

Obituaries



LEXI HILT places in the long jump, the 400m dash and on three relay teams at Atwood on Friday. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

St. Francis competes well

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwkans.com

The junior high track meet scheduled for Atwood on Thursday was postponed until Friday due to weather conditions.

Four teams, Colby, Oberlin, Rawlins County and St. Francis, were able to attend the Friday meet with Colby sweeping the event by winning all four divisions.

St. Francis ended the day with a second place finish for the eighth grade girls, a third place finish for the seventh grade boys and both the eighth grade boys and the seventh grade girls finished fourth.

The eighth grade girls 4x400m relay team took a little more time off, recording a 4:44.21 finish. This was a new school record replacing the one they set on Tuesday in St. Francis. The team, Trista Orth, Lexi Hilt, Ashlynn Lambert and Jenna Hill, had a time of 4:45.27 on Tuesday.

Other highlights for St. Francis include Jenna Hill winning the eighth grade girls 100m dash, the 200m dash and the discus; Brock Zwegardt winning the eighth grade boys triple jump and Isaac Schiltz winning the eighth grade boys pole vault.

**Seventh grade girls**  
Team standings: Colby 176, Oberlin 100, Rawlins County 72, St. Francis 52.

400m dash: (4) Krissy Harris, 1:16.48.  
100m hurdles: (5) Laura Brunk, 20.43.

1600m run: (3) Katie Lambert, 6:38.31; (4) Aly Northrup, 6:58.56.

Triple jump: (3) Clarice Neitzel, 25-9.50.

Shot put: (4) Nariah Hamilton, 26-9.0; (5) Taylor Archibald, 26-2.0.

Discus: (4) Hamilton, 54-2.0; (5) Archibald, 51.6.0.

4x100m relay: (4) St. Francis (Neitzel, Jandy Dunn, Aubrey Mills, Chloe Miller), 1:06.81.

4x200m relay: (3) St. Francis (Northrup, Harris, Lambert, Brunk), 2:11.69.

4x400m relay: (2) St. Francis (Mills, Lambert, Northrup, Brunk), 5:22.50.

**Seventh grade boys**

Team standings: Colby 220, Oberlin 98, St. Francis 66, Rawlins County 42.

100m dash: (4) Dylan Wolaver, 14.02.

200m dash: (4) Thomas Douthit, 32.52; (5) Casey Keller, 33.06.

100m Hurdles: (3) Wolaver, 18.77; (5) Taylor O'Leary, 19.06.

Long jump: (4) Foster Grant, 13-0.50.

High jump: (2) Keller, 4-2; (3) Grant 4-0; (4) O'Leary 3-10.

Shot put: (5) Zach Gienger, 28-2.  
4x100m relay: (2) St. Francis (Mikey Leibbrandt, Douthit, Grant, Gienger), 58.81.

4x200m relay: (2) St. Francis (Keller, Leibbrandt, O'Leary, Wolaver), 2:14.50.

4x400m relay: (2) St. Francis (Keegan Sherlock, Dylan Peter, Wolaver, Leibbrandt) 4:36.31.

**Eighth grade girls**

Team standings: Colby 206; St. Francis 92; Rawlins County 52; Oberlin 52.

100m dash: (1) Hill, 13.28.

200m dash: (1) Hill, 27.81.  
400m dash: (2) Hilt, 1:13.22.

800m run: (4) Tilyn Bell, 3:13.40; (6) Christina Schoenroge, 3:28.62.

1600m run: (2) Lambert, 6:25.46.

Long jump: (3) Hilt, 13-2.  
High jump: (3) Orth, 4-4.

Shot put: (2) Kaitlin Figgins, 32-10; (5) Jacquelyn Ketzner, 29-5.

Discus: (1) Hill, 72-6.5.  
4x100m relay: (4) St. Francis (Hilt, Ketzner, Orth, Tiana Hunter), 1:03.40.

4x200m relay: (2) St. Francis (Hilt, Lambert, Orth, Hunter), 2:07.09.

4x400m relay: (2) St. Francis (Orth, Hilt, Lambert, Hill), 4:44.21.

**Eighth grade boys**  
Team standings: Colby 196, Rawlins County 100, Oberlin 100, St. Francis 60.

400m dash: (4) Ty Zwegardt, 1:04.81.

1600m run: (4) Jonathan Butler, 6:34.00.

Triple jump: (1) Brock Zwegardt, 33-6.75.  
High jump: (3) Schiltz, 4-10; (5) Logan Whitmore, 4-4.

Pole vault: (1) Schiltz 9-7.  
4x100m relay: (2) St. Francis (Gavin Cooper, Schiltz, B. Zwegardt, T. Zwegardt), 52.31.

4x200m relay: (2) St. Francis (Cooper, Schiltz, B. Zwegardt, T. Zwegardt), 1:56.15.

4x400m relay: (2) St. Francis (T. Zwegardt, B. Zwegardt, Butler, Jonathon Hilty), 4:36.31.

**Howard Wesley Sawyer**

Aug. 13, 1918 - April 11, 2008  
Howard Wesley Sawyer was born Aug. 13, 1918, the second of four children born to Cecil William and Vera Ethel (Thornburg) Sawyer. He died on April 11, 2008, at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis, Kan.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, Russell William and wife, Adeline; sisters, Mildred Eileen Platt and Illa Elaine Friberg and husband, George; son-in-law, Daniel M. Sullivan; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Tom, Frances, Betty, J.C. and Leila and Loyd and Ida Gleason.

Howard grew up approximately 10 miles north of Bird City where he attended country school and church in the Evergreen community. As a child, Howard contracted rheumatic fever and spent many long days in bed. He was able to attend Bird City High School for about a year and a half before the doctor sent him to bed for a long period of time once again due to heart complications from the rheumatic fever. This condition ultimately contributed to his death.

In the fall of 1937, Howard and his brother Russell decided to go to barber school in Denver.

On June 1, 1939, Howard married Louise Gleason at the Justice of the Peace in St. Francis. They celebrated their 40th anniversary with a family trip to Oregon. Their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated with an extended family dinner and program in Bird City in 1989. In 1999, they were again fortunate to celebrate their 60th anniversary with an extended family potluck in Bird City. Last year they celebrated their 68th anniversary with a cake and punch reception at the Good Samaritan Village where, due to bad health, Howard had resided since August of 2006.

The Sawyer family lived many places, including Fort Logan, San Antonio, Denver, Stratton and Goodland before finally moving back to Bird City in 1948. Howard had purchased the Bird City Barber Shop from Lynn Burr and he ran this shop for over 42 years. In 1978, he opened the Atwood Headhunter Barber Shop and ran that until his ultimate retirement in 1990.

Although Howard was a barber by education, what he really enjoyed was being a salesman... whether he was selling vacuums,

cards, real estate, radio advertising for KWGB, or roofing materials, he loved the excitement of the sale.

This year, Howard would have celebrated 40 years of sobriety having entered Valley Hope in 1968.

Howard enjoyed fishing, working on his boat, gardening, mowing lawns, fixing up his workshop, "tinkering" with anything that needed "tinkered" with, watching nature programs on television, playing cards and being with his family.

Every year for about the last 20 years, the Sawyer family would get together for a few days of fun... usually congregating in Bird City over Memorial Day. The family will always cherish the memories together and the family pictures that were taken.

Left to mourn his passing are: his loving wife of almost 69 years, Louise, who moved to St. Francis in September 2007 to be closer to Howard; his daughter, Detta of Chandler, Ariz.; his son, Derald and wife, Greta of Sioux City, Iowa; his son, Byron and wife, Margaret of Kansas City, Mo.; his daughter, Darlene and husband Roger (Lauer) of St. Francis; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Claude, Marvel and Clyde and Wilma Gleason.

Howard was fortunate to have six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will miss him also.

Funeral services were held April 15 at United Methodist Church in Bird City, with Pastor Becky Davison officiating. Interment was at the Bird City Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Greg Lauer, Gerald Lauer, Jim Gleason, Dwen DeGood, Roy Shrader and Gary Brubaker.

The family has designated memorials for the Good Samaritan Village and Cheyenne County Hospital.

**G.M."Swede" Calnon**

April 23, 1923 - March 22, 2008

G.M. "Swede" Calnon was born April 23, 1923, in Rawlins County, Kan, son of Mark and Francis (Copper) Calnon. He died in St. Francis on March 22, 2008, at the age of 84.

On Oct. 31, 1942, he and Anna Elberta Wilkens were married in the Evergreen Church between Bird City and McDonald. They were a

match until the day they parted. He always joked that Elberta couldn't hear, and he couldn't see very well, so they made a good team. She was his eyes and he was her ears.

On their 65th wedding anniversary, the newspaper did a story on their marriage. Swede concluded it by saying, "It's been a good ride!"

Swede was drafted into the Navy in 1944 and spent 16 months aboard the USS Kingsbury. His duty was on an amphibious landing craft which transported Marines to Japanese-occupied islands in the Philippines and the 4th Marines to Iwo Jima.

Swede was also involved with his community, serving on the hospital board, 3rd District county commissioner, fair board member, veteran's board and donating over 10 gallons of blood.

One of the greatest joys in life were his grandsons. Whether, it was Tyler on his dirt bike, or Teegan working on his dune buggy.

Swede was a life-long stockman and rancher and got his only child, Vicki, started in the trade at a young age. Swede loved to watch her make friends with the livestock and learning to ride her horse. He was very interested in rodeo, never missing a show within a 100-mile radius, especially if Vicki was running barrels. In his later years, he kept current in the cattle industry by giving advice and helping wherever he could at their feed yard.

Swede was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He will be greatly missed by the community and all who knew him.


He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson, Tyler Callicrate.

Survivors include: his wife, Elberta Calnon, St. Francis; daughter, Vicki Callicrate, Scott City; grandson, Teegan Callicrate, Wheeler; and sister, Genevieve Keller, Colby, as well as other relatives and friends.

Services were held Wednesday, March 26, at the Catholic Church in St. Francis.

Pallbearers were Teegan Callicrate, Dale Crabtree, John Lampe, Byron Moberly, Don Romer and Jack Walker.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery with a military graveside service by the US Navy.



**Mikaela Grace**  
Student of the Month  
Grade: Freshman  
Parents: Robert & Debbie Grace

Mikaela, a freshman at St. Francis Community High School, is the April Student of the Month. Mikaela is involved in volleyball, basketball, track, pom, FCA, yearbook and band in school. Her community activities are MYF, 4-H, AQHYA (American Quarter Horse Youth Association). After graduating from high school, Mikaela plans to attend college and major in science or engineering. Ten years from now, Mikaela will have graduated from college and will be working, probably married and starting a family. Mikaela's favorite quote is: "Kind words do not cost much, yet they accomplish much." Blaise Pascal

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