

Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!

By Bill Thudium

February, 2016

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I was writing my monthly column (Brookfield Good News) for the newspaper the other day and realized I had let a whole month go by without doing a Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!! Must apologize, I am unsure what happened to January! Here we now sit at the end of February 2016 – how on earth is that possible. I haven't retired yet and probably will continue working for another five more years, however I did go on Medicare in October and decided to go ahead and begin taking my social security in January – in fact I got my first check last week!! I delayed starting taking Social Security for three months after I turned 65 because it made financial sense to do so. I was a 1968 grad and our class is now looking toward our 50th class reunion coming up in just two years. How on earth is that possible???? I don't feel that old!!!!

Bulldog Quarterback Club – The Bulldog Quarterback Club 4th annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 26th, 6 p.m. in the BHS High School gymnasium. Our special guest speaker this year will be Coach Billy Olinger. Bill was a 1953 BHS grad and terrific football player, and then returned 20 years later to Coach the Bulldogs in the '72 thru '76 seasons. His 1973 team reached the State Semi Final game and his '74 team broke a twenty year losing record to the Chillicothe Hornets and won the “Shirt Game” in a low scoring 6-2 game. In addition to hearing from Coach Olinger the QB Club will also honor his 1973 semi-final team. We are hearing from a lot of his former players who plan to be back for the Banquet. Should be a great night! The Banquet is a first class affair with white table clothes, prime rib meal and our football team and cheerleading squad dressed in black pants and white shirts to serve your meal. You will enjoy the evening!

Tickets can be purchased by making your check out to the “Bulldog QB Club/HLF” and mailing it to the same at P.O. Box 67, Brookfield, Mo 64628. To

purchase tickets online, join or renew with the QB Club (\$50), or make donations please go to the following PayPal link; https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=GZSU3F7SYB8W4 Locally tickets can be purchased from Bill Thudium, Coach Nile Thudium, Kevin DeVoy, Blake DeVoy, Jarrod Black, Mike McBroom, Jim Lane, Terrill Lane, Robbie Garr, Nathan Stufflebean, Russ Morris, RJ Staddie, Matt Parn and Jerod Gilman.

We hope everyone will be able to join us for the banquet but if the timing does not work you can still purchase a ticket and support the QB Club. The Club can use your donated tickets to help some parents of players attend who would not be able to afford to do so otherwise, and you retain the opportunity to win the money if your ticket stub is drawn. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser are used by the QB Club to maintain and make improvements at Burlington Field. Don't forget about the Bulldog Quarterback Club Facebook page. We are in the process of creating a web page too but in the meantime the Facebook page is a good way to keep abreast of what is happening and how the football team is doing. Don't forget to click "Like" and urge your friends to do the same!

New Brookfield Water Park/Swimming Pool – After much discussion a decision was made to build the new Brookfield facility in the same proximity as the current pool in our South City Park. Some discussion is being given to turning the main pool into a skateboard park rather than spending a huge sum of the available money on removal of the old pool. Our youth task force has been in favor of a skate park for several years now and just never could raise the money to build one from scratch. This is an opportunity and I hope Parks and Recreation will look at it seriously. Regardless of the decision work will begin later this spring on plans with construction to be completed sometime in the spring of 2017. Our old pool was built in 1959 and had developed maintenance issues that were far more expensive than the City could handle. A sales tax issue was approved by the voters which gave us approximately \$2.5 million dollars for a new facility, along with some funds going to Parks and Recreation each year to help this seriously underfunded City department.

Twin Parks – You will see a lot of change in the look of the Twin Parks when you arrive for Alumni Weekend this summer. The Committee working to revitalize the Parks brought in a tree expert this past year to help us identify diseased and dying trees and help the city select various other trees that would need to be thinned out in order to make room for new playground equipment and a performance venue. This week City crews have been cutting down all of those trees the expert identified and then are following up now digging up the stumps with a back hoe. New trees will be planted this spring. Many of the old trees have been dangerously dropping big limbs and for good reason many of them are 150 years old!!! It was time to thin, cleanup and replant as we look toward revitalizing our Parks but it sure won't be as shady for a while!!

New Adams School Days – There has been quite a discussion in an internet group about Brookfield's old school buildings. The New Adam's school in particular has drawn a lot of discussion, a chance to see old pictures and reading things people recollect about attending there has been a bunch of fun. You can always go online to the "You're from Brookfield If..... Facebook page and join in.

My memories of New Adams range from kindergarten when I was 5 years old and ran thru 6th grade there. My kindergarten teacher was Mrs Ehrich. I remember going to the lunchroom for milk at some point in the afternoons for milk and for a couple more cents you could get chocolate! Our classroom was on the west end, first floor of the building. All school assemblies were held in the gym which had a stage on the north end. There was a big wooden balcony that circled the gym and I can remember the physical education teachers would have the kids run laps around it during gym class. You could hear that "thundering noise all over the school. At assemblies some of the kids sat in the balcony and the janitors sat chairs up on the basketball floor for the rest of the kids. My memory isn't clear on who sat upstairs, the younger ones or the older kids. Maybe someone out there will have a better memory. I remember if you were good the teacher would let you have the honor of taking the erasers to the janitor's room and cleaning them on a machine that had a vacuum attached to it to hold down the dust.

I only lived two blocks from New Adams so it was just a short walk down the alley to get to school each day. When I was in fifth/sixth grade the School Boy patrol was instituted. Those of us chosen to serve had our special belts and hats and we guarded all of the intersections to stop traffic when kids needed to cross the street. It was a real honor to be a safety patrolman. I'm not sure how long the program lasted. I was chosen to represent the Missouri Safety Patrol in Washington D.C. our 6th grade year. Kids chosen from schools all over Missouri came together to travel to Washington D.C. where we toured all of the sites, visited the museums, met our Congressmen and U.S. Senators and finally joined with Patrol Boys from all over the nation in a huge parade. We were given special orange patrol belts and hats for the occasion – I think I still have that stuff in a box somewhere. My folks bought me one of those new little Kodak cameras with the square bulb that flipped around after flashing a picture. I went thru a lot of bulbs but later learned I had forgotten to change the film, as a result not many memories of my trip were captured in pictures!!!! After all that was a lot of stuff to remember for a wide eyed eleven year old running around in the nation's capital!!!

I had Mrs. McDonald for 2nd grade. She was a good teacher and I liked her but she could be a little scary too. Bobbie Thomas was a wild one at that age and Mrs. McDonald had a terrible time keeping him in his seat during class. Finally one day she sat him down and duct taped his torso and legs to his chair. That did the trick with Bobbie but can you imagine what they would do to a teacher today who did something like that!!!! In sixth grade we had our first introduction to playing musical instruments. Boy was that a noisy room with all of us blowing on those little red flutophone/recorder instruments – at least I think that is what they were called?? It was our first real introduction to learning how to read music – I was a little ahead on that because I had been taking piano lessons. The teacher could see that I already knew how to read music and pushed me to join the band when I went the north side for Jr. High the next year. I wanted to play sports instead and so my instrument playing history was reserved to a few years of piano lessons!

Brookfield Wrestling Report – As many of you know Brookfield has been a top ten Wrestling school for many years and despite having fewer numbers this year we once again finished well. This past weekend we had seven kids qualify for the

State Tournament in Columbia. Normally we have ten or more qualify but just didn't have the kids to cover many of the weight classes this year. Class 1 champ Seneca qualified 14 kids and they were all good ones. Our kids did well as always and we clawed out a 6th place finish out of 51 Class 1 schools. Freshman wrestler Brooks Baker became our first freshman State champion in the 285 lb. class, Junior Drake Menconi took 5th place at 195 lbs and Senior Reed McBoom finished with a 6th place after injuring his knee in the semi-final match that went to overtime and then was unable to compete for third place the next day.

Linn County Community Chorus – The Chorus began practicing this week for our annual Spring concert. Practices are held each Thursday evening, 7 p.m. in the choir room of the Trinity United Methodist Church. New members are always welcome. Music will be made available during the first few practices. Members are asked to purchase your own music. Everyone in Linn County who enjoys singing is encouraged to join the group. The Concert is scheduled for Sunday, April 17th.

Birthdays – Feb. 20th, Martha Beach, Tanner Wallace, Bobbi Steen, Ronald Muck, Robyn Harris, Bob Guilford, Elizabeth Crawford, Feb. 21st, Doris Jean Demarest, Jacob Morton, Donna Greene, Mieah Chapman, Jenny Campbell, Max Admire, Janet Linebaugh, Feb. 22nd, Bruce Connor, Jan Parson, Debbie Scott, Karen Krenzel, Cory Huffman, Feb. 23rd, Gracie Roberts, Chris Dowell, Donna Milligan, Tanner Sims, Jacob Haley, Leslie Lentz, Feb. 24th, Erica Salmon, Rick Jenkins, Lane Hicks, Micah Mendenhall, Alex Moore, Frank Martin, Mike Muck, Jeremy Tripp, Rachael Potts, Donnie Robison, Kasie Lindsay, Feb. 25th, Todd Park, Lake Harmon, Linda Stark, Savannah Thompson, Freda Clark, Bridget Gillespie, Feb. 26th, Barbara Routledge, Marilyn Linscott, Jacinta Whitson, Douglas GRIESEBAUM, Jessica Manning, Reid Foster, Feb. 27th, Adisyn Allen, Kelly Collins, Matthew Linscott, DW Norval III, Tyler GRIESEBAUM, Allen Hayes, Chelsea Manning, Feb. 28th, Shelby Lawless, Barb Jay, Joyce Epperly, Carole Bennett, Randy Hahn, Feb. 29th, Danny Baker, Robert Holland, Mar. 1st, Josh Davis Rojean Falconer, Zachary Neal, Jerry Stone, Brenda Foster, Duane Olinger, Ruby Kime, Brian Ehrich, Jim VanSickle, Roxanne Lentz, Rosella Heller, Richard Carpenter, Aiden Joe Robinson, Mar. 2nd, Jerry Falconer, Bethany White Ogle, Marty Stark, Joe Haley,

Jim Dillard, Merle Steward, Lori Ervie, Carol Hedrick, Mar. 3rd, Tyler Bruce, Bill Copple, Gary Hughes, Gentry Muck, Geana Walker, Zach Lincoln, Khaylee Dixon, Mike McVicar, Doris Phillips, Mar. 5th, Marc Amer, Renelda Billingsly, Kevin Judas, Parn Robinson, Kalie Dorman, Mary Miller, Mar. 6th, Linda Dowell, Chuck Wilson, Walter Bowen, Mar. 7th, Rick Boley, Ethan Harmon, Mason St. Clair, Megan (Hill) Woods, Zach Britton, John Morris, Kim Whiloughby, Rob Sims, Kayte Peters, Mar. 8th, Jolene Dodd, Dakota McCormick, **Kjersten Parn, our daughter**, Colleen Potter, Dylan Watts, Stacy Jackson, Sam Bontrager, Denzil Thomas, Mar. 9th, Mary Brewer, Lois Dean, Dick King, Bobbie Ashmore, Chris Fountain, Justin Diehl, Jim Dougherty, Mar. 10th, David Melton, Erin Melton, Julie Mosely, Tammy Standley, Randy Thudium, Mildred Sluter, Mar. 11th, Melissa Wright Techau, Daniella Dake, Ray Hamilton, Adam Jones, Betty Woodring, Tom Clark, Chryl Devoy, Thomas Devoy, Larry Head, Mary Huffman, Mar. 12th, Jona Forte, Amanda Hedrick, Mercedes Lindsey, Wade Watts, Mar. 13th, Barb Tschannen, Abraham Vickery, Carolyn Roberts, Paul Holtman, Kathy Woody, Barb (Cassity) Morris, Mar. 14th, Elsie Reid, Tony Bowen, Mar. 15th, Jenna Booth, RJ Duff, Monica Sattman, Misty Bowen, Peggy Martin, Mar. 16th, Steve Haag, Julie Wright, Marshall Smith, Doris Dodd, Lavonee Newlin, James Taylor, Mar. 17th, Kristen Dowell, Mar. 18th, Carson Techau, Bob Johnson, Brooke Standley, Jonathan Black, Jerald Schreiner, Brittanie Magnuson, Mar. 19th, Phillip Hamilton, Malissa O'Dell, Alysa Malloy, Mar. 20th, Robert Allen, Burnie Hicks, Martha Wilkerson.

Anniversaries – Feb. 22nd, Ron and D'Etta Scott, March 3rd, Dale & Beverly Lewis, Mar. 4th, Stan '48 & Mary Ann (Ford '49) Williams, Mar. 6th, Steve & Tricia Kauzlarich, Mike & Linda White, Mar. 10th, Julie & Rodney Ransom, Mar. 12th, Stan & Judy Gibson, Mar. 13th, Waldo & Evelyn Roberts, Mar. 20th, Willie & Wanda Brost.

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/Memories** you would like to share.

