

The Clipper

Email news:
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March 16, 2023

Info meeting on Sons of American Legion planned

An informational meeting regarding the possible establishment of a Sons of the American Legion (SAL) chapter in Brainard will be held at the Legion Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21.

The purpose of the SAL would be to help carry on patriotic and community activities of the American Legion and provide an organization where members can work together and enjoy comradeship. Sons and grandsons of all U.S. veterans are eligible to join. Contact Dean Kriz, LaVern Fortik, Jim Polivka, or Tom Pesek for additional information.

Community Fund Drive now underway

Letters have been sent to Brainard area residents for donations to the 63rd Annual Brainard Community Fund Drive 2023. Donations can be mailed to Brainard Community Fund Drive, %Community Club, PO Box 94, Brainard, NE 68626; or delivered to First Nebraska Bank during business hours. Checks should be made out to Community Fund Drive with contributions to be accepted through May 15.

After the fund drive is complete, donations are divided among several charitable causes, according to officers of the Brainard Community Club, which sponsors the annual event.

Those who wish to pay their \$5/ per person dues for membership in the Brainard Community Club can do so at the same time as a contribution is given to the fund drive. Indicate with a note that \$5/ person (\$10/ couple) should go toward dues.

Next Bloodmobile at East Butler

The next Red Cross Bloodmobile will be held at East Butler. For more information about the date and time, contact the school.

Other future Bloodmobile dates in Brainard include June 9 and Aug. 4, both at the Klein Center and usually from noon to 6 p.m.. Dates and hours are always subject to change.

Donors are encouraged to eat a snack or meal and drink liquids such as water and juice before arriving. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

Steve Hines inducted into Musicians Hall of Fame

Steve Hines of Brainard was one of seven Nebraska musicians inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame during the 23rd annual ceremony, accordion jamboree and dance held at Lodge Tabor Hall near Dorchester earlier this year. Throughout the afternoon, musicians entertained a large audience with traditional Czech polkas and waltzes. The event concluded with a dance by the Mark Vyhlidal Band and the Greg Blecha Band.

All honorees are of Czech descent and have made significant contributions in preserving Czech musical traditions in Nebraska and the Midwest throughout their lives, according to information provided by the sponsoring group. Others honored were Jim Kucera, Elkhorn; and Kenny Shuda, Grand Island with posthumous honors going to Ernest "Ernie" Coufal, Bruno; Frank Kucera, Linwood; Alvin "Al" Moudry, Ord; and Norman L. Sodomka, Grand Island.

Steve Hines was born and raised in Butler County. He lived in Linwood most of his life and graduated from Schuyler Central High School, then earned an associate degree in electronics from Central Community College in Columbus. Steve has worked for ABC Supply Company as a purchasing, receiving and inside

sales associate the last 24 years.

Steve's parents, Ernie and Marie (Hajek) Hines, raised him with a great appreciation for Czech culture and music. While living in Linwood, Steve and his family lived across the street from the ZCJB Hall. Steve fondly remembers summer nights listening to polka music playing into the wee hours of the morning, coming through the screen windows. He started playing drums at the age of 13. Ernie Kucera and Milo Palensky, both drummers, were a very important influence for Steve growing up. Milo Palensky was the one who gave Steve his first drum lesson at Bud Comte's studio in David City.

Steve's first opportunity to play in a band was with the Michael Brecka Orchestra from 1975 to 1980. He then joined the Mark Vyhlidal Orchestra in the early '80s, where Steve played a variety of music, which helped him broaden his playing style. While working at Columbus Music, Steve had opportunities to meet other musicians in the Columbus area and was always willing to fill in to help local bands when they were in need of a drummer.

Steve met Linda and Dean Oberly, along with Ray Johnson, in 1983. These four would go on to form the country

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Steve Hines inducted into Musicians Hall of Fame

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rock group Busted Loose, playing together until 1991. Busted Loose was honored with the Nebraska Country Music Award in 1984. Steve continued to go back to his roots of Czech music throughout his time with Busted Loose, joining the American Czech Brass band under the direction of Bob Palensky.

Steve also played with Leonard Havranek. Leonard was responsible for introducing Steve to his future wife, Vickie, at a dance job in 1985. Steve and Vickie, a music teacher at East Butler, married in 1986. In 1990, Steve and Vickie became parents to their son, Derek. In 2015, they gained their daughter-in-law, Rachel. Steve and Vickie have played together in multiple bands.

In 1995, Steve joined again with the Michael Brecka Orchestra and the Pat Mitchel Orchestra. Steve would continue to play drums with his best friend's bands until 2004 when both bands were disbanded.

In 2004, the Studio Trio was formed, which included Steve, Lonnie Piitz and Allen Moravec and later on was a member of the Leo Lonnie Orchestra. Although Steve no longer plays full

time with any band, he does occasionally play a few gigs a year.

Steve enjoys being a positive musical influence for his grandchildren, Connor and Elliott. They play "drums" and piano all the time while visiting.

Steve has performed with other bands. This list includes: Opening Act for The Whites, Czechlanders, Kenny Shuda, Barry Boyce, Freddy Fender, Kevin Koopman All-Star Band/Combo, New Road Band, Bob Rabe, Bob Blecha and the Bouncing Czechs, Ernie Coufal, Bill Anedel, Moostash Joe, Ernie Kucera, Kenny Janak, German Old Time Band, The Young Czechs, Jim Mastny's Merry Musicians, Dean Hansen Orchestra/Trio, Allen Valish Orchestra/Trio, Ernie and the Countryman, Larry Good, Oak Creek Band, Accordionettes, Brad Husak, Jake Vyhildal Trio, Vern Belik, Bohemian Alps Boys, Randy Korbelik, Lou Hospodka's Little Tavern Band, Dwight Legion Band, BRAZZ College Jazz Band, Angie Kriz, Bill Anedel and Friends Brass Band, and the remaining members of the Bob Wills Texas Playboys.

Thank you to Deb Polacek of the Musicians Hall of Fame for providing this information to The Clipper.

100 years ago ...

The Brainard High School boys' basketball team competed in the Class G division of the 1923 Nebraska State Basketball Tournament. Brainard lost in the first round of the tourney to Bladen by a score of 22-10.

In 1923, there were 15 classes of competition and 235 teams made it to the state tournament.

Brainard High also had a girls basketball team in the 1922-23 season. Only two scores from that season have been located: Brainard over Dwight, 10-9; and Osceola 28, Brainard 0.

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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

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

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 - 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
April 28 - Brett Struebing
April 29 - Scott Foral
April 29 - Jenna Zysset Jensen
April 30 - Jerry & Sandy Bongers
April 30 - Ross Benes