Proceed at your own risk."

Joe Guzzardi is a Society for Baseball Research and an Internet Baseball Writers Association Member. Contact him at guzzjoe@yahoo.com.



## A less than stellar choice for president

When the Iran-Iraq war broke out in 1980, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger opined on the hostilities this way: "It's a pity they can't both lose."

With the presidential election less than four months off, a frustrated American electorate views it in the same fashion Kissinger viewed the war.

While President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden have both adopted a campaign strategy that can loosely be described as "Vote for me because I'm not him," voter enthusiasm has waned, replaced by a plaintive "is this the best we can do" plea.

The nation is faced with choosing between an incumbent president leading an increasingly dysfunctional White House and a challenger sequestered in his bunker/basement, straying out infrequently never more than one hundred miles or so from home.

Both campaigns have been defined by a lethal pandemic sweeping the nation, sickening some 3.6 million, proving fatal to nearly 150,000, sending unemployment levels to record highs, crashing the economy, destroying businesses and dramatically altering everyday life in America.

Trump's response to the most serious public health crisis in over a century has been less than compelling. He's casually dismissed the pandemic, predicted it would quickly fade, suggested a vaccine will soon be available, blamed governors for failing to control the spread of the virus and trafficked in bizarre conspiracy theories about its origins and who is responsible.

As the cruise ship slowly slips beneath the waves, Trump is standing on



the promenade deck bragging about his shuffleboard score.

While he praises his administration's record in dealing with crisis, two White House aides – neither of whom possess any background or expertise in public health – publicly trash Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the White House coronavirus task force.

In campaigns and government, one of the unbreakable rules is "Don't step on your own story." Translation: Deliver your message and say or do nothing to undercut it. Trump has repeatedly not only stepped on his own story, he's stomped on it with both feet until it's an unrecognizable mess and then sails the media for covering his actions as "fake news."

Meanwhile, Biden, safely cloistered (hiding, say his critics) at home, has ventured out in public in tightly controlled appearances, deeply sensitive to a propensity to misspeak or appear befuddled when his train of thought derails.

His campaign periodically issues position papers notable more for vague generalities and uplifting phraseology about the national utopia

that awaits a Biden presidency. His close advisors fret about the incoming fire from the far left, ultra-progressive wing of the Democratic Party while seeking common ground to either bring them aboard or, at the very least, mute their rhetoric.

His message? If not me, you get Trump. "Vote for me because I'm not him."

They worry, too, about the impact of the outbursts of violence and civil unrest in cities and towns across the country. They are very much aware of the need for Biden to thread the needle, mollifying the vocals on his left while turning aside Trump's accusations that he is anti-police and pro-anarchy.

He's embraced the strategy of conducting a near-stealth candidacy while watching from afar hoping Trump self-immolates.

While polling in June and July is a notoriously poor indicator of results in November – ask Hillary Clinton – Biden has compiled leads ranging from a margin of error four points to a total blowout of 15 points even though the level of enthusiasm remains a concern.

Underestimating Trump, however, is dangerous – again ask Hillary – but time is running out on the president.

Come November, Kissinger's hope from 1980 won't be fulfilled, and the American people will live with the result.

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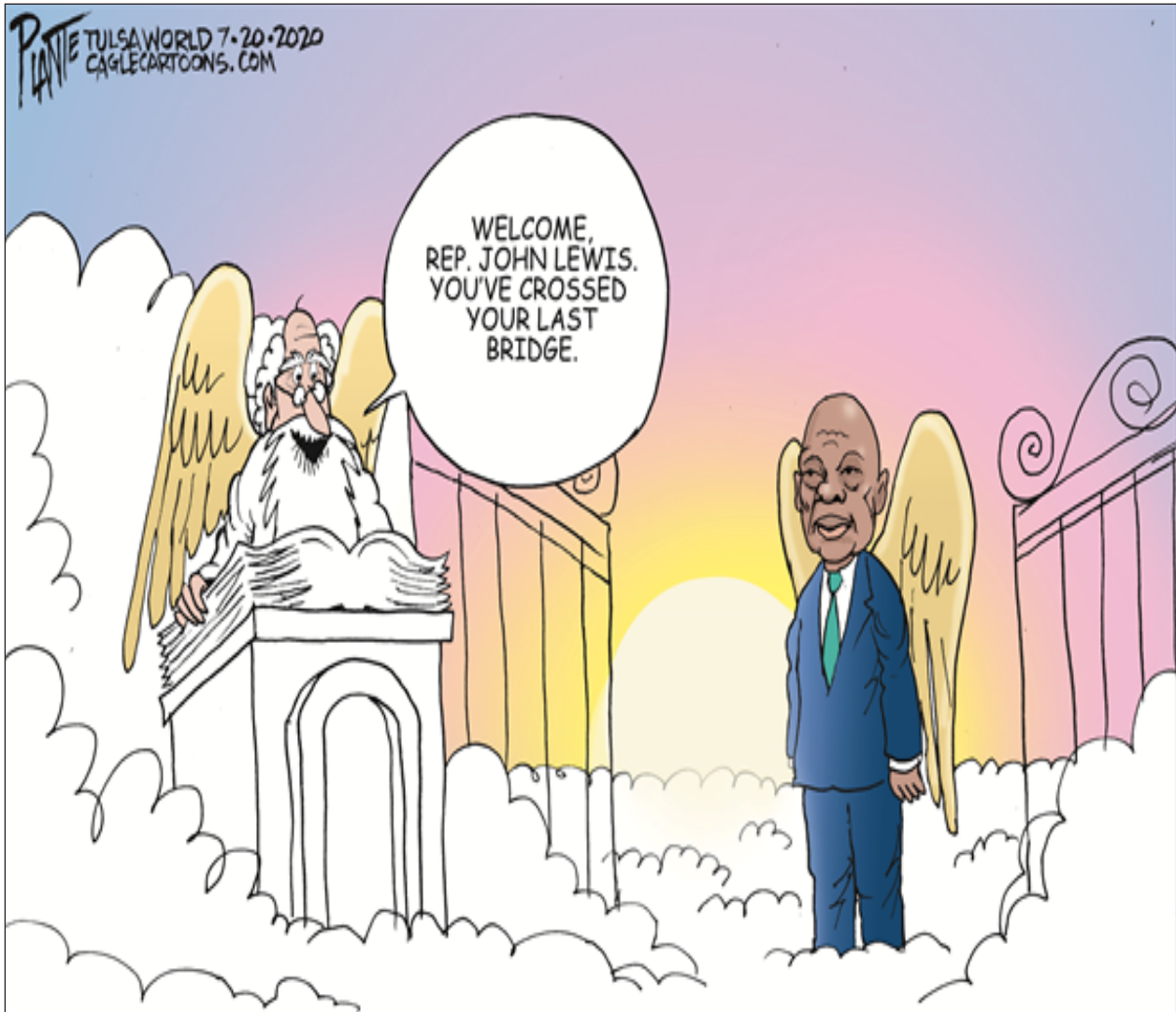
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## CORRECTION

Volume 108, Issue 30, Pg. 2, Restaurant story. Some references to the gulf coast and various dishes were printed incorrectly due to a transcription error. A corrected version of the story is available at www.katytimes.com.





KATYTIMES.COM

# Astros win season-opening series

By COLE McNANNA  
SPECIAL TO THE KATYTIMES

Despite losing their 15-game win streak over the Seattle Mariners on Sunday, the Houston Astros bounced back to take the final game of the series and open their season with a 3-1 record.

Michael Brantley and Martin Maldonado led the offensive onslaught that helped Houston outscore Seattle 29-16, driving in a combined 12 runs and scoring four runs themselves.

The starting pitchers from the first two games, Justin Verlander and Lance McCullers Jr., each completed six innings of work and struck out seven and six batters, respectively.

Toward the end of Sunday's game, it was reported that Verlander was going to be shut down for the season with an injury after complaining of forearm stiffness, but manager Dusty Baker led off the postgame press conference saying he's only out for two weeks.

"We know it's a forearm strain, he's being seen by the doctors so he'll be shut down for a couple of weeks and we'll see from there," Baker said Sunday. "It happened (Friday) early in the game, he said he felt fine, you saw he was throwing the ball great. Kind of a shock to all of us."

Verlander was placed on the 10-day injured list, retroactive to July 25, and the Astros recalled Nivaldo Rodriguez and selected Brandon Bielak to the Major League roster ahead of Monday's game.



Lance McCullers Jr. made his first pitching appearance since the 2018 postseason Saturday afternoon at Minute Maid Park and supplied six strikeouts over as many innings to help the Astros secure a 7-2 win.

JOE SOUTHERN

Bielak said his Monday started like any other in Corpus Christi but it ended up being the day his dream came true.

"Pitching coordinator Bill

Murphy FaceTimed me around 9:30, I was just getting up about to do my daily routine to go pitch live in Corpus," Bielak said after Monday's game. "I asked in the

group chat what the plan was for breakfast and Murph says, 'Would you mind helping out with breakfast this morning?' Then he said, 'Just kidding, pack

your bags. You're going to Houston."

His number was called out of the bullpen after starter Josh James finished just three innings of work and provided three and a third innings, allowing four hits and two runs, although only one was earned, while striking out four to earn his first Major League victory in his first try.

Four other relievers, as well as infielder Josh Taylor, made their Major League debut in the season-opening series: Brandon Bailey, Christian Javier, Blake Taylor and Enoli Paredes.

Baker feels as though the quick ramp-up to the season has affected some of the Astros' pitchers with Austin Pruitt, Jose Urquidy and Brad Peacock starting the season on the injured list only to have Ryan Pressly and Chris Devenski also get shut down earlier this week.

"A lot of the hitters are ready in about three weeks or so but pitchers need that extra time. They need that five or six weeks of spring training," Baker said Monday night. "This has been abbreviated and you see it all around baseball, it's everywhere. I'm just hoping we learn our lesson by this; couldn't be helped because of the coronavirus but I'm just hoping we don't see any more injuries around the league, especially on our team."

The Los Angeles Dodgers came in for a two-game set before Houston embarks on its first road trip of the season to Los Angeles, to play the Angels, Arizona and Oakland.



JOE SOUTHERN

Eastern Reyes del Tigre pitcher Aaron Blair delivers a pitch during the July 22 game against Team Skeeters at Constellation Field. The Skeeters won the game 8-0.

## Constellation Energy League gets into the thick of season

By JOE SOUTHERN  
SPECIAL TO THE KATYTIMES

Competition is beginning to heat up at Constellation Field where the four teams in the Constellation Energy League are hitting their groove with two full weeks of competition under their belts.

Only three games separate the Eastern Reyes del Tigre (5-2) from the Sugar Land Lightning Sloths (2-5) with Team Texas (3-3) and Team Skeeters (4-4) each at .500 in the middle.

On Tuesday, Team Texas got things rolling with a 12-0 rout of the Lightning Sloths behind a four RBI performance by Kacy Clemens.

The next night Chase De Jong struck out nine over five innings of work while DJ Peterson and Albert Cordero supplied the power with home runs as Team Skeeters took down Reyes del Tigre 8-0.

On Thursday it took a late rally by Eastern to take down the Lightning Sloths 4-3. Ford Proctor blasted a two-out go-ahead home run to win it for the Tiger Kings.

Three games were lost on Friday and Saturday to rain from Hurricane Hanna and will be made up on Wednesdays July 29 and Aug. 5.

In the first game of Sunday's double header, Casey Gillaspie belted a pair of dingers for Reyes del Tigre in an 11-0 win over Team Texas.

In the nightcap, Courtney Hawkins blasted a grand slam in the first inning to power Team Skeeters to a 5-0 victory over the Lightning Sloths.

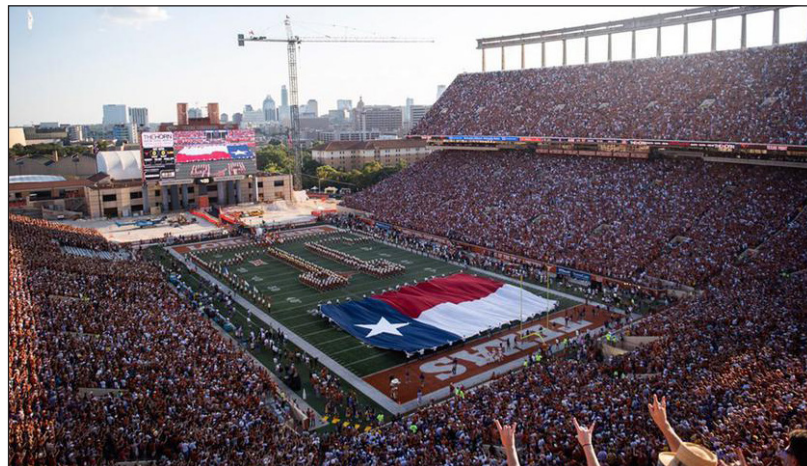
The games that were lost to rain will be made up Wednesday, July 29 at 7 p.m. with the Skeeters taking on Sugar Land in a nine-inning game. On Wednesday, Aug. 5, Texas will host Sugar Land at 11 a.m. for a seven-inning game, followed at 7 p.m. with a seven-inning game between Eastern and the Skeeters.

### Promotions

Each Thursday is Dogs Paws and Claws when fans can bring their dogs to Constellation Field. Fridays feature post-game fireworks. This Saturday and Sunday is Wizards and Wands weekend with a special scarf giveaway.

### Atlantic League news

The Atlantic League of Professional Baseball, where the Skeeters normally play, announced Tuesday it is expanding to the City of Gastonia, N.C., with a team ownership group led by Brandon Bellamy, CEO of Velocity Companies, Inc. Gastonia becomes the second Atlantic League location in North Carolina, joining High Point, where the Rockers began play in 2019.



EDDIE GASPAR/THE DAILY TEXAN

While both NCAA and Big 12 Conference officials have yet announce firm decisions on how college football will proceed as schools grapple with the pandemic, Texas athletics director Chris Del Conte sent an email Monday to season ticket holders announcing the season would move forward as planned.

## UT preparing to open its stadium at half capacity

By RAGA JUSTIN  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The University of Texas at Austin will kick off the football season Sept. 5, albeit with a stadium open at half its capacity, athletics officials told ticket holders on July 20.

While both NCAA and Big 12 Conference officials have yet to announce firm decisions on how college football will proceed as schools grapple with the pandemic, Texas athletics director Chris Del Conte sent an email on July 20 to season ticket holders announcing the season would move forward as planned.

"I want you to know that as we are working toward hosting football games this season, our number one priority remains the health and safety of our student-athletes, staff and fans," Del Conte wrote.

To align with capacity restrictions designated by Gov. Greg Abbott earlier this summer, Del Conte said seating at the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium will be reduced to 50% to facilitate social distancing, meaning around 50,000 Longhorns could potentially be seated in stands next fall.

The decision comes on the heels of an outbreak among student athletes shortly after they arrived on campus to begin voluntary summer workouts. The school also reported its first death, a staff member, earlier this month. There have been more than 500 COVID-19 cases at UT-Austin since March, according to the school's dashboard.

But officials have pushed forward with kicking off the football season as planned. The annual game between the Longhorns and Oklahoma Sooners occurs during the State Fair of Texas, which organizers canceled this year. Still, Del Conte said earlier this month that the game will be played.

Football conferences across the nation so far offered disparate responses to the pandemic. The Ivy League and several other conferences postponed their seasons tentatively to spring 2021, while the Big 12 and Southeastern Conference are expected to post clearer decisions by the end of the summer.

High school athletics also received firmer guidance on July 21 from the University Interscholastic League, which said smaller schools can begin practicing volleyball and football as early as Aug. 3. Bigger schools will have to wait longer, and face coverings will be mandatory for anyone not participating in a sport, the guidance said.

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## TRIBUTES

It is with deep sadness that we announce Timothy John Dore, 63, of Katy, Texas died peacefully in his sleep on July 13, 2020.

Timothy was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on December 24, 1956. He was the eldest son of Eileen Ann Dore' and Thomas Joseph Dore'.

Tim graduated from McDowell High School in 1974. He earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Gannon University in 1998 while working and raising a family. He started his career at Autoclave Engineers in Erie, Pennsylvania and made the move to Houston, Texas to continue his career with MAN Energy Solutions as the Head of Business Development Reactors and Apparatus. Tim was married on August 29th, 1992 to Andrea Michelle Eccles. He was an active member in his community serving as a Neighborhood Representative, was President of the Cinco Ranch Homeowner's Association, and most recently was elected to serve on the board for the Municipal Utility District No. 7.

Tim was a devoted husband and father and enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, and playing his guitars. His greatest joy was watching his children participate in their activities like motocross, cheerleading, and volleyball.

Tim was preceded in death by his father, Thomas, and his mother Eileen. He is survived by his wife Andrea, his children



**TIMOTHY JOHN DORE**  
1956-2020

Christopher and Dominique, his sister Mary Patrice (Rick), his brothers Thomas (Pamela) and David (Chauncey), his youngest sister Joan and his nieces and nephews, Aundrea, David, Gino, Patrick, Jonathan, and Katie.

A virtual service was held Saturday, July 25 at 11 a.m. Central Time via Zoom with Pastor Emmanuel Jackson of Living Word Lutheran Church presiding as officiant.

An in-person Celebration of Life will be held at a later date when it is safe to gather.

Memorial Donations in memory of Tim may be made to either of his favorite charities.

The Greater Houston Disability Chamber of Commerce: [www.ghdcc.org/donate](http://www.ghdcc.org/donate)

Journey Adventures: [www.journeyadventures.org](http://www.journeyadventures.org)

Ann Chapman passed away peacefully in her sleep July 23, 2020, at the young age of 96.

Ann is preceded in death by her loving husband, W. Norman Chapman, Jr., son, Warren N. Chapman, III, son in law, Michael Dailey, her parents, John and Agnes Vasek and 10 siblings.

She is survived by five children, John Chapman (Kim), Barry Chapman (Jenny), Betty Cooke (Alan), Suzie Robinson (Steve), Maggie Dailey, daughter in law, Joan Chapman and her brother, Louis Vasek. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Ann will be remembered as a sweet, loving, gentle soul. Always



**ANN CHAPMAN**  
1924-2020

the caregiver, she spent her lifetime in the service and care to her family and friends.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Catholic Church in Katy, TX and will be available virtually. Her ashes will be interred at Houston National Cemetery, at a later date, next to her beloved husband, Norman.

A special thanks to Sterling Oaks Nursing Home in Katy, Texas for the years of exceptional, loving care.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Bartholomew The Apostle Catholic Church, Katy, Texas.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1508 East Avenue in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

## Katy Veterans Affairs accepts food bag donations



Mike Diaz of the Katy Veterans Affairs Clinic accepts food bag donations from Patricia Byrne, President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 Auxiliary of Katy. Each bag was packed full of non-perishable foods such as cereal, canned goods, pasta, beans, tuna, peanut butter and jelly along with cases of water and gator aide for our veterans in need.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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This devotional page and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services. For more information, see our Church Directory Online at [www.katytimes.com](http://www.katytimes.com)

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Psalms 94:19

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they shall run and not  
be weary, they shall  
walk and not faint."

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3 Praise be to the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father  
of compassion and the God of all  
comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our troubles,  
so that we can comfort those in any  
trouble with the comfort we ourselves  
receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4



When the cares  
of my heart  
are many,  
your consolations  
cheer my soul.  
Psalms 94:19

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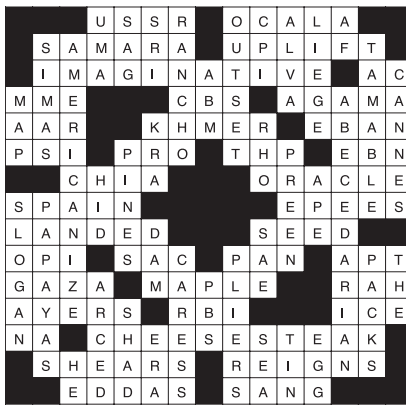
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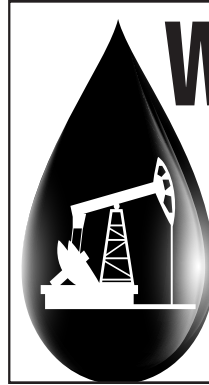
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7	3	4	1	9	6	5	8	2
8	1	6	5	2	3	9	4	7
9	5	2	4	8	7	1	3	6
2	8	3	6	4	5	7	9	1
1	6	9	8	7	2	3	5	4
4	7	5	9	3	1	6	2	8
5	4	8	7	6	9	2	1	3
6	2	1	3	5	4	8	7	9
3	9	7	2	1	8	4	6	5

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Katy anticipates the award of Disaster Recovery funding, in its project implementation of the City's Harris County allocation for Hurricane Disaster Recovery Contract No. D2017-074. This is part of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program of the Texas General Land Office (GLO), for 2017 federally declared disaster associated to Hurricane Harvey (DR-4332). Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified Professional Engineering Design Firm (individual/firm) to provide the following, but not limited to, services: 1) Preliminary & Final Design to include data collection, schematics, surveying, cost estimates; 2) Construction Bidding to include development of project manual, facilitation of competitive sealed bidding requirements per 2CFR 200.318-26, bid tabulation and recommendation of award; 3) Construction Management & Inspection services to include facilitating the notice of award and pre-construction conference, contract management associated to change orders and reporting, review of contractor invoices, field observation and inspections; 4) Contract Closeout services to include final project inspection and acceptance, submission of as-built/record drawings. These services are being solicited to assist the City in its project implementation of contract(s), if awarded, to support eligible activities in the City of Katy.

**Bid Submission:** Please submit three (3) copies of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the following address: City of Katy, ATTN: Anas Garfaoui, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493.

Proposals shall be received by the City no later than 2:00 PM on the August 6, 2020 to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject bids. Bidders will be required to furnish verifiable references with their bids/proposals. Bidders will be required to have a payment and performance bond.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal meeting will be held via zoom **1-888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 894 7933 8417** on **July 30, 2020 at 2:00 pm.** All questions must be submitted to [planning@cityofkaty.com](mailto:planning@cityofkaty.com) no later than August 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. A final addendum will be released no later than August 3, 2020.

This project will be federally funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department through the Texas General Land Office (GLO), and administered by the Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD). Bidders shall comply with regulations governing the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program (Regulation 24 CFR 570). Applicable requirements include but are not limited to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, Fair Labor Standards, and Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Katy is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



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# Fulshear updates plans at council meeting

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Fulshear City Council approved updates to the city's Parks and Pathways Master Plan and its Major Thoroughfare Plan during its July 21 meeting. The updates were made due to the city's rapid growth and city goals to improve walkability and drivability throughout its boundaries and demands of residents for improvement in those areas according to city documents.

The Parks and Pathways Master Plan identified six priority projects including Primrose Park, Fulshear Heritage Rail Park, renovations to Frances Smart Park, an 11.5-acre park along Bessie's Creek and the Pathway Master Plan which sets a goal of making Fulshear a more walkable community for pedestrians to traverse safely. These would help to meet the needs expressed by the city's stakeholders and residents of more pedestrian facilities, event spaces, sports facilities and bicycle

pathways according to the plan document. Some park plans could provide for additional drainage, fishing opportunities and opportunities for organized league sports, according to the parks plan. An update to the city's Major Thoroughfare Plan was also approved. The plan had last been set in 2015 and needed adjustment due to the city's growth, Fulshear's Director of Planning and Development Zach Goodlander said.

The plan, which is available on the city's website, was approved as presented with one exception. A collector road which would have extended diagonally across the Ginter tract near the city was set to terminate at the border of the Ginter property line. Fulshear City Council met in a special meeting July 28 to discuss the city's Coordinated Development Ordinance. The council's next regular meeting is Aug. 4.

## FAITH

from page 1

the safety of devotees and our staff and others, we reach our devotees on Facebook, Zoom, and use WhatsApp and email to communicate. All events are displayed through Facebook. On Auspicious day, we give appointments."

Many sites have implemented CDC guidelines to remain open such as wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and disinfecting surfaces. While the right to meet for worship is protected under the First Amendment, debate across the country over whether health guidelines can scale back religious gathering for safety has been sparked. On May 29, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of California Gov. Gavin Newsom's order which limited religious gathering to a 25% capacity or a maximum of 100 people.

"When we got to reopen at 25%, the joy that I experienced in people who did come back was so amazing. I mean you could see tears in their eyes after being away for a while," Father Dat Hoang from St. Faustina Catholic Church said.

In Texas, most places of worship have either reopened at a 25% capacity or have remained completely online for the time being. With the reduced ways in which communities can meet to practice their faith, many places have come up with remote activities and events to continue fostering a sense of community.

Hoang said his parish has been involved in weekly food drives with other churches as well as hosting



A Hindu couple prays while a monk reads at Sai Durga Shiva Vishnu Mandir. The floor of the temple, which usually has more followers during prayer times, is marked with blue painters tape to ensure worshippers can maintain a safe social distance from one another.

"Bedtime stories with Father Dat" on Tuesday nights via Facebook. He said remote services have allowed for more people to become involved with God or rediscover their faith.

"People were sending in pictures of how their family on the weekend gather around the TV. The TV now (has) become

a window through which God's light and grace shine through the homes," Hoang said. "So they gather around the TV to worship every Sunday for those who are not able to come back yet. And a number of people who haven't gone to mass before now."

The ever-changing orders and guidelines in place to limit the



St. Peter's volunteers after collecting donations for Hope Impacts, a Katy area nonprofit that provides support to people experiencing homelessness.

spread of the coronavirus has forced places of worship to quickly adapt as to not lose devotees and face economic hardship in some instances. Pat Sparks, lead pastor at St. Peter's United Methodist Church said the church has seen a 20% drop in their income compared to the same time last year, relying on online donations and mail-ins.

"I don't know whether to say, COVID-19 is the 20% drop or indirectly COVID-19 and by that I mean people who (have) either been furloughed or, income has dropped or now don't have a job," Sparks said. "All of those things that influence giving, I think is impacted."

Despite the changes in what is a constant in many people's lives, the feedback from attendees has been positive and understanding.

"We've gotten a really strong response. People understand that this is the best thing. Now to be clear, not everybody's on the same

page," Sparks said. "John Wesley who founded the Dallas Methodist Church said, 'Even though we don't all think alike, can we not all love alike.' And so, we've held on to that and the way we kind of express it is 'diverse in thought, united in mission.'"

At the moment, there is no set timeline for when things will return to normal. In the meantime, devotees have to make do with the changes in how they practice their faith.

"This pandemic has brought a kind of fear in the public mind and the fear to gather for religious events. We think after vaccination, slowly this may vanish. Keeping (devotees') health and safety in mind, most of the people may prefer virtual religious practice to keep their faith intact. However, this may change in the future because approaching god in person and practicing the religious act will give much more satisfaction than virtual practice," Gullapali said.

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## SCHOOL

from page 1

This will ensure your student has the same teacher on Aug. 19 as when in-person instruction resumes on Sept. 8," a statement from KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski said.

KISD parents have to decide between virtual or online schooling by Aug. 5. Gregorski said it is vital that parents complete a KVA commitment form to have their child participate in KVA. Children not enrolled in KVA do not need to complete the form and will be enrolled in their regular home campus.

Parents may elect to return their children to campus if they initially began through KVA, but only at the end of a grading period.

Parents with students new to KISD will decide on their students' modes of instruction, virtual or in-person, when enrolling their students through KISD's registration site.

Students who do not have a device or internet connection for online schooling will be accommodated through the issuance of a device, said Maria DiPetta, spokesperson for KISD.

"During the spring semester, Katy ISD distributed over 12,000 technology devices, which included laptops, tablets (Chromebooks), and hotspots. If a student will need a device to receive online instruction, there will be a process in place to request a technology device," DiPetta said.

State Representative Armando Walle (D - Houston) said at the press conference announcing the Harris County/Houston health order that he is working to get funding from the state's allotment of CARES Act funds to help families who cannot afford a device or internet service through state funding. Millions of dollars have already been spent to help facilitate education he said, but more may be needed as about 900,000 Houston-area children return to school this fall.

"Digital devices cost



Katy ISD and Royal ISD are both offering options for virtual and in-person schooling for the 2020-21 school year.

money and there's probably close to \$500-\$600 million dollars in need," Walle said.

Parents of **Royal ISD** students should prepare their children for a school start date of Aug. 26 with the first four weeks of education being held online for all students. However, an extended online learning option is available but parents must complete a form through the district's website in order to opt into the virtual learning option. A Royal ISD 2020-2021 School Commitment Form should be completed for each student in each Royal ISD family.

The form can be found at: <https://www.royal-isd.net/article/276482?org=royal-isd>

### Safety measures

When considering virtual or in-person classes for their children, parents concerned about safety regarding COVID-19 in schools will see several policies to protect students said KISD Spokesperson Maria DiPetta.

Frequent hand washing, wearing masks and social distancing when possible will be practiced at all campuses, DiPetta said. Masks will be required for students in fourth grade or higher and will be encouraged for all students. Additionally, desks will be spaced apart in each classroom, she said.

Once registration for school ends Aug. 5, the district will look at what adjustments to classroom sizes need to be made in order to protect student safety.

"For the classroom, a student will enter the classroom and will be provided hand sanitizer to disinfect their hands. Then they will be provided a disinfecting wipe to wipe down the top portion of their desk, the seat and any common areas. Five minutes prior to the end of class, the teacher will provide each student with another disinfecting wipe to once again wipe down their area, and hand sanitizer," DiPetta said.

During lunch periods, floor stickers and other accommodations will be in place to ensure students and staff can eat safely while keeping a safe distance from one another, DiPetta said.

"Katy ISD will also have outside areas where students can eat, while still practicing adequate spacing among their peers," she said.

For students who have a condition their parents say prevents them from wearing a mask, KISD's Health Services Department and COVID Incident Command Team will analyze the student's condition to determine a best practice for that student, DiPetta said.

The biggest concern remains what to do if a student or staff member has been infected with COVID-19.

"In the event a campus is impacted, parents and staff at the school will receive an email with an update. The Katy ISD Health Services Department along with the COVID Incident Command Team will determine if a partial or full closure is needed at a school, based on the current situation," DiPetta said.