

Local community still focused on hurricanes' aftermath

- News Tribune eReader

- 28 Dec 2017

- By Phillip Sitter phillip@newstribune.com

Readers may recall local schools raised money and supplies for disaster relief after hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria hit different parts of the United States along the Gulf Coast and in the Caribbean this year.

Lewis and Clark Middle School Principal Sherri Thomas said earlier this month the school sent approximately \$3,790 to the Goodson Middle School community in Cypress, Texas, hit by Harvey — \$2,790.79 raised by students, staff and parents, and another \$1,000 from Lewis and Clark's student council.

That brings the total amount — not including the value of other supplies like books and school supplies that have also been donated — raised by local schools for hurricane relief to at least \$13,000.

Meanwhile, Cole County Recorder of Deeds Ralph Bray said his brother, Alan, is still on the Irma-wrecked U.S. Virgin Island of St. Thomas.

Ralph said in September communication with Alan had been spotty, and as of two weeks ago, he has only been able to contact his brother by text message — phone calls haven't gone through.

He said when he and Alan communicated about three weeks before, his brother and wife, Tracy, had regained partial electric service. "At his apartment building they had a generator, so every evening the generator would be on for 30 minutes so people could flush their toilets and take a cold shower," Ralph Bray said of what his brother told him.

More recently, he said, Alan notified him full power had been restored, but when it came back on, Alan discovered their appliances didn't work anymore. Ralph said he didn't know if that was a simple problem or if he would have to replace all of them.

"Frustrating is one of the words he's been using," Ralph said. He didn't know if Alan knew the status of his job at the heavily damaged University of the Virgin Islands, where he is an internal auditor at the president's office, and Tracy is listed as an administrative assistant.