



JON SMITH helped straighten Aaron Helm's bow tie while he talked with fellow graduate Zeke Ruzicka in the library of the high school before graduation Sunday.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Seniors graduate Sunday

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molded each graduate, she said. As the Class of 2006 walks into the world, she said, remember each one of us will change the environment of the world.

The other co-valedictorian, Lora Marietta, said the Class of 2006 has a lot to be thankful for, including families, coaches, teachers and a loving community.

The class has their whole lives and world waiting, she said. Don't be afraid, said Miss Marietta, each can achieve his or her dreams. Each person has everything they need to achieve their dreams inside of them.

Don't be afraid, said Miss Marietta, to tell people you come from a small town "in the middle of nowhere." This town and family have made each one who they are

today.

She ended her speech by telling her fellow classmates to remember to live their lives without fear.

Principal Charles Haag touched on a long list of accomplishments by the class. He said he could go on and on about the seniors.

"Class of 2006," said Mr. Haag, "great job and thanks for the memories."

* Park maintenance needed

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Mr. Castle said he would get more equipment and more people.

Mr. Pauls challenged estimates of the time it takes to mow at the park. He said he would take a stop watch and see. Dr. Richard May, another Pheasants Forever volunteer, has been mowing and can mow the roadside from the muzzle-loading range to the culvert by the shelter house in 30 minutes.

Mr. Shike asked Mr. Castle how much time he spends when he mows the park. Four hours, said Mr. Castle.

With raised voices the men discussed what has been going on at the park.

"I don't know what kind of mower Rich has, but Dan has been working," said Mr. Shike, "not sitting around on his butt."

Someone has, said Mr. Pauls.

Mr. Shike asked if they "wanted to get into that again," and the subject changed.

Sappa Park, said Mr. Pauls, is a good problem to have. It is a diamond in the rough. It just needs to be buffed.

Mrs. Pauls said she spent last summer spraying weeds at the shel-

ter house. Someone, she said, needs to take responsibility for it. Someone needs to take care of the park.

There is a group of people who want to work on the park, said Mr. Shike.

It isn't the only project the city has, said Mr. Shike. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pauls said they understood that.

The thing is, said Mrs. Pauls, is if someone looks outside The Gateway next to the mailbox there is something growing that doesn't look like a wildflower. It looks more like a weed, she said, and look at the parking lot.

Councilman Ray Ward said he knows what people think about city employees and the work that they do.

That Monday, said Mrs. Pauls, the Decatur Professional Women worked at the gazebo in town. They trimmed a dead tree, spread bark and swept.

If 10 women can get that done in one day, she asked, why can't the city crew find some time to do that work?

If the city feels like it can't take care of the park, said Mr. Pauls, then maybe Pheasants Forever can main-

tain it, but the group would want a change in the rent.

Mr. Castle said he often sees volunteers with the best of intentions but they start a project and then it isn't maintained. The crew can't get to everything all at once, he said.

Maybe the city could hire some more summer help, said Mayor Ken Shobe.

The first ingredient, said Councilman Ward, is that the people have to have the desire to get the work done.

"The council has to decide how they want the park to look," said Mr. Pauls. "If the council feels comfortable with the way the park looks now, then we are done."

Mr. Castle said they just got started working on it.

Can the city get someone out to the park once a week to mow? asked Mayor Shobe. Could the crew devote three days a month to the park?

No, said Mr. Castle. Not unless something else doesn't get done, said Mr. Shike.

Mr. Pauls said he can arrange to get a bucket truck to the park to get the trees trimmed. He said he doesn't know where he stands with the mowing, so the council could just let him know.

* Boys riot at youth ranch

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should be in a secured facility. He said the two were placed at the ranch and they have been trying to move them out, but that takes at least 10 days.

They weren't moved quick enough, he said, but it looked like both would be gone by Monday.

The boys planned to pull the fire alarm at a certain time, he said, and that was a signal for the others to leave their houses. Not all of the boys took part in the riot, he said, but 16 did, and that was enough that the staff felt they needed to call the police.

Mr. Kelsey said they are still working on charges against the ring-leaders, but he isn't sure what will happen.

The ranch, he said, had the required number of staff on duty Saturday, one staff to every seven boys. The ranch has 24 kids now, and they had four staff members.

Mr. Kelsey said one staffer didn't

come in for the shift, but someone stayed to make sure that they were still in compliance with state rules. The ranch is still only running two-thirds full, he said, but they are training new employees so that when they fill up to 36 boys, they will have enough.

Mr. Kelsey said he has run a boys camp near Goddard, west of Wichita, for the past eight years and will continue his efforts to help young men.

"Unfortunately," he said, "although we had identified the troublemakers, we couldn't get them out fast enough."

Mr. Kelsey said he didn't know if there would be any changes in operations or security coming up.

Chief Lockhart said the four-man police department, with one position vacant, isn't prepared to deal with a situation like this, but they can get the help they need. He said he was going to try to talk to the county attorney Monday about the issue.

When the boys are just being defiant, he said, the officers can try to contain things. Unless they hurt someone or damage property, though, they probably aren't committing a crime.

The chief said he thinks there is a security problem at the ranch. In the last week, he said, officers have worked one criminal damage report and two battery cases involving youths.

A night after the riot, three youths, 15, 16 and 17 years old, ran away from the ranch. Chief Lockhart said he was called a little before 9 p.m. Officers went to search, but didn't find anyone. Early Monday morning, he said, Ruby Poe called to say that a 1988 Chevy pickup was missing from her house on South York. The truck had the keys in it and a full tank of gas, she said.

About three hours later, the truck was found four miles west of Hays on I-70.

SELDEN-LEOVILLE

Memorial Day services will begin Monday at 9:30 a.m. at Leoville and at 10:30 a.m. at Selden. The Selden American Legion Post will present the colors, followed by a flag salute. Bernita Aumiller, Legion Auxiliary chaplain, will give the invocation and Ron Cooper will speak. Music will be provided by Valerie Broeckelman and Brittany Ritter. The Legion chaplain will be in charge of placing of a wreath. The benediction will be followed by a rifle salute by the Legion and "Taps" played by Allison Renoit

The Avenue of Flags will be put up at 7 a.m. on Sunday by volunteers. In case of bad weather, the service will be held in the Norcatat High School gymnasium. The Educational Building will be open for refreshments after the services.

LYLE

The Lyle community will observe Memorial Day at 11 a.m. on Sunday. The Jack Helt American Legion Post of Lebanon, Neb., will provide services at 10 a.m. at the cemetery. A potluck dinner will follow at 11:30 a.m. at the Community Building

* Services planned in area

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displayed at the cemetery.

All veterans, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and school children are asked to meet at the bank corner downtown at 1 p.m. on Sunday to form up for a parade to the cemetery at 1 p.m.

An opening prayer will be given by Kathy Aeillo and Norman Roger Beachel, a Norcatat native and retired Navy serviceman, will speak. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will be decorated and a gun salute fired over the most recently buried veterans.



Anniversary Blowout!

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