

# St. Francis man helps with cleanup

**By Karen Krien**  
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On May 4, a tornado ripped through the middle of Kansas, destroying 95 percent of Greensburg. Derrick Tice, St. Francis, and Mike Batten, Colby, were friends of Andy Burr whose parents lived in the destroyed town. Mr. Burr was a college buddy of the two men.

On Wednesday, May 9, they traveled to Greensburg to help Gary and Martha Burr sort through the rubble and carried load after load to the curb where it would be taken away.

Mr. Tice said they sat in line for 1.5 hours waiting to enter the town. If the windshield of the vehicle didn't have permission written on it with grease paint, the driver needed to have proof of why they were wanting to enter.

Mr. Tice said security was especially tight that day because President Bush was coming to see the damage. Later, the area was declared a federal disaster area.

The men found the Burr house completely destroyed. The car, while it ran, was almost completely destroyed and the pickup was totaled. Pictures Mr. Tice took showed houses and businesses in piles, pieces of tin wrapped around tree trunks which had most of the branches removed, the school and hospital were destroyed, and the roofs of the buildings housing emergency equipment had fallen on the fire trucks and ambulance.

"It was really terrible," Mr. Tice said.

They had arrived at 11:30 a.m. but were required to be out of town by 6 that evening. He said it was hard to get rid of much of the stuff in that short of time. He also noted that what the area needs is large equipment to move the rubble.

He said the Burrs are not sure if they will rebuild or what they will do.

**Emergency manager's advice**

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said right now, people wanting to go to Greensburg need to contact him so he can make arrangements before they can get into the area. There are people who are

wanting to help but, at the present time, money is what is needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster have compiled a list of organizations that are accepting donations on behalf of the Greensburg tornado victims. They include:

- City of Greensburg Authorized Monetary Funds, Greensburg Rebuilding Fund, Greensburg State Bank, 620-723-2131
- Big Well Rebuilding Fund, City of Greensburg, 239 S. Main, Greensburg 67054
- South Central Community Foundation/ Friends of Education. Send to: Friends of Education (must be marked Friends of Education to go to schools), South Central Community Foundation, Peoples Bank, P.O. Box 8624, Pratt 67124
- Monetary Donations
- South Central Community Foundation (local foundation raising money for rebuilding), 620-672-7929, Mail to: Greensburg Future Fund, South Central Community Foundation, PO Box 8624, Pratt 67124
- Red Cross, 1-800-733-2767. Mail to: Red Cross Midway-Kansas Chapter, PO Box 3726, Wichita 67201

Specify check for: Kansas tornadoes; www.redcross.org

- Salvation Army, 1-800-725-2769. Mail to: 3637 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111. Make check out to: Salvation Army or go to www.armykettle.org
- United Way - Mail to: Green for Greensburg Fund, United Way of the Plains, 245 N Water, Wichita 67202. Make check out to: Green for Greensburg Fund. Online: www.unitedwayplains.org/disasters/greensburgtornado.htm

**Item donations**

- Kansas Food Bank, 316-265-3663, 1919 E Douglas, Wichita

Default location for all donations (not just food). The Food Bank will sort donations and deliver them to all distribution centers near Greensburg.

Items currently needed: Gallon size cans of food, snack foods, rakes, shovels, tarps, work gloves, sunscreen



**LITTLE LEFT** as a tornado ripped through Greensburg the first of May. Derrick Tice along with a buddy went to help Gary and Martha Burr, parents of Mr. Tice college friend, sort

through the wreckage of what was left of their home, above. The group found the sites and devastation unbelievable.

*Herald photos by Derrick Tice*



**BURR'S CAR** set abandoned as the garage that covered was nowhere to be found.



**INSIDE** their home was little to salvage as after the tornado the area had received substantial showers.



## National Nursing Home Week May 13-19



*In Christ's Love,  
Everyone Is Someone.*

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and palsied hand.  
Blessed are they who know my ears today must strain to hear the things they say.  
Blessed are they who seem to know my eyes are dim and my wits slow.  
Blessed are they who looked away when coffee spilled at the table today.  
Blessed are they with a cherry smile who stopped to chat a little while.  
Blessed are they who never say ... "You've told that story twice today".  
Blessed are they who know the way to bring back memories of yesterdays.  
Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone.  
Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss to find the strength to carry the cross.  
Blessed are they who ease the days on my journey home in loving ways.