

## FIJI

Continued from Page 1A provided by LDS Charities but much of the work needed to install them was done by the Fijians who will benefit from them. This approach applies to all LDS Charities projects, because the goal of LDS Charities is to teach others to help themselves.

Wendy Perry explained that trying to help by simply doing everything for others makes them dependent on outsiders and unable to assist themselves.

"In the process of helping others, we don't want to hurt them," she said.

She added that when people build something, they have a better understanding of it and are better able to maintain and repair it when needed.

The only time labor for LDS Charities projects was not done by Fijians was when the wells were drilled. An outside company was brought in for the well drilling because of the expertise required.

It is ironic that many portions of Fiji lack clean drinking water since the interior of its largest islands, Biti Lebu and Banva Lebu, are filled with mountain springs. They produce water so pure and refreshing that it is bottled and sold worldwide as Fiji Water. Unfortunately, funding problems, distances and other factors are preventing this water from being distributed to islands in Fiji short of fresh



Courtesy photo

Fijians construct an evacuation shelter on Ono Island. The shelters are needed to help those who lose their homes to cyclones which hit Fiji.

water, Russell Perry said.

Much of the Perrys' work in Fiji also helped address medical issues. The couple administered a major dispensary project, through which medical supplies including stethoscopes, blood pressure monitors and baby scales were distributed to 60 dispensaries in one district of Fiji. About \$45,000 worth of equipment was delivered to elated health care professionals.

"It brought tears to the eyes of health care workers who have worked with nothing for years," Russell Perry said.

The Perrys also oversaw the construction of three evacuation shelters. The shelters, which also serve as community centers, are often needed because cyclones

frequently leave Fijians without a place to live.

"Cyclones destroy many homes," Wendy Perry said.

Fiji was hit by three cyclones the first year the Perrys were there in 2018. One of the worst to hit Fiji in recent memory was Cyclone Winston, which struck in 2016.

"Some people who lost their homes to Winston are still living in tents," Wendy Perry said.

LDS Charities volunteers are attempting to lessen the need for evacuation sites by teaching Fijians steps they can take to make their homes more resistant to cyclones. These include making their homes out of cinderblocks rather than tin, which is most commonly done in many parts of Fiji.

Tin is more vulnerable in the face of heavy winds than cinder blocks.

Education was another major focus of Russell and Wendy Perry in Fiji. They arranged for the distribution of furniture and books to many schools. Some of the books were new and others were donated by schools in New Zealand. All of the books distributed to schools were in English.

"The government wants children to learn English," Russell Perry said.

English is one of three languages spoken in Fiji, along with Fijian and Hindi. English, a remnant of British colonial rule over the islands, was the sole official language until 1997 and today is widely used in government, business and education.

A Fijian school assisted by LDS Charities via technology was its school for the blind. LDS Charities, with the help of Russell and Wendy Perry, provided new computers to the school designed for those with vision impairments, which have many audio communications features. The school already had such computers but they were badly in need of upgrades.

Russell Perry said that watching the school's students operate the computers is inspiring.

"You would have no idea that they have vision impairments," he said.

LDS Charities also boosted schools by providing them with diesel-powered electrical generators that power lights, making

evening activities possible.

"They are especially helpful at boarding schools," Russell Perry said.

Fiji is about 1,000 miles northeast of New Zealand and is composed of about 330 islands, about 110 of which have permanent inhabitants. Fiji's largest islands are places of extreme meteorological contrast.

"They have a dry side and wet side. They are like Eastern and Western Oregon," Russell Perry said.

The Perrys visited villages on many of these islands during their stay in Fiji. At each village they received warm welcomes.

"Everyone was so kind," Russell Perry said, adding that he noticed Fijians seem to remain upbeat regardless of the hardships they face.

"Their general disposition is upbeat," Russell Perry said.

The Perrys, who have six children and 20 grandchildren, made many treasured friendships during their stay in Fiji and hope someday to return.

"We feel as close to some as we do members of our family," Russell Perry said.

The Perrys do not look upon themselves as individuals who did anything special in Fiji. They view the countless people who work behind the scenes to support LDS Charities, including those who donate to it financially, as the real heroes.

"They make it possible. We are just their hands," Wendy Perry said.

## ADDRESSES

Continued from Page 1A numbers, helps, but even then it can be a guessing game if there isn't a visible address.

And even if it takes only an additional minute or two to find the right place, that extra time has the potential to be detrimental.

"If someone is having a heart attack, a minute or two is a long time. Or if someone is being assaulted," Harvey said.

Brock said the county replaced its rural address posts about four

or five years ago, making them a brighter color — orange instead of brown — and turning them. Previously, the address signs were parallel to the road, and the number was only on one side. Now, they are perpendicular and have numbers on both sides.

Even then, finding the right place isn't always a cut-and-dried proposition. For example, an address post at a back county road can seem to lead to multiple houses.

"You get back in there and you have a choice of two different houses, which can be a challenge as

well," Brock said.

Or grass can grow up and cover the post.

"Without a little bit of maintenance, nature encroaches quickly," he added.

GPS systems are not much help either, according to Harvey.

There are a handful of steps residents can take to make their addresses more visible and help out first responders: install larger numbers, use a color that's in contrast to the building, ensure brush or tree limbs do not block the numbers, and add lighting.

"If (residents) are comfortable with it, either (use) numbers that light up or are posted where other lights can illuminate them (at night)," Harvey said.

The chief added that the best way to see if your address is visible is to simply drive by.

"Look at them from the standpoint of if you are driving by (can you) see them at a distance?" he said.

For county address markers especially, Brock said, it helps if residents trim the vegetation around the address posts. That could be

necessary one or more times a year. He also said to routinely check the address marker itself.

"While you're clearing the brush, it's good to look at the address stake to make sure it is in good condition. Sometimes people don't realize (when it's damaged or gone)."

Posting your address number in more than one location — on a mailbox and on the house, for example — doesn't hurt.

"Having more than one way to do something is always a good thing," Brock said.

## UNION

Continued from Page 1A

The proposed ordinance amendment would allow residents to keep fowl as pets only. They could not be raised for commercial purposes, Wiggins said.

A formal proposed amendment to Union's animal ordinance will be presented to the Union County Council at a later meeting.

The city council also discussed other possible animal ordinance amendments including requiring all citizens to register their pets with the city. The consensus of the council was that this would not be a good idea because it would move the city in the

direction of creating a myriad of additional rules for residents.

"We do not want to be like Portland," said Councilor Susan Hawkins.

The possibility of developing an ordinance for people raising bees was also discussed was later put on hold.

Wiggins said the city periodically gets calls asking if it has rules regarding the raising of bees. He said people are told there are no bee ordinances but that people planning to raise bees are asked to notify their neighbors. The purpose is to alert people who are allergic to bees. Wiggins added that if a person's bees begin causing problems, the city can address the issue under its nuisance ordinance.

## COX

Continued from Page 1A disseminate the information about the missing child.



Wendy Cox

Wendy Cox was taken into custody, while Child Protective Services is helping transport Jackson back to Union County.

Rasmussen said Wendy Cox is currently being lodged in Portland, and the specific charges are pending.

Jackson Cox was originally reported missing about 8:30 p.m. Sunday night. Union County Search and Rescue was dispatched shortly thereafter, and a request by the sheriff's office for public assistance was issued Monday afternoon.

Rasmussen said 16 members of SAR responded to help search for Jackson.

"That's the most members we have had on a search in some time," Rasmussen said. "That was significant, I thought."

The original press release

stated UCSO had evidence suggesting Jackson was taken by his mother.

Rasmussen elaborated on that information Tuesday, telling The Observer that UCSO had information that Wendy "was telling people that she may pick him up."

Wendy Cox has a felony warrant for unrelated charges on file.

The sheriff said he wasn't entirely sure of Jackson's condition, but added, "I'm assuming he was fine and healthy, or else they would have notified us."

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