

Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!

By Bill Thudium

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Pop! – Pepsi has been running commercials recently showing the various cans and bottles they have used over the years through the various generations. Every time I see it I am taken back to my younger days when we were almost exclusively a Pepsi family. Mom particularly loved the cold bottles of Pepsi which she kept in the refrigerator to stay ice cold. When Pepsi Cola came out with the 16 oz. glass bottles she was really in heaven. Of course the larger bottle meant we had to have stoppers to go on the top to keep from losing the fizz!! (like those worked!) We used to have Pepsi and stove top popped popcorn when the family was watching TV. Mom served our Pepsi in those metal glasses with cotton cozies to keep our hands from freezing! That iced cold Pepsi was sure delicious! When we went to my Grandmother Ethel's house we were treated with the little 7 oz. bottles of Coke and 7-up that she always kept in the refrigerator. Grandma kept those iced cold little bottles of pop on hand for the grandkids! A cold bottle of pop and some orange slices or Carnival Peanut to go with it, mmm, mmm, mmmm!

Ice Pond memories – recently a couple of our high school age grandchildren rifled through one of our closets and found several pair of old ice skates. They discovered a pair of Shane’s that fit our senior granddaughter and a pair of my old skates that fit our freshman grandson. Off they went to try them out. Never did hear how that went but it did remind me of the great fun we used to have as kids skating on the old Ice Pond and the Country Club Lake. The Ice Pond was located at the end of Sedgwick and E. Dake Streets, a block north of the old Hwy 11. We fished the heck out of the Pond in the Summer and ice skated on it much of the winter. There were always plenty of kids there to form hockey teams – no hockey sticks or pucks so we had to fashion sticks from tree limbs and there were plenty of smooth round rocks that served well as pucks. A good time was had by all!

After skating until we were worn slick and frozen to the bone it was really nice to sit around the big bonfire that some of the adults and older kids built on the ice along the shoreline. Lots of really good information was passed around in those warming up sessions! The young ones got an early “education” sitting around listening to the older kids talk! 😊

Rogene Hayen Smith – Shortly before my last HB we experienced a rash of deaths in our community. Rogene Smith was certainly another of those special people who meant so much to this town over the years. She was a crusader for everything good and being critical was something Rogene simply never did do! Although I have known Rogene virtually all of my life I never really interacted with her much until Shane and I moved ourselves and a very young Nile and Noel back to

Brookfield from Jeff City politics. I immediately became active in the community and learned very quickly that Rogene was someone who really cared and was willing to pull her own weight on just about any community project that came along. One of the first biggies for me was serving as President of the 1984 Quasquicentennial Committee. Rogene was involved early and often in that organizational effort. She later ran for the City Council and was the first woman ever elected to that position in Brookfield. Took some bravery to break that “glass ceiling” but she never faltered and was an active participant during her time on the City Council. Later she was very involved in the creation of the Linn County Historical Society museum. Rogene was a very active Sesquicentennial Committee member and rarely missed one of the unbelievable number of meetings that we held weekly for several months. When the Brookfield Area Growth Partnership created the Leadership Academy Rogene was in the very first class and then served on the Leadership Committee every year thereafter. I only mention a few of the activities Rogene participated in over the years. It goes without saying that she truly was a Brookfield Patriot. No one loved this community more than she did. We will miss Rogene Hayen Smith.

Missouri State High School Bulldog Wrestling – after a several year hiatus from high school wrestling our family is back into following it in a serious way starting with our freshman grandson Donovan Parn. Donovan’s Dad Matt and his brother Brad were both really good high school wrestlers and since our daughter dated Matt in high school we followed his career early on. We became acquainted with the sport when my nephew was a successful high school wrestler however the sport became a mainstay for us when our grandsons began to wrestle

for the Blue Pride Wrestling Club. We have followed Donovan since he was four years old. His Dad and his brother have been Donovan's primary coaches thru his early years so he has had some excellent training as he prepared for Jr. High and High School. Once you leave kids wrestling and move to Jr. High and High School you suddenly begin wrestling older kids, particularly in High School where a freshman often goes up against kids three & four years older than they are. Jr. High not so bad since you are dealing with just 7th and 8th graders. In kids wrestling there is an age limit for each weight class (8 and under at a certain weight limit, 10 and under, etc.....). Although very talented and very well trained Donovan often struggled in 7th and 8th grade waiting for a growth spurt. However this year he made a remarkable transition and became one of the top wrestlers in his weight class in the State all season. He won the District championship which qualified him as a top four seed in the State Championships in mid-February. He and four other Brookfield kids ended up qualifying for State – the other four were Khalil Walker, Brooks Baker, Carson Wilkerson and Brent Downing. First round matches began on Thursday morning - Shane and I found a hotel room available Wednesday night thru Saturday so we wouldn't miss a thing. Donovan and the other four boys all won their first round matches and didn't wrestle the second round until Friday. Donovan, Brooks and Khalil won their quarterfinal matches and moved on to the Semifinal round. Brent and Carson both lost their quarterfinal matches but did win their wrestlebacks. They later lost out in their second wrestleback rounds and did not get to wrestle for medals. Donovan wrestled a kid from Whitfield who was seeded first in their weight class in the tournament. He fought hard and led much of the way only to lose right at the end of the match by an 8-6 point count.

We were all heartbroken for him as he seemingly left everything he had on the mat in that hard fought match. He had wrestled so hard and had come so close to finding himself in the State finals on Saturday. Instead he had to move to a wrestleback match Saturday morning where a win would give him a chance to wrestle for 3rd place. He got back to his winning ways once again defeating another really tough opponent. Meanwhile Khalil lost his semifinal match to a boy who hadn't lost a match all year. He would later win his wrestleback and joined Donovan in the 3rd place matches. Brooks steamed right along in the heavyweight weight class and easily won his semifinal match putting him back in the State Final match Saturday evening. Donovan once again found himself up against major competition from a kid from Maysville who had only lost one match all year! Another hard fought match that ended up with Donovan losing 8-4 and taking 4th place in the State Tournament. Khalil would also lose his 3rd place match and took a 4th place. Brooks went to overtime with his Whitfield opponent (the same kid who beat him for the championship last year by 1 point). This year Brooks pulled out the big victory and won the match 3-2. Our team ended up taking 8th place in Class One – considering we only qualified 5 kids that is a very respectable finish.

What a weekend of wrestling! We loved following our grandson and celebrating his successes in his freshman year. Can't wait to watch him again next year! Next step - Kids wrestling with our grandsons Devan and Gambal. Both qualified for the State Tournament this past weekend and we of course followed them to St Louis. Shane and have always been primarily football fans but this wrestling has sure gotten into our blood! Helps to have your grandkids involved, especially considering how good they are! 😊

State Kids Wrestling Report from this past weekend:

Devan Parn 1st - our grandson has now won three straight State Championships!

Peyton Parn 2nd

Weston Linscott 2nd

Zander Stufflebean 4th

Scout Gooch 5th

Trent Polley 6th

Grandson Gambal (Staddie) wrestled hard and well but didn't make the medal round this year. He and Devan will both be back next year!

Brookfield Area Growth Partnership Leadership Academy – this past week the BAGP Leadership Academy celebrated the graduation of our 13th annual leadership class. This year's 11 graduation class now brings the 13 year total of graduates to 172 people. A truly incredibly successful program of the Brookfield Area Growth Partnership! We are seeing most of the graduates move on to assume leadership roles in the community; running for office, serving on various committees and Boards, and getting involved in the various activities underway throughout the community. Congratulations to the 2018 class; John Bagley, Ryan Burns, Blake Cavanaugh, Evan Fay, Toni Fay, Brenda Hueffmeier, Tayah Mathys, Tawnya McLaury, Nile Thudium, Tanner Wallace, Tonya Washam and Mandy Wiedeman.

“Aging Resource Consultant” – When Wife Shane’s Dad passed away last October we moved her Mom in with us to live. Things worked fairly well for a while but as time went on it became more and more apparent that Shane’s folks had been covering for each other regarding both his and her mental capacities. Dementia has been quickly progressing with Ellie since John’s death and a month ago we came to the conclusion that we could no longer leave her alone. I went thru putting my Grandmother in a nursing home many years ago after Alzheimer’s had taken control of her mind. That was difficult but more so with us than with her. In Ellie’s case she had times when she was somewhat clear and that included when we made a couple of futile attempts to move her to a home. Following a couple of miserable attempts, and an admission on our part that we had no idea how to go about this difficult task, our daughter Noel let us know about a friend, Robyn (Clark) Armstong) who had recently begun her own business as an “Aging Resource Consultant”. Shane made the call and soon met with Robyn. She provided an immediate calming voice for Shane (who was about to lose it!), learned about Ellie and our/her plight, and quickly sprang into action making numerous calls to area institutions. She has been involved in geriatric/medical social services for several years now so making a move to her own private consulting business was an easy, well informed lateral move. In other words, she knew the folks! In our case Robyn identified several potential locations for Ellie and made the initial contacts for us so we could visit the facilities and make an informed decision. She was able to provide tips on the best way to help Shane’s Mom make this living transition from our house, and I must say her suggestions were excellent. Ellie is now a nursing home resident and so far there have not been any significant issues.

Sixteen family members visited her this past Sunday to help celebrate her 90th birthday. The afternoon went well and we all enjoyed it.

Here is the info if your family is looking for help. Robyn Armstrong, MSW, LCSW can be reached at 660-734-0062 or by e-mail at rarmstronglcsw@yahoo.com. Her services include short term and long-term planning, facilitation of family meetings to address needs and concerns, advance care planning, information/referral for community resources, nutrition /meal support, transportation needs, legal & financial needs, mental or behavioral health needs, family caregiver respite/relief, and other services such as safety evaluation and mental status assessments.

We were sure glad daughter Noel knew about this wonderful local service and sure felt strongly that following our successful consult with Robyn we would help get the word out that professional help is available locally to others who are in a similar family situation.

Birthdays – March 7th, Gussie King (1 year old), 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, Gerald Schreiner, Brittanie Magnuson, Mar. 19th, Phillip Hamilton, Malissa O’Dell, Alysa Malloy, Mar. 20th, Robert Allen, Burnie Hicks, Mar. 21st, Ally Tschannen, Zach Olinger, Terry Tarpending, Mar. 22nd, Eli Allen, Doris Dennis, Diane Wohlgemuth, 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

Collins, Mar. 26th, David Harmon, **Ellie Remol (my Mother in Law)**, 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, Michelle Sutch, Deborah Bowen, Flynn Hayden, Mar. 30th, Brooks Baker, Rick Darby, Jerry Enyeart, Mar. 31st, Joe Smith, Kimberly Greinke, Kenny Mayberry, Dee White, Apr. 1st, Elizabeth Bloss, Geneva Boley, Margie Pitts, Jamie Hartman, Matt Guilford, Shayne Lumsden, Apr. 2nd, Margaret Smith, Jennifer Thompson, Brett Kunkel, Andrew Walters, Kaitlyn Garr, Jordan Bailey, Larry Stauffer, Apr. 3rd, Mary Ann (Bussard) Potter, Emily Botts, Bryan Cople, Reva DeMarco, Marguerite Johnson, Zach Buckallew, Kristi Varner, Lori Kennedy, Melissa Cole, Jeff Purcell, Apr. 4th, Avery Phillips, Ty Golden, Charlotte Jones, Danielle Gann, Marcia Cunningham, Daniel Muck, Matthew Hebert, Marty Foreman, Blynda Carter, Apr. 5th, Don Almond, Willow Watson, Rhett Wilkerson, Julie Walker, Stephanie Epperson, Ryan Woody, Apr. 6th, Gerry Bloss, Tammy Kaufman, Drenda Neptune, Dennis Paalhar, David Paalhar, Chance Mosbacher, Ciera 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, Josh Newman, Matthew Newman, Teresa Woody, Apr. 9th, Larry Carmical, Russ Falconer, Stacie Wild, Beth Greene, Kevin Martin, Pat Johnson, Larry McCollum, Apr. 10th, Geneva Butler, John Allen Moore, Darin Bodine, Judy Redman, Dillon Devoy, Dennis Huffman, Vickie Stanley, Apr. 11th, Leslie Thudium Hane, Miranda Maddox, Mike Hueffmeier, Angeli Carter, Jason Epperson, Ethan Hayes, Apr. 12th, Tricia Kauzlarich, Neal Roberts, Aiden Smith, Kevin Witte, Sherry Hartman, Pat Holtman,

Apr. 13th, Kaecen Brown, Mikal Heckman, Lindsay Potter, Lester Lewis, Nicole Liebhart, Susan Elson, Kirk Palmer, Emma Heller, Shaylee Jenkins, Jennifer Huffman, Apr. 14th, Lisa Daugherty, Dave Shaw, Jamie Ayers, Frank Clark, Stu McMains, Larry Kurtley, Velma Windsor, Rob Stufflebean, Apr. 15th, Ashley Burkholder, Rick German, Lisa Hofstetter, Garrett Mauzey, Walter Anthony.

Anniversaries – Mar. 20th, Willie & Wanda Brost, Mar. 25th, Jim and Debbie Bennett, Mar. 28th, Butch & Sarah Mosley, Apr. 5th, Bill & Sandi Morris, Apr. 10th, Richard & Jeannie Davis, Apr. 13th, Howard & Shirley Moore, Apr. 15th, Bob & Pat Clawson, Carl & Jean Weaver.

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**.