EFFECTS OF GREENSBURG TORNADO CONTINUE

Lost souls

Children who survived May 4 tragedy suffering from trauma, learning to cope

BY CLARA KILBOURN
The Hutchinson News
ckilbourn@hutchnews.com

In the six weeks since their family survived the Greensburg tornado, Mandy Sorg has watched her children have good days and bad days.

She’s looking for the fallout from Michael Ray, 6, and Marie, 3 months.

Jeffrey Schmidt’s mother, Lisa, has heard him tell people about how their house got sucked up by a tornado that took his toys and books – and she’s seen her 4-year-old son’s tears.

He keeps asking her to call the “fixer man” to come so they can go home again.

“They all seem like souls that don’t have an anchor anyplace,” Mandy Sorg said. “It’s hard enough for adults to comprehend, I can’t imagine what’s in a child’s mind.”

Both the Schmidt and Sorg families have sought counseling for their children who survived the tornado and yearn for life as it was before.

For children the ages of Michael and Jeffrey, the hope that things will go back exactly as they were is normal, said Martha Barnard, University of Kansas Professor of Behavioral Pediatrics.

Even though they are traumatized by the devastation of the storm, they don’t look on what has happened as being permanent.

“They think it’s a possibility that things can go back,” she said. “Even adults can’t fathom that it won’t be back to some type of normalcy.”

In the first month after an event like the tornado, young children suffer from acute stress and grief, as if someone had died, Barnard said.

The difference is that with death, a funeral gives closure. With the storm, See CHILDREN / A7
Above: Jeffrey Schmidt, 4, spends time with his mother, Lisa, on their porch Thursday afternoon in Pratt. Lisa has sought counseling for Jeffrey because of unusual behavior after the tornado.

Right: Michael Ray Sorg, 6, rides alongside his dog, Harley, in front of their Havland house Wednesday. Following the Greensburg tornado, Michael once took out his anger by hitting the dog.

Photos by Christopher Hanewinkel
The Hutchinson News
Children

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Everything’s gone and the grief remains wide open, she said.

“How do you bury things when every time you turn around something’s not there or is gone?”

It’s important for the adults in children’s lives to do as much as possible to bring back some normalcy.

That means establishing routines with mealtime and bedtime. Barnard added exercise, discipline and support groups.

The Schmidts have enrolled Jeffrey in T-ball and a karate program. They’re also spending time at the park and going swimming, Lisa Schmidt said. They’ve signed up for a library card and make sure he has books to read.

“Jeff’s our little trooper,” his mother said.

Mandy Sorg looks forward to the beginning of the school year, when Michael will be back with his friends, some of whom he hasn’t seen since the storm.

She’s decided to have him repeat the first grade. That means he’ll be with the same teacher he had last year. And she’s maintaining a positive attitude.

“When something like this happens, people do get better,” she said.

Barnard, a child psychologist, cautioned that parents need to watch their children for what she called “the aftermath” – eating enormous amounts of food, sudden anger attacks, temper tantrums, sleeping or not sleeping, nightmares or waking up at night, and fear of impending storms. Children may pretend that they’re OK because they don’t want to bother their parents.

“You have to reassure them they’re in a safe spot,” she said.

She also advised replicating toys, like finding the same brown teddy bear.

The Schmidt family is living with her mother in Pratt. Lisa, her husband, Rod, 58; daughter, Kristi, 16; and Jeffrey share the spare bedroom.

Jeffrey talks about his toys and the pictures that were in his bedroom at home.

“We’re only here for a little while and then we’re moving,” he reminds them.

When a thunderstorm struck several days after the tornado, he worried: “Is it going to make us dead this time?”

“That touched my heart,” Lisa said.

Mandy Sorg has talked with other mothers whose children have turned clingy and whiny and cry. For Michael, there’s more.

He’s angry, very angry.

She looked outside one day and watched him hitting their family dog.

“There is so much anger in him,” she said. “It took everything in me not to go out there and hit my son.”

At that moment, she asked herself, “What is next?” Sorg said.

Michael Ray, 6, tries to hug his mother, Mandy Sorg, Wednesday evening behind their Haviland house. Sorg, who lost her house during the Greensburg tornado, said her son has been acting angry since the tornado.
LAWRENCE — Twenty-two students in the Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas were honored May 11.

Ophra Leyser-Whalen, Lawrence doctoral student, received the Midwest Sociological Society's Scholarship Development Award for her research, "Why Use Fertility Treatments?" She will present her findings at the society's annual conference in March in St. Louis, Mo. The society, founded in 1936, is a professional organization of academic and applied sociologists as well as students of the discipline.

Three students received E. Jackson Baur Awards for Research and Study of Social Conflict and Its Resolution: Jonathan Dennis of Hutchinson and Lucas Todd Thompson of Lawrence, both graduating seniors, and Maria Weir of Roeland Park, a doctoral student. The award supports research, professional travel or manuscript preparation and recognizes scholarly accomplishment. The award is named for a KU professor emeritus of sociology.

Other awards presented were:
- The Carroll D. Clark Award for Professional Service and Carroll D. Clark Award for Teaching Excellence recognize outstanding service contributions of graduate students to the department, university and/or profession of sociology. Clark is a KU professor emeritus of sociology.
- Carroll D. Clark Pre- and Post-MA Awards reward graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and integrity and show promise in the discipline of sociology.
- The $1,000 Christopher...
Gunn Graduate Student Scholarship in Sociology assists a graduate student whose research focuses on innovative approaches to theory and research. The scholarship is named for a KU doctoral sociology student.

The department also honored recipients of the Morris C. Pratt Research and Travel Scholarships, which provide for research and/or travel expenses related to presentation of master's or doctoral work at or participation in a professional conference in the area of social inequality. The scholarships are named for a longtime supporter of the discipline of sociology and advocate for social justice. Among the honorees is:

**STAFFORD COUNTY**

St. John: Casey Elizabeth Cornwell, senior in sociology and American studies, daughter of Rick and Gayle Cornwell; St. John High School; Marston M. McCluggage Scholarship and Harley S. Nelson Family Scholarship.
KU Alumni Assoc. Welcomes New Students To Picnic June 21 In Hugoton

The picnic will feature free food, T-shirts for new students and KU representatives to answer questions.

Hometown Interest: Grant, Haskell, Morton, Seward, Stanton and Stevens counties

New University of Kansas students and their parents from Grant, Haskell, Morton, Seward, Stanton and Stevens counties will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 21, in Hugoton.

The KU Alumni Association and its Southwest chapter will greet the next generation of Jayhawks at the home of Erick and Debbie Nordling, HC 1. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk will also receive a free T-shirt.

Chapter members coordinating the event are Erick and Debbie Nordling of Hugoton, president and co-membership chair, respectively; Catherine Moyer of Ulysses, vice president; Tracy Utz of Liberal, communication chair and secretary; Jackie Hall of Sublette, legislative chair; Bill Hill of Liberal, co-events coordinator; Kevin Moyer of Ulysses, co-events coordinator; Scott Hinkle of Liberal, student recruitment chair; Nathan McCaffery of Liberal, board member; and Kent Colvin of Liberal, co-membership chair. Alumni association staff will arrive with the signature KU trailer full of grills, burgers and brats for the festivities. Current KU students, alumni and university representatives will mix and mingle with students to answer questions and offer advice.

Alumni association representatives and guests planning to attend are Sarah Blaney, Kansas Honors Program coordinator; Mike Davis, senior vice president for alumni programs; Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs; and Jamie Winkelman, alumni programs coordinator.

The alumni association invited incoming students whose enrollment deposits were received by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by May 1. The guests are listed by schools and hometown ZIP codes below

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<tr>
<th>First Name Last Name</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Chandler James</td>
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County: Seward
Ohlde on top-10 KU Motorsports team

LAWRENCE — Erich Ohlde, a Lindsborg senior in mechanical engineering at the University of Kansas, is among KU engineering students who earned a top-10 finish at the 2007 Society of Automotive Engineers Formula Car Challenge.

Ohlde, a Smoky Valley High School graduate and son of Mark and Nancy Ohlde, was on the powertrain crew of the Jayhawk Motorsports team that team placed 10th overall in the international competition held May 16-20 at the Ford Michigan Proving Grounds in Romeo, Mich. The achievement put the team at the top of all Big 12 contenders and well above several highly regarded engineering programs in the United States. Jayhawk Motorsports placed fourth in 2006.
Hiwkinson picks Kansas

Bullpup senior gives verbal commitment

By STEVE SELL
Sentinel Sports Editor

In the end, it was a no-brainer for McPherson's Tanner Hawkinson.

While a number of Division I football schools were clamoring for his services, the Bullpup tight end has long been a fan of the University of Kansas.

After attending the Super Jayhawk Camp over the weekend -- a camp for about 150 top prospects -- Hawkinson gave KU a non-binding verbal commitment to play football for the 2008 season.

"I've always been a fan (of KU)," Hawkinson said. "The location is great and it's a really good town and school. I like the coaching staff. They're really good guys."

Hawkinson, 6-5 and 240 pounds, had a superb junior season for the Bullpups, catching 22 passes for 333 yards and eight touchdowns. He displayed soft hands and surprisingly good speed for a player his size.

Hawkinson's stock skyrocketed recently when he attended a camp in Fort Worth. He has moved up to the 29th-ranked tight end in the country by Rivals.com. and is considered one of Kansas' bluechip recruits.

Among the other schools Hawkinson had been recruited by were Kansas State, Georgia Tech, Colorado State and Oklahoma State.

Hawkinson will be joining his brother, Tucker, at KU. Tucker, who graduated from MHS in May, will be walking on this season after a stellar senior year. He made remarkable strides in coach Tom Young's offense, throwing for 1,070 yards and rushing for 697 more on just 109 carries. He only got better and better as the year went along, and has good size and speed for a quarterback.

Also at KU is McPherson High School graduate Sam Archer, who is listed as the No. 2 fullback on the Jayhawks' depth chart.

TANNER HAWKINSON
Terrorists have commanded our attention, but global warming poses bigger risk

The United States is the richest, most powerful nation in history — this you have heard many times before. What you have not heard so often is that America has also been, for nearly 200 years, the safest, most secure nation ever. Far from being aware of that fact and enjoying it, we have become a nation filled with fear and anxiety. But we fear the wrong invader.

Not since the British burned our capital in 1814 has a foreign army succeeded in invading our continental domain. Pearl Harbor lay thousands of miles from our mainland homes. And the World Trade Center bombing was no real invasion or victory of a foreign power, but one act by a handful of fanatics, all killed. Their brothers are hiding in caves along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, no more able to invade America, if we keep our eyes open, than camels could take over our national parks.

Yet a far more serious threat has appeared that our leaders are ignoring. It is global climate change. And it has the potential to bring the United States down economically, socially and agriculturally, making us a much poorer and weaker nation.

In February the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its latest major report of scientific data. Based on the greenhouse gases already affecting the atmosphere, and on expected increases in those gases under various economic scenarios, the IPCC projects — too cautiously, many say — that the Earth’s overall surface temperature will rise 3 to 7 degrees by the end of this century, and the sea may rise almost 2 feet.

In an April IPCC report, world policymakers were told to expect long-term flooding of coastal areas, more intense tropical storms, increased drought in drought-prone areas, and a decline in crop productivity with increased risk of hunger.

Here is where the danger comes to the United States: Not only may we be forced to protect people on the coasts, or move them inland, we will also be in great danger of losing our agricultural heartland — the Corn Belt and the Wheat Belt. Today, half of our wheat crop goes overseas. In a few decades we may not have enough food to support our own population, let alone share with others.

And our Western cities may be paying a lot more for water, if they can find any, than for the last drops of oil. We are most threatened today not by terrorists, but by impersonal physical forces. And as the century goes on, that invasion will gather speed and effect with biological threats like invasive plants and malaria.

Such talk, we are told, is scare mongering. We also are told that defensive measures would cost too much.

Yet which place is worse off today? New York, which lost two major buildings and thousands of lives to terrorists? Or New Orleans, which lost many lives as well and may never recover much of its displaced population or destroyed territory after being hit by a hurricane that drew its energy from warming gulf waters?

And how can we not afford to invest in conservation and alternative energy sources to defend our own land against the ravages of global climate change, but afford to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which cost $120 billion a year? And pay four to five times that, depending on the calculation, for the military as a whole? And spend more than $40 billion more on the Homeland Security Department?

All that money to defend a country that is the most secure and safe in the world from outside human invasion!

Our homeland is facing a change of unprecedented danger, one that we have helped create by wasteful consumption. This is likely to be the greatest threat to security and prosperity in our history.

When will our leaders stop beating the drums about “a war on terrorism” and start facing the real dangers we face? When will they wake up and take action — today, this year? Will they wait until Washington is under water and the Great Plains are a burning desert?

Donald Worster, author of books including “Nature’s Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas,” is an environmental historian at the University of Kansas. He wrote this comment for the Land Institute’s Prairie Writers Circle, Salina.
Students struggle with costs

'Tuition compact' guarantees rates, but at a level equal to 6-percent increases for 4 years

By CHRIS GREEN

TOPEKA — An effort to make college costs more predictable sounds intriguing to recent Ottawa High School graduate Sara Humm.

Set to begin her freshman year at the University of Kansas in August, Humm's class could be the first at the school to receive what's being called a "four-year tuition compact."

Last month, KU officials announced a plan to hike tuition by about 16 percent for all incoming freshmen. But they would also freeze those charges at the same rate for four years.

The state Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on the proposal Thursday as it sets tuition and course fee rates for 2007-08 at all state universities.

Proposed hikes for Kansas residents were released last month and ranged from a 5.1 percent jump in tuition and fees at Fort Hays State to 9.5 percent at Emporia State.

The guaranteed tuition rate proposal has received positive reviews so far; KU spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said.

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Years, Bretz said. KU officials have also set out a four-year schedule for and plan to allow students to fix their on-campus housing costs for two years.

"Our whole program is about bringing predictability into college expenses," Bretz said. "That's what is hard for families — not knowing what college costs are going to be over four years."

Doing what it takes
In recent years, the most reliable thing about universities' four-year tuition charges has been that they would go up significantly.

Tuition and fees for in-state residents attending KU and Kansas State University have more than doubled since 2002. Other state universities have seen annual increases averaging of 8 percent to 12 percent. However, state officials said Kansas rates remain a deal compared to what students in surrounding states pay to attend similar institutions, averaging a discount of 15 percent to 23 percent in one comparison.

But for students such as Humm, the increases mean taking on an increasing debt burden in order to obtain a college degree.

At public universities, student-loan debt levels for 2004 graduating seniors nationally reached $17,250, a 65 percent increase from 1993 levels, when adjusted for inflation.

Forty-three percent of the undergraduate students expecting to graduate from KU in the spring of 2006 relied on loans. The borrowers carried an average load of $19,203, according to university financial aid data.

How do you pay for it?
To pay for her schooling, Humm said she planned to depend heavily on student loans to finance her education. She said also planned to work, hopefully keeping her job at an Ottawa Applebee's restaurant, and receive some assistance from her mother, Barbara.

While the prospect of borrowing a significant amount to cover her education is a bit daunting, Humm said she hoped it would be worth it.

Colleges everywhere appear to be expensive, she said. "In going to KU," Humm said. "I know I'm going to a good school. Hopefully I'll have a good job after I graduate to pay for the student loans and the other bills."
Jamey Borchers, granddaughter of Louise Matthews and daughter of Jim and Kathy McCoy, graduated from the University of Kansas with a Master's of Science in Educational Leadership on May 20. Jamey received her Bachelor's of Science in Elementary/Middle Education from the University of Kansas in 2003. Jamey is a 7th Grade Communication Arts teacher at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee, Kan. Jamey is also a cheerleading coach at Monticello Trails and teaches lyrical dance at All The Right Moves Dance Company. Jamey lives in Olathe, Kan. with her husband, Chris.
Cancer fighters raise $41,000

More than 1,200 luminaries lit the way for the race to find a cure for cancer in Hiawatha Friday night.

Local cancer fighters raised a record $41,000 at the Brown County Relay For Life at the Hiawatha High School track. The words “Hope” and “Cure” were outlined with luminaries on the east side of the stadium.

Other luminaries were in honor of those who have won, or in memory of those who lost the fight against cancer.

Pam Smith, co-chairman of this year’s event along with Lisa Pierce, said there were 41 survivors who registered and walked the first lap around the track to launch the all-night walkathon.

There were 29 teams participating in the 12-hour event, which helped boost the fund-raising, Smith said.

Last year the team numbers were down, but about $32,000 was raised.

“The support was great and we couldn’t raise this...
Relay: Cancer fight

continued from page 1

much money without all those teams,” Smith said.

Smith said the money raised goes to the American Cancer Society and is filtered back into the community through various programs, including research at Kansas State University and the University of Kansas.

There are also programs through the American Cancer Society that help patients with mileage expenses.

Smith said another program that is funded through Relay For Life is “Look Good Feel Good.”

“It provides wigs and makeup so the patients can look and feel good about themselves,” she said.

The top teams were Ag Partners Co-op, First Christian Church Jingalings and First Presbyterian Church. The top youth team was sponsored by Rick and Beth Morrison.

Individually, the top youth fund-raiser was Whitney Matthewson, second was Ryker Smith and third was Calvin Hill. The top adult fund-raiser was Toby Melster, second Bill Bailey and third Sharon Meyer.

Smith said programs and patient requests can be made through the American Cancer Society at 1-800-359-1025 or by e-mailing stacie.schroeder@cancer.org.

Some of the 40 cancer survi-
vors kick off the 12-hour walk-
a-thon with their traditional tap.
Life science center could vault Kansas to a leading role

Kansas stands to become one of the nation's premier life science centers. The University of Kansas laid out its plan today to invest $800 million over the next 10 years with that goal in view.

As previewed Sunday in the Kansas City Star, KU will hire 244 researchers who will work in the greatly expanded university medical center in Kansas City, Kan., and on the Lawrence campus.

Impressive new buildings that will add 863,000 square feet to the Med center will help create what Chancellor Bob Hemenway describes as a major academic entity around which an elite regional life science center can grow.

"We know what it will take to move KU's research enterprise to the next level. The benefits will be profound. Advances in research will improve lives and a vigorous research effort absolutely can be an economic driver for the region," Hemenway told a Kansas City Star reporter.

In today’s knowledge-based economy initiatives such as this are what it takes to move a region to a new level of economic growth. What computer chips did for Silicon Valley, life science can do for Kansas City and the Kansas and Missouri counties that surround it.

KU’s decision to make this major commitment to the life sciences has been long-building. The chancellor has been pushing for several years to lift the University of Kansas into the top ranks of the nation’s public universities, fully aware that it takes a major research university to serve as a hub around which knowledge-based industries take root and grow.

The development of the Stowers Institute in Kansas City and the growth of St. Luke’s Hospital as a regional center for the treatment of cardiovascular disease provided the KU Med Center and the university proper logical partners for a life science initiative.

While the first purpose will be to find cures for diseases and treatment for injuries, which now defy medical science, the investment will also create high-wage incomes for the center’s employees and spur the development of satellite businesses, which will also hire highly trained, highly paid workers.

THE $800 million tag looks more modest when compared to the cost of a new sports stadium or theme park, either of which could easily cost more to build and do less to improve the regional economy.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and the Legislature should sign up as boosters from the get-go.

If the initiative as announced seems lacking in any way perhaps it is in the proposed timeline. Will it really take 10 years to realize? How about five — or a 7.5-year compromise?

In addition to doing its part to provide money, the Legislature should also pledge to keep its ideologues corralled. Political science should not be allowed to trump science, as columnist Ellen Goodman advised in a recent essay, meaning that Congress and state legislators should not try to dictate how scientific research will be conducted with public funds or what kinds of knowledge university scientists should pursue.

Once these hurdles have been cleared, Kansas can, and most surely should, move as fast as it can to translate Chancellor Hemenway’s exciting vision into reality.

— Emerson Lynn, Jr.