

WORLD

H I A W A T H A , K A N S A S

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Inside today

- Farmers Market set to start in JuneA3
- Legion announces Memorial Day plansA3
- Bravos baseball team coming to townA8



BY JOSEPHINE MAY

The Hiawatha Aquatic Park will reopen later than usual this year – no earlier than June 15 – due to the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Baccalaureate and graduation plans in the works for Hiawatha seniors

Graduation being postponed — Baccalaureate will be aired on KNZA

By Joey May
Hiawatha World

Baccalaureate services and graduation plans are in the works for Hiawatha seniors, but could have a different look.

Many out of school since the beginning of March, seniors all across the country have missed out on many traditional parts of their last few months of high school, including prom, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. School officials, community members and parents all across the nation are trying to make graduation happen — in some form or another.

That includes in Hiawatha. Superintendent of Schools Lonnie Moser said discussions have been happening concerning graduation services and just this week he and high school administrators participated in a Zoom conference with parents to get some opinions on what they and students want.

Moser said the general consensus is leaning toward postponing the traditional graduation until such a time that it's safe to do so and meets the state guidelines. Currently, under the governor's four-phase reopening plan, mass gatherings of that magnitude won't be allowed until the "phase-out" period beyond June 15. Phase 3 allows mass gatherings of up to 90 people — and graduation audiences bring in the hundreds.

Moser said school administrators had worked on a plan for a non-traditional graduation to be held that same date, where only students and families would be recognized — flowing through the gym as individual groups, without any audience. Once a student received a diploma, he/she would exit the gym with family so another student and family could proceed. Each would be photographed receiving a diploma, which could have come from a school official, or even

Please see **Seniors/Page A5**

Parks and Rec Director lays out tentative re-opening plan

By Adam Clay
Hiawatha World

The Hiawatha City Commission addressed summer recreation at Monday night's regular meeting.

Stacy Jasper, Hiawatha's Director of Parks and Recreation, spoke to the commission on Monday, and was approved to begin circulating the city's plan for opening recreation facilities and beginning summer programs. Jasper did warn that the plans are merely tentative and meant to give an outline, but that the fluidity of the situation has not changed and that alterations could happen at any time.

The first phase of re-opening is planned for May 19. Jasper said that at the point, the City plans to open parks, playgrounds, ball fields and batting cages to the public. That said, Jasper noted that the city

has no intention of allowing sports teams to begin practices at this time. Gatherings at this point should be held to 30 or less.

The next phase will begin on June 1. At this point, Jasper plans to open the Fisher Center to gatherings under the generally-allowed number of 50. Sports teams will also be allowed to begin practicing on this date should no further delays arise.

On June 15, Jasper hopes to allow games at Bruning and Noble Parks, and also to open the Hiawatha Aquatic Park.

Mayor Collins noted that the commission would like to wait until the next meeting to formally agree to the schedule, but ceded that allowing leagues and teams a preview of the schedule would be fine in order to allow them time to plan.



BY JOSEPHINE MAY

The Paul Rockey Field at Noble Park is still closed through May. Team practices can begin June 1 with games to begin no earlier than June 15, according to the HP&R guidelines currently in place. The Legion teams play here and this year the Bravos team will also play here.



BY JOSEPHINE MAY

Under the city recreation plan, parks and fields including Bruning Park will open June 1 for practices — but no games will be allowed prior to June 15.

City announces wastewater testing reveals COVID-19

City officials stress this DOES NOT affect drinking water

By Joey May
Hiawatha World

The City of Hiawatha issued a press release on Wednesday announcing that COVID-19 coronavirus was detected in the wastewater systems of Hiawatha.

This does not affect the drinking water, city officials say.

On April 24, the University of Kansas School of Engineering and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) collected samples from 12 wastewater plants, one of which was the City of Hiawatha's, to determine if the COVID-19 virus can be detected in the wastewater systems of local communi-

ties. "We have been informed the sample of influent wastewater (wastewater entering our sewer plant) tested positive for COVID-19," according to the press release from City Administrator Mike Nichols.

Please see **Water/Page A5**



BY JOEY MAY

The Brown County Commissioners met Monday morning and discussed what reopening the county would look like. Their meetings are being aired on Facebook in line with the governor's stay at home order. Seated around the table (l-r) Commissioners Keith Olsen, Dwight Kruse and Richard Lehmkuhl.

Brown County takes step to reopen county in accordance with governor's orders

By Joey May
Hiawatha World

The Brown County Commission met in a special session Friday morning and their regular session Monday morning to take steps in reopening the county in accordance with the governor's 4-phase plan she released last Thursday night.

According to the governor's plan, Phase 1 went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Monday and will last through May 18 and will allow the reopening of some non-essential businesses in accordance with social distancing guidelines

of keeping individuals 6 feet apart. Mass gatherings are still restricted, as are sports gatherings, graduations and more. In addition, due to the close in-person contact, salons won't be allowed to open until Phase 2, which begins March 18.

County Commissioners met with Chastity Schumann, Multi-County Health Department director and county health officer; Don Pounds, county emergency preparedness coordinator and Kevin Hill, county attorney via a

Please see **Reopen/Page A5**

Brown County sees first corona case

By Joey May
Hiawatha World

Brown County saw its first positive COVID-19 coronavirus case on Sunday, according to a press release from the NEK Multi-County Health Department.

According to the press release, issued Sunday evening, the individual is in isolation

and following the recommendations of health officials.

"The Brown County Health Department has begun to work on identifying contacts of the individual," according to the news release from Chastity Schumann, Brown County Health Officer. "We continue to recommend that

persons that have symptoms associated with a respiratory illness stay home and CALL your medical provider if your symptoms require medical attention and make sure you or your medical provider notify the Brown County Health Department if COVID 19

Please see **Case/Page A5**

