

## weather report

**92°**

noon Thursday



### Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

### Friday

• Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 79 degrees
- Humidity 23 percent
- Sky sunny and clear
- Winds south 7-23 mph.
- Barometer 29.95 inches and falling

- Record High today 107° (1971)
- Record Low today 42° (1940)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	97°
Low Wednesday	63°
Precipitation	none
This month	2.18
Year to date	7.83
Normal	9.46

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 94, low near 64, winds west southwest 6 mph. Saturday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, high around 91, low around 63, winds south 8-30 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny and breezy, high around 94, low around 62. Monday: Mostly sunny and breezy, high around 96. (National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.05 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.99  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.02 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.02  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$1.65 bushel  
Soybeans — \$6.56 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.77  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$9.70 cwt.  
NuSun — \$10.70 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Confection — Ask  
Pinto beans — \$25  
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



## Tournament begins today

Goodland players watched teammates play in the Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament last year. Six American Legion baseball teams are in Goodland this weekend for the seventh annual tournament, which kicks off at 4:30 p.m. today at Memorial Field.

# Challenge adjusting to rural life

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

From a big city to a small one, from an atmosphere of constant school work to a more relaxed environment, from a single-child family to two siblings.

That would be enough, but one of Goodland's foreign exchange students this year had to adjust from a communist government to a wide-open democracy, too.

After spending the 10 months here, Chinese exchange student Simon Wang — actually Wang Ran — said he has learned a lot.

Wang is from Nanjing, a two or three hour drive from Shanghai and about 200 miles from the East China Sea. Through the American Field Service program, he was matched up with his host family, Doug, Jeanne, Christopher and Ryan Irvin of Goodland.

Jeanne said they picked Wang from a list of exchange students and she is glad they did.

"He's a good kid," she said. "He has good morals and judgment."

Within days of picking him, she said, the family got an e-mail from Wang and they started talking.

When he arrived, she said, Wang had to adjust to life in America.

In China, families are limited by the government to one child, so he didn't know what it was like to have brothers and sisters.

"We have too many people," he explained, saying China has a population of over one billion. "It's probably the only way we can control our population."

Here he lives with two younger host brothers, Christopher, 15, and Ryan, 13.

Wang said a big difference between America and China is the gov-



Chinese foreign exchange student Simon Wang held a kitten (above) as members of the Goodland American Field Service showed exchange students from California around town in May. Wang moved towards the button (right) in a high school Scholar's Bowl scrimmage against the staff of *The Goodland Star-News* in January.

Photos by Elaine Felver and Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

ernment. He is used to a socialist government that controls the press and the economy.

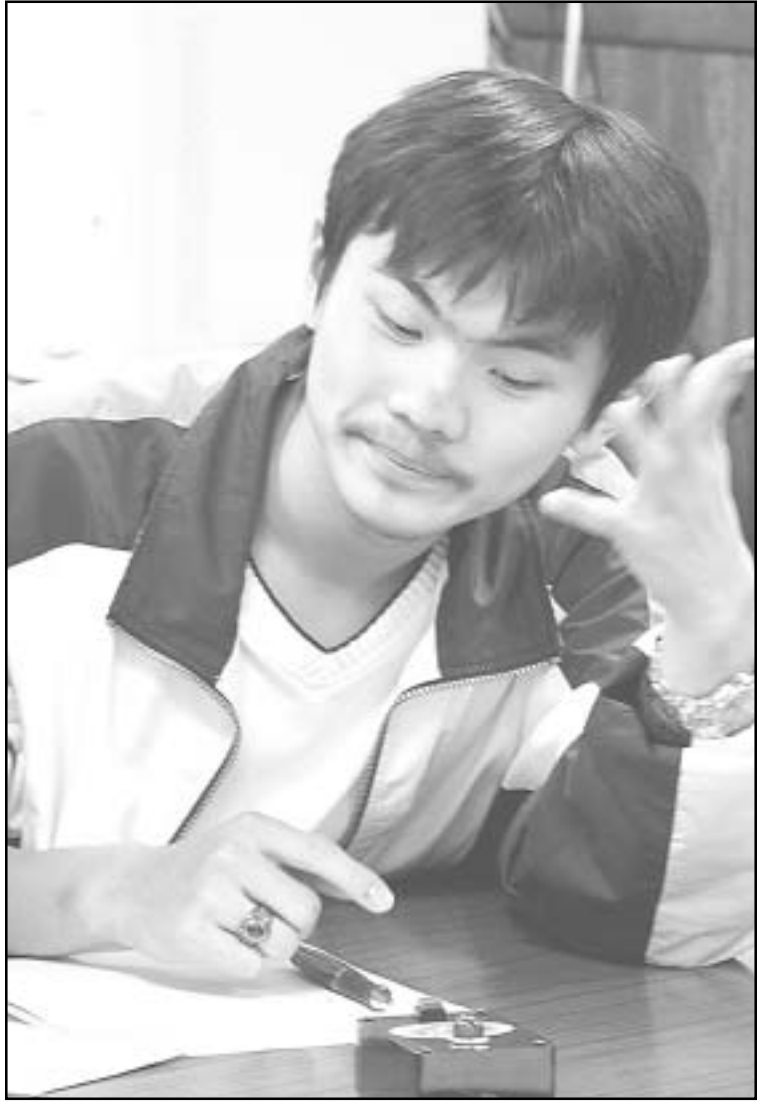
He said seeing America's free press in action has opened his eyes to a different point of view.

"I developed a lot of new ideas," he said, adding that different ideas about the same thing are interesting to see.

"China is the biggest socialist country and America is the strongest capitalist country," he said. "They both have weaknesses and strengths."

Wang said he has spent his time here as a representative of China. He regards himself as an ambassador of his country.

"I love my country," he said.



Differences between the two countries include cuisine. Wang had to adjust to food here, trading in less meat and more vegetables for a more Americanized meat-centered diet.

Overall, he said, he liked the foods he tried during his stay, including Mexican fare and local bierocks. Wang said he even grew to like cheese, a food he didn't care for

when he first tried it.

Chinese food from China Gardens in town and a Colby restaurant, he said, is close to the types of food he has at home. He said the only difference is that in China they eat in a sort of buffet style where everyone uses their own utensils to get food.

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# Alumni plan dance, beer garden

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Every five years, graduates of Goodland High School gather for a weekend of fun and remembrance. A dance and beer garden are part of the plan for the alumni reunion planned for August 2006.

Dale Schields and Jeff Deeds from the Sherman County Alumni Association asked city commissioners Monday if they would object to a beer garden in a fenced area on the vacant lots owned by Bankwest between Ninth and Tenth and Center Avenue.

"This is a pretty special weekend," Schields said, "and usually brings about 5,000 former graduates and their families to the city. The dance would be held on the parking

lot behind Bankwest, and the beer garden is planned to be on the vacant lots to the north.

"We are getting ready to send out our first mailing, and wanted to see if we could get a sense of the city commission so we could include the dance information. We will comply with an requirements the city might have."

Commissioner John Garcia asked what hours the dance would be, and if the alumni would provide designated drivers.

Schields said they plan have the dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. He said the alumni will run shuttles and some people will have their own designated drivers.

"I have talked to Police Chief Ray Smee," Schields said, "and we will

be making sure our people understand they need to be smart and obey the laws."

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the beer garden would be in a big tent. Deeds said they plan to have a tent for the disk jockey, and will try to have one for the beer garden.

Schields said the dance would shift to the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall if the weather turns bad.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked the commissioners for their thoughts and all agreed it appeared to be a reasonable plan.

"The alumni reunion is a big economic boost for the community," he said.

Daniels asked Schields if the association has thought about selling

souvenir city street bricks to help raise money. Schields said it sounded like a good idea, and he will contact Daniels later about working a plan out.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved purchase of 2.38 acres of land, northwest of the airport, from John Heinrich for \$2,739 for airport safety as required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

- Set the date of the next commission meeting for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, because Monday, July 4, is a city holiday.

- Approved the first payment to Miller Construction of \$54,991 for work and supplies used on Pioneer

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## Smoothing out 17th Street



City street crews were out Wednesday morning scraping down the surface of 17th Street from Clark Avenue to Cherry Avenue. Chuck Lutters, public works director, said the idea was to smooth out some of the bumps in preparation for chip sealing that part of the street later this summer. He said the city is changing the sealer, and hopes smoothing the street will hold the seal better.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Interviews Saturday for city job

Goodland city commissioners spent 2 1/2 hours in closed session Monday evening reviewing applications received for city manager.

The commission plans to begin interviews this weekend.

Mayor Rick Billinger said the 37 applications were from all over, with one from Japan coming the farthest.

The package of applications, which arrived Monday from the League of Kansas Municipalities, included a list of the top 15 candidates recommended by the league staff.

"We're looking at a very good pool," said Mark Tomb of the league office, "and the top 15 are very strong. I think that is a credit to the stability of Goodland."

"I am setting up interviews for at least four of the candidates the commission had a consensus on during their discussion on Monday, and may add one or two more."

Tomb told the commissioners in May he would set up interviews as soon as the commission had selected their top applicants. The interviews are scheduled for this weekend, and the first of next week.

The search for a new city manager began in April when Ron Pickman resigned after 10 years. His last day was at the end of May, and the city contacted the league to help organize the search.

The city is paying the league \$4,166 plus about \$1,000 in advertising costs to help with the selection process. Tomb said he has provided the commission with a list of sample questions for the interviews.

"Many of these candidates are employed in other positions," Tomb said, "and they need to come on the weekend. It is quick timing because of the July Fourth holiday, but I think things are going to work out."

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