

# Rural life challenge for Chinese youth

WANG, from Page 1a

Some of the more subtle cultural differences he noticed were in his classmates shows of affection. "Here they hug a lot," he said. "If I hugged a classmate, a girl, I would be in trouble."

Today he is much more comfortable with hugs and his host mother, Jeanne, said he has become an expert.

"He's a good hugger," she said.

Hanging out with friends was different, too. Wang said at home, his friends played



Wang

sports instead of going to small get-togethers like they do here.

He learned more about western religion, too. Sunday is just another day to Wang, who has no religion.

He said most people in China don't believe in a God. In the West, he said, there are some Buddhist and Muslims, and about a million Chinese are Christian.

"It's nice to know about religion," he said, adding that he went to church with the Irvins.

Wang's home town, Nanjing, is a city, so he learned to adjust to a small town. He said back

home, he would ride his bike or take a bus to get around, but here everyone needs a car.

He said parts of China are flat and others aren't, so he wasn't really impressed by the terrain here. What did impress him was that sometimes in Goodland, you can see lights from towns 30 and 40 miles away.

Wang didn't just hang around Goodland when he was out of school; he traveled the country. Some trips were with his host family while some were on his own or with the field service group.

He said he traveled to Chicago, Boston, New York, San Diego, Hartford, Conn., Denver, Colorado Springs, Wichita and Topeka.

Wang, who leaves for home sometime this week, said he is looking forward to seeing his family again.

"My parents might say I've changed a lot," he said.

His mother, Yang Jing, has kept in contact with Jeanne Irvin, talking about Wang over the phone. He said his father, Wang Kehui, doesn't understand as much English and gets translations.

Although he's heading home, Wang said he plans to keep in touch with the friends he's made in Goodland.

"I'm gonna miss them," he said, adding that he will e-mail soon. "I'm definitely sad to leave them."

# Exchange student learns from new experiences

Chinese exchange student Simon Wang started out with some reservations about coming to the United States, but eventually decided it was the best.

While he knew he wouldn't miss school, he said, he has missed some of his friends at home.

He said the time spent here helped him achieve the social skills he was looking for. He wanted to be less shy and stand on his own, and spending a year away from his family has helped.

Wang's classmates may be ahead of him in studies, but he has a set of skills that can't be learned in a classroom.

"I have more special abilities," he said. "I know another kind of culture."

In school here, Wang learned social skills by getting involved in clubs and activities.

"He did a good job at getting involved," said his host mother, Jeanne Irvin.

Wang said he was active in the Family, Community and Career Leaders of America.

"That was an awesome club," he said.

He joined the high school Scholars' Bowl team, helping the group especially on math questions.

On the Math Relay team, he took first place in all four events at Fort Hays State University.

Wang joined vocal classes and said he learned a better appreciation for music.

"I'm glad I found out how much I love music this year," he said. "We have a really good music atmosphere here."

He earned a spot as second substitute tenor for the state competition and he sang in the regional competition in Oberlin, making a II+ rating.

He showed off his singing talent at his host family's church, First United Methodist Church, too.

Wang signed on for the new high school baseball team, and while he didn't play in any games, he said he enjoyed the sport.

He said in China, sports aren't a part of the school curriculum, so games are just for fun.

Although Wang was an honor-

ary senior this year, he would have been only a junior at home. He has a year of high school to complete before college, he said, but he may want to make up the year he spent here since he will be behind in math and science.

School is different in China, he said, because students do much more studying.

"I'm not very good at studying," he said, adding that his habits have gotten worse since he moved here. "I like playing."

He said back home, tests help determine where you study. After attending seven years of a type of middle school, students take a big test to decide which high school they enter. After high school, he said, students take another test to determine which college they can enter.

"Tests are a very big thing," he said.

Wang has his sights set on an American college, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or other top schools. Before he can, he must take the SAT test and the TOEFL, Test of English as a Foreign Language.

He thinks his time spent learning English this year will help on the test.

"My English has improved a lot," he said, adding he is still not perfect.

He will leave his host family with a few Chinese words, too. He taught them how to say "hi" which, coincidentally, also is "hi" in Chinese. They learned how to say "zai jian" which means goodbye, too.

At the Flatlander Fall Festival last year, Wang wrote people's names in Chinese and sold them to raise money for the American Field Service club.

Wang has practiced his English skills, making presentations to groups in town including junior high students and field service students from California.

The science field, especially physics, is where he expects to go after college. He is interested in becoming a politician, too. Whatever he does, he said, the motivation will never be based on wealth.

"I'm not a person who likes money much," he said.

# Ground now ready for new kiddie pool

NEW POOL, from Page 1a

process specified under the construction contracts.

In March, an agreement among the city and the contractors, engineer and architect was announced. One of the first steps was to remove the old kiddie pool to get to the pipes under it.

Things seemed to be moving forward until similar problems were found with the drain lines on the slide pool. A plan was worked out with the city to replace the deep underground drain lines to the slide pool, and over the past three weeks these lines have been replaced and a new manhole is being installed to handle the drainage.

The slide pool problem delayed the opening of the water park's main pool and slide pool, but rains caused further problems where the old kiddie pool had been removed.

After the old kiddie pool was removed, soil compaction tests indicated an area of continued problem

on the north end of the area. A stalemate over responsibility for the compaction of part of the ground has caused further delay. The contractors said they had complied with the requirement of the original contract, but Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is acting as the mediation engineer, said soil tests he conducted showed that an area about 17 feet by 45 feet did not meet the specifications.

The kiddie pool was no closer to being replaced. Neufeld worked out a plan with the city staff to break the stalemate, and at a special meeting, held at the water park on June 14, the City Commission gave permission for the city to excavate the area and bring it up to compaction standards.

Monday Neufeld said the ground in the 17' by 45' area had been dug out down to seven feet, but tests showed that was not enough, so another foot of soil was excavated. The soil was allowed to dry for three days.

"We ran a compactor over the

area, and the compaction test was 94 percent," Neufeld said. "Eight inches of soil were added and compacted and the test showed 95 percent, which is the minimum required."

"A rock-soil mix was filled in for the next 28 inches. On top of that, three lifts of six inches each were laid and compacted, with each testing 95 percent."

"We have put the land back to the proper compacted soil layer. We now have a foundation that meets the plans' specifications."

Neufeld said there will be some city labor costs, and some cost from contractor Mike Yarger for the excavation and from Mitch Tiede for the compactor. He said there was no cost on the soil or rock because they used what was available.

"We are now ready to turn it over to Associated Pools," Neufeld said.

Neufeld said it should take four to five weeks for the new kiddie pool to be poured, and then some time for curing before it can be filled with

water.

Commissioners noted that would be close to the end of the summer season, and the pool might not be opened this summer.

"I would certainly suggest you fill it with water and test everything to make sure it is working properly," Neufeld replied.

Chuck Lutters, city public works director, said he had called Rhoads Construction and would call Associated to let them know the ground is ready.

Before the new pool is poured, 18 inches of rock is to be installed under the drain to bring the level back to where the old pool was.

"There should be no reason for the pool to sink after this," Neufeld said.

Rich Simon, city parks and street supervisor, said the kids have been enjoying the pool and not interfering with the construction.

"The kids have been more interested in swimming and splashing," Simon said.

# Alumni plan dance, beer garden for next year's events

CITY, from Page 1a

Park and the hike-and-bike trail. Garcia asked what the total cost would be for the project. Darin Neufeld, project engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said the total project is \$394,502. The commission approved a request for reimbursement from the

state Department of Transportation for \$18,621, for water mitigation and trail costs.

- Approved having Tom Armour, acting city manager, serve as the city's ex officio member of the Sherman County Community Foundation board.
- Approved payments to Strukel Electric of Girard, \$43,028 for the

airport runway lighting project. Neufeld said the project is nearly done, but there will be a couple of change orders coming to add four lights on the south threshold, and a new photo cell and switch control for the beacon. He said the costs would be absorbed into the total project.

- Approved paying Evan, Bierly,

Hutchison \$2,163 for the state portion of the airport lighting project and \$1,437 for the federal portion. The city requested reimbursement of \$17,198 from the government, and \$13,198 from the state Department of Transportation.

- Approved bills totaling \$585,509.

# New dean named at Colby Community College

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College board of trustees approved a replacement to fill the dean of instruction's position at its meeting this week.

Kris Bishop, who is a math instructor at the college, was considered the best qualified candidate, according to a search committee assigned the task of recommending someone to fill the position being vacated at the end of June by Gracemary Melvin.

Trustee member Don Kready, who served on the search committee, said there were two local and four off-campus candidates in the running.

Kready said Bishop will have her doctorate completed soon and said, "I believe she is someone who will hit the ground running."

It was said Bishop has been involved with the reaccreditation process and is knowledgeable in many areas.

Although the majority of the board agreed with Kready and the

committee's recommendation of Bishop, one trustee, Larry Arehart, disagreed with hiring from within.

"I think we needed to go outside of the college and hire someone who could bring in new ideas," he said.

Arehart went on record as being the only trustee to vote against Bishop. Trustees in favor included Curt Stephens, board chair; Cleona Flipse, Kenton Kriebiel and Don Kready. The sixth member of the board, Larry McDonald, was absent.

In addition to Kready, other members of the Colby College selection committee included Krista Carter, Betty Kruse, Jeanne Thyfault, John Olson and Rod Thomasson.

In its decision to hire Bishop, the

trustees approved her annual salary at \$64,000.

Other contracts approved by a unanimous vote of those trustees present were: Allen Russell, supplemental for annual rodeo; Miles Ladenburger, golf coaching contract, \$4,000; Linda Davis-Stephens, EduKan, cultural anthropology, salary to be determined per student; Tammy Huff, cheerleading coach, \$2,500; Melanie Forton, human resources, payroll, \$28,300; Nikol Scheuerman Nolan, admissions director, \$35,582; Kathy Britton, receptionist/faculty secretary, \$8.25 per hour; Trent Rose, part time 80 percent contract for English and Journalism, \$20,240 with \$9,500 paid by Outreach; and Carl Adams, softball head coach, \$4,931.

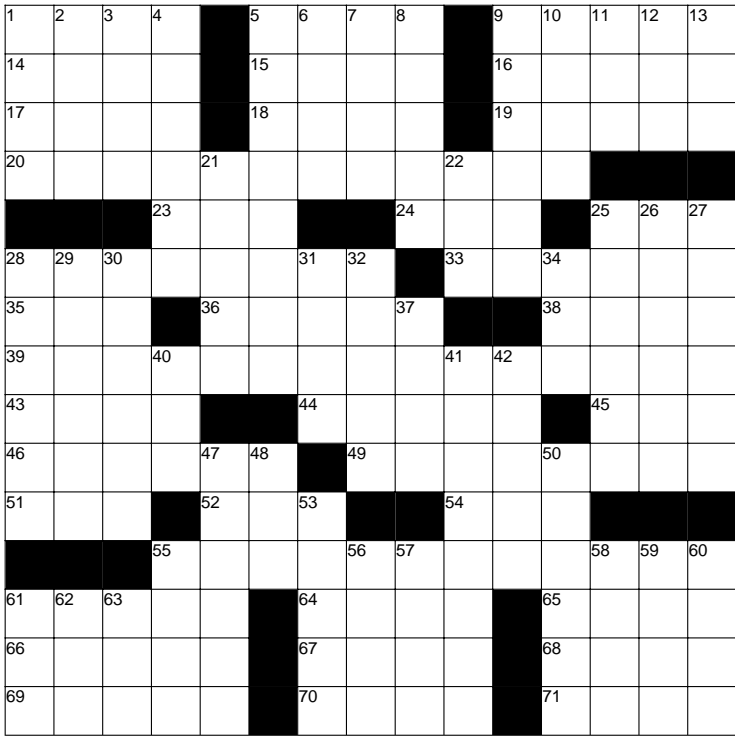
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# Crossword Puzzle

"Deal Me In!"

## ACROSS

- Table insert
- Periodicals, for short
- Sausalito's county
- "Besides that ..."
- Devil's work
- Martini garnish
- Chart toppers
- Supermarket section
- Gadded about
- Make noise, like a poker player?
- Out of sorts
- Korean carmaker
- "\_\_ longa, vita brevis"
- Onion cousin
- Tank topper
- Escort's offering
- Snaky shapes
- Bowser's bowlful
- Sing "Auld Lang Syne" like a poker player?
- Smooth down
- Hacienda brick
- Suffix with beat or peace
- Bit of punctuation
- Sweats bullets
- Prefix meaning "bad"
- \_\_ kwon do
- To the \_\_ degree
- Show impatience, like a poker player?
- "Mangia!"
- Grand Canyon State: Abbr.
- Handle roughly
- In the know
- Apportion, with "out"
- Inner: Prefix
- Bermuda transport



American Profile Hometown Content

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- Fly high
- Hobo's meal

## DOWN

- Cowardly Lion portrayer
- Director Kazan
- \_\_ spumante
- Dinosaur evidence
- Decorated Olympian
- State firmly
- \_\_ monster (large lizard)
- Oily spot
- H.G. Wells doctor
- "Thanks \_\_!"
- \_\_ vu" (apartment-ad phrase)
- \_\_ been had!"

- Beatty or Buntline
- Comic DeGeneres
- Hobby shop buy
- Actress Dahl
- Patch up
- Baby bringers
- Talked back to
- Like some salad dressings
- Makes right
- Job conditions org.
- Has to have
- Beam of light
- Pre-cable problem
- "Sweet as apple cider" girl
- Mr. Scrooge
- Evidence of a whipping
- Pelted with rocks
- Actor Holbrook
- Eton's river
- Cheeses in red wax
- Give the ax to
- Twistable cookie
- Naldi of silents
- Bombastic talk
- Trumpet muffler
- Like molasses
- Beaver's creation
- \_\_ Jima
- Letterman dental feature

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