



COLBY FREE PRESS

Crumbaker elected to Teachers' Hall of Fame

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Don Crumbaker, former representative of the 121st District, will be inducted into the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame at their 24th annual ceremony in Dodge City on June 2.

He and Sen. Joe Harder, Moundridge, also being inducted, spent their entire terms on the education committee. Crumbaker had also served on the Brewster School Board, the Board of Trustees at Colby Community College and as president of the Kansas Association of School Boards in 1968.

Crumbaker is a retired managing partner of Crumbaker Farms, south of Brewster. He and his wife, Dorothy Dawn, live in Colby's Fairview Estates, having moved there last September.

"One of the best things about being down there (in Topeka) was Dorothy Dawn could be with me all the time I was in the Legislature," said Crumbaker.

Both Crumbakers had grown up in eastern Kansas, so they had relatives and friends there and Dorothy found



Retired legislator Don Crumbaker is shown hard at work as was the case for 22 years in the Kansas House of Representatives.

much to do while Don was occupied in the Legislature.

"The kids were away and married so I volunteered at some of the hospitals and over at the library at the statehouse,

and at Cedar Crest," said Dorothy. "I worked for four governors' wives and one governor, Joan Finney. I was a hostess and set up the tea table and did whatever needed to be done. I even

ironed some of (Gov.) Mike Hayden's white shirts when he needed them!"

Dorothy Crumbaker will celebrate her 85th birthday on June 3 and the Crumbakers will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary next month.

"We spent 22 years in the Legislature. I was chairman, vice chairman or ranking minority leader 20 of those 22 years on the education committee," Crumbaker said.

"They decided this year that they would honor Sen. Harder, who spent longer time in the Senate as chairman of the Senate Education Committee than I did as chairman of the House Education Committee...They decided to honor the two of us as 'Friends of Education.' We were elected in 1970 and took office in 1971 and spent 22 years in the Legislature, every year on the education committee."

Crumbaker said he was president of the Kansas Association of School Boards in 1968, and served as the first elected chairman of the Board of Trustees at Colby Community College. Before that he was on the Brewster School Board.

The Crumbakers met when they were students at Kansas State University. "Don played football for K-State and was captain of the team, and he played in the East/West Game in 1940 in San Francisco," said Dorothy. She taught home economics at Gardner for three years before they married in 1941. He was in the Navy for three years and served in the South Pacific for 20 months aboard an Australian cruiser as one of five Americans aboard.

The Crumbakers moved to Thomas County because Don had worked at the Colby Experiment Station in the summer of 1940 when he was a senior at K-State and liked it here. "After I got my master's degree after the war, they had an opening for a plant breeder and they hired me. In 1950 we moved to a farm south of Brewster to be a partner in and manage a large wheat farm, Marshall Farms, which is now called Crumbaker Farms," he said.

The Crumbakers have three children. Their oldest, JoAnn Daniels, teaches school at Liberal. Their son Ray runs the farm south of Brewster,

and his wife Linda has a bed and breakfast called *Inn the Fields*, and caters to hunters. Ray taught school for six years at Goodland, came out to the farm in 1975, then took over the operation in 1980. Daughter Jane Keck moved into their house in Brewster and works for S&T Telephone.

Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby took Crumbaker's place in the Legislature when he retired in 1992.

Induction ceremonies will be held at the Little Theater on the Dodge City Community College campus. There is no admission charge for the 2 p.m. induction. An evening banquet in the Dodge City Community College Student Union will honor the Class of 2001 with Larry Hatteberg, managing editor of KAKE television's news department, as the featured speaker. Evening banquet tickets are available for \$12.50 per person by calling the Hall of Fame at (620) 225-7311 by May 29. The Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame was the first of its kind in the United States. Founded in 1977, its purpose is to bring credit to the teaching profession.

Goodland man among 24 returning from China

By Debra Malmos

The Goodland Daily News

At what was dubbed VQ-1 "Operation Valiant Return" Saturday, Lt. j.g. Jeff Vignery of Goodland was one of the Whidbey 24 crew members who received a hero's welcome at Naval Air Station Whidbey in Oak Harbor, Wash.

The afternoon celebration attracted a crowd estimated at 7,000, cheering, waving flags and yellow ribbons to welcome home the "Whidbey 24" and share a moment in history.

The 24 crew members of the EP-3E touched down in a C-9A Skytrain aircraft of Logistics Support Squadron Sixty-one (VR-61) at 3:58 p.m., about 30 minutes earlier than anticipated. Vignery was reunited with his wife Julie and parents, Ron and Judi Vignery of Goodland.

Each crew member stepped from the plane with beaming smiles and waves to the cheering crowd. Family and close friends were given front position at the deplaning. Supervising Navy officers banished many of the press to the sidelines so crew members could share their first moments of joy with loved ones. Following a brief reception line greeting by dignitaries, crew members were allowed time with their families immediately after deplaning.

Finally, the anticipated moment, the crew of 24 entered the Naval aircraft hangar overflowing with the cheering crowd. Officer Vignery was greeted by name along with each of his fellow crew members.

They proceeded down a red carpet lined with Navy men at attention in full dress uniform. After the ceremony, Vignery was later quoted, "I've never been so proud to be an American in my entire life."

RAdm M.L. Holmes, USN Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific, praised the crew, referring to himself as the crew's "boss." He said, "Lt. Shane Osborn took the best possible action to save the lives of the crew." Drawing cheers from the crowd, Holmes also announced that Electronic Countermeasures Squadron One (VQ-1) had won this year's Pacific Fleet "Battle E" award.

Lt. Osborn said that the Chinese F-8's nose struck the nose of the EP-3E as the jet fell apparently out of control to the sea.

"My initial reaction was this guy just killed us," he said. The plane fell between 7,000 and 8,000 feet before Osborn and other crew members were able to regain control. Another initial concern of the crew was whether anyone knew what had happened and where they were.

During brief remarks, Osborn, of Norfolk, Neb., thanked God, "because it was definitely Him flying that plane." Osborn then thanked his crew, all the families who had traveled to the base and those responsible for the quick return of the servicemen and women.

"It does confirm what we all believe, that the spirit is still strong in the United States of America," Osborn added before leaving the stage to cheers from the audience.



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Goodland native Lt. j.g. Jeff Vignery, center, and crewmates returned to his home base at Whidbey Island, Wash. on Saturday, 11 days after being taken into custody by Chinese authorities after their EP-3E surveillance plane was damaged in a collision with a Chinese fighter.

Cloud seeding foes hold victory party

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

A three-year fight to stop cloud seeding over northwest Kansas came to a close last Saturday as members of an opposition group and their supporters met in an Atwood garage, spending the last of their war chest on a party.

Outside the garage, a sign reading "Vote here on cloud seeding," leaned against a pole. Inside, the video recording of a heated public meeting played on a television set.

Both served as reminders of the Concerned Citizens for Natural Weather's long battle against Ground Water Management District No. 4, which ran the weather modification, or cloud seeding, program spanning portions of nine northwest Kansas counties, including Sherman and Thomas.

While the district's manager and board claimed that cloud seeding has major economic benefits by increasing rain and reducing hail, the group's members — mostly farmers themselves — said there was no hard evidence and anyway, they'd rather leave the weather up to Mother Nature.

The group pushed for a public vote on the issue in area counties but the board said those wouldn't be legally binding.

After years of debates, public polls, "advisory" elections and squabbles over the process, though, the groundwater board pulled the plug on cloud seeding in November. It had lost in public and county commission votes at nearly every turn, and state officials were losing patience.

The decision came a week after 64 percent of voters in Thomas County

(the groundwater district's home base) said in an advisory election that they didn't want cloud seeding, and a few months after commissioners in Cheyenne, Decatur and Rawlins counties banned the practice. Decatur and Rawlins counties even made it a crime.

Wayne Bossert, the district's manager, said that the votes didn't factor into the board's decision as much as other administrative and financial problems with the program, which was financed 50-50 by the state and the district's water users. The program was an extension of an established one in southwest Kansas, run by another groundwater district, and Bossert said that agency planned to take away its equipment.

Either way, it was a victory for the natural weather group.

"This party isn't to get in the face of those who were defeated," said Gordon Hawkins, a Rawlins County farmer who helped form Citizens for Natural Weather. "It's not to celebrate that we won. It's a way for us to get to know each other socially."

The crowd of about 40 ate roasted pork, baked beans, potato salad and a cake with the words "cloud seeding" crossed out on it, then Del Hawkins, Gordon's son, stood on a set of stairs and thanked those who contributed.

He said the group donated its last money for one cement square on the sidewalk that circles Atwood's lake. He said "let it rain" will be written on the square beneath the group's name.

Keith Downing, a charter member who farms mainly dryland crops in

Legislators look to avoid pain in resolving budget

TOPEKA (AP) — Work begins in earnest this week on the last spending bill of the year, and for many legislators the goal is to avoid as much pain as possible. The state is confronting a \$205 million gap between the spending to which it is committed and the revenues it expects to collect in the 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee are both scheduled to meet Tuesday to begin drafting the bill that

will reconcile spending with revenues and wrap up the 2002 budget. The committees have set aside six days each before the full Legislature reconvenes April 25. Leaders have been talking about finding "low-hanging fruit," money-raising schemes that are easy to pluck and ripe politically. They have staff members compiling lists of gimmicks and tricks to make the fiscal 2002 budget look better.

They're also talking about tax increases, although those bring pain as

well as relieve it. Democrats have focused on ideas that place the new burdens on the wealthy, and increases in sales, alcohol and tobacco taxes are in the mix. Some legislators worry that resolving the budget problems will become a drawn-out epic, on the gaudy Technicolor scale of "Gone With the Wind."

"It's like Scarlett returning to Tara after the Yankee troops have been through," said Sen. David Adkins, R-Leawood, a member of the Ways and

Means Committee.

"We're going to try to make a dress out of the draperies," he said. "We'll be digging radishes out of the ground and waiting for Ashley to show up."

Before leaving the Capitol on April 6 for their spring break, legislators approved an incomplete \$9.11 billion budget for fiscal 2002. About \$4.66 billion would come from the general fund, which holds most state tax dollars and represents the biggest source of money for state programs.

Briefly

Weather: Cold night in store

Conditions will improve after we shiver through a cold night tonight, advises the National Weather Service. Tonight, look for lows around 25, partly cloudy skies and east winds 5-15 mph. Good idea to cover the plants.

Tuesday, partly sunny, highs 55-60 and south winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday night, mostly clear, lows in the middle 30s.

And Wednesday, continued dry, highs in the 70s. The weekend temperatures for Colby: highs 62 Friday, 69 Saturday and 62 Sunday; lows, 34 Saturday, 35 Sunday and 34 this morning.

Precipitation for the month remains at 2.19 inches. The records for April 16: 90 in 1963 and 15 in 1951. (*The daily*

temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Post Office to stay open late

The Colby Post Office will stay open until midnight today, according to Postmaster James McDonald, in order to help customers meet the deadline for filing their 2000 tax returns. For information or questions, call 462-7904.

School board meets tonight

The Colby School Board will continue discussing the sale of property and expansion of technology education facilities at the middle and high schools at their regular meeting at 7 p.m. tonight in the administration building board room,

210 S. Range. Also on the agenda are a three-year participation agreement with the Northwest Kansas Technical College at Goodland. The meeting is open to the public.

College board to meet

A special meeting of the Colby Community College College Board of Trustees will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, in the board room of the Administration Building. The board will discuss negotiations and any other items any members wishes to discuss.

Hospice banquet Saturday

The "We've Got A Heart" Banquet and Auction to benefit Hospice Services in Thomas County is planned for Saturday at the Colby American Legion, 1850 W. 4th St.

The event starts at 5:30 p.m., with a social hour sponsored by the Kansas Association of Life Underwriters. Dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. with a live auction starting at 7 p.m. For information or to purchase tickets, call 462-6710.

Historical Society deadline moved

The deadline to purchase tickets for this year's Thomas County Historical Society's annual meeting has been extended. The dinner and meeting is planned for 6:30 p.m., Friday, at the Colby Community College Student Union. To request reservations, call the museum at 462-4590. Tickets are \$8.50 per person. According to Sue Taylor, director, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Prairie Museum, which opened on April 15, 1976.

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