

WORLD

HIAWATHA, KANSAS

Brown County's community newspaper

Established Sept. 1, 1908

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A FOURTH CELEBRATION



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JOEY MAY

Local residents sit along side the edge of Mission Lake in Horton on July 4 to watch the fireworks as they are set off along the dam.

Local communities light up the sky with pyrotechnics

By Joey May
Hiawatha World

The sky was lit up on July 3 and 4 as several local communities celebrated the Fourth of July with fireworks.

Hiawatha celebrated the night of Friday, July 3, with a fireworks celebration along Windmill Lane for the many local people who came

out for the event. Also Friday night were fireworks in Everest and Sabetha.

While the Fourth of July has always brought about a big celebration in Robinson that included a pancake breakfast, Nail Keg Derby, parade, ice cream social and fireworks, the Robinson Lions Club announced that this year's cele-

bration would be canceled due to COVID-19.

However, Horton went ahead with some of festivities that included a fishing derby, boat parade, live music and fireworks on Mission Lake. Highland and Bern were also local communities that had fireworks and other festivities on Saturday for the Fourth of July.

Brown County Commission urges use of masks

Officials urge public to use protective gear, but not mandated at this time

By Adam Clay
Hiawatha World

The Brown County Commission voted Monday to strongly suggest the use of masks in public, but officials decided not to mandate them this time.

The decision, which had been tabled a week prior, came after hearing from individual commissioners, as well as health-care professionals. County Health Director Chastity Schumann addressed the commission, which held the meeting via internet and a video feed on the courthouse lawn, and updated the group on cases in local counties, ending with a recommendation to strongly suggest the use of masks in public places.

Schumann noted that Nemaha, Jackson and Doniphan counties all went with recommendations on masks rather than mandates. Completed tests in Brown County now number 665, with 15 positive cases, no hospitalizations and 14 recovered. Schumann also stated that the newest case was the first since June 17, and that

the majority of positive COVID-19 positive tests have been work-related — some of which were at places where people were required to wear masks — and only one case was believed to have been related to a mass gathering of more than 50 people.

Hiawatha Community Hospital CEO John Broberg spoke to the commission as well advocating for the use of masks. Broberg said the Hiawatha Hospital has taken more than 900 calls and performed more than 500 tests. A resident of Johnson County, Broberg said that this weekend every business he went to now requires masks to enter and those businesses were still busy.

Commissioner Dwight Kruse noted that Brown County has been below the average of percentage of positive tests. Commissioner Richard Lehmkühl warned that any decision made Monday could be reversed at any time.

Commissioner Keith Olsen said he has gone back

Please see **Masks/Page A3**



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The Brown County Commission voted Monday to strongly suggest the use of masks in public, but officials decided not to mandate them this time.

County prepares for early voting, primary election

By Joey May
Hiawatha World

The Brown County Clerk's Office is preparing for early voting for the upcoming August primary election.

The county clerk's office reminds residents that all city positions are "non-partisan" — the candidate does not declare a party affiliation. This year there were not more than three filing in the same party for any of the open positions and so those do not require a primary election. All 2020 city positions will be voted on in November in the general election.

All other positions such as township and county — if they have at least two

in the same party that have filed — will be decided upon in the primary election, set for Aug. 4.



PLEASE SEE COUNTY SEAT CANDIDATE PROFILES ON PAGES A4 AND A5

Voter registration deadline is July 14. Anyone can register vote, but those who are currently registered as a Democrat or Republican who would like to change parties won't be able to do so until Sept. 1. Unaffiliated voters may affiliate up to and on Election Day and vote a regular ballot. First-time voters wishing to register to vote may do so until close of voter registration on July 14. After then, any voter wanting to register for the first time or change their party affiliation from Democrat or Republican to Democrat or Republican must vote a provisional ballot.

Commissioners discuss budget prior to publication

By Adam Clay
Hiawatha World

The Hiawatha City Commission met on Monday evening, and a key point of the discussion was the publication of the proposed 2021 budget.

Commissioner Becky Shamburg expressed her concerns about dropping the entire proposed 6 mills. Shamburg said that the city values department heads and felt that a 5-mill decrease would give them more room to work to keep performing at the level they do, noting that the extra mill would only cost the average property owner around \$13 for the year. Shamburg's opinion was opposed by Commissioner Toni Hull, who felt that a 6-mill de-

crease was promised to citizens when they voted in the quarter-cent recreation sales tax.

After discussion, the commission voted to send the proposed budget for publication and set a public hearing for the next regular meeting on July 20.

The commission voted to approve the consent agenda, which included payment to Crawford, Murphy and Tilley in the amount of \$1,190, a payment to Arvest Equipment Finance in the amount of \$32,266.65 and a payment to the State of Kansas in the amount of \$62,918.75. The group also voted to raise the hourly rate for records requests from \$18 to \$20 per hour.

