

BV Journal celebrates 9th year with free issue

Staff report

In your hands is the latest issue of the *Brandon Valley Journal*, which serves as your local news source to all things Brandon, Valley Springs and the surrounding area.

This month marks the beginning of our ninth year of publication, and it is our hope that you have found the *Journal* to be a credible source for the news, sports and

events that impact us all within our coverage area, essentially the Brandon Valley School District.

Just as we have from our first issue, this issue of the *Journal* is chocked full of news, sports, features, and more.

We are proud to serve as the legal newspaper of record for the cities of Brandon, Valley Springs, the Brandon Valley School District, Minnehaha County and area townships. Public notices is one

way government transparency stays in check.

It is our hope that you will find this complimentary issue of the *Brandon Valley Journal* engaging, informative and entertaining. And we are hopeful that if you’re not already a subscriber, that we’ve piqued your interest to want the *BV Journal* coming to your mailbox every week.

If print does’t happen to be your thing, you can read the *Journal* in

its entirety in our e-edition, brandonvalleyjournal.com.

We’re celebrating this Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7 and 8 with cake subscription specials and giveaways.

Once again, we’re offering free digital access to all new and current print subscribers. That’s nearly a \$25 savings for both in-county and out-of-county subscribers.

We encourage you to stop by the Journal this Thursday or

Friday to take advantage of our anniversary specials.

A 12-month, in-county print subscription is \$60.53 (with card, \$62.35); out-of-county, \$79.65 (\$82.04). For online, a 12-month subscription is \$56.88. For both print and online in-county is \$84.60 (\$87.14), and out-of-county, \$109.39 (\$112.67).

If you’re unable to stop by the party, call (605) 582-9999 to renew or subscribe!



Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

At Monday’s Brandon City Council meeting, the first reading of an ordinance to regulate motorized foot scooters was approved.

The issue will move to a future city council meeting for the second reading and approval.

The issue of motorized scooters in Brandon has been on the council’s agenda for more than a year. It resurfaced again at their June 3 meeting, and the draft language was finally approved at Monday’s first reading.

The ordinance calls for riders under the age of 14 years to ride foot scooters on the sidewalk except between Elm Street to Cedar Street on Main Avenue.

Foot scooters may only be driven when wearing a helmet, and only one individual can be on the device. The speed limit is 15 miles per hour.

For riders 14 years of age and older, motorized foot scooters and electric personal assistance devices may be driven on the sidewalk and streets. The ordinance says the vehicles may not exceed the speed that applies to the street.

The penalty for violations is \$25.

“This is an educational tool more than anything else,” City Administrator Bryan Read said. “We certainly have the capability of putting a radar on scooters. I’m just putting it out there just in case.”

Brandon Police Chief Jamie Steffel said the issue will continue to be ever-changing.

“You’re going to have to deal with this again because every municipality has to deal with electric scooters, they have to deal with e-bikes, there’s new technology when new things come out,” he said. “Right now, I just want to make sure everybody is safe. There is a fine for violating the ordinance, but we’re not looking to go around and start handing out fines. We just need something that we can start educating people, and talking to kids. The main thing is just the safety. Those things are flying down the road and the sidewalks and they don’t slow down at intersections. It’s a safety thing. We don’t want anybody getting hurt.”

Brandon is mecca for baseball as 12-day state amateur tourney begins

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Over the next 12 days, Brandon will become a mecca for baseball when the 2025 State Amateur Baseball Tournament takes over the town. The tournament opens today, Aug. 6 and wraps up Sunday, Aug. 17 with the Class A and B championship games.

This is the 93rd year of the tournament, which has been played in Mitchell 85 of those years. So, for the Brandon Valley Baseball Association to have the opportunity to showcase the city and the stadium, First National Bank Field, is truly a big deal.

“This is the biggest, the most prestigious tournament in South Dakota for baseball,” shared BVBA president Stuart Peschel. “It’s a big honor to get

this tournament, and I do think that going back to the state Legion tournament we hosted in ’21, we changed Legion state baseball tournaments for the better, and that’s how we sold this to the state (amateur) commissioners. What we did there, everybody else has now upped their game when they get that tournament, which helps the entire baseball community.”

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Jill Meier/BV Journal

Chris Brown manicules the grass outfield of First National Bank Field, also referred to as “The Bank” on Sunday afternoon in preparation for the 12-day State Amateur Baseball Tournament that starts today, Aug. 6.

Fareway officially coming to Brandon

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Westside store to open in late ‘26, early ‘27

The Brandon City Council approved on Monday a liquor license for Fareway Grocery Store. With it, Fareway made it official that they’re coming to Brandon.

Fareway Stores, Inc. is a Midwest grocery store chain based in Boone, Iowa with locations in Iowa,

South Dakota, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

It’s long been “rumored” that Fareway was coming to Brandon. A “Future Site of Fareway Grocery” store sat on the north side of east Sioux Boulevard (Encore Park) since first announcing in June of 2022.

But Fareway had hoped to be on the ‘P.M.’ side of the road, or the south side of Holly Boulevard so commuters coming home from work in the evening would have easier access. On Friday, Fareway closed on property on the western edge, and south side, of the new River Park addition

along Holly Boulevard.

Koby Pritchard, Fareway’s real estate director, was in attendance Monday night. He said the liquor license was the last box to check for Fareway to make it official.

But it wasn’t that simple. In the end, the City Council

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Ryne Sandberg has died, and his young age give me pause

When I was in college at USF in the late 1980s, my buddies and I used to watch Chicago Cubs baseball almost every day from our house on Prairie Avenue, just across the street from campus.

Ever seen the movie *Animal House*, the 1978 comedy about a trouble-making fraternity on the campus of fictional Faber College? Yea, our house nestled next to USF wasn't quite that, but we pushed some boundaries for sure.

For as crazy as some of the nights got, the days were almost always the same: Chicago Cubs baseball on WGN. It was one of only two stations that carried all 162 games of a certain team. The other was WTBS, which covered the Atlanta Braves every ... single ... day.



Tom A. Savage | Contributing Writer

go, but at the time, Ryne Sandberg was just as big a sports figure.

Ryne died last week.

At 65 years of age, that's crushing. But even more upsetting for me is that Ryne died of metastatic prostate cancer. He announced in January of 2024 that he began treatment for the cancer. He was declared cancer free in August of that year, but announced the cancer had returned in December.

Seven months later, this young, vibrant, professional athlete that I watched nearly every day 40 years ago, was gone.

I had prostate cancer. In April of 2022, I had surgery to have the cancer removed.

Every check-up I've had since then has been a good one. "Undetectable" is the term they give you when they check your blood and the outcome is good.

For the last three-and-a-half years, the word "undetectable" has never been so beautiful.

When I hear about men dying at a young age because of prostate cancer, it truly makes me sad.

Ryne was 65. As I get older, that seems young.

I certainly don't know his story, or how the timing of his cancer diagnosis shook out. I can only presume to understand, simply because I've read so much about the subject ever since being diagnosed. And after talking with a few urology professionals, they too find it sad, and frustrating, when someone dies so young from this type of cancer.

You see, it's pretty treatable. The key is getting checked annually once you near the age of 50.

It's called a PSA test, and it's a super simple blood test. If a patient's PSA number spikes in a year's time, it's likely there's been an uncontrolled growth of cells in the prostate.

Sounds a little confusing,

continued on page 3

The summertime lull is ramping up

I get a bit "depressed" this time of year.

It has nothing to do with me physically or emotionally. Instead, it's more about the fact that summer is winding down and my weekly schedule is about to ramp up.

Soon will be gone peaceful time on the back patio or floating around the pool in the backyard with friends.

That's right. You guessed it, in two very short weeks, the orange school buses will be rolling down the road, youngsters will fill the playgrounds, Friday night lights return and more.

Although I used the word "depressed" in my opening paragraph, it's not so much depression as it may be shear exhaustion. At the start of every sports season,

I look at the list of games and matches to be played, and I think to myself, how in the world are we going to cover all of this.

My next thought is a bit more optimistic: Just like you have all the other years you've been doing this kind of work. And because time does go fast, before I know it, it's mid-October and our dance and cheer teams, our cross country runners, our boys' golf and girls' tennis have wrapped up their seasons and basking in the memories it provided.

Over the next few weeks, as subscribers, you'll learn more about the possibilities in store for each and every one of our varsity

JILL'S JOURNAL

Jill Meier | Editor



Lynx sports programs, and of course, we always make a point to highlight the hard work and creative efforts of one of our many pride and joys, the Brandon Valley Marching Lynx.

And while my patio and pool time will soon lessen, I do have to admit that once I'm in the thick of a busy school year schedule, it's also one of the things I most enjoy about community journalism.

I'm proud as a peacock on the sidelines cheering our BV teams onto success. I remain amazed at the talent of our theatre, band and

choral and other fine arts students are involved in.

I get a kick out of the festive Pigskin Classic, marking the first home football game of the season, and a few weeks down the road, who will be named homecoming candidates and eventually crowned as king and queen.

So yes, my "depression" is short-lived. It seems to be more about steering my mind to all the wonders that a new school year brings, to the wins and the losses that come with it, to celebrating all-things Lynx and supporting them all in headlines and stories and photos in the weekly editions of the *Brandon Valley Journal*.

Let's make some headlines, Lynx. I'm ready.

'It's all about community'

JOURNAL EDITORIAL

From the very beginning, Chris Brown and Stuart Peschel – both movers and shakers for the Brandon Valley Baseball Association – have championed the phrase, "It's all about community."

It's the mantra they touted over eight years ago as they, and other BVBA movers and shakers touted as they raised more than a million dollars to build our beautiful First National Bank Field stadium at Aspen Park.

Since that time, they've continued to add more bells and whistles to this community amenity, all for the love of kids and kids who play baseball.

Starting today, the BVBA and the communities of Brandon and Valley Springs

will host 12 straight days of state amateur baseball.

And that's where "it's about community" once again comes into play. The BVBA needs volunteers – and lots of them. They're asking for a minimal investment of three hours of time to assist in the parking lot, man the gates, sell beer, concessions, cook burgers and dogs, sell raffles, clean up and more.

The BVBA has already done the "heavy lifting" by bringing what South Dakota coins as the premier baseball tournament of the state. And if you think that was an easy feat, well, selling the Commission on taking the

tournament out of Mitchell, where it's been held 85 of the 93 years it's been played, is a huge lift.

Applause. Applause.

It was literally years ago that the BVBA put a plan on paper, then presented that plan to the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Commission.

Since the day they learned they'd received the bid to host the 2025 state amateur baseball tourney, not a day has gone by that it hasn't been on top of mind.

Volunteers can sign up online on the BVBA website, brandonvalleybaseball.com. There's a plethora of oppo-

tunities to volunteer, so while you're there, pick a slot or two or three.

It is also our hope that the local business community will put out the "welcome" rug when visitors to our corner of the world are here. This is the time for all of us to be the "community Welcome Wagon." As they say, first impressions says so much.

So, Brandon and Valley Springs, let's put our best foot forward over the next 12 days. Let's leave our visitors with such a good taste in their mouths that they'll be eager to come back again and again.

If Mitchell can do that for 85 years, Brandon and Valley Springs can sure do it bigger and better than ever.



My favorite job

I have mentioned in earlier columns that my job life centered around school bus transportation for the most part. As I look back on all the different jobs or positions that I held in those 45-plus years, I know without a doubt which was my favorite.

In 1975, after being discharged from active duty in the U.S. Navy, I enrolled at San Diego State to resume my college studies. I was married and had a 3-year-old daughter, so I cobbled together a couple of part-time jobs and my VA benefits in order to be a full-time student and support my family.

As with most people in that situation, I had to find jobs and earnings that fit with my class schedule and financial needs. It took a bit of trial and error to put it

all together. Somehow, someway (a subject for a future column) I stumbled into what I now unabashedly proclaim as my favorite job.

As a result, for a couple of school years, I was a special ed (special needs) school bus driver. It was not a big bus, just a regular, full-size van, outfitted to be able to carry up to 12 students legally under California state law.

This experience, coupled with opportunities I certainly could not foresee, propelled me into a lifelong and rewarding career. Nobody I have ever met ever thought about being a school bus professional in their growing up or career-choosing days. But let's get back to my favorite job. At the time I

THE ABSENT UNCLE

D.C. Schultz
Guest Columnist



started driving, the transportation program in San Diego was limited to about 40 to 50 school bus vans that transported the students to and from home to school. Routes were established by the department head and students were taken to specialized schools or programs dedicated to the special need of the child.

During those couple of school years, I was assigned a variety of different students. For the most part (route time permitting) each driver would be given two "runs" in the morning and afternoon, meaning that two different groups of students would be trans-

ported. Sometimes you would be assigned different groups in the morning and afternoon introducing you to more students and situations. You were one on one (or 10) with minimal or no training and expected to take those students to school and back home – safely.

I loved it. Getting to know about the special needs of each student, the programs they were involved with, and the parents whose lives were so affected by their special children. It was so rewarding, and I could see how much more it could be done to make this transportation part of their lives easier. And the rest became my history. But it was my favorite job.

BRANDON VALLEY Journal

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Is it illegal to drive without headlights on during poor visibility?
Yes. South Dakota law requires that drivers have headlights on when visibility drops below 200 feet or during time between sunrise and sunset. A violation is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

The law isn't just about drivers seeing the road in front of them. Headlights are important for drivers to see other vehicles during fog, rain or other low-visibility conditions.

Jacobson's 'MasterChef' journey comes to an end

Jill Meier
Journal editor

The journey for a mother and daughter on television's *MasterChef: Dynamic Duos* came to an end in the July 30 episode.

After reaching the halfway point of the competition, Tonna and Cait Jacobson were eliminated in the second Pressure Test challenge of the season. That was a result of the team competition that aired July 23, and unfortunately, the Jacobsons were part of the losing team.

Last week's episode, "The Great Ingredient Bid Off" began with a Gordon Ramsay-style food auction, in which the duos bid for ingredients for their dish. But they didn't bid with money. Instead, they bid



Submitted photo
Brandon daughter and mother, Cait (left) and Tonna Jacobson cooked their final dish as competitors on the July 30 episode of "MasterChef: Dynamic Duos" TV show.

with time – more specifically, minutes of prep and time they were willing to give up in exchange for ingredients.

For their protein choice, the mother-daughter bid five minutes for ground lamb. A basket of root vegetables cost them another 20 minutes of prep time. And for their pantry item, their 15-minute bid got them flavor bombs, leaving them with 50 minutes to cook and plate Shepherd's Pie with Lamb Mince and Scalloped Sweet Potatoes.

Of the four dishes judged that night, their shepherd's pie didn't impress celebrity chef judges, Tiffany Derry, Joe Bastianich and Ramsay.

"Shepherd's pie is supposed to be comforting and this is anything but,"

continued on page 8A

TALK of the TOWN

Coffee with the Council this Saturday

Join members of the Brandon City Council at Kingbird Coffee, 509 N. Spolitrock Blvd., from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9.

Terror 29 Spook Show returns Saturday

Although Halloween is several months away, it's "spooky time" every day at Terror 29 in Brandon. Starting at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, Terror 29, 1420 E. Cedar St., will open the doors to its Terror 29 Spook Show of ghost stories, magic and freak show stunts.

Tickets are available online at <http://terror29.com/pages/terror-29-spook-show> or on the website, terror29.com/

BV Booster Club's Swine & Dine is Saturday at VFW

BV Booster Club will host "Swine & Dine" from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Brandon VFW. Freewill donations will be accepted.

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry are pancake syrup, Manwich, pizza sauce, saltine and snack crackers, canned chicken, canned carrots, granola bars, cereal and shampoo.

To make appointments for pickups or donations, call 582-7001. The BAFP is open from 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Lynx Power Day is Aug. 13

Lynx Power Day at Brandon Valley High School is Wednesday, Aug. 13. BVHS students can pick up class schedules, parking passes, student IDs and laptops, have school pictures taken, purchase spirit wear and more.

Designated times for each class are: Seniors, Noon-1 p.m.; Juniors (A-K), 1-1:40 p.m.; (L-Z), 1:40-2:20 p.m.; Sophomores (A-K), 2:20-3 p.m.; (L-Z), 3-3:40 p.m.; freshmen (A-K), 3:40-4:20, and (L-Z), 4:20-5.

Student laptop insurance must be paid prior to the laptop being issued. To pay the fee, visit <https://bv.revtrak.net/> or may pay by check on Lynx Power Day.

Prayer Breakfast tickets on sale

Tickets are now available for the 17th annual Brandon Area Prayer Breakfast on Friday, Aug. 15 at Brandon Valley High School. A light breakfast is served at 6:30 a.m. in the commons and the program begins at 7 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$75 for event sponsorship. All students 18 and under attend free through sponsorship. Admission includes breakfast, prayers for all sectors of the community and a presentation by guest speaker, Chase Hoffman. Hoffman grew up in Brandon and resides here with his wife, Ashley, and daughter, Finley.

FAREWAY COMING cont. from page 1A

approved the liquor license for Fareway with a 5-1 vote. Councilmember Kevin Lawrence was the lone nay vote.

Although approving the liquor license may seem like a simple solution to get Fareway to commit to Brandon, it was a difficult decision for council members. The city of Brandon had one available off-sale liquor license. Representatives from Fareway and Casey's were in attendance, both seeking the final license.

"Casey's has already made a commitment to Brandon without that (approval of a liquor license)," Lawrence said.

Pritchard countered and said without a liquor license approval, the project could stall, again.

"If they don't get the (liquor license) approval, they're going to say, 'wait,'" Pritchard said of Fareway. "I know it's 99.999 percent, but they're going to say if there's any chance of it not happening,

we're not going to spend any more money on a site plan."

Casey's is scheduled to open Sept. 11 on Brandon's west side. With the license going to Fareway, Casey's will now have to work with the city on potentially acquiring the off-sale liquor license currently assigned to the Brandon Golf Course.

Brandon could be eligible for an additional liquor license in 2026 after new Census numbers are released. The number of licenses municipalities are allowed is dictated by population and state regulations.

Pritchard said the new store will likely be 21,000 square feet on 2.5 acres, similar in size to other Fareway stores in the area, with roughly 10-20 fulltime employees and 40-70 part-time. He said the store is slated to open in late 2026, early 2027.

"We're super proud to be joining – finally – the community soon," Pritchard said.

BV families asked to update online info

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

SUPE'S ON

Dr. Jarod Larson
BVSD Superintendent



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 are continually changing and may have an impact school bus timing. We greatly appreciate our families under-

standing and patience as we navigate the road construction season and start of the 2025 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. pickup. 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!

South Dakota Highway Patrol announces August sobriety checkpoints

The South Dakota Highway Patrol will conduct sobriety checkpoints in 13 different counties during the month of August. These checkpoints will take place in the counties of Beadle, Brown, Brule, Codington, Davison, Day, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, and Yankton.

The monthly checkpoints are designed to encourage people to not drink and drive. The checkpoints are funded by the South

Dakota Office of Highway Safety and conducted by the South Dakota Highway Patrol with the help of local law enforcement.

Officials remind drivers not to drink and drive regardless of whether there is a checkpoint planned in their county. People who have been drinking are urged to designate a sober driver or take an alternate form of commercial or public transportation.

SAVAGE WORDS cont. from page 2

and scary. But if caught early, a man's chance of surviving prostate cancer is increased immensely.

For me, I was given the option – and an easy choice it was – to have my prostate removed. It set me back a bit, but I'm here.

I'm here to continue being a dad. I'm here to watch the seasons change. I'm here to watch sporting events I love. I'm here to continue writing. I'm here to love, breathe, and make a difference.

What I wish is that Ryne was still here. I don't know his entire story, but my gut tells me he waited too long to check his

PSA.

I've said this before in columns I've written in the past, and I'll never stop. Because I think being an advocate for prostate cancer screening – or a PSA test – is one thing I can do to help save the lives of my friends and family.

The Cubs are on the road this weekend for a three-game set against the St. Louis Cardinals. I'm going to watch at least one of those games, not because I'm a fan of the Cubs. I'm not.

I'm going to watch, because I can. Go get your PSA blood test done.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Monarch's Antique, Classic Car & Tractor Show is part of Renner Days

The Renner Days/Monarch's Antique Classic Car & Tractor Show is Saturday, Aug. 16. Registration opens at 11 a.m. and the show runs from Noon-3 p.m., followed by awards and a parade at 3:15 p.m. Vehicles from the '70s and older are preferred for the car show.

Other events include the Renner Firefighter Lunch

for a freewill donation, a vendor and craft fair, kids' activities and games, firefighter water wars and Monarch Karaoke at 8p.m.

Manley to host Customer Appreciation event

It's not summer without Manley Tire & Oil's annual Customer Appreciation open house. The event is from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, and will offer free food, Trudy's treats, live music, inflatables for the kids and giveaways



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Brandon, SD Citywide Fall Rummage Sales

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22
& SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

REGISTER YOUR SALE BY
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A list of addresses, items and individual sale times will be available at BrandonRummages.com



AREA DEATH NOTICES

Tuesday, July 29
Jeffrey Armstrong, 78, Sioux Falls
Patrick Gallagher, 75, Sioux Falls
William Marsh, 67, Sioux Falls
Gertrude “Trudy” Schmied-ing, 97, Brookings
Patty Tausz, 75, Rock Rapids, Iowa

Wednesday, July 30
Richard Abild, 82, Vermillion
Tobby “Toaster” Caudell, 49, Sioux Falls
Mae Golden, 100, Salem
Stephen “Steve” Huls, 73, Humboldt
Jean Kalua, 82, Sioux Falls
Charlyne Poulos, 65, Sioux Falls
Dawn Waack, 57, Sioux Falls

Thursday, July 31
Paul Christen, 96, Huron
Janet May-Harinen, 84, Sioux Fall
Monica Westhoff, 80, Hartford
Bonnie White, 91, Canistota

Friday, Aug. 1
Ronald “Ron” Butkovich, 82, Sioux Falls
LaVerne Hofer, 87, Beresford
Sally Niewald, 80, Sioux Falls (Miller)
Linda Smith, 64, Sioux Falls

Saturday, Aug. 2
Marjory Gross, 97, Sioux Falls

Sunday, Aug. 3
Paul Moriarty, 96, Brookings

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Brandon area property transfers from July 25-Aug. 1, 2025, on record in the County Equalization office are as follows. Dollar amounts are rounded.

- 328 S. Third Ave., Brandon, from Seth A. Goembel to Sam Seydel, \$410,000.
- 2013 E. Sylvan Circle, Brandon, from Reynold L. Timmons to Jacey J. Hansen, \$245,500.
- No address, Brandon, from Twin Rivers Crossing, LLC to Tyler Hansen, \$90,000.
- 204 W. Mountain Ash St., Brandon, from Joseph Nelson to Tammy O’Brien, \$363,000.
- 517 N. Woodland Court, Brandon, from Legend Builders, Inc. to Joshua Aaron Smith, \$350,000.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

- Check security at all parks.
- Disorderly subject in 1300 block of E. Redwood Blvd., advised.
- Assist Sheriff’s office with civil paper service in 1320 block of E. Redwood Blvd.
- Parking violations in 500 block of S. Fourth Ave., 300 block of S. Seventh Ave., 900 block of E. Pine St., 700 block of E. Magnolia Dr., advised.
- Public assists in 1300 block of E. Keystone Dr., 300 block of S. Seventh Ave., 300 block of S. Main Ave.
- Assist Sheriff’s office with weapons violation, occurred in county.
- Check well-being of subject in 200 block of N. Needles Dr., checked OK.
- Assist Brandon Fire Department with an alarm in 100 block of S. Sandstone Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

- Suspicious vehicle in 1010 block of N. Splitrock Blvd., checked OK.
- Check security in 700 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
- Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave., 200 block of N. Splitrock Blvd., 1500 block

OBITUARIES

Tobby “Toaster” Caudell, 49

Tobby “Toaster” Jo William Caudell, 49, Sioux Falls, passed away Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at his residence in Sioux Falls.

There are no services planned at this time.

Tobby is survived by his sisters, Patricia (Gary) Slagle, Jeannie (Cory) Shammatt, and Christina Casazza; aunt, Jean Anderson; niece, Amanda Caldwell; niece-in-law, Sabrina Caldwell; nephew, Ryan Slagle; and great-nephews, Stefan and Luka.

For online condolences, visit heartlandfunerals.com.



Terry Greger, 76

Terry Greger, 76, Apache Junction, Ariz., died Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025, at his residence surrounded by his family after a long battle with Alzheimer’s.

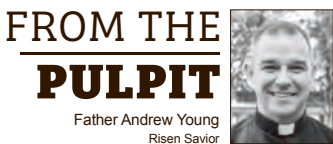
At Terry’s request, there are no services planned at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Condolences may be sent to the Terry Greger family at 1503 W. Golden Ore Pass, Apache Junction, AZ 85120.

Terry is survived by his wife, Sally; daughters, Paige (Russell Jr.) Brandt-Fitzwater and Shonette Gibson, all of Apache Junction, and Teresa (Jeffrey) Becker, Fort Myers, Fla.; grandchildren, Noah (Amie) Brandt, Larchwood, Iowa, and Josie Engel, Apache Junction; and great-granddaughter, Serratelli Brandt, Larchwood.

For online condolences, visit heartlandfunerals.com.



As many families in the Brandon area know, last September nearly 180 men and women from the South Dakota Air National Guard deployed overseas to the Middle East for a six-month deployment. Most of the men and women returned to the United States in April of this year. The Brandon community was well represented in this selfless act of love for our nation. Mothers deployed leaving husbands in charge of the household and getting kids to and from school and other activities. That is quite a charge and no easy task, especially if Dads are not used to being the local taxi service. Young high school graduates delayed a year of college or technical schools in response to the needs of the Guard unit and their nation. There were Fathers having to forgo their children’s senior year festivities in person, only to watch them online in the middle of the night, or missing the birth of their first child. There is no greater love than to be



willing to serve a cause that is greater than oneself and in defense of others.

Throughout the deployment there was much interest from our local community as to what we were doing at our “undisclosed location”, which to this day, is not able to be publicly revealed. We did have an address, though, which so many in this local community supported through care packages, letters, cards of encouragement and prayers. Gifts were even sent from perfect strangers and I am told our wonderful Post Office had the address on speed dial. Thank you! People want to support those who serve since there always seems to be an intrigue for the members who choose to make this sacrifice, despite the challenges and hardships to ensure a safer and more peaceful world. Those sacrifices, though, are shared by not only those who deploy but for the families that remain to continue the day-to-day regime on the home front. Those

No greater love

among our ranks missing from their usual lives also impact daily operations in Brandon. Without the support of a dear priest friend of mine, Chuck Cimpl, Risen Savior could have seriously struggled as a faith community. The local community’s outreach in providing prayers, support and maybe even popcorn balls in the mail to be distributed to Airmen, goes a long way. It truly is a community mission.

I had the privilege of deploying with these men and women from the Brandon area as their Chaplain to support them with their spiritual needs. Chaplains in the military have a unique role since we all come from a very specific denomination, as for instance, I am a Catholic priest. In my role I would provide services to the Catholic service members throughout the week and on the weekends or to anyone who might want to come and worship. Other Chaplains on our deployed team provided services to support the needs of other congregations in their worship tradition. Every day, though, chaplains are there to

support, encourage and uplift those that choose this path of service. It truly is a humbling experience to be surrounded by such faithful service members who are willing to do whatever it takes, even to lay down their lives, for a cause that is just.

One of the highlights for many of us from Brandon was being connected to the children and youth, even participating in the 2024 Veteran’s Day service at the Brandon Valley High School over Zoom. Service to others – our neighbor, our nation, and to people unknown to us in countries around the world – is instilled in our youth, particularly at our schools. Praise God that the members of this community are able to look beyond their own self-interest and seek the good of the other. Pray that this willingness to serve others, especially in the armed forces, continues to be a value that our community not only nurtures but also cherishes well into the future. There truly is “No Greater Love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” - John 15:13

MINNEHAHA COUNTY SHERIFF’S LOG

Editor’s note: The log reports are for the Brandon Valley Journal coverage area, which includes the communities of Brandon, Valley Springs, Corson, Rowena, Renner and Garretson.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

- Disorderly subjects, E. Redwood Blvd., Brandon, necessary action taken.
- Abandoned animal, Box Elder St., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Traffic hazard, Hwy. 42, Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Suspicious subject, Fifth St., Garretson, necessary action taken.
- Public assist, 478th Ave., Brandon, necessary action taken.
- Public assist, 256th St., Garretson, necessary action taken.
- Public assist, Fifth St., Garretson, necessary action taken.
- Public assist, W. Park St., Brandon, necessary action taken.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

- Garretson, electrical hazard, Center Ave., Garretson, necessary action taken.
- Suspicious vehicle, 267th St., Valley Springs,

necessary action taken.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

- Accident, Iverson Crossing Road, Brandon, state accident report taken.
- Disorderly subjects, Concord Dr., Renner, necessary action taken.
- Hit-and-run, 256th St., Renner, case report taken.
- Animal problem, 483rd Ave., Garretson, necessary action taken.

FRIDAY, AUG. 1

- Accident, I-90 and I-90 ramp, Brandon.
- Motorist assist, 262nd St., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Sex offender verification, N. Ninth Ave., Brandon, unable to locate.
- Sex offender verification, E. Aspen Blvd., Brandon, necessary action taken.
- Burglary alarm, Hwy. 42, Brandon, unfounded.
- Fraud, Southside Ave., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Traumatic injury, 484th Ave., Garretson, case report taken.
- Sex offender verification, N. Ninth Ave., Brandon, unable to locate.
- Assault, Jackson St., Valley Springs, case report

and pictures taken.

SATURDAY AUG. 2

- Abandoned vehicles, E. Aspen Blvd., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Narcotics, S. Fifth Ave., Brandon, necessary action taken.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

- Noise disturbance, 475th Ave., Renner, necessary action taken.
- Fall, Fourth St., Garretson, necessary action taken.
- Burglary, 472nd Ave., Renner, necessary action taken.
- Suspicious vehicle, Essex St., Garretson, necessary action taken.

MONDAY, AUG. 4

- Check well-being, Elm St., Valley Springs, necessary action taken.
- Stolen vehicle, 485th Ave., Garretson, case report taken.
- Family dispute, 256th St., Garretson, case report taken.
- Assist other agency, Main Ave., Garretson, case report taken.

BRANDON POLICE REPORT

of E. Cedar St.

- Parking violation in 1900 block of E. Sylvan Circle, tagged.
- Two-vehicle accident in 900 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
- Family dispute in 100 block of W. Elm St., advised.
- Assist Brandon Fire Department with an alarm in 600 block of E. Willow St.
- Check well-being of juvenile at E. Stone St. and N. Sapphire Circle, advised.
- Fraud reported in 300 block of S. Nelson Lane, advised.
- Two-vehicle accident at N. Splitrock Blvd. and I-90, one driver cited for following too closely.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

- Check security in 500 block of N. Splitrock Blvd., 1300 block of E. Martin Pl., 100 block of E. Holly Blvd., 110 block of W. Conifer St.
- Check well-being of subjects in 400 block of W. Holly Blvd., 1200 block of E. Keystone Pl., checked OK, advised.
- Medical emergencies in 1200 block of S. Splitrock Blvd., 3000 block of E. Aspen Blvd., 3200 block of E. Au-

FRIDAY, AUG. 1

- Found property on S. Sixth Ave., returned to owner.
- Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave., 800 block of N. Copper Ave.
- Medical emergencies in

600 block of E. Aspen Blvd., 400 block of W. Park St., 2400 block of S. Splitrock Blvd.

- Neighbor dispute in 1600 block of E. Liberty Circle, advised.
- Check well-being of subject in 100 block of S. Sandstone Ave., checked OK.
- Report of suspicious subjects at E. Redwood Blvd. and N. Woodland Ct., unable to locate.

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

- Kane Dawson Rosa, 30, arrested for DUI-1st, open container at N. Ninth Ave. and E. Ash St.
- One-vehicle accident at W. Conifer St. and S. Sunset Dr., driver cited for careless driving.
- Medical emergencies in 1100 block of E. Teakwood St., 400 block of S. Lakota Circle, 1000 block of E. Teakwood St.
- Parking violations in 300 block of S. Fourth Ave., 400 block of N. Ninth Ave., 700 block of E. Magnolia Dr., 500 block of N. Maple Ave., 500 block of N. Crestview Circle, 100 block of S.

Yellowstone Dr.

- Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave.
- Child custody dispute reported in 300 block of S. Main Ave., advised.
- Check well-being of subject in 100 block of S. Teton Dr., advised.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

- Abigail Anne Petersen, 44, arrested for DUI-2nd, speeding, open container, prescription fraud in 600 block of W. Holly Blvd.
- Family dispute in 300 block of S. Kirkwood Blvd., advised.
- Check security in 500 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
- Alarm in 400 block of N. Ninth Ave., checked OK.
- Report of gunshots in 1600 block of W. Legacy Dr., unable to locate.
- Public assist in 700 block of S. Seventh Ave.
- Medical emergency in 900 block of S. Splitrock Blvd.

MONDAY, AUG. 4

- Suspicious subjects in 300 block of W. Holly Blvd., checked OK.
- Check well-being of subject in 700 block of S. Sev-

enth Ave., advised.

- Medical emergencies in 1200 block of S. Splitrock Blvd., 2100 block of E. Aspen Blvd., 1100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
- Assist Sheriff’s office with a family dispute, occurred in county.
- Disorderly conduct reported in 1200 block of E. Keystone Pl., advised.
- Public assists in 1200 block of E. Keystone Pl., at E. Ash St. and N. Ninth Ave.
- Found property brought into 300 block of S. Main Ave.
- Juvenile delinquency reported in 300 block of S. Fourth Ave., checked OK, unfounded.

ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

- Stray dog at N. Splitrock Blvd. and E. Birch St.
- Stray cat in 100 block of N. Heritage Road.
- Bat reported in 500 block of E. Beechnut St.
- Stray dog in 300 block of W. Parkview Court.
- Stray dog in 120 block of E. Annabelle St.
- Stray dog in 800 block of E. Redwood Blvd

‘Safety’ is focus of Saturday’s SVE family-friendly event

Staff report

From sirens blaring to pancakes flying through the air, there’s something in store for the entire family at the 2025 Sioux Valley Energy Safety Day scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Cooperative’s Brandon Service Center. The event runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brandon Service Center, 108 N. Heritage Road in Brandon.

The event will start with a pancake feed served by Chris Cakes. After eating, attendees can visit one of several kids’ activity booths and get up close with emergency responders who will be on hand to demonstrate their equipment and vehicles. Other demonstrations and activities include:

- The SD Farmers Union Farm Safety Trailer will be on hand, complete with an ATV simulator, grain bin harness, interactive games, and a toy-size farm.
- The Brandon Fire Department, Brandon Police Department, and the South Dakota

Highway Patrol will be providing safety demonstrations.

- Bicycle safety will be featured thanks to SD EMS for Children. The first 100 kids will receive a free bicycle helmet and fitting.

- Adults will have the chance to have free blood pressure checks provided by the Pipestone County Ambulance crew, along with CPR training and ambulance tours for all.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association will lend their virtual reality learning goggles to our crew, and you’ll be able to test them out.

Don’t forget all the FUN activities including carnival games with prizes, electrical circuit construction, face painting, and balloon animal creations.

Tours of the newly expanded SVE Brandon Service Center will take place during the event as well. Construction on the center began in 2023 and finished in 2024.



Jill Meier/BV Journal

A South Dakota Highway Patrol Trooper shows a family the dangers of distracted driving with the rollover simulator at Sioux Valley Energy’s 2023 Safety Day.



Journey with the Journal

Brandon Valley was well-represented abroad this summer. This large-in-number group traveled to Italy and Greece and are pictured at the Vatican. In the background is St. Peter’s Basilica. They brought their hometown newspaper, the *Brandon Valley Journal* along for the memorable adventure. If you’re venturing out – summer, fall, winter or spring – remember to put the *Journal* on your packing list, snap a photo and submit it to editor@bvjournal.info along with names of those pictured and a brief summary of when and where the photo was taken.

Submitted photo

9 A.M.-NOON
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AUGUST 9, 2025
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Brandon man launches home-based business, Epic Travels

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Collin Ammann is in the business of epic travels, hence the name of his home-based business, Epic Travels.

The Brandon man registered the travel service business in April 2024 as a sideline business. But when his full-time banking position was eliminated, he stepped into it full-time, at least temporarily.

“I am still looking for another full-time job,” he shared.

His desire to help others organize and plan trips began with organizing and planning trips for family and friends.



Travis Dunn/BV Journal

Collin Ammann (second from left), owner of Epic Travels, cuts the celebratory ribbon marking his membership to the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. Looking on are his son, Cameron and daughter, Alexis, and friend, Sara. Also pictured are BVACC members Pastor Richard Gordon, Paul VanDeBerg, Harry Buck, BVACC executive director Rachael Neiman, AJ DeLange and Lee Schelling.

support and networking, and everything that can help you.”

As a travel agent, Ammann simply wants to ease the planning process for family vacations, friend get-a-ways, etc.

“I know families and everybody is super busy now, so I want to take that burden away and help with all the hard stuff and help create memories,” he said.

He credits his mother, who he says was “super-organized” in her planning thier family vacations.

“We used to go on family vacations all the time. When I was young, I went to every state but two. We

drove around the country, and I guess planning was always like second nature when you grow up with it like that,” he said. “So, it’s pretty easy, almost calming for me, and I get a joy out of it for whatever reason.”

He said his father’s role in planning convoys – stateside or overseas – also influenced the secondary career choice.

“Some of it has stemmed from all of his professional planning, too,” he adds.

Although there’s a plethora of online travel companies to explore, agents like Ammann will handle the details with reservation snafus and canceled flights.

ABOUT EPIC TRAVELS

Agent: Collin Ammann
Phone: (605) 595-1085
Address: 404 S. Country Club Ave., Brandon
Website: Epictravelstoday.com

“Our expertise and knowledge at each resort, our connections at the resorts in case something does go wrong, we can get great discounts and things like that. Like I said, it gives the families back time to do other things that are going on in their lives,” he said.

He’s also travel savvy to suggest destinations for those who want to go

somewhere, but don’t have a specific “somewhere” in mind.

“Actually, that was my last two (clients) that I had. It’s actually a lot of them, and I’m working on another oneright now, too,” he said.

Dates, budget and destination amenities, like all-inclusive, are top priorities for many travelers.

“Whether it’s stateside or overseas down to the Caribbean or Mexico or wherever, I feel this world has so much to offer, and I think it’s just cool to get out there and experience it,” he encourages.

Another perk of enlisting

Ammann’s travel service is he does not charge a fee for inquiries. There are agents who do charge for that service.

“That might change in the future, but I’m trying to get up and running,” he said.

His payment actually comes from the resort or cruise line he’s arranged ed for clients.

“Personally, I want to start out with a business model, knowing the small-town community wants to use a travel agent, but they want to save money to travel,” he said, hence his no fee offer.

THINGS TO DO:

☒ Lunch money

☒ Bus pass

☒ School Supplies

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605 REAL ESTATE

Jill Meier
Journal editor

The expanded parking lot won't be the only visible change at BVMS. Construction on additions on every side of the building will continue through the 2025-26 school year and is scheduled for completion next summer, opening to students in the fall of the



Jill Meier/BV Journal

2026-27 school year. The additions include classrooms on the southeast side of the building, to the school kitchen on the west side of the school, and on the building's northwest side is a wrestling and multi-purpose room and locker room additions, and HVAC updates. On the northeast corner are more classrooms. In all total, there will be 10 new classrooms.

“The most pressing for us right now is on the west side of the Middle School, getting the concrete pads poured so that we can continue to utilize the west side

"The reality of this ad-

Brandon Valley Booster Club has also made a significant change to the commons with a new video board to replace the smaller, flat screen TV that was hung above the concession windows. The *BV Journal* will bring you the story behind the new video board in an upcoming issue.

JOIN OUR TEAM AND BECOME A LYNX!!!

“ After we were in Alaska for a week, I approached him and asked if we could move to South Dakota. I wasn’t ready to admit defeat and the abuse hadn’t come to mind yet.

- Marissa Wilson
Survivor



Submitted photo
Marissa (right) and Sam in July of 2019, just three months after Marissa made her escape.

“ If it feels wrong, it is wrong. Even if the word ‘abuse’ isn’t coming to mind, if you know it’s wrong, you need to get out. It wasn’t until I was at the police station that it clicked for me that I had been raped and that I had been abused.

- Marissa Wilson

‘If it feels wrong, it is wrong’

Rape victim with Brandon ties shares her personal story to warn others

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

In December of 2021, Marissa Wilson – known then as Marissa Briscoe – helped lead a fundraiser in Brandon for Lynx football coach Chad Garrow, who at the time was suffering from a brain tumor. The Brandon Valley coach was an avid Jeep enthusiast. He died in January of 2022 from the disease. But before Coach Garrow passed away, fundraising efforts were underway to help lessen some of the financial burdens that began to mount due to medical treatment. Marissa was head of the Dakota Wheelin’ Jeep Club in Sioux Falls, and four years ago this December, her club came to Brandon for the fundraising efforts. That was obviously a gratifying event for Marissa. But little did anyone know what she had just gone through. She returned to Sioux Falls in the spring of 2019, just two years removed from a horrible experience, “homeless, broke and broken” after suffering physical and sexual abuse from her husband in Alaska.

It started with bruising
Marissa said her husband began abusing her early in their relationship with a hefty clamp on her thigh that left bruises, so much so that Marissa said her eyes filled with tears. The 6-foot-5 aggressor was also prone to bending her fingers backwards until she felt immense pain. It was the move to Alaska from South Dakota where Marissa said she first realized there was a problem. Before they

even left South Dakota, she had bruises on multiple parts of her body.

‘The worst decision I’ve made in my life’
This is the point where most might question Marissa’s decision making, but her story is a unique one. She was married at 16 years of age. She and her first husband moved to Sioux Falls from Spearfish. They divorced eight years later with two daughters. Marissa joined an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) club on Facebook after her divorce. It was on that site where she met her future husband, located in Alaska. After talking day-and-night for two months, her soon-to-be-husband came to South Dakota to meet her. That was Feb. 13, 2019. They were married a day later. Marissa was 24 years old, just four months removed from her divorce. “I kind of panicked that I was alone for the first time,” she said. “It was the worst decision I’ve ever made in my life.”

Things went bad in a hurry
After getting to Alaska from South Dakota at the end of March, it didn’t take long for Marissa to realize she’d made a mistake. She said despite the physical abuse she was suffering, she didn’t want to throw her hands up on her newly-formed marriage. “I remember thinking that I just gave up everything for this. I can’t turn around already and say ‘never mind,’” Marissa said. “After we were in Alaska for a week, I approached him and asked if we could move to South Dakota. I wasn’t ready to admit defeat and the abuse hadn’t come to

mind yet. It was just that things felt really, really bad and I didn’t want to be alone out there.” After just two weeks in Alaska with her new husband, Marissa found herself talking with law enforcement.

Middle-of-the-night escape
Marissa said her husband began raping her just two days after arriving in Alaska. After sexual advances failed when Marissa pushed her husband away and slapped his hands back from touching her, the 5-foot-9 Marissa said she fell under the full body weight of her husband and was pinned down while she was raped. “I knew I couldn’t fight him off and I just accepted it,” she said. A “violent” rape on April 17 was the final straw. At 6 a.m. on April 18, she fled the house while her husband was sleeping. She had his three children with her. She said she feared for the three children who she said were being physically abused by their father.

Upon the early-morning escape, Marissa was headed to her husband’s ex-wife, the mother of the three children she had with her. She didn’t know the ex-wife, Sam, but her oldest child had her number. Marissa continually called that cell number until Sam answered early in the morning in the midst of the escape. “I very quickly said, ‘This is Marissa. I have your kids. Please don’t hang up,’” Marissa said she told Sam. “Please don’t call him and tell him I’m calling you.” Marissa said Sam had one simple reply. “I didn’t expect this call so soon,” she said in reference to the newlyweds being together for just two weeks.

Serial rapist
When Marissa and Sam were able to finally talk, Marissa said she was horrified to find out Sam had been raped by the same man. Marissa also discovered that she was ex-wife No. 4. Marissa and Sam are now best friends. On the morning Marissa fled, Sam agreed to let her stay with her so she didn’t have to head to a shelter. “Once we got the kids to bed, I asked her if he raped her too,” Marissa said. “She burst into tears. She was with him for 10 years and her story is so much more than mine.”

Why not go to the police?
Marissa said her early-morning escape to Sam’s house was by design because her husband had convinced her that he was friends with all of the law enforcement in their area. “I feel stupid now, but at the time, everything felt real,” she said. “He had so many stories of getting away with different things all because he was friends with them. I was terrified that if I went to the cops, they were just going to call him and say, ‘come get your crazy wife.’” A day after the escape, she eventually confided in the police. She told them of the lies her husband told her about being friends with all the officers. For her comfort, eight police officers escorted her back to her house the following day to retrieve her things. Her last conversation with her husband was actually a sting operation set up by the police in Alaska. It was a phone conversation after her husband blew up her cell

continued on page 9A

MASTERCHEF
cont. from page 3
and this is anything but,” Ramsay critiqued. “It’s a very strange taste and the potatoes are raw.” Derry’s comments were more upbeat. “Though it is not refined at all, it’s not unflavorful.” And Bastianich said the sweet potatoes were “a bit of an odd choice.” “Instead of creamy, white mashed potatoes you blow-torched sweet potatoes,” he said, adding, “The lamb is quite good.” Although disappointed to be dismissed, they will forever cherish the experience. “This is bittersweet,” they shared. “It’s been such a special journey to do together. We were able to show the judges a little bit of our Midwestern roots. We’re really proud of what we accomplished.” The journey continues for seven remaining duos. Episodes air at 7 p.m. Wednesdays on FOX.

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National Farmers Market Week Aug. 3-9

Navy Jazz Band to highlight Saturday's market in Brandon

Staff report

The S.D. Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) joins markets across the country in celebrating National Farmers Market Week from Aug. 3-9. And the celebration includes the weekly market in Brandon.

National Farmers Market Week is an annual celebration of farmers markets proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and coordinated by the Farmers Market Coalition (FMC), a membership-based nonprofit organization that supports farmers markets nationwide through training, technical assistance, and network-building.

Each year, FMC's National Farmers Market Week Campaign highlights the vital role farmers markets play within our nation's local food systems. For more than 50 years, farmers markets have influenced the way Americans eat, shop, and connect to their food, their farmers, and one another. Farmers markets are more than market places, they are places where neighbors learn, grow, and work together.



Submitted photo

There is always something that's home-grown or hand-made to be found at the Brandon Farmers Market each Saturday.

South Dakota has 50 farmers markets that span the state. SDSPA maintains a list, updated annually, with information on locations, operation times, product availability, and more. To find a farmer's market near you, visit the SDSPA Farmers Market website, sdspecialtyproducers.org/farmers-markets/.

Markets across South Dakota are incorporating special events during the week. The Brandon Farmers Market will be celebrating the Sioux Falls Navy Band and will have the Navy Band Great Lakes performing from 11 a.m.-noon during their Aug. 9 market.

Earlier, Landon Weis will entertain with live music from 9-10:30 a.m. And of course, there's free face painting starting at 9 a.m. until 11:30.

Throughout Saturday's Market, temporary tattoos will be available, along with a photo booth and a gift basket giveaway.

To support the farmers market industry locally, SDSPA organized a chapter, known as the S.D. Farmers Market Coalition. This member group meets

virtually each quarter as an outlet to discuss needs and initiatives. The chapter provides networking opportunities, coordinates educational programming, and receives full access to FMC resources. SDSPA members can join the chapter for an additional \$15 fee.

"Across the country, farmers markets are defining their role in our communities," said Willa Sheikh, Executive Director of the Farmers Market Coalition. "Markets are designed in partnership with the people they serve and are a place where market operators, farmers, shoppers, and neighbors can collaborate to meet the evolving needs of their community. As we look to the future, farmers markets will play a key part, as they always have, in leading efforts to adapt, respond, innovate, and advocate for our local food systems. National Farmers Market Week is a chance to celebrate all the ways farmers markets show up for us!"

Support your local community and economy by attending a market near you during National Farmers Market Week 2025 and throughout the season!

MARISSA SHARES HER STORY cont. from page 8

with hundreds of calls after she left. She finally answered, with police on the call after they got a warrant.

She attempted to get him to admit what he had done. He didn't.

"I knew that wasn't going to work," Marissa said. "But that was the last time I talked to him."

Back to South Dakota

After driving back to Sioux Falls over four days, Marissa found herself alone, broke, homeless.

She finally made it on April 23, just over two months from her wedding day. Once back in Sioux Falls, Marissa said she couch-surfed with a number of friends for several months before life finally began to settle down.

She met Mike Wilson, a domestic violence victim himself. Mike is a Sioux Falls firefighter, and the two married in 2024.

"We were both fresh out of these domestic violence situations," Marissa said. "He's been a blessing."

Plea agreement reached

Marissa's abuser was initially arrested in 2020. Several years of delays and postponements followed.

The COVID-19 pandemic slowed things immensely as the Alaska courts weren't scheduling hearings. Then she said her abuser hired and fired several attorneys, which resulted in further delays.

Finally, on July 15, her abuser accepted a plea deal. Seven charges were combined into one. She said it was revealed that her abus-

er raped another woman after their divorce, all while he was being investigated in Marissa's case.

The plea deal wasn't exactly what Marissa said she had hoped, but she did get one win, the one that was most important: Her abuser has to register as a sex offender online.

"I wanted future women to at least have a shot," Marissa said. "Prior to this, if you Googled him, nothing came up."

Marissa's message to others

Marissa had a long pause when asked what she would tell others that are currently in the same situation she was in six years ago.

"There's so much," she said with a sigh. "But the most important thing is for them to know that they're not going crazy. If it feels wrong, it is wrong. Even if the word 'abuse' isn't coming to mind, if you know it's wrong, you need to get out. It wasn't until

I was at the police station that it clicked for me that I had been raped and that I had been abused."

In the end, she said, all three of her abuser's victims have moved on. That's an important point, Marissa said.

"All three of us lead very beautiful lives," she said. "I point that out because I want others to know that it sucks really bad at first, but you can move on. You can live the life you only dream of."

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Special Guest: Chase Hoffman

Chase Hoffman grew up and resides in Brandon, SD with his wife Ashley, daughter, Finley, and a dog and a cat. The Hoffmans are active members of Celebrate Community Church in Brandon and have a passion for ministry inside and outside the walls of the church. Chase works for the First National Bank in Sioux Falls as a Mortgage Loan Officer. Chase loves to fish, golf, and until recently, ride his motorcycle. In August 2024, Chase was involved in a motorcycle versus vehicle accident that caused a severe leg injury that threatened to take his leg above the knee from amputation. By the power of God's grace alone, Chase is thriving through his recovery, almost a year after his accident.



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Hometown mission

REchurch supplies kids for new school year

Jill Meier
Journal editor

For three hours on Sunday afternoon, a Brandon congregation took the financial “bite” out of back-to-school shopping for a number of families.

REchurch, a non-denominational congregation that formed more than a year ago and publicly launched in April, hosted their very first backpack and school supply giveaway on Sunday. And from the initial response, the mission to help others was well received.

“It’s what I hoped it would be,” shared Pastor Kyle Brown, as he stood outside the church doors on Sunday welcoming everyone who came. “I was hoping there would be a response, and I was hoping we’re going to meet a need, and it’s obvious, that’s the case.”

Brown said the congregation was challenged to provide backpacks and school supplies for 150 youngsters in grades kindergarten through four. With a quick glance at the tables filled with backpacks, notebooks, colors, markers and more, it’s clear the members fully embraced the mission.

“I think the real big thing

of being a new church is making sure that we have the right things built into our DNA, kind of ‘baked into the cake’ from day one. We want to be a church that’s highly missional, that’s highly focused on what happens outside the doors of the church,” Brown said. “And for a small church, because we do not have a big budget, this represents about a 10th of our annual budget, this one event. So, this was not a small muscle movement. It’s a pretty big thing, kind of extending ourselves a little bit in faith, knowing that God is going to use this in some pretty cool ways.”

REchurch members Keagan Brua and her mom, Dru, were two of a dozen or so volunteers on hand. Keagan said helping others warms her heart.

“You have a good feeling in your heart giving things to people who need help,” she said.

Melissa Olivier, who has been worshipping at REchurch for more than a year, took the lead on organizing the give-away event. Olivier, who homeschools her three children, well knows the cost of raising a family in today’s economy.

“School supply shopping

is one thing that you don’t really realize how much it’s going to cost,” she said. “By the time you buy supplies, your kids’ clothes, the backpacks, the whole nine years, and then you have three kids, that’s a large amount of money, so this is a way that we can help.”

Unsure how the congregation would respond to the challenge, Olivier was amazed how they “stepped up and delivered.”

“Every week I kept thinking, ‘Man, we’re asking a lot of our group. ... It’s just been really incredible to watch it grow,’” she said.

The backpack and school supply drive has been months in the planning. Brown said they talked with school administration



Jill Meier/BV Journal
Amalie Brown, a volunteer with REchurch, helps a young man choose school supplies on Sunday at the congregation’s first backpack and school supply giveaway. The congregation had enough supplies for 150 students in kindergarten through grade four.



earlier this year to determine what the need might be.

“I don’t think anybody had a real, concrete answer. There were some different ideas, and so we wanted to do this far enough away from the beginning of the school year, where we were a good opportunity for people who need some help in this season to get their kids to school so it was not going to be stressful,” Brown said.

They turned to social media and the local news media to put the word out

continued on page 11A



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RECHURCH GIVE-AWAY cont. from page 10A

regarding Sunday's give-away event.

With a line of vehicles parked outside the church long before the doors opened at 1 p.m., organizers witnessed the need with their very own eyes.

"This is our first year doing it, so we didn't know what to expect," Brown said. "We didn't know if we'd be sitting here staring at each other for three hours or if we'd be out of stuff in 30 minutes. As it stands right now, it looks like we'll be out of stuff by 4 o'clock, which is great."

Olivier said she was anticipating a good response, but the immediate rush caught her by surprise.

"This just goes to show there's a real need. I've never seen a school supply drive for families before, so it's been really exciting to see this and to see all the people coming in is exceeding my expectations," she said.

Olivier said she spoke with a parent whose family numbers six.

"That's a huge burden to have to finance all of these school supplies," Olivier said. "When she said, 'This saves us \$30 back-packs times six.' That's a lot of money, and then getting the kids connected with us and the families connected with us to grow and just say, 'We're here to support you in more than just school supplies. If you need it, we're here.'"

That, too, is part of REchurch's mission in the community.

"The people we've already met just today, the response and people looking for a church and looking for a place where they can be part of something bigger and see what God is doing here in Brandon, that's exciting to see that," Brown said.

REchurch's worship space is located in



the Sunshine Foods/Lewis plaza. Brown said the location has been ideal for public awareness.

"Here we are on the corner of 'Main and Main,' and that has been to our advantage for a smaller church or a growing church to have a sign right next to Lewis. Everybody waiting in line for meds sits right in front of our sign. Everybody knows we're here," Brown explained. "But it's just a space. This is a tool and is the same for a church building. And so, the building isn't the goal. The destination isn't the goal, and the church has never been a building. Churches are people ... and the mission was given to a church, not a building."

Brown said this is an event REchurch plans to repeat before the start of every school year. He's also "throwing down the gauntlet" to challenge to other congregations in the Brandon and Valley Springs communities to follow their lead.

"We're here to love people unashamedly in the name of Jesus and to meet physical needs," he said.

REchurch is located at 113 N. Splitrock Blvd. in Brandon, and Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Pastor Brown said they may be adding a second service sometime this fall.



Submitted photo

The Valley Springs Volunteer Fire Department is the proud owner of a "new" Engine 2, a 1997 model. The truck came outfitted with hoses, pumps and other fire fighting tools.

Valley Springs Fire Dept. puts 'new' engine/tanker into service

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Something "old" is something "new" again.

That's the case for the Valley Springs Volunteer Fire Department, who replaced their 1983 Engine 2 with a 1997 model. The 2,000-gallon engine-tanker was purchased from a department in Avenue, Md., and rolled into Valley Springs just in time to be displayed at Automania earlier this summer.

Second year fire chief Devon Hansen said this engine caught their eye for all of the "bells and whistles" that came with the \$86,500 truck.

"It came fully outfitted,

everything but the air packs and seats," he said. "It came with all the hose, an extra set of extrication that is pretty much brand new, fans, hoses, nozzles, everything."

The department's new engine has higher firefighting capabilities.

"We now have 7,500 gallons of water on wheels," he said.

The previous Engine 2 held 750 gallons and seated three, and the new Engine 2 holds 2,000 and has seats for eight.

"We went from a 750-gallon per-minute pump to a 1,500 gallon per-minute pump, so, it was an upgrade," he said.

Another perk of their new

engine is it's a dual role truck. Hansen said it can run as a tender, haul water and dump into a drop tank.

"The equipment is kind of what sold us on it. It's way more truck than we needed," the Chief said.

Hansen said that when the department began looking into replacing Engine 2, they discovered a brand-new truck was out of reach for the department. That cost was \$450,000.

"So, we started poking around on some broker sites out there for fire trucks, and we actually found it on one of those," he said.

Hansen, who has a 17-year history on the department, said Valley Springs

continued on page 4B

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I-90 Exit 406 at Brandon interchange nears completion

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

For as much road construction Brandon commuters have had to deal with, they're about to get some relief.

According to Harry Johnston, an engineer with the South Dakota Department of Transportation, Exit 406 interchange on Interstate 90 (Brandon exit) is on schedule to be open and functional by the end of the year.

Although the entire two-year project won't be 100 percent completed until next spring when crews will return for sporadic clean-up and touch-up grass reseeding, Johnston said the diverging diamond configuration could likely be done by the end of October.

Michael Noonan, the project manager on the diverging diamond, said two remaining light signals need to be constructed on top of the bridge.

Other large projects still remaining include the completion of the eastbound railroad bridge, just west of the interchange.

"That's probably 50 percent complete," Noonan said. "At the actual interchange, we just finished the bridge deck, so all of the tie-in pavement needs to be completed. But I don't see an issue with all of the islands being completed this year so we'll be into full traffic."

Exit 406 will be South Dakota's fourth diverging diamond interchange. There is one in Rapid City, and two in Sioux Falls at 41st Street and Interstate 29 near the Empire Mall. The other is at Benson Road and Interstate 229 on the city's north side.

A third one is scheduled for Sioux Falls at a new interchange at 85th Street and Interstate 29 on the south side. That interchange hasn't been built yet, but Johnston said they are beginning the bid process on that project later this fall.

A diverging diamond may take commuters some time to get comfortable with. While crossing the bridge, cars travel on the left side of the road, a strange feeling as



T&R Contracting, Inc. of Sioux Falls, continues to work toward near completion of Exit 406 at Brandon. This photo shows exit bridge form work in July.

drivers are always on the right.

Despite the awkward approach at first, Johnston said multiple studies have been shown a diverging diamond interchange is the most efficient and safest.

"The biggest thing is it reduces the conflicting traffic movements," Johnston said. "It's going to minimize those left turns where you need to cross lanes of traffic so it improves the safety overall and the traffic flow through the intersection."

Johnston said traffic accidents have dropped substantially at the diverging diamond in Rapid City, as well as the two currently in Sioux Falls.

"It should help with safety. We collect and watch those numbers closely and we've seen some great numbers," Johnston said. "We haven't seen the accidents, so we're hoping that all of this is going to be great. There's over 100 of these nationwide, and every state has that same reduction in crashes."

As confusing as it may sound to drive on the 'wrong' side of the road, experiencing it is a very easy exercise. Johnston said with light signals, directional lanes and retaining walls, it makes it nearly impossible to make a mistake.

"You'd have to physically try to drive it backwards," he said.

The project is funded by the state, but the city of Brandon is on the hook for a portion of the project, such as moving utilities

and local traffic signals. City engineer Tami Jansma said there were no surprises during construction and the city will be able to complete their portion of the project for what was budgeted.

Jansma, too, said the diverging diamond is the correct type of intersection for Exit 406, especially with the future growth projected for the area between Sioux Falls and Brandon.

"There's been a lot of studies, and it's the best way," she said. "That left hand turn onto the interstate in the morning, that's the part that's really needed. With a diverging diamond, it gives that left turn more of a priority. It should help traffic that way so it doesn't back up so much."

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'It's a money shot'

Mapleton Golf Club set to open in September



Tom A. Savage/BV Journal

The view of the Mapleton Golf Club clubhouse from the 18th hole fairway with the American Flag from the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery in the background on Thursday, July 31.

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

For years it sat as farmland on Sioux Falls' northeast side.

On Sept. 1, the founders of Mapleton Golf Club will open the door to arguably one of the finest golf courses in the region. And by all accounts, they're likely to succeed in that endorsement.

The golf club is named after Mapleton Township, which was founded in the late 1800s. A natural flat-land area, the course at Mapleton Golf Club is anything but that.

"The uniqueness about this golf course is its topography," said Travis Thie, one of the three founders of the club. "It has such great variety and movement. It's

got some uniqueness to it."

Winding its way through the course is Slip Up Creek, a natural tributary to the Big Sioux River.

"That's really cool when you're talking about a golf course and you have that water feature," Thie said. "There's just so much movement to the course. If I were to blindfold you, and I were to drive you there, and I were to drop you in the middle of it, you wouldn't think you're anywhere close to Sioux Falls, South Dakota."

The transformation from farmland to golf course began on Oct. 31, 2023. Thie said it's been a massive undertaking, but also a prideful one seeing it come together, now in its final stages.

"It's like watching a kid grow up," he said.

The course architect is Scott Hoffman. The Omaha-native

previously built Lost Rail Golf Club in Gretna, Neb. That course southwest of Omaha is a stunner and recently earned best new private course in America according to Golf Inc.

The Mapleton course is also unique in that it sits next to The South Dakota Veterans Cemetery, a picturesque space with 28,000 burials, all steeped in tradition and honor.

Thie and his founding partners, Danny Amundson and Dan Statema, have continued the patriotic feel in the area. The approach on hole No. 18 is a heart-stopper as the American flag from the cemetery flies above the clubhouse at Mapleton.

"That was all strategically designed by our clubhouse architect and our course architect to honor the veterans' cemetery flag right

behind it," Thie said. "The second shot on 18, we framed it right in there. It's a money shot."

As part of any construction project, Thie said they've encountered some challenges. Last June's 14-inch downpour was one of them, but the deluge of water also opened their eyes.

"It showed us a lot of really good things from a draining perspective, and of course, golf courses need to drain," he said. "We dug out a three-and-a-quarter acre irrigation pond that was 10 feet deep, and were preparing to get it lined. God filled it up in one night, and it took us 63 days with two pumps running 24 hours per day to drain it."

Along with the golf course, a sprawling residential area called Mapleton Highlands sits adjacent to the course. Crews began

the process of moving dirt this summer on the project. Thie said the first phase of the area – or 47 lots – will be available through VanBuskirk Companies later this fall. However, Thie said 32 of them are already purchased or on hold.

The idea behind the club began more than three years ago when Statema approached Thie, who served as the president of the Country Club of Sioux Falls when it was revamped in 2017.

Thie said at that time, he knew the need was there.

"But there were two big hurdles," he said. "You have to find the right land at the right price. It has to be both rights. You can find the right land, but it just doesn't pencil out."

Amundson said he knew of the

continued on page 2B

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Submitted photos
What was once rolling hills in the rural landscape north of Sioux Falls, has been transformed into a golf course.

MAPLETON GOLF cont. from page 1B

land north of Sioux Falls. Their initial purchase of the 160-acre area was going to be the golf course, but is now where Mapleton Highlands is located. The trio purchased the adjacent land from longtime Sioux Falls business owners Pat and Marcia Burke, which is where the golf course now sits.

Now just one month from the first official shot off the tee, the Mapleton Golf Club will be just that —simply a golf club. There are no swimming pools, banquet facilities, pickleball or tennis courts

However, there are amenities at Mapleton that aren’t matched anywhere in the area. A six-hole short course will be lit up for play at night.

“There’s nothing like that in the state,” Thie said. “I don’t think there’s anything like that within a 300-mile radius.”

The club will also feature lodging accommodations and a 75-yard putting course located directly off of the balcony of one of the lodging units. That feature, too, will be lit up at night.

The course will be managed by Landscapes Unlimited, which currently manages the Country Club of Sioux Falls, along with public courses in Sioux Falls at Elmwood, Prairie Green and Kuehn Park.

Membership pricing to the Mapleton Golf Club can be found at mapletongolfclub.com.



Hubers to lead beginning band camp next week at BV Intermediate School

Staff report

Del Hubers, the instrumental director at Brandon Valley Intermediate School, will once again lead a three-day camp next week or beginning band members. With more than 165 incoming student-musicians, Hubers said attendance will be beneficial for all.

Beginning band camp is set for Aug 11-13. Sections of the band will rehearse in three locations in three timeslots:

BVIS Band Room: 9-9:50 a.m., clarinets; 10-10:50 a.m., saxophones; 11-11:50 a.m., trombones

BVIS Chorus Room: 9-9:50 a.m., flutes; 10-10:50 a.m., trumpets; 11-11:50 a.m., French horns

BVIS Commons: 9-9:50 a.m., percussion; 10-10:50 a.m., baritones; 11-11:50 a.m., tubas.

There is no registration or fee to attend the camp, but students will need to have their band instruments and books at the start of the camp.

Flutes, clarinets, saxes, trumpets and trombones can be rented/purchased

from Popplers Music or Schmitt Music, both of which are located in Sioux Falls. Taylor Music in Aberdeen also carries these instruments, and renting an instrument is highly recommended for beginning band students. Hubers warns parents of purchasing instruments online, as the craftsmanship and quality of the discounted brands can be questionable.

Students selected to play the tuba, baritone or French horn will receive the instrument at band camp. Percussionists will need to rent/purchase a bell kit.

All beginning band students will need to purchase the following music books: *Tradition of Excellence Book 1* and the *First Performance Book*.

Percussionists will also need to purchase *The Performing Percussionist – Book 1*.

Other supplies that will need to be purchased are: Clarinets/Saxes: Reeds (Vandoren 2 or 2 1/2 is recommended); Brass: Valve oil; and Percussionists: Vic Firth SD1 General Snare Drum sticks.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Petrick elected president of SDN Communications Board of Managers

The SDN Communications Board of Managers elected Alliance Communications General Manager and CEO Ross Petrick to serve a one-year term as president during its recent annual meeting.

Petrick has served on the board since 2016 and has been the General Manager and CEO of Alliance Communications, based in Garretson, since 2015.

The nine members on the Board of Managers oversee SDN Communications, which is owned by 17 rural broadband companies serving more than 90 percent of South Dakota’s geography.

Other board members are: Vice president, Tracy Bandermer, Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Clear Lake; secretary/treasurer, Chad Mutziger, Midstate Communications, Kimball; Fay Jandreau, Venture Communications, Highmore; Heather Kranz, TrioTel Communications, Salem; Steve Meyer, Swiftel, Brookings; Nick Rogness, Golden West Communications (Wall); Jeff Symens, Valley Telecommunications, Herreid; and Ryan Thompson, Santel Communications, Woonsocket.

SDN Communications interconnects all 17 companies, creating an advanced fiber-optic network of more than 50,000 miles that spans eight states: South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. Together, SDN and its member companies serve businesses with managed services and reliable connectivity.

SDN specializes in serving banks, health care, agricultural businesses, government, manufacturing, and education.

THE LYNX WAY

Clayton earns scholarship from leadership program

“This is something I really wanted to do. I gave it a true chance and taught lots of lessons and had so much fun doing so,” said **Kendall Clayton**, reflecting on her role as a teen yeacher. Clayton, who attends Brandon Valley High School, earned a \$250 scholarship as a first-year participant in Teens As Teachers, a leadership program of the South Dakota Youth Foundation, Inc. Training and scholarships are made available by donors to the South Dakota Youth Foundation. Neither teens nor schools incur any cost.

Clayton attended training last fall in curriculum lessons, behavior management, teaching skills, and child development. Using the curriculum, Kendall stepped into the role of teacher and taught local elementary students Polished Stones, a lesson from CHARACTER COUNTS!

The South Dakota Youth Foundation, Inc. is the only program delivered entirely by older youth to younger youth. According to Carol Birgen, program leader, “Elementary students see teen teachers as role models and mentors. Teens speak the right language, making education more effective.”

This youth mentoring and teaching model is highly effective in teaching career skills. In addition, it provides high school students with real-world experience in classroom teaching, often fostering interest in education as a career.

Teens Teachers also cite growth in leadership skills, time management, and organization. Clayton said she learned patience, which she will use everywhere.

“I also learned how to be organized. This can help me be more productive in school,” she said.

The mission of the South Dakota Youth Foundation is to give every child an opportunity to learn about character skills and healthy life skills. Each curriculum, CHARACTER COUNTS! or Healthy YOUTH has five to seven ready-made lessons for Teen Teachers to utilize. Teens often, as a great teacher does, adapt lessons for personal style.

To learn more, email info@sdyouthfoundation.org.

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Sports

Belugas amateur baseball season ends in regions *Hometown team will be on sidelines as Brandon hosts state*

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

The Brandon Valley Baseball Association will be hosting the 2025 state tournament starting this week at First National Bank Field, but the team from Brandon won't be a part of it.

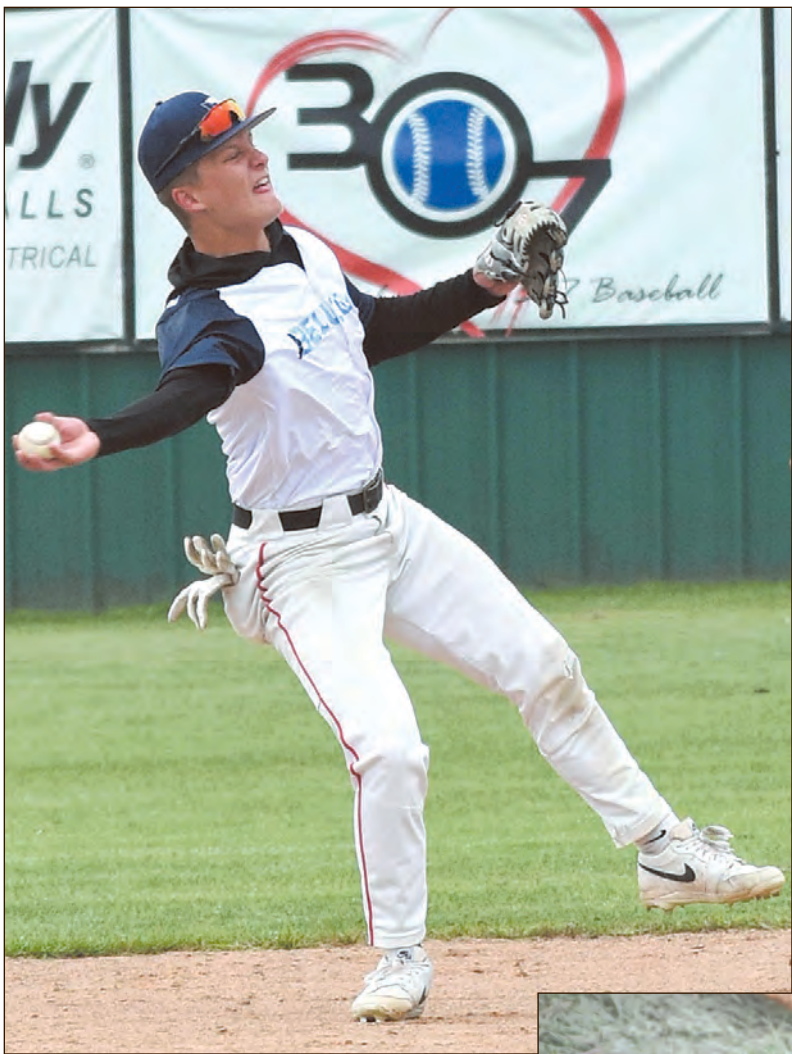
The Class A Brandon Belugas were defeated in back-to-back games in the double-elimination regional tournament over the weekend, ending their season at 5-14 overall.

It was the first season for the team under the rebranded name Beluga Whales, or Belugas. The team previously played as the Valley Rats from 2014-2024. They've never won a state title, but reached the semifinals in 2020, their deepest run in team history.

Second-year manager Jaxon Haase was behind the rebranding from Rats to Belugas. After managing the Rats for one season in 2024 and playing their home games in Valley Springs, Haase said during the off-season that the club needed a reboot, both in the name and their home field, which was First National Bank Field this season.

But sporadic roster counts were a problem all season for Brandon, who lost seven of their final eight games.

"I don't like losing. Never have, never will," Haase said. "It's hard when you have 29 guys on the roster and less than half of them can come to most of the



Tom A. Savage/BV Journal
Brandon Belugas second baseman Ryland Carroll throws the ball to first on Saturday, Aug. 2 in Renner. The Belugas were defeated by Tea and eliminated from the post-season.

games. But I certainly had a lot of fun with these guys this year." Of their five wins, four came at home at First National Bank Field. Haase said he was happy with that and the crowds that

ensued. He said part of the reason he wanted

to play home games in Brandon was because of potential crowd sizes.

"More people showed up than I thought," he said. "I wouldn't say crowds doubled, but they got bigger. I was really hoping more guys (players) would come out to the home games, especially. We had a lot of high school guys come out and shout from the outfield fence, so that's a good side of it."

After opening the season 3-2, things started to spiral. The Belugas lost 12 of their final 14 games. Their last win was on July 20, a 14-10 win over the Sioux Falls Brewers at Augustana, Brandon's lone road victory of the season.

They ended the regular season on July 22 with a 12-2 loss at Renner. The Monarchs were Brandon's opponent on Thursday to open the regions, and Renner again tagged the Belugas in a 10-2 win.

Daniel Buteyn started on the

mound for Brandon, but went just 1.1 innings after giving up a two-run homer in the bottom of the second inning. But it was less that bomb and more of a concern for his arm that resulted in him being replaced. Haase said he felt soreness and couldn't continue.

Buteyn pitches for Dordt University, and he'll return to Sioux Center, Iowa for his third season later this month.

On Saturday, the Belugas played Tea with the loser being eliminated from region play. Brandon scored twice in the top of the first, but it was all Tea after that, as the Steam went on to win 12-2.

Carter LaBrie started on the mound for Brandon, but the righty struggled with a tight strike zone. He put the Tea starting lineup down in order in the first, but the Steam eventually got him. He went 1.1 innings, giving up seven earned runs on three hits with three walks. Tea led 8-2 after two at-bats.

"The strike zone was so tight," Haase said. "If you're not putting it down the middle, it's not going to work out for you. That's the issue. You're going to have to eventually throw a fast ball down the middle for it to be called a strike if the guys aren't swinging. You just gotta hope that they don't put it in play."

Despite the underwhelming result of the 2025 season, Haase said he will be back next summer.

continued on page 4B





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Sports

Post 131 baseball suffers early exit at state tourney

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

After a sensational post-season run in this spring's high school baseball season where Brandon Valley won a state title, things kind of fizzled during this year's summer Legion state tournament for Post 131.

Brandon Valley bowed out with two straight losses in the double-elimination state tournament in Watertown last week, capping their season at 25-18 overall.

The tournament opened Tuesday with a bit of a surprise when top-seed Rapid City Post 22 lost to Rapid City Post 320. That opener sent shock waves through players, coaches and fans.

"It opened the door for everybody in the state," Brandon Valley head coach Jeremy VanHeel said.

But the Lynx couldn't take advantage, losing in their opener,

continued on page 7B



Submitted photo

BV Post 131 Legion Baseball team's 2025 season came to a close following back-to-back losses in the double-elimination state tournament. Members of the team are, from left, row one: Ryland Carroll, Brayden Knutson, Ryder Mueller, Tristan Culp, Bryton Strohm, Cooper Ness and Luke Felderman; row two: Coach Evan Steemken, Jack Blomgren, Mason Veld, Jacob Halseth, Will VanLeur, Caleb Severin, Max Peters, Christopher Joseph, Luke Smart and Coach Jeremy Van Heel.

BRANDON BELUGAS

cont. from page 3B

"It's not going to just stop because of a bad year," he said. "We're going to try and get some additional players from different areas and try to recruit just like Renner, Harrisburg and Brookings. Hopefully we can get a good group together again next year. I think it will be better, and better and better."

Brandon's Dawson Mork watches the ball off of his bat on Saturday, Aug. 2 in Renner as part of the Class A region tournament.

Tom A. Savage/BV Journal



Deadlines approaching for SD State Fair open class entries

Staff report

The deadline to enter open class exhibits at the 2025 South Dakota State Fair is quickly approaching.

Each year, South Dakotans from all across the state bring their talents to the Fair through open class exhibits. With over 1,100 categories to choose from, ranging from canning and baking to photography, quilting, garden art, livestock, and the largest vegetable, there's something for every hobbyist, maker, and livestock exhibitor.

"The open class exhibits are a perfect place to showcase creativity and hard work," said Peggy Besch, South Dakota State Fairgrounds Manager. "Whether it's

beautifully sewn quilts, show-stopping vegetables, or eye-catching photography, there's a category for everyone."

Exhibitors are encouraged to enter online at sdstatefair.com where they'll also find exhibitor handbooks, rules, and full category listings.

Remaining important dates:

Aug. 11: Open Class Sheep Entry Deadline;

Aug. 15: Open Class Horticulture Entry Deadline; and

Aug. 22: Draft Horse Entry Deadline.

The 2025 South Dakota State Fair kicks off on Wednesday, Aug. 27, and runs through Monday, Sept. 1.

www.brandonvalleyjournal.com

VS FIRE TRUCK

cont. from page 11A

Fire averages 100 calls per year. Their new Engine 2 has gone out on one call, and everything worked well.

The department's 1983 engine has been taken out of service, and Hansen said they plan to either donate or sell it to another department in need.

The next fundraising cause is for new gear for Engine 2.

"We decided that we're going to put air packs in it, because it's got seats that are capable of holding air packs and some of our other gear,"

he said.

And like many departments, Hansen said there is a need for more volunteers. The Valley Springs roster is in the 27 to 28 members right now.

"We like to stay between 25 and 30," Hansen said.

Department meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month. The first meeting is their business meeting and the second is for training. Anyone interested in joining the department should contact Hansen at (605) 291-8936.

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PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SD for the Year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026																	
		General	Highway	Emerg Mgmt	Fire	Library	Domestic Abuse	Building	Capital Projects	Museum Store	Museum Enterprise	M & P	24-7 Sobriety	Bond Redemption	Opioid Settlement	E-911	Totals
100	General Government																
110	Legislative																
111	County Commissioners	1,063,046															1,063,046
112	Contingency	-															-
120	Elections	949,033															949,033
130	Judicial System																
131	Court Systems	2,395,330															2,395,330
140	Financial Administration																
141	Auditor	1,149,277															1,149,277
142	Treasurer	2,275,194															2,275,194
150	Legal Services																
151	State's Attorney	10,146,039															10,146,039
152	Public Defender	6,958,250															6,958,250
153	Public Advocate	1,984,263															1,984,263
160	Other																
161	General Government Bldg	3,165,513						3,165,000									6,330,513
162	Director of Equalization	2,708,706															2,708,706
163	Register of Deeds	1,037,020										156,500					1,193,520
166	Predatory Animal (GFP)	5,000															5,000
168	County Insurance	447,219															447,219
169	SECOG	28,002															28,002
170	Information Services	2,947,653															2,947,653
172	Human Resources	884,283															884,283
	Total General Govt	38,143,828	-	-	-	-	-	3,165,000	-	-	-	156,500	-	-	-	-	41,465,328
200	Public Safety																
210	Law Enforcement																
211	Air Guard	1,518,879															1,518,879
211	Sheriff	10,228,071															10,228,071
212	County Jail	26,433,685															26,433,685
213	Coroner	696,063															696,063
215	Juvenile Detention Center	4,785,670															4,785,670
215	Juvenile Alternatives	1,842,835															1,842,835
218	STI Security	190,895															190,895
218	Airport Security	262,140															262,140
219	24/7 Sobriety												267,787				267,787
219	The Link	100,000													300,000		400,000
219	Mental Health Court	5,000															5,000
219	Drug Court	5,000															5,000
220	Protective & Emerg Svcs																
221	Fire Protection				791,331												791,331
222	Humane Society	97,000															97,000
225	Metro Communications	815,280														3,426,300	4,241,580
226	Emergency Management			454,378													454,378
	Total Public Safety	46,980,518	-	454,378	791,331	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	267,787	-	300,000	3,426,300	52,220,314
300	Public Works																
310	Highways & Bridges																
311	Highway Administration		1,748,445														1,748,445
311	Highway Construction		14,666,298														14,666,298
	Total Public Works	-	16,414,743	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,414,743
400	Health & Welfare																
410	Economic Assistance																
411	Support of Poor	4,312,925															4,312,925
420	Health Assistance																
424	Ambulance Services	304,000															304,000
430	Social Services																
431	Lutheran Social Services	35,700															35,700
434	Domestic Abuse						67,000										67,000
435	Safe Home	1,049,644															1,049,644
438	Children's Inn	104,466															104,466
439	Glory House	5,100															5,100
439	HelpLine Center	4,000															4,000
439	Inter-Lakes Community Action	2,040															2,040
439	Family Visitation Center	4,467															4,467
440	Mental Health Centers																
442	Lifescape	5,000															5,000
444	Mental Health Centers	199,685															199,685
445	Mental Illness Board	1,212,475															1,212,475
	Total Health & Welfare	7,239,502	-	-	-	-	67,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,306,502
500	Culture & Recreation																
510	Culture																
511	Public Library					1,620,000											1,620,000
512	Museum Maintenance	60,200															60,200
512	Museum Operations	1,736,157								21,950	224,810						1,982,917
512	Pettigrew Maintenance	36,600															36,600
512	Museum Resource Center	51,950															51,950
515	Memorial Day Expense	3,600															3,600
520	Recreation																
522	Parks	85,658															85,658
524	County Fair	150,000															150,000
	Total Culture & Rec	2,124,165	-	-	-	1,620,000	-	-	-	21,950	224,810	-	-	-	-	-	3,990,925
600	Natural Resource Conserv																
610	Soil Conservation																
611	County Extension	119,410															119,410
612	Soil Conservation	2,040															2,040
617	Agri-Business	2,500															2,500
	Total Nat Resource Cons	123,950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	123,950
700	Urban & Economic Devel																
710	Urban Development																
711	Planning & Zoning	1,008,284															1,008,284
720	Economic Development																
721	SF Development Foundation	10,000															10,000
721	Forward Sioux Falls	3,000															3,000
721	Sioux Metro Growth Alliance	10,500															10,500
	Total Urban & Econ Devel	1,031,784	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,031,784
750	Intergovernmental Expenditures																
751	Intergovernmental Expenditures		380,000						250,000								630,000
	Total Intergovernmental Exp	-	380,000	-	-	-	-	-	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	630,000
800	Debt Service																
810	Bond Payment							1,177,480						7,966,269			9,143,749
	Total Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,177,480	-	-	-	-	-	7,966,269	-	-	9,143,749
890	Capital Outlay																-
900	Other Uses																
911	Operating Transfers Out	418,152							10,000								428,152
	Total Other Uses	418,152	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	428,152
	Total Expenditure																
	Appropriation	96,061,899	16,794,743	454,378	791,331	1,620,000	67,000	4,342,480	250,000	31,950	224,810	156,500	267,787	7,966,269	300,000	3,426,300	132,755,447
	Cash Balance Applied	12,032,148	(401,393)	-	30,517	62,208	-	(1,546,318)	(250,000)	9,025	(16,560)	81,650	-	421,188	103,695	-	10,526,160
310	Total Taxes Levied	64,335,710			791,331	1,617,442		5,169,822						7,866,269			79,780,574
310	Back Taxes & Interest	660,000			6,500	15,000		60,000						62,000			803,500
316	Wheel Tax		3,999,000														3,999,000
320	Licenses and Permits	409,900	70,000			50,000											529,900
330	Intergovernmental Revenue	7,197,660	12,746,290	54,013	450	1,000		1,100					1,025			3,426,300	23,427,838
340	Charges for Goods & Services	13,629,226	91,846			15,000			22,000		71,000	250,000					14,079,072
350	Fines & Forfeits	168,750				2,000											170,750
360	Miscellaneous Revenue	2,431,600	289,000		2,100	5,350		875,000	500,000	925	231,370	3,850		14,100	196,305		4,549,600
370	Other Financing Sources			400,365					-								

Public Notices

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, 2025. 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 \$6.86.

Aug. 6, 2025

CITY OF BRANDON

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The Brandon City Council met in a special session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2025, at the Council Chambers at 308 S Main Avenue, Brandon, South Dakota. Present were Barb Fish, Bruce Johnson, Randy Marso and Mayor Harry Buck. Present via phone were David Kull and Colin Steen. Others present were City Administrator, Bryan Read; Finance Officer, Christina Smith; City Engineer, Tami Jansma; Public Works Director, Rollie Hoeke; Park Superintendent, Devin Coughlin; Development Director, Patrick Andrews and Police Chief, Jamie Steffel. Absent: Kevin Lawrence.

Alderman Marso moved Alderman Johnson seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

EAPC ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT
The EAPC contract was presented for preliminary design, final design and bidding of city hall in the amount of \$457,000.00. Alderman Johnson moved Alderman Marso seconded to approve the agreement as presented. Motion carried.

BUDGET WORK SESSION
A work session was held on the 2026 budget. No formal action was taken.

At 5:21 p.m. on a motion by Alderman Marso seconded by Alderman Johnson the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

Christina Smith, Municipal Finance Officer
Harry Buck, Mayor
Published one time at the approximate cost of \$12.47.

Aug. 6, 2025

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FOR BIDS

Owner: City of Brandon
Owner's Address: 304 South Main PO Box 95
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Project: Pioneer Park Lift Station Improvements

Sealed BIDS for the construction of the Pioneer Park Lift Station Improvements will be received by the City of Brandon at City Hall, 304 South Main, Brandon, SD before 10:00 AM local time Thursday, August 28, 2025, 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:

This project consists of the reconstruction of the Pioneer Park Lift Station. The work includes replacement of the dry pit lift station with a wet pit lift station including pre-cast concrete wet well and valve vault, connect to existing force main and existing gravity sewer, control building, grading, asphalt paving, site restoration and related electrical and control work.

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 #9801923 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact Quest-CDN.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, Fax 605-339-4175, 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 \$150.00, 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, City Engineer
Published two times at the approximate cost of \$60.59.

Aug. 6, 2025

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 Jenny Elizabeth Lockhart-Garcia For a Change of Name to Jenny Elizabeth Garcia. CIV: 25-2994 AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN a Verified Petition for Adult Name Change has been filed by Jenny Elizabeth Lockhart-Garcia to Jenny Elizabeth Garcia. On the 19th day of August, 2025, at the hour of 11:00 am said Verified Petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Judge Barnett Presiding, at the Court Room in the Minnehaha County Courthouse, City of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, 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 2nd day of July, 2025 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Published four times at the approx-

imate cost of \$37.03.

July 16, 23, 30 & Aug. 6, 2025

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 Jon Harley Rowe For a Change of Name to Jonayla Rae Rowe CIV: 25-3323 AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN a Verified Petition for Adult Name Change has been filed by Jon Harley Rowe the object and prayer of which is to change Petitioner's name from Jon Harley Rowe to Jonayla Rae Rowe. On the 9th day of September, 2025, at the hour of 11:00 am said Verified Petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Judge Mowery Presiding, at the Court Room in the Minnehaha County Courthouse, City of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, 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 24th day of July, 2025 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Published four times at the approximate cost of \$35.90.

July 30 & Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2025

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 Trystan Michael Rodriquez Bruns For a Change of Name to Willow Rodriguez Bruns CIV: 25-1783 2ND AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN a Verified Petition for Adult Name Change has been filed by Trystan Michael Rodriguez Bruns the object and prayer of which is to change Petitioner's name from Trystan Michael Rodriguez Bruns to Willow Rodriguez Bruns. On the 9th day of September, 2025, at the hour of 11:00 am said Verified Petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Judge Mowery Presiding, at the Court Room in the Minnehaha County Courthouse, City of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, 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 8th day of July, 2025 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Published four times at the approximate cost of \$38.15.

July 30 & Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SS: COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA
IN CIRCUIT COURT SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

MICHAEL F. SORENSON, DECEASED.
49PRO25-000156

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE IS GIVEN that on June 23, 2025, Evan A. Sorensen, whose address is 15 Kacie Lane, East Hampstead, NH 03826, was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate

of Michael F. Sorensen, deceased.

Creditors of decedent must file their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or their claims may be barred.

Claims may be filed with the Personal Representative or may be filed with the Clerk and a copy of the claim mailed to the Personal Representative.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2025.
Evan A. Sorensen
15 Kacie Lane
East Hampstead, NH 03826
Karla Kalb, Clerk of Courts
425 N. Dakota Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2470
(605) 367-5900

Richard F. Rahn Attorney at Law
4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 110
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115
(605) 362-7909
Published three times at the approximate cost of \$35.18.

July 23, 30, & Aug. 6, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
:SS COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA)
IN CIRCUIT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN THE MATTER OF THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER

ADERAH ROSE CRATER
CLARITY RILEY DELVECCHIO
MINOR CHILDREN.
ADP25-63

NOTICE OF HEARING
Upon reading and filing the Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights, and it appearing to the Court that this is a proper case for said Hearing:

IT IS HEREBY NOTICED:

A hearing for the Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights will be held before the above entitled Court, in the Courtroom of the Honorable Jeff Clapper, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., on the 4th day of September, in Minnehaha County, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, then and there to show cause if any he or she may have, why the Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights should not be granted.

FURTHER, service of this Notice shall be made upon all appropriate persons at least five (5) days before the return date hereof.

Dated this 10th day of July, 2025.
Published four times at the approximate cost of \$40.39.

July 30 & Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
:SS COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA)
IN CIRCUIT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP OF

KEELAN REECE BAILEY
MINOR CHILD.
GDN25-121

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Petition for Guardianship and Conservatorship of Minor Child will come on for hearing on the 2nd day of September, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Honorable Judge Jennifer Mammenga, Minnehaha County Courthouse, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Any interested party shall appear at that time to show cause if any he or she may have, why the Petition for Joint Guardianship and Conservatorship should not be granted.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2025.
Published four times at the approximate cost of \$30.29.

Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025

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Hughes County man scammed out of \$22K

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley and Hughes County Sheriff Patrick Callahan encourage the public to be careful about a Jury Duty telephone scam after a Hughes County resident was recently defrauded out of \$22,000.

"These types of scams are designed to threaten and scare people into taking quick action without properly investigating," said Jackley. "If you get a telephone call or text message about a summons for jury duty, please check

with the court of clerks."

The resident received a call from someone supposedly representing the Hughes County Sheriff's Office. The resident was told they had failed to appear for jury duty and would be subject to arrest if they did not pay a fine immediately via Bitcoin.

"The Hughes County Sheriff's Office or any legitimate law enforcement agency or court will never demand payment via the telephone or by any form of cryptocurrency like Bitcoin," Calla-

han said. "If you receive a call like this, please hang up immediately and report it to law enforcement."

Another text scam being reported is a message supposedly from the South Dakota Department of Transportation threatening an immediate fine and other penalties for not paying traffic, toll, and parking tickets. The DOT does not send out such messages. Scams should be reported to the SD Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-300-1986 or at consumer.sd.gov/.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER: Aug 9, 10:00am. 3 Miles East of SF, exit 402, Brandon, SD. Heavy machinery consignment: construction, farm, lawn... Full listing: auctionzip.com 605-331-4550

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150.00. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call this newspaper or 800-658-3697 for details.

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AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Monday, July 28, 2025

Agtegra Cooperative's records indicate that the following individuals or entities do not have an address on record or a known valid address on record and have one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) or more of unclaimed money or property with Agtegra:

- BRENT KAISER
- KENNETH D BARROWS ESTATE
- MICHAEL MILLER
- RED CREEK FARMS
- ROBERT LEE
- ROBERT PRITCHARD
- SUPER AMERICA
- WAYNE VANDERSNICK
- WORKSHARE TECHNOLOGY INC
- ZACH SUMNER

If you are one of the above-listed owners of unclaimed property or believe you are entitled to the unclaimed property of any one of the above-listed owners, please call or email Agtegra at (605) 725-8599 or unclaimedproperty@agtegra.com to request an application. If the property is not claimed by the rightful owner within six (6) months of the date of first publication of notice, the money or property may be forfeited to the cooperative.

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Sports

Circuit Martial Arts has big success at year-end ATA tournament

The 2025 ATA tournament year ended in June with Circuit Martial Arts having the No. 1 District and State champions. Students compete throughout the year in up to eight different events. Circuit Martial Arts had 21 individuals bringing home a total of 65 championships (11 District and 54 State) in Traditional Form, Traditional Weapon, Combat Weapon, Traditional Sparring, Creative Form, Creative Weapon, Xtreme Form and Xtreme Weapon.

Competitors earn points at each tournament based on their performance, with the top point earners in each division earning the state champion title.

Top point earners in each region then compete in their respected region for the District Title. Circuit Martial Arts is in the North District representing North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and



Submitted photo

Max Meyer captured first place in the Special Abilities Physical division of the Tournament of Champions. He's pictured with his grandmother, Barb Meyer, and mother, Marla Meyer.

Iowa.

Competitors range in age from five years to adult and White Belts to 6 Degree Black Belts.

The ATA World Tournament in

Phoenix July 22-29 was the culmination of the tournament year featuring competition of the top point earnings for 2024-25. A total of 2,800 competitors from

around the world participated at this level. ATA is located in the U.S.A., Central America, South America, Korea, Europe, Africa and Canada.

Max Meyer: This year, 1st Degree Black Belt, Max Meyer, competed in the Tournament of Champions (top point earners for the tournament year).

Meyer placed 1st Degree Black Belts - Special Abilities Physical division, bringing home two, second-place wins.

Tate Green: 4th/5th Degree, Women 18-29 years – District Champ, Creative Weapon; State Champ, Traditional and Creative Weapon.

Gavin Buseman: 2nd Degree Boys 11-12 years – District Champ, Creative Weapon; State Champ, Traditional Weapon, Combat Weapon and Creative Weapon.

Devyn Buseman: 1st Degree Girls 13-14 years – District Champ, Creative Weapon; State Champ, Traditional Weapon, Traditional Sparring and Creative Weapon.

Ethan MacFadden: Color Belt Boys 13-14 years – District Champ, Traditional Weapon and Combat Weapon; State Champ, Traditional Form, Traditional Weapon, Combat Weapon, Traditional Sparring, Creative Weapon and Xtreme Weapon.

Faye Fernholz: Color Belt Girls 9-10 years – District Champ, Traditional Weapon.

Lisa MacFadden: Color Belt Women - 40-49 years – District Champ, Creative Form, Creative Weapon, Xtreme Form, Xtreme Weapon; State Champ, Traditional Form, Traditional Weapon, Combat Weapon, Traditional

continued on page 8B

BV Post 131 LEGION BASEBALL cont. from page 4B

6-2 to Renner Post 307.

The Lynx managed just four hits in the loss, all singles from Ryder Mueller, Ryland Carroll, Max Peters and Bryton Stroh. Stroh and Jack Blomgren each had an RBI.

O’Gorman’s Jackson Bjorkman held Post 131 in check, going the distance and striking out seven.

Despite the sluggish start, the Lynx had a shot in the bottom of the sixth with the bases loaded and one out, down four runs. But an unfortunate 6-4-3 double play ended the threat.

“Defensively we played solid but offensively we just didn’t have the timely hits,” VanHeel said of the opening-round loss. “We didn’t have those big hits that we’ve

kind of had throughout the year to get us wins. We were just missing it at the right time.”

The loss sent the Lynx to the loser’s bracket where they now had to get past the top seed in Rapid City 22. And it looked dire after 22 scored seven times in the bottom of the third to jump out to a 7-0 lead.

But don’t count out the Lynx. BV dug in and scored four in the top of fourth, chipping into Post 22’s 7-4 lead. By the seventh, Brandon Valley trailed 11-4 before taking another shot at 22.

Post 131 cut it to 11-7 and had the bases loaded with their 3-4-5 hitters on deck in Carroll, Peters and Stroh. Carroll walked to inch closer at 11-8, as did Peters to trim it

to 11-9. Stroh hit a hard ground ball to third resulting in the final out.

“We showed a lot of heart. They’re a very good team and we didn’t go down easy,” VanHeel said. “Bryton’s been a good hitter all year, and he hit it hard. They just made a play. But if that one sneaks through for a base hit, we tie it. But hats off to them.”

Harrisburg eventually won this year’s Legion tournament, going undefeated over the five games with a 2-0 win over Yankton in Saturday’s championship game.

Although the 2025 baseball season officially wrapped up for Brandon Valley after two quick losses, it was a memorable spring and summer for the Lynx.

The team won their first state high school

title since 2018 with a 10-4 win over Sioux Falls Jefferson on May 25. VanHeel was named the high school Coach of the Year.

The Lynx coach later picked up his 400th career win during the summer Legion season. For the entire spring and summer 2025 season, Brandon Valley won 59.5 percent of its games.

Not a bad showing for a young team that loses just two seniors from its Legion team in Carroll and Luke Smart. And both of those players could return next summer as they’re still eligible in regards to age.

“The future is bright for these guys,” VanHeel said of his young roster. “We just need to go back, put some more work in, rejuvenate, and go get it again.”

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CIRCUIT FITNESS cont. from page 7B

Sparring, Creative Form, Creative Weapon, Xtreme Form and Xtreme Weapon.

Henry Mumm - 2nd Degree Boys - 13-14 years - State Champ, Traditional Weapon, Creative Weapon.

Paige Rolph - 2nd Degree Women - 18-29 years - State Champ, Traditional Weapon, Combat Weapon.

Max Meyer - 1st Degree Boys - 13-17 Special Abilities - State Champ, Traditional Weapon, Traditional Form

Logan Doss - 1st Degree Boys - 11-12 years - State Champ, Combat Weapon

Chet Wiersma - 1st Degree Boys - 9-10 years - State Champ, Creative Weapon, Xtreme Weapon

Larry Halveron - 1st Degree Men - 50-59 years - State Champ - Traditional Weapon

Julian Krajca - Color Belt Boys 9-10 years - State Champ, Traditional Sparring, Xtreme Form

Carter MacFadden - Color Belt Boys 9-10 years - State Champ, Traditional Forms, Traditional Weapon, Traditional Sparring, Creative Weapon, Xtreme Weapon

Jaxon Krajca - Color Belt Boys 8 years & under - State Champ, Traditional



Tate Green



Gavin Buseman



Devyn Buseman



Ethan MacFadden



Faye Fernholz



Lisa Macfadden



Henry Mumm



Paige Rolph



Max Meyer



Logan Doss



Chet Wiersma



Larry Halveron



Julian Krajca



Carter MacFadden



Jaxon Krajca



Abbott Wang



Stephen Schleifer



Brighton Ellerbroek

Weapon, Combat Weapon, Traditional Sparring, Creative Weapon

Abbott Wang - Color Belt Boys 11-12 years - State Champ, Traditional Form, Traditional Weapon, Combat Weapon

Stephen Schleifer - Color Belt Boys 11-12 years - State Champ, Traditional Sparring, Creative Weapon

Brighton Ellerbroek - Color Belt Girls - 11-12 years - State

Champ, Traditional Form, Traditional Weapon

Quinn Wang - Color Belt Girls - 8 years & under - State Champ, Traditional Weapon

Kolten Wiersma: Color Belt Boys 8 years & under - State Champ, Creative Weapon, Xtreme Weapon

Eugene Eterno (not pictured) Color Belt Boys 8 years & under - State Champ, Traditional Form



Quinn Wang



Kolten Wiersma

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STATE AMATEUR BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

cont. from page 1A

The tournament will bring thousands and thousands of Class A and B teams and fans to Brandon — many for the first time ever. Depending on which teams reach the semifinals, 2,500 to 3,000 people could potentially be at Aspen Park. “We have one opportunity to do this,” Peschel said, “to really showcase Brandon to the entire state. We want to make their experience here in Brandon the best that it can be, and just really showcase our town and why we all love this town. We need to bring that Brandon spirit to this park.”

It's going to take a village

As the saying goes for raising a child, “it’s going to take a village …”, the same could be said for hosting a 12-day state baseball tournament. The BVBA is asking community members to volunteer (minimum three-hour shifts). Volunteers are needed to staff one of the three gates, sell beer and seltzers, concessions (selling and cooking), parking lot attendants, end-of-day cleanup, field maintenance, ball boys and girls, and more. Volunteer registration is available on the BVBA website, brandonvalleybaseball.com.

“If we had every family within our association volunteer, we’d have more people than what we need. But we know that during the day it’s going to be harder for our working families to be there to help, so that’s why we’re asking our community members who may be retired and love Brandon to come down to the park, fry some burgers, cook some hotdogs, serve a couple beers, take some gate,” he said.

The state amateur commission takes charge of scheduling the games, umpires, announcer, official scorekeeper and scoreboard operator.

As for cashing in on foul balls, Peschel said the South Dakota Amateur Friends of Baseball covers the cost of baseballs for the tournament. Any foul ball that’s hit out of the stadium is simply a souvenir.

Tournament game schedule

The Class B tournament will be played in its entirety in Brandon and Valley Springs. The first weekend of the Class A tournament is played in Aberdeen.

“The B teams travel really well, and they’re going to bring a lot of people to the park.

Wednesday, Aug. 6: Class B games at 5 and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 7-10: Class B games at 11 a.m., 1:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

Monday-Thursday, Aug. 11-14: Class B game at 5 and 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 15: Class A & B games at 1, 3:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m. (Brandon); 1 and 3:30 p.m. (Valley Springs)

Saturday, Aug. 16 Class A & B semifinals: 11 a.m., 1:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 17 (Class A & B

championships): 12 and 2:30 p.m. With 37 scheduled games, Peschel said two of these games will be played at Legion Field in Valley Springs.

“Valley Springs is a huge supporter for us. The city, Cindy and Carl (Moss) and all those guys over there do a great job for us running the concession stand. They’ve been a huge supporter of Brandon Valley Baseball. They love having us in town, and so we’re excited to give them a couple games and give them the opportunity to host some additional fans and sell some beer,” he said.

Unlike the Legion tournament, this tournament does not have a ceremonial opening. But Peschel did divulge that “a couple unique things” are planned.

He cited Veterans Appreciation Night, which is Thursday, Aug. 14, and allows veterans and their spouse free entry. Two nights later — Saturday, Aug. 16 — is Hall of Fame Night, where the 25-year anniversary team will be recognized along with this year’s inductees.

The local Legion and VFW color guards will provide the colors and local talent will perform the *National Anthem*.

“We’ve got the trumpet line from the high school that’s going to come and do the *National Anthem*. We’ve got some talented individuals within the community are going to sing some for us as well,” Peschel said.

Selling the Commission on Brandon

Although Mitchell has hosted the state amateur tournament 85 of the 93 years its been played, Peschel said it’s the BVBA’s goal to keep some of the traditions Mitchell has established, but to also improve on some of the things they’ve done in the past.

“They’ve been a great host and we’ve learned a lot from them,” Peschel said.

The tournament has also been played at Augustana University and The Birdcage, both in Sioux Falls.

“We’ve seen what didn’t work at The Birdcage and we’ve seen what didn’t work at Augie. We’re just trying to make sure that when fans get here, they’re going to see a very similar product to what they got in Mitchell, but maybe some enhancements, too.”

They rolled up their sleeves and went to work

Since the opening of First National Bank Field in 2018, the BVBA has made continuous improvements to the facility.

For starters, they constructed a new grandstand along the left field line that provides seating for 300.

“It’s a great place to watch,” Peschel said. “You can get out of the crowd a little bit, move down, have kind of your own area there.”

Required to have seating for

750, the BVBA will well-exceed the minimum with an estimated seating for 900. Along with the added seating for 300, they’ve brought in the football bleachers from Brandon Valley Middle School and are stationed along the right field fence line.

Patios on each side of the grandstand next to the home and visitor dugouts will be changed up as well. Peschel said the picnic tables will be removed and replaced with a wooden spools. And 30 metal seats will be available right against the backstop, which fans can use to hold their beverages.

Fans can stay tuned into the game in progress when they’re hitting the concessions, as a large screen TV will be set up behind the grandstand.

“I think those are going to be great areas for people to congregate. So that will be something different that we’ve done,” he said.

Air conditioning was added to the press box and all of the outfield windscreens have been replaced.

And if it can be achieved by tournament, a BVBA dad has pledged to cover the cost of a 24- by 16-foot ‘home run’ deck just outside the centerfield fence nestled in between the scoreboard and the flag poles. The deck should be able to accommodate 60 to 80 people and will not eliminate any parking spaces.

The rewards of the tournament

While hosting a state amateur tournament involves plenty of work, the reward of that work is in the realized proceeds. Peschel said BVBA parents question what the association does with the money that is made.

One of the big price tag projects the BVBA will incur is replacing the artificial turf. Peschel said the turf company anticipates it has two to three seasons before it should be replaced.

“They said we’ve done a great job maintaining it, so kudos to our players and our coaches for maintaining that turf and taking care of it, to our board members for doing a great job of fixing what’s wrong when something happens, replacing sleeves, batter’s boxes and pitching mounds and that type of stuff, so we’ve been able to take care of that turf in a great way,” he said.

The cost to replace the turf is \$225,000 to \$250,000.

Profits from this tournament and the other three the BVBA hosts annually also goes to keeping registration fees affordable for all.

“We are probably 40 to 60 percent less expensive than most of the other programs in Minnehaha County. It’s why we have 600 kids playing for us, as we do try and keep that affordable. If we didn’t have these tournaments, people would pay double what they pay now,” Peschel said.

Tournament revenue also helps to fund improvements at both As-



pen Park in Brandon and Legion Park in Valley Springs.

“This tournament is geared towards adults and our amateur players, but the profit that comes off of this and the money that we raise is going back to the youth within our program, and every youth member, from our rookies team all the way to our Legion team are going to benefit from the dollars raised here, which is why it’s important that we get help from not only the community, but also the parents within our associations,” he said.

Fans and players are gonna love this

Something new the BVBA is introducing to the state amateur tournament this year is the addition of a radar gun. The radar gun will be mounted to record the speed of every pitch thrown, which will be flashed on the scoreboard.

“It’s kind of a unique thing that Mitchell doesn’t have, and it’s just another thing to enhance the fan experience, which I think will be enjoyable,” Peschel said.

A second new addition for this tournament will be a beer tent positioned near the right field bullpen, which the BVBA has tagged as “The Vault.”

“Since we call the field ‘The Bank,’ we’re calling that ‘The Vault,’” he said.

Another unique perk will be VIP parking packages.

“If you’ve ever been to a Legion or a 16U baseball game out at Aspen, one of the best places to watch a baseball game and get away from the crowd is to back your truck up to the outfield fence, throw a couple lawn chairs in the back, and sit and watch the game from your truck,” Peschel said.

Each session will offer 21 VIP parking spaces, which also come with six tickets into the game, a bucket of beer and private VIP bar.

“That’s something that hasn’t been done in Mitchell or at Augie,” he said.

VIP parking packages can be purchased on the BVBA website, brandonvalleybaseball.com.

Opportunities for local businesses

With 12 days of baseball action scheduled, Brandon businesses stand to gain added foot traffic.

“Our businesses in town are super-excited,” Peschel said. “We’ve got a ton of support from them. They’re excited to host these teams at Tailgators and 212°, The Hide-away and Pizza Ranch if they need to get out of the heat and into air conditioning. Our hotels are excited to have the State Amateur Commission in town for 12 days, and the golf course is excited to have some of these people that may be staying in town and don’t have anything to do until 5 o’clock.”

Finding their way there

With road construction taking place in nearly every direction surrounding the city, Peschel said the BVBA will have plenty of signage up to direct visitors to Aspen Park. He said signs will be placed at Veterans Parkway, the Brandon 406 exit on Interstate 90, and along Splitrock Boulevard/Hwy. 11.

The final details

Admission per session (two games) is \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids.

For tournament updates, fans should visit the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball website, sdamateurbaseball.com, the BVBA and State Amateur Facebook pages.

Peschel, Chris Brown, Torrey Sundall, Dan Wrightsman, John Neth and Josh Van Riper are the committee heads for this tournament.

If all goes well ...

The BVBA received some well-earned pats on the back for their efforts on hosting the 2021 State American Legion Class A Baseball tournament. Over the last year, the BVBA has been diligent in their preparations to make this tournament equally successful.

“Hopefully, this isn’t the last time that this tournament is played here, that’s our goal,” Peschel said.

The BVBA isn’t looking to host it every year, but would be eager to do so every third or fourth year.

“We would like this to work, because it’s a ton of work, and it does require an army of people. But if we do a great job and really show that Minnehaha County and Brandon can support this tournament and showcases our community to the state, and the state responds, our goal would be every third or fourth year to get this tournament back in Brandon,” he said.



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