




Weather  
Corner



Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A chance of thunderstorms in the evening...Then a slight chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

**Tuesday**...Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 80. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening...Then numerous light rain showers and isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

**Wednesday**...Cooler. Mostly cloudy with scattered light rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of light rain showers in the evening. Lows in the lower 40s.

**Thursday**...Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

**Friday**...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.



A tulip in Colby is weighed down Saturday morning by the snow that fell Friday accompanied by strong winds. About .23 of precipitation was recorded.

EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Seasons overlap

Bush hails recovery of Kansas town

GREENSBURG . (AP) — President Bush hailed the resilience of this town and its tiny high school graduating class Sunday, one year after a tornado barreled through with astonishing fury.

Never before had Bush delivered a commencement address at a high school, and his presence was meant to reflect how far Greensburg has come. From nearly total devastation last May 4, this town is recovering, and hope has been rekindled.

At the center of attention is the Class of 2008 — 10 boys and eight girls. They finished their senior year at a makeshift campus of trailers.

“We celebrate the resurgence of a town that stood tall when its buildings and homes were laid low,” Bush said in his remarks at the temporary high school gym.

“We celebrate the power of faith, the love of family and the bonds of friendship that guided you through the disaster,” Bush said. “And we celebrate the resilience of 18 seniors who grew closer together when the world around them blew apart.”

Bush said the graduating class has sent a powerful message to the nation: “Greensburg, Kansas, is back and its best days are ahead.”

The tornado that flattened Greensburg was the worst in the United States in years. It raged at 205 mph, spanned more than a mile and a half and killed 11 people.

From the ruins, it was hard to tell what had stood before. Bush visited five days after the storm, when he walked through the gnarled mess and handed out hugs.

An estimated 95 percent of the town was leveled. No more schools, city hall, fire department or power plant. More than 900 homes were destroyed. What was left looked eerie, with cars planted into crumpled structures and trees ripped of all their limbs.

Bush told the students Sunday that they had learned a hard lesson of perseverance.

He compared their resolve to that shown by victims of other disasters, including the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the string of hurricanes, floods and fires during his terms.

“The lessons that you have learned in this town will give you the strength to rise above any obstacle in your path,” Bush said. “You have seen life at its most difficult. You have emerged stronger from it.”

Bush personally handed a diploma to each graduate.

The ceremony drew essentially the whole town, and then some, into a temporary warehouse-style structure. An estimated 900 people packed in, although the total appeared to easily top that, including alumni of the school and officials from around the state.

Bush was welcomed warmly into town. People holding American flags flanked the roadside.

Leaders of the graduating class thanked Bush for coming, and spoke with optimism.

“We couldn’t control what happened a year ago,” said the co-valedictorian, Cassie Blackburn. “We were thrown off course, but we recovered.”

Greensburg’s resilience has drawn raves.

Homes are popping up, businesses are reopening and a new water tower symbolically stands tall. The population is down from its pre-tornado total of 1,400, but rising.

LOST DOG

St. Bernard Adult Female. Spayed, blue collar with tags, has micro chip. Family Pet. Missing East of the 9 mile corner Sunday morning, May 4th.

Please call 462-1002

Norton graduate honored in Topeka

**By TOM DREILING**  
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Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

Television news show producer.

It sounds like a plate full, but for a Norton Community High School graduate, it’s all in a day’s work.

Stefanie Sloan, who graduated in 2002, was named TARC’s Outstanding Volunteer of the Year at Topeka. The organization uses an acronym to identify itself, but it works with people and children with developmental disabilities.

She was cited for dedicating endless hours and energy to the organization’s Tiny Tot Tech Time program, which involves working with children. She was described as adding a ray of sunshine to her co-workers, and also being much loved by the children.

Stefanie was also described as a person who can be counted on and leaves you with the secure feeling the children’s needs are being ad-

ressed.

The awards presentation was held April 29.

She works for KTKA 49 ABC News, Topeka, as producer of the evening news. She did her internship at that station and eventually accepted a position as the morning show producer, later becoming producer of the 10 o’clock News.

When asked what a news producer does, Stefanie said, “That’s really hard to explain, but I’ll do my best.”

She said she arrives at work at 2 p.m., when a meeting is then held on what stories they are covering that day, and what is going in the 10 o’clock news. She said she has some input on what she wants to put in her show.

“The reporters do most of the writing, and I write mostly national stories and stories that don’t have video to go along with it,” she said.

“I then decide what stories go where in the show,” she said.

“Basically, I decide what (view-

ers) see on the show and when (they) see it, because I’m in charge of the whole show,” she said.

Stefanie said she also makes sure the anchors get to where they are supposed to be and give them time cues during the show. “I am also partially responsible for reading over reporters’ scripts, making sure they are accurate and make sense,” she said.

“During the show, I have to make sure we get out on time, give time cues to our weatherman, and make decisions on what to do when things go wrong,” she said.

Stefanie attended Hutchinson Community College on a volleyball scholarship, where she received an Associate’s degree in Telecommunications in 2004. While at Hutchinson, she worked for *The Hutchinson News* as a sports clerk.

From Hutchinson Community College, she went to the University of Central Arkansas, also on a volleyball scholarship, where she double majored in television-

broadcasting and speech communications. Additionally, she worked as the sports anchor and community forum reporter for the university’s Channel 6 News and helped in the Sports Information Department.

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-----5/1---5/7-----

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-----4/21---5/2-----

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