



Harvey County News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2014

UPCOMING DATES

Courthouse

Closed:

Jan. 1

Jan. 20

Feb. 17

Health Dept.

Breastfeeding

Class:

1st Mon.—4 p.m.

3rd Mon.—11 a.m.

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New year greetings

By Commissioner Chip Westfall

The new year is here and as we look ahead, there are new challenges ahead for the county.

New challenges mean something new is going to occur or the way we used to do something changes. Yes, most of the time this usually means that something is changing the way we conduct our routine business.

One of the changes is the Personal and Family Protection Act as passed by the Kansas Legislature last year. It will allow employees and visitors to the courthouse who have a conceal carry permit to do so. Another change will be at the DMV counter.

The Treasurer's office will start

processing the new commercial vehicle registration applications. There are other minor policy and procedure changes going into effect next year. Some changes are good, some are challenging to accept. We all know that when we start a new job it will not be the same when we finish our careers.

As a whole we have completed another year of county business in good shape. Our final budget numbers are not set in stone but as a whole the county has finished the year in good financial condition.

Several new businesses have announced that they will locate in

the county. Our biggest employer, AGCO, invested a great deal in designing and building their new paint facility here which will keep the company growing and better able to serve the agriculture community.

We have added several new employees and we welcome them. We also said goodbye to several who have retired after many years with Harvey County and we wish them well.

The New Year will bring more change and challenges. As I pass the chairmanship of the commission onto Commissioner Krehbiel I expect more exciting things to happen.

Harvey County Parks

Each new year brings with it changes and adjustments. Some of those changes are happening in the Harvey County Parks Department in 2014.

Harvey County welcomed Kim Rowley as the new parks director in December. Before relocating to Harvey County, Rowley worked for an Iowa county parks system. As the director, Rowley's main goal will be to remind citizens about the three beautiful parks that are located in the county.

"There is a lake to ski on, a variety of fishing areas and plenty of areas to camp right here in Harvey County," Rowley said. "It's amazing what we have right in our own back yard."



Rowley will oversee all three Harvey County parks; West Park, East Park and Camp Hawk. Four additional rangers make up the parks staff; Kass Miller, Lloyd Stoddard, Stuart Scott and Carol Dilts.

All Harvey County Parks staff are now located at East Park. The park office address is 314 N. East Lake Road in Newton and the main office phone is 316-283-5420.

"By having all of the staff working out of one main park it is much easier to coordinate work project schedules," she said.

Be sure to "like" Harvey County Parks on Facebook and to check out the website at harveycounty.com.

Harvey County Job Opening

Detention Deputy

Full-time position
Minimum Qualifications:
High School Diploma or GED
No felony criminal record
Ability to deal firmly, but effectively, and supervise prisoners.
Ability to work with staff and handle public with tact and courtesy.

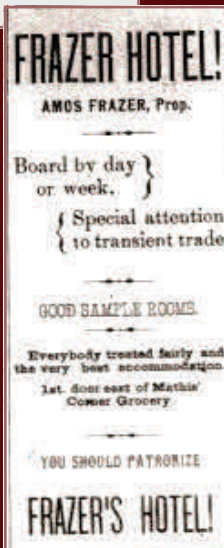
Apply online at:
www.HRePartners.com.
Position closes Jan. 10.

A lamentable affair

Kristine Schmucker, Harvey County Historical Museum



Commercial Hotel



The Harvey County community of Sedgwick has many interesting moments in their history, including an 1897 dispute between two hotel owners that almost cost one man his life and resulted in a trial that caught the attention of the entire county.

Born in Indiana, Amos Frazer opened a hotel in Sedgwick in the mid-1890s. The hotel was located “the first door east of Mathis’ Corner Grocery” and had formerly been known as the McClung Hotel. The Frazer family consisted of Amos, his wife Mary J. and daughter, Bessie. His ads in the *Sedgwick Pantagraph* boast of “bright, clean rooms, the only hotel in town, good meals, and special attention to the transient trade.” Frazer had the habit of meeting the train when it stopped in Sedgwick and walking people to his hotel.

At some point in early 1896, the Frazer Hotel became the Commercial Hotel with Charles Dickerson as the proprietor. Dickerson was a well-known businessman in Wichita. He was well-liked and arrived in Sedgwick with a wife and 16-year-old son to operate the hotel. At some point Frazer opened a second hotel 50 feet away from the Commercial Hotel on Main Street. The two hotels were separated by a small barber shop. Why Frazer sold his first hotel to Dickerson and then established an-

other one a short distance away remains unanswered. Throughout 1896 and 1897 tensions continued to rise between the two men.

One March morning, both men met the Gulf Train from Kansas City at 6:20 a.m. According to the *Sedgwick Pantagraph* two passengers got off the train and both hotel owners met the passengers. The *Newton Kansan* recounts what happened next: “After the usual boisterous soliciting by the two hotel men, the travelers went away with Frazer to his house. A quarrel started with this, and on the way to the hotel the men exchanged words, with the final result of Frazer’s pulling a .38 and shooting Dickerson.” Five shots were fired and Dickerson was hit twice — one striking him “two inches above the heart and the other in the arm.” The reporter expected Dickerson to die of the injury. Frazer was unhurt and was taken to jail in Newton. The *Wichita Eagle* summarized the events of the morning by noting that “Sedgwick City has not been so wrought up for years, and business there yesterday was suspended on account of the excitement following the conflict.”

The *Newton Kansan* reported that “Frazer has the reputation of having an ungovernable temper — a bad man when riled.” *The Kansan* also reported that Frazer had actually chased Dickerson into his house that morning “determined to deliver a fatal shot, although Mrs. Dickerson was present and very heroically shielding her husband from danger.” Frazer defended his actions telling *Kansan* reporters that “in the heat of the quarrel Dickerson felt around his hip pocket and he [Frazer] thinking his life was in danger, shot in self defense.”

Dickerson did not die at that

time. Once he was able to speak, he reported that the shooting was all done in front of his hotel and that “two or three shots were fired in quick succession while he was attempting to pass through his hotel door.” As a result of the early morning shooting, Frazer faced charges of “assault with the intent to kill.”

During the two-day trial, witnesses for both men described a strained relationship which had started in June 1896. Each tried to discredit the other man’s establishment.

Dr. C.E. Johnson recalled a time when he was eating dinner at Frazer’s Hotel when Dickerson “had solicited him and accused Frazer’s place of being a dirty hole.” One friend of Dickerson was heard to say “that Frazer ought to be hung and he would like to be the man to tie the knot.”

Frazer took the stand and *The Newton Kansan* dramatically reported his testimony. “The guest had gone into the hotel office and that he and Dickerson had remained outside, Frazer shutting the office door, the counsel asked dramatically, “Why didn’t you go in and take care of your guest, instead of remaining on the outside with the man you claim to be afraid of?” Frazer was almost trapped and trembled perceptibly. After a pause, he answered: “I had a right to be on the sidewalk.” Frazer continued and “admitted that he did not see Dickerson have a weapon, or aim a weapon at any point in the affair.” The trial lasted two days and was given to the jury on Tuesday night. Wednesday morning the verdict came back “guilty of assault with attempt to com-

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RSVP allows for community growth

Dawn Warrington, RSVP Director

The mission of Harvey County Department on Aging is an information and referral site for the aging population. As part of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's (RSVP) sponsor agency, RSVP has access to the community resources available through the Department on Aging. Harvey County RSVP is "to provide a variety of opportunities for persons age 55 and over to participate fully in the life of their community through volunteer service." The program receives funding from three main sources within the community — county and federal government as well as United Way. This funding is used to help place volunteers at non-profit agencies, saving non-profits more than \$425,000 in labor and associated costs in 2011 with 57,500 hours.

RSVP volunteers participate in community events, such as the annual United Way Chili Cook-off. Volunteers will also be asked to represent RSVP at events like the Community In Schools Fair. RSVP volunteers also participate in community activities through breakfasts, health fairs, programs, game tournaments, wellness programs, entertainment, parades and special events. Harvey County RSVP has approximately 400 volunteers.

The service categories our RSVP participates in are community-based volunteer programs, community and economic development, education, food security, companionship and outreach, and public health. Harvey

County RSVP assists in a number of community needs. Education and schools are an essential aspect of every community. Through our relationship with Communities in Schools and the Foster Grandparent Program, we will utilize volunteer support to provide educational assistance.



RSVP volunteers work diligently at Newton Et Cetera Shop.

The economic downturn has created stress on many Harvey County non-profit organizations. Nonprofits are turning to volunteers to extend their effectiveness by serving in a variety of functions. Harvey County RSVP will provide volunteer support for non-profits to ensure that they can operate efficiently and effectively.

Some Harvey County seniors are at risk of losing their independence. Home-bound seniors also face difficult challenges in maintaining nutritional health. RSVP volunteers will serve at nutrition sites such as Meals on Wheels, Prairie Land Foods, the Good Neighbor Nutrition Program and Store 2 Door, making it possible for more seniors to benefit from hot

meals, groceries and fresh produce. Companionship and socialization are additional factors which contribute to the well-being of seniors, making it more likely that seniors are able to maintain their independence. RSVP volunteers will prevent social isolation and loss of meaning by providing friendly visitation and companionship.

Harvey County RSVP enhances the capacity of community organizations by not only offering them volunteer assistance, but also covering those volunteers with volunteer insurance. Many of the nonprofits of Harvey County would be unable to offer that insurance coverage to volunteers. By providing that service, RSVP helps to remove a barrier to volunteering. Volunteers in the RSVP program are matched with jobs that reflect their interests. Each new volunteer is asked where their passion lies, and an attempt is made to find a placement for them based on that interest. In order to ensure a high quality experience for volunteers, RSVP places them in areas they will enjoy, and requires that each station trains the volunteers to give them the knowledge and skills they need to perform their task well. The program also will make follow-up contact with volunteers to ensure they are having a good experience with their placement.

For more information on how you can become involved, contact Dawn in the Department on Aging at 316-284-6881.

“Nonprofits are turning to volunteers to extend their effectiveness by serving in a variety of functions.”

A lamentable affair

Continued from page 2

mit manslaughter.” Frazer faced up to five years of hard labor or more than six months in the county jail.

It could not be determined if Frazer served time for the shooting or not. The 1900 Census indicates that Amos Frazer was living in Newton, however, by 1910 he was back in Sedgwick. He died in 1934 at the age of 87.

Charles Dickerson apparently moved on, perhaps back to Wichita.

A brief note in the personal section of the *Sedgwick Pantagraph* notes that “Charles Dickerson will sell his household goods at a public auction at his residence on North Commercial today.” No further information could be found on Charles Dickerson.

Perhaps the *Sedgwick Pantagraph* said it best: “And so ends the last chapter of this lamentable affair in which all parties have doubtless been

at fault, and all parties concerned have likewise suffered much. Let this case stand as a warning to all who may be concerned in annoying business complications or petty jealous rivalry. When the hot blood of passion mounts...beware, for the end is not there and the wake of thoughtless action often come the deepest sorrow.”

January

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 Courthouse Closed | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 4 p.m. | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Commission Meeting | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Courthouse Closed | 21 Commission Meeting | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Commission Meeting | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

February

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|--------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 4 p.m. | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Commission Meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Courthouse Closed | 18 Commission Meeting | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 Commission Meeting | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

March

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 4 p.m. | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Commission Meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 11 a.m. | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23/30 | 24/31 Commission Meeting | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |