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THIS MONTH'S DEADLINE IS DEC. 26TH.

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INSIDE

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Brandon Area Briefs

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Today is:
National Mutt Day
National Day of Giving
Special Education Day
National Fritters Day

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LET THE HUNT BEGIN!

SOLVE THE CLUES • FIND THE ORNAMENT
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FINDING BRANDON'S Christmas Spirit

WATCH FOR THE FIRST CLUE IN THE
BRANDON VALLEY JOURNAL ON DECEMBER 3



Brandon Area Briefs

Warm clothing drive underway

Circuit Martial Arts & Fitness, Brandon, is collecting warm clothing now through Friday, Dec. 12. Donations of new or used clean coats, boots, gloves, hats, blankets, etc., may be dropped off at Circuit, 1124 E. Holly Blvd., Monday-Friday 3-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays 7 a.m.-noon.

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry

Current needs at the Brandon Food Pantry are canned chicken, pizza sauce and crust, mustard and ketchup, pancake mix

and syrup, cake/brownie mix, peanut butter, pudding snack packs, shampoo, body wash, bar soap and laundry detergent.

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

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

Away in a Manger

605 Roots, 26704 481st Ave., Sioux Falls, is staging a live nativity, Away in a Manger,

from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12. 605 Roots invites the public to step into the story of Jesus’ birth to experience the wonder and peace of the stable where the King of Kings was born.

Along with the live nativity, there will be a station to write a letter to a loved one in Heaven, sing songs of the season, enjoy a cup of warm cider and more.

Breakfast at Bethany

The next Breakfast at Bethany (3008 E. Aspen Blvd., Brandon) is 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12. A free will offering will be taken, and proceeds will go to the Bethany Foundation.

These breakfasts are served the second Friday of every month

and are open to the public.

Brandon Farmers Market moves indoors

The Brandon Farmers Market sales has moved indoors to Faith United Church, 800 N. Splitrock Blvd., for the winter. The Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and is scheduled to be open Dec. 13 and 20 (holiday market plus Santa visit), Jan. 10, 2026, Feb. 14, 2026, March 14, 2026, and April 11, 2026.

To learn more, visit brandonsdfarmersmarket.com, email brandonsdfarmersmarket@gmail.com or call (605) 940-7516.

New Year’s Eve party at Brandon Library

Can’t stay up late but still want to celebrate? Families are in-

vited to a Glow Party at the library on Wednesday, Dec. 31 for glow-in-the-dark crafts, music and a countdown to the 12 p.m. (noon) balloon drop. The event is recommended for kids ages 2-10.

Families will enjoy exploring how art and popcorn glows in the blacklight room, and can light up the library with a free glow bracelet and glow-in-the-dark temporary tattoos. There is also an opportunity to create a firework ring and wand, and write your hopes for 2026, adding them to the library hope chain.

IceCats Arena calendar available online

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

Ed Polzine seeks donations of wild game, fish

The Ed Polzine Wild Game Feed Fund is accepting donations of wild game (deer, elk, pheasants, moose, etc.) and fish (preferably walleye) for the 40th annual Wild Game Feed on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026.

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



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Ask the Motor Medics®

Automotive Advice from The Under the Hood® Show

Dear Motor Medics,

I have a 2003 Chevy suburban with 200,000 miles on it but it runs and looks great! No really...I'm serious. I want to know is about the tire pressure monitors and if I can reset them at home. The owner's manual says I can. I service the vehicle regularly and they charge me for resetting the monitor every time I have the tires rotated but the rotation is free with the oil change.

Love the show! Myron in Kansas City Missouri .

Dear Myron,

Tire pressure monitors on this vehicle can be reset at home without special tools but not all vehicles are this way so you will have to spend the money in some cases. To reset the monitors on this vehicle is relatively simple. When the tires have changed positions i.e. rotating, a relearn must be done. Start by applying the parking brake, next turn the key to the on position then turn the headlamp switch from off to park lamp three times within five seconds of key on and the horn will beep twice. Now you have to decrease the tire pressure starting with the driver's side front tire until the horn beeps. Move to the passenger side front tire then the passenger rear tire and last the drivers rear tire. When you are done with the last tire turn the key off and inflate the tires to the correct pressure. It gets easier once you have done it once.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,

I broke my daughters' car and she won't leave me alone about it. Never mind that I am the one who bought the car and pays for the insurance, the gas, the tires, I could go on forever but she's just not going to get it. I didn't even break it that bad. I borrowed the car and when I went to adjust the rear view mirror it fell off. I'd tell you the story of what happened when she borrowed my car last but she would never get over the embarrassment. Anyways, I am stuck with this mirror thing. The metal tab that should be stuck to the window won't stick. I have tried many different kinds of glue and it just keeps coming off. Can you help me get this fixed so that I can get my life back?

Helen in Duluth Minnesota.

Dear Helen,

Isn't it fun how these things work? At least you didn't break something more serious. If you had, we could probably help you with that too. As for the mirror, you just need better glue. What you need is special glass glue for mirrors that is available at auto parts stores. Ask the counter guy and they will help. Make sure to follow directions exactly, cleaning as directed and don't over apply the product. When they say one drop they mean it. Once installed it won't come off so be sure to align it right.

Take care, the Motor Medics



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Senior Week Day (ages 60 & up)	\$800.00	\$680.00
Senior All Time (ages 60 & up)	\$950.00	\$807.50
Young Adult All Time (ages 19-23)	\$500.00	\$425.00
Young Professional All Time (ages 24-30)	\$800.00	\$680.00
Adult Couple All Time	\$1,475.00	\$1,253.75
Senior Couple All Time	\$1,325.00	\$1,126.25
Young Professional Couple All Time	\$1,125.00	\$956.25
Youth (ages 18 and under) w/ parent pass holder	\$150.00	\$127.50
Youth (ages 18 and under) w/o parent pass holder	\$300.00	\$255.00

All pass prices subject to 7.2% sales tax

Cart Lease Category (unlimited rounds)	Normal Price	15% Discount
1/2 Cart Lease All Time	\$900.00	\$765.00
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Couple Cart Lease All Time	\$1,200.00	\$1,020.00
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All cart lease prices subject to 6.2% sales tax

Range Pass Categories (unlimited balls)	Normal Price	15% Discount
Adult Range Pass	\$500.00	\$425.00
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Proshop hours (golf course open):

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Coming in tomorrow's

BRANDON VALLEY Journal



The Christmas season is upon us, and of course, so is the hunt to “Find Brandon’s Christmas Spirit” ornament. That’s right! A wooden ornament, created by Tim Jorgenson of Splitrock Furniture and engraved by Monte Albertson of Monte’s Woodshop, has been hidden somewhere within the borders of Brandon. The very first clue leading you to “Finding Brandon’s Christmas Spirit” will be in the Dec. 3 *Brandon Valley Journal*. Clues will continue to be printed weekly in the *Journal* until it is found. And whomever finds the ornament, will be gifted a bevy of donations from local merchants.

There’s more big news, too, including the official completion of the Diverging Diamond Interchange, a District 2 legislator’s surprising announcement, a 2022 Brandon Valley High School grad’s step into the world of WWE, and get to meet the new pastor at Blessed Redeemer Lutheran. And there’s a whole lot more. If you find yourself asking, “I wonder what’s going on ...,” it’s surely time to subscribe to the *Brandon Valley Journal*! Give us a call at (605) 582-9999 to subscribe today so you, too, can be in the know.

FACES BEHIND
The Lynx Way



TEACHER
of the Week



Jennifer Smetsrud - Mrs. Smetsrud is an outstanding example of what it means to live by the Lynx Way. She consistently thinks outside of the box, always searching for creative and meaningful ways to support her students in every way possible. She has introduced new and up-to-date skills to her curriculum, offering students hands-on experiences that build confidence, curiosity, and connection. She is continually seeking new activities and innovative approaches that keep students excited and invested in their learning. Her genuine kindness, empathetic listening, and open-minded approach help students feel valued, understood, and supported. Whether she’s addressing academic concerns or helping students work through conflicts, she does so with patience and compassion, guiding them toward positive resolutions. Most importantly, she fosters a safe environment where students know they can take risks, be themselves, and seek guidance without judgment. Her presence brings stability, warmth, and encouragement to the building every day. She is a true asset to our BVMS community, leaving a meaningful and lasting impact on everyone she works with. - Dr. Nelson & Ms. Hoff, BV Middle School

What is your favorite school lunch?
Cheese Pizza

Why do you love teaching?
Every day is a new day in the world of teaching. Even though the time schedule usually remains the same, each day is a new adventure, and the days fly by. As the saying goes, if you love your job, you never work a day in your life, right? I really enjoy the enthusiasm and energy that middle school students bring to class. They make me smile, laugh, and keep me on my toes. It is fun to teach, guide, and watch students learn, interact, and grow throughout the year.

How long have you been with the district?
12 years.

What’s your favorite past time?
Spending time with family, doing Pilates, and reading a good book.

What was your favorite subject in school and why?
I loved science classes in high school because it is so fascinating to learn about. I am still amazed at the activities and content our middle schoolers are learning everyday!

STUDENT
of the Week



Remy Aaker - Remy is an exceptional 7th grade student whose character shines through in everything she does. Her teachers note her strong sense of self-awareness and how she consistently advocates for her needs in a respectful and thoughtful way. If she is not heard the first time, she gently and appropriately asks again, demonstrating both confidence and maturity. She also shows great responsibility in managing her commitments. Remy’s honesty is one of her most admirable qualities. Remy’s kindness and positivity make her a wonderful influence in the classroom. She treats her classmates with respect, includes everyone, and maintains a positive attitude—even when she feels frustrated or challenged. She is quick to reset, stays focused, and always tries her hardest. Her joyful energy and warm smile brighten the room each day. Remy is a role model for her peers, and her teachers deeply appreciate the authenticity, responsibility, and heart she brings to the BVMS community. Thank you for being a Lynx Leader at BVMS! - Dr. Nelson & Ms. Hoff, BV Middle School

What is your favorite school lunch?
Pizza or Chicken Nuggets

What grade are you in?
7th Grade

What does the Lynx Way mean to you?
Being respectful of others who are learning. When sharing space with others, be quiet, listen, and pay attention.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Chef.



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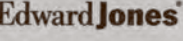
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- Across
1. Reason for a parental reprimand

5. Contragate figure

10. Parking ticket alternative

13. Truism

15. Snake River locale

16. Hall of Fame stat

17. Start of a clubhouse observation

20. Sanctify using oil

21. Word with Mexico or England

22. Cry from the tickled?

23. Upon

25. R.M.N. opponent

27. Actress Thurman

30. Part 2 of the observation

36. Snatches

38. Horse cart

39. Straight-laced fingerwagger

40. Composer Liszt

42. Vent opening?

43. Facilitates

44. One of Seventeen?

45. Canadian singer k.d.

47. Sasquatch cousin

48. Part 3 of the observation

51. American taxpayer's ID

52. Dot follower

53. "Serving ____" (2002 film)

55. Gherkin kin

58. Invite

61. Disgust

65. End of the observation

68. Writer's shortcut

69. Kentucky college, or its town

70. Accounting entry

71. Eight hours, to many workers

72. Plus

73. Great amounts
- Down
1. Complicated account

2. Impulse conductor

3. Storage space

4. Bulgaria's capital

5. Nothing

6. Valhalla ruler

7. Not leave leaves

8. "Tommy" group

9. Trendy

10. It's in the Bible

11. Nabisco nibble

12. Female with a sting

14. Like some candies or fresh breath

18. Didn't get a seat

19. Butt holder

24. Imperial

26. Clinton's birthplace

27. Out of shape

28. Wetland

29. Degrade

31. Food wrap brand

32. Howling hunters

33. Joins together

34. "Waiting for Lefty" playwright

35. Shellac, for one

37. Cuddle

41. Nothing

46. Grind one's teeth

49. Sidesteps

50. Put through the wringer

54. Weekend warrior's woes

55. Turned blue, perhaps

56. Smidgen

57. "Peanuts" fussbudget

59. Lancelot and Galahad

60. Spot for a cap

62. 1995 earthquake city

63. Literary Lamb

64. New Jersey cagers

66. 64-Across arbiter

67. Repeatedly tie the knot?

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8		2	1					5
5	6							
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	5						6	8
1				4				7
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						9		
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. Digits cannot repeat within the same row, column or box. **Solution on page 2**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

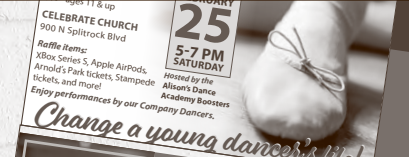
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13				14		15					16			
17					18					19				
20						21				22				
			23			24			25	26				
27	28	29		30			31	32				33	34	35
36			37		38					39				
40				41		42				43				
44						45			46		47			
48					49					50		51		
			52					53			54			
55	56	57			58	59	60		61			62	63	64
65					66				67					
68					69					70				
71					72						73			

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