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10:00 am – 12:00pm

INSIDE

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Coming In Tomorrow's Journal

Sudoku & Crossword

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Business Spotlight

Today is:

National Plan for Vacation Day

Vietnam Peace Day

Holocaust Remembrance Day

National Chocolate Cake Day

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FACES BEHIND  
The Lynx Way



TEACHER of the Week



Mr. Gappa - Mr. Gappa is truly one of the cornerstones of Brandon Elementary, and his dedication to our students is evident in everything he does. As our computer teacher, Mr. Gappa does an outstanding job teaching students' essential skills such as typing and exploring all the possibilities technology has to offer. His lessons are engaging, meaningful, and help prepare our students for success in an ever-changing digital world.

Beyond the computer lab, Mr. Gappa wears many hats at BE. He is our go-to person whenever fun, excitement, or school-wide assemblies are involved. Mr. Gappa is a master at creating fun, crazy, and highly engaging assemblies that bring students and staff together and create lasting memories. His creativity and energy make Brandon Elementary an exciting place to BE.

You can often find Mr. Gappa in the hallway building relationships with students as they pass by—sharing a joke, offering a smile, or challenging them to a quick game of rock, paper, scissors. These small moments speak volumes about the care and connection he builds with our students every day.

Mr. Gappa truly possesses all the talents it takes to be a great teacher, and Brandon Elementary is fortunate to have him as part of our school family.

- Merle Horst, Brandon Elementary Principal

What is your favorite school lunch?

Pizza Crunchers

Why do you love teaching?

I love seeing the students get excited about something new they learned and watching their confidence and independence grow while sharing their knowledge with others.

How long have you been with the district?

This is my 12th year as a Lynx!

What's your favorite past time?

I love riding motorcycles, being outdoors and finding cool vintage things with my wife!

What was your favorite subject in school and why?

My favorite subject was Math with Mr. Johnson. He was always a consistent, routine and fair teacher with a great sense of humor! Shop class with Mr. Lawrence was another favorite, where I developed hands-on skills I still appreciate today.



STUDENT of the Week



Bakker Fitzpatrick - Bakker has earned Student of the Week recognition for his outstanding character and positive influence on others. He consistently demonstrates a positive attitude, shows respect to all staff members, and is kind toward his classmates. When you join our classroom, you can find Bakker being an active listener who follows expectations and gives his best effort each day.

He truly exemplifies the Lynx Way by making choices that not only help himself succeed, but by also encouraging and uplifting those around him. Bakker's actions help create a positive and welcoming learning environment, and he is a wonderful role model for his peers. Every classroom thrives with students like Bakker!

- Carter Larson, 2nd Grade Teacher, Brandon Elementary

What is your favorite school lunch?

I like to bring my lunch to school.

What grade are you in?

2nd grade

What does the Lynx Way mean to you?

The LYNX Way reminds me every day to be kind and an active learner. I always try to learn at school.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I would like to be a famous artist.



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41st Annual Ed Polzine Cancer Fund

THE ORIGINAL

WILD GAME FEED



Saturday, February 7, 2026

Dinner served at 5:30pm • Auction starts at 7:00pm

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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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# Brandon Area Briefs

## District 2 Legislative Coffee is Saturday

A District 2 Legislative Coffee will be held Saturday, Jan. 31 at Sioux Valley Energy's Brandon Training Center, 108 Heritage Road, from 9:30-11 a.m. Legislators Senator Steve Kolbeck and Representatives Dave Kull and John Sjaarda will be in attendance to update constituents on the first weeks of the 101st Session, and answer questions from the public.

## Final week of Brandon Burger Battles

It's the final week for the Burger Battles in Brandon this month. 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.



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Tailgator's Bar & Grill is conducting an internal Burger Battle, which features six different burgers.

To learn more, visit [brandon-valleychamber.com](http://brandon-valleychamber.com) and the Tailgator's Facebook page.

**Get on the bus to Pierre**  
Brandon Day at the Legislature, an endeavor of the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, is Wednesday, Feb. 4. A bus will depart the Holiday Inn Express at 7 a.m. and will return to Brandon about 8 p.m. During the day at the Capitol, participants will have the opportunity to attend committee meetings, learn more about state policy-making, hear a presentation from Public Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson, meet with Governor Rhoden, serve a catered meal to Legislators, Capitol staff, lobbyists, and more.

There is a \$40 fee to attend, which includes a charter bus ride and meal.

To register, visit [brandonvalleychamber.com](http://brandonvalleychamber.com) or call the Chamber at (605) 582-7400.

## BVHS One-Act to give public performance

Brandon Valley High School will present their one-act play at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2 and Tuesday, Feb. 3 in the Performing Arts Center. The performance is free and open to the public.

The public performances are a "warm-up" to the state one-act play festival, which will be hosted by Brandon Valley Thursday, Feb. 5-Saturday, Feb. 7.

For the complete festival schedule, visit [sdhsaa.com](http://sdhsaa.com).

## Ed Polzine seeks donations of wild game, fish

The Ed Polzine Wild Game Feed Fund is accepting donations of wild game (deer, elk, moose, etc.) and fish (preferably walleye) for the 40th annual Wild Game Feed on Saturday,

Feb. 7. Pheasant donations are no longer needed.

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.

## Brandon Senior Citizens

The Brandon Senior Citizens meet at 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at the VFW for Bingo, cards socializing and coffee. All seniors are welcome.

### SOLUTIONS

#### Puzzle Solution Sudoku

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| 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 |

#### Puzzle Solution

Puzzle Solution © OnlineCrosswords.net

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| H | E | F | T |   | D | O | S | E | S |   | F | R | E | T |

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# Ask the Motor Medics®

Automotive Advice from The Under the Hood® Show

Dear Motor Medics,  
I have a 2005 Ford f150 truck with the 5.4 engine and I've been watching my fuel mileage drop slowly but steadily over the past five years. It's been about 60k miles, and I've lost about 5mpg over that time frame. The truck runs perfectly so I haven't taken it in to have anything checked. Where should I start if I wanted to try and get the mileage back up where it had been?

Dan in Sioux City Iowa.

Dear Dan,  
Fuel economy degrades for many reasons, some of which can be avoided with daily habits while others need to be addressed on a more professional level. Daily you can keep the air in your tires at the level recommended by your vehicles manufacturer, and you can keep your engine oil maintained and your air filter clean. Driving at excessive speeds also is a big waste of fuel and with many places raising the speed limits we have seen mileage fall accordingly. Some of the more in-depth end tune up items such as spark plugs and wearing oxygen sensors can degrade economy. These things can be checked by your mechanic. Finally but not all is the fuel system and induction system. As the valves and injectors become carbon coated and sludge builds up on them, the engine efficiency will drop and as it does the fuel economy will as well. These are a few things you and your mechanic can talk about.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,  
I keep developing a shake in my cars brake system. It's a 2006 Chevy Impala and I made it the first 80k miles before it first happened and at that time they replaced all my cars brake pads and rotors and it was good for about 6 months then the front rotors warped again and I replaced them a second time. Now it's been just three months, and they are shaking again and I can only assume it's the front rotors. What could be causing them to fail so often when the first ones lasted so long? I'm using original equipment parts.

Peter in Sachse Texas.

Dear Peter,  
We suspect there may be more to the brake failure than just worn-out brake pads and rotors. When brakes are replaced, it is easy to replace just the parts you visually see and overlook underlying items such as calipers that are sticking and brake hardware and hoses that are causing the brakes to drag. An important part of any brake job is to thoroughly inspect these items, or you can end up with repeat failure. If a brake is not releasing completely it may not feel like there's a problem, but it can build up heat from dragging and that heat can lead to premature wear and also brake rotors that are warped again in a short amount of time. When you find out what is wrong, inspect everything else thoroughly.

Take care, the Motor Medics

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DELTA VACATIONS

Coming in tomorrow's

BRANDON VALLEY Journal



Another location option recently surfaced to build a new City Hall/Police Station, and it was discussed at last week's Brandon City Council meeting. We'll bring you the details from the meeting.

We'll introduce you to Brandon's new City Finance Officer, Katie Redden, who is now in her second week in the position.

Writer Tom A. Savage also brings you the scoop from Monday night's Brandon Valley Board of Education meeting.

Also, a District 2 legislator has a surprising announcement.

A Brandon family is embarking on a new business endeavor, and it's one that's all about "gratitude." Find out who's behind Degaje Studios.

We'll also bring you recaps from Lynx wrestling and basketball, and put the spotlight on a BVHS senior girl who signed her letter of intent to play women's college hockey.

And there's a whole lot more. If you find yourself asking, "I wonder what's going on ...," it's surely time to subscribe to the *Brandon Valley Journal*! Give us a call at (605) 582-9999 to subscribe today so you, too, can be in the know.

SUDOKU • MEDIUM

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. Digits cannot repeat within the same row, column or box. Solution on page 2

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Across

1. Hind's partner

5. "I was at the movies," e.g.

10. Cab Calloway's forte

14. Put on board, as cargo

15. One who dresses stone

16. Compos mentis

17. Live shot

18. Mythical titan

19. Ninety degrees from norte

20. Be lenient

23. Plating material

24. Manages

25. Inheritance

27. Letters of credit

28. Member of the second

order of angels

30. In favor of

33. Fair favors

35. Take a beating

38. Crinkly fabric

40. Seals, of song

41. Escape detection

42. Canadian Indian

43. Main fin

45. June gift, perhaps

46. Stereotypical names

48. Capture a crook

50. Affording a view

52. Bears witness

56. Tobacco chaw

57. Tempt

60. Privy to

Down

1. Diagonal divider

2. Florida bay

3. Jingle writer

4. Enterprise Lt. Cmdr. La Forge

5. No expert

6. They may getplastered

62. "\_\_\_ a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

63. Green Gables girl

64. Parlor fixture

65. Script direction

66. Well-defined path

67. Weight

68. Medicament units

69. Wring one's hands

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 67 |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |

7. Minute land mass

8. Pen pal?

9. Foot comforters

10. Indianapolis-to Louisville dir.

11. Seek a clue

12. Monkey business

13. Microscopic

21. Skip out on the big wedding

22. German article

26. Aquatic bird

28. Crest-fallen Russians?

29. Some mothers

30. TV police

31. Hockey great Bobby

32. Recited fluently

34. Joss house figure

36. Star Wars, to R.W.R.

37. Specification at Thom McAn

39. Hymn to Apollo

41. Make merry?

43. Rotted

44. Pollen producers

47. It may contain baby food

49. Representing (with "on")

50. Sound made by taffeta

51. It needs a good paddling

52. Up \_\_\_ (cornered)

53. Subs defense system

54. 2204.62 avoirdupois pounds

55. Target shooting

58. Sphere opening

59. Words of contempt

61. Styron's "The Confessions of \_\_\_ Turner"



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Bennett L. Kyte, Auditor  
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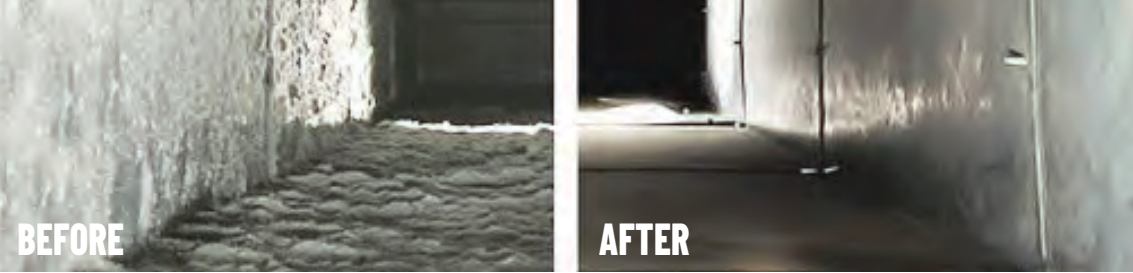
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