

Crew honored in D.C.

VIGNERY, from Page 1

ited with heroically regaining control of the EP-3E Aries II aircraft after it collided with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea and landing it safely.

For his efforts, Osborn was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

"Lt. Osborn's dedicated efforts ultimately ensured the survival of 24 crewmembers and preserved a vital operational asset," his award citation read.

The others received the Air Medal for exceptional achievement. As the senior officer, Osborn and the senior enlisted member of the crew, Senior Chief Nicholas Mellos, also received the Meritorious Service Medal for their leadership roles during the 11 days they were detained in China.

Earlier today, the crew visited the White House.

"There's the good man," President Bush said as he greeted pilot Osborn. The president and Vice President Dick Cheney gave Osborn and his crew — all in their dress whites, some toting cameras — a tour of the Oval Office.

"The vice president and I are thrilled to be able to look you in the eye and say thanks for your service to the country," Bush said, saluting the crew's "class and dignity" throughout their 11-day ordeal in Chinese custody.

On the day of their release, Bush said the American people "are proud of our crew, and we look forward to welcoming them home."

And welcomed they were, as heroes at every stop.

"We're just servicemen doing a job," crewman Jeremy Crandall said during an appearance at North Boone High School in Poplar Grove, Ill. "We went through an ordeal and survived it, and now we're home. You guys might call us heroes; we call it doing our jobs."

Crandall's welcome back to Illinois also included an April 18 appearance at Wrigley Field to throw out the first pitch and sing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" during the Chicago Cubs' seventh inning stretch.

The Cubbies rewarded him with a doubleheader sweep of the Philadelphia Phillies, 4-3 and 5-3.

Among Navy medals, the Distinguished Flying Cross ranks among the most prestigious, ahead of the Bronze Star and just below the Legion of Merit.

It is awarded for an act of heroism or achievement in flight "so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart" from his comrades, according to military records.

The commander of the Pacific Fleet, Adm. Thomas Fargo, recommended Osborn for the award.

The United States is negotiating with China for the return of the crippled EP-3E surveillance plane that remains on Hainan island.

"We're working to get the plane home. We're making progress about getting the plane home," Bush said on Friday, "but today, we get to celebrate the fact that the crew is home and that's the most important thing."

The Chinese fighter pilot died after his jet tumbled into the South China Sea following the collision with the Navy plane, which had been on a routine mission.

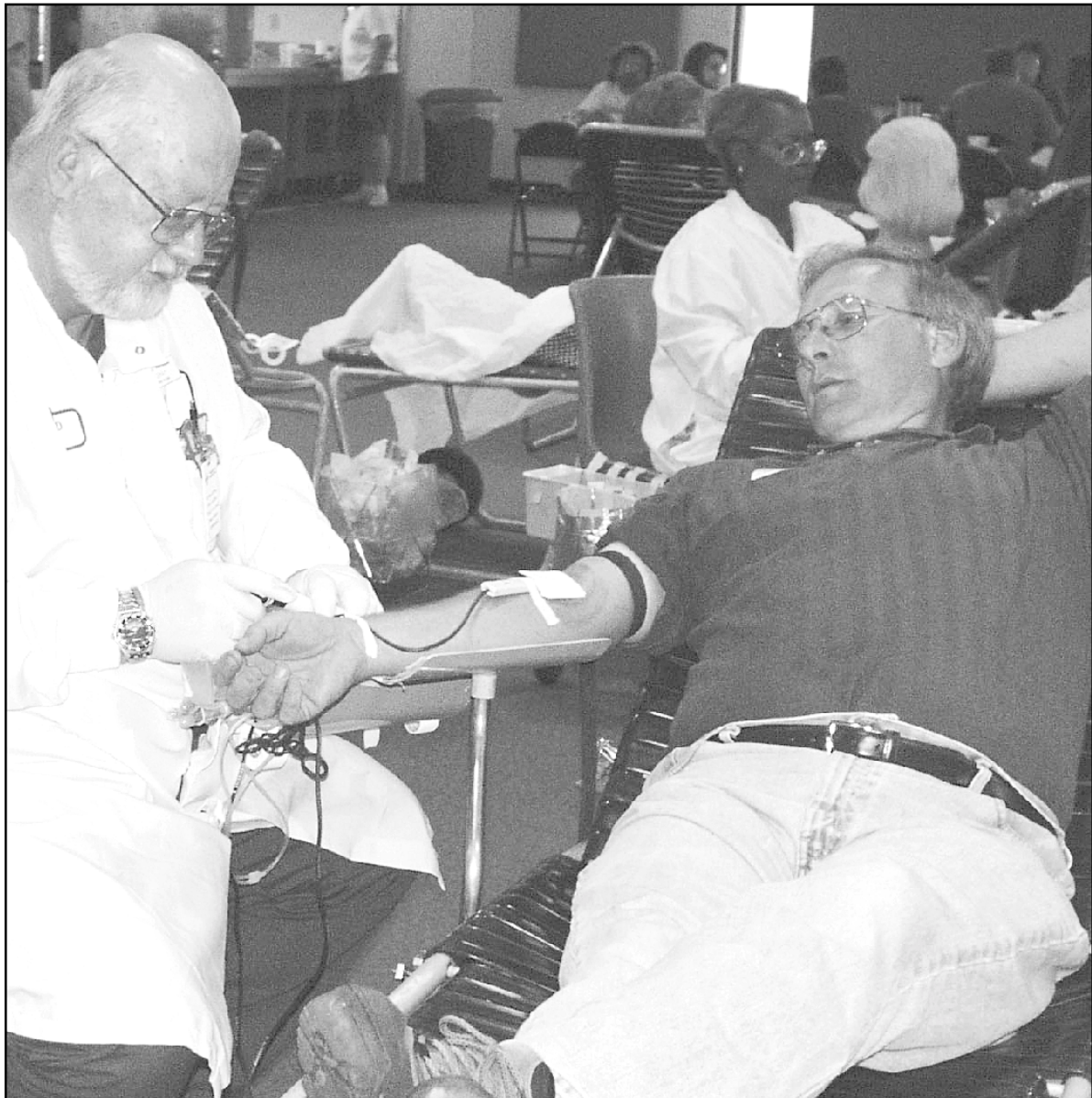
China blamed the U.S. plane for the accident, while U.S. officials said it was the jet that caused the crash by flying too close.

Osborn is credited with saving his crew by bringing the four-engine propeller plane, a military version of the old Lockheed Electra airliner, out of an uncontrolled dive for an emergency landing.

At Andrews, the military has brought in a similar EP-3E Aries surveillance plane to stand in for the crew's aircraft.

The backdrop for the medal ceremony was the opening ceremony of the annual Joint Service Open House at Andrews, in the Maryland suburbs just outside Washington.

Visiting the vampires



Blood donor Kendall Gittinger watched as Ron Gray, a phlebotomist with the American Red Cross, filled small vials with his blood Wednesday evening. The blood drive was held in the fellowship hall of the Goodland United Methodist Church. The goal was 100 units of blood, but only 78 were collected, said co-chairman Harriett Demaree.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

School board to go over agreements

The Goodland School Board will meet Monday to review the negotiated agreement between the board and the teachers' union for next year and discuss which company to buy health insurance from.

Negotiating teams for the board and the teachers reached tentative agreement on next year's contract Wednesday, allowing \$117,390 in salary increases, a \$5-per-day increase for unused sick leave, changes in how teachers

fulfill an annual technology training requirement and changes in the number of professional development training hours that can be used to move up the salary scale.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said board members will discuss approving the contract, which teachers will vote on this week.

The district's health insurance committee will recommend either keeping

the same health insurance policy — which will include a 32.8 percent rate increase — or switching policies.

Selby said he expects the committee to recommend the district stay with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan despite the increase, which could strain the district budget next year.

The superintendent said the board may go behind closed doors to discuss resignation notices from staff.

Census shows population differences

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — As a state, Kansas is aging, pushed in large part by the baby boomers' bubble, plus an increase in the number of its oldest residents.

Census Bureau figures released this week give a more detailed breakdown of the age and sex of the state's 2,688,418 residents as of April 1, 2000, and make comparisons to 1990 data.

"The population has grown at a steady pace in the state. Nothing has come as a surprise," said state demographer Ann Derkes.

The male-female ratio remained fairly even. In 2000, there were 1,328,474 men and 1,359,944 women. In 1990, it was 1,214,645 men and 1,262,929 women.

The state's median age went from 32.9 years in 1990 to 35.2 years in the latest headcount. The median divides the age distribution into two equal parts

— half falling below the median age and the other half above it.

As measured by median age, Comanche is the state's oldest county, gong from 41.6 years to 46.9 years. Next were Jewell County, from 42.7 years to 46.2 years, and Elk County at 46 years, a one-year drop from a decade ago.

The town with the oldest median age — 75.5 years — is Waldron, population 17, in Harper County, along the Oklahoma border.

The number of Kansans 85 and older saw a 22.6 percent increase, to 51,770.

"Maybe there's something in the genetic makeup. Maybe it's just good, clean Kansas living," said Sam Alvey, Department on Aging director of program evaluation.

Norma Sorenson, of the American Association of Retired Persons Southwest Office in Dallas, said people also are living longer because of better health care, improved diets and taking

better care of themselves.

"It all ties together," added Sorenson, whose district covers Kansas.

Smith County is the state's oldest in terms of percent of population 85 and older, at 5.5 percent of its 4,536 residents.

Baby boomers — those 45-54 years old — accounted for 354,147 Kansans and the largest percentage increase by age group — 50.5 percent. Douglas County led with a 86.1 percent increase to 11,149. Only Graham County lost in this category.

Alvey said people in that group will start turning 60 in 2006, making them eligible for various state and federal programs for senior citizens. He said the over-60 population is expected to double between 1990 and 2025.

"With that kind of increase, there likely will be an increased demand for services," Alvey said. "They may be more politically demanding of services and they will be a political power."

But the extent of demand will depend on health and financial considerations of those people, he added.

club news

Business and Professional Women's Club

The Goodland Business and Professional Women's Club took a tour of Wheat Ridge Acres, an assisted living center in Goodland, for their April meeting.

The club met April 2 at Wheat Ridge Acres. The meeting was opened by President Nina Mersch who had the members recite the club collect and flag salute.

The treasurer's report was given by Patsy VanVleet who said there was \$145 in the treasury.

A discussion was held about the future of the club and club members are to be thinking about this and will vote at the next meeting. We also discussed the boxes of club supplies we have and when we should go through them. We

will come up with some ideas and then vote at next month's meeting.

We talked about having a history of the club made up. President Mersch made a motion that Esther Studer be in charge of writing it up and the motion carried.

We had a nice tour of Wheat Ridge Acres given by Dee Dorn and Rhonda Lovins.

Door prizes were given and refreshments were served. Hostesses were VanVleet and Myrtle Murphy. VanVleet made a motion to adjourn and it carried.

Beulah McClung, acting secretary

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Wrestling coach replaced by assistant

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board has replaced the high school wrestling coach, who resigned earlier this year, with his assistant.

Other than that, fans will see most of the same high school coaches on the field and in the gym next year, as the Goodland School Board stuck with veterans when filling positions on Monday.

Approving a recommendation from Principal Harvey Swager, board members did make one change when it came to head coaches at the high school. The board replaced Chris Guillot, the successful high school wrestling coach, who left to take a another job, with his assistant.

Guillot, a physical education teacher who coached wrestling for two years — leading the team to a state championship in 2000 — resigned earlier this year, and the board replaced him with assistant coach Randy Bahe. Troy Rall, an eighth grade English teacher, will assist Bahe, a farmer and part-time coach.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said Bahe, who is not a certified teacher, was the most experienced candidate for the job. While most head coaches also teach full-time, he said, it's not a requirement.

Connie Livengood, the girls head basketball coach, is a substitute teacher for the district and several assistant coaches have jobs elsewhere, he said.

Selby said most of the other coaching assignments didn't change. He said Tony Diehl is replacing Sharon Palmquist, who is retiring after a long career as an English teacher. He will be an assistant football coach and will also be in charge of the yearbook staff, replacing Dennis Friedrichs, who has held the position for several years.

Toby Ihnken, a new science teacher, will assist Livengood in the winter and Dennis Stone and Don Smith, the head track coaches, in the spring.

Some of the coaching and activity head positions remain open, as the district hasn't found replacements for those leaving at the end of the year.

Other coaching assignments include:

Boys basketball: Jon McLean, coach, and Brad Bergsma and Travis Witman, assistants.

Girls basketball: Livengood, coach, and Don Smith and Ihnken, assistants.

Cross Country: Smith, coach, and Rich Schwasinger, assistant.

Football: Chris Walters, coach, and Marc Cowles, Diehl, Trenton Douglas, McLean, Steve Raymer and Dennis Stone, assistants.

Boys golf: Raymer, coach, and McLean, assistant.

Softball: Terry Daise, coach, and Cowles and Bean, assistants.

Boys tennis: Jerry McKee, coach, and Wallace Hansen, assistant.

Girls tennis: Hansen, coach.

Track: Stone and Smith, coaches, and Jamie Helmut, Ihnken and Walters, assistants.

Volleyball: Jerry McKee, coach.

Wrestling: Bahe, coach, and Rall, assistant.

High school activity assignments include:

Jo Ann Wahrman, National Honor Society; Randy Berls, vocal music; Deandra Wirth and Paul Garrison, instrumental music; Schwasinger, student council; Mary Porterfield, senior class head sponsor; Linda VanLoenen, senior class assistant sponsor; Shannon Simpson, new junior class head sponsor; Mark Hageman, junior class assistant sponsor; Theresa Riddle, new cheerleader head sponsor; Jona Neufeld, cheerleader assistant sponsor; Simpson, Girls Athletic Association leader; Sarah Short, Family, Careers and Community Leaders of America head sponsor; Gwen Cebula, Family, Careers and Community Leaders of America assistant sponsor; Schwasinger, DECA leader; Douglas, Students Against Destructive Decisions, or SADD, leader; Friedrichs, Science Olympiad head, Walters, Olympiad assistant; Porterfield, American Field Service head sponsor, Elaine Felter, field service assistant sponsor; Berls, drama; Hagerman, drama assistant; Wahrman, technology technician; and Greg Craig, driver's education.

The high school's head teacher will be Smith and department heads will include, art, Hagerman; business, Stone; marketing, Schwasinger; foreign language, Porterfield; family and consumer science, Short; technology, Friedrichs, language arts, Linda VanLoenen; math, Jackie Elliott; music, Wirth; physical education, Helmut, science Jack Walker; social science, Hansen; and special services, Melody Harder.

The board approved Principal Jim Mull's coaching assignment recommendations for Grant Junior High, though some positions are open.

The coaching assignments include: Seventh-grade football: Terry Daise, coach, and Witman, assistant.

Seventh-grade boys basketball: Andy Scheopner, coach.

Eighth-grade boys basketball: Hansen, coach.

Track: Schwasinger and Brenda Linin, coaches.

Seventh-grade girls volleyball: Scheopner, coach, and Marianne Gray, assistant.

Cross-country: Schwasinger, head.

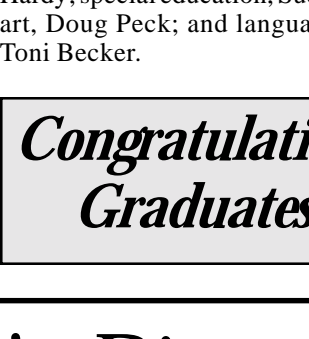
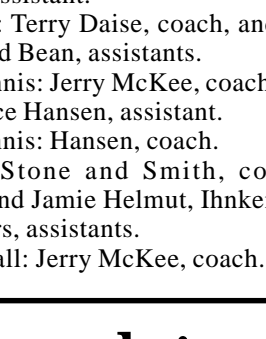
Seventh-grade girls basketball: Daise, coach, and Deanne Burkett, assistant.

Mary Kratky was named head teacher at the junior high, and department heads will be, math, Joan Walker; Kratky, physical education; science, Daise; social studies, Dave Hardy; special education, Sue Olson; art, Doug Peck; and language arts, Toni Becker.

Congratulations Graduates!

Gambino's Pizza congratulates area high school & college graduates.

We are especially proud of our Goodland High School graduate employees, Christina Lalicker and Stacey Cooper.



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