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Today is:
National First Responders Day
National Chocolate Day
National Internal Medicine Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
PICK THE PIGSKIN

HALLOWEEN
Spook-tacular
Event Map

FACES BEHIND
The Lynx Way

TEACHER
of the Week



Christine Murtha is the English Language Learners Teacher at Brandon Valley High School. Christine is an outstanding educator who is widely respected by students, parents, colleagues, and community. Her advocacy for our students is evident in the way she forms supportive relationships that are built on trust and credibility over time. Her students and families know that they can go to Ms. Murtha with a concern or a difficulty and she will listen, support, and problem solve. She is a true champion for her learners! Ms. Murtha is steadfast in seeking ways to help each individual student feel that they belong in our school community and in helping each student make progress in their academic achievement. Additionally, Ms. Murtha works to build staff unity for all of our teachers by helping to create ways to bring greater cohesiveness to our staff. She understands that a strong team is most effective when we can share moments of laughter and joy in our daily work to help students grow and achieve. In doing this, Ms. Murtha positively impacts the culture of BVHS for all who enter its doors. Her efforts are invaluable. Ms. Murtha is an inspiration and a role model for the students in her classroom and the staff that work with her each day. Thank you, Ms. Murtha! We appreciate and value all you do! — Principal Mark Schlekeway

What is your favorite school lunch?
Mini corn dogs!

Why do you love teaching?
Students make us better. My students, those who don't have English as their first language, rely on me to reach them where they are and help them learn grade-level concepts. Without realizing it, their needs push me to become more knowledgeable, creative, adventurous, and inventive in finding ways to make challenging concepts understandable. I love it! I love teaching because these kids inspire me to be my best every day and to exercise creativity and ingenuity. It may sound cliché, but it's true: seeing that "lightbulb" moment for a student after you've tried two or three explanations, and they finally understand on the fourth try, is incredibly rewarding. They worked hard, you worked hard, and together you've gone through this struggle together and come out on the other side better. We make each other better in the end!

How long have you been with the district?
18 years as a student. 13 years as a teacher.

What's your favorite past time?
My favorite pastime is fishing. It is something I have enjoyed since I was a little girl and I can't think of a time that is more relaxing or calming than having a pole in the water.

What was your favorite subject in school and why?
Spanish was my favorite subject in school. The class was unlike any other; we would sing, dance, and perform short skits, making it so interactive. It also helped that the language came easily to me. My former BVHS Spanish teachers modeled exemplary teaching, and I try to bring that same energy to help my students today.

STUDENT
of the Week



Meg Bebensee is an active member of our student body and excels both in the classroom and in every extracurricular activity that she is involved in. Meg leads by example and her peers look up to her as a positive role model and leader. She believes that fear limits success. When asked what advice she would give underclassmen, Meg states "If you focus on all the ways things might not work out, you stop yourself from realizing all that you can do. Put yourself in vulnerable situations, go all out for your goals, and never stop trying to be better." Meg is extremely intelligent, driven, and motivated to do her best at all times. Meg plans to attend college and study Motorsports engineering or Mechanical engineering. She is involved in soccer, robotics club, SALSA, Math NHS, and Student Central at Central Church. — Principal Mark Schlekeway

What is your favorite school lunch?
Popcorn Chicken.

What grade are you in?
12th grade.

What does the Lynx Way mean to you?
The Lynx Way is about focusing on what you can control—your attitude and your actions—to become the best version of yourself, while also making a positive difference in the lives of others.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
An engineer.



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LEAF DROP-OFF NOTICE

The City of Brandon is sponsoring its
2025 Free Leaf Drop-Off

DAYS ON

Saturday, October 18th Saturday, November 1st Saturday, November 15th

Bring your bags and cans of leaves and leaf mulch to the MCHARDY PARK parking lot between the hours of 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and dump them into a garbage truck furnished by Marv's Sanitary Service.

Only leaves, mulch, pumpkins, veggies and garden items can be accepted. Leaves must be in cans or bags.



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Brandon Area Briefs

BVAG to host Candy Palooza
Trick-or-treaters will want to make sure to stop at Candy Palooza, a trunk-n-treat event organized by Brandon Valley Assembly of God, 201 S. Sioux Blvd. From 6-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31, kids can play games, burn off energy jumping on the inflatables and of course, trick-or-treat.

Brandon Farmers Market moves indoors Nov. 8
The Brandon Farmers Market will move indoors to Faith United Church, 800 N. Splitrock Blvd., with the first market set for Saturday, Nov. 8. The Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Market is also scheduled for Dec. 13 and 20 (holiday market plus Santa visit), Jan. 10, 2026, Feb. 14, 2026, March 14, 2026, and April 11, 2026.
To learn more, visit brandonsdfarmersmarket.com, email brandonsdfarmersmarket@gmail.com or call (605) 940-7516.

Brandon VFW Feather Party is Saturday
The Brandon VFW will host their annual Feather Party on Saturday, Nov. 1. A full turkey dinner will be served from 5-6:30 p.m. Bingo and other games of chance will run from 7-10 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 2
It's time to fall back! That's right, we'll gain an extra hour of sleep as we turn the clocks back one hour Saturday evening, Nov. 1.

This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry
Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry are canned chicken, pizza sauce and crust, mustard and ketchup, pancake mix and syrup, cake/brownie mix, peanut butter, pudding snack packs, shampoo, body wash, bar soap and laundry detergent. To make appointments for pickups or donations, call 582-7001. The BAFP is open from 4-6 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.

The BFP's annual dinner is being planned for Friday, Nov. 21. Watch the *Journal* for more information regarding entrée sponsorships and table purchases in the coming weeks.

IceCats Arena calendar available online
Curious about what's going on inside the IceCats Arena? Visit brandonvalleyhockey.com for the calendar of events, which includes practices for various levels of players, a women's and men's (A and B skaters, geriatric) leagues, games and tournaments.

Brandon PO has new phone number
The Brandon Post Office has a new phone number. The number is (605) 349-4443.

SOLUTIONS

Puzzle Solution Sudoku								
6	3	4	9	8	7	1	5	2
2	7	8	1	5	6	3	4	9
9	5	1	2	4	3	6	7	8
1	6	3	4	2	5	9	8	7
4	9	7	3	1	8	5	2	6
5	8	2	6	7	9	4	1	3
7	1	6	5	9	2	8	3	4
8	4	9	7	3	1	2	6	5
3	2	5	8	6	4	7	9	1

Puzzle Solution © OnlineCrosswords.net															
B	A	R	T		T	H	A	T	S		S	H	E	A	
O	L	E	O		H	A	B	I	T		T	E	R	N	
S	O	A	R		E	L	I	T	E		E	R	I	N	
C	U	R	S	E	O	F	T	H	E	B	A	B	E		
			O	L	D			E	L	A	L				
S	E	S	S	I	O	N	S		E	R	E	B	U	S	
E	T	E			R	O	I	S		O	R	A	L	E	
T	H	E	G	R	E	E	N	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	
T	I	T	L	E		S	E	E	P			H	E	F	
S	C	O	O	P	S		W	E	E	D	L	E	S	S	
			W	A	N	T			R	E	A				
	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	Y	A	N	K	E	E	S	
H	A	L	O		R	U	N	A	T		E	X	A	M	
A	M	I	R		E	C	O	L	E		R	I	V	E	
T	E	A	M		S	E	W	E	D		S	T	E	W	



Ask the Motor Medics®

Automotive Advice from The Under the Hood® Show

Dear Motor Medics,
My Ford Explorer has been acting up ever since it froze to the ground. I parked it in deep slush last year and the next day I couldn't get it to budge like it was bolted down. At first, I thought it was the transmission, then the brakes, but then my wife who told me not to park in the slush set me straight. When I come to a stop, just a couple feet short of a complete stop the ABS brakes activate causing the pedal to sink and I don't have control. What's up?
Scott in Parachute Colorado.

Dear Scott,
You're not the first one to get a vehicle to freeze to the ground. It happens more than you think. It usually just takes a good thaw but sometimes a little too much action trying to get it loose will cause some damage. In your case we don't think that this freeze was the lone cause but won't rule it out. If you have made it a habit of parking or driving in areas of deep water or snow it may now be taking its toll though. The ABS (Anti-Lock-Brake) system uses a sensor on each of the front wheels that reads near the hub and if it becomes corroded due to moisture it can't read at the low speeds and will falsely activate. This is just one possibility. Have it checked and avoid parking in deep water and snow.
Take care, the Motor Medics

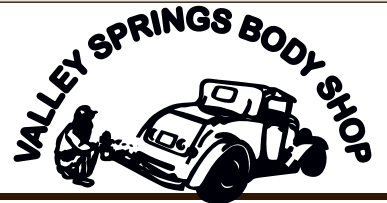
Dear Motor Medics,
My 2004 Chevy Tahoe has had a knock when cold since it was a couple years old and the dealership where I bought it always told me it was normal, and it wouldn't hurt anything, and I did hear it in others, so I wasn't too alarmed but now its knocking all the time and slightly worse. I've got 250k miles on it and I'm hoping to get at least another 50k out of her.
Terry in Valentine Nebraska.

Dear Terry,
We've been listening to the dreaded Chevy 5.3 knock for years and sometimes we wonder if we have become numb to it. It's so common that we don't usually think twice about it. The engines have some piston slap noise that is worse when cold but once parts warm and expand they take up the slack and stop knocking. The dealer was right in saying that if this is the sound you have that it won't cause harm but now, you're reaching the engines' mature stage, and those noises may have nothing to do with the inherent noise of the 5.3. At 250k it could be a normal loose engine, or it could be getting ready to fail. Either way it's been a long life for it and that's good miles for a 5.3 even though some go longer. Have your local shop take a look and hopefully they will surprise you and say it's still good to go for awhile.
Take care, the Motor Medics

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'We're Moving'

The Groom Room Returns Home To Its Roots in Brandon

BRANDON, S.D. — After several years in a commercial location, The Groom Room has returned to where it all began — owner Cindy Taylor's home in Brandon.

With more than 30 years of grooming experience and seven years as a veterinary technician, Cindy brings a rare blend of professional skill and compassionate care to every pet she works with.

"It feels great to be back home," Cindy said. "This is where I started, and I'm excited to continue providing personal, one-on-one grooming in a comfortable and familiar setting."

The Groom Room offers complete grooming services. Cindy's background in animal health ensures that each pet not only looks its best, but is handled with expert, gentle care.

Clients can continue to count on the same trusted service and friendly atmosphere that have made The Groom Room a fixture in the Brandon community.

For appointments or questions, customers are encouraged to text 605-359-2243.

With a lifetime of experience and a passion for animals, Cindy and The Groom Room are proud to once again serve Brandon — right where it all began.



408 W Ironwood Brandon, SD

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Coming in tomorrow's

BRANDON VALLEY Journal



The dynasty of state championships extends to five for the Brandon Valley Dance Team, who gave near-perfection performances at the state championships on Saturday in Watertown.

And speaking of champions, BV senior Mikah Peters not only won the Class AA boys' individual title, but he did so in a record-setting way.

The Lynx football team's undefeated season was punctured by Sioux Falls Jefferson on a last-second field goal. Coach Christensen and the team, however, are by no means down and out, as they take their No. 1 seeding into the start of the playoffs Thursday night against Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

As always, we've got coverage of all of our BV Lynx athletic teams and beyond.

A Brandon couple now living in Sioux Falls celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this month. Editor Jill Meier sat down with them to find out their "secret" to wedded bliss.

The BVACC tackled cleaning up more than 50 yards in the city, putting a lot of smiles on the faces of the recipients of this community act of kindness.

Also, we've got a report on the city sales tax numbers, an update on the Reverse Osmosis system that's now up and running, along with Friday's celebration of community at the Brandon Community Foundation's annual Oak & Vine.

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.

LIVE/ONLINE MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SD LAND AUCTION

124.52 +/- Acres, Dell Rapids Township - Located Southeast of Dell Rapids, East of Baltic

FRIDAY, NOV. 7, 2025 @ 10:30 AM

We will sell the following real estate at a live/online public auction at the landsite located from Baltic, SD, 2 miles east on 250th St and ¾ mile north on 476th Ave or from Dell Rapids, SD, 3 miles south on SD Hwy 115 (475th Ave) and 1 mile east on 249th St.

Auctioneer's Note: If you are looking to expand your current farming operation or purchase land as an investment, don't miss this opportunity to purchase productive Minnehaha County land. The land includes 2 conditional use building eligibilities and is located in area that rarely comes up for sale. The cropland has been in a corn/soybean rotation and is available to the new owner for the 2026 crop year. According to Surety/AgriData, the land has a productivity index of 63.5 and a soil rating of .624. Predominate soils: Nora-Crofton complex, 6 to 9 percent slopes, 43.6 percent of field and Thurman-Flandreau complex, 6 to 9 percent slopes, 19 percent of the field. The land's topography is rolling with a terrace and includes some tile. The land has HEL designation and a conservation system applied. The FSA office estimates there is approximately 105.03 acres of cropland with a 78.37-acre corn base/137-bushel PLC yield and a 26.13-acre soybean base/41-bushel PLC yield. Taxes: \$2,722.62.

Legal Description: NW ¼ except N 910.73', S 1296.73', W 1198.71' and except S 386', W 581.56' and except N 300', S 1596.73', W 726', 35-104-49, Minnehaha County, SD.

For terms, maps, pictures, drone video, and online bidding, visit westraauction.com.



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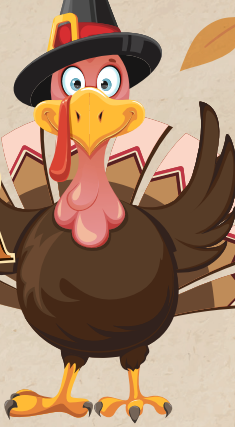
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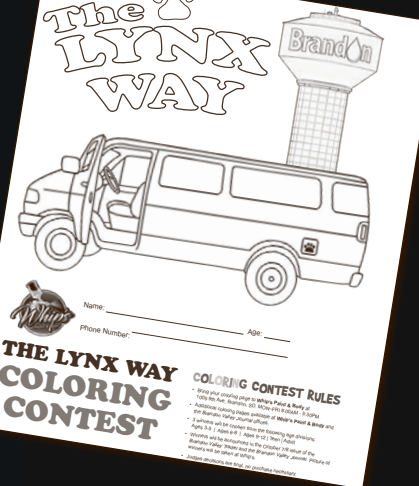


THE LYNX WAY COLORING CONTEST

WINNERS

3-5 KALLI, ISLA, AND BRAYLEE
 6-8 KENDYL, MEADOW, CLARA
 9-12 BOSTON, STERLING, LILY
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STERLING



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LILY



MEADOW
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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**

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21					22				
			23					24						
25	26	27				28	29		30			31	32	33
34					35			36		37				
38			39	40					41					
42						43						44		
45					46		47			48	49			
			50			51			52					
	53	54					55	56				57	58	59
60					61						62			
63					64						65			
66					67						68			

Across

1. Late baseball commissioner Giamatti

5. “___ show biz!”

10. Mets’ playground

14. Stick in the fridge

15. Riding garb

16. Bird on a beach, perhaps

17. Head for the heavens

18. Top group

19. Oscar role for Julia

20. Bosox albatross

23. “The ___ Professor,” Casey Stengel

24. Ben-Gurion lander

25. Congressional

assemblies

30. Antarctica volcano

34. Summertime, in France

35. Louis XIV and XVI, e.g.

37. Clerical garment

38. Fenway Park structure

42. Championship

43. Flow out slowly

44. Publisher’s nickname

45. Sundae portions

47. Like well-tended gardens

50. Type of ad

52. “The Crying Game” star

53. Bosox bugaboo

60. Angel’s topper

61. Charge

62. It’s sometimes hard to take

63. Old song “Abdul Abulbul ___”

64. The Sorbonne, for one

65. Split

66. American League constituent

67. Hemmed without hawing?

68. Meat-and-vegetable fare

Down

1. Greenish-yellow pear

2. Giants manager

3. Bring up

4. Truncated museum sculptures

5. Red Sox great, ___ Samuel Williams

6. Inning segment

7. “This won’t hurt ___!”

8. It’s typically ten percent

9. Brosnan role

10. Diamond thieves?

11. Rosemary or parsley

12. Ohio Indian, once

13. ___ Arbor, Mich.

21. New Haven collegian

22. Munchhausen’s title

25. Paving stones

26. Set of moral values

27. Watch after

28. Turndowns

29. Muscle power

31. Enjoy a hot tub

32. “___ Gold” (1997)

33. Medieval menials

36. Hook underling

39. Firefly larva

40. Pay back

41. Managed

46. Bedtime annoyances

48. Home in the hills

49. West Coast pros

51. It’s symbolized by a white flag

53. Jeter or Martinez, e.g.

54. Essayist Lamb

55. In the ___ (informed)

56. Master of locks

57. Ballpark stadium sign

58. Roofer’s concern

59. Merganser’s kin

60. It may be cocked

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State: _____ Zip Code: _____

WEEK 7 WINNERS

1st Place:
Wilma Kirkeby (12-2, TB 45)

2nd Place:
Nancy Brown (12-2, TB 44)

TIEBREAKER! _____
Guess the cumulative score of game #14!



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(2) Oklahoma vs Tennessee



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(3) Nebraska vs USC



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(4) USF vs Winona State



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(5) Augustana vs Northern State



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(6) USD vs North Dakota



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(7) Northwestern vs Midland



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(8) Dakota Wesleyan vs Mt. Marty



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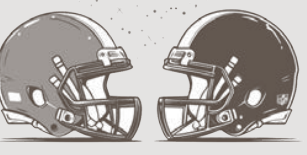
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(9) Seahawks vs Commanders



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(10) Saints vs Rams



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(11) Panthers vs Packers



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(12) Colts vs Steelers



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(13) Chiefs vs Bills



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(14) Vikings vs Lions



1. The contest is open to anyone except employees the Brandon Valley Trader/Journal and their immediate families.

2. A \$25 certificate will be given to the contestant picking the most games correct each week and a \$10 certificate to the runner up. In case of a tie, the contestant closest to the total points scored for the tie-breaker game (Game #1) will be declared the winner.

3. A \$50 certificate will be paid to one winner with all the correct picks. In case of a tie, the tie-breaker will determine the winner by the flip of a coin.

4. Decisions of the judges will be final and all entries become the property of the Brandon Valley Trader/Journal.

5. All entrants must use the official blank listed on this page. Your winning selections must coordinate with the game number located in each advertisement. Just circle the winning team, drop it off at our office by 5pm Friday or have your entry postmarked by Friday of the same week of the ad.

6. The 11-week contest is from Sept. 9 thru Nov. 18, 2025.

7. Any questions? Please call (605)582-9999

Halloween Spook-tacular!

Oct. 25

1



**Big Sioux Recreational Area
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410 W Park St, Brandon, SD
3:00-6:30 pm
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2



Brandon Farmer's Market
915 N Splitrock Blvd, Brandon, SD
Trunk-or-Treat
9am-1:30pm

3



Kingbird Coffee
509 N Splitrock Blvd
Trunk-or-Treat, Kingbird parking lot,
10am - 12pm

Oct. 31

4



Alliance Communications
1400 E Aspen Blvd
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

5



American Family Insurance
306 S. Splitrock Blvd.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

6



Brandon Lumber Co
403 Main Ave
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

7



**Brandon Valley Area
Chamber of Commerce**
306b South Splitrock Blvd
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

8



Brandon Valley Journal
1404 E Cedar St
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

9



Chiro Sports
128 E Holly Blvd
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

10



Clark Insurance
1320 E Rushmore Dr Suite 105
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

11



Dynamic Cheer & Dance
1720 Frontier St
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

12



Edward Jones- Anthony Siemonsma
308 S Splitrock Blvd.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

13



Family Floors & Furniture
224 S. Splitrock Blvd.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

14



First Interstate Bank
1305 E Cedar St
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

15



First National Bank
101 S. Splitrock Blvd.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

16



Helping Hand Assisted Living
1000 Teakwood St
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

17



Laundry Evolved
1302 Rushmore Dr Suite A
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

18



Lewis Drug
115 N. Splitrock Blvd
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

19



Modern Day Health Care
312 E Holly Blvd
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

20



Neighborhood Dental
117 E. Holly Blvd.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

21



Oakridge Nursery & Landscaping
2217 S. Splitrock Blvd.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

22

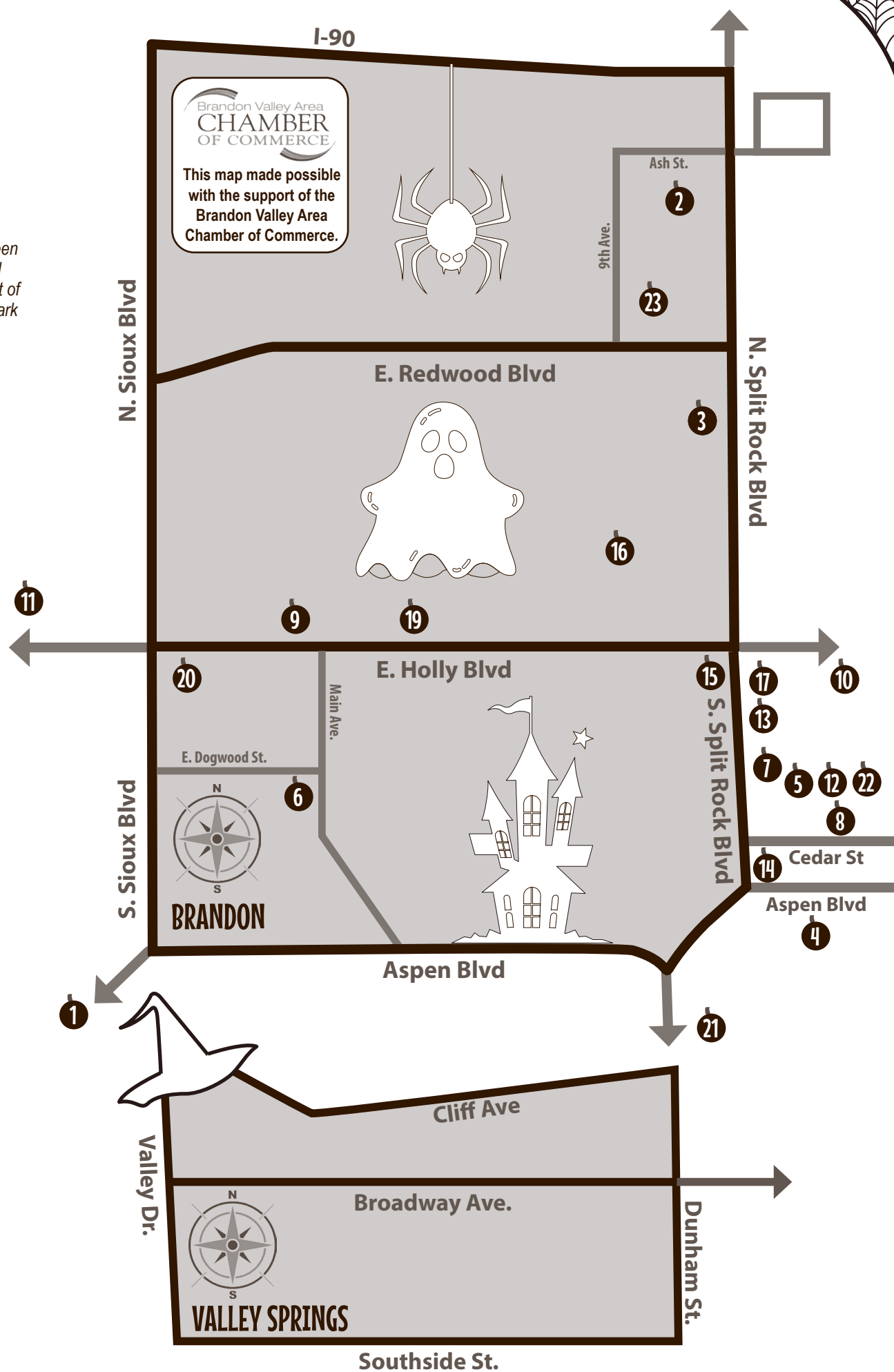


State Farm Insurance - Bill Thompson
312 S Splitrock Blvd.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm

23



Spartan Emergency Response
907 7th Ave N.
Oct. 31, 9am-4pm



HALLOWEEN Safety Tips



Don't trick or treat alone.
Go with a group.

Look carefully before
crossing the street.

Use reflective tape or glow sticks
so others can see you.

Don't go inside strangers' homes.

Let a grown up check your candy
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Don't eat too much candy.
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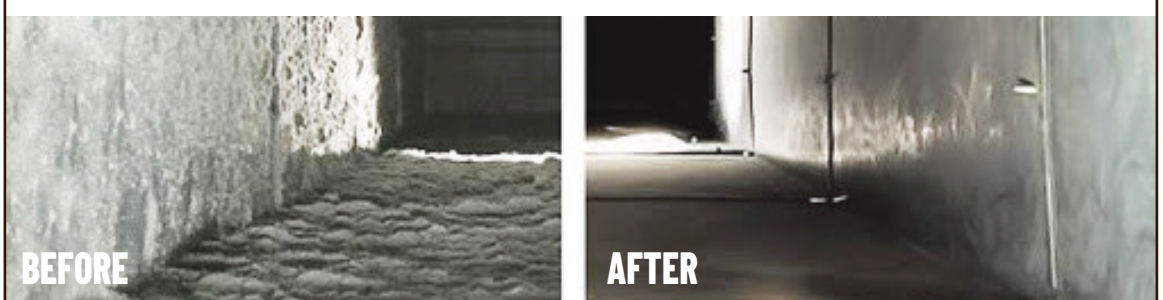
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