



IN NEW ORLEANS, Lewis Crayton (above right) of Morland and Judge John Cahoj of Hoxie worked on a house damaged in Hurricane Katrina. Houses like this one (below) were damaged in the storm, but still are standing.

Men do mission work

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Trees still without vegetation, buildings you could look all the way through, standing water, trash and a community filled with hope, hope for life to return to normal.

In 2001, St. Bernard's Parish, or county, in Louisiana was hit by Hurricane Katrina. The water came in 250 miles inland in the state when the levees broke in the storm.

At the end of February, 14 men from northwest Kansas traveled to Louisiana to be part of Operation Blessing, run by the 700 Club, a Christian organization.

The men — Pastor Dan Rohm, Brian Elliott, Judge John Cahoj and Ed Conrad of Hoxie, Lewis Crayton of Morland, Barney Lee of Gem, Dee Elliott, Darren Howard, Lee Mellott, Joel Sowers, Everett Robert and Shane Breese of Colby and Tim Davis of Oberlin — drove straight through, leaving on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Pastor Rohm, with the Living Word Fellowship in Hoxie, said he learned about Operation Blessing because a classmate from Brownsville Revival School of Ministry, Jody Herrington, was in charge of the project.

Pastor Rohm said the men decided to take a mission trip to Louisiana because the devastation in the area was so great.

In the last two years, he said, the Hoxie church has sponsored missions to Africa and the Philippines. All of the trips, said Pastor Rohm, are open to anyone who wants to volunteer.

After a 23 1/2-hour drive, packed into one van, the men arrived in Louisiana and started with a video about the hurricane and the damage. They also got a chance to drive around and see things first hand.

"It was surreal," Mr. Davis said. "It just looked like a war zone down there."

The first thing Operation Blessing did was help put blue tarps over the leaky roofs in New Orleans, he said. Driving over the bridge on the tour, said Mr. Davis, you could see blue tarps everywhere.

On the second day, the team headed to a boxing arena called Edward A. Kattengell Center for the first time. The arena meant a lot to



the community, said Mr. Davis. On the doors someone had spray painted, "We will box again."

The team's job was to tear everything out of the gym so it could be built back up. They had to wear respirators because of the mold infestation, said Mr. Davis.

Everett Roberts, another team member, spent time each day writing about what the team had experienced.

After the third day in New Orleans, Mr. Roberts wrote, "It was more ripping and tearing today."

The gym, he said, was not only damaged by the storm, but now when it rains, the roof leaks, getting the wood near the roof wet, not just the tiles. That meant ladders and scaffolds for the crew.

"Work was hard," said Mr. Roberts. "I know I've said that a lot, but I can't think of any other way to say it."

Mr. Roberts said he compared the work, tearing out walls and 2x4s, at the boxing gym to what Christians should do in their lives.

There are walls of division between churches, said Mr. Roberts, between different races and different religions.

"But this isn't what Jesus wants from us," he said. "He wants us to walk in unity and in love. He prayed that we would be one as He and the Father are one and He told us that the world would know we are His by our love."

Love, said Pastor Rohm, is one of the reasons people should go on mission trips. These trips, he said, are an outpouring of the love of God in each person's life.

On the third day, while most of the team worked at the gym, Mr. Crayton and Mr. Davis went to Estell's house. She had a two-story

house, said Mr. Davis, unlike most of her neighbors.

Estell has been so touched by the help pouring in, she said, that she wants to make the main level of her home a living quarters for missionaries and she will live upstairs.

As the only two trained, skilled craftsmen on the trip, the two worked on her sewer and electrical lines.

The fourth and fifth days, some of the team went to help Charlie, since a tree had fallen through the center of his home. The three men redid the roof and the electrical system, built a deck, installed drywall and worked on the plumbing.

The rest of the team worked on the gym for those two days, continuing to tear out walls, bleachers and other items damaged by the waters of Katrina.

Day five was the last working day, so the team handed off the keys to the gym to the next group, said Mr. Davis. It was amazing, he said; Operation Blessing got teams in all week long from all over the country.

The final day in Louisiana, the group got to see the sights, including Bourbon Street and Canal Street in New Orleans, a swamp tour and St. Joseph's Cathedral, said to be the oldest standing original church in the United States. Mr. Davis said the doors to the cathedral never close.

After the chance to look around, it was time to pile back in the van and head home.

Many of the men would like to go back to New Orleans to work on Operation Blessing, said Pastor Rohm, but they haven't made any plans yet.

The parish in which Operation Blessing is stationed, he said, was devastated beyond comprehension in every direction.

the gazebo in Centennial Park downtown.

• Heard Mayor Stanley thank the city crew for cleaning up the downed tree limbs around town. He noted that homeowners who have started another pile in their yard shouldn't expect the city to pick them up.

• Read proclamations making Arbor Day Friday, April 27, and declaring April as fair housing month.

• Talked about the repairs to the bricks around the memorial wall at

District will get new math books

The Oberlin School Board approved purchase of new math and vocational technology textbooks for the grade school and high school for \$35,000 at the monthly meeting last Monday.

Fourth-grade teacher Steve Cullen presented the math books while high school teacher Candy Dejmal presented the choices for accounting and vocational technology.

Mrs. Dejmal said it doesn't matter when the curriculum schedule says the classes like accounting and keyboarding should get new books, but when new state standards come out. She said the district can only be a year behind on texts and software when the standards change.

Right now, Mrs. Dejmal added, she's two versions behind.

With the accounting text, she said, she's been waiting for a version to come out that includes software that's in use today. Mrs. Dejmal said she found a book that covers both Quick Books and Peachtree, the most common systems today.

So far, she said, no one has signed up take Accounting II next year because all of the Accounting I students this year are seniors.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said Mrs. Dejmal does a wonderful job. Mr. Cullen said he contacted dealers and had the teachers review all

of the books and pick what they want. Some of the books come with Kansas prep booklets that have questions similar to the ones in the state evaluation tests, he said.

For the high school, said Mr. Cullen, the trigonometry book costs over \$100 and the statistics book about \$85 a piece.

The calculus book is the same one used at Colby Community College, which is part of the reason the district uses it, he said.

He said he knows it looks like a lot of money, but several books need to be ordered.

The board approved the purchase, including kindergarten books from Sadler/Oxford for \$1,300 for the first grade, \$2,200 for second grade, \$2,200 and third grade for \$3,000, and fourth grade for \$2,900, fifth grade for \$3,200 and sixth grade from Scott Foresman for \$3,200. At the high school, the two orders were from Holt for \$13,000 and Addison Wesley for \$4,000.

The total was \$35,000.

Mr. Cullen said Principal Duane Dorschhorst does a great job wrangling with text book companies.

Math books, said Mr. Glodt, aren't ever going to be cheap, but the purchase is under the budgeted amount.

Chamber board looks for manager

The Decatur County Chamber of Commerce office will remain open with board members and an interim manager filing in until a new manager is hired.

Glenna Nichols reassigned as chamber manager at the beginning of the month. Since then, the board has filled in at the office in the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center on Main Street.

President Marilyn Horn said the board hired Tamara Sporn as interim manager to work in the afternoons at the office. Mrs. Sporn is the secretary at the United Methodist Church in the mornings. Board

members will fill in the morning hours to keep the office open. Mrs. Horn said Joyce Hartzog will also help, working some hours in the office.

Mrs. Horn said the board is looking for a full-time manager and has started advertising the job. They are taking applications, she said, but the board wants to take its time hiring.

The Chamber plans to continue all its regular activities, including the secretary's day luncheon at The Gateway next Wednesday. All reservations for the event need to be turned into the Chamber office by Friday. Call 475-3441.

PUBLIC AUCTION Sat., April 28, 2007 • 10 a.m.

Storm Date: Saturday, May 12, 2007

Sellers: Mumm Brothers & Guest Consignors

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Mumm Brothers have retired and rented their land. They have a well-maintained, nice line of equipment. You won't want to miss this auction!

Trailers

1981 Barrett 7'x20' aluminum stock trailer, real good
1981 Barrett 7'x24' aluminum stock trailer, real good
John Deere 16' flatbed trailer, steel floor
Two-wheel trailer

Hay Equipment

Tonutti 3-pt. Wheel rake
(2) Worksaver 3-pt. round bale unroller
New Holland 276 sq. baler, hyd. tension, always shedded
Farmhand windrow turner
(2) 3-Pt. bale movers
HSR 240R windrow turner
Hay wagon for loose hay or round bales
John Deere 14' 1600 swather
New Holland 116 16' Hydro Swing swather
Pride-of-the-Prairie 10 bale hauler
John Deere 530 round baler
John Deere 3800 2-row, 30" silage cutter
John Deere 6 ton stack mover, S.N. 002238GR

Trucks & Vehicles

1991 Dodge 1 ton 350 Cummins diesel, 5.9 turbo, 5-speed, 4x4, air, flatbed, 53,362 actual miles
1974 Bronco 4x4, 302 engine, 75,444 miles, collector vehicle
1947 Ford truck, hoist, 13-1/2' box, good shape and good tires, 8:25 tires
1950 Dodge 1 ton flat bed, does not run

Many more items too numerous to mention! Lunch will be served

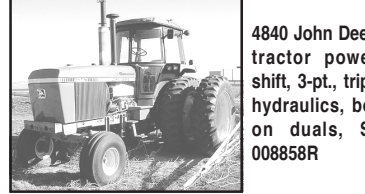
Shop Equipment & Misc.

(2) Coats tire changers
Hydraulic press, 20 ton • Knipco heater
Heavy duty electrical cord, 70' Kleen-O-filter, filter puffer
Briggs sprayer, 3 H.P.
Acetylene welder & cart • 12 Volt sprayer
Mono chain saw, 24" bar • Pickup tool box
Allis Chalmers riding mower
Olson band saw • (4) Boxes baler twine
Anvil stand • Drill press & drill
Makita chop saw
John Deere suitcase weights
Front-end weights for 4020 John Deere
Tire chains for payload
Tire chains for feed truck • Lots of old iron

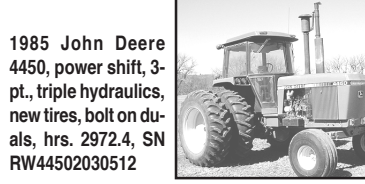
Livestock Equipment

Cattle guard, 10' • Barbed wire
Lots of electric fence posts • T-posts
W-W Cattle working chute, self catch head gate • Hog and cattle wire panels
60 Bushel grain bin on stand • Stock tank, 5' Moorman hog feeder • Electric fence wire
EZ Roll wire roller w/H.P. Briggs engine
Speed King, 12 volt post hole digger
Peerless 10" roller mill
New Holland 352 grinder mixer
Loading chute and (11) 12" panels
(10) 10' panels • Powder River calf cradle
(10) Orange panels
Moorman mineral feeder
(2) Round bale feeders
(4) 4-Section bale feeders
(13) Homemade panels • Metal gate
wire winde w/electric fence wire
Dearborn 3-pt. post hole digger

Location: From intersection U.S. 25 and U.S. 36 in Atwood, Kansas, go 7-1/2 miles east on U.S. 36, 7 miles south, 2 miles east and 2 miles south. From Midway on U.S. 36 south of Herculon, Kansas, go 5 miles south, 2 miles west, 3 miles south, 2 miles west and 2 miles south. Signs will be posted.



4840 John Deere tractor power shift, 3-pt., triple hydraulics, bolt on duals, SN 00858R



1985 John Deere 4450, power shift, 3-pt., triple hydraulics, new tires, bolt on duals, hrs. 2972.4, SN RW44502030512

Tractors

1979 John Deere 4440 Quadrange, 7646.1 hrs., 3-pt., triple hydraulics, duals, K5 Koyker loader w/grapple, SN 440H-011253R
John Deere 444 payload, SN 309166T w/grapple fork and teeth
John Deere Model B tractor, SN 208008, has been restored.

Machinery

Kelly Ryan manure spreader, SN PR5972, metal plow • 18" Sunflower disc • Flex-King 5x5 sweeps Flex-King treaders, equipped for anhydrous • 2 Sections John Deere LZ 8-12 drills w/rubber press wheels • John Deere LZ hoe drill, 14" spacing, LZB5812 • John Deere 707 14' stalk shredder • 3-Pt. John Deere plow, 3-16" • John Deere 16' tool bar w/chisels • Flex-King 24' rod weeder • CrustBuster, 28" • Flex-King 5x5 sweeps, new blades, Sunflower spring loaded treaders, equipped for anhydrous • Miller 14' drag disc • John Deere 12' springtooth • John Deere RB drill, new discs & bearings, 16-10's • Miller 12' rod weeder

Council gives director a raise

The Oberlin City Council approved almost a \$4,000 raise for the marketing director, who works with The Gateway civic center and the Economic Development Corp., at a meeting last Monday.

City Administrator Gary Shike said marketing director Connie Grafel, who also serves as the marketing director for the economic development corp., is evaluated every two years. The council agreed to increase her salary from a little over \$26,000 to \$30,000 a year, without benefits.

Mr. Shike said even with the raise, it still makes her the lowest paid economic development director in northwest Kansas.

Mr. Shike said he talked with Becky Ayers, with the Girl Scouts, about using of the former youth ranch facility this summer for a camp. The Scouts offered \$250 rent for a minimum of 12 girls. If they get more, he said, the organization will pay \$7 per girl per day. He said Mrs. Ayers is planning on doing some maintenance at the ranch.

The council thanked former Mayor Ken Shobe for his service as he passed the gavel to incoming Mayor Joe Stanley. Mr. Stanley and council members Ray Ward and Rhonda May were all sworn in.

In other business, the council:

• Talked about the repairs to the bricks around the memorial wall at

All buyers unknown to auctioneer must have a letter of credit with their checks.

Check out our web site at: www.johnson-real-estate.com

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