

The Clipper

Volume 23 No. 7

March 8, 2024

Incumbents + newcomers file for office

Four incumbents plus two newcomers have filed for open seats on the East Butler Board of Education and District 6 seat on the Butler County Board of Supervisors (which represents the Brainard area), according to information provided by the Butler County Clerk Stephanie Laska.

East Butler Board of Education

Three incumbents and a challenger have filed for three open seats on the East Board school board: incumbent Brandon Jisa, South Ward; incumbent Megan Kozisek, Middle Ward; newcomer Laurie Smaus and incumbent Kim TePoel, North Ward. The school board race will advance to the general election because of the number of candidates.

Butler County Board of Supervisors

Brad Vandenberg, a newcomer, has filed for the District 6 seat on the Butler County Board of Supervisors, as has incumbent Ryan Svoboda. Both candidates are Republicans so this race will be decided at the primary election.

Brainard Village Board

No one has yet filed for two seats up for re-election on the Brainard Village Board. Those seats are currently held by Randy Robeson and John (Steve) Hummel. Filing deadline for village board is July 15 for incumbents and Aug. 1 for non-incumbents. Filing can be completed at the Butler County Courthouse. For more information, contact the county clerk's office.

May 18 is the deadline to contribute to the 64th Annual Brainard Community Fund Drive 2024. Letters have been sent to area residents. For more info, contact Annette Snyder or Brenda Janak, co-chairmen of the sponsoring Brainard Community Club.

Oak Creek Township issue resolved

Oak Creek Township made its way into some news outlets recently based on results of a state audit. The following was submitted by township officials to explain the situation and how it has been resolved:

"In March 2019, a weather disaster hit our area and caused extensive damage to Oak Creek Township roads. Township operator Larry Ratkovec immediately began road repair work and township board members began the process of application for and administration of FEMA grants to help with the expenses. An outside contractor was hired for major road repair projects. Eventually FEMA paid \$89,339 to the township for road repair, \$5,043 of which was designated as compensation for the administrative work involved. At the 2023 annual township board meeting, the board members voted to compensate themselves with \$5,043 for the time and effort involved in the several year process.

"During the annual audit of township expenditures by Nebraska State Auditor office, it was determined that this distribution to board members violated Nebraska State Statute 49-101.01 (public employees may not enrich themselves through public office) and forwarded the complaint to the Nebraska State Accountability and Disclosure Commission. In discussion with general counsel of the A&D office, board members learned that the misunderstanding would be resolved if board members returned the money to the township.

"For board members to be paid for extraordinary work for the township, a township member needs to bring the motion at the annual meeting and it must be voted on by township members, excluding board members.

"Township board members Rick Novacek, Jerome Kudlacek and Eileen Rock returned the money to Oak Creek Township, no investigation was initiated and the issue was resolved."

Candidate profile: Brad Vandenberg

District 6 seat, Butler County Board of Supervisors

The two candidates for the District 6 seat on the Butler County Board of Supervisors will be profiled in The Clipper, beginning with Bradley W. Vandenberg, 38, a farmer who lives west of Brainard. Because both candidates are Republican, this race will be decided at the primary election in May.

Family information: Valerie is my wife of 14 years; we have three children: one with wings - Kroy, 11; Hensley, 9; and Barrett, 5. Valerie has been a teacher at East Butler for 13 years, where both children attend.

Community activities: Center Township clerk; Brainard Volunteer Fire Department, 16 years; assistant fire chief, six years; volunteer for the Butler County Fair; proud member of Kroy Vandenberg Pride In Your Ride Memorial Scholarship

Foundation; member, St. Francis Catholic Church; St. Francis Catholic Church Cemetery Board; Brainard Softball Program; volunteer judge at the David City Car Show.

Reason(s) for running: I feel we need better representation for our district. I attended several area township meetings and it seemed to be pattern of no one knowing or feeling any support from the county level. I find this unacceptable for a supervisor. You need to make yourself known not only to your district, but the whole county and communities.

Other public offices you have held: Center Township clerk for six years.

Your qualifications: As the clerk of Center Township, I understand the needs, expenses, and balance between

—Continued opposite page

Next Bloodmobile at EB on April 12

The next Red Cross Bloodmobile will be held at East Butler on April 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., according to redcrossblood.org

Future Bloodmobile dates in Brainard are planned June 7, Aug. 2 and Oct. 1. Those drives would be held from noon to 6 p.m. at the Klein Center. Dates and times are always subject to change. To make an appointment, call local organizer Denise Bruner. Donors are encouraged to eat a snack or meal and drink liquids such as water and juice before arriving.

Clippers from 100 years ago on display

The Clipper newspaper from 100 years ago is on display in City Hall, for those who want to look at all the news from 1924. "We will leave it in the meeting room for the year, as well as the book of 'minutes' from that time period," said city officials. "We have all these interesting historical documents here, so we thought we would make them available to the public."

This month in history: March 1924

The Brainard High basketball team won the Class G state tourney with a 16-13 victory over Litchfield High 100 years ago. The Tigers defeated Swanton, Waverly and Elwood to reach the state finals (it took four games to win state back in the 1920s). There were 16 classes in 1924. The team finished the season with a 17-5 varsity record. The varsity squad included: Richard Horacek, Lad Horacek, Stanley Vondra, Otto Holesovsky, Alfred Kremlacek, Adolph Kriz, Albin Cabela, Frank Kugler and Valdimir Klein. The coach was Clarence W. Butte.

Brad Vandenberg, continued

county and township needs. As assistant fire chief, our department has grown both with experience and pride; response times are at a record high. We have maintained a full roster for several years, adding new young members and training them—one of the best experiences for me. Mutual Aid with neighboring fire departments has come a long way and I feel this is a huge deal for Butler County residents—departments that work well together to get the job done, no matter the time or weather conditions. Working with the Brainard Rural Board to update and maintain equipment has given me experience with working with budgets, specs, and what is practical for taxpayers in the district.

I have immense pride in our community. The responsibility to maintain and improve our community is on all of us. I feel called to advocate and be present for

my community in creating an area for my children and all future generations.

What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing Butler County? Maintaining budget, zoning, employment retention, and growth of the county.

What do you see as the greatest strengths of Butler County? Butler County is a self-sufficient county. We take care of ourselves, but don't hesitate to help others when needed.

Anything else: I want to see Butler County become an AG Friendly County like the surrounding counties. Butler County is growing/changing at a fast pace, so we need to be ready for it.

Helping my neighbors and others has been a huge aspect and strength of mine. Born and raised in Butler County, I know many people in our communities and what they represent. I want to be the one that represents them! Thank you!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

March 1 - Statehood Day (1867)
March 2 - Alex Beckman
March 4 - Rick and Julie Novacek
March 6 - Ryan Sullivan
March 8 - Debbie Behne
March 9 - Carolyn Dvorak
March 12 - Kale Glasshoff
March 15 - Kolbe R. Pytlik
March 15 - Tim Steager
March 15 - Joel Vrbka
March 16 - Alan Snyder
March 19 - Skyler Robeson
March 21 - Kathy Pelan
March 23 - Sadie Struebing
March 24 - Tom Janak
March 25 - Chris & Brenda Janak
March 26 - Elaine Fortik
March 26 - Paul R. Pytlik
March 26 - Cora Grace Novacek
March 26 - Asher Radke
March 29 - Jett Schommer
March 30 - Phyllis Edwards
March 31 - Jaydyn Schommer
April 1 - Tracy Spatz
April 1 - Julie Novacek
April 1 - Greg Janak
April 2 - Ashley Zysset
April 4 - Bern Kozisek
April 6 - Jaxon Miriovsky
April 10 - Alan & Tammy Tejral
April 10 - Jeff Ingwersen
April 11 - Jerry & Phyllis Swanda
April 11 - Andy & Crystal Behne
April 13 - Marian Pytlik
April 13 - Kevin Havlovic
April 15 - Kailyn Hummel
April 15 - Steph Novacek
April 17 - Barrett Vandenberg
April 17 - Bev Struebing
April 17 - Ed Witzel
April 19 - Kirstin Bailey
April 19 - LaVern Fortik
April 20 - Niki and Trevor Svoboda
April 20 - Bryce Havlovic
April 20 - Norm Bruner
April 23 - Rick Novacek
April 25 - Bruce & Joyce Rezac
April 26 - Bruce Rezac
April 26 - Art & Jodi Pelan
April 26 - John A. Bongers

**The Clipper is published at the Village of Brainard's City Hall,
111 E. Washington St., Brainard, NE 68626.**

It is available free on a first-come basis.

Debbie Behne, editor • Kevin & Debbie Behne, publishers

All submissions subject to editing

Submit stories to brainardnews@hotmail.com