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(S.D.)-Oelrichs Residents Help Replenish Items After Fire Destroys Home



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/14/2014 12:34 PM

(OELRICHS, S.D.)-People who have lived in or around the Oelrichs, S.D., area can attest to the friendliness and generosity of the community. Residents are doing no less than that for a family who recently lost their belongings and the home they were renting in a fire last week. Gordon and Tammi Hughson and their four children made it out of the house safely on the evening of Tuesday, March 4th, but most everything else was destroyed by the blaze. Fall River County Sheriff Rich Mraz says the cause of the fire has been said to be electrical in nature, but the state fire marshal is conducting an official investigation.

That's when Oelrichs community members rallied around the family to help replenish what they lost. An Oelrichs school official said on Tuesday of this week that the school "has kinda been a drop-off point for donated items" and they also have a jar out to collect monetary donations. She says the family has seemed to be a bit overwhelmed by and very thankful for the generosity of their neighbors and friends.

Tammi Hughson is a first-year teacher at the school, so the family has not lived in the area long. They've been able to rent another property already and have received a wide variety of household goods and other items from many sources. There was a Facebook page for awhile requesting specific needed items, including sheets, towels and more, but the Oelrichs school official said it sounded as if most of the needed items had already been donated. She said Tammi Hughson had said at one point that they had received more clothes than they even had before.

That's the small town way of life in Oelrichs.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail news@chadrad.com.)

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