

Man enjoys 'Tiger Cruise' on aircraft carrier

Brad Mann of Dighton received an early Father's Day present when he was accepted, among 1,055 civilians, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN72), for their "Tiger Cruise."

Aboard the carrier was Aviation Structural Mechanic, Safety Equipment Petty Officer Second Class Jared Mann, Brad's son. The carrier arrived in Hawaii after a 205-day deployment where Jared met his dad, Brad, Brad's wife, Sue, and grandmother, Sharon Mann of Goodland, in March.

The family spent four days together touring all Honolulu has to offer. They visited the Arizona Memorial and the International Market among other attractions.

"The days just flew by and we spent one day in the motel because of a tsunami warning," Sue said.

On March 13, Brad boarded the nuclear aircraft carrier for his six-day trip across the ocean with his son and 6,499 other sailors.

Jared graduated in 2004 from Deerfield High School. He has been in the Navy six years. As an Aviation Structural Mechanic, Safety Equipment (AME) Mann's duties are to maintain and repair oxygen, cockpit and cabin pressurization, and ejection seat systems.

The journey began back last November with the mountain of paperwork to be filled out to be accepted for the cruise.

"I knew security clearance wouldn't be a problem because I was already cleared when I worked at bases in Colorado," Brad said.

He didn't even know when or if it would happen until the end of February, his wife Sue said. "We made the arrangements with an open date as the original date was postponed once, so things were up in the air until we got the go ahead at the end of February."

"I had access to the entire ship except the engines," Brad said.

Although the sleeping quarters were compact, the ship is 1,100 feet long, 396 feet wide and weighs approximately 110,000 tons. It has a



Flight operations on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln during the Tiger Cruise from the aircraft carrier to be a member of the Blue Angels team in Pensacola, Fla. Brad Mann went on with his son AME2 Jared Mann. Jared Mann has been transferred

Photo by Brad Mann

4.5-acre surface which makes "fob" walks a daily necessity.

"The entire surface is walked daily to remove foreign objects that could hinder aircraft mobility," Brad said.

Speaking of aircraft, there were 90 various aircraft on the ship. Jared oversees 12 of the aircraft and performs pre-flight inspections over each.

"They don't even start those jets until Jared gives the thumbs up," Brad proudly said.

It is not a simple procedure. The entire aircraft is checked including the bombs. Before take-off, crewmembers are counted to make sure they are not standing in the wrong place when the engine goes to after burners for take off. All drills are performed like the real thing.

Back to the compact sleeping quarters. "It was tight and five or six of the dad's were claustrophobic,

but we were in bed by 10 p.m. and got up at 6 a.m. so I got along Okay," Brad said.

He read a lot of books on the trip. Pretty innocent way to pass the time, one would think, but Brad just had to put a kink in things, however inadvertently.

"Jared was busy and I told him I was just going to read," Brad said, "so I found a quiet place where the only sound you heard was the water. About two hours later a sailor found me and said they were getting ready to sound the man overboard alert because they couldn't find me. He just radioed to Jared 'we found the part'."

Perhaps Jared stuck a tracking device on his dad, because they had no 'lost dad' alerts after that.

The tsunami provided some interesting waves Brad said with the ship rocking 35 degrees from zero. Though he was prepared with mo-

tion sickness patches, he only had to use one during the whole trip.

Another highlight was the air show the crew and pilots put on for their visitors. "One jet just stopped in mid air then shot up into the air," Brad said, duly impressed along with the other passengers.

Sue and Sharon were waiting at Coronado Bay, Calif., to welcome their fleeting sailor to dry land when the ship docked. The girls spent their time in San Diego riding the trolleys, touring Old San Diego and watching the NCAA.

Brad's face lights up when he talks about his "Tiger Cruise" and I'm sure there were moments that couldn't be printed, but will be cherished. "This was a trip of a

lifetime," he agreed. "Not everyone who applies gets to go."

The time he was able to spend in his son's world with him has to be priceless. The pride in his son is evident again when Brad said Jared has been chosen for the Blue Angels, the United States Navy's Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron.

AME2 Mann joined the Blue Angels team in October at Pensacola, Fla. He will serve as part of the Life Support Team.

Blue Angels, the United States Navy's Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron first performed in 1946 and is currently the oldest formal flying aerobatic team.

The squadron's six demonstration pilots fly the F/A-18 Hornet in

more than 70 shows at 34 locations throughout the United States each year, where they employ many of the same practices and techniques used in their aerial displays in 1946.

Since their inception, the "Blues" have flown a variety of different aircraft types for more than 427 million spectators worldwide says the official web site www.blueangels.navy.mil/.

A check with the Blue Angels Public Affairs Officer confirmed Mann has arrived, but the website has not been updated with the team information for next year. The website is expected to be updated by the end of the year the Public Affairs person said.

Chief honors American veterans

HONORED, from Page 1A

kids when Santa visits on Saturday, Dec. 17.

She mentioned an article in "Country Women" where the editor had gone to an evergreen farm in Maine. She said this farm supplies wreaths to decorate veterans graves around the country. She said when it started they took a few to Arlington, and it has grown from there to covering graves in all the national cemeteries including the

one at WaKeeney.

She said if people bring greenery decorations to the White Elephant sale they may take those out to decorate the graves of the veterans in the Goodland cemetery.

Entertainment was provided by Danny Mangus and his cousin Larry from Burlington.

Chet Ross gave the scripture reading. American Legion Service Officer Ken Baum presented the Veteran's Day prayer and the closing prayer.

At the end of the service Liess

mentioned the colors of the "Buddy" Poppy saying the green in the center represents hope, the red petals the sacrifice of war and the long green stem represents the long road home.

He said if you visit the World War I Museum in Kansas City when you walk in you will see a glass floor and under the floor is a field of poppies just like you would find in Europe. It is huge, he said, and each poppy represents 10,000 lives that were lost in the war.

Missed Construction student memo

Editor's note: The following short article was written as a memo for a writing assignment for the *Leland Williams*, technical writing instructor at Northwest Kansas Technical College. This memo was accidentally left out of the ones printed in *The Goodland Star-News* on Friday. This is from a carpentry student.



Freeman

Mikail Freeman
Re: Carpentry
I went to Northwest Kansas Technical College with the senior option the Goodland High School provides. This option can be one or two years; if you do the

two years, you will go your junior and senior year for half the day, then the other half at the high school. If you do the one year, it will be your senior year, and you can choose whether you would like to do the full time at the college or just half.

I chose to come to the college full time. I decided to come into the carpentry department to further my knowledge about this field. I am glad that I chose carpentry because I have learned how to build a shed; the shed will have lights outlets, and this shed also has a fuse box for itself. Later on this

year, we are going to start building the house that we have chosen to build.

We are going to build this house on the empty lots by Central School to the east side. This is going to be our big project for this year, and we hope it will turn out well and that people will be interested in buying it for themselves. This mainly "green" house is our main project we will be doing this year.

If you have the chance to do this option, I suggest you do it. You are able to further your information in the field that you choose; plus, it's a good way to go to school in something that you would like to do.

Goodland welcomes new convenience store!



The Goodland Star-News and the Goodland Ambassadors would like to welcome Cowboy Corner Xpress to downtown Goodland!

Cowboy Corner Xpress opened for business on September 1, 2011. The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting was held on September 24, 2011. Cowboy Corner Xpress wants to thank the community for their support and patronage.

Mike Walters is Owner/Manager along with Owners Barb Walters and Jayson & Tara Woofler. Cowboy Corner Xpress offers a wide variety of Breakfast (Burrito's, Pizzas, Biscuit & Gravy, and a variety of sandwiches). Also offering Hotstuff Pizza as well as Smashhits Sub, Hamburgers and many Appetizers.

For the winter months we are offering Soup and Bread Bowls. We will run daily specials year-round, with a variety of items off of the menu.

Cowboy Corner will have catering for Smash Hit Subs as well as dessert trays (including cookies or Cinnamon Street Bakery). See us during the holidays or for any special occasion, and stop by the store and pick up a catering menu today!

Cowboy Corner Xpress is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days a week. Stop by and see us! We are located at 1631 Main in downtown Goodland.

Do You Call Northwest Kansas Home?

Would you like your tax dollars to stay in Northwest Kansas? Are you interested in a way to lower your tax obligation and pay fewer taxes?

Contact Northwest Kansas Technical College Endowment Association for information about the "Deferred Maintenance Tax Credit Program" that CAN lower your tax obligation and WILL keep your tax dollars in Northwest Kansas.

Let us explain the benefits of the Tax Credit Program. The deadline for this tax year is December 31st, so act NOW!

For more information, contact:

Bill Finley, Vice President of Student Affairs
785-890-1512
bill.finley@nwktc.edu

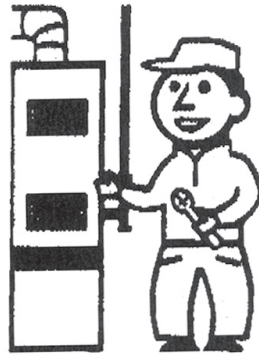


ATTENTION LENNOX PULSE FURNACE OWNER

Pulse Furnace customers: As of October 1, 2011, a number of replacement parts for these furnaces can no longer be purchased. If you own a Pulse Furnace and need repairs, we may not be able to repair it. We have some parts in stock and are keeping parts off used furnaces that we may be able to use to repair yours.

Under the Lennox Pulse program, if the installation date is less than 20 years or you are the original owner (proof of ownership will be required), a new Lennox furnace will be offered to you at a reduced cost.

Please contact Plains Heating for more information, or if you would like a bid on a new furnace. Toll free (800) 678-2914.



1104 Main, Goodland, KS • (785) 890-2914

