



### UPCOMING DATES

**Courthouse Closed:**

**May 20, 2016**

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## Volunteerism

ARLINGTON, Va., March 1, 2016 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Meals on Wheels America today launches the 14th Annual March for Meals – a month-long celebration of Meals on Wheels designed to rally communities nationwide around the vulnerable seniors who rely on its vital safety net to remain healthier and independ-



ent in their own homes.

"More than ever, community organizations, businesses, all levels of government and concerned individuals must join forces to meet the needs of the fastest growing segment of the population in America," said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. "It not only makes economic sense to support the Meals on Wheels model that for decades has enabled seniors to stay more nourished, independent and safe at home, but it improves the health and vibrancy of our communities and our nation at large."

Meals on Wheels America created the

March for Meals as a way to commemorate the month in 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. Since 2002, the March for Meals has grown into a full

-scale awareness, fundraising and volunteer recruitment campaign involving and supporting the network of local Meals on Wheels programs.

My thought is, this is a priority not only for Meals on Wheels, but for all community programs states Mary Adams. Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is always looking for volunteers to help with many programs for people of all ages that are in need such as someone in poverty, someone needing a safe place to stay, home bound seniors and the disabled. Most other non-profit organizations rely on volunteers.

RSVP encourages everyone

from the young to the 55 and better to do what they can to



help the community in any way possible. Non-profit organizations rely on financial support and personal support. Sometimes these organizations do not have the personal support. Take the time to think about all the non-profits and what the possibility is that these may not be around helping the community... You never know what is going to happen in the future; you may need help at some point in time; so volunteer now when you are able, share your knowledge, be on a non-profit board or be a mentor to the young. Please contact Mary Adams at madams@harveycounty.com for more information.



## The Strange Tale of Frances Anderson: Champion Pool Player

Kristine Schmucker, Harvey County Historical Museum

Billiards or pool has a long, rich history. Played by people of all social levels, billiards evolved from the outdoor lawn game, croquet. Shakespeare mentioned the game in his play Anthony and Cleopatra. Standardized rules of play were first printed in the mid-1600s. In 19th century America, the word "Pool" referred to a collective bet or ante in betting parlors for horse racing. Billiard tables were installed in the parlors so patrons could pass the time between races. The more unsavory connotations of the "poolroom" came from the betting that took place, not the game itself. By the 1920s, the poolroom had become a place where men gathered to loiter, smoke, fight and play, adding to the game's reputation.

In the mid-1890s, a challenge was issued to the status quo by Frances Anderson. She declared herself "the champion woman billiard player" and offered \$5,000 to any woman that could beat her. Anderson was undefeated for the next 25 years, also beating many of the men that played against her. During the early 1920s, she toured North America and Europe, giving exhibitions and beating challengers. Shortly before her death, Anderson gave an exhibition at the Smoke House Billiard Hall in Newton, Ks.

For all of her notoriety as a pool player, Anderson's personal life remained a mystery. As she got older, it became more difficult to compete. Her eyesight began to fail. Years spent in dark, smoky rooms had taken a toll on her health. By the time she was in her late fifties, Anderson was no longer "pretty" and no longer in demand. "Swede" Wilson, proprietor of Swede's Pool Hall and one of the last people to talk with Frances, later noted that "she wore a wig and spoke with some



Frances Anderson  
Playing pool

effort with a gruff voice." Despondent, Anderson brutally took her own life in a hotel room in Sapulpa, OK on March 29, 1928. Crumpled in one of the women's stockings in the room was a note which said, "Do what you will with my body, but don't let the world know my secret." At the mortuary, the secret that Frances wanted hidden from the world was discovered - Frances was a man. The story made headlines in Oklahoma and Kansas. Surprised by the discovery, Swede Wilson commented to the Higbee News that Anderson "did not handle the pool cue like a man . . . No one suspected the masquerade." The Higbee News concluded with: "Who the man really was, where he came from or the cause of his masquerading as a woman, is a complete mystery."

The sensational story might have ended there except for one woman. In Newton, Kansas, Amy Belle May, (Mrs. Will D. May), read the shocking newspaper reports describing the life and d

death of Frances Anderson. Something about the story made her pay attention. Her brother, Orin "Orie" Franklin Anderson, had been estranged from the family for nearly 30 years. After a disagreement regarding his "gaming", Orie, age 15, told his family that "he would go away, that they would not hear of him again and would not even know when or where he died." Over the years, Amy May had received one or two letters. The last correspondence from her brother was a postcard dated fifteen years before. She determined to travel to Sapulpa, OK, to see if she could identify the body. Based on the handwriting on postcard and letters in her possession, and her positive identification of the body, it was determined that "Frances Anderson" was indeed her brother Orie. The body was turned over to her and shipped to Sprinkler Mortuary in Newton, Ks. Once in Newton, "several who saw him at the mortuary declared without hesitation that they are convinced that the person who has posed as Frances Anderson is none other than Orie. His peculiarly shaped nose is unmistakable, his high cheek bones, high forehead, the effeminate size and shape of his hands, his size, apparent age, his hand-writing, the name he adopted, the calling he was in - every detail is absolutely convincing and positive in the identification." The Newton Evening Kansan-Republican also noted that many now recalled that during the exhibition six weeks ago "his conduct . . . was exactly like that of Orie Anderson. He was nervous, quick, silent, but he still showed his old time skill. [Anderson] stated that he had been traveling about the country giving exhibitions for many years, and no one who saw him disguised as a woman here had the least thought but what he was what he posed to be."

*"Who the man really was, where he came from or the cause of his masquerading as a woman, is a complete mystery."*

# Tornado Safety

There is no such thing as guaranteed safety inside a tornado. Freak accidents happen; and the most violent tornadoes can level and blow away almost any house and its occupants. Extremely violent EF5 tornadoes are very rare, though. Most tornadoes are actually much weaker and can be survived using these safety ideas...

Prevention and practice before the storm: At home, have a family tornado plan in place, based on the kind of dwelling you live in and the safety tips below. Know where you can take shelter in a matter of seconds, and practice a family tornado drill at least once a year. Have a pre-determined place to meet after a disaster. Flying debris is the greatest danger in tornadoes; so store protective coverings (e.g., mattress, sleeping bags, thick blankets, etc) in or next to your shelter space, ready to use on a few seconds' notice. Turn on local TV, radio or NOAA Weather Radio and stay alert for warnings. Forget about the old notion of opening windows to equalize pressure; the tornado will blast open the windows for you!

Know the signs of a tornado: Weather forecasting science is not perfect and some tornadoes do occur without a tornado warning. There is no substitute for staying alert to the sky. Besides an obviously visible tornado, here are some things to look and listen for: Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base. Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base -- tornadoes sometimes have no funnel! Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift. Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen. Day or night - Loud, continuous roar or rumble, which doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder.

WHAT TO DO...

In a house with a basement: Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some kind of sturdy protection (heavy table or work bench), or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag. Know where very heavy objects rest on the floor above (pianos, refrigerators, waterbeds, etc.) and do not go under them. They may fall down through a weakened



floor and crush you.

In a house with no basement : Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, small center room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down; and cover your head with your hands. A bath tub may offer a shell of partial protection. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.), to protect against falling debris in case the roof and ceiling fail.

In a mobile home: Get out! Even if your home is tied down, it is not as safe as an underground shelter or permanent, sturdy building. Go to one of those shelters, or to a nearby permanent structure, using your tornado evacuation plan. Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile homes; and it is best not to play the low odds that yours will make it. This mobile-home safety video from the State of Missouri may be useful in developing your plan.

In a car or truck: Vehicles are extremely risky in a tornado. There is no safe option when caught in a tornado in a car, just slightly less-dangerous ones. If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Seek shelter in a sturdy building, or underground if possible. If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the car as quickly and safely as possible -- out of the traffic lanes. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your

head with your hands. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

In the open outdoors: If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can; they may be blown onto you in a tornado.

## AFTER THE TORNADO...

Keep your family together and wait for emergency personnel to arrive. Carefully render aid to those who are injured. Stay away from power lines and puddles with wires in them; they may still be carrying electricity! Watch your step to avoid broken glass, nails, and other sharp objects. Stay out of any heavily damaged houses or buildings; they could collapse at any time. Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby. Remain calm and alert, and listen for information and instructions from emergency crews or local officials.

## April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Commission Meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Courthouse Closed	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Commission Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Commission Meeting	26	27	28	29	30

## May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Commission Meeting	3	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9 Commission Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Commission Meeting	17	18	19	20	21 Armed Forces Day
22	23 Commission Meeting	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Courthouse Closed Memorial Day	31				

## June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Commission Meeting	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Commission Meeting	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 Commission Meeting Summer begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Commission Meeting	28	29	30		