

Questions about Brandon City Transit remain unanswered

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

A Brandon resident has continued his calls for answers regarding service provided by the Brandon City Transit system.

Sawyer Van Horn first brought up his concerns to the Brandon City Council in September of 2024. An employee at McDonalds on North Splitrock Boulevard, Van Horn said he relies on public transportation to get to-and-from work.

“I’ve relied on it for over a

year,” Van Horn told the Council in his initial presentation two years ago. “I understand they’re busy, but I’m confused, because it’s a small town. This is how I rely to get to work.”

The Brandon City Transit currently has two buses in operation with a third in its fleet. During the school year, the city provides a service at no-cost to local preschools. With as many as 50 preschoolers riding the bus each morning, the two buses fill up between 8-9:30 a.m.

This summer, Van Horn said he

hasn’t had a problem using the buses to get to work. But as the school year approaches, he clearly hasn’t been satisfied with the situation and has concerns for this fall.

He was back before the City Council at their last meeting on July 27, addressing the situation again. With nothing coming from his concerns during the public comments portion of the meeting, he returned Monday to addressing the issue once again.

“I know it’s a tricky issue, but I don’t know what can be done,

whether you’re hiring more drivers. As far as I understand, there’s a third bus, but that costs money,” Van Horn said. “But unfortunately, I’ve run into a situation where I’m without a car. In the coming weeks, if I have a nine o’clock shift, I can’t get to work because the bus is full of preschool kids. I understand they’re busy, but how am I supposed to get to work?”

Van Horn said the situation goes beyond his current frustrations. He said several senior citizens use the bus each morning, although at the late deadline, the *Brandon*

Valley Journal was unable to confirm that number.

“What about if you have a senior citizen who has an appointment at nine o’clock and they need to use the bus,” he asked the Council on Monday. “They can’t use it either, so not only does it affect people like me, (it also affects) the senior citizens – and I know there’s a huge population that ride the bus, too.”

Because the item wasn’t an agenda item on Monday, the Council couldn’t make a motion

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Despite controversy, BV Little Leaguers staying home

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Two weeks ago, the Brandon Valley Little League baseball team nearly pulled the upset over Sioux Falls in the state tournament in Rapid City.

But back-to-back defeats on championship Sunday – July 19 – sent Brandon Valley home as Sioux Falls packed their bags for the Midwest Region championship in Indianapolis. The winner of that region advances to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Penn.

However, late last week, Sioux Falls Little League announced on social media that they were notified by Little League International of a player eligibility violation in the state tournament.

The player in question is Lennox native Creyton Sykora. Sykora played in the Sioux Falls Little League season all summer, which is permissible because Lennox doesn’t have a Little League program.

However, Lennox is outside the boundary area for players to participate in postseason tournaments for the 12U Sioux Falls team that can advance to Williamsport.

Prior to the season starting back in March, Sioux Falls Little League officials filled out waivers for two Lennox players to compete with the Sioux Falls team this summer, which was approved by the state. The All-Star team – the one competing at the state tournament two weeks ago – was selected in May. Sykora made that team.

However, the only way a player outside the Sioux Falls boundary to be eligible for postseason play is if they participated with the team a year earlier. Sykora did not.

In the end, it’s a clerical error between the state office and Little League International, as Sykora’s eligibility was overlooked. Following the state tournament and Sioux Falls’ victory, Little League International looked closer at

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FLINTLOCK,
THE WONDER DOG



Submitted photo

He hunts, he fishes, he retrieves, and yes, he even wakeboards, too. Flintlock, a 4-year-old German Short-haired Pointer never ceases to surprise his owners, Matt and Heather Swenson and their boys.

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Some dogs are content chasing tennis balls or taking long naps on the porch.

Then there’s Flintlock.

The 4-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer who’s living life large on the Matt and Heather Swenson

farm in rural Valley Springs. The pooch has become somewhat of a celebrity, largely credited to his impressive wakeboarding skills, a larger-than-life personality and a knack for doing things that literally has people asking, “Did that dog *really* just do that?”

If you don’t believe it, check out his Instagram page, Funwithflint, where his adventures continue to

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BTA on mission to raise \$2M to expand tennis complex

Jill Meier
Journal editor

The Brandon Tennis Association officially served notice on Monday that it is ready for its next big match.

Association leaders, city officials and supporters gathered at the Brandon Tennis Complex for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to kick off a \$2 million capital campaign that will fund the addition of four new tennis courts, expanded spectator seating, shaded

viewing areas and improvements to the existing facility.

“It’s the kickoff to our campaign for the community,” said BTA Executive Director AJ Menden. “We’re roughly about \$100,000 donated already, but the big push starts now.”

The expansion comes as participation in tennis continues to surge locally.

Menden said tennis participation nationally has grown 54 percent since 2019, while Brandon’s programs have exploded by 116

percent since 2020.

“We need to add four more courts to keep up with the school program and the community and pickleball,” he said. “Everyone keeps asking if we’re working with pickleball. We are. We’ll paint pickleball lines on a few of the courts because that’s growing, too, and they need courts.” This summer alone, approximately 230 youth participated in Brandon’s summer tennis program.

“We had a lot of kids,” Menden said.

“Some of the groups would have been nice to split into more groups, but with the court size we just can’t split up too much.”

The additional courts will allow Brandon to host more entry-level tournaments, offer Special Olympics and Unified tennis clinics, and free up courts for public use while organized programs are taking place.

“When our teams play or when our recreation programs are going on, we have no extra courts right now,” Menden said. “This

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Inspired by the three who make my life go

I rely on three people each month to get me paid for the work I do.

When I entered the freelance writing world about a decade ago, I had a mentor give me some advice that I've never forgotten. "You eat what you kill," he said. In other words, you're only going to get work if you go out there and dig. You gotta pitch your story ideas, you gotta pitch your abilities, you gotta grind hard to land the work.

I'm incredibly grateful to the three people out there who continue to send me that work. I realize, as a freelancer, that it can all go away at any time, so I continue to pitch, continue to grind, continue to dig. All three of these people who pay me each month are similar in so many ways. They're entrepreneurs, they're fearless, and they're courageous to take chances that most of us wouldn't even consider. Those are all traits where I know they outpace me.

I can't imagine starting a business from scratch. From scratch, with very little in terms of resources. But that's exactly what these three have done. I respect it, and I'm not just saying that because I'm on their payroll each month. Another thing they all have in common is something that I find even more admirable. They're all women, and they're all as sharp as can be at their profession. I've literally taken a little from all three of them.

When I started in the journalism profession in 1992, there were indeed women in the industry. But not like it is now, at least from what I can remember from 34 years ago. I recall being in the *Argus Leader* newsroom 30-plus years ago, just trying to find my voice in the industry. As I recall, there were a lot of dudes running around, screaming, stressing, acting wildly, trying to meet a deadline as the clock anxiously ticked away on the wall at 10th

SAVAGE WORDS

Tom A. Savage | Contributing Writer



and Minnesota in downtown Sioux Falls. There were nine of us in sports alone. None were women. Even at age 23 that many years ago, I knew that wasn't right.

Maybe there were more women overall in journalism back then, and maybe I just didn't pay attention to it. But from my current view, the three that pay me every month are laser sharp, and I'm just the beneficiary of visionaries whose view on how to run a business escapes me.

Thinking back on my career, I've had nine different jobs in sports communications. I'm not sure if that's a testament to my versatility, or that I couldn't hold down a job. Looking back, I guess it could be a combination of both.

But in those nine jobs, four of my bosses were women. I've often told people that the most fun I've had working for a team in professional sports was with the WNBA's Indiana Fever. My boss was Kelly Krauskopf, who remains as the team's President of Basketball Operations to this day.

We were a start-up franchise in 2000, and the three years I spent with Kelly and the Fever were lean. We were 35-61 in those first three years, including a 9-23 record in our inaugural season, but Kelly and I had a blast. Never has a .281 winning percentage in a single season been so gratifying professionally.

I learned a lot from Kelly, mostly just watching her lead a team as the General Manager. Things were tough at the start of the Fever, but Kelly approached it methodically, and with humor. I always appreciated that.

So now I get to see that methodical approach, humor, and focus in the three that pay me each month.

I'll keep writing, digging, grinding and working, if you'll continue to have me.

This week, the *Brandon Valley Journal* and *Brandon Valley Trader* begin their 10th year of publication.

To be honest, there were times earlier this year when I wasn't sure we'd make it.

When I put out a call for help, it wasn't something I did lightly. Asking for help isn't easy. For nearly four months, we were without an advertising sales representative, and I found myself trying to keep the business afloat while still doing what I truly love – writing stories, taking photographs and sharing the stories of this incredible community, the greater Brandon Valley area.

It was exhausting. It was

Because of you ...

overwhelming. And at times, it was downright scary.

I never imagined that one day in my career I'd "own" a newspaper. I put "own" in quotations, because there are some very kind people who financially supported the start-up of Brandon Valley Media Group, myself included.

Before this opportunity presented itself, I'd always considered myself a worker bee, not the queen bee. After spending the last several years wearing both hats, I can confidently tell you that being the worker bee is a whole lot easier.

But thanks to you, we

JILL'S JOURNAL

Jill Meier | Editor



made it.

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Because of our faithful advertisers.

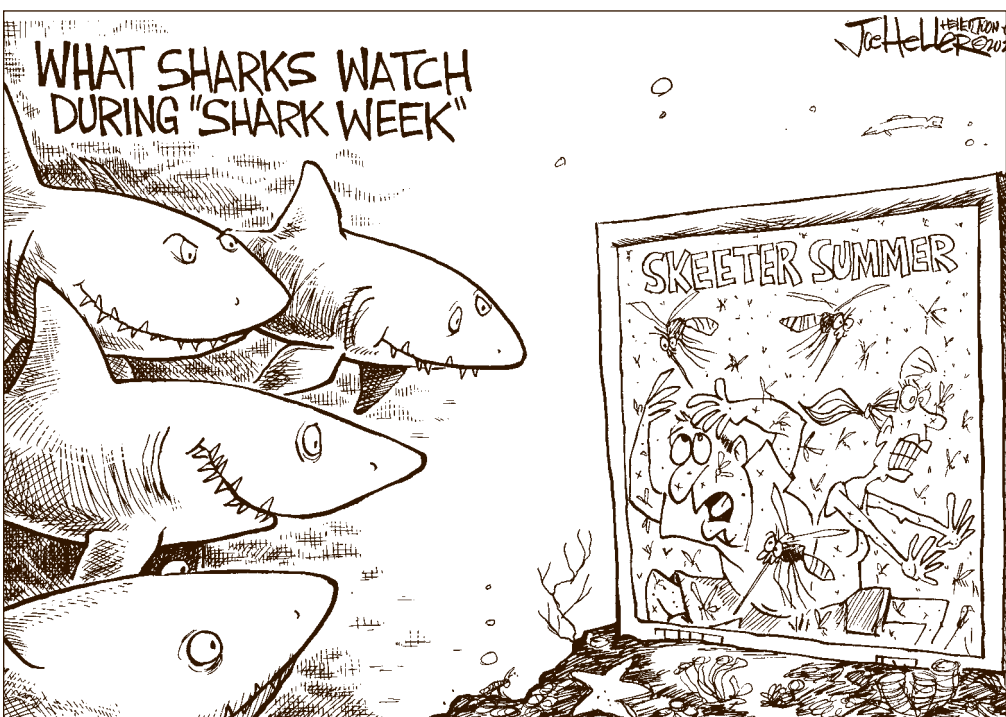
Because of people who simply believed that a community newspaper still matters.

Your encouragement, your subscriptions, your advertising support and your kind words carried us through one of the most difficult times in our nearly 10-year journey. I will never forget that.

For me, this community

has become home in every sense of the word. In fact, Brandon is the place I've lived longer than anywhere else in my life.

Long before I ever covered a city council meeting or photographed a Friday night football game, I was visiting Brandon in the mid-1980s while living in nearby Luverne. Every once in a while, we'd make our way over for a cold beverage at Freddie's – what many newcomers know today as the Double D – or head down a long gravel road to Huset's Speedway. That gravel road, of course, eventually transitioned into today's three-lane Sioux Boulevard. **continued on page 3A**



Kippley: Sioux Falls wins with Transcontinental Railroad

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cities such as Sioux Falls run on the hard work of everyday men and women, small business owners, farmers, and many more. Simply put, local communities thrive when the economy thrives. That is why the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern is vital for our economy. It is a practical, common-sense investment that would strengthen our region and country.

For decades, from my work in the SD Governor's Office of Economic Development to collaborating on business development with the Buffalo Ridge Rail Authority, I have worked alongside neighbors to advance smart and responsible growth. What I have learned is simple: we need to support initiatives that support

businesses and prepare us for the future. This merger does just that.

Having a strong, efficient rail network isn't a partisan issue; it's an American issue. By shifting freight to a single-line service, shippers can expect to save roughly \$3.5 billion each year. The savings will trickle down to families and small businesses across our country, and here locally, at a time when many Americans are feeling the burden of rising costs.

Just as importantly, this merger would ease the wear and tear on our roads. The companies project it will shift 2.1 million trucks off our roads nationwide. Together, Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern would

create a seamless transcontinental railroad, connecting Sioux Falls shippers on both coasts and reinforcing the Midwest's role as a critical hub for the American economy.

Residents across America, whether engineers, farmers, business owners, or local leaders, feel the impact of decisions like this one. This merger will benefit Sioux Falls and communities across America, making it worthy of support. When our industries succeed, families and communities do too.

Dan Kippley
Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce member and community advocate

FACT BRIEF

Is South Dakota the only state with 35% election runoff rule?

Yes. South Dakota is the only state in the nation that requires candidates receive 35% of the vote to win a multi-candidate primary in certain races.

Several states require a candidate to receive at least 50% of the vote in some primaries, and three states require runoff elections in some general elections. North Carolina's is 30% in some races.

In South Dakota, the runoff rule is used in U.S. Senate, U.S. House and the governor's primaries.

Republican gubernatorial candidates Toby Doeden and Larry Rhoden will face off in a runoff July 28 after neither candidate received 35% of the vote in the four-person primary.

The South Dakota law was passed in 1985. Before that, delegates at state party conventions decided the winner if a primary candidate didn't receive 35% of the vote. Doeden called the law "ridiculous" after he finished first but didn't secure 35% of the vote.

– **Michael Klinski**
South Dakota News Watch



The bank robber took a bath because he wanted to make a clean getaway.

– **Dean B. Kaner**

BRANDON VALLEY Journal
"Local News. Local Sports. Local Every Issue."
Established 2017
1404 E. Cedar St. - P.O. Box 842
Brandon, SD 57005
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Office Hours
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays
Subscription rates
By mail in Minnehaha County, **\$74.34** (tax included) for 52 weeks, out-of-county, **\$95.58** (tax included), or online only, **\$55.22**. For both print and online, in-county is **\$106.20** and out-of-county is **\$122.13**. Add 3 percent for payment with credit/debit card.
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Postmaster: Send address changes to Brandon Valley Journal, P.O. Box 842, Brandon, SD 57005.
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The devil you know

nise about our meeting and his unique hiring.

He often passes me leads or links to get me back into the flow. I used to look at them more carefully than I do today, but ... you never know.

When I look at the "jobs" or "gigs" (in the correct current parlance) I think how much travel, how current am I on the ways to get things done in what is required, and what I am going to give up in my retirement that I am willing to forgo?

Don't get me wrong – I know how fortunate I

THE ABSENT UNCLE

D.C. Schultz
Guest Columnist



am to be able to pick and choose. And for the last four years I didn't choose to apply. But every once in a while, I think about it.

It would be fun to look into problems, figure out a solution, propose a plan of action, and see it through. Fixing something – hopefully!

Oh, but wait a minute. A schedule? Commitment? Maybe having to understand unforeseen circumstances and really figure

out the next step(s)? And follow through?

Careful. This retirement thing has really taken over the work ethic. It used to be that I had to step up, be involved, useful. No second thoughts.

But now, maybe leave it to those that have something at stake and are not looking at the recliner and a nap. Or what about Cabo time next April?

Maybe you think you know the right thing to do, but how are you going to convince the customer? Hmm ... let this one pass on by.

Retirement – the devil (and blessing) you know. Stick with it.

Lord, if You had been here

On Saturday, July 25th, I had the opportunity to celebrate a beautiful wedding at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls for a couple who had roots at Risen Savior Catholic Church in Brandon. Following this beautiful wedding Mass, I returned to Brandon to begin the Sunday celebration with our evening Mass at Risen Savior Parish. Going home after greeting the families in the parking lot, it seemed like just another Saturday night in the life of a priest until I heard about the storm warnings. We South Dakotans get so used to storm warnings that they can often go unnoticed, even with cell phone and television alarms blaring. Who would have expected these storms would come directly through our beautiful town, destroying trees, damaging homes and threatening lives? After the initial storm had passed and I could see from my home that there was no significant tree damage, I ventured over to the Church. As I walked the grounds of Risen Savior, the reality of the destruction slowly sunk in. Trees were gone that had been planted the day the first shovel was placed into the ground to build

our Church. The front facade of the Church was severely damaged – ripped away, bricks were torn off the north wall of the Church and there were so many other hidden cracks and breaks. In all, Risen Savior lost over 45 full-grown trees that were original to our property. Walking around the neighborhood would sadden anyone in seeing a



very distinct line of destruction, especially to family homes.

We hear in the Gospel of John, Chapter 11, how after the death of Jesus' friend Lazarus, his sister, Martha approaches Jesus and says to Him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." That might be the same feeling we have at times in our lives after a destructive storm, a tragic death of a loved one or because of a health diagnosis which just doesn't seem fair. "Lord, if you had been

here," Lord, if you loved me you wouldn't have let this happen. Do you ever feel that way? I had that feeling at sunrise on Sunday morning as I saw with the first light the destruction at my parish and around Brandon. Lord, really? Why? Thoughts of doubt, disappointment and inevitable stress came with the thoughts of all that had been done to make our property beautiful, property that was now changed forever. I had all these thoughts and feelings until I heard the sound of chainsaws in the neighborhood. One person became 10 people, with friends, neighbors and even strangers coming to assist those affected by the storm. The silence of daybreak and the heartbreak was broken with the love of neighbor, the love of Christ. As I walked along the property line a Brandon police officer stopped in the parking lot and walked over to see if I was OK, offering to help in any way he could. Later he returned to let me know that the tree dump would be opened in our cleanup effort. He didn't need to do that – it was not part of his "job." But he chose to. My phone began lighting

FROM THE PULPIT

Father Andrew Young
Risen Savior



up with texts and phone calls from members of Risen Savior, friends of the greater Brandon area, other Church communities and complete strangers offering to help assist with the cleanup or just offering their prayers and support. Fr. Andy, why did you doubt? Why, because I'm human, I'm fallen and I need you, Lord, more in my life.

Jesus says to Martha, "Your brother will rise...do you believe this?" The Lord says those same words to each of us. The Lord does not want these things to happen, and He does not abandon us when they do. The Lord has always been here and will continue to be. We, my friends, especially in times of disappointment and loss, must trust and believe!

Thank you for the kind gestures of many in our Brandon and Valley Springs communities who came together after this one particular storm. Neighbor helping neighbor, stranger checking on stranger confirms that the Lord is here and will continue to be with us through any storm in life.

Together, we promote safety

Effective communications with families of the Brandon Valley School District requires that we maintain accurate and up-to-date household contact information. In addition to contact information, the Skyward Family Access Update also includes the various parent permissions that are required annually. We are asking all parents and guardians to complete the Skyward Family Access Update as soon as possible. We appreciate your timely cooperation and completion of this important task.

There is a tremendous amount of infrastructure construction currently in progress within the Brandon Valley School District. While these types of improvement projects are positive and signs of growth and improvement, they can cause travel delays and traffic congestion during morning and evening commutes. Further, road construction projects and closures

SUPE'S ON

Dr. Jarod Larson
BVSD Superintendent



are continually changing and may have an impact school bus timing. We greatly appreciate our families understanding and patience as we navigate the road construction season and start of the 2026 school year.

Compounding the challenges associated with road construction, school zones in general are high traffic areas, especially during the a.m. drop-off and p.m. pick-up. For our children's safety, please slow-down, take your time, and observe all traffic laws and signage.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping keep our kids safe. Together, we promote student safety.

Go Lynx!

Garretson Sportsmen's Club to mark 100 years Saturday

Reprinted from the
Garretson Gazette

The Garretson Sportsmen's Club, 480606 255th St., will be turning 100 years old this year, and to celebrate they will host an open house with a trick shooter and live music beginning at 11 a.m. this Saturday, Aug. 8.

At 11 a.m., there will be open trapshooting with clay pigeons provided by the Club. Shooters, however, must provide their own guns and ammo.

At 4 p.m., Steve Gould, a world-renowned trick shooter will perform with his son, entertaining the crowd with tricks beyond belief.

That evening, Weston Frank brings his country music to the stage.

Berkes BBQ food truck will be onsite throughout the day, and bev-



Jill Meier/BV Journal

The Brandon Boss Gobblers have hosted Women in the Outdoors at the Gun Club.

verages will be available from the clubhouse bar. The event is open to the public.

continued on page 15A

JILL'S JOURNAL cont. from page 2A

vard.

Over the last 22 years of reporting here, I've had the privilege of watching Brandon "grow up."

I've watched the ditches along Holly Boulevard disappear as the road widened to accommodate a growing community. I've written hundreds of stories celebrating ribbon cuttings and grand openings, and unfortunately, I've also written stories announcing the closure of some of those same businesses that began with big dreams of building a better life and serving this

community.

That's one of the sad realities of business. It's also a reminder that local businesses need local support.

I hope we always continue to embrace the idea of "Buy Brandon." Whether it's your favorite restaurant, neighborhood bar, hardware store, salon, coffee shop, boutique or hometown newspaper, every dollar spent locally helps strengthen the community we all love.

I've often said that everyone has a story worth telling. And for

nearly a decade here at the *Journal*, it's been my privilege to tell many of yours.

I've celebrated your championships, your milestones, your new businesses, your new homes, your new schools and your new beginnings. I've shared your heartbreaks, honored your loved ones and documented the moments that have shaped this community's history.

Those stories matter because you matter.

As we begin our 10th year of

publication, my commitment remains exactly what it was from day one.

I'll keep showing up. I'll keep asking questions. I'll keep taking pictures. And I'll keep telling our story.

Because this community has given me far more than I could ever repay. And because our story is a story worth telling.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making these first nine years possible. Here's to the next chapter.

TALK of the TOWN

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry are microwave popcorn, pizza sauce, saltine crackers, hard taco shells, small boxes of fruit snacks, jelly/jam, Manwich, egg noodles, laundry detergent (56 ounces).

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.

Prayer Breakfast is Aug. 21

Tickets for the 18th annual Brandon Area Prayer Breakfast are now on sale. The event begins at 6:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21 at Brandon Valley High School.

A light breakfast will be served in the Commons, and the program begins at 7 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Guest speakers this year are Isaiah Neve, Ketty Paula and Kirk Strand.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$100 for event sponsor. To be a table sponsor, contact Paul VanDeBerg, (605) 413-9892, Laura Kuehl, (605) 360-9446, Nik Aamlid, (605) 780-9735 or Carla Gross, (605) 359-6430.

BVACC to host Aug. 7 blood drive

The Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce will host a blood drive on Friday, Aug. 7. Donations will be accepted from 9 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, visit cblifeblood.org, select Donate Blood, then click on the Blood Drive Calendar to reserve a time.

To learn more, call the BVACC at (605) 582-7400.

Hometown Hero Banner program extends to Valley Springs

In cooperation with the Valley Springs American Legion Post 131, the Ed Polzine Fund has extended the Hometown Heroes Banner program to Valley Springs. These banners will be displayed on poles along Broadway Avenue.

Clear photos must be provided and will be returned. Digital photos are also welcomed. The cost of each banner is \$150. Checks should be made payable to Ed Polzine Fund. The banners have a projected three-year lifespan. Friday, Aug. 21 is the deadline to submit applications.

Banner applications may be submitted to: Charles R. Doman Post 131, PO Box 189, Valley Springs, SD 57068 or emailed to ricksfsd@gmail.com, or brought to the *BV Journal*, 1404 E. Cedar Street, Brandon, mailed to PO Box 842, Brandon or emailed to editor@bvjournal.info.

For questions, call Rick at (605) 553-5990 or the *BV Journal* at (605) 582-9999.



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AREA DEATH NOTICES

Thursday, July 23
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Aaron Fonder, 41, Sioux Falls
Betty Gallagher, 87, Sioux Falls
Daryl Hagen, 86, Sioux Falls
Marvin Jastram, 89, Garretson
Sharon Koniarski, 66, Sioux Falls
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Mary Stangeland, 70, Pipestone, Minn.
Bonnie Struck, 80, Humboldt
Everett "Sandy" Weston, 78, Flandreau

Friday, July 24
Austin Brown, 21, Luverne, Minn.
Thomas Doyle, 77, Colman
June Ver Burg, 87, Sioux Falls

Saturday, July 25
Jane Becker, 90, Sioux Falls
Myrna Searl, 99, Sioux Falls
Priscilla "Peeker" Spawn, 81, Sioux Falls

Sunday, July 26
Paul Hugo, 41, Sioux Falls
Marijo Jessen, 53, Sioux Falls
Orville Kooistra, 82, Rock Valley Iowa
Marian Mannie, 97, Sioux Falls
David Schlueter, 66, Trent
Mary Ann Smith, 95, Marion
Thomas Swier, 80, Sioux Falls
Sandrau Swier, 80, Sioux Falls
Janice Williams, 83, Marion
Robert "Bob" Wilson, 75, Sioux Falls

Monday, July 27
Robert Coulson, 95, Brookings
Ralph DeRaad, 87, Sioux Falls
Paul Eulberg, 54, Sioux Falls
Madelene Holland, 96, Sioux Falls
Barbara Kolb, 87, Sioux Falls
James "Jim" Nace 71, Colman
Jeff Skalland, 57, Sioux Falls
Donna Smart, 94, Sioux Falls

Tuesday, July 28
Darlene Carpenter, 78, Brookings
Elizabeth Griesse, 88, Sioux Falls
Margo Lail, 69, Siou Falls
John O'Hara, 70, Sioux Falls
Leona Polyak, 85, Sioux Falls
Evelyn Reyne, 90, Luverne, Minn.
Garry "Popcorn" Schimke, 78, Sioux Falls
Steve Sievers, 85, Bridgewater
Elaine Wanstrath, 76, Brandon

Wednesday, July 29
Dolores Costello, 97, Sioux Falls
Donna Dyar, 84, Sioux Falls
Byron Hall, 87, Sioux Falls
Dr. Thomas "Tom" McComish, 88, Muncie, Ind.
John "Jack" Ockenga, 77, Flandreau
Neva Opland, 88, Sioux Falls
Douglas Meyer, 79, Sioux Falls
William "Bill" Peltier, 79, Canton
Wayne Ward, 90, Brookings
Glen Westerbur, 73, Lincoln, Neb.

Thursday, July 30
Lucile Bosch, 89, Rock Rapids, Iowa
Omar Olson, 87, Savage, Minn., formerly of Brookings
Thomas Sanders, 50, Sioux Falls
JoAnn Weiland, 86, Brookings
Lawrence "Larry" Wellman, 82, Sioux Falls

Friday, July 31
Marvin Bebensee, 85, Brookings
Karla Brown, 56, Sioux Falls
Michael Fritz, 63, Pipestone, Minn.
Judah Petersen, 32, Brandon

Saturday, Aug. 1
Steve Ahrendt, 76, Baltic
Dawn Hillman, 67, Sioux Falls
continued on page 15A

OBITUARIES

Austin Brown, 21



Austin Ryan Brown, 21, of Luverne, Minn., formerly of Brandon, passed away from a rare childhood cancer on Friday, July 24, 2026 surrounded by his family at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.

His Celebration of Life is planned for 10:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 14, 2026 at the American Reformed Church in Luverne. Visitation is from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, also at the church.

Austin is survived by his parents, Adam and Julie Brown of Cloquet, Minn.; sister, Marielle Brown of Cloquet; grandparents, Merlin and Deb Wynia of Luverne; great-grandmother, Darlene VanRoekel and many other family and friends.

For online condolences, visit hartquistfuneral.com.

Glen Westerbur, 73



Glen Allen Westerbur, 73, of Lincoln, Neb., and formerly Sioux Falls, died Tuesday, July 29, 2026 at Emerald Nursing Home in Lincoln. His family will be present to greet friends from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Aug 7, 2026, at the George Boom Funeral Chapel in Brandon.

He is survived by his son, Shaun Westerbur of Lincoln; sisters, LeeAnn (Burton) VerMeer, Valley Springs, and Linda Johnson of Fergus Falls, Minn.; many nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

For online condolences, visit georgeboom.com.

Judah Petersen, 32



Judah Eliah Petersen, 32, of Brandon, passed away from natural causes due to a medical condition on Friday, July 31, 2026, at his home in

Brandon. Visitation with the family present will take place from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, 2026, at George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory in Sioux Falls. A funeral service celebrating Judah's life will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026, at Life Church

in Sioux Falls with a lunch to follow. Burial will take place at Brandon Lutheran Cemetery in Brandon.

Judah is survived by his parents, Theresa Marie Schneider and Mark Philip Peters; children, Jeremiah Ezekiel Petersen and Naveah Aurora Petersen; siblings, Amanda Mae Monk, Sara Ann (Monk) Montgomery, Mary Elizabeth Monk, Heather Marie (Daleske) Kvale, and her husband, Dirk; Jeremy Peters (Angela); Malachi Daniel Smith and his significant other, Tessa James; Esther Angelyn (Peters) Zech and her husband, Chas Zech;

Elaine Wanstrath, 76



Elaine Wanstrath, 76, of Brandon, died Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at Palisade Healthcare in Garretson. Visitation with the family present will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026 at George Boom Funeral Home-Brandon Valley Chapel in Brandon, with the Wake and Rosary service beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mass

of Christian Burial will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026, at Risen Savior Catholic Church in Brandon. Burial will be held at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis Wanstrath of California; son, Dave (Therese-Anne) Wanstrath and their children, Emma and Daniel, of Brandon; sisters, Barbara (Gary) Rigsby and Mary (Gary) Mihalik of California; and brothers, Robert (Debbie) Glutz Jr. of Ohio and Gerald Glutz of California.

For online condolences, visit georgeboom.com.

Mary Stangeland, 70



Mary Frances Stangeland, 70, of Pipestone, Minn., died Thursday, July 23, 2026, at the Pipestone Coun-

ty Hospice House. Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at Christ the King Free Lutheran Church in Pipestone. Interment was in the Ihlen Cemetery in Ihlen, Minn.

She is survived by her husband, Jon; children, Bradly Eric Stangeland of Grafton, N.D., and

Jennifer Lynn (Jared Goebel) Stangeland of Hartford; siblings, Herbert H. Schneider of Minneapolis, Minn., Daniel Schneider of St. Cloud, Minn., Charles Schneider of Brandon, JoAnn Stangeland of Ihlen, Minn., David Schneider of St. Cloud, Michel Schneider of Avon, Sharon Fruck of Monument, Colo., and Susan Thoreson of Oak Grove, Minn.; grandchildren, Hailey Goebel, Arayah Goebel, Austyn Stangeland, and Brooklyn Stangeland.

For online condolences, visit hartquistfuneral.com.

Hadassah Moriah (Peters) Burnison and her husband, Erik Burnison, and Isaiah Eliah Peters; many nieces and nephews, Adam (Ashley), Miranda (Patrick), Wesley (Lacey), Wyatt (Jordan), Hannah, Benjamin (Cassandra), Caleb, Isaac (Makalah), Olivia, Alexis, (Hunter), Angel, Seth, Mackenzie (Kaden), Sophie, Samuel, Alex, Kaiden, Adeline, Dayton, Miley, Isaac, Jonah, Emma, Oliver, Ezra, Elianna, Lillian, Jack, Jaelynn, and Kai; as well as 11 great-nieces and great-nephews. For online condolences, visit georgeboom.com.

More obituaries on page 15A

Evelyn Reyne, 90



Memorial services for Evelyn Arloise Reyne, 90, of Luverne,

Minn., were held Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026, at Hartquist Funeral Home-Luverne Chapel. Mrs. Reyne died Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at Ava's House in Sioux Falls.

She is survived by her husband, Darwin of 68 years; children, James (Gail) Reyne of Mitchell, Shirley (Douglas) Maeyaert of Minneota, Minn., Barbara (Michael) Hansen of Valley Springs, and Paul (Tracey) Reyne of Rushmore, Minn.; 15 grandchildren, Kit (Samara) Reyne, Matthew (Sydney) Reyne, Elizabeth (William) Schiefen, Mark (Micaela) Maeyaert, Jonathan (Brynn) Maeyaert, Sara (Connor) Haken, Krista Maeyaert, Aaron (Kara) Hansen, Joshua (Marie) Hansen, Ryan Hansen, Tyler (Kelsie) Hansen, Zachary Hansen, Nathan (Jes) Reyne, Nicholas (Bailey) Reyne and Noah Reyne; 23 great-grandchildren, Graham, Alice, Cooper, Liam, Madison, Jase, Aiden, Kizer, Crosby, Ramzie, Eli, Lucas, Lily, Emma, Bodie, Eloise, Paxton, Hendrix, Heath, Holt, Hayes, Everett, Otto, and another great-grandson due in September; and her sister, Dorothy Binder of Chula Vista, Calif.

For online condolences, visit hartquistfuneral.com.

MINNEHAHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S LOG

TUESDAY, JULY 28

- Accident, 261st St. Branon, case report taken, lodged in jail, citation issued, state accident report and pictures taken, juvenile arrest report taken.
- Larceny, W. Holly Blvd., Brandon, case report and pictures taken.
- Motorist assist, 486th Ave., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Assist other agency, 475th Ave., Renner, necessary action taken.
- Reckless driver, I-90 and I-90 on ramp, Valley Springs, unable to locate.
- Assist other agency, Royce St., Garretson, necessary action taken.
- Juvenile delinquency, 250th St., Garretson, unable to locate.
- Motorist assist, I-29 and 254th St., Renner, necessary action taken.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

- Family dispute, W. Evergreen

Dr., Brandon, case report taken, lodged in jail, arrested, pictures and status report taken.

- Suspicious vehicle, Broadway Ave., Valley Springs.
- Assault, 255th St., Renner, case report taken, arrested.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

- Accident, 481st St., Brandon, necessary action taken.
- Disorderly subjects, 258th St., Renner, necessary action taken.
- Assist Humane Society, 268th St., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Man down, I-90 and I-90 ramp, Brandon, necessary action taken.
- Accident, 254th St., Garretson, necessary action and state accident report taken.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

- Illegal dumping, 254th St., Renner, necessary action taken.
- Traffic hazard, E. Rushmore Dr., Brandon, necessary action

taken.

- Cardiac arrest, W. Ironwood St., Brandon, necessary action taken.
- Suspicious vehicle, Olson St., Valley Springs, citation issued.

SATURDAY, AUG. 1

- Noise disturbance, E. Augusta St., Brandon, necessary action taken.
- Burglary alarm, Broadway Ave., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Traffic hazard, I-90 and I-90 ramp, Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Man down, Hwy. 42, Brandon, necessary action taken.

SUNDAY, AUG. 2

- Abandoned vehicles, 262nd St., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Disorderly subjects, Broadway Ave., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.

continued on page 15A

BRANDON POLICE REPORT



TUESDAY, JULY 28

- Medical emergency in 600 block of S. Lakota Court.
- Suspicious vehicles in 800 block of E. Redwood Blvd., 200 block of S. Yellowstone Dr., checked OK.
- Assist Sheriff's office with an accident, occurred in county.
- Hit-and-run reported in 1100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd., under investigation.
- Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave., 600 block of E. Holly Blvd., 1400 block of E. Redwood Blvd., 1900 block of W. River Bluff Dr., 100 block of S. Teton Dr.
- Check well-being of subject in 100 block of W. Evergreen Dr., unable to make contact.
- Check well-being of subjects in 1500 block of S. Splitrock Blvd., 400 block of S. Splitrock Blvd., advised.
- Lost property reported in 300 block of S. Main Ave.
- Reckless driver reported at N. Splitrock Blvd. and E. Ash St., advised.
- Assist Brandon Fire Department with an alarm in

2700 block of E. Sunburst Dr.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

- Check security at S. Sunshine Ave. and E. Chestnut Trail.
- Suspicious subject at W. Holly Blvd. and Heritage Road, checked OK.
- Noise disturbance reported in 1900 block of W. River Bluff Dr., advised.
- Assist Highway Patrol with a reckless driver on I-90, unable to locate.
- Medical emergencies in 800 block of S. Seventh Ave., 100 block of E. Cedar St.
- Juvenile delinquency in 200 block of S. Augusta Ave., advised.
- Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave., 100 block of S. Teton Dr.
- Parking violation in 2800 block of E. Sunrise Court, advised.
- Harris Jerome Larson, 71, arrested for DUI-3rd, stop

sign violation, improper right turn in 100 block of E. Holly Blvd.

- Check well-being of subject in 100 block of S. Main Ave., checked OK.
- Report of a suspicious subject in 300 block of E. Holly Blvd., checked OK.
- Traffic hazard at N. Sioux Blvd. and E. Thad St., removed.
- Family dispute in 200 block of W. Evergreen Dr., Hunter Michael Shammat, 28, arrested for simple assault-domestic, intentional damage to property.
- Open line in 300 block of S. Fourth Ave., checked OK.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

- Lift assists in 3100 block of E. Augustana Pl., 1100 block of E. Beechnut St., 200 block of E. Glenwood Dr.
- Abandoned vehicle at E. Christensen St. and S. Brek Ave., advised.
- Family dispute in 100 block of E. Glenwood Dr., advised.

- Reckless driving reported at W. Burton Dr. and S. Heritage Road, unable to locate.
- Public assists in 200 block of S. Heritage Road, E. Holly Blvd. and N. Pasque Flower Trail, S. Splitrock Blvd. and E. Fleetwood Circle, 700 block of E. Holly Blvd.
- Check well-being of subject at N. Splitrock Blvd. and I-90, checked OK, advised.
- Found child in 900 block of S. Aspen Park Road, turned over to parent.
- Motorist assist in 400 block of W. Park St.
- Reckless drivers reported in 200 block of E. Holly Blvd., all advised.
- Found property in 300 block of E. Holly Blvd.
- Check wellbeing of subject at E. Holly Blvd. and S. Main Ave., checked OK.
- Cedric Maxwell Mills, 20, arrested for illegal possession of prescription drug, possession of controlled substance, possession of marijuana/paraphernalia at E. Aspen Blvd. and S. McHardy Road.
- Suspicious vehicles in 2200 block of S. Splitrock

Blvd., 1000 block of N. Splitrock Blvd., checked OK.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

- Check well-being of subject in 100 block of W. Evergreen Dr., checked OK, advised.
- Medical emergencies in 1600 block of S. Sioux Blvd., 3000 block of E. Aspen Blvd., 100 block of W. Ironwood St.
- Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave., 2200 block of S. Splitrock Blvd.
- Traffic hazard reported in 1600 block of E. Rushmore Dr. advised.
- Motorist assist at S. Splitrock Blvd. and E. Cedar St.
- CHINS reported in 700 block of N. Garnet Circle, juvenile lodged for simple assault-domestic.
- Report of a suspicious vehicle at S. Sioux Blvd. and Ponderosa Dr., gone on arrival.
- Report of a burglary in progress in 500 block of N. Oak Ridge Road, unfounded, checked OK.

continued on page 15A

'Business is a Force for Good'

Lippert partnership with St. Francis House brings workers

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

The St. Francis House in Sioux Falls and Lippert Components in Brandon have a partnership that many may not know about as the truck accessory manufacturer hums along each day.

But the partnership has been a big success, for Lippert, the St. Francis House, and for the guests living there.

Formed in 1987, the St. Francis House's mission is "Moving people from homelessness to hope." It is a transitional living facility, meaning guests need to stay a minimum of 60 days, up to a year, sometimes longer. One of the core requirements, besides staying drug- and alcohol-free, is that guests are required to work.

Enter Lippert, who welcomes guests from St. Francis House as employees every morning at 6 a.m. As part of St. Francis House's Healing Home Campus, guests find work throughout the metro area.

"We're trying to assist our guests in finding more trade-type employment instead of just a job," St. Francis House CEO Julie Becker said of their desire to partner with businesses like Lippert.

Becker said staff from Lippert hold interviews at St. Francis House before making a hire.

Once they're hired, it's an early day for the guests at St. Francis House as they're transported to Brandon each morning. Becker said they're transporting as many as a dozen guests per day.

"The really cool part is some of our guests have worked there for up to two years and they no longer need the transportation because they've saved up enough money, paid off their debt and they have purchased their own vehicles," she said.



Submitted photos

Team members at Lippert Components (above) in Brandon is made up of guests from the St. Francis House in Sioux Falls.



Tom A. Savage/BV Journal

Andy Niebrugge is a robotic welder at Lippert Components in Brandon. Niebrugge is a resident of St. Francis House in Sioux Falls.

Becker said she takes pride in Lippert's approach to the program. There's signage inside Lippert welcoming the guests/employees, from St. Francis House.

"They just embrace our guests and treat them just like every other employee that walks through the door," Becker said. "There's no judgement, there's no 'Oh you're homeless' or 'You've been



in the prison system,' or anything like that. They just treat them like they are an average person just walking in the door and applying for a job."

Tyler Blotske of Lippert

agreed, and said the workers from St. Francis House are versatile and do the work, no matter what's asked of them from power coating, to welding, to assembling, to fabricating.

Our motto is 'Business is a Force for Good,'" Blotske said. "So, it kind of fits in well with us and our culture. We've been

doing it for so long now, it's just the norm. When a team member shows up, it's: 'Here's what you gotta do to move up and better yourself.'"

The St. Francis House has recently formed a partnership with Schulte Subaru in Sioux Falls. Along with transporting guests to Brandon every day, the St. Francis House has a similar program with Harvard Integrations in Tea.

The partnership with Subaru has allowed the St. Francis House to maintain its 15-seat passenger van.

"They helped us find a vehicle, and they help cover the costs of

the operation and maintaining the vehicle so that we can transport workers," Becker said. "They (Lippert and Harvard) need employees and

our guests need jobs. It's a great way to problem-solve since many of our guests don't have a vehicle of their own or don't have a driver's license."

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Holly Blvd. bypass open now throughout construction of city's first roundabout

Staff report

By now, many of you have negotiated the temporary bypass on Holly Boulevard located west of the Big Sioux River Bridge and east of Sioux Valley Energy, more properly referred to as the South River Park Avenue intersection.

The bypass was opened to traffic on Monday, and will continue to be used into November until construction on the city's very first roundabout is completed.

The two-lane bypass will take drivers to the north side of West Holly Boulevard. Through traffic on the roadway will be maintained using the temporary bypass roadway for the duration of this phase of construction, which consists of underground utility and roadway reconstruction. Motorists are asked to reduce speeds and follow all construction signage.

The West Holly Boulevard and South River Park Avenue intersection improvements are part of the new River Park Development and align with long-term improvement plans to improve traffic operations and safety along West Holly Boulevard.



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Following the Monday morning commute, West Holly Boulevard was closed at the South River Park Avenue intersection. To keep Holly Boulevard open to traffic, a temporary bypass was constructed on the north side of the roadway. Motorists are asked to adhere to the suggested speed limit of 30 mph. The project is expected to wrap up in November.

THE LYNX WAY

South Dakota State announces spring 2026 graduates

A number of Brandon Valley area students graduated after the spring 2026 semester at South Dakota State University. More than 1,600 students completed all requirements for a degree and/or certificate program.

Overall, students from 32 states and 27 nations graduated, and more than 90 students received two or more degrees or certificates from a college.

Among the local graduates are: Brandon – **Matthew Becker**, Bachelor of Science; **Cheyenne Dodds**, Associate of Arts; **Reagan Doll**, Master of Science-Engineering; **Maiya Duncanson**, Summa Cum Laude, B.S.-Nursing; **Kazi Ellingson**, B.S.-Education and Human Sciences; **Carter Ellsworth**, Magna Cum Laude, B.S.-Education and Human Sciences; **Max Faber**, B.S. Arts Humanities and Social Sciences; **Kaden Hanzel**, Cum Laude, B.S.-Nursing; **Garret Henn**, Summa Cum Laude, B.S. Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Danae Johnson**, Summa Cum Laude, B.S.-Education and Human Sciences; **Emma Kirlin**, Cum Laude, B.S., Education and Human Sciences; **Ella Kjenstad**, B.S., Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Ethan Kjenstad**, Master of Science-Engineering; **Valentyna LaBrie**, Master of Science, Natural Sciences; **Ashley Linn**, B.S., Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Lau-**

continued on page 8A

Watertown woman is S.D.'s oldest living resident

Adelia "Dea" Thorn is an amazing 108 years old. Born in January 1918, she holds the distinction of being the oldest current member of the South Dakota Health Care Association's Century Club.

Born in Faulkton to Clark and Maud Thorn, she grew up in a lively household with six siblings: sisters, Winnie Chase, Norma Sievers, Fay

Thorn, and Coralea Richmond, and brothers, Bert and Earl. She graduated from Henry High School in 1936.

In 1942, Dea moved to Minneapolis, where she built a long and dedicated career at Woolworth's, working there for 39 years before returning to Watertown in 2002, where she currently lives at Jenkins Living Center. Known for her humor and

independence, Dea often joked that her remarkable longevity might be due to never marrying.

Family has always been an important part in Dea's life. She is cherished by her goddaughter and POA, Paulette Hanlon, Paulette's husband Mike, and 14 nieces and nephews who adore her.

Throughout her life, Dea has had many vi-

continued on page 15A

SFMC: 279

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Young entrepreneur establishing herself in Brandon area home construction biz

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

With the recent stormy weather that ripped through the area, some Brandon and Valley Springs residents suffered storm damage.

Several surrounding communities also took the brunt of the storm as wind gusts topped 90 mph in some areas. The extreme winds snapped large trees, knocked down power lines, flattened fences, rearranged outdoor furniture into different neighborhoods, and damaged homes and businesses.

Now a week after the storms have passed, evidence of the damage is still apparent in the area with uprooted trees still visible, piles of branches lining boulevards, and damaged roofs and siding still showing the storm's damage.

If you were one of those that suffered damages, there's a good chance you spoke with Ashlynn Littleton, owner of Inside Out Construction. The 23-year-old owner of the exterior home remodeling company is in her third year of owning the business, and she said things have indeed ramped up.

"Business is really good," she said. "This year



Submitted photo

Ashlynn Littleton moved to Brandon from Phoenix in 2021. She's in her third year of owning Inside Out Construction.

I've been able to focus more on getting jobs done rather than setting up the business. Everything is going really smoothly."

Littleton grew up in Arizona where she learned the construction craft from her father. She lived in the Phoenix metro area, but decided to make the move to Brandon in 2021 after urban sprawl gobbled up her "small town life."

"We wanted to get out of Phoenix and the crime," she said. "We ended up moving every two-to-three years when the city would catch up to us. We wanted to go somewhere that was a little more insulated from that."

And so far, it's proven to be a good move. Inside Out Construction focuses on windows, doors, roofing, siding and gutters.

Littleton is the general contractor on each project, only using subcontracting workers when necessary.

"If you can see from the street, we do it," she said with a chuckle. "It's a fun job, and we're so happy to be in Brandon."

Contact Littleton at (605) 310-8054 or by email at insideoutconstructionco@gmail.com.



First Sioux Metro Growth Alliance Leadership class roster announced

Staff report

Sioux Metro Growth Alliance has named 33 members to its inaugural Leadership Sioux Metro class, which includes two Valley Springs residents. They are **Brandon Lane**, an economic development and community relations executive with Sioux Valley Energy, and **Cassy Herding**, a Valley Springs City Commissioner.

The eight-month community and professional development program is designed to cultivate local leaders across South Dakota's small and mid-sized communities.

"We were excited and encouraged by the response to our initial round of applications," said Tyler Tordsen, president and CEO of Sioux Metro Growth Alliance. "It's an accomplished group with a diverse range of experiences and expertise, and we're looking forward to working with them."



Cassandra Herding



Brandon Lane

is delivered in partnership with Think 3D Solutions.

"In the coming months, these class members will receive an accredited leadership curriculum combined with the chance to see rural leadership in action," Tordsen said. "They will benefit from site visits, panels and case studies that showcase

continued on page 8A

Thank You

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Lisa Miles	Janet Ciesielski
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cont. from page 7A

Brad Jans: Director of busi-

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Rhoden will now face Democratic candidate Dan Ahlers of Dell Rapids in the general election on Nov. 3.

Garretson – **Jaivyn DeBoer**, B.S., Engineering; **Lauren Fick**, B.S., Engineering; **Ryan Flanagan**, Cum Laude, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Jayde Halverson**, Magna Cum Laude, B.S. Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions; **Alexander Stephenson**, B.S. Education and Human Sciences;

Renner – **Berklee Erickson**, Summa Cum Laude, B.S. Education and Human Sciences; **April Nelsen**, graduate certificate, Phar-

Valley Springs – **Karson Beyer**, Magna Cum Laude, B.S., Natural Sciences; **Olivia Bork**, B.S., Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

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Brandon
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 of the **Month**

JULY WINNER
Kari & Charles
Bigelow

A photograph of Kari and Charles Bigelow standing in their front yard. Kari is wearing a pink tank top and black shorts, and Charles is wearing a light blue polo shirt and black shorts. They are standing in front of a large, lush garden with various plants, including yellow flowers and large green leaves. In the background, there is a house with a porch and a black metal railing.

A close-up photograph of a garden bed filled with yellow and orange flowers, possibly daisies, growing in a green lawn area.

A photograph of a white garden shed with two flower boxes on the front, situated next to a large tree and a white picket fence.

A photograph of a garden path leading through a green lawn, bordered by various plants and flowers, including a large blue hydrangea.

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Blessed Redeemer to celebrate new carillon tower

Jill Meier
Journal editor

There's another church bell to now be heard in Brandon, and this one has many "bells" but no "whistles".

After nearly a dozen years of fundraising, Blessed Redeemer Lutheran added a carillon tower to the church. The carillon was installed on July 25.

This Sunday, Aug. 9, the congregation will be dedicating the carillon during a 9 a.m. Church in the Yard service, and the community is invited to attend. A free continental breakfast will be provided following worship.

Blessed Redeemer's Carillon Bell Fund started around 2014 after a promotion flyer and follow-up discussion between a member of the congregation and carillon company representatives who were attending the South Dakota LCMS District conference.



Submitted photo

Blessed Redeemer invites the community to Church in the Yard on Aug. 9 for the dedicate of its carillon tower.

While the congregation would need to establish a favored the carillon, they continued on page 15A

South Dakota producers to celebrate Farmers Market Week 2026

Staff report

The first full week of August brings Farmers Market Week. Along with it comes the bountiful harvest of ripe fruits and vegetables and other locally raised foods for your family's table.

The S.D. Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) joins markets across the country in celebrating from Aug. 2-8, 2026. SDSPA encourages consumers to discover and attend one of the 45 markets in the state to support local food production in South Dakota.

National Farmers Market Week coincides with the season when the majority of local produce fully matures. This makes it the perfect time to revisit local food producers who consistently provide fresh, healthy products to their communities.

Over two decades ago National Farmers Market Week was declared in a proclamation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Championed by the Farmers Market Coalition, a

nonprofit organization that supports farmers markets nationwide, this event promotes and advocates for

annually, with information on locations, operation times, product availability, and more. To find a farmers market near you, visit SDS-PA Local Foods Directory at localfoods.sdspecialtyproducers.org/

Save the date for special events South Dakota markets have scheduled during the week:

Market at the Meridian in Yankton is hosting their annual Kidpreneur Day, to celebrate the next generation of small business

owners on Saturday Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The **Burke Area Farmers Market** is excited to celebrate on Thursday, Aug. 6 from 5:30-7 p.m. Visitors can look forward to home-grown, handmade, and homemade products, door prize drawings, and a photo booth.

continued on page 12A



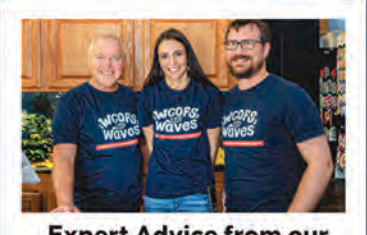
Jill Meier/BV Journal

The Brandon Farmers Market is marking National Farmers Market Week this Saturday with a giveaway and face painting for the kids.

farmers markets.

This annual celebration highlights the vital role farmers markets play in our nation's food system. With fun events, programs, contests, activities, and more, the week helps to boost market attendance and visibility as well as showcase the value markets bring to their communities.

South Dakota has approximately 45 farmers markets that span the state. SDSPA maintains a list, updated



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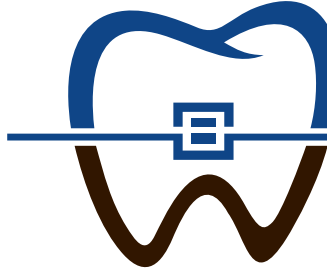
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New school year. New classrooms. New administrative team.

Paula, Skibsted step into BVMS principal roles

Jill Meier
Journal editor

A new “sheriff” and “deputy” at Brandon Valley Middle School will be welcoming nearly 850 students later this month when the 2026-27 academic year begins. But the new administrators come in the form of two familiar faces: Jordan Paula and Kim Skibsted.

Paula has served as an assistant principal at Brandon Valley High School for past five years, and has been assigned the role of principal at BVMS. Skibsted, a 2002 BVHS grad herself, returns to the building where she once walked the halls as a student, taking on the role of assistant principal after nearly two decades in education.

Their arrival coincides with another exciting milestone for the school. Students and staff will return this fall to expanded facilities that include new classrooms, a larger kitchen and an activity room, all designed to accommodate the district’s continued growth.

For Paula, the transition to the middle school serves as both a homecoming and a new challenge.

“I was very passionate about what we did at the high school, getting kids ready for the next step, getting to know that staff, those students. It was an incredible opportunity,” he said. “I started my teaching career in the middle school, teaching for five years in Rapid City in the middle school, and so it’s always been ‘Hey, what if the position becomes available.’ ... I don’t care who you are, middle school is tough. You can be an excellent student, but middle school can still be tough – the social emotional pieces, a lot of many changes, and how do we help students do that? That’s an exciting challenge to just try to help with that in some way.”

For Skibsted, returning to Brandon Valley Middle School feels like coming home.



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Standing in one of the new eighth-grade wings constructed over the past year, Jordan Paula and Kim Skibsted are the new administrative team at Brandon Valley Middle School this year. Both the head and associate principals, respectively, transferred from the high school from their previous assignments.

Skibsted began her career teaching family and consumer sciences, health and reading before moving into English language arts at BVMS. After serving as an instructional coach in Harrisburg, she returned to

Brandon Valley High School for the past two years.

“The position opened up, and it was like, ‘I’d love to go back there and see how I can help, see how I can serve staff and

students,’” she said. “It’s just an exciting opportunity to come back to the middle school.”

Since learning they would become the

continued on page 11A

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Monday, Aug. 24

District 8: Generations
105 S Estey St, Luverne

Thursday, Aug. 27

District 1: McKnight Community Center
300 W Main St., White

Tuesday, Sept. 8

District 9: Sioux Valley Energy
Pipestone Service Center
1102 7th St SE, Pipestone

Thursday, Sept. 10

District 2: Sioux Valley High School
200 Hansina Ave, Volga

Thursday, Sept. 17

District 5: Taopi Hall
102 E 3rd St, Colton

Thursday, Oct. 1

District 4: Dakota Prairie Playhouse
1205 Washington Ave N Madison

Tuesday, Oct. 6

District 7: Humboldt Community Center
201 S Main St, Humboldt

Thursday, Oct. 8

District 3: Sioux Valley Energy
Headquarters, 23491 471st St, Colman

Tuesday, October 13

District 6: Sioux Valley Energy Brandon
Service Center

108 N Heritage Dr, Brandon

Monday, October 19

District 10: Edgerton Public School
423 1st Ave W, Edgerton

BVMS PRINCIPAL TEAM cont. from page 10A

school's new administrative team, Paula and Skibsted have been preparing for their respective roles together.

"Once Kim and I knew we were going to be part of the team, we started collaborating," Paula said. "It takes time to build that level of trust. Our strengths are different, but I think we complement each other very well."

Paula said the biggest priority in their first year isn't about making sweeping changes.

"I think a big part of that is listening that first year," he said. "There are so many great things going on in this building. We'd be remiss to come in and say, 'We're going to do this.'"

Instead, the pair plans to learn from staff while exploring ways to strengthen what's already working.

Paula said he's also been grateful for the support he's received from district leaders and colleagues during the transition.

"We've had the opportunity to meet with other administrators, principals in Sioux Falls and a colleague in Brookings," he said.

Brandon Valley Middle School is expected to welcome nearly 850 students this fall, a number Paula is eagerly looking forward to.

"Let's go!" he exclaims. "We're excited!"

He said the building addition is evidence of the district's long-term commitment to keeping middle school students together under one roof.

"This is a very intentional choice to keep everyone in the same middle school," Paula said. "We're all Lynx. We're all working toward the same thing."

The expansion also reflects the district's continued growth.

"What a fortunate thing to be in the positions that we are, and then to be part of a district that's growing," Paula said. "Some districts don't have that luxury, and we're very fortunate that we do."

He believes the new addition is oozing with school pride.

"When you walk in, you know where you are," he said. "We want kids to feel that. We want teachers to feel that pride. It's bigger than oneself. We are part of something bigger."

Although a few educational assistant positions are yet to be filled, both administrators say they are pleased with the staff assembled for the new school year.

"I'm very excited about the group that we have coming in," Paula said. "I think they're going to support and complement our current staff well. I know they're going to be difference-makers for our kids."

He also believes Brandon Valley continues to attract talented educators.

"People want to be a part of Brandon Valley," Paula said. "It is a destination district, and we're fortunate for that."

Ask either administrator why they chose education, and their answers echo one another.

"We always say, 'It's the kids,' and it's truly what it is," Skibsted said. "It doesn't feel like a job when you get to be around kids and work with kids all day long."

Paula's path into education began with encouragement from former South Dakota State University football coach John Stiegelmeier, who urged him to work at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp.

"I had a mindset shift," Paula recalled, noting the appeal of coaching.

That experience led him to change majors and pursue a career centered on helping young people succeed.

"How do we serve the kids? How do we serve the staff?" he said. "How do we make that kid better? How do we make them successful? How do we make them thrive?"

Skibsted found her calling as a high school student. She remembers tutoring others.

Both administrators will each have a child in school at the Middle School this year.

"My kids are Lynx," Paula said. "We are Lynx serving the Lynx as best we can. That's very important to us."

Skibsted echoed the sentiment.

"When I went to Harrisburg, it was a great learning experience," she said. "But that's when I said I want to come back home because Brandon Valley is my home. My family is here. My kids are here. My husband's here. We're all Lynx."

Ironically so, both administrators spouses are also employed by the BV School District. Nick Skibsted is the principal at Brandon Valley Intermediate School, and Ketty Paula teaches PE at Inspiration Elementary.

As the countdown to Aug. 26 nears, both administrators say they're eager to welcome students into a building that's both familiar and refreshed.

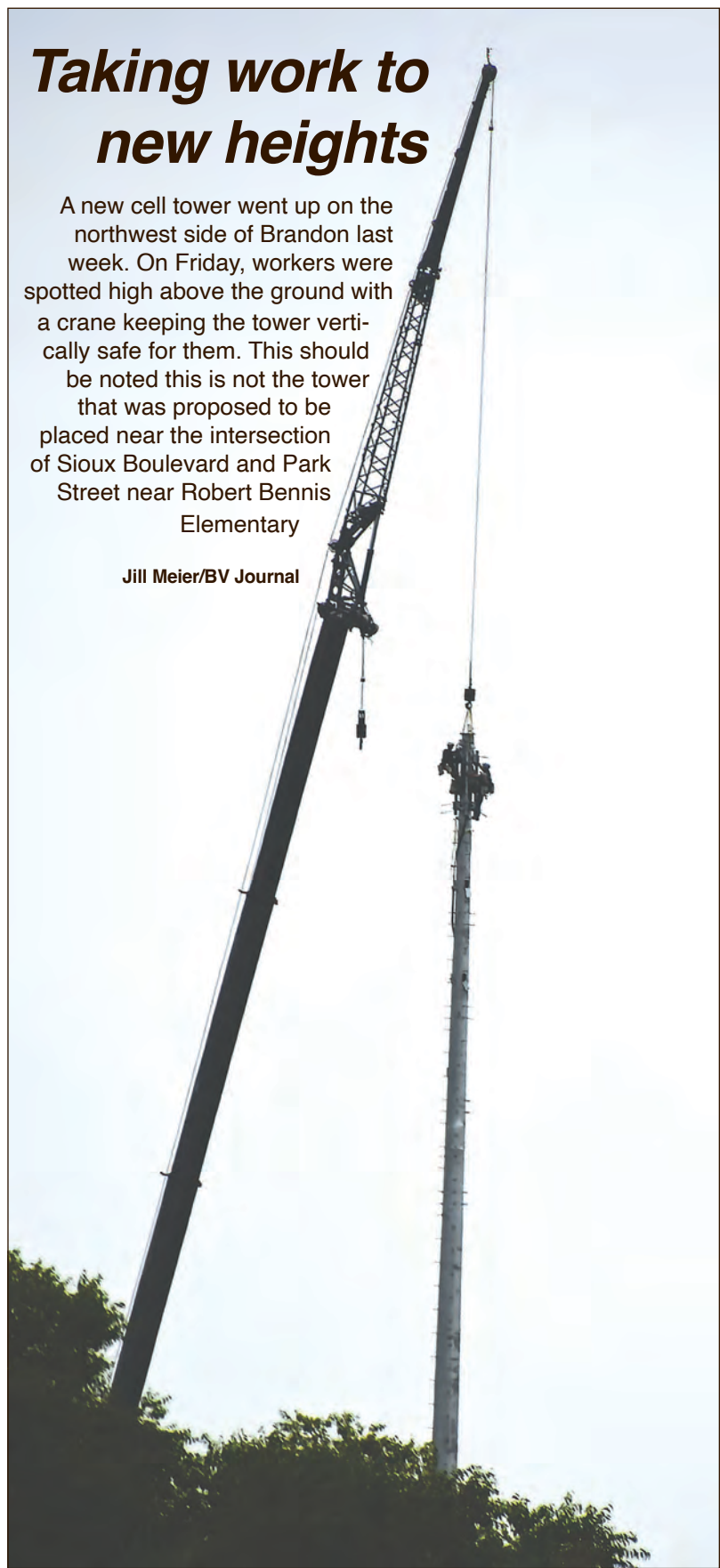
"We know we have a tall order meeting new families, staff and students. But that's also very exciting, and we're excited to hopefully bring a little joy," Paula said.

Adds Skibsted, "Both of us feel honored to be here and to serve the middle school. We're excited for the opportunity and we're going to do the very best we can."

Taking work to new heights

A new cell tower went up on the northwest side of Brandon last week. On Friday, workers were spotted high above the ground with a crane keeping the tower vertically safe for them. This should be noted this is not the tower that was proposed to be placed near the intersection of Sioux Boulevard and Park Street near Robert Bennis Elementary

Jill Meier/BV Journal



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FARMERS MARKET WEEK

cont. from page 1

The **Brandon Farmers Market** will celebrate on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Customers can enter to win a give-away with vendor items and free face painting will be offered.

Main Street Market of Tyndall is hosting a Kids Market Night Tuesday, Aug. 11 from 4:30-6 p.m. where youth are invited to set up a free vendor booth to sell their handmade crafts, artwork, homegrown produce, or flowers.

The **Miller Area Farmers Market** will have drawings and kids activities during their Tues., Aug. 11th market from 5-7 p.m.

The **Black Hills Farmers Market** is hosting Senior Month throughout August. Seniors 65+ can stop by the information booth for a free \$5 token to spend on a product during their Wednesday & Saturday markets in August from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This week is about more than just fresh produce, it is a celebration of the farmers and local communities that keep our neighborhoods thriving. From access to farm-fresh foods to supporting small businesses and local economies, every market visit makes a difference. Consider joining the farmers congregating in the parking lots and shopping areas during National Farmers Market Week 2026 and throughout the season.

To support the farmers market industry, SDSPA manages a chapter, known as the S.D. Farmers Market Coalition. SDSPA members are invited to participate in this group which meets virtually throughout the year as an outlet to discuss needs and initiatives. The chapter provides networking opportunities, coordinates educational programming, and more.

To learn more, visit localfoods.sdspecialtyproducers.org/

Brandon teen nears Eagle Scout rank with service project at Faith United

Jill Meier
Journal editor

When Sawyer Hinderks was a first-grader, his parents asked if he'd like to give Scouts a try.

His response was simple. "I thought, 'You know what? Why not? Let's try something new,'" he recalled.

Nearly a decade later, that one decision has led the 16-year-old toward Scouting's highest achievement.

As part of the final steps to earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Hinderks recently completed a service project at Faith United in Brandon, the church he attends and where Troop 212 meets. Seeing that the roof over the church's waste and recycling enclosure had collapsed, he decided it was a project worth tackling.

"The church that I go to and the church that my troop meets at had this trash bin enclosure, but the roof had fallen down, so all the trash bins were just out in the open, getting soggy and everything," Hinderks said. "So, I put a new roof on that thing, a very sturdy roof—way sturdier than the previous one."

While there were several possible Eagle Scout-worthy projects around the church, Hinderks said he felt this was the right project for him.

"There were a couple other ones around the church that I could have done, but I think this one just seemed the most fitting," he said.

An Eagle Scout project is about more than construction. It also requires planning, organization and leadership. Hinderks enlisted the help of two of his fellow Scouts from Troop 212, and one of those Scouts invited another friend to lend a hand.

"It was a cool way to see the community help my friends build and stuff," he said.

Brandon Lumber Company donated the



Photo courtesy of Beth Aaker

Sawyer Hinderks (far right) was joined in his Eagle Scout service project by friends and fellow scouts, Lars Lindquist (from left), Aiden Aaker and Zander Wollan.

materials needed for the project after Hinderks reached out for support.

"They're really generous. They help out a lot," he said.

Since the structure was improved, the congregation has taken notice.

"They're quite appreciative," Hinderks said. "A few different people reached out to me saying 'thank you.'"

Although building the roof required hard work, Hinderks said the toughest part of the project happened long before the first board was nailed down.

"I guess just finding the time to sit down and plan this thing out, and basically take the first step of the project," he said.

The experience reinforced one lesson he'll long remember now that the project is complete.

"I think the biggest thing would be if you want to get something done, reach out to people, and they'll be quite eager to help you, more so than one would usually expect," he said.

That perspective has been shaped by years in Scouting.

Now preparing for his junior year of high school, Hinderks has remained involved since joining Cub Scouts in first grade. What started as trying something new has become an important part of his life.

continued on page 13A

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EAGLE SCOUT cont. from page 12A

"I like not only the values that it teaches, but also the skills," he said. "There are a lot of good things that it teaches you. Sometimes through classes, like merit badge classes, and sometimes just through general experiences."

As a homeschooled student, Hinderks said the flexibility in his schedule has allowed him to put many of those lessons into practice.

"I've got a lot more time to apply some of the skills that scouting teaches, so I think they really go hand in hand," he said.

Among the dozens of merit badges he's earned, engineering stands out as one of his favorites.

"I've always been interested in engineering," he said. "It kind of gave me a broad, general idea of engineering, but then it lets you deep dive into what interested me."

That experience has helped shape his future plans, as he hopes to pursue a career involving engineering. He also appreciates how each merit badge introduces Scouts to careers they may never have considered.

"Nearly every badge has a requirement at the end where you take a look into three careers that you might want to pursue within each field that the badges offer," he said. "Then you pick one and kind of do a deep dive into it."

Although his Eagle Scout project is complete, Hinderks still has a few loose ends to tie up before officially earning the rank. Once he does, he plans to remain active in Troop 212 until he ages out at 18.

"I hope to stick around for a little while," he said. "And I hope I can set an example for some of the younger boys."

For Hinderks, becoming an Eagle Scout isn't simply the completion of one project. It's the culmination of nearly 10 years spent learning, serving and growing.

"It's been a long time in the making," he said. "I've been looking forward to it since first grade. So yeah, that's a big sense of long-term accomplishment."



Journey with the Journal



Submitted photo

The *Brandon Valley Journal* traveled across the pond, courtesy of Amanda Ringling, a seventh-grade science teacher at Brandon Valley Middle School. She's "partially" pictured with the *Journal* inside the Natural History Museum in London during her grant trip to the UK. Ringling was awarded a 2026 Fund for Teachers Fellowship grant earlier this year. During her time abroad, she studied at the University of Cambridge and explored museums focused on Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution. The experience was designed to help her create more engaging, inclusive lessons that strengthens scientific literacy, and fosters an evidence-based understanding of evolution by natural selection. If you're traveling abroad – or even to Rowena – bring the *Journal* along for the ride, snap a photo and submit it to editor@bvjournal.info with information on who is pictured, where they are.

Kelley transforms pandemic isolation into 4,000-mile journey of faith in new documentary

Retired nurse, author, and photographer Lonnelle Kelley has announced the upcoming release of her new faith-based documentary, *Joy in the Heartland: Life-Changing Road Trips Through God's Healing Fields of South Dakota*. The film takes viewers on an uplifting tour across 51 unique communities in southeastern South Dakota, capturing local history, landmarks, and resilience through a lens of quiet faith.

Rooted in true events from 2020, the narrative follows two "at-risk" seniors who fought pandemic isolation and uncertainty by hitting the open road. Over the course of their journey, they covered more than 4,000 miles across rural landscapes, leaning on mutual support and spiritual

continued on page 14A

Prayer breakfast tickets now on sale

Tickets for the 18th annual Brandon Area Prayer Breakfast are now on sale. The event begins with a light breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21 at Brandon Valley

High School, and the program begins at 7 a.m. Guest speakers are Isaiah Neve, Ketty Paula and Kirk Strand.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$100 for event sponsor. To

be a table sponsor, contact Paul VanDeBerg, (605) 413-9892, Laura Kuehl, (605) 360-9446, Nik Aamlid, (605) 780-9735 or Carla Gross, (605) 359-6430.

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WEDNESDAYS

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Outside Pavilion

WEDNESDAYS

(October -April)
6:15 PM Indoor Worship
7:00 PM God Squad, Confirmation
& Senior High Youth

Prairie Fest to celebrate SD's grasslands with music, food, family fun

A free festival celebrating South Dakota's grasslands through music, food, outdoor activities and educational experiences will be held Aug. 22 at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls.

Prairie Fest 2026 will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will offer visitors of all ages an opportunity to explore the prairie, learn about its importance and enjoy a day of family-friendly live music, local food, hands-on activities and outdoor adventure.

"Prairie Fest is an opportunity for people to experience the prairie in a way that is accessible, fun, welcoming and meaningful," said Laura Kahler, South Dakota Grasslands

Initiative director, one of the sponsors of the event. "Whether you come for the music, the food, the activities or simply to enjoy a beautiful day outdoors, there's something fun and educational for everyone."

The day will feature live music from the Minneapolis-based, Americana-acoustic group Maygen and the Birdwatcher, along with food trucks offering coffee, tacos, burgers and fries, donuts, ice cream and other treats.

Visitors also will have opportunities to learn more about South Dakota's grasslands and the wildlife that depend on them at various educational booths and through featured

speakers and wildlife experts from South Dakota State University, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks and Dakota State University. There will be hands-on activities, giveaways and other fun throughout the event.

For those who want to start the day with a deeper outdoor experience, Prairie Fest will offer a limited number of early-bird adventures from 7-9 a.m., including guided bird watching, a mist-netting demonstration and a guided prairie hike. Registration is required for the early-bird activities, but no registration is required to attend the festival itself.

"Prairie Fest is designed to make it easy

for people to connect with the prairie on their own terms," Kahler said. "We encourage everyone to either come for an hour or stay all day and explore, learn, listen to music, enjoy some great food and discover what makes South Dakota's grasslands so special."

Prairie Fest is free, courtesy of the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition, or for those with a South Dakota State Park entrance pass. The event location is Good Earth State Park, 26924 480th Ave., Sioux Falls.

For more information and to register for the limited-capacity early-bird activities, visit prairiefest.wherethingsgrow.org.

BRANDON CITY COUNCIL cont. from page 1A

will allow us to bring in more tournaments and more programming while still leaving courts open for the community."

The project also focuses on improving the experience for spectators and players.

Plans include more than doubling the shaded spectator seating, adding shade structures for players, resurfacing all existing courts and lowering portions of the fencing to improve viewing.

"Right now, we have two trees that provide shade for spectators," Menden said. "People are sitting in the grass where the shade is. The courts can be about 110 degrees during the heart of summer, so we're thinking about both the players' experience and the spectators."

Menden said the complex has reached its capacity.

"Brandon has really no other places to put courts without spending a lot more money and moving away from everything else," he said.

The expansion will also benefit Brandon Valley High and Middle Schools' rapidly growing tennis program.

"We're the second-largest team in the state because of our middle school program," Menden said. "But the middle school is spread across two different courts, and they're 10 deep. They can't spread out to really get the skill building they need."

Former BTA leader Becky Blue, who helped spearhead fundraising efforts nearly 20 years ago

to build four courts and the tennis center with Tracie Rolphs, said it was rewarding to see the next generation carrying the torch.

"I'm so proud of these guys," Blue said. "When Tracie and I did this 20 years ago, there were 3,000 K-12 students. Today there's 5,200. It makes sense that you would add four more courts. I just love seeing the kids out here hitting. It's still a great sport."

Blue said Brandon's tennis association helped establish a model that other youth sports organizations have since followed.

"As the mayor reminded me, we were kind of the first parent-led organization that collaborated with the city, the school and the association to improve facilities," she said. "After us came baseball,

soccer and hockey."

Her advice to the current fundraising committee is simple: "Just keep telling the story," Blue said. "Do it for these kids and for the next kids."

Brandon Mayor Harry Buck praised the BTA for once again taking the lead in enhancing community recreation.

"The tennis association has just been terrific," Buck said. "Back in 2007, Becky Blue came to the city council with this dream of building this tennis complex. They went out and raised the money, and because of their success, the baseball association got active, then soccer and hockey. What started right here with the tennis group has really spread."

Buck said the partnerships be-

tween volunteer organizations, the city and the school district have played a major role in Brandon's growth.

"The city owes them a debt," he said. "All the associations that have stepped up to do the fundraising and build these facilities have helped make Brandon a great place to live."

Menden said the hope is to break ground on the expansion in late spring or early summer of 2027, with construction completed in spring 2028. Menden said every contribution, regardless of size, will help move the project toward its goal.

"We need all levels of donations to get to our \$2 million campaign as quickly as possible," he said.

LITTLE LEAGUE CONTROVERSY cont. from page 1A

the situation and determined that Sykora was ineligible.

The investigation late last week was whether Sioux Falls could now advance to Indianapolis, or if state runner-up Brandon Valley would fill its place because of the eligibility issues.

Both communities played a waiting game over the weekend to hear from Little League International on its decision. No announcement had been made as of Monday evening, Aug. 3.

However, earlier on Monday, the *Brandon Valley Journal* learned that after a review of the situation, Little League International is allowing Sioux Falls to advance to the Midwest Region in Indianapolis, however, Sykora cannot participate.

The Brandon Valley Baseball Association never filed an appeal to the initial report. The BVBA responded to a Sioux Falls Little League Facebook post announcing the ineligibility last week. That response was general in that the BVBA would work closely with Little League to "determine our next steps."

Although the BVBA didn't file an appeal, they certainly seem to have a legitimate gripe. In its back-to-back championship wins over Brandon Valley two weeks ago, Sioux Falls got a triple and double from Sykora, who also finished with 4 RBI. In fairness to Sioux Falls, the 4 RBI may not have made a difference in their two blowout wins over Brandon (8-1 and 15-4).

Somewhat of a precedent was also set in 2014 when Little League stripped Jackie Robinson West (JRW), a team from the Chicago area, who won the U.S. bracket of the tournament in Williamsport before losing to a team from South Korea in the championship. Following the tournament, Little League was tipped that JRW was using ineligible players during the postseason. The end result following an investigation stripped JRW of all its 2014 accomplishments. However, after an exhaustive investigation, it was determined that the violation in 2014 by JRW was a blatant attempt at cheating. The issue this year with the Sioux Falls team was a clerical error.

PANDEMIC DOCUMENTARY cont. from page 13A

reflection to find healing.

On-screen, this journey unfolds across 10 meticulously mapped regional trails, including the Old West Trail, Ageless Prairie Trail, and Sioux Valley Trail. Backed by vibrant drone footage and personal photography, the film highlights local murals, sculptures, and small-town char-

acter.

The documentary also features the "51 Hearts Initiative." Moved by the community warmth they encountered, Kelley gifted a physical, red wooden heart to 51 different towns within a 50-mile radius of Sioux Falls. Local community leaders placed these hearts on historical landmarks,

town buildings, or public trees to serve as lasting symbols of hope and a map for future travelers.

"This region has a quiet beauty, warmth, and faith that deserves to be seen," says Kelley. "We wanted to share how simple nature and a change of scenery can bring genuine peace during difficult times."

The film serves as a visual extension of Kelley's faith-based travel memoir of the same name, which is currently available on Amazon and locally at Crossroads in Sioux Falls.

For more information or to view the film trailer, contact Kelley at (701) 331-9513.

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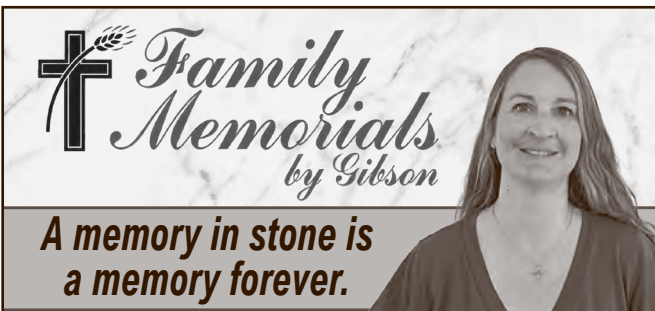
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AROUND THE TOWN & COUNTRY

with Lee Schelling

Church Growth Takes on a Whole New Meaning at Living Springs

Some churches measure growth by the people showing up on Sunday. Pastor Richard Gordon of Living Springs Church also measures it by the vegetables growing in the community garden.

I recently visited with Pastor Gordon about the church's community garden. It is another example of why Brandon is such a special place to live. As a realtor, I've often seen that the strongest communities are built with caring people, shared values, and neighbors who invest in one another. The community garden reflects those same qualities.

Every seed planted is another chance to serve, share, and strengthen the Brandon community. Pastor Gordon shared, "Well, the community garden is a great place for people from our community to come and just use some of our property to grow vegetables. It's a humble gathering, really."

Like any successful neighborhood, the garden continues to grow. Pastor Gordon is already thinking about the next season. "We're trying

to grow the application of the garden and what we can do. Maybe add some classes in the church some time for how you can tomatoes. We have some plans and are doing some brainstorming in that area."

The harvest reaches well beyond the garden beds. Pastor Gordon said, "Yeah, we like to support the food bank. We do like to give back with what God has blessed us with and give it back to the church. So we support other organizations locally too."

He also shared, "Food banks a popular one because it really gets to people with needs. We're real faithful, serving the community, so we like to be part of that."

A thriving community grows much like a healthy garden. It takes good soil, caring hands, and people with a heart for others. Living Springs Church is planting seeds that produce vegetables, friendships, and hope. Those are the kinds of roots that help Brandon flourish today and for years to come. That is church growth in its finest form.



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OBITUARY

Lucille Bosch, 89
Lucille Bosch, 89, of Rock Rapids, Iowa, died Thursday, July 30, 2026, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls.
Funeral services will begin at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, at Bethel Reformed Church, near Little Rock, Iowa. Burial will follow at the church cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.
She is survived by her husband of 71 years, Arthur; 10 children, Randy (Cindy) Bosch of Rock Rapids, Pam (Lee) Hansenans Gary (Carmie) Bosch, all of Sioux Falls, Cathy Bosch of Hawley, Minn., Susan (Joe) Tokheim of Sheldon, Iowa, Stan (Sonja) Bosch of Brandon, Curt (Shawnda) Bosch and Brian Bosch, all of Sioux Falls, Lanette (Erik) Gustafson of Ocean Ridge, Fla., and Lance (Kayla) Bosch of Sioux Falls; 20 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; sister-in-law, Marilyn Reck of Rock Rapids; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.
For online condolences, visit jurrensfuneralhome.com.

Van Horn: Vote Rife for District 2 LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I recently had the opportunity to meet Blake Rife, the Democratic candidate for State House in District 2, and I came away genuinely impressed.
Blake brings a unique combination of experience and service to the table. He has worked as a teacher, a farmer, and now serves as an ICU nurse at Avera. Those roles have given him firsthand experience with the challenges facing South Dakota families, from education to agriculture to our healthcare system.
What stood out most to me was his energy and enthusiasm. Blake is thoughtful, approachable, and clearly passionate about serving our community. He studied political science at Augustana University because he has long been interested in public service and how government can improve people's lives. After speaking with him, it's clear that interest has only grown stronger.
Blake's priorities are practical and

SD OLDEST RESIDENT cont. from page 6A
brant interests. She was an avid reader and a passionate bowler, spending many winters on the lanes with her sister Fay, where the two were known not only for their enthusiasm but for their skills. Together, Dea and Fay also traveled extensively, visiting family and friends across numerous states and cities.
The South Dakota Health Care Association created the Century Club to recognize South Dakotans aged 100 or older, both for their longevity and their contributions to our state. Nearly 1,500 South Dakotans have been inducted into the Century Club since its founding in 1997. The Century Club is, as its name states, a club.
Therefore, there may be older people in the state that have not yet been inducted by a family member or loved one into the Century Club. The Century Club is open to any resident of South Dakota upon the celebration of his or her 100th birthday. There are no dues, and each inductee receives a specially designed certificate and membership card. Once a year, the current oldest living Century Club member is recognized as the "Centenarian of the Year." Submit names for the Century Club by visiting www.sdhca.org and downloading a Century Club application or call LuAnn Severson, Century Club coordinator, at 1-800-952-3052.

DEATH NOTICES

cont. from page 4A
Dale Sample, 79, Sioux Falls
Cornelia Van Beek, 90, Rock Valley, Iowa
Sunday, Aug. 2
Neal Brouwer, 67, Steen, Minn.
David Colter, 76, Sioux Falls
Karen Munson, 82, Sioux Falls
Ronald Schildhauer, 77, Renner

GARRETSON GUN CLUB

cont. from page 3A
While there have been several sportsmen's clubs in the area over the years, the Garretson Sportsmen's Club started as a Eminija Sportsmen's Club and was located on land just north of Split Rock Park in Garretson, as documented in the Garretson Centennial book. The clubhouse was relocated to its current site in the 1940s after the club purchased two acres of land from Art Johnson. The name was official-

ly changed to the Garretson Sportsmen's Club in 1948, and an emphasis on trap shooting began.
"This didn't mean, however, that the club wasn't involved in other game and conservation projects, but the main thrust of the club was trapshooting from 1948 until the present time," shared Bob Nelson
Today, the club continues to host trap shooting contests, and is a larger supporter of the Garretson, Brandon Valley and Hills-Beaver Creek (Minn.) trapshooting teams.
The club has options for indoor and outdoor ranges, an archery range, and the trap range. Throughout the year, enhanced permit courses are offered, and each summer, a hunter safety course is offered to youth ages 12 and up through the south Dakota Fame, Fish and Parks.

CARILLON TOWER

cont. from page 9A
fund specifically for the carillon.
A carillon is a pitched percussion instrument that is played with a keyboard and consists of at least 23 bells, according to Wikipedia. The bells are cast in bronze, hung in fixed suspension, and tuned in chromatic order so that they can be sounded harmoniously together. They are struck with clappers connected to a keyboard of wooden batons played with the hands and pedals played with the feet. Often housed in bell towers, carillons are typically owned by churches, universities or municipalities. They can include an automatic system through which the time is announced and simple tunes are played throughout the day.
The congregation is also looking to update the exterior signage. Fundraising is currently underway to fund a new digital sign, and Church Elder Kevin K. Calles reports they have about \$6,000 yet to raise.

BRANDON POLICE REPORT

cont. from page 4A
SATURDAY, AUG. 1
• Noise disturbance in 2500 block of E. Augusta St., advised.
• Public assists at S. Sioux Blvd. and W. Beechnut St., 300 block of S. Main Ave., 400 block of N. Crestview Dr.
• Traffic hazard at S. Splitrock and E. Aspen boulevards, removed.
• Medical emergency in 1100 block of E. Teakwood St.
• Motorist assist in 300 block of S. Splitrock Blvd.
• Reckless driver reported at I-90 and N. Splitrock Blvd., advised.
• Assist Brandon Fire Department with an open burn in 100 block of E. Conifer St.
• Report of a noise disturbance in 1000 block of S. Haley Ave., unable to locate.
SUNDAY, AUG. 2
• William Marcus Duffy, 47, arrested for DUI-1st, speeding in 1100 block of E. Holly Blvd.
• Medical emergency at N. Splitrock Blvd. and I-90.
• Public assist in 1100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
• Motorist assists in 900 block of E. Redwood Blvd., at W. Holly Blvd. and S. River Park Ave.
• Assist Sheriff's office with warrant service in 1200 block of E. Hemlock Blvd.
• Check wellbeing of subject in 1200 block of E. Keystone Pl., advised.
• Disorderly subject in 1700 block of E. Redwood Blvd., advised.
• Court David Cossey, 33, arrested for disorderly conduct, open container in 100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
• Suspicious activity reported in 100 block of E. Holly Blvd., advised.
MONDAY, AUG. 3
• Suspicious vehicle in 1700 block of E. Redwood Blvd., advised.
• Stand-by for property pick-up in 100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
• Check wellbeing of subjects in 1000 block of E. Heatherwood Dr., 1700 block of E. Redwood Blvd., checked OK.
• Found property in 1100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
• Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave., 100 block of S. Teton Dr., 1200 block of E. Redwood Blvd., 1200 block of E. Keystone Pl.
• Disorderly subject in 1700 block of E. Redwood Blvd., advised.
• Assault reported in 1600 block of W. Meadowlark Trail, under investigation.
• Assist Sheriff's office with a medical emergency, occurred in county.
• Runaway reported in 100 block of S. Cardinal Dr.
• Suspicious vehicle in 900 block of S. Aspen Park Road, checked OK, advised.

SHERIFF LOG

cont. from page 4A
• Traffic hazard, S. Splitrock Blvd., Brandon, necessary action taken.
• Accident, Main Ave., Garretson, state accident report taken.
• Traumatic injury, 266th St., Brandon, necessary action taken.
• Cardiac arrest, 472nd Ave., Renner, necessary action taken.
• Disorderly subjects, 258th St., Renner, necessary action taken.
• Disorderly subjects, E. Redwood Blvd., Brandon, necessary action taken.
• Stab/gunshot, N. Splitrock Blvd. Brandon, case report taken.
• Disorderly subjects, 261st St., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
MONDAY, AUG. 3
• Fraud, 254th St., Garretson, case report taken.
• Juvenile delinquency, E. Redwood Blvd., Brandon, necessary action taken.
• Drowning, E. Sunset Circle, Brandon, necessary action taken.



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FLINTLOCK, THE WONDER DOG cont. from page 1A

pile up.

Heather says she set up the page for personal reasons: “I was hoping he’d become an internet sensation and help pay for all the damages he’s done to the house. But that hasn’t happened yet.”

As puppies do, they’ll chew on anything and everything, and of course, Flintlock is no exception. Heather says he’s torn out window screens, the wood siding around the doors, pillow and tennis shoes.

“He’s grown out of that, but he still carries shoes around all the time. Shoes and rocks,” she said.

Matt Swenson laughs when trying to explain Flintlock.

“He’s got a personality like you can’t freaking imagine,” he says.

“He’s naughty. He’s entertaining, but naughty,” Heather confirms.

The Swenson’s named him Flintlock, after the firearm ignition system.

“Because the boys hunt, that’s where they got that name,” Heather explains.

More recently, they’ve coined him “Flintrock,” because he loves to carry rocks around.

“He brings them in the house and drops them, and we step on them,” Heather said. “It’s always chaos around here.”

As the story goes, Flint almost wasn’t part of the family.

According to Matt, it was Heather who suggested they get another puppy before Axel, a mixed-breed rescue—one of the best hunting dogs they’d ever owned—passes away. It was their hope that Axel would teach the pup how to hunt.

“Well, their personalities couldn’t be any different,” Heather said. “I think Flint has taught Axel how to be naughty, so that backfired on me.”

Curious about Axel’s background, they turned to a canine DNA kit, only to discover Axel was half Black Labrador Retriever and half German Shorthaired Pointer.

That information led them to breeders in Marshall, Minn., connected through Axel’s bloodline and eventually to Flint’s litter.

When the Swenson boys went to choose a puppy, Matt offered his boys advice he’d once received from an experienced dog breeder: “Pick the puppy that pays atten-

tion to you.”

And that’s just what the boys did.

Unfortunately, or fortunately—depending on how you view it—their puppy of choice also happened to be the most energetic one of the litter.

“(Son) Trevor goes, ‘Yep, Dad, we picked out the rowdiest one, named him Flintlock, and the rest is history,’” Swenson remembers.

And just like how Flintlock came to the Swensons, his wakeboarding skills happened almost by accident.

With four boys in the family—Drake, Cole, Trevor and Kyle—there’s never



a shortage of activity when the family heads to Campbell Slough near Enemy Swim.

Last summer, Trevor climbed onto a wakeboard with Flintlock in front of him. As the boat took off, Trevor eventually lost his balance and fell into the water.

Flintlock, however, continued to “ride the rail.”

“He hung on,” Swenson recalled. “Pretty quick Flint was standing up, and now he can go on the outside of the wake and everything.”

When Heather was alerted to the show going on outside, she didn’t believe it, at

least not until running down to the dock and seeing it for herself.

“Thee he was, standing up on the wakeboard, going around the lake, and the neighbors were out on their docks and they were cheering, and kids were yelling, ‘Look at the skiing dog!’” she remembers.

After spending a day surfing, swimming and launching himself off the dock, Flint is usually exhausted by bedtime.

Well ... almost.

Swenson jokes that one evening the pooch told him that he had a simple Christmas wish.

“He tells me, ‘Dad, I really want a shark tooth necklace for Christmas because all the cool dogs wear shark tooth necklaces,’” Swenson jokes.

Asked whether Flint would be getting one?

“Yeah, he should,” he answers.

While wakeboarding may be Flint’s “claim to fame,” it’s hardly the wonder dog’s only talent.

During a day on the lake fishing, a fish that wasn’t a “keeper” was released back into the lake, and as the fish slowly drifted



Flintlock is a “go with the flow” kind of dog, allowing the Swensons to dress him up and pose him for pictures.

downward, Flint did what retrievers will do: He retrieved.

“He jumps in and went down about two feet and grabs that fish and comes up with it,” Matt said.

The energetic dog also has a habit of leaping off the boat to swim to nearby islands whenever the mood strikes.

Swenson suspects the dog’s real mission isn’t exploring.

“I think he swims there and pees,” he joked.

And if they start

continued on page 14B

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Sports

BV Lynx football moms get their ‘game plan’ on by putting on pads, helmets

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Things are cranking up for the Brandon Valley football team, now just three weeks from its opener, but they also made time for some fun when head coach Matt Christensen invited all of the moms to an evening practice last Monday. After a light practice for the team, moms of the Brandon Valley players met in the weight room for a short briefing from Christensen.

“They know their sons best, so I have to remember that,” Christensen said. “Every kid is important. To that mom, that kid is everything.”

While in the weight room, Christensen said it was an opportunity to make contact with the moms, let them know how appreciated they are, and what can be expected for the upcoming season.

“I try to make sure they understand we’re a committee of guys committed to creating the best team we can create, and that includes zero promise of playing time,” he said. “I just have to make that clear. Some misconceptions are that as a senior, you get to play. That just isn’t the



Landon Voigt (above, left) puts pads on his mom, Erin, on Monday, July 27. Brandon Valley head coach Matt Christensen (above, right) writes a nickname on the helmet of Melany Krichner, mom of football player Kyan, on Monday, July 27.



Tom A. Savage/BV Journal

case. As kindly and as friendly as I can, I also tell them that does not indicate their son’s value to the team. There’s no correlation between playing time and value to the team. They’re all equally valuable.”

Christensen said as a staff, they show that value to every player through Brandon Valley’s ac-

tions. As an example, many times throughout the season, a player that gets zero playing time gets to carry the BV flag onto the field.

“We show it, we don’t just say it,” Christensen said of making everyone equally valuable.

Christensen also took the weight room moment to thank the moms for their sacrifices during

the season.

“Thank you for washing their clothes, and driving them to places, and buying their cleats, and supporting us,” he said.

And then the fun really began. Unlike in year’s past where the moms were taken to separate classrooms to learn certain aspects of the game from

each position coach, Christensen and his staff outfitted the moms in pads and helmets. Christensen gave each mom a name on the front of their helmet, written in black Sharpie on a piece of athletic tape. The names ranged from Mean, Meaner, Meanest, Tuff, Tuffest, Dawg, Most Fire, Most Lit, and Most Rugged.

“It’s just to get the kid to grin, and the mom to be suspicious, but included at the same time,” Christensen said.

From there, it was outside to the pole vault pit where the massive padded cushions sat awaiting the festivities.

Each mom had the opportunity to tackle their son onto the cushioned landing surface.

“I think the moms found the breakout sessions just too much,” Christensen said. “The football terminology can be a little overwhelming. When I mention play calls or terminology, it demonstrates that there’s way more to it than just collisions. So, we made it a little more fun.”

Before the event began, Christensen met with his full roster of 9th-12th grade players. He made it very clear that the event with their moms was not to be taken lightly. It was also apparent that the players were buying in with

continued on page 1B

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Sports

Valley Dogs qualify for state; Belugas bounced in districts

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

The Class B Valley Dogs from Valley Springs have qualified for the state amateur baseball tournament in their inaugural season.

The Dogs lost their district opener at Garretson on July 21, but rallied and put back-to-back wins together on July 25 against Parker, and then cruised on Friday in a 14-3 win over Beresford to clinch a berth to the state tournament at Cadwell Park in Mitchell beginning later this week.

With a win-or-go-home scenario on the line against Beresford on Friday, the Dogs put up 11 runs in the top of the first and were never really challenged in the district win.

In that efficient first inning, the Dogs had 10 singles to jumpstart the 11-run lead. Valley finished with 15 total hits, all singles except for a double by Brett Meyer in the fourth inning when Dogs led 12-3.

With Jared Kirkeby on the mound, team manager



Wilma Kirkeby/For the Journal

The Valley Dogs celebrate after the final out on Friday to advance to the Class B state tournament.

Brandon Kathman said he felt comfortable that the 11-run lead was going to hold up and qualify the Dogs for the state tournament.

“When you have your ace on the mound – he showed up to the field feeling really, really good,” Kathman said. “I wasn’t too worried he was going to give up 11 runs. He hasn’t done that

all season, or in the last five years.”

Although 14 of the 15 Valley hits were singles, Kathman said he’d take it. The 15-hit performance is the second most this season.

“All season we hit the ball hard, and I just felt like it was always right at guys, or it was just a little too high where it hung up

a little bit,” Kathman said. “We just weren’t finding the holes. Finally, the baseball gods were on our side.”

The Dogs now get Kimball/White Lake, champions

of District 3, in the opening round at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Mitchell.

The Dogs enter the tournament with a record of 7-11. Although not an overwhelming record, the Valley bats have come alive down the stretch. In its last two games, Valley has hammered out 30 hits and scored 29 runs.

“I’ve seen crazier things happen in baseball,” Kathman said about a potential run this week at the state tournament. “But the big thing is who can show up? It’s during the week and guys have to work.”

Because of that possibility of a potential light roster, Kathman said the Dogs have picked up three players from other Class B teams who’ve been eliminated and who meet 38-year-old age requirement.

Belugas fail to reach state tourney

The Class A Brandon Belugas lost in their district play and were eliminated from the post season with a 6-3 loss to the Tea Steam on Saturday.

The Belugas last qualified for the state tournament in 2020, known then as the Valley Rats.

The franchise was formed in 2013, and since that time, the team has only qualified for the state tournament twice, and only once have they advanced to the second weekend.

Although another quick exit again this season, the Belugas raised some eyebrows on Thursday when they nearly took down No. 1 and defending champion Harrisburg.

A Dawson Mork three-run home run in the top of the sixth gave the Belugas

continued on page 8B



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Sports

Multiple cautions make for long night at Huset's; Tulsa's Rees Moran wins

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

It sometimes happens in motorsports, and it happened Sunday at Huset's.

Multiple cautions and delays can make for a late night. On Sunday, Huset's officials were busy trying to get the program completed. And all things considered – like two red flags that included an extended period of time to repair catch fencing torn apart by a flipping car – it could have been a lot worse. In all, along with the two

reds, there were also 12 yellow flags during the feature races alone.

But Huset's officials were efficient in moving the program along, which eventually ended at 11:30 p.m., when Tulsa, Okla.'s Rees Moran took home the \$10,057 prize for winning the coveted Bull Haulers Brawl 410 feature event.

The Bull Haulers Brawl is an annual event sponsored by Folkens Brothers Trucking, a Lester, Iowa livestock trucking company. Brothers John and Steve Folkens were both inducted into the Huset's Hall of Fame in 2025 for

their contributions to the sport.

Moran started on the outside of the front row and assumed the lead on lap seven when he passed pole sitter Mark Dobmeier on the front stretch.

Moran, who drives for former World of Outlaws driver Johnny Herrera, led the rest of the way, picking up his first career win at Huset's and the big payday. Current points leader Ryan Timms, another Oklahoman, finished second after starting 13th.

"Words can't even describe it. I'm pumped right now," Moran said from

continued on page 7B



Photo courtesy of Tylan Porath

Tulsa Oklahoma's Rees Moran celebrates in Huset's Victory Lane on Sunday, Aug. 2.

Post 131 suffers early exit from state Legion tourney

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

For the second year in a row, Post 131 baseball has bowed out early at the state Legion baseball tournament.

Brandon Valley lost its first two games in the double-elimination tournament in Rapid City last week, the second year in a row Post 131 has made the early exit, and it comes just months after the same crew won the state high school championship in late May.

Post 131 opened the tournament on Tuesday of last week and dropped a 3-0 decision to Brookings. A day later, the Lynx fell 5-3 to Watertown, sending Brandon Valley packing and heading home back after a disappointing showing.

It's a perplexing situation for Post 131. After winning the state high school championship, the

Lynx were unable to register a win at the Legion tournament.

"It's tough, for sure. We win the high school title, we work hard, do all the right things and really buy in," Brandon Valley head coach Jeremy VanHeel said. "And then we come out a little flat in the summer. Could it be the fact that we work so hard and get that emotional high, and then it's half-way through the season and we have to do it again? I dunno. It's something as coaches we have to look into and see what we can do differently to keep us locked in."

In the opener on Tuesday, Brookings' pitcher Nolan Krogman had Brandon Valley batters stymied throughout. Kroger went the distance and gave up just one hit, a single to Ryder Mueller in the bottom of the fifth.

Krogman also struck out nine Brandon Valley batters.

"He kept us off balance," Van-

"It's tough, for sure. We win the high school title, we work hard, do all the right things and really buy in. And then we come out a little flat in the summer."

- Jeremy Van Heel
Post 131 head coach

Heel said of Krogman. "We just couldn't get our groove going. He threw a good fastball and a good off-speed pitch. We just couldn't figure it out."

Against Watertown on Wednesday, the Lynx looked to be in position to advance, leading 3-2 heading into the seventh. But Watertown tied it in the top half, and scored twice in the top of the eighth to secure the come-from-behind win.

The game winner for Watertown

might have gone Brandon Valley's way, but a line drive by Jaxon Falak just reached right field after the ball tipped the top of Bryce Plucker's outstretched glove at third base. Falak's hit scored two, and the Lynx were never able to recover.

"Just kind of heartbreaking," VanHeel said. "He (Plucker) was so close. It just tipped the top of his glove as he reached for it."

The Lynx finished with five hits in the loss including a triple from Max Peters and doubles each from Plucker and Jack Blomgren.

Pitching was also a problem last week for Brandon Valley, an area that's been a strong suit this spring and summer. But in their two losses last week, Post 131 pitchers walked 21 batters, including a season-high 11 against Watertown.

"Just too many free passes," VanHeel said. "But I told the guys that we actually played pret-

ty well. The fact that we were in both games even though we were giving them free bases says something."

Going back to 2024, the Lynx have now lost six of their last seven games at the Legion tournament. Their last win was a second round 4-1 victory over Sioux Falls East on July 31, 2024, and that one came with some late-game heroics when Peters threw out an East runner at the plate to send things into extra innings.

The Lynx will now regroup and have spring 2027 on their mind as they'll go for a three-peat in the spring high school season. As for Legion, it's been a drought for Post 131. Their last state title came in 1996, a Class B crown.

"We'll definitely be back at it," VanHeel said.

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Sports

SD's first girls wrestling showcase opens college doors

Trio of Lady Lynx seniors show collegiate coaches their worth on the mat

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Just a few years ago, the idea of college wrestling coaches gathering in South Dakota specifically to recruit girls would have sounded far-fetched.

Last Thursday at Canton High School, it became reality.

The state's first Big Sioux Area Recruiting Showcase brought approximately 15 college coaches together under one roof to watch many of South Dakota's top female senior wrestlers train, compete and, most importantly, make personal connections that could shape their futures.

For Brandon Valley, three incoming seniors — Kendall Clayton, Rinoah Gabriel and Shaylee Arredondo — seized the opportunity.

Brandon Valley head coach Derek Outland called the event a milestone for the rapidly growing sport.

"A lot of credit to the Canton coaches and administration for putting this all together and for making it happen, getting all these college coaches in here and girls from the area," Outland said.

The morning session of the one-day event wasn't



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Brandon Valley senior Shaylee Arredondo has an opponent wrapped up during a match at the inaugural Big Sioux Area Recruiting Showcase in Canton last week. Over a dozen college coaches were there to scout potential wrestlers.

designed to teach brand-new wrestling techniques. Instead, athletes participated in workouts, drills, and in the afternoon, live matches took place with college coaches evaluating not only the girls' wrestling abilities but also how they responded to coaching.

"There was a little bit of technique demonstration because one of the things that they're trying to show for the coaches is, 'Are you coachable?'" Outland said.

"If somebody is demonstrating something and they want you to do something a certain way, how well are you picking up on that?"

The timing couldn't be better for the Lady Lynx trio. As women's wrestling continues to explode nationwide and was recognized by the NCAA for its first championship this past year, colleges throughout the Midwest are launching new programs and creating opportunities that barely exist-

ed just a few years ago.

"You see the number of programs keep on growing and more and more opportunities for these girls going into college," Outland said. "It's great to see them have that chance to show what they can do, and for the college coaches, it's a great chance for them to recruit."

Many of the colleges represented last week are just beginning or are in their second season of women's wrestling.

"There's a bunch of women's programs that are popping up in colleges in the Midwest," Outland said.

For Clayton, who was voted a team captain for BV's 2026-27 season, said the showcase was more than just another wrestling event. It was a chance to explore colleges while sharing how she feels the sport has changed.

"I wanted to be part of this because I wanted to get to know more colleges than I already know," Clayton said. "I know a few, but I just want to explore all my options."

She hopes to remain relatively close to home if she wrestles in college.

"If I can go to a college and I can wrestle for a college that's close, I would absolutely love that," she said. "It's just helpful to explore all options. There's D-II, D-III, NAIA here today, so explore all options. Talk with the coaches and see who fits me the best."

Clayton began wrestling at BV as a seventh-grader, and well-remembers when girls wrestling was still in its infancy.

"When I first started, there was like four girls on the team. We still had to wrestle with the boys," she said. "Now just seeing that there's a huge, wide fan base

for women's wrestling, it's so empowering for all the younger girls, and I think the older girls, too."

Clayton acknowledges how she's grown physically and mentally in the sport.

"When I first started, wasn't great and I wasn't a star. I wasn't a stud, and now I'm working to be better and I'm working to be stronger, and I can get there," she confidently says. "I just don't think I ever thought I would have the opportunity to wrestle in college until maybe last year."

Clayton hopes to win an individual state championship this season while serving as a leader for BV's younger wrestlers.

"My goal is to win state, to be the best team captain I can, to lead my girls, to help all the new girls, and to find a good college to wrestle at," she said.

Clayton hasn't quite narrowed down her field of study, but has an interest in environmental science, biochemistry for a career in the medical field.

But on Thursday, she only had wrestling on her mind.

"I just love how if you have the right mindset, you can get better. If you have the grit, the hard work, the determination, you can get

continued on page 5B

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GIRLS WRESTLING SHOWCASE cont. from page 4B

better,” she said. “Because it’s such a small sport (in numbers), ... you can be part of growing it for the other girls. That doesn’t happen with volleyball or soccer or those popular sports.”

Clayton weighed in at 140 last week, but wrestled girls about 10 pounds her senior.

“It’s a little bit of a challenge for me, but I’m ready for it, and I’m ready to go dominate my last match,” she said.

For Gabriel, her appearance at Thursday’s Showcase validated countless hours spent rebuilding after injuries last year. She decided to show up last week in hopes that college coaches would take notice of her despite having relatively little wrestling experience. She wrestled as an eighth-grader and last season as a junior, and was sidelined for several weeks due to injury.

“I just wanted an opportunity to come look at different colleges and see if I could even be noticeable to the coaches,” she said. “I’ve been training hard, and I haven’t competed since my season ended (in March), so just being able to compete today

is really nice and gets rid of the nerves.”

Gabriel’s hard work appears to be paying dividends.

Just after wrestling her first match of the day, Gabriel was called over to Bismarck (N.D.) State College table. A few other college coaches also approached her throughout the day.

“I’ve already talked to the Bismarck coach and the coach from Northwestern wants to speak to me. The coach from Luther College wants to speak to me, and then there’s one other one from North Dakota that wants to speak to me,” said Gabriel, whose interest in pursuing a career in nursing/nurse practitioner.

Her 100-pound, pint-sized frame happens to be a weight class many of the coaches are looking to fill.

“They’re looking for more naturally lighter weight girls, and obviously since I’m 4-foot-9 ...,” she said.

Her personal goal for her senior season extends beyond wins and losses.

“My goal for myself is just to really have more faith in myself,” she said. “I know how much work I’ve been

putting in. I’ve been eating clean, doing lifts, working out a lot, but when it comes to matches, and even before this unofficial match, I was



really nervous,” she said. I have a lot of self-doubt, ... so I’m just really working on being able to enjoy my matches.”

Asked what she loves most about the sport?

“It sounds corny, but getting my hand raised up there is just one of the best feelings I could ever have,” she said.

Arredondo said she discovered wrestling almost by accident after deciding she

Kendall Clayton (at right) and Rinoah Gabriel (below) took part in the inaugural Big Sioux Showcase for female wrestlers in Canton. Jill Meier/BV Journal



I thought I’ll have fun and then go back to soccer, but I really loved it, so I just kept on going with it,” she said.

She said that it’s “awesome” to be competing in one of the nation’s fastest-growing women’s sports. For her final prep season, Arredondo said she’s focusing on being a more aggressive wrestler.

“I just want to apply all the things I’ve learned in practice to the season and not be so scared to shoot,” she said. “You have to take chances to shoot, even it’s a live match against a girl that you know is like 50-50, you still need to shoot.”

Her career interest also lies in the medical field, more

specifically, family medicine.

She, too, sat down with the coach from Bismarck, a school now boasting a new medical school.

“He was telling me about their new facility, how it’s hands-on and it looks like a hospital,” she said.

With interest in girls wrestling continuing to climb at BV, Outland expects the momentum to continue.

“We’ve had a really good summer,” he said. “We had quite a few girls who are returners that had a good summer of training. We had a number of new girls, first-timers, that were interested and signed up, and we’d love to have more depth.”

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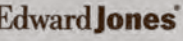
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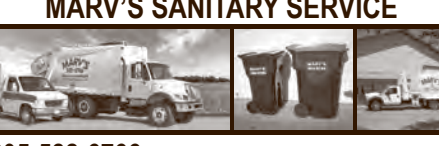
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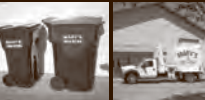
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New program targets affordable homes for South Dakota workforce

Staff report

With rising housing prices and tight inventory, South Dakota Housing’s Board of Commissioners took action on a new initiative to increase the supply of workforce housing across the state.

The newly created Workforce Housing Development Program (WHDP) is designed to increase the supply of quality, attainable homes and help address the growing affordability challenges facing South Dakota homebuyers. The program also promotes

development on infill lots and other sites where smaller-footprint homes can help strengthen existing neighborhoods where character, infrastructure and convenience already exist.

Under the Workforce Housing Development Program, homes must be sold to households with incomes at or below 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). In addition, the sales price of homes constructed with WHDP funds may not exceed \$300,000.

Developers interested in learning about the new program, can contact

Bridgette Loesch at 605.773.3181 or by emailing bridgette@sdhda.org. Applications will be accepted through SD Housing’s online submission portal on a first come, first served basis beginning on Sept. 1, 2026.

By supporting the construction of attainable workforce housing under \$300,000, SD Housing hopes to increase homeownership opportunities, strengthen our mature neighborhoods, and help communities meet the needs of current and future residents.

Traveling this summer? Here’s how you can keep your family safe

Staff report

From staycations and road trips to Caribbean getaways and coastal cruises, summertime offers the chance to escape and unwind with a much needed (and deserved) vacation. However, for people living with health conditions like heart disease or stroke, leaving home can pose special challenges.

As travel season takes shape, the experts at the American Heart Association, a global force changing the future of health for all, recommend a few important tips to ease on-the-go woes.

“It’s summer and many people will be traveling to spend treasured time with family and friends, or maybe just to enjoy some relaxation on the beach,” said Chrissy Meyer, region senior marketing communications director for the American Heart Association in South Dakota. “It’s not always that simple for people who have chronic health conditions that require multiple medications or special medical equipment. There are also considerations for how to maintain your health and not put yourself at increased risk.”

That doesn’t mean travel is off limits if you have a chronic health condition. A little planning and preparation can reduce stress and prepare you for your next big adventure.

Check in with your health care provider

Speak with your primary care physician or specialist about your travel plans and any special considerations related to your health. He or she can offer guidance on any restrictions or precautions you should keep in mind. Carry a list of all medications, including dosages and pharmacy information. Also consider carrying a copy of key medical records and a list of phone numbers, including your doctors and emergency contacts.

Manage your medications

Ensure medications are clearly labeled and that you’ve packed enough to last the entire trip. If you’re traveling across time zones, enlist your health care provider to help adjust medication schedules. Some medications require refrigeration; research how to pack them appropriately for airport security and make sure you’ll have a refrigerator in your lodging.

Plan for transportation

Whether you’re traveling by plane, bus, train, cruise ship or other means, it’s paramount to plan ahead for special medical equipment. For example, if you use a wheelchair, walker or other assistance for getting around, you may need to check in with the travel

company to find out how to properly transport your devices.

Master the airport

During this especially busy travel season, planning ahead can make the airport experience easier. If you have a pacemaker or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator, you may need to go through a special security screening. Walking through a crowded terminal can take its toll, so consider requesting a wheelchair or courtesy cart to get to your gate when booking your ticket.

Long flights may increase your risk for blood clots, including deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. Consider wearing compression socks and walk around the cabin while it’s safe and allowed to help improve your circulation.

Know the signs

While it’s always important to know the signs of heart attack, stroke or cardiac arrest, it’s particularly critical while away from home. If you or someone you’re with experiences symptoms, call 911. Many airports even offer kiosks where you can learn Hands-Only CPR while waiting for your flight.

Learn more about healthy traveling at Heart.org.

SUNDAY RACE RESULTS AT Huset’s cont. from page 3B

Victory Lane. “I knew Ryan was good. I seen him up to second on the board, so I knew I really had to push it towards the end there. I just started getting wild through traffic just because I know he has so many wins here and he’s so good.”

Timms extended his championship lead over Christopher Thram to 14 points, but that, too, could have been a lot worse for Thram. The Sanborn, Minn., native didn’t qualify for the feature event, but used a points provisional to get him in the field, and the result could certainly come into play later in the season. He started last in 25th, and worked his way up to sixth, which kept Timms’ championship point lead to 14. If he hadn’t started the event and made his move to sixth,

the championship lead for Timms would have grown dramatically.

Timely caution secures RaceSaver feature win for Serbus

Trevor Serbus started third and assumed the lead on lap three to claim his third career victory at Huset’s. The Olivia, Minn., native also won a 410 feature last year.

The RaceSaver feature also offered a pair of cautions, which were timely for Serbus as he was able to avoid lapped traffic for much of the race.

“When I saw that gaggle, or whatever that was, for lapped traffic, I said, ‘I sure hope they aren’t too close because it’s going to be a hard time getting through all these guys. They were

three-wide, slide jobs, spinning out, whatever was going on, I don’t know,” he said as the rest of the leaders closed in on his lead. “I’m just thankful for that caution.”

Lee Goos, Jr., continues to lead the championship points in the RaceSaver division. Aydin Lloyd is two points behind and had a championship-type run on Sunday going from 17th to sixth.

Mike Chaney gives Howe Racing another LMSS win

Ron Howe has a formidable Late Model Street Stock team at Huset’s. That’s been made evident as the four-car team has won the last two championships at Huset’s, and on Sunday, Sioux Falls’ Mike Chaney got his sixth

career victory leading wire-to-wire for the Howe Racing Team.

The LMSS feature had seven yellow flags, and Chaney hit his marks on every restart.

“Especially when you know who’s right behind you,” Chaney said from Victory Lane when asked about the pressure of numerous restarts. “I missed my marks a couple of times. I was waiting for (second-place finisher) Tim (Dann) to get around me. It’s good to be back in Victory Lane. This car is too good not to be in Victory Lane.”

Dustin Gulbrandson holds a one-point lead in the championship over Craig Hanisch.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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Public Notices

MINNEHAHA COUNTY

NOTICE OF HEARING — NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Board of County Commissioners of Minnehaha County, will meet in the County Administration Building at Sioux Falls, South Dakota on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. for the purpose of considering the foregoing Provisional Budget for the year 2027 and the various items, schedules, amounts, and appropriations set forth therein and as many days thereafter as is deemed necessary until the final adoption of the budget on or before the 30th day of September, 2026. At such time any interested person may appear either in person or by a representative, and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of all purposes, objectives, items, schedules, appropriations, estimates, amounts and matters set forth and contained in the Provisional Budget.

Leah Anderson, County Auditor, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Published one time at the approximate cost of \$9.69 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

Aug. 5, 2026

CITY OF BRANDON

— AMENDED — — NOTICE OF VACANCY —

The following offices will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elective officer:

City Council, Alderman Ward 1, 4-year term

City Council, Alderman Ward 3, 4-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on July 3rd, 2026 and petitions may be filed in the office of the finance officer located at 304 S Main Avenue, Brandon, South Dakota between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., central time, not later than the 18th day of August 2026, or mailed by the registered mail not later than the 18th day of August, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. central time.

Katie E Redden
Finance Officer

Published two times at the approximate cost of \$13.83 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

July 29 & Aug. 5, 2026

— ADVERTISEMENT — — FOR BIDS

Owner: City of Brandon, South Dakota

Owner's Address: 304 South Main PO Box 95

Brandon, SD 57005

Project: Aspen Park Pool Parking Lot

City of Brandon Project No. 26-0016

Sealed BIDS for the construction of the Aspen Park Pool Parking Lot Improvements project will be received by the City of Brandon at Brandon City Hall, 304 South Main, PO Box 95, Brandon, SD, 57005, before 11:00 AM local time, August 11, 2026, and then will be publicly opened and read aloud at 308 South Main Avenue immediately after. Bids will be acted upon by the Owner at a later time. The Project shall consist of the following work and approximate quantities and kinds of materials:

The project consists of construction of a new parking lot for the Aspen Park swimming pool. The work will include removals, grading, storm sewer, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk, asphalt pavement, chain link fence, lighting, striping and site restoration.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

City of Brandon
304 South Main
Brandon, SD 57005
DGR Engineering
1300 S. Highline Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$22.00 by inputting Quest project #10294552 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. An optional paper set of the proposal forms and specifications for individual use may be obtained from the office of the Engineer, DGR Engineering, 1300 South Highline Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57110, telephone 605-339-4157, e-mail: dgr@dgr.com. Resident South Dakota contractors who intend, in good faith, to bid upon this project may obtain a paper set of these documents free of charge. Non-resident contractors may receive these documents upon payment of \$100.00, none of which is refundable. All proposals shall be made on forms provided by the Engineer.

Construction Services in South Dakota are subject to tax under SDCL 10-46A. Contractors shall include the applicable tax in their bid price for each item of work. Tax questions should be directed to the South Dakota Department of Revenue at 800-829-9188.

Each bid must be accompanied by bid security payable to the Owner for five (5%) percent of the total amount of the Bid as a certified or bank check issued by a State or National bank or ten percent (10%) as a bidder's bond.

With submittal of a Bid, the Contractor represents that he has visited the site, familiarized himself with the local conditions under which the work is to be performed, and correlated his observations with the requirements of the Contract Documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid. Contractor's Proposals shall hold firm for thirty (30) days from the date of opening. Mutually agreed upon extensions of time may be made, if necessary.

City of Brandon
By /s/
Tami Jansma, Director of Engineering Services

Published two times at the approximate cost of \$61.92 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

July 29 & Aug. 5, 2026

— NOTICE OF HEARING — — FOR HOME OCCUPATION —

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held by the Brandon Planning and Zoning Commission on the 20th day of August, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brandon Council Chambers, 308 S. Main Avenue, Brandon, South Dakota;

This hearing will be conducted to consider granting a permit for a Home Occupation allowing for the following:

To operate an -in-home daycare.

The legal description and property address is:

Lot 12 Block 15 Parkview Estates (1700 S. Locust Avenue)

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person or their attorney or representative may appear and be heard.

Dated this 29th day

Published one time at the approximate cost of \$7.68 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

Aug. 5, 2026

— NOTICE OF HEARING — — FOR CONDITIONAL USE —

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held by the Brandon Planning and Zoning Commission on the 20th day of August, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brandon Council Chambers, 308 S. Main Avenue, Brandon, South Dakota;

This hearing will be conducted to consider granting a CONDITIONAL USE to the Zoning Regulations allowing for the following:

To allow for more than one drive-

way to E. Benton Place.

The legal description and property address is:

Tract 10 of Bethany Meadows Addition (To be addressed off of E. Benton Place)

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person or their attorney or representative may appear and be heard.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2026

Published one time at the approximate cost of \$8.35 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

Aug. 5, 2026

— NOTICE OF HEARING — — FOR CONDITIONAL USE —

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held by the Brandon Planning and Zoning Commission on the 20th day of August, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brandon Council Chambers, 308 S. Main Avenue, Brandon, South Dakota;

This hearing will be conducted to consider granting a CONDITIONAL USE to the Zoning Regulations allowing for the following:

To allow for more than one driveway to S. Nelson Lane

The legal description and property address is:

Tract 11 of Bethany Meadows Addition (To be addressed off of S. Nelson Lane)

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person or their attorney or representative may appear and be heard.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2026

Published one time at the approximate cost of \$8.35 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

Aug. 5, 2026

CITY OF VALLEY SPRINGS

— NOTICE OF AUDIT — — NOTICE OF AUDIT OF THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF VALLEY SPRINGS

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of the Municipality of Valley Springs, South Dakota, have been audited by Schoenfish & Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants of Parkston, South Dakota for the two years ended December 31, 2024. A detailed report thereon, containing additional information, is filed with the Municipality of Valley Springs and the Department of Legislative Audit in Pierre, South Dakota for public inspection.

The following findings and recommendations referred to in the report are hereby listed in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12.

CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings:

A material weakness in internal controls was noted due to a lack of proper segregation of duties for revenues.

Recommendation:

1. We recommend that the Municipality of Valley Springs officials be cognizant of this lack of segregation of duties for revenues and attempt to develop policies and provide compensating internal controls whenever, and wherever, possible and practical. In addition, we recommend that all necessary accounting records be established and properly maintained to provide some compensation for lack of proper segregation of duties.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action Plan:

The City of Valley Springs Finance Officer, Tabitha Sehr, with Mayor, Rick Larsen, are the contact persons responsible for the corrective action plan for this finding. The finding is due to the limited number of staff the City of Valley Springs can afford to have on the payroll budget. The Mayor, City Council Members, and Finance Administration employees are aware of the risk and have taken steps to reduce that risk. Our Assistant Finance Officer helps collect and oversee the collection of revenues through the current municipal software utility billing. The Finance Officer and the assistance generat-

ing utility bills. The Finance Officer also conducts reconciliation on all accounts and would be required to report any discrepancies to the Mayor and Commission. Our Finance Officer is required to run all revenue and expense reports monthly, our check signing procedures require two signatures, most generally the Mayor, the Finance Officer, the Finance and Revenue Commissioner and the Commission Vice-President. The Finance Officer conducts the payroll process and fills out the claim vouchers, and the claims list is presented to the City Council at each meeting.

Findings:
Expenditures exceeded the amounts budgeted in several functions in 2024 and 2023. This is a continuing audit finding since 2022.

Recommendation:
2. We recommend that the expenditures be limited to amounts budgeted or budget supplements be made in accordance with SDCL 9-21-7.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action Plan:

The City of Valley Springs Finance Officer, Tabitha Sehr, and the Mayor, Rick Larsen, are the contact persons responsible for the corrective action on this plan. The corrective action is a scheduled review for October/November to evaluate the potential risks of running over budget in any department. By evaluating and correcting over budget discrepancies earlier, the Finance Administration can reduce the risk of being over budget.

RUSSELL A OLSON, AUDITOR
GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Published two times at the approximate cost of \$61.92 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

Aug. 5, 12, 2026

SPLIT ROCK TOWNSHIP

— ADVERTISEMENT — — FOR BIDS

Owner: Split Rock Township
Owner's Address: Split Rock Township

c/o DGR Engineering
1300 S. Highline Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Project: Kim Circle Drainage Improvements

Sealed BIDS for the construction of the Kim Circle Drainage Improvements will be received by the Project Engineer at DGR Engineering, 1300 S. Highline Avenue, before 1:00 P.M. local time

August 11, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be acted upon by the Owner at a later time. The Project shall consist of the following work and approximate quantities and kinds of materials:

36" CMP Culvert, 30 FT

36" CMP Flared End Sections, 2 EA

SDDOT Class B Rip Rap, 90 TON

Gravel Surfacing, 50 TON

¾" Crushed Quartzite, 50 TON

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

DGR Engineering

1300 S. Highline Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$22.00 by inputting Quest project #10292467 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. An optional paper set of the proposal forms and specifications for individual use may be obtained from the office of the Engineer, DGR Engineering, 1300 S. Highline Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57110, telephone 605-339-4157, e-mail: dgr@dgr.com. Resident South Dakota contractors who intend, in good faith, to bid upon this project may obtain a paper set of these documents free of charge. Non-resident contractors

may receive these documents upon payment of \$50.00, none of which is refundable. All proposals shall be made on forms provided by the Engineer.

Construction Services in South Dakota are subject to tax under SDCL 10-46A. Contractors shall include the applicable tax in their bid price for each item of work. Tax questions should be directed to the South Dakota Department of Revenue at 800-829-9188.

Each bid must be accompanied by bid security payable to the Owner for five (5%) percent of the total amount of the Bid as a certified or bank check issued by a State or National bank or ten percent (10%) as a bidder's bond.

With submittal of a Bid, the Contractor represents that he has visited the site, familiarized himself with the local conditions under which the work is to be performed, and correlated his observations with the requirements of the Contract Documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid. Contractor's Proposals shall hold firm for thirty (30) days from the date of opening. Mutually agreed upon extensions of time may be made, if necessary.

Split Rock Township
Marvin Manifold
Township Supervisor

Published two times at the approximate cost of \$56.51 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

July 29 & Aug. 5, 2026

— NOTICE OF — — PUBLIC HEARING —

Pursuant to SDCL 31-3-6 and 7, notice is given that on September 8, 2026, at about 7:30 p.m., a public hearing will be at the Split Rock Township Fire Hall Meeting Room (7201 Arrowhead Parkway, Sioux Falls, SD 57110) held for the purpose of public input and a supervisor decision regarding the filed petition to accept as a Township Road East Callies Place legally described as the 504.35 foot long and 66 foot wide south of Lacey Tract 3 Lot A through G and South of Callies Addition Lot A & B in Plat of Lots 1 and 2 of Callies' Addition, in the SW ¼ of Section 5-T101N-R48W of the 5th P.M., Minnehaha County, South Dakota. Individuals unable to attend the meeting may present information, opinions, and arguments by delivering to a Supervisor or mailing to the Township (at the above listed address) with receipt prior to 9 am on September 7, 2026.

Published two times at the approximate cost of \$16.23 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

Aug. 5, 12, 2026

CHANGE OF NAME

— NOTICE — STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SS: COUNTY OF Minnehaha

IN CIRCUIT COURT

2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

In the Matter of the Petition regarding Mia Kay Pickner For a Change of Name to Mia Kay Hayward. 49 CIV: 26-3254 NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN a Verified Petition for Adult Name Change has been filed by Mia Kay Pickner the object and prayer of which is to change Petitioner's name from Mia Kay Pickner to Mia Kay Hayward. On the 18th day of August, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 am said Verified Petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Judge Ann Hoffman Presiding, at the Minnehaha County Courthouse in the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or as soon thereafter as is convenient for the court. Any may come and appear at the time and place and show reasons, if any, why said name should not be changed as requested. Dated this 13th day of July, 2026 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Published four times at the approximate cost of \$35.20 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

licnotices.com.

July 15, 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2026

CHANGE OF NAME

— NOTICE — STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SS: COUNTY OF Minnehaha

IN CIRCUIT COURT

2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

In the Matter of the Petition regarding Lily Rose Williams For a Change of Name to Hawk DeZee Williams 49 CIV: 26-3131 NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN a Verified Petition for Adult Name Change has been filed by Lily Rose Williams the object and prayer of which is to change Petitioner's name from Lily Rose Williams to Hawk DeZee Williams On the 25th day of August, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 am said Verified Petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Judge Damgaard Presiding, at the Minnehaha County Courthouse, City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or as soon thereafter as is convenient for the court. Any may come and appear at the time and place and show reasons, if any, why said name should not be changed as requested. Dated this 7th day of July, 2026 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Published four times at the approximate cost of \$34.07 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 12, 2026

CHANGE OF NAME

— NOTICE — STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SS: COUNTY OF Minnehaha

IN CIRCUIT COURT

2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

In the Matter of the Petition regarding Lisa Ann Nelson For a Change of Name to Lisa Ann Witte. 49 CIV: 26-3265 NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN a Verified Petition for Adult Name Change has been filed by Lisa Ann Nelson the object and prayer of which is to change Petitioner's name from Lisa Ann Nelson to Lisa Ann Witte. On the 25th day of August, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 am said Verified Petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Judge Damgaard Presiding, at the Minnehaha County Courthouse in the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or as soon thereafter as is convenient for the court. Any may come and appear at the time and place and show reasons, if any, why said name should not be changed as requested. Dated this 14th day of July, 2026 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Published four times at the approximate cost of \$34.07 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

July 29 & Aug. 5, 12 19., 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

— NOTICE —

Notice is given that on March 24, 2026, Rose Marie Tornow died, who was a Settlor of the Tornow Living Trust, dated April 24, 2006.

Jeffrey T. Tornow, whose address is 3012 S. Prairie Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, is the current Trustee of the Tornow Living Trust, dated April 24, 2006.

Creditors of the deceased Settlor must file their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or any claim or collection efforts which otherwise could have been asserted or enforced against the trust or assets thereof may be barred.

Claims may be submitted to the Trustee by mailing a written statement of the claim to the Trustee at the address above.

Jeffrey T. Tornow
3012 S. Prairie Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Published three times at the approximate cost of \$21.71 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com.

July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2026

THE LYNX WAY

Associated General Contractors of South Dakota awards scholarships

The AGC of SD has selected its 2026 Scholarship recipients. Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary school or college/university, majoring in a career field directly related to the construction industry. In addition, applicants must achieve an above average academic achievement and be committed to working in South Dakota following graduation. A total of \$71,000 was awarded this year.

Local students among the 2026 AGC of SD Scholarship Award winners are: **Cohen Hartz**, \$1,000; **Isaiah Gunnink**, \$1,000; **Jason Gusso**, \$1,500; **Mason Veld**, \$1,500.

VALLEY DOGS & BELUGAS

cont. from page 2B

a 4-3 lead, but Brandon couldn't hold it. With the bases loaded and the score tied 4-4 in the bottom of the ninth, Harrisburg batter Gus Radel was hit by a pitch thrown by reliever Noah Verdoorn, and the Woodies escaped with a 5-4 win.

Team manager Jaxon Haase pitched 8.1 innings and threw 127 pitches in a fairly persistent drizzle throughout the night. He put Verdoorn in to hopefully get the Belugas out of the jam with one runner on. Brandon intentionally walked two to load the bases, and then the HBP ended the game.

"It was raining, the mound was super wet, my cleats weighed five pounds apiece," Haase said. "I really shouldn't have put him (Verdoorn) in that situation."



Tom A. Savage/BV Journal

Jaxon Haase moves away from an inside pitch against Harrisburg on Thursday, July 30. The Brandon Belugas season unfortunately came to an end Saturday against the Tea Steam, who packed a 6-3 punch to advance to the state tournament.



Wilma Kirkeby/For the Journal

Left-handed pitcher Jared Kirkeby did his part to get the first-year Class B amateur Valley Dogs a berth to the state tournament. They open tournament play against Kimball-White Lake at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Cadwell Park in Mitchell.



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Brandon's temporary tree branch drop-off site is now closed. The drop-off site was opened following the aftermath of strong winds that swept through the area on July 25.

Branch drop-off site closes after record storm cleanup

Staff report

The City of Brandon has officially closed its emergency branch drop-off site at McHardy Park after residents spent the past week cleaning up from the destructive July 25 straight-line winds that swept through the area.

Public Works Director Rollie Hoeke said the temporary collection site received the largest volume of tree debris he has seen.

"That's probably the biggest one," Hoeke said of the massive pile of branches that ac-

cumulated during the cleanup effort.

The collection area was filled with limbs and trees brought in by residents, along with debris city crews hauled from boulevards throughout Brandon.

Hoeke noted that not all of the material came from storm-damaged trees.

"There's people that were cutting trees and taking trees down that weren't damaged, but bringing them down, too," he said.

By the time the site closed, the branch pile stretched roughly the length of a foot-

ball field and stood an estimated 15 to 20 feet tall.

"It definitely would fill a football field," Hoeke confirmed.

The city has contacted its contractor to grind and remove the branch and trees. Hoeke said the contractor will chip the material and haul it away once crews are available.

Although the emergency drop-off site has closed, Hoeke reminds residents that the city's regular branch drop-off event will return in October.

He also asks residents to avoid disposing of items other than tree branches after city crews found bicycles, scooters and other debris mixed into the pile.

"I don't want to say they shouldn't be bringing bicycles and scooters and stuff like that, like they were. I'm not going pick through them when I'm trying to push the piles up, so I just pulled them out of there and put them off to the side," he said.

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Kevin Hansen unloads branches from the back of his pickup truck onto the pile of branches at the temporary drop-off site at McHardy Park.

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- + Hope-filled Ministry

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www.spiritoftruthsd.org
@SpiritOfTruthLutheranChurch
(605) 582-5030
Blessing Box open 24/7

The Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Brandon Tennis Association ribbon cutting on Monday, marking the “official” start of a capital campaign to fundraise \$2 million to add four more courts, spectator seating with shade, and more at the tennis complex next to Brandon Valley Middle School. BTA Executive Director AJ Menden had the honor of cutting the ribbon as he’s surrounded by Chamber and BTA members.

Jill Meier/BV Journal



BRANDON TENNIS ASSOCIATION cont. from page 1

will allow us to bring in more tournaments and more programming while still leaving courts open for the community.”

The project also focuses on improving the experience for spectators and players.

Plans include more than doubling the shaded spectator seating, adding shade structures for players, resurfacing all existing courts and lowering portions of the fencing to improve viewing.

“Right now, we have two trees that provide shade for spectators,” Menden said. “People are sitting in the grass where the shade is. The courts can be about 110 degrees during the heart of summer, so we’re thinking about both the players’ experience and the spectators.”

Menden said the complex has reached its capacity.

“Brandon has really no other places to put courts without spending a lot more money and moving away from everything else,” he said.

The expansion will also benefit Brandon Valley High and Middle Schools’ rapidly growing tennis program.

“We’re the second-largest team in the state because of our middle school program,” Menden said. “But the middle school is spread across two different courts, and they’re 10 deep. They can’t spread out to really get the skill building they need.”

Former BTA leader Becky Blue, who helped spearhead fundraising efforts nearly 20 years ago to build

four courts and the tennis center with Tracie Rolfs, said it was rewarding to see the next generation carrying the torch.

“I’m so proud of these guys,” Blue said. “When Tracie and I did this 20 years ago, there were 3,000 K-12 students. Today there’s 5,200. It makes sense that you would add four more courts. I just love seeing the kids out here hitting. It’s still a great sport.”

The BTA was the first of Brandon’s youth sports organizations to take the lead on building a facility for their program.

“As the mayor reminded me, we were kind of the first parent-led organization that collaborated with the city, the school and the association to improve facilities,” she said. “After us came baseball,

soccer and hockey.”

Her advice to the current fundraising committee is simple: “Just keep telling the story,” Blue said. “Do it for these kids and for the next kids.”

Brandon Mayor Harry Buck praised the BTA for once again taking the lead in enhancing community recreation.

“The tennis association has just been terrific,” Buck said. “Back in 2007, Becky Blue came to the city council with this dream of building this tennis complex. They went out and raised the money, and because of their success, the baseball association got active, then soccer and hockey. What started right here with the tennis group has really spread.”

Buck said the partnerships be-

tween volunteer organizations, the city and the school district have played a major role in Brandon’s growth.

“The city owes them a debt,” he said. “All the associations that have stepped up to do the fundraising and build these facilities have helped make Brandon a great place to live.”

Menden said the hope is to break ground on the expansion in late spring or early summer of 2027, with construction completed in spring 2028. Menden said every contribution, regardless of size, will help move the project toward its goal.

“We need all levels of donations to get to our \$2 million campaign as quickly as possible,” he said.



BRANDON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #49-2

Burkman Valley Elementary School

RIBBON CUTTING

Monday, August 17, 2026 • 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

BURKMAN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMONS
300 N. Sunshine Avenue
Brandon, SD 57005



4:00 p.m.
4:10 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.

Welcome
Project Overview
BVE Tour(s)
Ribbon Cutting

Dr. Jarod M. Larson, BVSD Superintendent
Paul J. Lundberg, BVSD Business Manager
BVSD Administration
Renee Ullom, BVSD School Board President,
Gregg Ode, BVSD School Board Vice President
David Bell, BVSD School Board Member
Ellie Saxer, BVSD School Board Member
Nick Scott, BVSD School Board Member,
Rachael Neiman, Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
Special Ribbon Cutting Guest(s)
Amelia Murphy, 2026-27 Burkman Valley Elementary Kindergarten
Julie Murphy, 2026-27 Burkman Valley Elementary Parent

5-6 p.m.

Open House



FB Moms

cont. from page 1B

several nods throughout the talk.

“This is not an event to be made fun of, or to be made inappropriate,” Christensen said. “This will be held in the highest regard.”

Christensen said he got the idea of a mom’s night during the preseason from other programs posting about it online. This year was the fifth straight of such an event at Brandon Valley.

“The moms are not to be taken for granted,” Christensen said. “Parenting is the hardest job in the world. No one’s perfect at it, but if you’re present, and you’re trying, and you’re making all the efforts to provide experiences and resources to help people grow, that’s the most respectable thing that society needs us to do.”

Christensen also talked to the moms about how football is an extension of the high school, school district, and the community.

“It just happens to be a 100-yard classroom,” he said of the football field.

“It’s a privilege to play, and not everybody is physically blessed in the ways that football rewards. It’s fortunately, or unfortunately, society’s tendency to over highlight football. I just want to make sure that if our players get a lot of credit, that they’re earning it and then doing awesome things in the classroom, and in the school culture, and in the town and with their families.”

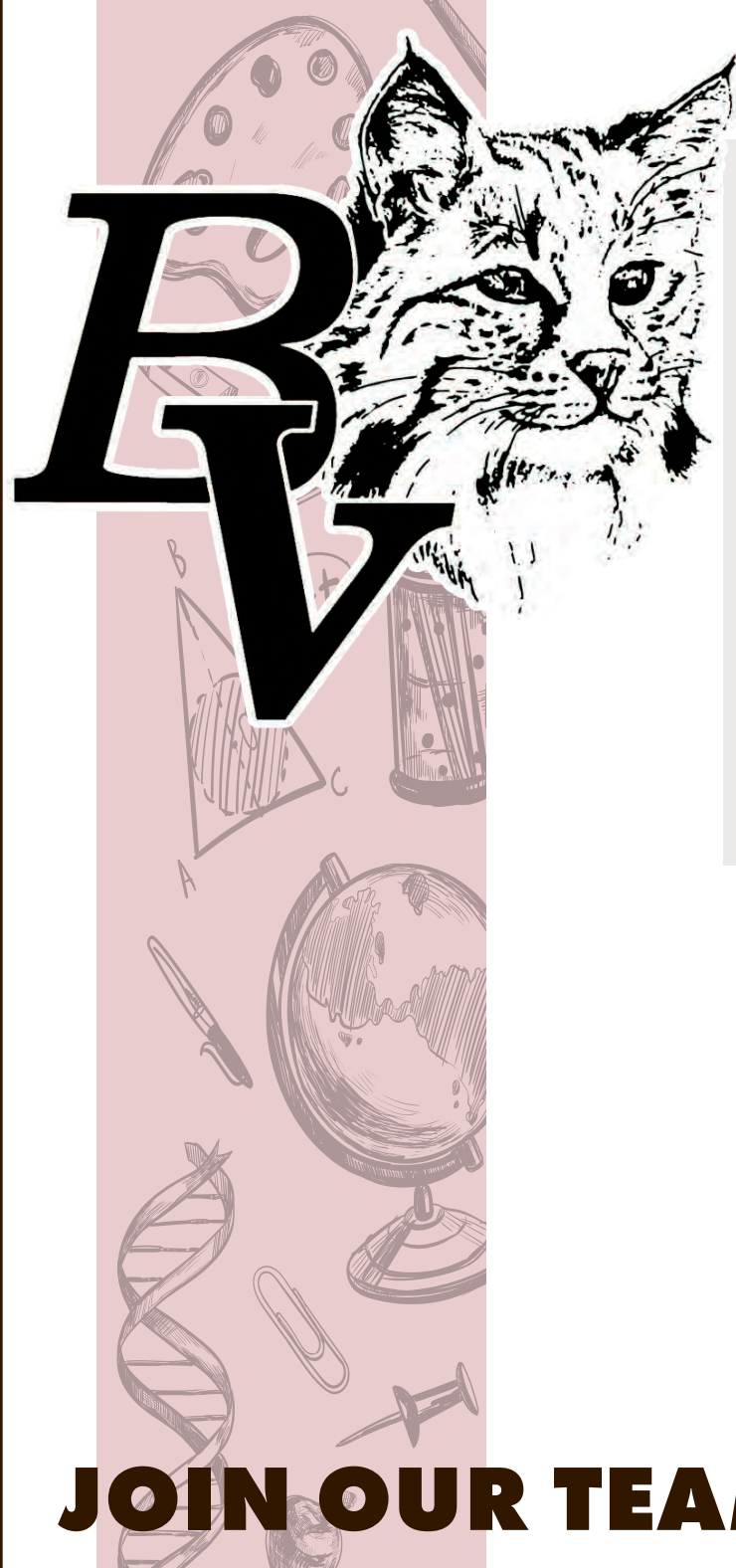


Tom A. Savage/BV Journal

A pair of Brandon Valley moms (above) laugh before their turn at tackling their sons on Monday, July 27, while another looks a bit apprehensive as she slides a helmet over her blonde locks. Head coach Matt Christensen (below, left) address a group of moms in the high school weight room. Tate Carda (below, right) helps his mom, EB, with her equipment on.



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MAGIC SMILES



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Magician Travis Nye played a fullhouse at the Brandon Community Library on Saturday, where he entertained a crowd of about 130 kids and adults for nearly 50 minutes. Nye amazed and delighted all with his magic tricks and family-friendly humor. (Above) He kept his audience curious with various colors of handkerchiefs and levitated a table with assistance. (Below) Hands darted into the air when Travis Nye asked for volunteers. He also puzzled minds with a rope that turned into three and later become one with no ends.



EAST SIOUX FALLS (SD)

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Tues 04	Cow Scavenger Hunt	4:30-6:30pm
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Tues 18	Bingo Night	4:30-6:30pm
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Sat 29	Biscuits & Classics	9:00-11:00am
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Weekly

Wed	Mother's Mornings	8:30am-10:30am
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Thur	Mini & Me Lunch	10:30am-2:00pm
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Register your classic vehicle for Biscuits & Classics here, get a free breakfast at the event!

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Sioux Falls, SD 57110
605-610-2499



Jill Meier/BV Journal

(Above) Travis Nye called for assistance from a “strong” volunteer for a multiplying ball magic trick. (At left) Nye magically makes baseballs appear under the cups rather than the three little red balls that he started with. (Above, right) Ellen has her hands full with multiple magic wands, as she assists Nye with one of his magic tricks. (At right) Ember is perplexed as she looks inside the red Solo cup that had contained water, which Nye magically made disappear.



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FLINTLOCK, THE WONDER DOG-2 cont. from page 16A

driving away before he's ready?
 "You ought to hear him bawl,"
 Matt answers.
 Flintlock also has the uncanny
 ability to open doors by pawing
 himself in and out of the house if
 a door isn't locked.
 "Lever knobs, round knobs,
 sliding glass doors ... he's smart!
 Drives me crazy!" Heather said.
 "He even dug through our mud-
 room door trying to get into the
 kitchen when we weren't home.
 We think he was scared because
 it was windy and our screen door
 was banging against the house."

Even the game warden has
 witnessed Flintlock's remark-
 able talents. During an annual
 inspection at the family's taxider-
 my business, the door suddenly
 swung open and in struts Flint,
 Matt said. But it's not Flintlock's
 bursting into the barn that had
 him concerned. It's more about
 what he may do.

"He'll grab a deer leg or
 something and take off with it,"
 tells Matt, who
 made sure to
 send the game
 warden a photo
 of Flintlock
 carrying the
 deer leg, joking
 that the dog
 deserved a
 citation before he got the family
 into trouble.

The Swenson clan is trying to
 teach him one more useful trick:
 Closing the door behind himself.

Matt said he's getting there.
 Heather describes Flintlock as a
 "go with the flow" kind of dog.

"He'll let us do almost any-
 thing to him," she tells. "Drake
 put him in a wheelchair once, and
 he just sat there as he wheeled
 him around. He's really good

“

I love having dogs.
 They just love you
 unconditionally, and
 they're always excited
 to see us ...

- Heather Swenson

when we take him to Scheel's.
 He's nice with other dogs and
 he's just friendly and sweet. We
 put hats on him and put clothes
 on him. They even put him on a
 bar stool when the kids have little
 poker tournaments in the man
 cave. He'll
 just sit there
 and watch the
 poker game.
 He thinks he's
 human, and he
 always has to
 be with us. Our
 other dog will

go outside and lay in the sun-
 shine, but if we're in the house,
 Flint has to be in the house."

As one may anticipate, life
 with Flint means expecting the
 unexpected.

For instance, when Matt comes
 home after work and gives his
 wife a hug, Flint is sure to wedge
 himself between them because
 he insists on being part of the
 affection. And if someone grabs a
 shotgun, Flint instantly assumes



Submitted photo

Flintlock simply loves to be included in anything and everything the Swenson family does, including being carted around in a kayak by Cole Swenson, and riding in the tractor with Trevor Swenson (below).



hunting season has begun and
 loses his mind with excitement.

"He's got a nose on him, he can
 sniff anything out," Heather said.

And that even includes rocks
 they'll throw into the grove.

"He'll go in there, and within
 a minute, he'll have it back to
 you," she said.

He's a curious pup, too. Heath-
 er remembers a day when he
 down in the creek and came out
 yelping and his ear was bleeding.

"A snapping turtle got him,"
 she said, adding the ear healed
 and grew back. "He's always into
 some kind of 'trouble.'"

According to Matt, Heather has
 said Flint is likely the last puppy
 they'll have. Heather, however,
 can't imagine life without Flint-
 lock, the wonder dog.

"I love having dogs," she said.
 "They just love you uncondition-
 ally, and they're always so excit-
 ed to see us when we get home.
 And now that the boys are older,
 he provides a lot of entertainment
 for Matt and I."

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