

Bloomers celebrate golden anniversary

Jim and Mary Bloomer, Liberal, celebrated 50 years of marriage on May 30. The Kansas natives met while both serving in the Navy and stationed at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Md. They were married May 30, 1970, at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church, Wichita.

The couple has three children, James Bloomer (dec.), Christy Bloomer Hess, Burlington, and John Bloomer, Kansas City, Mo. They have three granddaughters, Delaney, Mary Grace and Molly.

Their children, Christy and Ron Hess and John and Becky Bloomer, would like to be the first to congratulate Jim and Mary on this exciting milestone and to thank the loving couple for their selfless dedication to family, friends, community and faith over the past 50 years. The family couldn't have asked for more outstanding role models in life and love.



Jim and Mary Bloomer

Retirement party for Clarkson

WAVERLY — Frog Creek Vet Clinic will be closing on Saturday, June 13, after 37 years and 73 days, and Veter-

inarian Jerry Clarkson will be retiring.

A come and go retirement party for Clarkson will be

held 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at Waverly City Park to allow people to wish him well.

Head Start now enrolling families

The ECKAN Head Start program provides free early childhood development services to families who qualify and is now enrolling Coffey County families and those in its service areas. Services vary in each county and community, based upon the needs identified through a community assessment process. Families can sign up for center-based preschool for at least six hours, Monday through Friday for children ages 3 to 5 years; home-based weekly visits (90 minutes) for families with children ages 0 to 5 and expectant mothers; and all-day childcare for children ages newborn to 3.

"Head Start focuses on the development of the whole child and fam-



ily," said Kathy Sage, Head Start. "This means, we help families explore children's overall health, mental health, social-emotional, and physical well-being as well as focusing on the typical intellectual development of children, including children with disabilities. Head Start believes parents are their child's first and most important

teacher."

Sage said Head Start supports parents to better understand early childhood development and to assess and set goals to reach their dreams for life-long outcomes and success. She said research has proven children and families who attended Head Start were more likely to become highly engaged and productive citizens as adults.

Families can utilize the Head Start program even if their child is attending preschool elsewhere.

For more information about Head Start in Coffey County, or to enroll in the free program, call Sage at (620) 203-0778 or visit the website www.eckan.org/headstart to learn more about available services.

MENUS

Coffey County East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging program congregate meals are available on a grab and go basis at the center Monday through Friday at the Burlington Senior Center (620) 364-2730, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Lebo Senior Center (620) 245-6166, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Waverly Senior Center (785)

733-2603. Meal deliveries will continue as usual. A volunteer and the site manager will be available to oversee the meal distribution.

Monday: Sloppy joe, sweet potato fries, cream peas, strawberry cub, wheat bun and milk.

Tuesday: Beef and noodles, whipped potatoes, peaches, cookie, French roll and milk.

Wednesday: Chicken casserole, broccoli with cauliflower, ambrosia salad, cheesecake, wheat roll and milk.

Thursday: BBQ ribette, macaroni with cheese, zucchini with tomatoes, pineapple, hoagie bun and milk.

Friday: Deli ham, potato salad, carrot salad, blueberries, wheat bread and milk.

The Coffey County Republican

Devotional Page

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Joyful noise

Pastor Karl Nurnberger
Christian Church of Burlington



Pastor Karl Nurnberger

Noise, it's everywhere. Prior to moving to Burlington, my wife and I lived in Shawnee, Kansas for almost 20 years. The location we lived in was REALLY noisy! Our house was less than a mile from a major interstate. There were busy railways just a few miles away in three different directions. In addition, we were on the southern approach for KCI airport. Oh, and for good noise measure, our house backed up to the playground of an elementary school! Noise from the hustle and bustle of life became a part of our everyday lives. This noise became so routine that I became numb to it and didn't really even notice it after years of being immersed in it.

Then in 2013, we moved to Burlington and all of that noise changed! No longer was there a constant roar of background noise from the highway, trains, airplanes and the kids at the school. During this time, I began to understand the term, "Silence is deafening." When we moved to Burlington, I came to understand there is another noise all of us have to deal with - the noise from our minds.

Some of you may ask what on earth am I talking about. I'm talking about all of the voices in our minds that never stop. Those voices from the past that we can't seem to shake

off. The past voices of negativity, criticism, loss, anger, rage, insult, bullying, failure, fatigue and shortcomings. If it's not voices of the past, for many it's worries, fears, anxiety and doubts about the future. When we're not distracted by external noise, these internal noises come screaming at the top of their lungs from the corners of our minds. These noises of our minds can be so much worse than external noise. The noises of our minds can cause serious, long term emotional, spiritual, and even physical damage.

The strange time we've been in since early March, this forced slowdown of the external noise of life, has brought many people face-to-face with the deafening noise of their minds. Because the distractions and pace of life has been forcibly slowed down, all of the internal voices in their minds have taken the place of all the busy noise of the world. Many people I've spoken with find themselves unable to effectively cope with all of this internal noise.

Let me encourage you, there is One you can turn to that will help you through the struggles of your past. Romans 12:1-2 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of

worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then, you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Also read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.)

You see, when we surrender to Jesus, salvation begins at that moment! Far too many Christians live like the deliverance promised for those who surrender to Jesus, begins when we die and go to heaven. Yet, as these verses in Romans tell us, transformation by the renewing of our minds begins NOW! What does this transformation and renewal have to do with all of the external, and internal noise in our lives?

It means that we need to sacrifice the noise in living for the desires of this world, to instead pursue God with everything we are. It means that as we pursue and get to know the nature, character and love of God through studying His word, meditating on Him, and praying to Him that our minds are renewed. It means that no longer do our minds need to be filled with regrets and sorrows from the past, or fear and worry over the future. Instead, as we get to know God, our minds are renewed as we understand our past does not have to define us. It means with God, there is nothing to fear or worry about in the future. God walks with us now and is already there in the future waiting for us! In other words, it means with God the internal noise of our minds can be the noise of celebration, joy, encouragement and victory, no matter what is happening in our lives.

I don't know about you, but this kind of joyful noise in my mind is a noise I can love!



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