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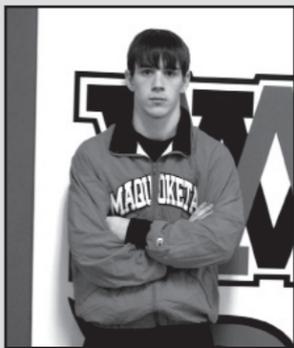
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Bentrotts survive Haiti earthquake

By KELLY GERLACH

Eleven hours of dread and disbelief passed. Not knowing was torture.

Then the phone jingled at 4:45 a.m. "Hi, Mom."

"It was just the greatest thing to hear," recalled Jane Bentrott after hearing that her son, daughter-in-law and grandson survived the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Tuesday's powerful magnitude 7.0 earthquake flattened the presidential palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, homes - nothing was exempt. Officials fear thousands are dead, with some reports estimating a death toll of at least 40,000 to 50,000. It is still too early to tell.

The quake struck at about 4:53 p.m. and was centered about 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. The U.S. Geological Survey has called it Haiti's strongest earthquake since 1770.

A majority of Haitians are poor and electrical and telephone services had been shoddy at best, which only made it more difficult for friends and family to contact loved ones there.

Bentrott said that after many failed attempts following the earthquake, her son, Patrick, finally got a call through to her to tell her that he, wife Kim, and adopted 14-month-old son Solomon were alive and uninjured.

Patrick, son of Jane Bentrott



PATRICK, SOLOMON AND KIM BENTROTT

of Maquoketa and Craig Bentrott of Davenport, is a 1996 graduate of Maquoketa Community High School. He is a teacher, preacher and orphanage worker in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. Kim is a doctor there. The couple has been doing missionary work there for about a year through Global Ministries, the international counterpart of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ denominations.

Bentrott said the family lived in a third floor apartment in Port-au-Prince. They had just arrived home and were near the front door when

the earthquake hit. Bentrott said she was relieved to learn that the family was together during the crisis, since the husband and wife often operate on different work schedules.

After the quake, "They made it down the first set of stairs, then there were no more steps. They had to jump over and through the rubble."

Their apartment was pretty much destroyed. The first floor had crumbled, so their third-floor apartment is now on the second floor. (On Wednesday, Patrick and Kim were able to retrieve a few intact items

from the ruins.)

"They still had their vehicle, so they spent the night in a parking lot transporting (injured) people to the hospital until the hospital started turning them away," the worried mother said.

Back in Maquoketa, Bentrott spent 11 sleepless hours glued to news coverage and fearing the worst.

"I first heard about the earthquake at a quarter to 5 last night. That was 11 hours with no contact. I didn't know what to think."

Bentrott visited her son and his family in Port-au-Prince in April of 2009. She remembered seeing the presidential palace, the cathedral and many of the city's other landmarks and said she could not believe the ruins left in the aftermath of the quake.

"I saw those buildings and knew the other buildings (private residences, apartment buildings, etc.) wouldn't survive. It was just devastating. They had nothing to begin with."

The earthquake cut much of the city's power supply, so Patrick and Kim only knew the devastation immediately in front of them.

"Patrick was asking *me* what was going on there," Bentrott said.

She said grandson Solomon,

■ EARTHQUAKE,
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Board of Supervisors fill county positions

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

District Three Supervisor Steve Flynn this week was elected chairman of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors for 2010.

Flynn, a rural Maquoketa resident who is starting his fourth year on the board, succeeds Jack Willey as chairman. It will be his first year as chairman.

Larry "Buck" Koos, who represents District 1, was elected vice chairman for the year. He succeeds Flynn in that position.

The supervisors customarily rotate the chairmanship among the three board members from year to year.

The board also appointed Anne Hawks of Maquoketa to a five-year term on the Jackson County Conservation Board.

She succeeds Bill Hainstock of rural Maquoketa, who completed three five-year terms on the board. He had sought reappointment to a fourth term.

In addition to Hawks and Hainstock, the board also received applications from Madonna Hefel and Jack Rosenberg, both of Maquoketa.

The conservation board by far draws the highest number of applicants of the several county boards and commissions filled by volunteer residents who are appointed by the supervisors and is the only board that regularly has more applicants than openings.

While the board voted unanimously to appoint Hawks to the post, Supervisor Jack Willey expressed concern whether Hawks would have the time available to devote to the job.

He noted that she is involved in running a family business, is president of the Maquoketa Community School Board, music and choir director of

the First United Methodist Church of Maquoketa, a board member of the Maquoketa Area Family YMCA and is involved in productions at Ohnward Fine Arts Center.

"I just hope she's not cutting herself short," Willey said. He noted that the duties of a conservation board member involve more time than attending the board's monthly meetings.

"She's very capable; I would never dispute that," Willey added. "But I'm concerned about time constraints."

Flynn said he discussed that issue with Hawks and said she felt she could manage the responsibilities of the job. He said she told him she was planning to give up some other volunteer activities.

"She indicated she would have time to serve and I think she would bring some great insight and great leadership," Flynn said.

Board members also noted that they will need to show compliance with a state law that that seeks gender balance on county boards. The other four members of the five-member board are men.

Koos said he met with Hawks and agreed "she would be a good person for that position."

Willey said he had received several calls regarding the opening. He said a couple of callers favored Hainstock, saying that his experience and leadership were valuable to the board.

Another caller urged the appointment of Hefel.

The conservation board oversees the budget and activities of the conservation department, including the county's parks, recreation and education programs and development of new facilities, such as the Copper Creek Recreation Trail near Preston.

In other appointments Tuesday, the supervisors: ■ Approved the re-appointment of Bellevue

attorney Mark DeVries as the representative of county Attorney Chris Raker on the county Compensation Board.

■ Re-appointed Earl Kilburg of Preston to a three-year term on the Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

■ Appointed Charles Mitchell of Maquoketa and Judy Schneider of rural Miles to three-year terms on the Historic Preservation Commission. They succeeded Daryll Eggers of Bellevue and Don Davison of Maquoketa, who did not seek re-appointment.

■ Appointed Kent Marshall of rural Sabula to the farm owner category and Chuck Schwager to the licensed real estate brokers and salesmen category, both on the Eminent Domain Commission.

Supervisors still are seeking at least one additional member in each of those categories. In other business, county Engineer Clark Schloz reported that the cost of snow removal for the period of Dec. 22-26 cost \$31,000.

With the spell of milder winter weather, Schloz cautioned motorists of the potential for fog at night. He noted that the fog can freeze, causing "black ice" and making for hazardous slippery conditions on county roads, particularly on bridges.

In other business, David Manning, county zoning administrator, said his last workday for the county will be Jan. 29.

Manning is retiring after 30 years in the post. The supervisors last month hired Ben Kober to replace him. Manning has been working with Kober for the past month to acquaint him with the

■ COUNTY,
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