# 4-Hers learn about global positioning

By Ron Wilson

Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University Using their global positioning system equipment, the team members move along the Kansas River, digitally mapping the erosion along

Does this sound like an engineering project? Maybe a group of high-tech consultants? It is, but there's something different about this group of technicians: Their average fourteen years old.

This is part of a special project to involve 4-Hers in serving their communities while learning about geospatial technology.

Beth Hecht is a K-State Research and Extension associate specialist in geospatial literacy with the Depart-

ment of 4-H Youth Development. From a rural area, she is giving leadership to this unique initiative.

Beth had been a 4-H agent for 17 years. A Penn State grad, she met her future husband while visiting Kansas City. She relocated to Kansas and became the Leavenworth County 4-H youth development agent. Beth and her husband settled near the unincorporated community of 100 people. Now, that's rural.

In 2006, Beth went to the National 4-HAgents Association conference in Wisconsin. She signed up for a flights, only to find that the session they did that," Beth said. for which she had signed up was cancelled. Instead, she went to a topic: Global Positioning System and Geographic Information Systems, or GPS and GIS for short.

from some 4-Hers but didn't know what they really meant. During the national preconference, 4-H members talked about how they had used GPS-GIS technology to map where crimes were being committed in their community during afterschool hours, compared to where deputies were located. They shared their findings with the local police Jarbalo with a population of maybe department, which made adjustments and reduced crime by some 20 percent. Beth was immediately excited by what she heard.

"In the first five minutes, I was pre-conference session and booked hooked. Sign me up to learn how

She got a grant which provided software and support to youth in different session on an unfamiliar her county to do GPS/GIS-related work. Leavenworth County created a tech team involving 4-Hers in various community service projects

She had heard of GPS and GIS utilizing GPS and GIS technology. The 4-H members were locating certain items or information using handheld devices and entering the data on computers with special software.

> For example, the tech team digitally mapped such locations as the water sprinklers at a local recreation park, the one-room schoolhouses around the county, and riverbank erosion along the Kansas River. To accomplish the latter, team members used GPS devices and gathered data for the water marks along the Kansas River and then plotted the points using GIS software. The 4-Hers presented the results of their work to the county GIS, planning and zoning, emergency management, and public works departments. The county GIS director applauded the excellent value of their project.

This innovative work led to Beth

in geospatial literacy for the state 4-H office. What is geospatial literacy? "It's the study of our space, the world around us, and how it connects together," Beth said. In practice, it means learning how to use global positioning satellite and geographic information system technology and applying it in a community setting. Kansas 4-H has launched a GeoTech Community Service Learning Program so that more 4-Hers can learn and utilize this technology.

Beth sees benefits to both communities and 4-Hers: "Communities benefit from GIS as it allows information to be visualized and understood, helping to answer questions and solve problems, and the youth benefit from learning and applying this leading edge technology. They're developing critical

being named associate specialist thinking skills as they gain hands-on knowledge about technology and their communities - stuff they're going to be using throughout their lives, in their careers."

For more information, go to www.kansas4h.org.

Having completed their digital mapping, the team members hit "enter" on their handheld computer devices, as they finish their GPS and GIS project.

We commend Beth Hecht and all those involved with the geospatial literacy project for making a difference by benefitting their county while learning about this technology.

While helping their community, these 4-Hers are also positioning themselves for rewarding careers in a global society.



**Chase Topliff and Bailee Guyer** 

# Goodland couple plans to wed in July

of Goodland will marry on Saturday, July 23, 2011, at the Goodland United Methodist Church, 12th and Shelly Petz officiating.

Her parents are Barry and Joni Guyer of Goodland and his parents are Randy and Jeannie Topliff of Goodland and Becky Topliff and Randy Waggoner of Abilene.

The bride-to-be's grandparents are Sharon Mann and the late Darrell Mann and Lowell and Carol Guyer, all of Goodland, and the groom elect's grandparents are Dean and Myrna Topliff and Sharon Goodland High School. Finley of Goodland and the late

Bailee Guyer and Chase Topliff Dennie Finley and the late Richard and Byrleen Groft.

The bride-to-be graduated in 2005 from Goodland High School Sherman, Goodland with the Rev. and in 2010 from Colby Community Collge as a certified massage therapist. She works for the Goodland School District at West Elementary School and at Beauty for Life as a massage therapist.

The groom elect graduated in 2005 from Abilene High School and 2009 from Fort Hays State University with a degree in business and secondary education. He teaches business and marketing for

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wards and figure out the steps you

need to take to reach your successful

backwards.

come look like?



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outcome. Once you've figured out work backwards. the path from a successful outcome The secret works for more than to where you are now, you're ready just mazes. When faced with a tough to start with a clear direction. problem, start at the end and work

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting, sponsored in part by Sherman County. For information contact Jamie Morphew at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

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Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.

# Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST Winona:

Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.

Evening Service: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Travis Blake

1121 Main

890-3450

Sunday:

Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship: 10 a.m.

Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.

**Thursday:** Bible study 9:30 a.m.

Wheatridge Center

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1160 Cattletrail

**Pastor:** Jerry Nowack

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11 a.m.

#### First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**Pastor:** Rev. Carol Edling Jolly *Eighth & Arcade* • 890-5233 Sunday: Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Class - Noon Pastor Carol's Class 5:45 p.m. www.goodlandfccdoc.org

Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m.

#### **Goodland United Methodist** Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631 **Pastors**: Dustin and Shelly Petz Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

#### **United Methodist** Church **Pastor**: Leonard Cox

Kanorado

399-2468 **Sunday**: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

#### Goodland Rible Church 109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor: Chad DeJong **Sunday**: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

#### St. Paul's Episcopal Church 13th & Center

Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969 **Priest:** Father Hal Lycett

Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. Thursday Daily Morning Prayer

For emergencies 890-6969

#### **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

*13th & Sherman* • *890-6161* Pastor: Darian Hybl **Sunday:** Christian eduction/fellowship: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 9 a.m.

#### Harvest Evangelical Free Church

521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423 **Pastor**: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday: Senior High 6:30 p.m. at church

#### Junior High 6:30 p.m. at 708 Washington www.goodlandefree.com

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