



At Home



SIXTH GRADE PROMOTION brought forth every student decorating a table with the highlights of their grade school life. Here Shawn Warren, Sam Sowers and Logan Lampe admiring one of their classmates table. Below: Jonie Pevler along with David Meyer make their way through the gym to the stage.

39 move up to junior high

By Karen Krien

There were 39 sixth grade students promoted to the seventh grade on Tuesday evening.

They marched in to "Trumpet Tune" played by Jean Ann Confer. The songs, "Personal Code" and "Let's Not Forget" were sung by the sixth graders and then the students told what they were planning to be when they grew up. Some of the students plans were: Chase Barnhart wants to be a herbitologist and work with alligators; Sidnee Crabtree and Taryn Richard want to be dentists; Alex Jordan plans to be a basketball player; Trevor Hilt wants to be a carpenter; and both Tyler Larson and Dalton McFarland are looking forward to being radio announcers. Each student had a plan for the future.

Awards were presented by teachers Bruce Swihart and Julie Wolters. The presentation of the certificates were made by principal Larry Gabel.

Earning Presidents Academic Awards were Cara Hunt, Sam Sowers, Elizabeth Gienger and Sidnee Crabtree. Sam was also awarded the Vocabulary Award.

Those promoted to seventh grade were: Chase Barnhart, Kimberly Church, Sidnee Crabtree, Courtney Douthit, Jonathon Finley, Scott Ford, Elizabeth Gienger, Sarah Guthmiller, Tiffany Henderson,



Trevor Hilt, Andrea Holzwarth, Cara Hunt, Talon Jones, Alexander Jordan, Taylor Kennedy, Lacey Kibel, Trent Kinen, Logan Lampe, Tyler Larson, Chelsea Lawson, Dalton McFarland, David Meyer, Tyler Miller, Lance Owens, Jesse Pacheco, Jamie Pevler, Joni Pevler, Taryn Richard, Jacob Riedel, Samuel Sowers, Brennan Van Allen, Kimberly Voeller, Shawn Warren, Matthew Whitmore, Candice Wiese, Hailey Woodcox, Ashley Zwegardt, Ethan Zwegardt, Garrett Zwegardt.

Teacher honored for 25 years service to students, schools

By Karen Krien

Twenty-five years ago this coming fall, Bruce Swihart and his bride Shirley arrived in St. Francis to begin their teaching careers. This spring, Mr. Swihart received a certificate from the University of Kansas School of Education recognizing him for 25 years of teaching.

Mr. Swihart began teaching in the fourth grade and Mrs. Swihart taught third grade. When their family began arriving, Mrs. Swihart stayed at home for several years.

Mr. Swihart taught fourth grade for three years and he then moved to sixth grade where he has been ever since. He likes teaching sixth graders and, at the time, thought it was the right grade for him as he enjoyed working with the older students, but in recent years, he said that he would not mind if he were moved to teach a lower grade.

He said the highlights of his teaching career are many but at the top of the list are the people he works with, specifically co-teachers Robin Burr and Julie Wolters as well as principal Larry Gabel and superintendent Carl Werner.

"They are great people," he said.

Other highlights have been the students, especially those who are really good friends. There were also the trips to Estes Park where he, along with other teachers and parents, sponsored fifth graders in a learning experience that most say was one of their most memorable times in grade school.

"We always have fun (on the Estes Park trip) and I have enjoyed being with students and the parents who go," he said.

Liked going to work

"I have always liked going to work!" Mr. Swihart said.

Through the years, he has seen a change in kids as well as a

change in society.

"We have to deal with more and different kinds of problems that we didn't have 25 years ago," he said.

His favorite subject to teach is social studies because it covers so many areas including history, geography, government, economics and even science.

The low moments of teaching is when former students die.

"I have dealt with them daily for a year (nine months) and I have just found their deaths to be tragic," he said.

Opportunities provided

Being a teacher has opened opportunities to Mr. Swihart that he is not sure would have been open to him before. He has become involved in the Kansas Geographical Alliance, a state affiliate of National Geographic. Here he has learned more about geography by going to various classes and seminars. Through his attendance and interest, he has become a "teacher consultant in geography."

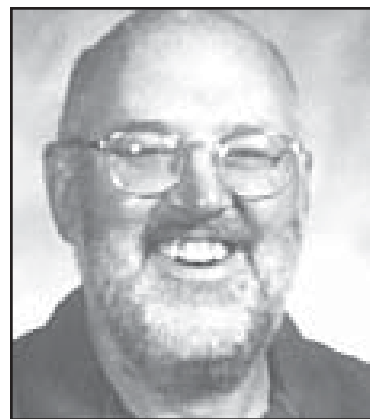
He has also used the Soil Conservation Service as a resource and has enjoyed working with Joan Gienger and the other people in her office. Each year, the staff takes the sixth graders on a tour showing the conservation measures used through the county.

Several years ago, Mr. Swihart was awarded the Cheyenne County Conservation Teacher of the Year, a honor that is seldom given.

In 1995, he was selected for a Fulbright-Hayes study tour of Russia. He was one of 12 chosen out of over 50 other people and was gone six weeks. He said he thought that the tour was not only interesting but educational. He learned about Russian culture and history and found it to be an experience of a lifetime.

Not quitting

Mr. Swihart may have 25 years



Swihart

teaching under his belt but that doesn't mean he is planning to quit.

"No, I am going to continue teaching," he said.

"I came to live in this community and have planted roots here that have intertwined.

"My kids have been able to go to school here and there has been a great support of the community and board of education."

He noted that he feels that the board has made good decisions and the community generally supports its efforts.

"I feel that, together (community and board), they have enabled the school to be one of the better places of education," he said.

Mrs. Swihart, after taking a few years off, has come back to teach kindergarten. The Swiharts have three children: Ben, who is a freshman at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill., Seth will be a junior at St. Francis Community High School and Addie will be a freshman.

On Wednesday, Mr. Swihart was preparing to go to Denver where he would have knee surgery but was looking forward to getting it over so he would be back in shape for the new school year.

Students Graduate

Colby Community College

Three hundred fifty-five degree and certificate candidates at Colby Community College were eligible to participate in the 38th annual commencement ceremony held on Saturday, May 17 at the Colby Community Building.

Those students from Bird City, McDonald and St. Francis who were eligible to participate include:

Associate of Arts degree: Cynthia Howard, Brandee Mears from McDonald; Nathan Fiala, Jody Gienger, Amy Rieger and Michael Wolters from St. Francis.

Associate in Science degree: Brian Holzwarth, Joshua Moberly, Jared Sowers and Uriah Williams of St. Francis.

Associate in General Studies degree: Luke Linin and Jordan Sowers of Bird City; Niki Burmester of McDonald and Elizabeth Gabel and Shirley Ridens of St. Francis.

One-Year Certificates: Annie Dulany of Bird City
Dental Hygiene: Ashlee Crabtree

One year old boy enjoys trip

Joshua Montoya celebrated his first birthday May 5 with a trip to Sea World in San Antonio, Texas. His mom and dad are Nick and Michele Montoya of Kyle, Texas. His grandparents, Pete and Judy Montoya, also went to Sea World.



Montoya

Couple celebrates 60 year of marriage

The family and friends of Shorty and Betty Kahler plan to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Kahlers on Saturday, June 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. in Wichita. The celebration will be held at The Elks Club at 33rd and Broadway in Wichita. They extend a welcome to all who would like to join them for the music and fun! The family will be staying overnight at North Rock Suites (7856 E. 36th Street North - off of Rock Road) and also plans to have a church service

the following Sunday morning at 10 a.m., also at The Elks Club. Everyone is welcome to join them for the praise and worship, too!

For more information, please call Jane Boys at (785) 630-1129 or Mark and Kit Krehbiel at (620) 397-5528 (or cell, June 6 through 8, (620) 397-3630.

Cards may be sent to them in care of Jane Boys, 611 Oak, Wamego, KS 66547 as they will be visiting there later.

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