

BHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Photo submitted
John Howard, a junior, receives congratulations from Burlington High School Principal Stacy Reed after being named January BHS Student of the Month. John was nominated by Sam Samuelson, Spanish instructor. Samuelson said, "I can't say enough about John's contributions to our class. He is dependable, punctual, capable, friendly, eager, steady and upbeat. He is not shy but has a quiet, peaceful personality that helps to eliminate 'drama' from the classroom. He is a stabilizing influence, the 'rock' that we can always count on." The Student of the Month program is the school's incentive to recognize students who stand out among their peers. Certified staff nominate deserving individuals and one student is randomly chosen from all nominees each month, to determine the winner.



Photo submitted
Waverly Elementary School second grade students took an impromptu field trip last week while finishing a unit on the water cycle. A student asked "What happens to the water that goes down the drain?" Students met with Gary Giffin, city water maintenance supervisor, to learn first-hand about Waverly's waste management system, and learn the answer to their question.



Photo submitted
Coffey County School Resource Officer Jess Stice spoke to Waverly Elementary School fifth grade students about the harmful effects of vaping. She also shared more in-depth information with Waverly High School students that day.

Fort Hays dean's honor roll

HAYS — Local and area students are among the 1,596 students named to the dean's honor roll for the fall 2019 semester Fort Hays State University. The dean's honor roll includes undergraduate students who have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester. Local students named to the dean's list are Zoe Caldwell, Burlington, freshman studying psychology; Kolgan Ohl, LeRoy, freshman studying agriculture (agronomy); Anne Stuke, Waverly, freshman studying communication sciences and disorders.

Kansas State University fall semester honors

MANHATTAN — More than 4,220 Kansas State University students earned semester honors for their academic performance in the fall 2019 semester. Students earning a semester grade point average of 3.75 or above on at least 12 graded credit hours receive semester honors. Local students earning honors are Erikah Lyons, LeRoy; Blake Holmes, Lebo; Regan Norton and Camrie Wagner, Burlington; Kylie Engel, New Strawn; Camille Shilling, Westphalia; Grant Pimple, Damon Schmidt and Ryker Schmidt, Olpe.

The Coffey County Republican
Devotional Page

Battling your giants

Pastor Tim Worstell
First Christian Church



Pastor Tim Worstell

One of my all-time favorite movies is "Facing the Giants" which came out several years ago. My favorite scene is the Death Crawl. The death crawl is an exercise where the boy crawls with just his hands and feet. Brock, the boy, makes a statement that the team they are going to play Friday are bigger. The coach challenges them to give everything they have. To illustrate that, the Coach challenges Brock to do the death crawl with one of the players on his back, while blind-folded, so that he won't quit early and he will give it all he has. Another boy, Jeremy, climbs onto Brock's back and he is supposed to go to the 50-yard line. The coach is encouraging him all the way. Brock is screaming "I can't go any further." The coach is screaming back, "yes you can, yes you can. You have only 20 yards left. You have only 10 yards left." Brock makes the whole length of the field, 100 yards, because he refused to give up until he had nothing left.

When I hear that story, I think of King David when he was a boy and challenged by Goliath. You remember the story. David is called to go to the battlefield to share lunch with his older brothers. While there, the 10-foot giant, Goliath, comes out and challenges the army of Israel. He defies their God and mocks the Israelite army. David is in disbelief that no one goes and defends the name of God. David takes a stand and says that he will go. They make fun of him, but David is deter-

mined. He takes with him nothing but a sling and few small stones.

When David gets close to Goliath, Goliath makes fun of him. But David holds his ground and says in 1 Samuel 17:45-47 "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give all of you into our hands."(NIV version)

David then runs at Goliath twirling his sling in circles. When he gets close enough, he stops and lets go of one of the straps of the sling and the rock flies through the air. It hits Goliath right in the forehead and kills him.

David, who was too young, too small, too inexperienced, became a giant by defeating a giant. When David allowed God to control and direct his life, he then became a giant.

God will do the same for us today. We don't have to bow down to the giants we face. Even if it is a job loss, failing grade at school, failed relationship, too many bills and not enough money, a sin we have committed, pressures of family, etc. No matter what it is, we can face them and win.

We can only do it if we seek God and His word. We need to seek God's will in the situation. Maybe there needs to be some forgiving done, some I'm sorrys to be said, some realization that we can't do it on our own, we need help, some admitting to wrong doing and commitment to do better. Whatever or whoever the giant is, God will help you deal with it and defeat it. God has never said 'be a good Christian and you will have no troubles.' On the contrary, Jesus and Peter warned us of troubles to come. John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world." Also in 1 Peter 4:12 "My friends, do not be surprised at the troubles which come to you. Do not think that something strange is happening to you."

We will always have trouble. The important thing is that we let God help us make the right choices to defeat those troubles or giants. Become the GIANT and claim the victory.

Citizenship

Not long ago, I lost my billfold and all of its contents. It was simple to call the bank that issued me my credit card and ask them to cancel it. But when I went to get a new driver's license, it took much more than a phone call. I had to produce three different documents - including my birth certificate. Fortunately, I was able to locate them with no difficulty. Birth certificates are critical when we need to prove our identity.

But a birth certificate that says we are heaven-born and heaven-bound is certainly more important. In Psalm 87:6, we read "The Lord will write in the register of the peoples this one was born in Zion" - referring to the community of believers - which for us is Heaven.

After dark one night, a religious leader named Nicodemus went to visit Jesus. As their conversation unfolded, Jesus said, "No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"Nicodemus," Jesus said, "your earthly birth record will not allow you entrance to heaven. You need a birth certificate that has been issued by God."

When we are born the first time, we are born into an "earthly family" because we have an "earthly father." It is only when we are born a second time - "born again" - by accepting Christ as our Savior, that we are assured of "seeing" the Kingdom of God. "I am the Way," said Jesus, "if you want to be a citizen in My Kingdom."

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