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INSIDE

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Business Spotlight

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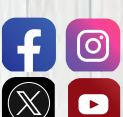
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Brandon Area Briefs

**Mid-year graduation is tonight**

More than a dozen Brandon Valley High School seniors are scheduled to receive their diplomas at mid-year graduation ceremonies at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14 in the Brandon Valley Performing Arts Center. The event is open to the public.

**Military History program is Sunday**

A Military History program is planned for 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18 at the Valley Springs American Legion. Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson USAF (Ret.) will give a presentation on the history of the U.S. Army Air Corps base in Sioux Falls during World War II. Refreshments and a time for Q&A will follow the presenta-

tion. This event is free and open to the public.

**BVSD Early Childhood Screening is Jan. 27**

Brandon Valley School District will conduct its annual Early Childhood Developmental Screening from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29 at Brandon Elementary School. Screenings are free for all children from birth to age 4 who live in the BVSD. South Dakota School for the Deaf will also be providing free hearing screenings at this time.

Parents/guardians should contact the office of the school their child will attend. To register, visit [brandonvalleyk12.sd.us/specialservices/](http://brandonvalleyk12.sd.us/specialservices/) or call (605) 582-3446.

**Brandon Burger Battles underway**

Two Burger Battles are happening in Brandon throughout the month of January. The Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting their fourth annual Battle, featuring six participants: Annie’s Coffeehouse, The Gruff Plates + Pour, 212° The Boiling Point, Chuds Pub & Grill, Bottom’s Up and Red Rock Bar & Grill. Tailgator’s Bar & Grill is conducting an internal Burger Battle, which features six different burgers.

To learn more, visit [brandonvalleychamber.com](http://brandonvalleychamber.com) and the Tailgator’s Facebook page.

**Ed Polzine seeks donations of wild game, fish**

The Ed Polzine Wild Game Feed Fund is accepting donations of wild game (deer, elk, pheasants, moose, etc.) and fish

(preferably walleye) for the 40th annual Wild Game Feed on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026.

To donate, contact Harry Buck (605-366-0221), Stan Schoeneman (605-366-7842) or Jill Meier (605-321-8423).

**Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry**

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry are bottled juice, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, paper goods (Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates).

To make appointments for pickups or donations, call 582-7001. The BAFP is open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Used eye glasses and hearing aids for the Brandon Lions Club may be dropped off at the BAFP, at Jones Family Eye Care and Lewis in Brandon.

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Ask the Motor Medics®  
Automotive Advice from The Under the Hood® Show

Dear Motor Medics,  
I've been listening to all the talk about driverless cars and cars that can take control and it scares me. I started driving in the 70s and back then cars didn't even have a computer in them. I don't know if I want to be sharing the road with robots. I just want to know if they are safe, how they work, and when they will be here so I can start looking out for them.

Karen in Tyler Texas.

Dear Karen,  
The technology for these car "Robots" has been in the works for a very long time. We started to see it used as a safety enhancer in vehicles a while back to aide you in the way of helping to prevent collisions while backing up and when getting too close to someone in front of you. The systems would be able to reduce throttle and apply the brakes if you were in a "bad spot" and in danger of a collision. The tech has now advanced with the enhancement of laser sensors and GPS and super high definition cameras and much more that allow the cars to navigate to destinations and avoid collisions. The cars are on the road now being tested and chances are you have seen one and don't even know it. They have logged millions of miles on America's roads. As for how safe they are, it is yet to be seen. The future is headed our way!

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,  
My 2015 Impala has been doing strange things like the doors unlocking themselves in the middle of the night and my battery has been going dead over night at times. I have also found my blower fan running after the key is off and other things like my personal settings are changing. I saw on the news that cars were getting hacked and taken over by computer people. How can I tell if this is happening to me?

Marie in Detroit Michigan.

Dear Marie,  
The symptoms you are experiencing sound more like things related to a Body Control Module or BCM for short. You need to have it diagnosed to know for sure before you spend the money to replace it but this is a good time to address the "hacking" you bring up. Your car being a 2015 Impala it's not susceptible to the hacking level you may have seen on the news. The newer cars have been given so much tech that the electronic systems run things like throttle, brake and steering and can be accessed through the Telematics systems and with the right circumstances and information a smart hacker could gain access to some systems controlling the vehicle. Manufacturers are working diligently to stop this from happening and hopefully it will never be a problem. Consult your local mechanic and talk about your symptoms. The car will need to be scanned and the effected systems checked and repaired.

Take care, the Motor Medics

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41st Annual Ed Polzine Cancer Fund



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Please contact Stan Schoeneman at (605) 366-7842, Harry Buck at (605) 366-0221 or Jill Meier at (605) 321-8423 to donate auction items or wild game.

The **Ed Polzine Cancer Fund** is a fund that supports children and families in the Brandon area who have been impacted by cancer or other life-altering events. The fund is named after Ed Polzine who lost his fight with cancer in 1999. Ed loved kids and he would be very happy to know that the mission behind the game feed continues to help these children and their families.

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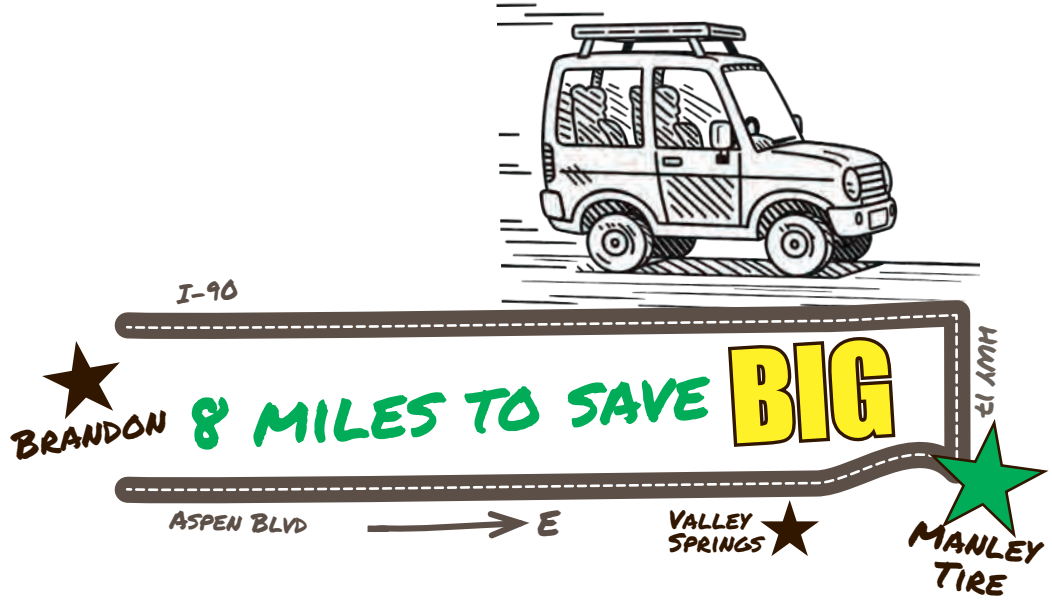
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