

* Board hires superintendent from Nebraska

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seven as a superintendent. He grew up in Colorado, Dr. Cullen said, but calls Nebraska home now. He and his wife have two daughters, both of whom live in Colorado.

At the community forum, people took turns asking Dr. Cullen questions ranging from his background to his leadership style to how he makes decisions. His answers were short and to the point.

He said his biggest strength is that he loves education, and his greatest weakness is that sometimes he gets too many things on his plate and gets frustrated.

As far as leadership goes, said Dr. Cullen, he likes to get as many people involved as possible. It is all right for people to disagree, he said, but once a decision is made, everyone needs to support it as a team.

Dr. Cullen said he thinks his biggest strength in leadership is that he has a lot of integrity.

He said he will get involved with the community and schools. Dr. Cullen said he would make it his priority as a superintendent to be visible in the district and get to know as many people as he can through school and community activities.

"The fun part of the job is attending the activities," he said.

* Four interviewed for superintendent

(Continued from Page 1A)

ried to Brad Simonsson of Oberlin. Currently, he said, he and his wife live in a bedroom community near Lincoln, Neb., where he serves as a superintendent.

Location isn't a big deal, he said, but they want to live in a good community.

Third up was Dr. Cullen, who the board ended up hiring at a special meeting on Thursday afternoon.

Lastly the board, met with Mr. Reed, who said he was born and raised in Oklahoma. He attended Arizona State University, where he played football. Mr. Reed received a master's degree from Northern Arizona University and he and his wife moved back to Kansas. He said he has 24 years' experience, including 17 as an administrator and is working on the dissertation for his doctorate.

His wife Sharon is a teacher and coach. The couple have three children, one out of college, one just starting college and a 2-year-old.

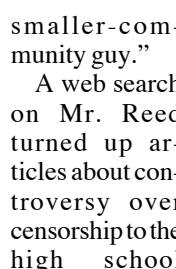
"This is a good time to look at the superintendent job," said Mr. Reed. "We like western Kansas and I am a



John Brazell



Brad Reed



C. Vignery

smaller-community guy."

A web search on Mr. Reed turned up articles about controversy over censorship to the high school newspaper and one student's article while he was the principal at Oskaloosa High School in 2003.

State law in Kansas gives student journalists protection against administration censorship. The story ran in the school paper, along with an interview with the principal, and the student is currently in journalism school in Missouri.

* Seniors graduate Sunday afternoon

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The class colors are red and silver and the flower is the daisy.

Doors to the gym will open around 1 p.m.

The class includes Whitnee Ashley, Regan Badsy, Richard Beaudette, Jobey Black, Riley Cochran, Corey Cook, Tricia Dorshorst, Chet Ely, Brock Euhus, Lauren Fortin, Karli Fredrickson, Sarah Fringer, Andrew Gilliam, Kyle Glodt, Tanner Hardy, Mr. Helm, Jeremy Henderson, Jennifer Hirsch, Mitchell

Hitt, Clint Krizek, Laken Lahe, Andrew Leitner, Mr. May, Justin Meitl, Marci Metcalf, Sarah Murray, Cameron Nedland, Kurt Olson, Emmie Pauls, Garrit Peters, Seth Ritter, Jace Robinson, Macy Rouse, Josiah Russ, Zachary Ruzicka, Tyler Sauvage, Bronson Scott, Breck Simonsson, Jessica Soderlund, Jacob Unger, Terry Urban, Danielle Vilar, Nichole Walters, Kane Ware, Katrina Wentz, Kimberly Wessel, Heather Williams and Victoria Winters.

Baccalaureate services will be held tonight

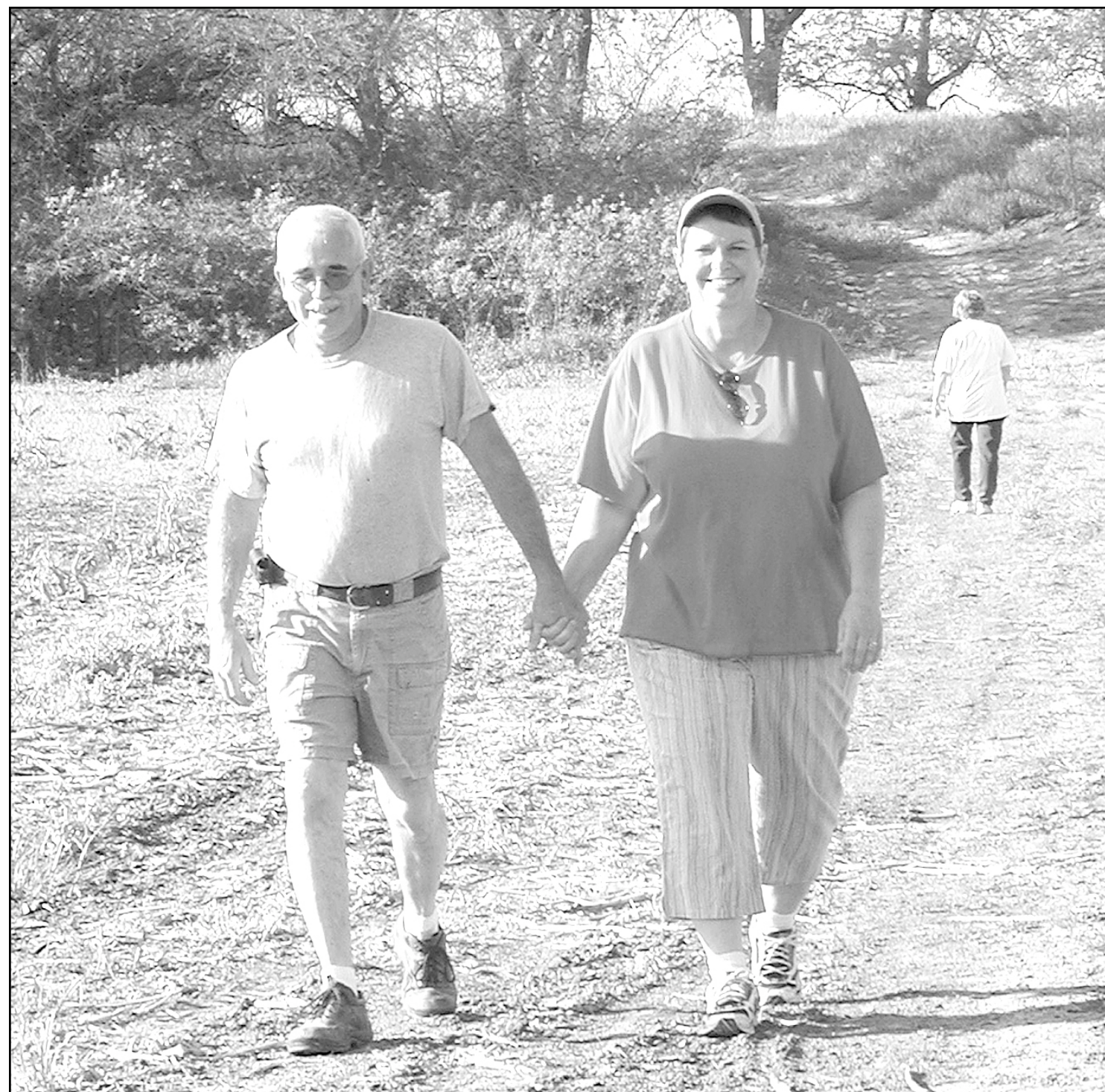
Baccalaureate services for the Decatur Community High School Class of 2007 will begin at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the high school auditorium.

The service, planned by the class, will include music by solos and ensembles of classmates. Pastor Doug Hasty of the Oberlin United Methodist Church will speak and senior

Aaron Helm will share his faith story.

"The community is invited to share in this time of support for our youth," said the Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. The service is sponsored by the Decatur County Ministerial Association.

Back from a stroll



AT SAPPA PARK last Wednesday, LaVern and Carolyn Burtis headed back to the shelter house after a hike during the Community Walk sponsored by the Decatur County Hospital and Decatur Health Systems.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* City starts on emergency response plan

(Continued from Page 1A)

an open place, said Mr. Castle, if there aren't any buildings left.

What is the police department's role in the plan? asked Mr. McFee.

First to preserve life, said Chief Wade Lockhart, and then to take care of injuries and isolate areas so crews can go to work. He said officers will need to keep sightseers out of the city.

This is a good time, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, to mention that the council needs to take required Federal Emergency Management Agency training. The county's emergency preparedness director can help with that, he said.

Dr. Anderson suggested the city plan use position titles, not names of people who hold those jobs today.

"If something like Greensburg happens here," said Mr. Shike, "there will be a lot of outside help. If it is something on a smaller scale, then we need to plan on it being mostly locally handled."

Dr. Anderson said it makes him

nervous that there is only one copy of city records either at the police department or at The Gateway. That is why, said Mr. Hirsch, the county stores copies of its records in the salt mines near Hutchinson.

Mr. Castle said he talked to a man in Hoisington after the tornado there in 2001 and they said it would be a good idea to use a global positioning system to locate power poles, water hydrants and water meters so they can find everything in case of a bad storm.

That's a good idea, said Councilwoman Rhonda May; the city needs to not let that one drop. It also would be a good idea to get copies of the city records stored somewhere else.

What about the fire department? asked Dr. Anderson. Mr. Shike said he thinks they have an emergency truck. Mayor Stanley said he is pretty sure that they scatter the fire trucks just in case the station gets hit.

How is the big overall emergency plan for the county coming along? asked Councilwoman Marcia

Lohofener. Chief Lockhart said he talked to Deputy Patti Skubal, assistant emergency preparedness director, who said they need to have it done by June 1.

Planning for possible emergencies, said Chief Lockhart, brings up another issue, the fact that the police department doesn't have a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Over the winter, with the snow storms, he said, the police had to borrow a truck from the city crew or officers had to use their own.

He said he found a 2000 Tahoe at Stellar Sales with around 70,000 miles on it. He said with the trade-in on two former patrol cars, the dealership wants around \$11,000.

"We don't have lots of days when we need one," said Chief Lockhart, "but when we do, we really need it to get around."

Dr. Anderson agreed that the department needs a four-wheel drive, but said the city didn't budget for a police vehicle this year. The council didn't approve the purchase.

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