

**weather
report**

62°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:11 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:28 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 46 degrees
- Humidity 54 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds south 21-25 mph
- Barometer 29.74 inches and falling
- Record High 85° (1946)
- Record Low 0° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High 75°
Low 29°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 40, southeast winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, high 75, southeast winds 10-20 mph, low 35-40.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Dry, high 70s, low 35-45. Thursday: Chance of thunderstorms, high 65-75, low 35-45. Friday: Chance of thunderstorms, high 65-75, low 30s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local
markets**



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.53
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.92 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.77
- Loan deficiency payment — 22¢
- Milo — \$3.08 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$3.78 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.64
- Loan deficiency payment — 1.26¢
- Millet — \$6 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$6.65 cwt.
- Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.13
- Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**afternoon
wire**

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

State budget tops agenda

TOPEKA — Legislators resumed negotiations today on a \$9.1 billion spending bill, trying to decide whether they'll duck some of the most difficult issues.

The House and Senate approved almost the same amount of spending for the state's 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1, but each chamber's version differed from the other's in dozens of ways.

The biggest differences were over state employee pay raises, pensions for retired government workers and how to spend Kansas Lottery and tobacco settlement funds.

Legislative leaders appointed three senators and three House members to draft the final version of the bill. Negotiators hoped to finish their work today.

The conference committee met Friday but spent most of its time reconciling small differences.

Goodland pilot one of crew

TV gives parents updates

By Rachel Miscall

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Ron and Judy Vignery have been glued to the news since learning Saturday night that their son Jeff was one of the pilots on a U.S. Navy plane forced to land in China after a mid-air collision.

The Goodland couple say they have been tuned into CNN and trying to tune out reporters and talk-show staffers calling for interviews.

Judy Vignery, owner of Judy's Preschool and a substitute teacher, said their son's wife Julie called from Whidbey Island, Wash., about 11 p.m. to say Jeff was on the plane — which collided with a Chinese fighter jet at 8:07 p.m. Mountain Time on Saturday, about 60 miles southeast of a Chinese island in the South China Sea.

"She knew by morning it was going to be on the radio and the television," Mrs. Vignery said. "She didn't want us to find out that way."

Jeff, a 1992 Goodland High School graduate, was one of three pilots on the plane, which is still on Hainan Island along with the 24 crew members. The Chinese jet and its pilot are still missing, but the U.S. has offered to help in the search.

While U.S. officials, who had not been allowed contact with the crew by this morning, say the American plane and crew should be released, Chinese people are outraged, demanding that authorities seize the plane or imprison the Americans.

Ron Vignery, a partner in Vignery and Mason law firm and a former Navy lawyer, said he's read that the Chinese are still angry over the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's accidental bombing of China's embassy in Yugoslavia two years ago.

"I hope our people aren't used as scapegoats," he said, noting he and his wife have decided not to talk to large newspapers or networks for their son's safety.

Jeff Vignery, a lieutenant (junior grade), was the only confirmed crew member this morning, and his parents said they don't want attention focused on him.

Ron Vignery said representatives of Good Morning America called at 4 a.m., asking the couple to fly to New York for an interview. He said Fox



Jeff Vignery, a 1992 Goodland High School graduate, and his wife Julie, after their wedding in 1997. Lt. j.g. Vignery, 27, was one of the pilots on a Navy plane that made an emergency landing in China this weekend after a midair collision with a Chinese fighter plane.

News has also been calling, but he and his wife are choosing not to talk.

"We don't want him singled out," Vignery said. "Those might be unfounded fears, but those are our fears as parents. There are 24 crew members and the only name getting out is our son's."

Judy Vignery said she and her husband grew up in Sherman County, moving back in the mid-1970s with Jeff, who was 3 months old. Now 27, she said, Jeff graduated in 1997 from the University of Kansas, where he was in the Navy Reserve Officer's Training Corps.

She said Jeff has been stationed in Okinawa since February, making flights in a Navy EP-3 surveillance plane.

"He's doing what he loves to do," she said, "and that's flying."

The love of flying must be in Jeff's blood, she said, as her father, Watson Hevner, was one of the first pilots in Goodland, managing the city's airport for 30 years.

She said she knew something was wrong when she heard Julie's voice on the line, but she was happy to hear that her son was not hurt.

"When I heard her voice," she said, "it scared me. I was just thankful that they made an emergency landing and are OK."

The Vignerys said the Navy hasn't contacted them, so they are relying on CNN reports for information.

"I haven't heard anything more," Judy Vignery said. "I don't think anybody knows what's going on right now. I'm just hoping that they'll come on and say that they've released the crew and they're coming home."

No one is sure when that could happen. President Bush today demanded China promptly return the crew members, but Chinese officials had not responded.

U.S. officials say the American plane was on a routine mission when it was intercepted by two Chinese F-8 fighters.

China blames the U.S. plane for the crash, saying it suddenly veered into its fighter.

Ron Vignery said what he cares about most is that his son returns safely.

"My reactions are those of a parent, not a diplomat," he said, "so I naturally want him back today."

When he does talk to his son again, Vignery said, he'll tell him that he loves him, but he won't discourage his military career.

"Somebody's son needs to be in Navy," he said. "The country needs protecting."

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China may let U.S. talk to crew tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Monday demanded that China release 24 U.S. crew members and their plane packed with spy technology, seeking to end a standoff which brought back memories of the Cold War.

Despite U.S. demands for immediate access to the crew and aircraft, China indicated it would not be granted before Tuesday night, China time, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said later.

"We find it very troubling about the lack of speed," McClellan said. "We continue to press for prompt access."

Earlier, Bush said he was dismayed U.S. diplomats had not been given access to the crew after the plane made an emergency landing on the Chinese island of Hainan.

"I'm troubled by the lack of a timely Chinese response to this request for this access," he said on the White House lawn, adding that failure to comply would be "inconsistent with standard diplomatic practice." "Our priorities are the prompt and safe return of the crew and the return of the aircraft without further damaging or tampering," he said.

The U.S. plane collided with a Chinese jet fighter early Sunday, Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. Craig Quigley said the spy plane's left engine and left wing were damaged.

The plane is from an electronic reconnaissance squadron whose home base is Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Washington state.

U.S. officials sought to keep Chinese officials from boarding the Navy plane and ordered three Navy destroyers to stay near the island.

At an appearance later Monday with Egypt's president, Bush declined to address reports Chinese officials may have boarded the U.S. plane, but said he was sending a "very clear message, and I expect them to heed the message." Bush also said the United States believes its jet was in international air-

space, not inside Chinese territory, when it was hit.

Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, protested the lack of access to the crew of the turbo-prop-driven EP-3, which is about the size of a Boeing 737 commercial jetliner.

"Under international law, that should've happened long ago," Shelton said in an interview.

"We should have had access."

He said it was "hard to imagine" the U.S. plane had initiated the collision.

China blames the U.S. plane for the crash, saying it suddenly veered into one of the F-8 fighters.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the crew had called in after the collision to indicate no one was injured, but he said no one has spoken directly to them since they landed on Hainan.

Bush said U.S. officials had been in contact with the Chinese since the incident, which happened Saturday night U.S. time. He offered assistance in finding the missing Chinese jet, one of two he said were shadowing the American plane when the collision happened.

"Our military stands ready to help," he said.

Chinese representatives have told U.S. officials the American crew is safe, deputy White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

The U.S. destroyers happened to have stopped at Hong Kong en route home from the Persian Gulf when the EP-3 was forced to land, two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The destroyers will remain in the area indefinitely instead of resuming their journey home, the officials said.

Bush discussed the incident Monday with his national security team, including Secretary of State Colin Powell, Rumsfeld and Condoleezza Rice, national security adviser to the president.



Some Goodland residents tied yellow ribbon to their trees as a show of support for Jeff Vignery, a Navy pilot being held in China after his plane collided with a Chinese fighter plane this weekend. Others pinned ribbon to their clothes or made signs.

Photo by Eric Yonkey
The Goodland Daily News

Voters to fill commission, school board seats

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The only contest in Sherman County for Tuesday's general election is for the Goodland City Commission, where there are three seats open and five candidates, though there are hot races for three seats on the nearby Brewster School Board.

Vying for seats on the commission are incumbents Chuck Lutters and Rick Billinger, along with newcomers Dean Blume, Brenda McCants and John Nichols.

Lutters, the mayor this year, is building and grounds supervisor for the Goodland School District.

Billinger works for Nationwide Home Sales selling mobile and modular homes.

Blume, a retired owner of a lawn and garden business and host of a radio talk show called "Blume's Garden Talk," works part-time in the automotive technology department at the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

McCants is director of patient relations and volunteer services at the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Nichols is a retired city employee. Running for the three positions on the Goodland School Board are incumbents Dick Short and Mike Campbell, both of Goodland, and former board

member Ron Schilling of Edson.

Short is president of Short and Son Trucking and Century Feeders, both of Goodland.

Campbell is the district director for 15 counties for the U.S. Farm Services Agency.

Schilling is a farmer and rancher who was on the board for one term between 1995-1999.

In the Kanorado City Council election, running again for the position of mayor is Hazel Estes, who has been mayor for 10 years.

For the three seats on the city council, incumbents Greg Pettibone and Marshall Siruta and newcomer Deb Fahey will be on the ballot.

Estes is an agent with Farm Bureau Insurance in Goodland.

Pettibone is owner of Northwinds Survey in Kanorado.

Siruta is a farmer.

Fahey cares for elderly people in their homes in the area.

In the Brewster school district, which is based in Thomas County, there are two candidates for each of three positions on the school board.

Rush, the only incumbent, is a farmer. Carpenter is partners with her husband in a farming and cattle operation.

Horinek operates a dryland farm. Benham is a registered nurse.

Starns teaches pre-school for the Head Start program in Goodland. Dixon is involved with cattle and quarter house associations in Kansas, Colorado and the region.

The polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Tuesday. In Goodland, voting will take place at: Ward 1, on the second floor of the city building; Wards 2 and 3, at the fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church; and Ward 4, on the south side of the courthouse lobby.

Sherman County residents who live in Grant, Iowa, Llanos, Logan, McPherson, Shermanville, Smoky, Union and Washington townships will vote at the fellowship hall of the Goodland United Methodist Church. Those in Itasca, Lincoln and Voltaire townships will vote on the north side of the courthouse lobby.

In Kanorado and Stateline Township, people will vote at the Kanorado Senior Citizen's Center.

People living in Westhale Township, which includes those in the city of Brewster, will vote at city hall.



Crystal Linsner, deputy election officer, fed papers into the vote tabulating machine this morning in the commissioner's room of the Sherman County Courthouse, checking to see if the machine was working in preparation for Tuesday's election.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News