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FEATURES

YHS FFA teacher honored

Tim Sailors receives Honorary American Farmer Degree

By Earlene Ward - Special to the Sierra Star

(Updated Friday, November 17, 2006, 3:55 PM)

Tim Sailors, the agriculture welding teacher and one of the Future Farmers of America advisors at Yosemite High School, was one of six teachers from California to receive an Honorary American Farmer Degree at the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Ind. recently.

Thirty-five teachers received the award from throughout the United States.

Sailors' involvement in FFA dates back to his high school days. He said he had so much fun in FFA then that he wanted to continue working in the program. He was in Collegiate FFA at Cal Poly, noting that it was the only school in California with a CFFA chapter.

He has been an FFA advisor for 22 years and, he says, "I wouldn't be a teacher if I couldn't do the FFA."

The honorary degree is based on years of service to FFA. Only one of the six California recipients had less time teaching than Sailors.

"It was nice to get the award," he said. "Some kids get it right out of high school; it took me 30 years, but I finally got it," he laughed.

Sailors says he likes working with the students and doing the things FFA provides such as leadership skills, working with animals, and real job experience.

"FFA prepares students better for life than anything else I see," he said.

He participated in sports and band in high school, but, he says, it was the FFA that stuck with him.

FFA is even more meaningful to Sailors now that two of his children are members of the Yosemite chapter. Glenn, who is a sophomore, and Angelina, who is a freshman, attended the national convention. A total of six students and two advisors attended the event. Michelle Forsythe, an agriculture teacher at the school and an FFA advisor, also attended. There were about 60,000 people at the convention.

Sailors returned to YHS this year to teach, saying he's glad to be back. "I wanted my kids to go through Yosemite High because I know what a good school it is."

He was an ag teacher at YHS from 1991-99.

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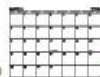
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