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News Release

Weather forces Fishing Derby cancellation, delay in pool opening

14th annual fishing derby to be held in 2020; pool to be reevaluated Tuesday

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (May 24, 2019) — Persistent rainy and stormy weather is playing havoc with scheduled Ark City Recreation Commission events, forcing the cancellation of one and delay of another.

Due to unsafe conditions at Veterans Memorial Lake, the 14th annual Sgt. Jerry Mills Jr. Fishing Derby that was scheduled for June 1 has been canceled. It will not be made up in 2019 because that was the only weekend that allows free fishing in the state of Kansas.

Flooding on the Arkansas River has caused lake levels to be dangerously high. Coupled with the ongoing construction of Lake View Estates and persisting road flooding issues on Sixth Street, the main access road to the lake, fishing derby organizers made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event.

"This was not an easy decision to make, but it was undoubtedly the right one for the safety of the kids," said ACRC Director Joe Krisik. "But we will be back next year, bigger and better than ever!"

Those who pre-registered for the fishing derby can collect a refund in the Ark City Rec Center office, located at 225 E. Fifth Ave., any time after Thursday, May 30, according to Krisik. The now-rescheduled 14th annual Sgt. Jerry Mills Jr. Fishing Derby will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 6, 2020.

The cool, rainy weather also is causing colder-than-normal temperatures in the pool water at Paris Park Pool, located at 600 W. Fifth Ave. As a result, the pool will not open Saturday as originally planned.

"Paris Park Pool will not open on Saturday, Sunday or Monday due to the low temperature of the water," said ACRC Aquatics Director Deb Davidson.

"Our main concern is for the health and safety of our citizens."

She said she will re-evaluate pool conditions on Tuesday and announce further plans at that time.

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For immediate release