

Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!

By Bill Thudium

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Annual Bulldog Quarterback Club Banquet – The QB Club is proud to announce that **former Bulldog All State player and Missouri Tiger Steve Haag will be our honored guest speaker for this year's Banquet.** The Club will also **honor the 1992 State Semi-Final team** on the occasion of their **25th anniversary.** The date for the Banquet this year will be **Saturday, May 6th.**

This year will be similar to previous Banquets in that there will be a total of 300 tickets available for purchase. Each ticket is \$100 and provides for two Banquet meals, an evening of fun, cash drawings and music, and of course a chance to win \$10,000. New to this event this year will be the various cash drawings throughout the evening. Should be more fun than ever! The event has also moved from the school gym to the Brookfield Plaza Shopping Center. The entire event will be held in one spot rather than moving to the Elk's Lodge following the Banquet. The Brickhouse Restaurant will be providing the catering for the evening, using a smorgasbord setup, and the Knights of Columbus will be set up to serve drinks throughout the evening.

As you will recall the Bulldog Quarterback Club was organized in 2012 to begin refurbishing Burlington Field and in support of the Bulldog football program. Much has been accomplished during the first four years but there is a lot more to do. You can help this effort by becoming a member of the QB Club (\$50/yr) and by purchasing a ticket to this year's QB Club Banquet. Both can be accomplished by going to the QB Club website; bulldogqbclub.com or to the Brookfield Quarterback Club Facebook page. Of course donations of any size are always welcomed and needed.

As in previous years the \$10,000 grand prize will be drawn at the conclusion of the Banquet. We hope you can attend because we know it will be a memorable evening, however please know your ticket stub will be entered into the drawing regardless of whether or not you can attend. To win other smaller cash drawings made throughout the evening you will need to be in attendance. A completely different format this year and we hope it will be more enjoyable for the crowd, and a great success for the QB Club as we strive to raise funds for historic Burlington Field and our great Bulldog Football Program.

Historic Twin Parks - Work on the Twin Parks in town is really beginning to show. The crews have now installed all of the new period lamp posts and they were lit up last week for the first time – what an incredible difference the lighting makes in this Park! Construction of the new amphitheater in the East Twin Park is also completed. The brick layer finished up by wrapping the steel supports with brick. He also completed a brick memorial in the center of the Park where the old gazebo stood. We now have all new sidewalks in this Park and also new curbing and gutters surrounding the Park. Park benches will soon arrive as well. Everyone has been excited to see the finished product –completed well ahead of this summer’s Alumni Weekend! I know Alumni Weekend returnees will be thrilled with how beautiful the East Twin Park now looks.

Work on the West Twin Park is scheduled to begin very soon as well. The Brookfield Area Growth Partnership and the Downtown Committee continue to raise funds for the matching grant we were awarded for Park revitalization and a new playground center. Individuals, businesses and organizations are being asked to purchase engraved bricks, park benches, period lamp posts and memorial plaques. I attached that information to the last Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!! and will glad to resend the West Park information. Last word is that all of the available park benches have now been committed to however there are still plenty of period lamp posts for individuals, organizations and businesses to donate toward, plus the availability of memorial plaques and engraved bricks. Those of you who would be interested in supporting the work in the West Twin Park can send me a note or contact our Brookfield Area Growth Partnership office and visit with Marcia or Becky. The BAGP number is 660-258-7278.

Brookfield Aquatic Center – Crews have really taken advantage of the terrific “winter” weather to make great strides on Brookfield’s new Aquatic Center. The new facility will be located in the South City Park, just east of where the old pool was, near the old brick Shelter House. Plans are to try and have the new facility ready for opening on or around Memorial Day. Exciting times in our Community!

Big Changes at BHS (many involving my family!) - Recently the Brookfield School Board announced the hiring of our son Nile Thudium as the new High School Principal. He will of course have to leave his dream job as Head Coach of the Brookfield Bulldogs to make the move but it is one he and his family gave plenty of time and consideration before deciding in favor of the move. Nile has been a Head Football Coach for a total of 14 years and playing or coaching football since he was 6 years old! Our withdrawal will be worse than his will be!!! It was tough giving up the coaching position he wanted since he was just a kid, however the timing was right and administration was another goal he had set for his career. Now he will be a part of the group that gets to choose his successor! Should be interesting! Also Farron McCollum decided to retire after 26 years as BHS system Director of Maintenance. Our son in law Matt Parn applied for the position and was chosen from several applicants to assume the position. A third big change affecting our family is wife Shane’s decision to retire from the system as the Adult Evening Coordinator for the Linn County Area Career and Technical Center. Whew, now that is a lot for one family to absorb in one month! I am confident Nile and Matt will do great things for BHS in their new capacities and look forward to spending more time with my wife, although I think she plans to go back and work part time if there is an opportunity to do so. By the way we won’t waiver from following and supporting our beloved Bulldog football team. We will have a freshman and sophomore on the team this year and more on their way!

Brookfield Leadership Development Academy – It was my pleasure to attend the 11th Annual Leadership Academy Graduation this past week. Since the Academy began in 2007 we have graduated a total of 154 students. Last night was a smaller class than normal with 11 graduates completing their 6 month course.

Jimmy Evans - The week following New Year's Day we buried a really wonderful elderly gentleman from our Church, First Presbyterian. Jimmy Evans was retired from the military and had moved back home to Brookfield many years ago. I have had the good fortune of knowing him really well for a very long time. He was a fellow Church Session member and bought several cars from me! Jimmy grew up in Brookfield and graduated from BHS in 1946. He had the distinction of having lettered three years in football as a tackle. Following the year of his graduation he was actually on the crew that built Burlington Field. Jim told me that one day while helping to dig the footings for one of the iconic derrick style light standards he got his foot stuck in the mud and ended up leaving his boot behind. He always laughed that he left a part of himself in Burlington Field. Jimmy spent much of his adult life serving his Country. I am proud to have known him.

Birthdays –March 10th, David Melton, Erin Melton, Julie Mosely, Tammy Standley, Randy Thudium, Mildred Sluter, March 11th, Melissa Wright Techau, Daniella Dake, Ray Hamilton, Adam Jones, Betty Woodring, Tom Clark, Chryl Devoy, Thomas Devoy, Larry Head, Mary Huffman, March 12th, Jona Forte, Amanda Hedrick, Mercedes Lindsay, Wade Watts, March 13th, Barbara Tschannen, Abraham Vickery, Carolyn Roberts, Paul Holtman, Kathy Woody, Barbara Cassity Morris, March 14th, Elise Reid, Tony Bowen, March 15th, Jenna Booth, RJ Duff, Monica Britton, Misty Bowen, Peggy Martin, March 16th, Steve Haag, Julie Wright, Marshal Smith, Doris Dodd, Lavonee Newlin, James Taylor, March 17th, Kristen Dowell, March 18th, Carson Techau, Bob Johnson, Brooke Standley, Jonathan Black, Jerald Schreiner, Brittanie Magnuson, March 19th, Philip Hamilton, Malissa O'Dell, Alyssa Mallow, March 20th, Robert Allen, Burnie Hicks, Martha Wilkerson, March 21st, Ally Tschannen, Zach Olinger, Terry Tarpening, March 22nd, Eli Allen, Doris Dennis, Diane Whohlgemuth, Mar. 23rd, Robin Rollison Williams, Jacob Heckman, Ashley Scott, Mar. 24th, Amanda Alexander, Hans Roensch, Bill Shouse, Ian Thudium, Becky Cleveland, Slade Emery Collier, Tammy Rhoades, Mar. 25th, Trish Collins, Emily Littrell, Savannah Neal, Matt Bara, Patricia Collings, Mar. 26th, David Harmon, Ellie Remol, Mar. 27th, Linda Collins, Chad Shiflett, Mar. 28th, Mildred Bailey, Carrie Henry,

Derrick Potter, Rex Tounzen, David Forst, Carrie Ratliff, Mar. 29th, Erin Hannick, Renee McKenzie, Matthew Reid, Michelle Sutch, Debra Bowen, Flynn Hayden, Mar. 30th, Brooks Baker, Rick Darby, Jerry Enyeart, Mar. 31st, Joe Smith, Kimberly Greinke, Dee White, Kenny Mayberry, April 1st, Frances Black, Elizabeth Bloss, Cheyenne Cash, Geneva Boley, Margie Pitts, Jamie Hartman, Corey Herrington, Oscar Windsor, Isabel Phillips, Kendra Foster, Matt Gulford, Ervin Windsor, Shayne Lumsden, April 2nd, Margaret Smith, Jennifer Thompson, Brent Kunkel, Bob Walgren, Andre Walters, Kaitlyn Garr, Jordan Bailey, Larry Stauffer, Apr. 3rd, Mary Ann (Bussard) Potter, Emily Botts, Bryan Cople, Reeva DeMarco, Marguerite Johnson, Zach Buckallew, Kristi Varner, Lori Kennedy, Melissa Cole, Jeff Purcell, Apr. 4th, Avery Phillips, Ty Golden, Charlotte Jones, Danielle Gann, Marsha Cunningham, Daniel Muck, Matthew Herbert, Marty Foreman, Blynda Carter, Apr. 5th, Don Almond, Willow Watson, Rhet Wilkerson, Julie Walker, Stephanie Epperson, Ryan Woody, Apr. 6th, Gerry Bloss, Tammy Kaufman, Drenda Neptune, Dennis Paahlar, David Paahlar, Chance Mosbacher, Ceiera Epperson, Polly Arnold, Derek Scates, Apr. 7th, Kerri Cowan, Brenda George, Bill Morris, Sherry Witte Enyeart, Roger Hulett, Sue Ewing, Robert Smith, Matthew Hoyt, Steve Roberts, Rodney Butterfield, Apr. 8th, Caren Stahl, Tracy Douglas, Debbie Morris, Jessica Diel, Sarah Heller, Joshua Newman, Matthew Newman, Teresa Woody, Apr. 9th, Larry Carmical, Russ Falconer, Stacie Wild, Beth Green, Kevin Martin, Pat Johnson, Larry McCollum, Apr. 10th, Geneva Butler, John Allen Moore, Darin Bodine, Tim Speichinger, Judy Redmon, Dillon Devoy, Dennis Huffman, Vicky Standley.

Anniversaries – Mar. 10th, Julie & Rodney Ranson, Mar. 12th, Stan & Judy Gibson, Mar. 20th, Willie and Rhonda Brost, Mar. 25th, Jim and Debbie Bennett, Mar. 28th, Butch & Sarah Mosely, Apr. 4th, Craig & Pat Smith, Apr. 5th, Bill & Sandi Morris, Apr. 10th, Richard & Jeannie Davis.

Thanks as always for reading **Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!** Please remember to shop Linn County first and don't forget to let me know when you have **Good News or Interesting Stories** you would like for me to share with our readers.