

Member engagement is focus of 2020 Chamber board president

Jill Meier Journal editor

Chuck Parsons isn't about to "fix" something that's not broken. As he steps into the leadership role as chairman of the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Parsons simply wants to pick up

where 2019 chairman Brian Wills left off. "I'm going to carry on what Brian started. I don't want to vary from that and to me, nothing needs to be fixed," he said. During his year at the helm, Wills promoted member engagement. "I think that engagement piece is just wanting people

to find volunteering with the chamber to be fun," Parsons said. "That's one thing Brian and I talked about is that we want things to be fun. We want to try new things and if they don't work out, so what? We'll keep trying. But we want to have fun and I want people to want to be willing to step up, have continued on page 9

Kingbird Coffee opens today

Jamie Hult Staff writer



Kingbird Coffee rings in business and the new year when the shop opens this week with a wide selection of hot, iced and blended beverages to suit even the most discerning of java enthusiasts. The shop was initially scheduled to launch late last summer, but construction complications pushed back Kingbird's opening day to Jan. 1. It's located at 509 N. Splitrock Blvd.

"I really don't know what I'll be getting myself into," owner Billy Cutrer said with a laugh. Cutrer is modest. Though this is the contractor's first foray into the restaurant business, he's immersed himself in the world of artisanal coffee since deciding to bring the amenity to Brandon's busiest thoroughfare. Kingbird's menu includes all the standard coffeehouse beverages, but prepared in a European, pour-over style. continued on page 6

THE TOP 19 IN '19 Community empowerment, record flooding and road closures: What were the big headlines in the Brandon area in 2019?

Jill Meier • Jamie Hult

From road closures and record flooding to Lynx championships and community empowerment, 2019 was a year for the books for the Brandon and Valley Springs area. As we take a look back over the last 52 weeks, we've compiled the top 19 local headlines from '19, in no particular order.



(Above) Brandon Valley High School students were excused from classes to help with sandbagging efforts along Redwood Boulevard following the Sept. 10 flood. Submitted photo



(At left) Brandon Police Chief Joe Weir succeeded Dave Kull in April. Jamie Hult/File photo

1 One way out.

Record flooding from torrential rainfalls in mid-September essentially stopped the flow of traffic in and out of Brandon in nearly every direction. By the end of the week, commuters were limited to a single option to come and go: the already heavily-impacted Interstate 90 route. Already hindered by the Holly Boulevard construction, to add to commuters' woes, routes south of Brandon – Highway 11, Madison Street and Maple/Park streets – were shut down, Aspen Boulevard and McHardy Road were closed due to rushing water over the roadways, and north of Corson, Highway 11 was also closed.

2 Year of the Lynx.

The combined 2019 state AA boys and girls basketball tournaments was one for the local record books, as the Lynx boys and Lady Lynx brought home their respective championship hardware from Rapid City. Both teams were led by eight seniors and supported by a cast of skilled underclassmen. Along with the state hardware, 2019 seniors Danica Kocer and Evan Talcott were selected as their respective 2019 Class AA Spirit of Su recipients.

3 City says 'Dirt' post on radium is fake.

A Facebook post reporting over-the-limit radium levels in Brandon's drinking water led the city to call a press conference Aug. 14 to state the report was falsified. In late July, the Facebook page "City of Brandon, SD The Dirt" posted an alleged factual report showing that the radium numbers from a June well water sample exceeded the EPA and state standards. Several residents who saw post con-

tacted the state DENR to complain, and the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory launched an investigation into the The Dirt's report, "as they did not appear to be similar to the results the public health laboratory had found," said city administrator Bryan Read, who addressed the public, along with Mark Meyer with the SDDENR drinking water program.

See Top 19, page 10



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Brandon Valley School District looks to hire six to 10 additional bus drivers for the current school year.

BVSD sees bus driver shortage

Editor's note: This article did not appear in its entirety in the Journal's Dec. 25, 2019, issue. We regret the error.

Jamie Hult Staff writer

Peace, love and a few more bus drivers: That's all the Brandon Valley School District wants for Christmas. Transportation is, traditionally, one of the hardest depart-

ments for the school district to staff, and as enrollment rises, so does the need for more drivers to get those students where they need to go. "Because we're growing, it seems to be a growing issue, but it's always kind of been there," explained Ty Hentschel, BVSD operations manager. "We need drivers." BVSD staffs around 30 bus drivers and runs 24 full-time routes. The district continually

hires drivers, but they're needed now more than ever – ideally, six to 10 new people to bulk up the current staff. The reason for the recent shortage seems to be two-fold. "The need for bus drivers is a clear indication of both the steady growth of the district and the importance of what we do," said transportation director David Moody. "Many working families rely heavily on our ability to safely transport their students

– something we are proud to do well – but the high quality of service we provide is more easily achievable with more drivers." In the current, strong economy, fewer people are looking for jobs, Hentschel noted, and many of those who are job-hunting don't have the flexible schedule and CDL needed to transport students. "There is more of a need lately. A lot of it is, it's a nationwide thing now," he said. "Part of it is the economy; part of it is the growth." continued on page 5

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Pages 6: Behind the scenes of Minnehaha Co. IT
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Pages 8-9: Lynx sports
Pages 12: BV alumni hoops



Taking your best friend to the vet? Check two things off your list. City Pet Licenses are now available at Sioux Nation Pet Clinic in Sioux Falls, SD, Horizon Pet Care in Brandon, SD & Brandon Valley Veterinary Clinic in Brandon, SD. Renew your Rabies Vaccination & City License at the same location. Brought to you by the City of Brandon: Brandon South Dakota, Brandon Valley Veterinary Clinic, p.c., Horizon pet care, Sioux Nation Pet Clinic

Year-end police stats show Brandon still safe city

Jamie Hult
Staff writer

Brandon continues to fly its “safest city in South Dakota” banner with comparatively little violent crime and property theft in 2019.

Local police handled just 10 reports of vehicle thefts in the first 11 months of last year, compared to 52 car thefts in that same time frame in 2018.

Brandon police also saw fewer vandalisms in 2019, with 40 reports compared to 68 the previous year, and fewer sex offense violations.

Through Nov. 30, there were just three reports, compared to 14 in 2018.

Traffic citations dipped in 2019, while DWIs were roughly on par with previous years. Brandon police made 59 DWI arrests in the first 11 months of 2019, compared to 56 in that same time frame in 2018.

“The bottom line is Brandon continues to be an extremely safe place to live and work in comparison to most all of the United States,” said Police Chief Joe Weir. “Brandon police officers are very fortunate to serve in such a low crime area with

such an outstanding populace.”

The department also issued fewer traffic citations and warnings last year. Brandon police handed out 924 traffic citations and 943 written warnings through Nov. 30, 2019, a decrease from 1,014 tickets and 1,048 warnings in 2018.

Motor vehicle accidents rose considerably, however. The department responded to 219 non-injury accidents through Nov. 30, 2019, compared to 141 in 2018 and the previous high of 206 in 2017.

“Going forward, traffic safety in and around school and construction

zones will continue to be a focus,” Weir said. “We will also continue to prioritize building and maintaining a strong relationship with the public, especially the valuable youth of our fine community.”

Brandon police also handed out a few more parking tickets in 2019 – 245 in the first 11 months, compared to 200 in that same time frame in 2018.

Officers also responded to 277 medical emergencies, 229 mutual aid calls, 49 gas skips and nine reports of shoplifting.

TALK of the TOWN

BAFP’s January needs

The needs for January at the Brandon Area Food Pantry are Cup O’ Noodles, Banquet Complete, Rotel tomatoes, beef stew, Miracle Whip, mayonnaise, hard shell tacos. We continue to have an ample supply of canned vegetables, fruits and soups.

Before donating food items, please check expiration dates and that cans are not bulging from age and/or freezing. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

The BAFP is also accepting used eye glasses and hearing aids on behalf of the Brandon Lions Club.

The BAFP is open 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 406 Main Ave.

To learn more, call 605-582-7001.

BVSD Kindergarten registration

Starting Jan. 2, Brandon Valley School District will begin accepting registrations for 2020-21 kindergarten screening process. Any family who has a child that will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020, is eligible to start kindergarten next fall.

To schedule a screening appointment, call the attendance center your child will attend: Brandon Elementary, 582-6315; Fred Assam Elementary, 582-1500; Robert Bennis Elementary, 582-8010; and Valley Springs Elementary, 582-2948.

Purchase second semester bus passes

Bus passes for the second semester of the school year at Brandon Valley are due by Jan. 10.

Passes may be purchased by mailing payment to the BVSD Transportation Department, 812 E. Redwood Blvd., Brandon, online at branodnvalley-schools.com under the Webmail button, given to student’s bus driver; or at the transportation office, which is open 6:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

To learn more, call 582-3514.

Register for Early Childhood Developmental Screening

Brandon Valley School District has scheduled Early Childhood Developmental Screening from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at Brandon Elementary.

Screenings are free for all children from birth to age 4 who live in the BVSD. South Dakota School for the Deaf will provide free hearing screenings at this same time.

To register online, visit branodnvalley.k12.sd.us/spec_serv or call the Special Services office at 582-3446.

Winter’s work



Jamie Hult/BV Journal
Vince Benson clears his sidewalk on Tamarac Circle Monday morning after a snowfall that brought several inches Sunday night.

Worthington band rescues BV musicians en route to Florida

Staff report

Two high school bands from neighboring states were “in tune” on the road last week.

After hitting the road Christmas Day evening to the Camping World Bowl in Orlando, Fla., the Marching Lynx from Brandon Valley found themselves stranded. Apparently, one of the busses chartered by the Marching Lynx from Brandon Valley shut down when an anti-pollution system – not working properly – shut the bus down. The bus was reportedly new, having less than 4,000 miles on the odometer.

It was then the Spirit of Worthington Trojan Marching Band – en route to the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, Ga. – came to BV’s rescue.

Both bands were traveling via

Reading Bus Line charters, and when the Worthington band learned of the mechanical issue that had the Marching Lynx sitting idle, they knew they had to help. The neighboring Minnesota-based band combined four buses into three, offering up the vacant bus to the Marching Lynx. A new fourth bus was expected to catch up with the Worthington band by Dec. 27.

BV chartered three buses to cart the 120 student-musicians and chaperones 1,600 miles to the Camping World Bowl, which aired live Dec. 28 on ABC television. The game pitted the Iowa State Cyclones against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. The Marching Lynx joined 10 to 15 other high school bands from across the nation to perform two numbers at halftime.

Spreading holiday joy



Submitted photo

Brandon American Legion Auxiliary spread a little Christmas joy to the residents at Helping Hand Assisted Living Dec. 18 by delivering gifts to each of the residents. The Auxiliary purchased, wrapped and distributed 73 gifts, 31 of which were given to military veterans. Pictured are, from right: Laurel Drexler, Maxine Johnson, Liz Hubbell, Barb Marsh and Gail Harris. Not pictured is Anna Mae Inglis.

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Integrative Medicine

Kandace Brands
Health Coach

Avera

**Wednesday, Jan. 8
5:30 p.m.**

Avera Cancer Institute
1000 E. 23rd St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Register for this event at Avera.org/events

19-IMED-20340

HELP WANTED

Looking for a fun and rewarding job? Palisades State Park and Big Sioux Recreation Area are accepting applications for summer seasonal positions and Internships. Several positions available, salaries start at \$10.17/hr, and 40 hour work week (part-time could be considered). For job information and application please visit <https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/>.

Applicants must be age 17 by date of hire. Interviews will begin in March, so get your application in quickly as possible. For questions, email palisadespark@state.sd.us or call 605-594-3824. EOE

When families shop Mom & Pop, they're making a personal investment in their neighborhood and hometown.

When businesses are active members of the South Dakota Retailers Association, they are making a smart investment for their shop and employees.

AREA DEATH NOTICES

Tuesday, Dec. 24
James Baszler, 84, De Smet
George Bovill, 82, Beresford
Donald Brende, 72, Dell Rapids
Paul Burgi, 76, Yankton
Pamela Cox, 65, Sioux Falls
Kenneth Dains, 96, Freeman
Peggy Kirstein, 89, Madison
Illene McKenney, 88, Inwood, Iowa
Braxton Novak, 5, Sioux Falls
Lien Pudwill, 59, Sioux Falls
Wayne Rausch, 94, Sioux Falls
Donald Schellhouse, 76, Sturgis
Jeanne Schrader, 94, Sioux Falls
Shirley Schroeder, 89, Brandon
Richard Torney, 80, Sioux Falls
Barbara "Bobbi" Tschetter, 92, Huron
Peter Vander Lugt, 89, Edgerton, Minn.
Dick VanHofwegen, 91, Hardwick, Minn.
Lynn Willemssen, 67, Fulda, Minn.

Wednesday, Dec. 25
Claren Keithley, 78, Brandon
Stanley Lee, 83, Sioux Falls
Myrna Weston Lewis, 65, Flandreau
Marlene Lubbers, 84, Emery
Marsha Monen, 67, Canton

Thursday, Dec. 26
Paul Burgi, 76, Yankton
Pamela Cox, 66, Sioux Falls
Gerald Handel, 79, Menno

Friday, Dec. 27
Virginia Bayer, 94, Sioux Falls
Eugene Borland, 71, Tyndall
Homer Daniel, 85, Sioux Falls
Barbara Jo Donnelly, 83, Rapid City
John "Jack" Headley, 82, Brookings
Bernice Nelson, 86, Sioux Falls
Sidney Peters, 94, Brookings
Velda Pruner, 58, Parkston
Isaac Immanuel Smith, 23, Sioux Falls
Dorothy Sullivan, 95, Aberdeen
Nona Walter, 92, Brandon, formerly of Jasper, Minn.

Saturday, Dec. 28
Joanne Ginsbach, 74, Hartford
Thomas Grevillius, 71, Hudson, formerly of Sioux Falls and Brandon
Eva Hanisch, 108, Humboldt
James Hodgson, 76, Sioux Falls
Lois Huber, 87, Emery
Vance Janssen, 92, Sioux Falls
Janelle Martens, 63, De Smet
Jean Nelson, 77, Alcester
Frank "Gypsy" Patton, 73, Sioux Falls
Dorothy Sullivan, 95, Aberdeen
LaVonne Thomas, 83, Sioux Falls

Sunday, Dec. 29
Kay Adkins, 75, Sioux Falls
Steve Brasel, Woodbury, Minn.
John Calvin, 85, Watertown
Darlene Geyer, 82, De Smet
Scott Krausman, 53, Sioux Falls
Susan M. Shea, 41, Brandon
Muriel Steenholdt, 84, Sioux Falls
Laurie Tidemann, 51, Sioux Falls
Richard Torney, 80, Sioux Falls
Craig Warne, 76, Gilbert, Ariz.
Timothy Westphal, 69, Davis

Monday, Dec. 30
Gladys Johnson, 91, Hawarden, Iowa
Shirley Moore, 71, Madison
Marvin Sopko, 73, Sioux Falls

Tuesday, Dec. 31
Bryan Boelman, 62, Sioux Falls
Blanche Foxley, 95, Pierre
Glenn Kasten, 68, Parker
Dorothy McFarland, 96, Flandreau
Karla Parsons, 82, Hurley
Marvin Sopko, 73, Sioux Falls
Michael Sundberg, 52, Sioux Falls
Roger Timmer, 77, Strawberry, Ariz.

OBITUARIES

Claren D. Keithley, 78

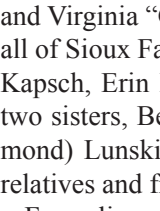
Claren D. Keithley, 78, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019 at his home in Brandon, S.D., surrounded by his beloved family. Memorial visitation was held-Monday, Dec. 30, 2019 at George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory, Sioux Falls. Memorial services, with burial, will be held at a later date in Auburn, Neb. Please direct memorials to the Brandon Volunteer Fire Department.
Claren David Keithley was born Dec. 6, 1941 to Clyde and Hazel (Armstrong) Keithley in Peru, Neb. The family were farmers until the late 1950's. Claren grew up in Nemaha, Neb., through his sophomore year. He graduated from Auburn Nebraska High School in 1960. He married Pamela Reid on July 14, 1961, and later moved to Lincoln, Neb., where he attended Lincoln School of Commerce and received his accounting degree. Claren began working for Nash Finch, a wholesale grocery company, in November 1963 in Hastings, Neb. After three and a half years, the Keithleys were relocated to Hutchinson, Kan., for 10 years, where he was needed to help get ready for the closing of a

Susan M. Shea, 41

Susan Marie Shea, 41, of Brandon, S.D., passed away Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019. Funeral services are planned for 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020, at Brandon Lutheran Church, with burial at the Brandon Cemetery. The family will greet friends at the church for one hour prior to the service.
Susan Marie Clausen, daughter of Marlin "Moe" and Marietta (Casper) Clausen, was born Jan. 24, 1978, in Worthington, Minn. She grew up in Brewster, Minn., and graduated from Brewster-Round Lake High School in 1997.
Susan then attended cosmetology school and later married Kory Shea. The couple was blessed with four children, Alexis, MaKayla, Kyler and Tayden.
Susan worked for several years at Wells Fargo. After Tayden's birth, she decided to work from home so she could be with her children. Susan loved selling Norwex, Thirty-one and Melaleuca, as she was always into something.

Homer Daniel, 85

Funeral services for Homer Marvin Daniel, 85, of Sioux Falls, were held Saturday, Dec. 28, 2019, at Grace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.
Mr. Daniel died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.
He is survived by his wife, Marie L. Daniel; three children, Greg (Shaun) Daniel, Jeff (LeeAnn Russell) Daniel and Virginia "Ginger" (fiancé, Bruce Loewenberg) Kapsch all of Sioux Falls; five grandchildren, Stuart Daniel, Taylor Kapsch, Erin Kapsch, Elizabeth Daniel and Billy Daniel; two sisters, Beverly Ellsworth, Brandon, and Gayle (Raymond) Lunski, Sioux Falls; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.
For online condolences, visit georgeboom.com.

Shirley Schroeder, 89

Memorial services for Shirley Schroeder, 89, of Dell Rapids and formerly of Brandon, were held Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019, at Miller Funeral Home in Sioux Falls.
Mrs. Schroeder died Monday, Dec. 23,

Nash Finch grocery branch there. He was then transferred to Aberdeen, S.D., for 10 years and then to Rapid City, S.D., where he worked for 13 years until his retirement in 1999. To be closer to his children and grandchildren, he then moved to Brandon, S.D., in 2009, where he resided until his death.
Claren loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, golfing, camping, boating, fishing (loved catching walleye) and travelling. But most importantly he enjoyed spending time with his family, whom he cherished.
Grateful for having share his life are his wife, Pam Keithley, of Brandon; son, David Keithley and his wife, Marcy, of Mankato, Minn.; daughter, Sherri Fisher and her husband, Jeff, of Lakeville, Minn.; grandchildren, MacKenzie Keithley, Savannah Keithley, Bailey Fisher, Chloe Fisher; great-granddaughter, Scarlett Wolff; one sister, Shirley Ledbetter of Bossier City, La.; and a host of additional relatives and friends.
Claren was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Hazel (Armstrong) Keithley; brother, Darrel Keithley.
For online condolences, visit georgeboom.com.

She also worked part-time in the lunchroom at one of the Brandon Valley Schools.
Susan will be missed by many. She had a heart of gold and cherished her family, especially loving and taking care of her children. She would do anything for them.
Survivors include three children, Alexis, Kyler and Tayden Shea; her parents, Moe and Marietta Clausen, Brewster, Minn.; two brothers, Tim Clausen and his wife, Lindsay and family, Fulda, Minn., Tom Clausen and his wife, Johanna and family, Springfield, Ohio; a sister, Krista Clausen and family, also of Brewster; her grandmother, Ruth Casper, Brewster; many beloved nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.
Susan was preceded in death by her daughter, MaKayla; her grandparents, Samuel Casper and John W. and Berniece Clausen.
In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Susan's family for a future memorial designation.
For online condolences, visit georgeboom.com.

Muriel L. Steenholdt, 84

Funeral services for Muriel L. Steenholdt, 84, of Sioux Falls, were held Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019, at George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory in Sioux Falls.
Mrs. Steenholdt died Friday, Dec. 27, 2019, at the Good Samaritan Society Sioux Falls Center.
She is survived by her children, Terry (Dar) Steenholdt of Sioux Falls, Cheryl (Roger) VanNoort of Brandon, Donna (Tom) Smithback of Hartford, Marlys (Keith) Sands of Sioux Falls, Randy (Carol) Steenholdt of Nisswa, Minn., Ron (Beth) Steenholdt of Sioux Falls; daughter-in-law, Darlene Steenholdt of Brandon; 21 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; brother, Duane Peterson of Concord, Calif., and Verlyn (Connie) Peterson of Seminole, Fla.; and a host of additional relatives and friends.
For online condolences, visit georgeboom.com.

2019 at the Dells Nursing and Rehab Center, Dell Rapids.
Shirley is survived by her son, David Warren and Darline Warren (Jana), both of Charlotte, N.C.; nephew, Bruce Christensen (Jana) Bozeman, Mont.; and niece, Pamela Christensen, Sioux Falls.
For online condolences, visit millerfh.com.

Thompson to celebrate 90 years

Rita Thompson will celebrate her 90th birthday at an open house 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, in the community room at Bethany Meadows in Brandon.
No gifts, please.
Greetings may be sent to 405 S. Nelson Lane, Brandon, SD 57005.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Brandon area property transfers from Dec. 13-20, 2019, on record in the Minnehaha County Equalization office are as follows. Dollar amounts are rounded.
• 508 N. Sunday Dr., Brandon, from Celestine Bohnenkamp to Nichole Mohning, \$320,000.
• 1704 S. Mulberry Ave., Brandon, from Rory and Aimee Lee Amdahl to Ervin and Tiffany Mace, \$221,000.
• 900 E. Conifer St., Brandon, from Dennis Neuman to Brian and Beth Reid, \$250,000.

TRIVIAL cont. from page 2

9. "Local songbird flies solo," June 11
10. "Weir named police chief on 3-1 vote," Feb. 29
11. "City addresses falsified Facebook report on radium in Brandon's water," Aug. 14
12. "Weir begins role as Brandon's police chief," April 9
13. "\$17M school bond election Tuesday," Sept. 3
14. "The Drop serves up healthy shakes, teas," Sept. 10
15. "City interviews 5 for police chief, adds office staff," Jan. 29
16. "Brandon police call off high-speed chase," Jan. 4
17. "Wakefield resigns from Ward 3 council post," May 21
18. "Council finds Wakefield violated conduct code," April 16
19. "Loyalty Day parade tradition is 54 years strong," April 30

MONDAY, DEC. 23

- Assist Brandon Fire Department with an alarm in 1100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd.
- Vandalism reported in 100 block of S. Cardinal Dr., under investigation.
- Medical emergencies in 100 block of W. Birchwood Dr., 600 block of E. Willow St. and 2400 block of E. Trevino Lane, turned over to MED-Star.
- Public assists in 300 block of S. Main Ave. and 400 block of N. Maple Ave.
- Hit-and-run reported at E. Hemlock Blvd. and N. First Ave., under investigation.
- Report of gunshots in 1400 block of W. Creekside Dr., unable to locate source.

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

- Fraud reported in 1000 block of E. Redwood Blvd., under investigation.
- Public assist in 1400 block of W. Creekside Dr.
- Hit-and-run accident reported in 1200 block of E. Keystone Place, under inves-

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

- Mariah Breana Seja, 22, arrested for DUI-1st, careless driving, expired plates, illegal U-turn and open container.
- Medical emergencies in 1100 block of E. Teakwood St. and 2500 block of E. Augusta St., turned over to MED-Star.
- Vandalism reported at S. Fourth Ave. and E. Aspen Blvd., under investigation.
- Public assist in 2500 block of E. Augusta St.

THURSDAY, DEC. 26

BRANDON POLICE REPORT


- Check well-being of subjects in 100 block of S. Teton Dr. and 500 block of N. Ninth Ave., checked OK.
- Caleb Daniel Benson, 30, arrested for simple assault-domestic in 100 block of E. Leighton St.

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

- Two-vehicle accident at E. Byrum Circle and N. Fairway Dr., \$1,500.
- Intoxicated subject in 300 block of S. Main Ave., Terry Lee Flowers, 39, arrested for resisting arrest and threatening law enforcement.
- Suspicious vehicle in 900 block of S. Aspen Park Road, checked OK.
- Medical emergency in 100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd., turned over to MED-Star.

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

- Public assists in 500 block of S. Lakota Ave., 300 block of S. Main Ave., 100 block of E. Cedar St., 2500 block of E. Augusta St.
- Disorderly subject in 100 block of S. Splitrock Blvd. and 300 block of S. Splitrock Blvd., advised.

SUNDAY, DEC. 29

- Medical emergencies in 1100 block of N. Splitrock Blvd., 1100 block of E. Teakwood St., turned over to MED-Star.
- Check well-being of subject in 200 block of S. Fifth Ave., checked OK, advised.
- Juvenile arrested for possession of paraphernalia, ingesting substance.
- Alanna Rose Brekhuis, 18, arrested for contributing to delinquency, possession of marijuana, paraphernalia and ingesting substance.

Locust Ave., turned over to MED-Star.
• Two-vehicle accident at E. Redwood and N. Sioux boulevards, \$7,000.
• Koren Kirsten Stough, 27, arrested for possession of marijuana, paraphernalia and intent to distribute.
• Suspicious subject in 1200 block of E. Cedar St., gone on officer's arrival, unable to locate.
• Check security in 700 block of S. Eighth Ave., checked OK, advised.
• Noise disturbance in 100 block of S. Teton Dr., advised.

MONDAY, DEC. 30
• Check security in 1300 block of E. Redwood Blvd, checked OK.
• Vandalism reported in 100 block of S. Yellowstone Dr., advised.
• Royce Emery Williams, 41, arrested for warrant service in 300 block of S. Sixth Ave.
• Public assist in 300 block of S. Main Ave.
• Tagged abandoned vehicle at N. Splitrock Blvd. and E. Keystone Dr.

B N4RMD

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Fosheim steps into new ethanol industry role

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Nick Fosheim is primed for a new challenge.

And as the calendar turns to 2020, the seven-year executive director of the Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties Economic Development Associations steps into his new role as the director of membership and customer relations for the American Coalition of Ethanol.

“Seven years, it seems like a long time, and then when you think about it, it’s really not that long,” said Fosheim, 34. “For me, it’s about a new challenge and doing something different. It’s still working in economic development, just in a little different capacity, and I think that is what excites me the most.”

While his career endeavors will now focus on the ethanol industry, Fosheim will be doing much of the same type of work he did for MCEDA and LCEDA.

“It’s a lot in the same way where those members financially support the organization, so I’ll be doing a lot of that same work. I’ll be doing some travel, working with ethanol plants and some of those affiliated services to help connect the dots,” he said.

Connecting the dots is the avenue that led

Fosheim to the combined MCEDA/LCEDA position. After college, he launched his career in the community where he grew up, Webster.

“It was so interesting coming back from college to start my career there,” he reflects. “I think it pushed me, because I didn’t have to build relationships, they were already in place, so I could roll up my sleeves and get right to work. It was a good place to start.”

Through associations in that position, he met Jeff Eckhoff. Fosheim said he highly valued Eckhoff and his prior experience as executive director for MCEDA/LCEDA and it was Eckhoff who initially opened the door for Fosheim to the job.

“The position was open and he just said, ‘Have you ever thought about doing this gig here?’ I hadn’t, it just seemed like such a big step,” he recalls.

But Fosheim was eager to take on a new challenge, so he tossed his hat into the ring “and the rest is history,” he tells. “I’m a naturally curious person, and I think having that perspective of doing economic development in a smaller community fit the profile for what they were looking for.”

The first large-scale economic development project Fosheim helped guide was helping to connect the dots to bring Mar-men Energy to the Corson Industrial Park.



Jill Meier/BV Journal

At the conclusion of 2019, Nick Fosheim wrapped up seven years as the executive director of the Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties Economic Development Associations. His new role is the director of membership and customer relations for the American Coalition of Ethanol.

“That was a big deal and I think they really transformed not only in Brandon, but the entire region. Now, to think back and look at that development north of I-90 and Brandon and see how much that’s changed in such a short amount of time, you lose that perspective, but it’s been fun to have been a part of that and to see this evolution,” he said.

Fosheim was also instrumental in the recent establishment of the Rovang Industrial Park, also located north of Brandon.

“Those are milestone moments for me,” he said.

Over the last seven years, Fosheim has stood alongside community developers at a plethora of ribbon cuttings and

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BUS DRIVERS cont. from page 1

Brandon Valley School District bus drivers cover approximately 1,135 miles on any given school day. That’s 128 square miles, stretching as far south as East 57th Street in Sioux Falls and as far east as the South Dakota/Minnesota border.

Those miles increase when you factor in the number of after-school activities that require bus drivers.

While Brandon Valley hasn’t had to postpone any away games due to a lack of

drivers, some districts have. High schools in Colorado, Illinois, Maine and New Hampshire, for instance, have recently made headlines with their own transportation troubles.

BV bus drivers make \$51.27 per route and \$26.56 per hour for activity trips – well above the national average for professions requiring a CDL. According to a 2018 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, school bus drivers average \$16.05 per

hour nationwide, and transit bus drivers average \$21.47 per hour.

Brandon Valley’s full-time routes range from 45 to 90 minutes.

“Bus driving does have a flexible schedule and excellent wages. It’s a great opportunity for the right person,” Hentschel said. “But it’s also a unique schedule.”

Retirees and people who work from home are good fits for the job, but there’s more to driving a school bus than having the available hours.

“Ideally, you’d want

somebody that cares about kids and has that commitment toward kids. Because, ultimately, that’s who we’re here for,” he said.

BV’s staff of drivers also fluctuates depending on the season. Winter tends to see some older folks, in particular, head south for the season, leaving the BVSD a few drivers short and, occasionally, juggling staffers and schedules to ensure all routes are covered.

In a pinch, the district will pull a custodian with a CDL to cover a bus route or activity.

“We do struggle,” Hentschel acknowledged. “We have to get a little creative with covering some of our shifts.”

Around half of Brandon Valley’s student population rides the bus regularly, added Supt. Dr. Jarod Larson, and bus drivers are typically the first and last employees that students see each day.

“School bus and van drivers are critical to our system. Along with providing a valuable service to families and the safest mode of transportation to and from school, drivers play an important role in the climate and cul-

ture of our schools,” Larson said.

Brandon Valley is unique, too, in that student enrollment continues to grow an average of 4 percent every year.

“As we’re adding kids and more students, there’s got to be more busses,” Hentschel said. “We’re already planning for next year that we’re going to have to add a route.”

The BVSD provides training for new school bus drivers. For more information, stop by the transportation facility at 812 E. Redwood Blvd., call 605-582-3514 or apply online at brandonvalley.tedk12.com/hire/.

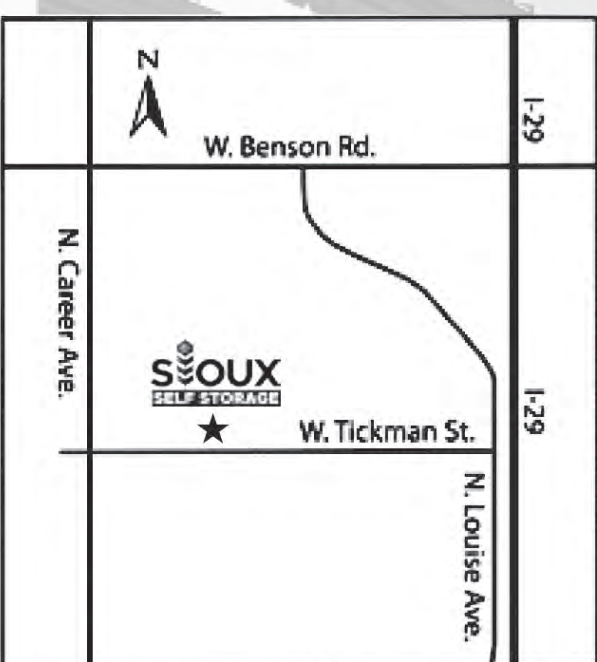
“There is very real and achievable potential to do amazing things as a bus driver,” Moody added. “So, to have a very well-paying opportunity, with great flexibility, and a chance to be a part of an amazing system – there really are few reasons not to give that a chance.”



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BEHIND THE SCENES

IT director organizes, develops county’s technology needs

Dave Baumeister
County correspondent

Editor’s note: This is the third in our series of stories about people who work “behind the scenes” to help Minnehaha County operate.

SIOUX FALLS – Two weeks ago, Minnehaha County Information Technology Director Monte Watembach was excited when a partnership with GovTech Services came online to give local property owners the ability to pay their taxes remotely.

While most county residents (who pay property taxes through escrow accounts at their banks) paid no notice to this, Watembach had been working “behind the scenes” for the past five months to see that this became a reality.

Instead of making a hectic run to the county administration building at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of April or October to drop off property tax checks, Watembach and his staff of 12 have helped usher Minnehaha County into the 21st Century by working with GovTech to create a system that allows taxpayers to make payments via the Internet.

With this system, property owners can pay taxes on individual or multiple properties all at the same time.

Although this is a huge benefit to county residents and is certainly newsworthy, working with an outside service provider on software and systems is not within the typical workday of the Minnehaha County IT Department, according to Watembach.



Dave Baumeister/For the Journal

Monte Watembach, the IT Director for Minnehaha County, leads a department of 12 people who are tasked with keeping the county’s computer hardware and software up to date.

One of its functions is to develop applications to be used specifically by the county’s various departments.

“We’ve developed applications for multiple departments,” Watembach said, “which can be especially rewarding and a lot of fun!”

He explained that much of what the county had been using, and to some extent still uses, is what he refers to as “legacy-based software.”

Watembach speculates the computer software was purchased or developed years ago.

“It is stable and reliable, but not the most functional,” he said.

He described it as “older soft-



The servers for Minnehaha County run roughly 100 terabytes of data and are closely watched by Monte Watembach and the IT Department.

ware” that staff have gotten comfortable with over years of use, but the legacy-based software is not keeping up with today’s technol-

ogy.

Watembach described this type of older software as being “keyboard driven,” while newer “intuitive software” is for more mouse-driven and graphical users.

“We have a mix of employees around the county,” he explained. “Some have been using the legacy software for decades, but it is harder for new employees to be able to use the older applications.

In recent months, Minnehaha County Commissioners have talked about certain departments needing to train people in different areas, as tenured employees retire.

And Watembach sees the problems with those newer employees

having to learn older systems – especially when computers may not exist that can support those systems.

“There has been a generation working with the older applications,” he explained. “And it will be really difficult when they retire.”

But that, again, is where the county IT department comes in to develop their own intuitive-based applications which will be user-friendly to new staff.

“The intuitive software is designed so users can figure it out, and it is easy to use,” he said.

While Watembach has a business degree from the University of South Dakota, he credits “on-the-job training” as giving him the skills he has today.

After graduation, he went to work for Gateway Computers in Sioux Falls, and it was in the private sector he leaned all about computers and software.

Around 2002, Watembach moved into the public sector as a data center support person for the city of Sioux Falls. And in December of 2010 he got to head up his own department as the IT Director for Minnehaha County.

He says he likes this job best. “Being in charge lets me create my own vision and see it through.” He explains that working IT means he is in charge of tech for “12 or so different companies” or departments within the county. He and his staff do projects for those departments, not giving more time to any one department over the others.

continued on page 7

Former office assistant charged in forgeries

Staff report

A Luverne, Minn., woman has been indicted by a Minnehaha County grand jury for forging checks from her former employer.

Candyece Akkerman, 36, faces felony charges for allegedly forging more than one-dozen unauthorized checks to herself from the bank account of a Brandon business where she had worked as an office assistant.

The incidents took place between February and June 2019, according to Brandon

Police Chief Joe Weir.

A Sioux Falls business also reported several fraudulent checks written to Akkerman totaling more than \$10,000.

Akkerman was charged in November in Sioux Falls in another matter, Weir said, and arrested in December.

Forgery is a class 5 felony, punishable by a maximum of five years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

Akkerman was scheduled to appear in Minnehaha County Court Tuesday.

USAF Heartland band to give free community concert

Staff report

OFFUTT AFB, Neb. – Offutt Brass, a seven-member brass, vocal and percussion ensemble from the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band will present a free patriotic community concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9 at the Brandon Valley Performing Arts Center, 301 S. Splitrock Blvd., Brandon.

The program, entitled “Celebrate the American Spirit,” encompasses a variety of familiar Broadway and classical selections, famous marches, traditional jazz and patriotic favorites.

Tickets are available online at www.afheartlandband.eventbrite.com or in person (after Jan. 10) at the office of the *Brandon Valley Journal*, 1404 E. Cedar St., Brandon.

General admission seating begins at 1 p.m. All unclaimed seats will be available to non-ticket holders 15 minutes prior to the performance.

True crime authors to debut new book at local libraries

Staff report

Phil and Sandy Hamman, the authors of the true crime best-sellers *Gitchie Girl* and *Gitchie Girl Uncovered*, will introduce their newest release, *Duct Tape Killer*, at two Siouxland Libraries’ locations: Brandon Community Library, 305 S. Splitrock Blvd., 582-2390, from 6:30-8 pm. Thursday, Jan. 23, or Prairie West Branch, 7630 W. 26th St., 978-6899, also from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30.

The Hammans, with for-

mer South Dakota Attorney General Larry Long, tell the story of convicted killer Robert Leroy Anderson, who murdered two women, Larisa Dumansky and Pip-er Streyle. His crimes terrorized Sioux Falls and the surrounding tri-state area in the mid-1990s.

A book signing will follow, with books available for purchase.

To learn more, call 605-367-8700 or visit www.sioxlandlib.org.

KINGBIRD COFFEE cont. from page 1

“More traditional – how things were actually done before things foo foo’ed out with all the extras,” Cutrer explained.

Kingbird serves the traditional caffè macchiato, for instance, rather than the upsized latte macchia-to served by many coffee chains, which tends to be overly sweet.

Customers can still get their sugar and syrup fix at Kingbird, however. Beverages range from breves, cold press and americanos to milkshake-like blended concoctions, fresh fruit smoothies, cider and tea.

Kingbird Coffee will also have locally brewed beers on tap from A Homestead Brew and Severance Brewery and Wilde Prairie Winery wines.

Besides drinks, the coffeehouse will serve up classic grilled cheese sandwiches, bagel sandwiches, fresh pastries, yogurt parfaits and oatmeal.

Kingbird Coffee is located on the south end of Brandon Retail Center, which Cutrer owns with his wife, Ellison.

She claims she didn’t care for coffee until she sampled some of Kingbird Coffee’s wares.



Jamie Hult/BV Journal

Kingbird Coffee owner Billy Cutrer brews a latte last week at the shop, which is set to open Jan. 1 at 509 N. Splitrock Blvd.

“It’s the best cup of coffee you’ll ever have,” said Ellison, who runs Gypsy Trading Company in the same plaza.

Cutrer sources his coffee from

Duluth Coffee Company in Minnesota, which also helped train him.

The integrity of the coffee is important to Cutrer, and Duluth seeks

out small crop coffee farmers around the world to produce the purest fair trade beans and grounds possible.

Baristas will still be in training

as the shop opens, Cutrer said, and he’s determined to brew a crew who cares as much about a quality cup of coffee as he does. The staff is a mix of teens and adults.

“Be patient with us,” he said. “We’ll get there, and we will deliver a good product.”

He plans to add a drive-through window soon for the morning rush after getting a feel for the local demand, he said. The interior of the shop is also evolving, with a custom staircase that will eventually lead to a loft where Cutrer plans to open up for additional seating.

Several tables scattered throughout the shop were handmade by Splitrock Furniture, and another local business, Banking Barns, crafted the countertop.

He’s also lining up bands, comedians and artists for the coming weeks and months, and plans to fill the walls with photos and a mural of old Brandon.

“At the end of the day, it just comes down to a good cup of coffee,” Cutrer said.

Kingbird Coffee is open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

IT cont. from page 6

“That all depends on the projects, but after we get new software in place, there is not so much interaction (with those departments),” Watembach said.

Ideally, he would like to see all county departments migrate off legacy applications, but he says he does have to be sensitive to current staff.

“The older software has been consistent. It works. It is reliable, but it won’t be able to serve long-term.”

However, he feels that the county is fortunate in that they are making good progress in completing needed changes.

Another big step the county is taking toward the future is planning for a new Metro Communications Center.

Again, this is another area that commissioners, as well as city of Sioux Falls administration, have been looking at for some time.

At their last meeting, county commissioners accepted a rental agreement to house Metro Communications for 2020, but space constraints in the Public Safety building are making that more difficult.

Watembach said that from what he knows so far, land for the new center is being planned for the northeastern edge of the city, and the current facilities will serve as a “back-up” communications center.

No matter what project comes along, members of the Minnehaha County IT Department lead by Watembach will, no doubt, be working “behind the scenes” with purchased software or developing their own to help the county be more organized and efficient.

S.D. retailers face uphill battle for survival amid frequent market changes

Mark Andersen
South Dakota News Watch

The rapid and expansive transformation of the South Dakota retail marketplace has created uncertainty for many businesses and the more than 97,000 state residents employed within the industry.

Retail sales remain on the rise, but the ongoing market disruptions — dramatic changes in who buys what, how and from where — are threatening some retailers, particularly in smaller towns.

Many employees and owners of some of the state’s roughly 13,900 retail establishments have felt the bite of rapid change.

Retailers face almost constant change ranging from the emergence of giant online retailers to evolving technology including delivery services to the rapid growth of low-price “dollar stores” that can hurt longtime local retailers in rural areas.

What emerges over the next decade will be a marketplace shaped by conflicting consumer desires for better convenience and lower cost versus a desire for something unique, social and enjoyable.

Transformation has always been part of the retail story. Since craftsmen gathered in open-air markets through the rise of department stores and shopping malls, shoppers have hastily embraced new trends and discarded old. Across the



Debra Jensen owns Black Hills Bagels on Mount Rushmore Road in Rapid City with her husband, Jack. By focusing on quality and adapting when needed, the business has thrived during a time of great change.

state, struggling shopping malls and aging rural main streets demonstrate this evolution.

Even in small cities that have been aggressive and progressive in promoting local retail, such as Sisseton in Roberts County, fears remain that some businesses won’t be able to keep up with the fast and frequent changes in the retail marketplace.

“It’s scary when you’re a smaller town, seeing people going out of town to buy groceries and gifts,” said Lacey Babekuhl, who works in accounts and marketing for a Sisseton building center and formerly served as a local housing and redevelopment official. “You really do run the risk of losing everything your neighbors have worked for

all of their lives. Families, friends and neighbors have put their savings on the line for this community.”

Meanwhile, the constant change is creating opportunities for some retailers and business owners, particularly those willing to adapt and do so quickly.

South Dakota retail sales have grown in the past several years, climbing from \$25.1 billion in 2013 to \$28.5 billion in 2018, according to state Department of Revenue data.

Many local retailers have added their own online presence and try to stay up on successful business trends.

Debra Jensen, co-owner of Black Hills Bagels in Rapid City with her husband, Jack, said they strengthen their position in a competitive market by connecting with employees and customers in ways that chain stores cannot.

The business has endured a years-long construction project on the road it fronts and the arrival of a competing bagel chain directly across the street.

“We can’t compete on price alone,” Debra Jensen said. “But there’s a market for hand-formed bagels, custom sandwiches and enhanced customer service.”

Staying vigilant about trends and being nimble in reacting to them — while also holding firm to long-

standing principles — has also helped the business thrive, Jensen said.

She said the couple realized long ago that for the store to remain successful they would have to pay attention to what the corporations were doing but do it better. Three years ago, Debra read an article that by 2020, 40 percent of restaurant business will be delivery.

They found people weren’t willing to pay for delivery service, but they weren’t willing to tip. Over time, larger business orders have compensated for the small ones, making the delivery system profitable.

Online evolution not slowing

For now, the pace of the current retail transformation toward online sales isn’t easing. Internet sales should account for 12.4 percent of all retail sales this year, up steadily from 6 percent in 2013. Online sales are predicted to account for 14 percent of the retail market next year, and the Centre for Retail Research expects online growth will continue for a decade.

Increasingly, online also takes a larger bite of Christmas sales. Amazon collects a third or its sales revenue during the fourth quarter, according to annual reports. This holiday season, sales

at online and other remote retailers are projected to surpass those at brick-and-mortar stores, climbing 12 percent over last year.

Amid last year’s landmark closures at Sears, ShopKo and Kmart, the Centre for Retail Research declared a retail apocalypse, but mostly it was 17 national chains with outdated business models that disappeared. Stores in South Dakota were among them, but that alone doesn’t signify the demise of local retailers.

Meanwhile, the ongoing proliferation of discount retailers further complicates matters for longtime retailers in smaller South Dakota towns. The rapid spread of dollar stores, following closely upon the spread of Walmart super centers, further erodes already slim profit margins there.

Walmart began 2019 operating 15 super centers and two clubs in South Dakota. Dollar General, which operates 15,370 Stores in 44 states, had 52 stores in South Dakota last February, when the company announced plans to open 975 more U.S. stores. Dollar Tree, which operates 15,000 Family Dollar and Dollar Tree stores in 48 states, including 43 in South Dakota, planned to open 546 more stores nationwide. Dollar stores enter towns too small for Walmart.

Across the Northern Plains, the spread of dollar stores — which buy dry grocery goods in volume — place additional pressure on local grocers. In August, North Dakota lawmakers began studying ways to support smaller grocers, but no obvious solutions came forth. Over the past five years, 39 out of 137 full-service grocery stores in North Dakota towns with fewer than 2,100 people have closed or no longer offer full service, according to the North Dakota Rural Electric & Telecommunications Development Center. Anecdotal evidence shows the same trend occurring in South Dakota.

continued on page 11

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BV delivers Minn. powerhouse 71-61 loss

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Heading into Saturday’s Hoop City Classic meeting with Minneapolis DeLaSalle, the Lynx were concerned how they would handle the Class AAA Minnesota powerhouse.

Turns out, Brandon Valley had little to worry about, as they cruised to a quality 71-61 victory over the Islanders on the hardwood of the Sanford Pentagon.

The Lynx put up the first three points of the holiday affair, compliments of Jaxon LaBrie, who dropped in his first of five tre’s in the game, and with the exception of a one-point deficit early on, the Lynx never relinquished the lead the rest of the way.

BV head coach Brent Deckert was as satisfied with the win as a kid on Christmas morning who got everything they asked for.

“That was a really good win and Jaxon had a great game,” the veteran coach said. “We’ve had different players step up at different times. Tonight, when Joe (Kolbeck) needed to get to the rim, he got there, and Jackson Hilton was a little more aggressive taking it to the basket.”

Along with spot on shooting by the Lynx, Deckert said his team also got some relief when DeLaSalle’s big, Jalen Travis, got into foul trouble early on in the game.

“It helps when you shoot it in and when their big gets in foul trouble,” he said. “He is very, very good player and if he would not have been in foul trouble, we would’ve had to double team him over and over again, which would have led to other issues they could’ve caused with their athleticism.”

LaBrie was certainly a force to be reckoned with Saturday. The senior, who finished with a game-high 19 points, dropped in BV’s initial 3-pointer, followed by a pair of free throws from fellow senior Gavin Terhark to put the Lynx up 5-0. Following a series of possessions, DeLaSalle’s Keijuan White answered with a bucket from beyond to make it a 5-3 game. Seconds later, LaBrie cashed in his second triple-counter. The Islanders’ Cade Haskins plugged the next four points, two which came off a steal before BV’s Aydin Lloyd hit a short jumper to maintain BV’s slight 10-7 edge.

The Lynx closed out the quarter with a 3-pointer from Kolbeck, a basket by Jackson Hilton and three points by Jaksen Deckert, the result of drawing a foul on a reverse layup. With 41 ticks to play in the stanza, BV led 18-11.

The Lynx kept the Islanders at bay through the second quarter. Once again, LaBrie got the party started by dropping in a quick two. DeLaSalle’s Evan Boyd answered with a 3-pointer to narrow the 20-14 gap. Hilton next recovered a loose ball and took it to the hoop for two, and that instigated a satisfied grin from the junior and gave the Lynx a 22-14 advantage.

Midway through the second, the Islanders got within three of BV, but LaBrie came to the aid with a timely 3-pointer, followed by a bucket off a steal for the 27-19 lead. LaBrie continued to have his way when Jaksen Deckert fired the ball out to him, and the senior canned his fourth 3-pointer to spread the margin, 32-21. The Lynx closed out the first half with a pair of free throws by Hilton, and DeLaSalle got a free throw and a bucket from Amir Whitlock. At the half, BV was up 34-24.

The Lynx continued to dominate the Islanders in the second half. After giving up a basket and a free throw to start, Kolbeck went full speed to the hoop and followed up with a 3-pointer for the 39-27 score. DeLaSalle responded with a bucket before LaBrie netted his fifth tre of the night, which was essentially cancelled out by a DeLaSalle 3-pointer. The Lynx pushed the margin to 13 on Terhark bucket and the ensuing free throw. With four minutes to play in the quarter, BV led 45-32.

The Lynx closed out the quarter with 3-pointers from Lloyd and Deckert and baskets by Kolbeck and Tietjen. After three quarters, the Lynx had widened the gap to 55-37.

DeLaSalle scored the first six points of the fourth before Hilton



Jill Meier/BV Journal

A swarm of DeLaSalle Islanders surround Brandon Valley’s Jackson Hilton. Hilton scored 12 points in the Hoop City Classic game.



Jaxon LaBrie puts up a shot while Minneapolis DeLaSalle’s Jalen Travis defends. LaBrie led all scorers with 19 points in Brandon Valley’s 71-61 victory over Minneapolis DeLaSalle Saturday at the Sanford Pentagon.

dropped in back-to-back buckets for the 59-45 tally. Kolbeck upped the ante when he scored and drew the foul, and with 4:33 to play, the Lynx possessed a 62-49 advantage. BV closed out the game with four points from Kolbeck, two apiece from Hilton and Terhark, and a free throw by Lloyd and although not enough, DeLaSalle got an eight-point contribution from Whitlock in the 71-61 ending.

BV’s hustle and DeLaSalle playing their second game in two days were factors in the victory.

“I think it helped us a bit that they had played yesterday,” Deckert said. “I think that they had a

long road trip and they probably expended a lot of juice yesterday against Mitchell.”

But the coach still had high praise for his team.

“This is a great team victory and I don’t have enough good things to say,” he said.

The Lynx certainly earned that praise by shooting lights-out ball Saturday. From two-point range, BV capitalized on 17-26, a 65 percent performance. Beyond the arc, the Lynx dropped in 9-15, a 60 percent effort, and they netted 10-of-12 free throws, a stellar 83 percent production.

“It seemed like when we got there, we just knocked it in and they missed some critical ones where they could have kind of tightened it up a little bit,” Deckert said. “When you have empty possessions like that when it’s a 10- to 13-point game, those are big.”

Along with LaBrie’s 19 counters, three other Lynx also finished in double digits. Kolbeck rallied for 14 points, and Hilton and Terhark both added a dozen to the cause. Deckert and Lloyd both supplied six points.

For DeLaSalle, Whitlock led the Islanders with 18 points, three steals, two assists, three rebounds and a block. The Islanders shot 50 percent from the field and 29.4 percent from the perimeter.

Kolbeck and Terhark both grabbed six of the team’s 21 total rebounds; Payton Tietjen had three. Deckert, Kolbeck and Lloyd were each credited with three of the team’s 12 assists, while Hilton picked off three of BV’s seven steals. The Lynx forced the Islanders into five additional turnovers.

“DeLaSalle is a very, very good team. Their program has won 12 of the last 24 state championships in AAA basketball Minnesota, and there’s some unbelievably high-level basketball in Minnesota right now. So, for us to be able to get this one here – and I don’t care where we’re playing – they’re an outstanding program and there’s a lot of people that look at them and think that they are heads and tails above a lot of teams, so we feel very, very pleased with that,” Deckert said.

The 4-1 Lynx next host Mitchell at 7 p.m. Thursday before they begin a three-game road schedule. Jan. 10, BV heads to Brookings, followed by road games on Jan. 14 at Sioux Falls Roosevelt and Jan. 16 at Watertown.

DeLaSalle	11	24	37	61
Brandon Valley	18	34	55	71

Brandon Valley (2PFG, 3PFG, FT, TP): Jaxon LaBrie 2-3 5-8 0-0 19; Jaksen Deckert 1-2 1-2 1-1 6; Joseph Kolbeck 4-5 1-3 3-3 14; Aydin Lloyd 1-3 1-1 1-2 6; Payton Tietjen 1-2 0-0 0-0 2; Jackson Hilton 5-7 0-0 2-2 12; Gavin Terhark 3-4 1-1 3-4 12. **Totals:** 17-26 9-15 10-12 71.

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The Journal is on us this January!

BRANDON VALLEY Journal

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All articles and e-editions published in January are FREE to read on our website for the month of January. Visit us online at BrandonValleyJournal.com to stay up to date on all things local for the month.

BV wrestlers sweep Floyd Farrand floors

Staff report

The Brandon Valley High School wrestling team put its nine-day break to good use, reinforcing their first-place Warrior Invite win on Dec. 21 with another victory on Monday at the Floyd Farrand Invitational.

The Lynx placed racked up six wins and 212 points to sweep the meet, which was held at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School. Harrisburg took second, with 175 points.

BV placed wrestlers in nearly every weight class. First place medals went to Trason Oehme (106 pounds), Isaac Klinkhammer (152), Jack Smith (160), Kobi Terpstra (170), Damion Schunke (182) and Navarro Schunke (220).

The Lynx take another long break before hitting the mats again Jan. 10 to host Huron at 7 p.m.



Jamie Hult/BV Journal

Sam Lembcke crushes his opponent in the heavyweight division in recent wrestling action. Next up, the Lynx host Huron on Jan 10 at 7 p.m.

Floyd Farrand Invite - Dec. 30, 2019
Team scores – 1.) BV 212; 2.) Harrisburg 175; 3.) Sioux Falls Roosevelt 110.5; 4.) Tea Area 92; 5.) Sioux Falls O’Gorman 82; 6.) Lennox 69; 7.) Sioux Falls Washington 62; 8.) Sioux Falls Lincoln

60.5.
Lynx results – 106: Trason Oehme (BV) receives a bye; T. Oehme p. Keenan Sheridan (SFO) 2:54; 1st place match – T. Oehme over Quincy Hulverson (Tea) SV-1 6-4.
113: Jordon Oehme (BV) p. Holden Hight (SFO) 3:27; J. Oehme dec. Peyton Tryon

(Harr) 4-0; 1st place match – Wyatt Stunte-beck (Tea) md. J. Oehme 9-1.
120: Alex Mentzer (SFL) over Jacob Wolfe TF 17-2 2:49; Wolfe re-ceives a bye; Soren Aadland (Harr) p. Wolfe 3:50.
120: Soren Aadland (Harr) p. Jesse Johnson 1:04; Johnson over Sam Haar (Lenn) TF 16-1 5:24; Eli-

jah Taniah (SFW) dec. Johnson 9-6.
126: Caleb Klatt (BV) dec. Carson Holt (SFO) 4-1; Riley Hollingshead (SFR) p. Klatt 2:37; Klatt over Hunter Wilson (Tea) TF 15-0 3:36; 3rd place match – Brandon Otte (Lenn) p. Klatt 4:17.
132: Blessing Taniah (SFW) dec. Cayden Langenhorst 9-3; Langenhorst md. Rhett Daggett (Tea) 15-6; Langenhorst dec. Eli Leonhardt (SFR) 9-6; 3rd place match – Blessing Taniah (SFW) dec. Langenhorst 5-4.
145: Lucas Slack (BV) p. Calvin George (SFW) 1:57; Dylan Hage (Harr) dec. Slack 3-1; Slack p. Landon Slack (Lenn) 1:34; 3rd place match – Slack p. Tae Ellenbecker (SFL) 1:42.
152: Isaac Klinkhammer (BV) p. Jeff Fiegen (SFO) 1:34; Klinkhammer over Ryan Hirschhorn (Harr) TF 19-3 3:49; 1st place match – Klinkhammer dec. Eli Kadoun (SFR) 4-3.
160: Jack Smith (BV) p. Riley Schnider (Tea) 0:51; Smith p. Emerant Beyene (SFL) 3:02; 1st place match – Smith p. Jordan Dahl (SFO) 2:33.
170: Kobi Terpstra (BV) p. Dawson Anderson (Lenn) 1:08; Terpstra dec.

Carter Tuntland (Harr) 6-0; 1st place match – Terpstra p. Jorey Sorenson (BV) 0:07.
170: Jorey Sorenson (BV) p. Micheal Johnson (SFW) 1:44; Sorenson p. Colton Bechard (SFL) 1:22; 1st place match – Kobi Terpstra (BV) p. Sorenson 0:07.
182: Damion Schunke (BV) p. Ethan Zimmer (Harr) 0:54; D. Schunke p. Mason Dorris (SFR) 2:06; 1st place match – D. Schunke p. Trevor Sagness (SFW) 3:07.
195: Dominic Tucker (BV) dec. Sam Loecker (SFO) 10-9; JT Panning (Tea) p. Tucker 3:37; Tucker p. Fran Persic (Lenn) 1:50; 3rd place match – Tucker md. Zane Wilson (SFR) 18-6.
220: Navarro Schunke (BV) receives a bye; N. Schunke over Michael Vroman (SFW) TF 16-1 4:28; 1st place match – N. Schunke p. Ayden Viox (Harr) 3:42.
285: Sam Lembcke (BV) p. Jacob Stubbe (Lenn) 0:33; Jake Scheafer (SFO) p. Lembcke 2:53; Lembcke p. Josh Larsen (Harr) 0:26; 3rd place match – Lembcke p. Hayden Herlyn (Lenn) 0:30.

Lady Lynx fall to Marshall 67-53

Staff report

Coming off a 10-day break, the Lady Lynx faced eighth-ranked Marshall, Minn., at the Borch’s Holiday Classic on Monday in Marshall.

The Tigers overcame the Lynx in the second half by utilizing a smothering effort on the full-court press, forcing Brandon Valley into 29 turnovers en route to claiming the 67-53 victory.

Despite the game’s outcome, the Lynx were dialed in offensively in the first half. BV went on an 11-0 scoring run in the second to lead Marshall 22-18 after a quarter of play.

The Tigers out-scored the Lynx 17-6 in the second quarter to take the 35-28 lead into the break.

Marshall pushed their lead to double digits in the third quarter to make it a 41-31 game. BV next scored five unanswered points to cut the deficit to six, but that would be the closest the Lynx would get to the Tigers the rest of the game. BV put up nine points in the fourth, while Marshall prevailed by netting 15 points in the stanza.

The tigers shot 58 percent from the field and BV hit 47 percent of its field goal attempts.

BV travels to Mitchell Friday for a 7 p.m. game against the Kernels and return to the home court Jan. 10, when the Brookings Bobcats pay a visit.

Brandon Valley 22 28 42 51
Marshall 18 35 52 67

Jill Meier/BV Journal

BV’s Hilary Behrens edges around a Rapid City guard to get a shot off. The Lynx take on Mitchell Friday and host Brookings on Jan. 10.



LYNX PAWS

S.D. Prep Media Basketball Poll
Week of Dec. 23. First-place votes are listed in parentheses.
BOYS
Class AA
1. Yankton (18) 3-0 90 1
2. Roosevelt 3-0 61 3
3. Brandon Valley 3-1 55 2
4. Huron 3-0 44 4
5. Lincoln 2-1 12 NR
Receiving votes: O’Gorman 5, Aberdeen Central 3
GIRLS
Class AA
1. O’Gorman (18) 2-0 90 1
2. Stevens 4-0 69 3
T-3. Washington 2-1 41 4
T-3. Harrisburg 3-0 41 5
5. Lincoln 2-2 20 1
Receiving votes: Yankton 4, Aberdeen Central 3, Huron 2.

For more Lynx sports coverage and photos, go to www.brandonvalleyjournal.com.

CHAMBER CHAIRMAN cont. from page 1

some fun without the fear of being judged.”

Parsons retired this past year from First National Bank, and part of his retirement plan is to ease back into community endeavors, like the Chamber. “I want to get reengaged (with the Chamber) like I did when I first moved here in 1989,” he said. “I thought this (serving on the Board and as its chairman) would be a good way to get back in the flow of meeting the new business people in Brandon and stuff like that.”

Parsons partially “stepped away” from Chamber involvement when his position with First National Bank relocated him to the Downtown Sioux Falls location.

“I was kind of removed for six, seven years from what was going on in Brandon, and this is a way to get back and work with the chamber,” he said.

When Parsons was first involved with the BVA-CC, it was largely manned by the member volunteers themselves. He views the evolution to a full-time staff

as a welcome change from 1989.

As Parsons slides into the board chair role, Chamber staff Rachael Neiman and Rachel Polan step into their new roles as well. Kim Cerwick, who served as the BVACC president/CEO for nearly 12 years, resigned from the position at the end of December to take a more active role in the Pizza Ranch businesses that she and her husband, Matt, now own.

“2020 is kind of a new start for this Chamber. In a way, we’re saying goodbye to Kim and welcoming in the Rachels,” Parsons said.

Parsons is quick to recognize Cerwick for her efforts over the last dozen years.

“I just want to say a big thank you Kim, because she was a big part of getting the Chamber to the point where it is now and being involved with the *Inside Brandon* magazine we’re doing, getting Auction A’more going strong, and just being that resource. I mean, a huge credit to her for doing that,” Parsons said. “You always hate to see people go that



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Rachael Neiman takes over as interim CEO/president of the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, and Chuck Parsons steps up to chair of the Chamber board of directors in 2020.

have been there a long time, but I think it also presents an opportunity, and looking forward, I see a lot of energy in the two Rach(a)els.”

Neiman joined the Chamber as its membership manager this past fall, succeeding Brandon Lane, who is now heading up the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development office for that community. Polan will

continue on in her communications coordinator role, but also assumes a role as interim assistant director. Neiman was promoted to interim executive director following Cerwick’s departure. She’s excited to get new – and current – members engrossed in Chamber events and committee involvement.

“When I’m lining up new members, I always reiterate

that I am not the chamber, the chamber is you, the members,” she said. “I’ve been encouraging people that if they are passionate about something to join a committee.”

Adds Parsons: “We’re going to promote the Chamber is the board and its volunteers, not the individuals running the chamber like Rachel or like Kim was. We want to make sure that the face of the Chamber is more than just one person because the Chamber is all of us.”

Parsons said the Chamber will also focus on community engagement this year, noting some new community projects are forthcoming.

“That’s what I mean by carrying on Brian’s vision of that engagement, wanting people to be involved,” he explains. “I think, as (board vice chairwoman) Amanda (Starzl) has pointed out, (we need to) create events that people want to go to and think they’re missing out if they’re not there.”

A new committee developed out of the Chamber board’s strategic planning this past fall is a Workforce Development committee

that board member Daemon Coughlin will head up.

“We’re going to work together with the school, and I’m excited about that and that may draw in some more excitement from our business community to want to get involved with working with the kids in the school,” Parsons said.

Outside the walls of the Chamber, Parsons said discussions are taking place to carry out a community-based project, such as cleaning up ditches like the Lions or raking the town.

“We’ve got some great leadership,” Parsons said. “Brian, Amanda and I sat down and we all agreed that one of the things we want is for the chairperson is to have some continuity so that we’re all on the same page so things don’t drastically change (from year to year). I don’t want to get too much in the weeds of what’s going on in the office, because I don’t think that’s the role of a chairman. You’re here to guide the board, make policies and procedures, and then it’s up to the staff and the volunteers to follow them.”

TOP 19 IN '19 cont. from page 1

Welcome, Chief Weir.

Joe Weir joined the Brandon Police Department in April as the city’s new chief. He succeeded Dave Kull, who retired after four decades in law enforcement, the last 10 years with the Brandon force.

Voters approve \$17M bond.

A small majority of voters in the Brandon Valley School District said “Yes for Kids,” approving the \$17 million bond Sept. 10 that will fund construction of a new K-4 elementary school and land purchase for a future intermediate school. Both parcels of land are in the Sioux Falls city limits near 41st Street and Sparta Avenue.

Of the district’s 14,787 eligible voters, a mere 1,214 or 8.2 percent, cast their ballot. The bond was overwhelmingly approved 1,085-129.

HOLLY-lujah!

The community – and local commuters – breathed a collective sigh of relief when the north half of the Holly Boulevard crossing reopened Sept. 27 after being shut down five weeks for construction.



Jamie Hult/File photo

The north side of Holly Blvd. opened after five weeks of construction, but sewer and storm sewer work continues on the south lanes, as does the 25 mph speed limit through the construction zone.

Commuters face daily delays, frustrations and fears on I-90.

It was a madhouse on Interstate 90, especially during the peak morning and afternoon commute times this past year. Backed up traffic on I-90 at the Brandon exit – 406 – made for dangerous driving conditions, and limited routes to and from Sioux Falls, making for one of the biggest challenges daily commuters faced.

I-90 sees the majority of commuters. For those leaving Brandon in the morning, exit 406 provides a gateway to the interstate. However, it can be a slow and frustrating process.

The Exit 406 bridge is set to be replaced starting in 2023, a pre-warning to commuters.

Brandon 90 Plaza to add \$50M-plus tax base.

Fifty acres of land in a flood plain along Interstate 90 will be transformed into 26.7 acres of commercial development, along with 17 acres that will be dedicated to a public use lake.

In November, Sioux Falls developer Darrel Viereck announced Brandon Plaza 90 LLC closed on the 50-acre property two weeks earlier and next spring plans to begin ground-work preparations.

Viereck said discussions are taking place to bring an upscale six- to eight-screen movie theatre and arcade, fast food restaurant(s), a bank, hotel, convenience store(s), grocery store and possible community/event center to the development. Stay tuned to this one as plans continue to formalize.

Alliance breaks ground on co-op’s new quarters.

The landscape of Brandon’s newest commercial development at the corner of Splitrock and Aspen boulevards continues to take shape.

Dirt was first moved in preparation for construction of Alliance Plaza, which will house Alliance Communications’ Brandon staff.

Alliance is an estimated two weeks away from moving into their new building, which pairs well with the newly constructed Brandon Post Office.

Valley Springs eyes \$3.38M in water, sewer upgrades.

Valley Springs is facing a hefty water infrastructure project that will likely lead to future higher water and sewer bills for residents.

The city is looking at a \$3.38 million project to replace water and sewer mains along Cliff Avenue, Valley and Dunham drives.

However, the project isn’t anticipated to start until 2021,

Major street work set for city’s core in 2020.

The city of Brandon is gearing up for perhaps its most extensive and expensive street project to date.

Work will begin in the summer of 2020 on the first phase of a 218-square-acre project to reconstruct streets, upgrade water and sewer lines and add storm sewer lines and replace curb and gutter throughout the city’s oldest district. Also included in the plans is the removal of a large number



Sunshine, catering business sold to partners.

The patriarch and matriarch of two longtime staples in Brandon – Sunshine Foods and Tony’s Catering – parted ways with the businesses they first started 43 years ago.

In late August, Tony and Pam Bosch passed on ownership of the local grocery store and well-known catering business to a team of well-known partners. The new owners are Dan Roeman, Craig Bosch, Dee Millington, and Chad Padgett. The Bosches continue to work part-time for both endeavors.

Alderman violates council conduct code, resigns.

The Brandon City Council found former alderman Tim Wakefield to be in violation of city council conduct code on April 15 for two separate statements he made in early 2019 on social media.

Wakefield resigned from his ward 3 post the following month, and the council approved a \$500 per-violation fine of Ordinance 589 on June 3. The vacancy was later filled by council appointment. Vickie David was chosen to fill the chair until the next city election.

City plugs \$1.6M for pool in 2020 budget.

The residents have spoken, and the city council listened. Next year, improvements will start on Brandon’s Community Swimming Pool.

The project was bumped up a year, thanks in part to Mayor Paul Lundberg.

The city council took a first look at the \$35.14 million budget for 2020 at its Sept. 3 meeting. One of the big-ticket items in the 2020 budget is \$1.6 million for pool improvements.

“That’s one I’ve tried real hard to get some action on,” Lundberg said. “I think it’s very evident that the citizens of Brandon want improvements to the pool.”



Bound for Brookings: Lynx determined to defend 11AAA title

When the Lynx football team started their 2019 season, the plan was to win one game at a time to be one of the final four standing.

And the goal was achieved when the Lynx met up with the O’Gorman Knights on the turf at the Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium on the grounds of South Dakota State. With the DakotaDome on the campus of The University of South

(On right) Jackson Hilton (11) and Austin Vigants celebrate Brandon Valley’s berth to Friday’s 11AAA state championship.

Jill Meier/File photo

and how much water and sewer rates increase, will depend on how much funding Valley Springs receives from the state.

This fall, Valley Springs city leaders applied for \$3.38 million through the Board of Water and Natural Resources.

The city will be notified of its funding request in late March.

of trees to make way for sidewalks.

The total project area encompasses all streets between Sioux and Splitrock boulevards and Aspen and Holly boulevards.

“I don’t think the city of Brandon has seen anything that can compare to what we’re looking at,” said Bryan Read, city administrator.

BVSD’s \$17 million bond for Sparta Elementary and a land purchase overwhelmingly passed, 1,085-129.

Jill Meier/File photo

Avera buys 3 acres at busy corner.

Avera is coming to the corner of Splitrock and Aspen boulevards, though no one knows when – just yet.

Alliance Communications sold the 3.39-acre corner property to Avera in July.

Community gathering to ‘Empower Brandon.’

Brandon has embarked on a self-improvement plan.

After months of planning, meetings with 660 residents and gathering ideas on more than 4,000 sticky notes, the Empower Brandon group hosted its first community meeting in April at the high school.

Empower Brandon is a strategic planning program that puts residents in charge of identifying areas for improvement in the community and working together to find solutions. The city has invested in Empower Brandon for two years, which is guided by staff from Dakota Resources.

It’s Lundberg by a landslide.

The April 9 city election kept interim Mayor Paul Lundberg in office and marked Brandon’s highest voter turnout in six years.

Lundberg received 1,161 votes to defeat alderman Tim Wakefield, who received 290 votes.

Turnout for the mayoral race reached 20.2 percent, with 1,451 out of 7,170 registered voters coming to the polls.

BV whiz kid advances to Jeopardy! finals.

A \$6,701 wager on Salem, Mass., paid off for Ryan Presler.

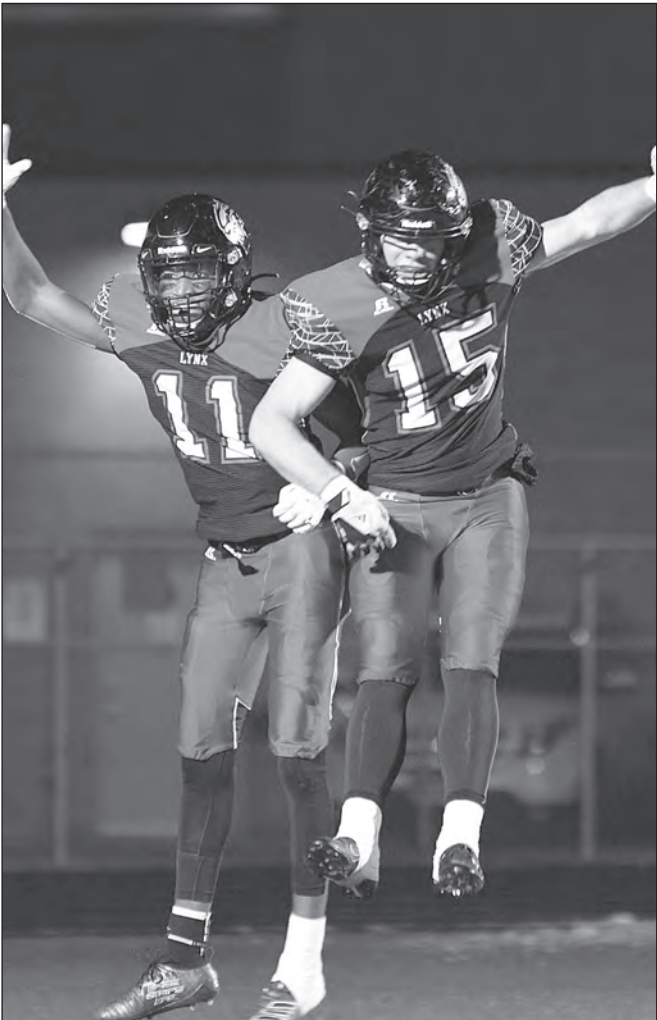
And with just a few days left in the Jeopardy! Teen Challenge, the Brandon whiz quiz kid was still in the game.

Presler, 14, made his *Jeopardy!* debut June 17, the first day of the two-week teen tourney.

The eighth-grader appeared on the show again June 25 as a wildcard semifinalist before making it into the finals, where he placed second.

Ryan Presler is pictured with Jeopardy host, Alex Trebek. Presler appeared on the show June 17 and June 25 as wildcard semifinalist.

Photo: Sony Pictures Entertainment



Got questions?

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Public Notices

CITY OF BRANDON
— NOTICE OF —
ZONING HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held by the Brandon Planning and Zoning Commission on the 16th day of January, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Brandon Council Chambers, 308 S. Main Avenue, Brandon, South Dakota;
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held by the Brandon City Council on the 20th day of January, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brandon Council Chambers, 308 S. Main Avenue, Brandon, South Dakota;
Both hearings will be conducted to consider the request for re-zoning of the following described property from R-3 to PD.
The legal description and property address is:
Lots 1A & 2A Block 3 Brandon Park Addition and Lots A & B Twins Addition
(1304 E. Sylvan Circle and 101 N. Pipestone Street)
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that any interested persons, their representative, or their attorney may appear and be heard.
Dated this 23rd day of December, 2019
Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission
Bryan Read
City Administrator
Published: December 31, 2019
Published at the approximate cost of \$11.67.
January 1, 2020

HAUGAARD LAW OFFICE
— NOTICE OF HEARING —
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SS: COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA
IN CIRCUIT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
In the Matter of the Petition of MATTHEW RAY COLE, For a Change of Name to MATTHEW RAY SMITH.
C1Y. 19 – 3340
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR CHANGE OF NAME
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Petitioner's Verified Petition for Adult Name
Change has been filed with this Court and shall be brought on for hearing before the
Honorable James A. Power, on the 14th day of January, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. in the
courtroom of the Minnehaha County Courthouse located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
Dated this 5th day of December, 2019.
HAUGAARD LAW OFFICE, P.C.
Is! Steven G. Hauaard
Steven G. Haugaard,
1601 East 69th Street, Suite 302
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108
(605) 334-1121
Steve@haugaardlaw.com
Published four times at the approximate cost of \$41.76
December 11, 18, 25, 2019 & January 1, 2020

MINNEHAHA COUNTY
— NOTICE TO BIDDERS —
COUNTY HIGHWAY 146 RE-CONSTRUCTION
Minnehaha County Highway Department requests formal bids for "MC17-01; County Highway 146 Reconstruction" which consists of the reconstruction of Minnehaha County Highway 146 from Highway 11 (481st Avenue) and the Minnesota state border (488th Avenue). Project work will include removal and replacement of existing asphalt surfacing, permanent signing, pavement markings, grading, removal and replacement of existing drainage structures, placing topsoil, seeding, fertilizing and mulching.
Sealed bids shall be received by Minnehaha County Auditor's Office, 415 N Dakota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, not later than 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Bids shall be publicly opened and read at the Auditor's Office at 10:30am.
Specifications and proposal forms that must be used are available at Minnehaha County Highway Department located at 2124 E 60th Street North, Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Bids submitted on forms other than the proposal supplied by the Minnehaha County Highway Department will be irregular and will not be considered.
Minnehaha County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive technicalities, and make award(s) as deemed to be in the best interest of the County.
Bob Litz, County Auditor
Published at the approximate cost of \$12.28.

S.D. RETAILERS cont. from page 7

Some South Dakota towns of roughly 1,000 people now boast competing dollar stores. Longtime retailers are countering with programs to boost customer loyalty and hoping for the best. For many rural consumers, dollar stores offer savings, competition and convenience. The danger for smaller communities is one of slipping below the critical mass of retail offerings. If shoppers must travel to larger towns for produce, meat and dairy, they will likely seek other supplies there as well, hastening a community's decline.
In general, small towns have punched far below their weight in retail trade since at least the 1990s, according to a 2017 study by Anil Giri of the University of Central Missouri and Bruce Johnson at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Using data from the Nebraska Department of Revenue between 1990 and 2015, the study shows a town's population is the single largest factor affecting

retail draw.
Among the findings, towns with fewer than 500 people leaked nearly half of their retail potential to larger towns, based on proportionate sales which factor population and average local income. The metropolitan counties home to Omaha and Lincoln, meanwhile, captured \$1.4 billion of taxable retail sales beyond their proportionate share just in 2015.
Counties whose largest towns contained fewer than 2,500 people generally leaked retail sales while those above 5,000 drew extra customers. Towns between 2,500 and 5,000 held their own, with some leaking and some gaining. Relative distance to a larger trade center, local transportation patterns and other factors were determinant.
In South Dakota, only 28 of the 312 places for which the census provides population estimates have more than 2,500 people, and only 18 have more than 5,000 people. Meanwhile, fewer than



Photo: Courtesy Visit Rapid City
The City of Presidents program, which includes a walking tour of sculptures of presidents including Thomas Jefferson, is a program run by Visit Rapid City which encourages tourists and locals to spend quality time in the downtown retail zone.

30 state cities show signs of meaningful growth over the past decade, according to census figures, and roughly half of the growth appears concentrated in Sioux Falls.

FOSHEIM cont. from page 5

ground-breakings. The exact number eludes him, but he admits to a feeling of satisfaction in his "connect the dots" role.
"I think what I'm most proud of is that we've expanded our scope of our work. It's not just the traditional model of economic development. We're tackling things like marketing. We're looking at some of those other factors that a company might be looking at before they make their decision to commit to a community where they're going to locate," he said. "What are some of those underlying factors? We're starting to help communities champion those efforts. Housing, daycares, some of those other quality of life things, workforce development, all of that is now becoming part of the umbrella

of what we do. And that's what I think I've been most proud of. The way that I would summarize that is by saying that growth is important, and I think in this area, that will always be a factor."
With two neighboring counties essentially sharing one economic development director, Fosheim said that arrangement has forged a valuable partnership among its members. For example, the two boards now meet at the same time.
"I think what that's done is opened up more collaboration because getting Harrisburg and Brandon or Dell Rapids and Canton, all of those perspectives in the same room, adds to a more robust discussion about what challenges or opportunities we're facing as a community. We don't have to re-

invent the wheel, and that's been the most fun part about that. There are differences sometimes, and it's fun to hear the banter back and forth between them," Fosheim said.
MCEDA members have also developed a partnership.
"The job of the director is a big one in that you're keeping everybody at the table," he said. "Every community in our county is different. They have different challenges and different attributes, and when you add all that together, that's pretty powerful. We do have a pretty compelling story to tell, and at times, we maybe competing with a neighboring town for a project, but I think that's why MCEDA has been so successful since the 1990s is because it's a forum to come and ask questions and to be challenged and support-

ed. And that's why it continues to exist."
This year, Fosheim's office organized the first Partners in Progress awards program. The event, he said, was developed to shine a spotlight on the folks that help shape their communities.
"This isn't Nick Fosheim's organization; this is your organization, and I work for you," he said. "As I told my board, I so value the trust that they – and I think I would say the same thing about Brandon – put in me to be part of your story. That means so much to me and at the end of all this that's what I'll remember the most."
Fosheim says there's no easy way to part ways with the community leaders he's worked with and for, especially the MCEDA and LCEDA boards.
"I think the leadership and the

leaders that I have worked with don't do it for the fame or glory or even for the recognition; it's just about doing the right thing. And it is hard to say goodbye, because it's that acknowledgement that they are important to you and to say some of those things out loud – that's the hardest part," he said, "but it will be fun to watch them in a new capacity and work with them in a new way."
Fosheim is confident the future remains bright for Brandon, the surrounding area and MCEDA/LCEDA.
"There have been some really good directors before me who laid a solid foundation, and hopefully when the history books are written, I'll be among some of those," he said.

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(Above) Much to the crowd's delight, Carter Olthoff and Dale Moss went head to head in a dunk contest during halftime of Friday's alumni basketball game.

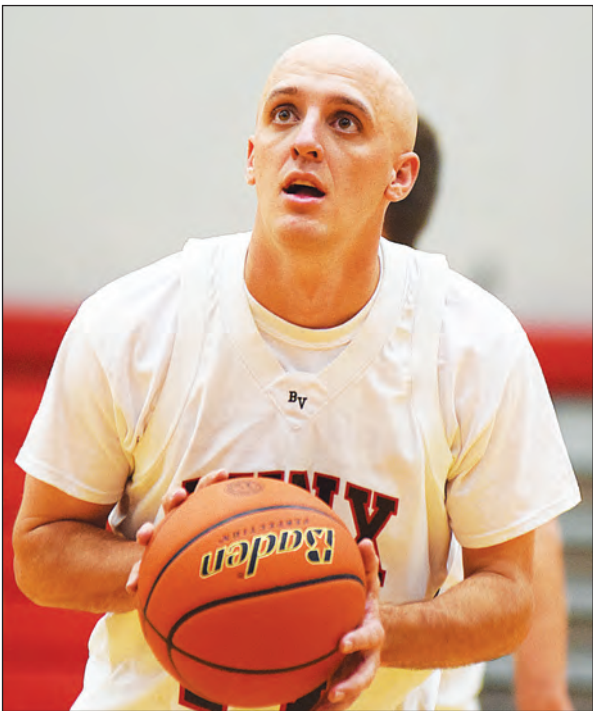


Lynx boys' basketball coach Brent Deckert gathers for a post-game pep talk with about 30 players who once wore BV's famed red and black jersey. Players from the classes of 2007 on up were divided into two teams.

Deckert's boys come home ...

Lynx alumni lace up for holiday hoops fun

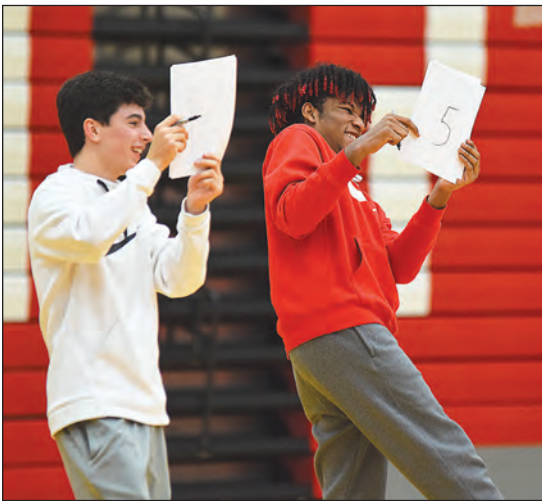
Photos by Jill Meier



(At right) Once again, Dale Moss dazzled Lynx fans with some of his signature moves during the dunk contest against Carter Olthoff. The judges gave Moss the nod as this year's champ. (At left) Sam Rall was a scoring machine inside the paint, outside the perimeter and at the foul line, too.



(Above left) Cole Siegfried shoots the ball over defender Cooper Olthoff. (Above right) Derrick DeZeeuw attempts to block a shot by Dylan Rock.



(At left) Jaksen Deckert, Jackson Hilton and Hunter Marso (not pictured) get a chuckle from the 5's they awarded in the dunk contest.



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