

Area man helps plug well leak off Louisiana

By KAREN KRIEN
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Joe Caldart of St. Francis was horrified by all the attention. You'd think he'd plugged that rogue offshore well in the Gulf all by himself.

The retired plumber overnight became a sought-after guest for national television.

He told Fox News no. He told CNN no. He told NBC no.

It all started when a writer for the *Christian Science Monitor* learned that he was one of the guys who had helped come up with a design for the containment cap for the out-of-control gusher off the shore of Louisiana.

Mr. Caldart, who calls himself a reserved, quiet guy, got phone call after phone call asking for information and requests to be a guest on national television.

"I was just one of 10, maybe 15, plumbers who turned in designs which were all similar," he said.

He's been called "Joe the Plumber," but he is not the famed Joe who made the headlines during the presidential election. He says he has been a plumber since he was 15, though.

He and hundreds of other guys, he said, all realized that plugging the gusher was a matter of "plain, common plumber sense."

When they started showing the break in the pipe, said his wife Jamie, he shook his head and said, "Why don't they just plug it?"

He started making sketches of ways to stop the oil spill, which began at the middle of May. He talked to an engineer with BP, the international oil company which owns the well, in Houston. He was told that the company wasn't interested in stopping the leak but wanted to harvest the oil. However, the engineer said he could submit his drawings to Deepwater Horizon Response, a joint command for BP and more than a dozen federal agencies involved in the disaster.

In the meantime, the spill was getting worse.

Deepwater sent back a form on which Mr. Caldart detailed the design, equipment needed and the cost for his idea. He filled out the form and sent it back. He was told the idea had been transferred to the logistic office for review.

Three days later, he called BP and a secretary answered the phone. She put her hand over the mouthpiece, then told the other person in the room that he was calling about the design. Mr. Caldart could hear the response which was, "him and every other small-town idiot!"

Mr. Caldart said he had three different drawings, and all were

based on the way a plumber would cap a sewer break, only on a much bigger scale.

The first design was to install a hydraulic piston on the containment cap with barbs to hold the cap in place. The second drawing, after the pipe was cut, was to internally thread the pipe and put the cap in place by screwing it on. The third drawing was like a fire hydrant with the top flange with an internal seal bolted on the blowout preventer.

The equipment used to stop the leak, Mr. Caldart said, is a steel cap and underneath it is the internal seal — a design he had drawn on May 25.

He thought he had been brushed off, so he said he started e-mailing everybody his design. One reached the desk of Dr. Robert Bea, a University of California at Berkeley petroleum engineer, who, when called by the *Monitor* writer, said Mr. Caldart's plan was very similar to the successful capping operation.

"Kevin Costner and James Cameron had tried to help and they didn't get anywhere," Mr. Caldart said, "so I didn't think I had a chance. People think plumbers don't know more than scientists."

However, he added, by that time, the scientists were thinking about plugging the hole with garbage and tires.

"Can you imagine what that would have been like," he said, "when it broke loose and blew tires and garbage all over the coast?"

Mr. Caldart said he is no hero. There were other plumbers who sent in designs, and the response team probably took "nuts and bolts" from all of them. However, he thinks that BP should recognize all the people who did take the time to send in drawings.

"We are all a bunch of plumbers working together to help the people who did the actual work to stop the leak," he said. "Stopping the leak was the main concern of everyone."

Mr. Caldart said he didn't believe there had ever been as much pressure in the well that BP had claimed. Nevertheless, it had released 60,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf each day.

As of last week, the oil had been contained in the well but there is a small amount of leakage somewhere. Mr. Caldart said that BP hadn't decided whether to close the well or release the pressure and continue surface containment efforts. They are talking about filling the pipe with drilling mud, he said, but that was tried before on another well and it didn't work.

Candidate at the hospital



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, state Sen. Jim Barnett of Emporia stopped at the Decatur County Hospital last Wednesday. He talked with the staff, including Suzanne Ahlberg, director of nursing, during his visit.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Doctor interested in obstetrics

The Decatur County commissioners met a doctor who was in town looking at the hospital earlier this month.

Dr. Leslie Dally stopped with Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden to meet the commissioners July 13 during their regular meeting.

Mrs. Doeden said she and Dr. Dally were out making the rounds, including checking out Sappa Park, the hospital and a meeting with Dr. Elizabeth Sliter at the Medical Arts

Clinic.

Dr. Dally lives in Anthony, which is in south central of Kansas.

Mrs. Doeden said Dr. Dally is interested in doing obstetrics. He was in town to just look at the area and the job. Dr. Dally commented that The Gateway was an impressive building.

The commissioners through the years, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, have supported the hospital and health care. He said he would

encourage Dr. Dally to consider Oberlin.

Business opens on 36

An Oberlin man has opened a shop on U.S. 36 where people can buy, sell and trade machinery or have him find just what they need, especially used equipment.

Wayne Zwickle and his wife Phyllis opened the Equipment Locator in the old barber shop on the highway recently. Already they have four-wheelers, a camper, tractors and other equipment parked along the road, ready to sell.

Mr. Zwickle said he was born and reared in Oberlin. He said he left several times and came back, working at various jobs.

Over the years, Mr. Zwickle said, he got into machinery sales, new and used. In 2004, he and his wife moved back to Oberlin.

At the Equipment Locator, he said, they plan to buy and sell all kinds of machinery, including possibly lawn mowers.

Three years ago, he said he located and sold over 50 tractors in a year. He added that he specializes in used machinery more than new.

Mr. Zwickle said the camping area behind the office building is open for people coming through to stay. Actually, he said, he's already

had some of the harvest crews there.

All of the old mobile homes will be hauled out, said Mr. Zwickle. He said they are working on taking the old showers and stools out so the garage can be used for storage.

Motor homes can be hooked up to sewer, water and power, 220 and 120 volts. He said he will try to offer reasonable rates.

Marion Wenger will continue to be the person to talk to about hookups.

Mr. Zwickle said he's been in the machinery business since 1965. He said anyone looking for machinery or equipment can call him at (785) 475-8221. He will try to have an answer in 36 hours.

The City of Ottawa, Kansas, a municipal government, accepts online applications at www.HREPartners.com. Please visit this site, then select the City of Ottawa logo to view current openings.

The City is NOW accepting applications for the following positions:
Water Distribution/Wastewater Collection Assistant Superintendent.

3+ years of water distribution, sewer collection system maintenance and construction experience is required. Franklin County, Kansas residency within 1 year of employment. Please visit www.HREPartners.com, then select the City of Ottawa logo to complete an online application. For more information email humanresources@ottawaks.gov.

The City of Ottawa is an equal opportunity employer.



Kansas State Representative

A vote for
Ward Cassidy
is a vote for
Northwest Kansas!

Political ad paid by Cassidy for Representative, M. Day, treasurer.

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Dr. Rubiniowitz Oncology	3	4 Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	5 Dr. Frankum Surgery Brandi Ihrig Dietician	6 MRI'S	7 Cardiac Rehab
8	9 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	10	11 Bone Density Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	12 MRI's	13 Cardiac Rehab	14
15	16 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	17	18 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	19 Dr. Saba Orthopedics	20	21
22	23 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	24 Dr. Miller Cardiology	25 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	26 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	27 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	28
29	30 Dr. Rubiniowitz Oncology	31 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab				

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director

Carnival Schedule ----- Volunteers are still needed!
Call Judy Scott at 470-7269 or Sign up at the Chamber office

	Tuesday Aug 3	Wednesday Aug 4	Thursday Aug. 5	Friday Aug. 6	Saturday Aug. 7
Basketball	Brenda Ploussard Dakota Soderland	J. Sauder/L. Waldron T. Vontz	Mike & Laurie Smith Marilyn Horn	Angie Erickson Volunteer Needed	Carters Hissongs
Break-A-Plate	D. Olson Marilyn Horn	G. & A. Grafel Volunteer Needed	K of C K of C	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Ladder	Faith Lutheran Faith Lutheran	Lisa M.-B. Urban K. & A. Fisher	Shannon Addleman A. & A. Basgill	J. & H. Juenemann Volunteer Needed	Reicharts Volunteer Needed
Golf	Simonssons Volunteer Needed	Janice O'Hare C. & S. Nelson	A. & D. Horton Volunteer Needed	Gladings Pat Cozad	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Dart	Alif Be Khe Alif Be Khe	Alif Be Khe Alif Be Khe	Misty Gra (need 2) M. Gray & Wolters	DHS DHS	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Toilet Toss	Klimas K & J Black	Farmers Bank & Tr Farmers Bank & Tr	Shauna C. Wasson	S. Addleman Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Ric-A-Sha	The Bank Metcalf Real Estate	R. Bryans Willibys	R. Bryans Wilson	Legion Legion	Legion Legion
Soda Can Toss	PEO PEO	R. Wildeman/J. Meitl Connie Grafel	PEO PEO	PEO PEO	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Plinko	C. & C. Soderland S. Bruggeman	Lindsey Fortin Sarah Howland	B. Harman/L. Bryan Volunteer Needed	Pam Van Vleet P. & R. May	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Duck Pond	J. & H. Juenemann Volunteer Needed	Faith Lutheran Faith Lutheran	B. Ayers K. Wahlmeier	Faith Lutheran Faith Lutheran	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Lolipop Tree	Norma Anderson Diana Solko	Dianne Bremer Diana Solko	Mary Lou Olson Norma Anderson	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Birthday Wheel	Dempewolf/Hackney Volunteer Needed	Pam Van Vleet Volunteer Needed	Alyssa R & Cole M Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	J. Schuetz Volunteer Needed
Hi-Striker	Gun Club Gun Club	Antique Club Antique Club	Reicherts The Bank	K & V Ketterl Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Golf	K. & T. Carman Volunteer Needed	J. Dreher/A. Dempewolf Volunteer Needed	G. & A. Grafel Connie Grafel	H. & C. Shirley Volunteer Needed	B. Goscha Volunteer Needed
Baseball	N. Weishapl Volunteer Needed	Baileys R. Olson	K of C K of C	Volunteer Needed April Farr	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Ferris Wheel	Rotary Rotary	Rotary Rotary	Rotary Rotary	Rotary Rotary	Rotary Rotary
Carousel	Lions Lions	Lions Lions	Lions Lions	Lions Lions	Lions Lions
Tilt-A-Whirl	R&M Service John Geisinger	C. Statley/W. Hackney Volunteer Needed	C. Statley/W. Hackney Volunteer Needed	John Geisinger Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Slide	First National First National	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Sharon Addleman Sarah Howland
Big Swing	Norcat Norcat	Norcat Norcat	Norcat Norcat	Norcat Norcat	Norcat Norcat
Twist	Jennings Jennings	Jennings Jennings	Jennings Jennings	Jennings Jennings	Jennings Jennings
Over the Moon	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Faith Lutheran Faith Lutheran	Volunteer Needed Sarah Howland	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Octopus	Herndon Herndon	Herndon Herndon	Herndon Herndon	Herndon Herndon	Herndon Herndon
Train	Carolyn Hackney Volunteer Needed	Zetu Nu Zetu Nu	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Antique Club Antique Club
Kiddie Cars	Glading Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Oberlin Girl Scouts Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Kiddie Swings	Volunteer Needed Sarah Howland	Stanley Hardware Stanley Hardware	J. Dreher/Andrew D J. Dreher/Andrew D	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

Decatur County Amusement Authority

