

## Space needs study shows City Hall needs more space

**Jill Meier**  
Journal editor

At 47 years, Brandon's City Hall has well out-lived its useful life. Monday night, David Doxtad, principal engineer, and Josh Muckernhim, architect with ISG, a design and engineering firm with offices in Mankato, Minn., and Sioux Falls, essentially told the council that City Hall, its police department and public works facilities do

not meet this growing city's needs. "I think it was an eye-opener for Bryan (Read) and us to go through not just City Hall, but the police department, too. You can see they have their hands tied behind their backs what they're trying to get accomplished in what they have for a facility," Muckernhim said. "Public works is making due because they're pretty good at pulling it together and making it work. But you can tell the efficiencies that

would be created with having one facility." In their visual survey of City Hall, ISG reps noted a deteriorating exterior, small work spaces and limited office space/privacy, unsecured storage areas, ADA non-compliant restrooms and a lack of shared spaces (i.e. conference, meeting and training areas). The police department, which was added onto the near five-decades-old City Hall, lacks sanitary

and ample space for animal control, locker room, evidence processing/storage and space for vehicles. And public works has three different facilities scattered throughout the city, which creates inefficiencies. Limited workspace and storage are also noticeable needs. ISG provided a variety of one- and two-level concepts for City Hall, police and public works. City Hall concepts were designed for

two parcels of land: the facility's current location or land, which is presently owned by Celebration United Methodist Church, along Redwood Boulevard. Property eyed for a new public works site is north of the fire station where city lagoons once inhabited. Just in the discussion phase, the concepts included space for the Chamber of Commerce and the Brandon Historical Society. Both

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## Pomp & Circumstance BVHS graduates eight at midyear

**Jamie Hult**  
Staff writer

Every high school grad has a unique path with its own set of ambitions and dreams. Some head off to college, the work force, the military. Others take a breather – time to travel, time to save money, time to figure out what's next. BVHS bid adieu and good luck to eight young men and women in a short but sweet midyear commencement ceremony Wednesday night in the Performing Arts Cen-

ter. Brandon Valley High School's eight midyear grads are a mixed bag of all of these goals and plans. A full-time nursing job awaits Anissa Robinson; for Natalie Brekhus, it's a career in the Marines. "You all took different paths to get here, which makes each of your stories unique," said principal Mark Schlekeway in his welcoming remarks. He challenged the grads to reflect on the friends, teachers and family who stood by them during their high



Jamie Hult/BV Journal

Brandon Valley High School's midyear graduates on Jan. 15 are (from left) Jared Frederickson, Anissa Robinson, Taylen Sichmeller, Natalie Brekhus, Jade Sandersfeld, Cassidy Helgeson, Tiffany Bakken and Kaleb Recob.

school journeys. History teacher Jeremy Risty delivered the commencement address. Risty has taught and coached football at BVHS the past 13

years. The educator said that while he couldn't live up to the graduation speeches by former principal Dr. Gregg Talcott, he also couldn't re-

fuse the invitation to deliver a few nuggets of wisdom to the midyear grads. "Graduates, some people will tell you that high school graduation is when life real-

ly begins," Risty said. "I'm going to disagree." He urged the grads not to be afraid to step outside of their comfort zones or admit

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## 'I'll be back soon. I promise' Miss Green welcomed back to Circuit

**Jill Meier**  
Journal editor

Tate Green wanted her Circuit family to know that she's OK. Green, 23, was struck by a drunk driver in late October after tending to her father's therapy dog, which had been hit by another vehicle moments before she and two others were hit by the impaired driver.



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Circuit student Madi Barton gifts a teddy bear to Tate Green at an open house to welcome the instructor back. Green surely used "perseverance" to recuperate from multiple injuries she sustained from being hit by a drunk driver Oct. 25.

After recuperating more than two and a half months in a Sioux Falls hospital, Green is now home and her Circuit family invited students and their families to

the center Sunday to welcome her home. "They missed me and I missed them," Green said. "So, coming back and doing

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## Valley Springs landowner pitches new development

**Jamie Hult**  
Staff writer

The Valley Springs Commission heard from a land developer/builder and a woman with a light pole dilemma at their Jan. 14 regular meeting. Rod Kuipers is in the process of purchasing more than 30 acres of land in Valley Springs he'd like to turn into a residential and commercial district. He shared plans with commissioners last week to get their input on his idea, which includes opening a development for 60 to 80 homes south east of the West Acres Addition along Valley Drive, with the potential for shopping plazas along the highway. "It's probably a five- to 10-year buildout plan," Kuipers said. "My pockets are not real deep. If we can get it done, I'd like to work with the city to benefit both – get a

good, viable development to bring more people into the city." Kuipers inquired about assistance from the city in connecting the development to water and sewer. "There's plenty of capacity on that (sewer) line, that's for sure," public works superintendent Ryan Nussbaum assured. Kuipers hopes to start dirt work this spring and summer and follow up in the fall with water, sewer, curb and gutter. Building and paving would take place in the spring of 2021. "We're going to open this up to any and all builders, too, and do it in phases," he said. "I want to make sure everything works for us and for the city ... I'm not looking for answers tonight." Kuipers said he recently built a home that sold for \$334,000 before it even hit the mar-

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**Taking your best friend to the vet? Check two things off your list.**

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# Journal Viewpoints

## No division. Wouldn't that be something?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the followers of Jesus in Corinth, "Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." (1 Cor. 1:10)

In the past couple of weeks, we've seen yet another denomination (Methodists) splitting up over how to interpret scripture and live faithfully. We have a wide theological spectrum of followers of Jesus in this community and they are definitely not of the "same mind" on many things.

No division. Wouldn't that be something? Sometimes we can think about the early followers of Jesus as enjoying an idyllic church free from all the dogma and dissent we see today.

However, Paul wrote these words to a community that was VERY divided. They had questions about who should be in charge, who held authority, if it was better to be baptized by one person or another! It was a highly divided and deeply contentious. People are people. And we will find ways to be divided because that is part of our condition.

If there ever were a space that you'd hope left division at the door you'd hope

### FROM THE PULPIT

Associate Pastor Dan Nelson  
Brandon & Splitrock Lutheran Churches



it would be the church ... right? Maybe not.

My best friends are the people who when I have an idea that they disagree with will tell me to my face right then and there. We can disagree about things – big things – and keep talking knowing that it is healthy to debate about things that matter. If you don't feel the need to say something when you hear a position or idea that doesn't sit right with you, chances are that you don't actually care that much. If you don't feel called to take a stand... well, then what DO you stand for?

Of course, not all disagreements are good. Not all viewpoints are helpful. Sorting out which ones are is part of the messy reality of being alive and called to be engaged in the work of being the Body of Christ in this place. The unity we are called to is not the same as uniformity.

What we are called to be united on is communicating and enacting the unconditional, unmeasurable, unstoppable love of Jesus Christ given to all people.

Dear Church of Brandon, S.D., in 2020, let's be about that above all else.

## Thanks for the credit, Ms. B's

### JILL'S JOURNAL

Jill Meier | Editor



I've been a working gal for decades. I started babysitting in the fifth grade, walked beans and de-tasseled corn later, cooked in a family restaurant through high school and steakhouse in college, bartended, served and cooked at Scotty's Bar & Grill in neighboring Luverne, mowed for a farmer, worked in crowd management at the Sioux Falls Arena, did part-time bookwork for a pool league, dabbled in wedding, family and graduation photography as a sideline business, served as the advisor for a high school yearbook staff, was an administrative assistant for five years, and in the newspaper industry, I've worn the hats of reporter, editor, photographer, advertising sales rep and now publisher.

It's fair to say my resume is plentiful.

As the snow piled up outside last Friday, I got to thinking about the first "charge" account that I had. I was in high school and was earning a steady paycheck from the hours I put in as a cook at DeToy's Family Restaurant. Although the pay at the time was somewhat meager compared to today's minimum wage, there was nothing better than holding the rewards of your work in hand. And then dashing off to spend some it.

I always made a point to plunk a few dollars into my savings account, be-

cause it was exciting to see that balance grow, too.

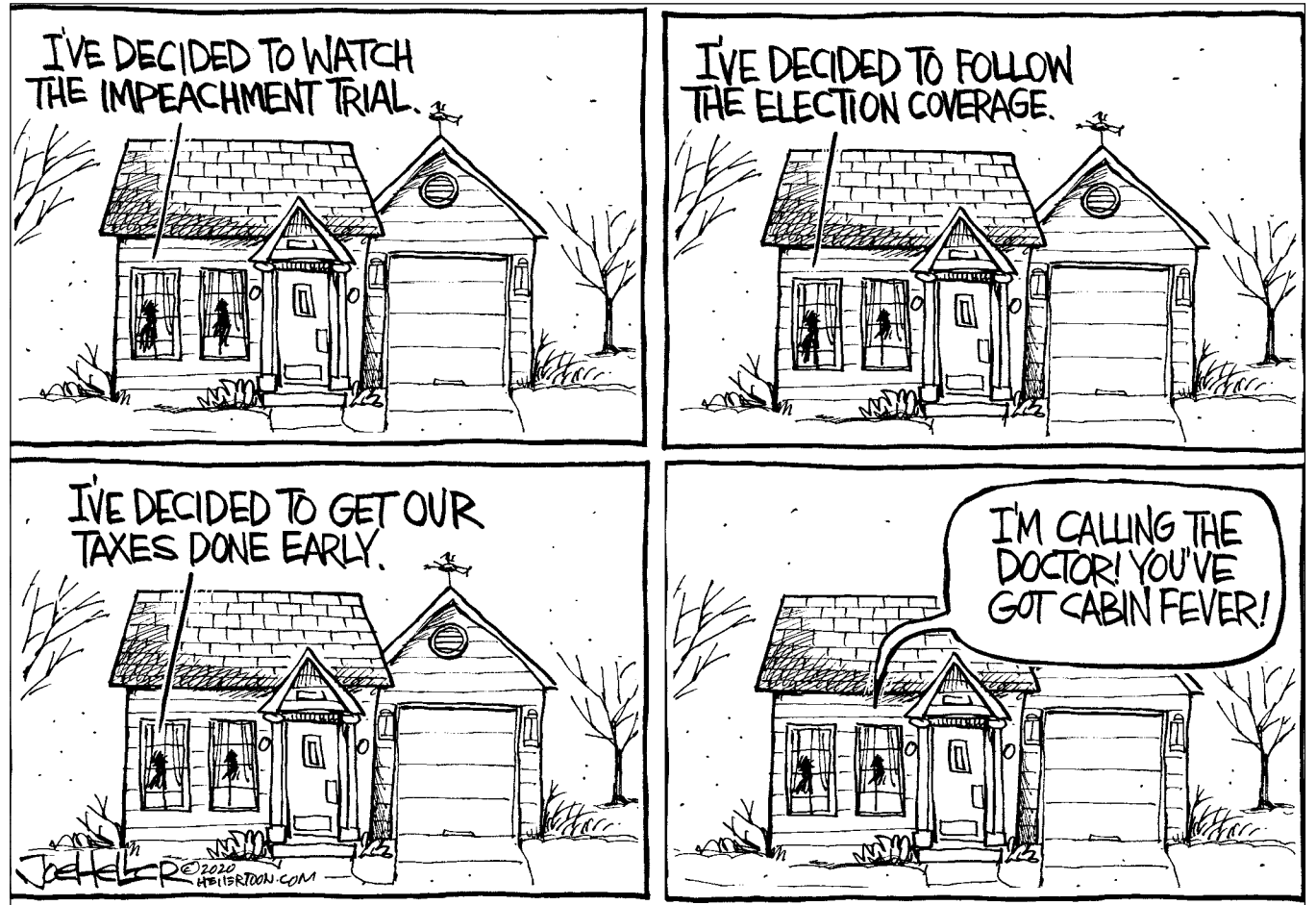
But I'm a girl, and I've had a lifelong love affair with finding something new on the racks.

In high school, Ms. B's was a teen-aged gal's best friend. She'd happily "hold" whatever we simply couldn't live without, allow us to make timely payments and when the balance hit zero, it was ours to take home for keeps.

There were no minimum amounts to pay, interest added or late charges. Nope, she dealt with us personally – always stressing the importance of making good on our promise to pay.

Sometimes, I wish life today was as simple as that. Finding something you really want, saving for it or making

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## Raising the bar in 2020

Moving into 2020, the Commission continues to prioritize a forward-looking approach to solving problems. While we look to the future, I also want to take a moment to highlight some of the successes Minnehaha County achieved in 2019. Increasing effectiveness and efficiency helps stretch taxpayer dollars further and improves outcomes and customer satisfaction.

These items and many others are possible because of continued problem solving and hard work from county employees:

**Improving online property tax payments.** The county launched an improved portal for online property tax payments. The updated system simplifies the process for taxpayers and reduces internal processing time.

**Facilities.** Last summer a taskforce reviewed and provided recommendations to meet current and future facility needs. Area business and accounting professionals toured our facilities,

### FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER JEAN BENDER

Jean Bender  
County Commission Chairwoman



analyzed data, and asked great questions. The taskforce concluded two bond issues up to \$40 million in total can be issued without increasing property taxes above current levels. This is possible due to bond capacity that will become available when previously issued bonds reach maturity this year.

Proposed facility renovations and construction includes the Administration building, Extension building, Highway Department, and the Juvenile Detention Center. The Commission is collecting more data for each project and will discuss financing options later this year.

Jail expansion construction continues on budget and on schedule.

**Pre-Trial Services.** Public safety expenses are a significant budget cost driver as they have increased two to four times the rate of

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## Authentic learning experiences are key in preparing BV students for the future

The Brandon Valley School District strives to provide our students with authentic learning experiences. One key component of our district's strategic plan is promoting student college and career readiness through the development of paid apprenticeship opportunities for students. In addition, engaging businesses with paid apprentices is a key to strengthening community partnerships, all while helping BV students acquire and refine key workplace readiness skills. Providing students with

work-based learning helps promote their ability to make informed decisions about their post-high school career. For example, Brandon Valley School District has hired a BVHS senior to work as an education assistant within an elementary school. Our paid apprentice plans to pursue an elementary education degree following high school.

In the very near future, we will be coordinating an event with the Brandon

### SUPE'S ON

Dr. Jarod Larson  
BVSD Superintendent



Valley Area Chamber of Commerce where members can learn more about how a paid apprentice can positively affect their business. Mr. Mark Schlekeway, BVHS Principal, and I will share success stories from our current partnerships as we look to further expand opportunities for local businesses and our students. If you are looking for a

very simple explanation of the paid apprenticeship program – a student works a half-day and attends class half-day. The work-based learning yields the child academic credit and an hourly wage. The opportunity provides great value to the business and student with the overall goals of applying and learning workplace skills, connecting students to career goals, and supporting the local business workforce.

Together, we provide excellence in education! Go Lynx!

## Inspiration

### TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Jamie Hult | Staff Writer



Seldom have a left a reporting assignment as inspired as I was at the conclusion of BVSD teacher in-service Monday.

I'm not a teacher, of course, and I never have been, but what I gleaned from the nearly three hours I spent with BV staff and guest speaker Mike Anderson would've inspired anyone in charge of at least one youngster.

I didn't know anything about the presenter before plopping down in the back row of the PAC Monday afternoon while he was talking. I pulled out my phone and googled him, expecting

a wild goose chase with a name like Mike Anderson. I added "author" to put a finer point on it, and there he was: the top of the search results, with an author mug, book images and everything. And then I started to listen to him. While he was clearly talking to teachers about tweaking their language in their classrooms to get better results with students,

all I heard was a parenting lesson. Or a people lesson. Sometimes they're kind of the same. And it was good.

Henry Rollins inspired me in a similar way, though the two men couldn't be more different. Their messages had nothing in common, either, but it's crazy how jazzed up you can get about someone who seems to be on to a good idea. I left both speakers feeling oddly empowered, like I'd had an epiphany and needed to spend a long time in silence, ruminating on what I'd discovered. Mike Anderson, the educational

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# Resident gathers signatures to put fireworks on ballot

**Jamie Hult**  
Staff writer

Projectile fireworks were banned in Brandon last summer by a city council vote, but at least one resident is determined to put the issue to a vote of the people.

Brandon resident Melinda Else recently began circulating a petition that would put the idea of reviving July 3-4 fireworks in Brandon on a ballot. She needs approximately 350 signatures of registered Brandon voters to make it happen.

Her reasoning for circulating the petition, she said, is

simple: "I didn't agree with the total ban of fireworks."

Else reached out to a few city council members to learn about the discussion leading up to the council vote, then checked in with City Hall to find out what she could do to get the issue on the ballot. Though she only needs a small percentage of the city's registered voters to sign, Else is aiming for 400 signatures by mid-February.

"The support has been incredible," she said. "I've had so many people say, 'Thank you so much for doing this, for doing the legwork.'"

Else says she didn't realize the impact the fireworks ban would have on Brandon until after last July 4th.

"There was nobody in town," she recalled. "It was so, so quiet around here."

By a 4-1 council vote, Ordinance 572 was amended in December of 2018 to ban the discharge of most fireworks in the city limits. Examples of prohibited fireworks include artillery shells (mortars), firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, parachutes and similar devices intended to propel or project flaming or explosive materials.

Class 1.4 G fireworks, such as sparklers, snakes, snaps and smoke balls, are still permissible on private property with the property owner's permission.

The city also set a \$250 per-violation fine, though Brandon police did not write any citations last Fourth of July. In fact, from 6 p.m. July 1 through 6 a.m. July 7, the Brandon Police Department only received 13 complaints and issued six verbal warnings.

Else is still collecting signatures and welcomes Facebook messages and phone calls at 605-582-2518 from

registered voters who'd like to sign.

"Remember to get out there and vote once we get it on the ballot," she added.

She's also looking for people to help collect signatures.

"There are 20 to a sheet, and most everyone knows 20 people they could reach out to," she said. "Many hands make light work."

If the petition is submitted and approved by City Hall prior to early March, finance officer Christina Smith said the issue would go on the ballot in April.

## TALK of the TOWN

### Offut Brass coming to Brandon

Looking for a brief respite from the bleakness of winter? It's coming.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, in the Brandon Valley High School Performing Arts Center, the Offutt Brass, a seven-member brass, vocal and percussion ensemble from the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band, will present a free community concert featuring patriotic music.

Titled "Celebrate the American Spirit," the program encompasses a variety of familiar Broadway and classical selections.

Free tickets are now available at the Brandon Valley Journal, 1404 E. Cedar St.

General admission seating begins at 1:30 p.m. All unclaimed seats will be available to non-ticket holders 15 minutes prior to the performance.

### 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.

The BAFP also accepts 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.

### Donations needed in BV school nurse offices

The nurse's offices at Brandon Valley elementary schools are in need of new or gently-used clothing (no holes, stains or broken zippers). Items may be dropped off in the office with name and phone number attached.

The following items are not needed: jeans, dress shoes, dress clothes, thin gloves.

These items are needed for both boys and girls: athletic pants and leggings (youth sizes 4-10), long sleeve t-shirt and/or sweatshirts (sizes 4-10), youth-sized insulated winter gloves, snow pants, winter coats, snow boots and tennis shoes (youth sizes 10-6).

If your child is in need of these items, contact Renae, school nurse, at 582-3642.

### BVSD Kindergarten registration

Brandon Valley School District is now accepting registrations for the 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, call the attendance center your child will attend: Brandon Elementary, 582-6315; Fred Assam, 582-1500; Robert Bennis, 582-8010; and Valley Springs, 582-2948.

## BLIZZARD WEEKEND

### Locals hunker down for first storm of 2020

**Staff report**

School and activities were called off Friday in anticipation of a midday blizzard, and Mother Nature did indeed deliver. The community hunkered down for a long weekend that brought six to eight inches of snow and kept the city crew out for more than 12 hours plowing on the first day.

We checked in with the community on Saturday to find out how they were spending their time. Here are some of their replies:

"Genealogy." – Michelle McElroy  
"Remodel bathroom." – Bill Schierholz

"Cleaning closets." – Wilma Kirkeby

"Watching basketball! Gonzaga and Duke to name a couple!" – Colleen Williams Button

"Cleaning and reorganizing closets and office." – Debbie Hansen Tellinghuisen

"Making cake, of course!" – Mary Oren

"Writing, writing, writing and an occasional movie. Loved *The Two Popes!*" – Becky Blue

"Sewing, sewing and more sewing." – Jane Easton Ellis

"Painting ... my kitchen, dining, living room, entry and hallway." – Pam Hu-

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### Pizza Ranch van stolen while running

**Staff report**

A Pizza Ranch delivery van was stolen at the start of a blizzard weekend and found abandoned early Sunday morning at a nearby park.

According to Pizza Ranch owner Aaron Hansen, a delivery driver left the van running just outside the restaurant while he went back inside for more orders shortly after 7 p.m. Friday. About 10 minutes later, the driver returned to where he'd left the vehicle running, only to find it missing.

Pizza Ranch didn't contact the police immediately. First, they reached out to all employees and made sure everyone working that shift was accounted for.

Plus, there was an ele-



Jill Meier/BV Journal

The area received six to eight inches of snow Friday, causing the city of Brandon to plow 12 hours that day.

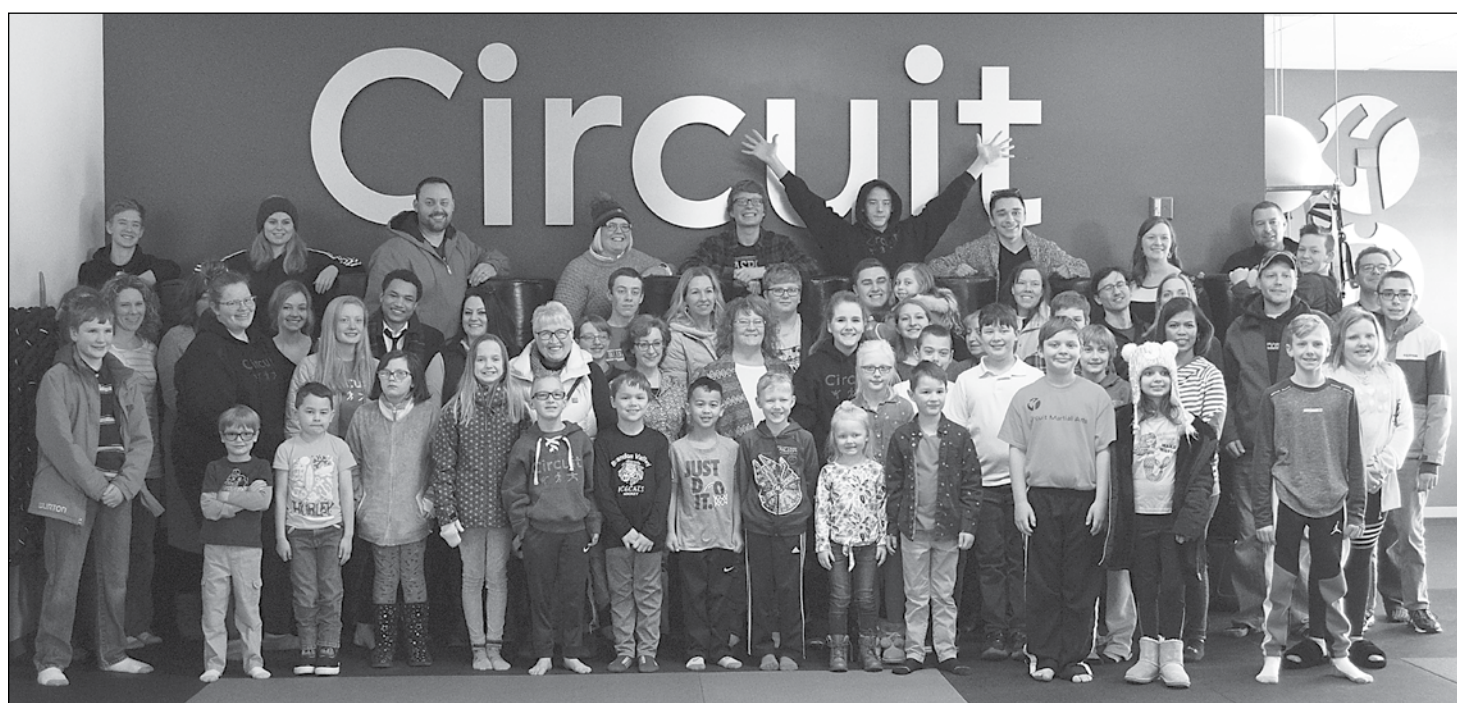
ment of doubt that the van had really been stolen.

"We were like, 'Is somebody joking with us?'" Hansen said. "And it's Brandon,

South Dakota. You still have that small-town feel."

After contacting Brandon Police that evening, he also

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Circuit hosted a welcome home open house for one of their own on Sunday, Tate Green. Students and their families came to wish Green, an instructor at the center, good wishes in her recovery from an Oct. 25 accident in which she was hit by a drunk driver

Jill Meier/BV Journal

### TATE GREEN cont. from page 1

ing this one big get together was important for everyone."

Twelve-year-old Jack Robbins was among Sunday's well-wishers.

"I think she's inspirational because of the fact that she got hit by a car and most don't survive that," he said, "but she pushed through hard times and is here standing today."

Cade Smortwske, also 12, said he was concerned about Miss Green's well being.

"It was hard seeing her go through this," he said, "so I wanted to thank her for being the best instructor and hope her pain heals soon."

Max Meyer echoed their sentiments. "She's helped me a lot," he added.

After nearly three months away from Circuit, Green returns to work this week. But you won't find her on the mats – just yet.

"I'll be at the front desk," she assures.

The center and its students are of extreme importance to Green, and it was very evident in her first words after regaining consciousness.

"When I first started to come back to reality, after all the meds had worn off, the very first questions I asked my mom were, 'Is everything OK at the Taekwondo center? Are the instructors OK? Are the kids OK? How are they all doing?' It wasn't, 'Why am I in the hospital right now?' It was just pretty much the center."

The May 2019 Augustana University graduate sustained 18 injuries in all total. She lists a concussion, a brain bleed, a broken nose and a broken bone underneath her right eye among her injuries. She also suffered two broken vertebrae, a destroyed leg, her right foot was "pretty much" degloved, and her right shoulder blade was broken.

"It's been a lot," she admits.

To date, she's undergone eight surgeries and there are more to come.

Yet despite the hurdles, Green remains upbeat.

"I don't know how long it will be," she says of her recovery. "I know that things fully heal in about a year and I know that things are going well, moving in the right direction."

For the time being, however, life as she once knew it, is no longer the norm for Green.

"I now need help with a lot of things just because I can't fully walk and I don't have my balance anymore, unfortunately," she tells. "But other than that, it really hasn't changed a whole lot. I still do everyday things. I can still cook for myself and I can still move around, it's just a little harder and at a little slower pace."

Green said she did not see or even have a recollection

of the car striking her.

"All I know is that my dad's therapy dog got hit and I was trying to take care of her, and the other two people that were also in the accident, who also got hit, were trying to help push cars around where we were and this drunk driver didn't see anything. I got hit first and then the other two got hit, so the dog kind of saved my life in a sense."

According to Tony Mangano, a media officer for the South Dakota Highway Patrol, Kelly Tyrrell, 59, also of Brandon, was traveling east on 258th Street and did not respond to the two teens attempting to alert traffic. The vehicle struck Green and two unnamed individuals. Green and a 38-year-old female were both listed in critical condition and transported to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. A 15-year-old female also received serious non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to

Sanford Health.

Green says she does her best to remain positive.

"Obviously, what she did was wrong and it hurt three people, but if I just focus on that negativity, then I'm not going to get better, so I don't think about it," she said.

She does, however, ask those who have been drinking to get a ride.

"If you can get a ride, do that. Otherwise make sure that you are watching how much you're drinking ... but don't drink and drive. Don't ever do that," she said.

Ironically so, her misfortune with a drunk driver isn't the family's only experience.

"I was named after my uncle Tate, who was hit by a drunk driver and he died. So, what are the odds that I get hit, too," she said. "My family has gone through this twice, and fortunately, this one has a happy ending."



# Brandon residents bound for Pierre Jan. 29

DOT to enlighten group on future exit 406 upgrades

**Jamie Hult**  
Staff writer

Local residents will tour the State Capitol, sit in on legislative sessions and hear an update on plans for the city's I-90 exit during Brandon Day at the Legislature next Wednesday.

The Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce's 13th annual Brandon Day at the Legislature heads for Pierre in the early morning hours of Jan. 29.

The group of community members and Brandon Valley High School student council members will attend legislative committee meetings before breaking for lunch with District 10 and 25 legislators. Following lunch, they'll meet with representatives from the South Dakota Department of Transportation, as well as state senators and representatives.

"Brandon Day at the Legislature is an exciting opportunity for our members to come to Pierre for the day and be informed on the current bills and activity," said Rachel Neiman, Chamber president/CEO. "I am really looking forward to attending committee meetings, listening in on sessions and enjoying lunch with our Brandon Valley students, along with the available District 10 and 25 Legislators."

This year, the group will also meet with SDDOT staff to hear an update on the I-90 exit 406 interchange, which is earmarked for 2023.

Topics expected to be debated by legislators this session include:

- Legalization of industrial hemp and CBD;
- Raising the age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21;
- Sports betting in Deadwood;
- Limiting the ability of local government to regulate the use of plastic bags and straws;
- Expansion of a program that helps at-risk



Jill Meier/File photo

Brandon Valley High's student council toured the capitol and took in the view above the rotunda.

high school students enter the workforce; and

- How to fund vital state programs without raising taxes;

Two chartered busses will leave the Brandon Holiday Inn Express at 6 a.m. Jan. 29. There is a cost of \$35 per person, which covers transportation and lunch.

To register, contact the BVACC at 582-7400 or visit [brandonvalleychamber.com](http://brandonvalleychamber.com).

Brandon Day at the Legislature is co-sponsored by the city of Brandon. Contributors include Tony's Catering and McKinneyOlson Insurance.

# School board hears proposed policies, academic calendar

**Jill Meier**  
Journal editor

Superintendent Jarod Larson was absent last week from his first ever board of education meeting in his entire career to date.

But the leader of Brandon Valley Schools had good reason: He was attending a conference to gain insight on student apprenticeships.

While Larson was not physically at the Jan. 13 meeting, in pre-recorded audio presentations, he enlightened board members on the proposed 2020-21 school calendar, board policies and upcoming negotiations with the Brandon Valley Education Association and more.

The school board got its first look at next year's proposed calendar. Larson explained the calendar has been reviewed by administrators, the teacher liaison committee and the classified council, and remains consistent and corresponding to the current school year calendar. One snow day is built in, and all other missed days of school will be tacked on at the end of the school year.

The calendar will be presented to the board Jan. 27 for final adoption.

## Board policies

The board gave first readings to two policies, KGC – Tobacco-Free School, and FF – Facilities, planning and development.

The first policy deems the BVSD buildings and grounds as "100 percent tobacco-free at all times, for all persons," regardless of age and whether they may legally use tobacco products. Use of any type of tobacco product on or in district parking lots, in district-owned vehicles and in personal vehicles located on school property is prohibited.

Policy FF regards selecting a name for a new school. Until now, the district lacked the policy and its guidelines.

The policy directs the superintendent to form and facilitate a committee consisting of parents, teachers, administrators, school board building and grounds committee chair or another board member, community members and students.

The policy stipulates school building names should be within one of the following categories:

- Donation of the land by a school district patron.
- Specific naming rights as outlined in the purchase agreement.
- Presidents of the United States.
- Persons who have achieved distinction in such fields as art, literature, music, education or science.
- Individuals who have made a significant contribution to society.
- Location of the school, its street or direction.
- Famous event or loca-

tion.

The district's forthcoming elementary, currently recognized as "Sparta Elementary," will follow the policy process. Larson said a committee will be formed following the second reading and adoption at the board's Jan. 27 meeting. The committee will meet in February to recommend a name, which the board will approve in April.

Larson said the school could possibly remain "Sparta Elementary," as location is a component of the building naming policy.

## Supt. Larson's report

The board was reminded of the Sparta Elementary construction timeline.

- Fall 2019/winter 2020: Construction planning meetings with administration, buildings and grounds committee and architect.
- February 2020: Bid the construction project.
- Spring 2020: Construction begins (as weather allows).
- Fall 2020: Elementary boundary line committee meets (new school will warrant change in elementary boundary lines).
- 2020-21 school year: Construction continues.
- Fall 2021: School opens.

The school board will have one vacancy this year when Ellie Saxer's term expires in June. The open seat

continued on page 6

# Count commission votes 5-0 in support of refugee resettlement Minnehaha County

**Dave Baumeister**  
County correspondent

SIoux FALLS – Although South Dakota's most prominent "anti-immigrant politician," Neal Tapio was present at the Jan. 14, Minnehaha County Commission meeting, he did not add his voice to the five people who spoke against the resettlement of refugees in the coun-

ty. Tapio, a Watertown resident and former state senator who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018, may be most widely known as the 2016 director of the Trump campaign in South Dakota.

Tapio has been quoted in the media and on his Facebook page as criticizing the "crime-ridden" city of Sioux

Falls and Lutheran Social Services for brining refugees to the area.

Tuesday's meeting would have been a perfect opportunity for Tapio to express his reservations as county commissioners considered whether or not to sign a resolution allowing more refugees into the area.

As was reported last week, due to an executive order signed in September 2019 by President Trump, before accepting any of the 18,000 refugees allowed into the U.S., both the states and communities impacted have to sign letters to that effect.

At the previous meeting,



Dave Baumeister/For the Journal

People filled the Minnehaha County Commission chambers on Jan. 14 to speak about a requirement following a federal executive order to sign a document before allowing refugees to be located into a community. Twenty people spoke in favor of refugees and the positive impact on the local labor force. Five people spoke against the resolution. Commissioners voted 5-0 to sign the document.

Betty Oldenkamp and Rebecca Hudson of LSS in Sioux Falls told commissioners of the need for the signed document, which commission chairwoman Jean Bender then put on the agenda for Jan. 14.

The issue before the county was simple – whether or not to sign the relocation document.

Gov. Kristi Noem signed it on behalf of the state last month.

The Sioux Falls City Council also voted Jan. 14 unanimously to sign the document.

The commission chambers was packed with more than 60 people, with many more in the overflow room. While most in the commission chambers seemed to be in support of area refugees, 20 people spoke to ask commissioners to vote "yes" on the resolution.

Several of those who spoke told their own stories, sometimes tearing up about being forced from their home countries and becoming refugees, and how welcoming Sioux Falls had been to them.

Adding to this were voices from the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce, Forward

Sioux Falls, the AFL-CIO, among others, all noting the positive impact of the current refugee community has on the city and county labor forces.

Only five individuals spoke in opposition, of which two shared they were not so much against the resolution but pointed out that Sioux Falls already has problems, such as the disabled veterans and homelessness, that needs to be addressed first.

Another mentioned that the vetting process needed to be better, even though it was explained in answer to a question by Commissioner Dean Karsky that the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security already handled that as part of an 18- to 24-month process.

Minnehaha County and the City of Sioux Falls are not involved with the vetting and security clearances.

The number of refugees expected by LSS is between

continued on page 6

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## Alliance settles into new space

### Staff report

Alliance Communications made a swift and seamless move into its new Brandon branch along Aspen Boulevard last week.

The local co-op settled in Jan. 14-15 in a freshly built, freestanding building in the new Alliance Plaza, with nine full-time employees.

The new space at 1400 E. Aspen Blvd. offers slightly more space than the cooperative's former office in Sunshine Plaza, but the main perk of the move, said business relations manager Paul VanDeBerg, is owning the building on their own land.

"Anyone is invited to stop in and see the space," he said.

Avera purchased three of the five-plus acres Alliance owns at the corner



Jamie Hult/BV Journal

Alliance Communications staff settled into their new space at 1400 E. Aspen Blvd. last week. Pictured are, from left, Shannon Carda, Melinda Huewe, Shirley Flanigan, Melissa Murray, Bobbi Ellingson, Erin Olesen, Paul VanDeBerg and Jeff Hove.

of Splitrock and Aspen boulevards in July 2019. A spokesperson for Avera said there were no plans to develop the land at the time.

"We're looking forward to seeing

what Avera does," VanDeBerg added. Office hours remain 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday.

## SPACE cont. from page 1

were designed to be excluded or to be added on to in future years.

"Tonight, we're looking to hone in on a concept floor plan," said Muckernhirn. "The one piece we need to finalize is the floor plan and then we can generate a high-level cost plan."

Mayor Paul Lundberg cautioned the council to not get caught up on the site location at this time.

"That's always a huge thing with site selection with the public. We just need to proceed cautiously with that, and just make sure that what we develop has the ability to be put on multiple sites," he said.

Lundberg said it's now time for Brandon to have a City Hall that can accommodate staff needs for a community on the grow.

"I really want to get to that point where the city has some facilities that we can say we're proud of, that we can showcase them. We have a beautiful city here and sometimes we need forward thinking on these facilities," he said. "They're not easy sells, office spaces are not easy sells. Everybody thinks that I can office out of a dog house. We just have to do our salesmanship that when they come into see us, we have an image that we need to portray and we're not at that right now in my opinion."

## BENDER cont. from page 2

inflation annually since 2012. Remaining department budgets averaged 1 percent annual increases. According to state statute, once someone is arrested, jail, prosecution, public defense, and court-appointed attorneys are county responsibilities. Pre-trial staff use a risk instrument to provide data to judges which helps determine if someone should be released or continue to be held while awaiting trial. Individuals unlikely to reoffend, likely to show up for trial, and not a danger to themselves or others, are best placed at home,

working to support their family.

**Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software.** ERP software includes property tax, budgeting, accounting, and payroll. The multi-year transition moves these systems off AS/400 systems that date back to the 1970s. The software has greater functionality and saves staff time.

While these are just few examples of successes, the Commission will continue to partner with county employees and elected officials to raise the bar as we serve you in 2020.

## TRIVIAL cont. from page 2

consultant hired to inspire BV teachers during their Jan. 20 in-service, simply suggested choosing a few different words to change the dynamic between adult and child. And the more I listened, the more I could see it working with my own strong-willed youngster.

Now comes the hard part: putting it into practice.

Kudos to the Brandon Valley School District and curriculum director Sherri Nelson for snagging a truly engaging guest speaker. I enjoyed being part of the audience.

## SCHOOL BOARD cont. from page 5

pires in June. The open seat is a three-year term. Those interested in filing for election may begin circulating petitions April 7. Signed petitions must be at the Central Office no later than 5 p.m. May 8. Candidates must also file a financial interest statement within 15 days of filing their nominating petition.

The tentative timeline for 2020-21 negotiations/wage recommendations will begin with a pre-negotiations meeting between BVSD administration and BVEA in March, followed by negotiations between the personnel welfare committee and the

BVEA. If all goes well, the board can expect to ratify the contract at their April 14 meeting.

Larson reported the 2020-21 budget process is underway and the business office will compile and review by March. The board will hear the BVSD's five-year plan in February, review the preliminary capital outlay budget in March and the preliminary budget in May. In July, a public budget hearing will be held, followed by board approval.

In other business, the school board:

- Hired the following personnel: Valerie Grieve,

- English Language Learner EA; Eric Perkinson, substitute for snow removal; James Linn, substitute bus/van driver; Kathy Tews, long-term substitute for Katie Murdy, BVHS counselor; Kelli DeBoer and Kristi Houser, BVHS child nutrition workers; Brittney Reiter, Brandon Elementary Jr. Kindergarten EA; Rhonda Bachmeier, custodial substitute; Michael "Shane" Weiland, BVHS evening custodian; Katie Johnson, custodial substitute;
- Hired STEM teacher leaders, JoAnn Presler, Cassandra Shutes, Jayna Silvernail, Alyssa Johnson, Katee Lane, Tara Scholten, Mary Gile, Gina Serhsen and Lisa Reinschmidt.

- Approved resignation/retirement for Sara (Kathy) Hunt, BVHS physical education; Kristine Sellers, Brandon Elementary Early Childhood teacher; and Debbie Arrowsmith, administrative assistant at Fred Assam Elementary. All three are effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Approved new position at Brandon Elementary for a part-time Jr. Kindergarten EA. This is a paid apprenticeship at \$11 per hour for 15 hours per week.
- Adjourned until 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27.

## COMMISSION cont. from page 5

60 and 100.

Oldenkamp said that 130 refugees were relocated in Sioux Falls last year, and she based the new figure on the fact that Trump had reduced the total number allowed into the country by 40 percent.

Although Tapio himself avoided the podium, one of three others against specifically referred to Tapio, and another read from "talking points" that had been circulating citing anti-refugee "statistics."

Following public comment, all five commissioners weighed in on the reasons why they supported it.

"I am not going to be a voice against (welcoming people)," Karsky said. "If we go back far enough, all of us came from that situation."

Commissioner Gerald Beninga added, "I enjoy the culture they bring. I am going to

support this because it is the right thing to do. The vetting process is extraordinary, and (the refugees) create benefits for our economy."

Commissioner Cindy Heiberger said conversations like this are good to have.

"We need to be speaking to each other," she said. "If there is a fear, we need to be talking."

Then she noted the state's European immigrant heritage.

"There are still people in South Dakota who only speak German."

The commission's action on Tuesday may have been in vain by Wednesday when U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte of Maryland temporarily halted the presidential executive order.

Still, commissioners reiterated the conversation is a good one to have.

One of the "talking-points" mentioned was an "increase in crime," but Bender said that she had talked to both human services and law enforcement who said that there was no disproportional need of their services among the refugee population.

"Any time you try to categorize a group with one broad stroke, you miss the whole picture," she said.

Commissioner Jeff Barth put it simply, "It's easy to hate people. Let's not hate each other. Let proponents not hate opponents, and let opponents not use this for political ends. (At the beginning of the meeting), we said the Pledge of Allegiance - 'with liberty and justice for all' - for all. I'm going to support this because it is the American thing to do."

On a motion from Beninga, and a second by Karsky, the resolution passed unanimously. always encouraged.

## THE LYNX WAY

Thorson named to MSU Moorhead dean's list

Taylor Thorson, a business administration major from Brandon, has been named to the Minnesota State University Moorhead dean's list in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2019. Students must be in degree-seeking status and maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average while completing a minimum of 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor.

## Angus Breeder of the Year



American Angus Association photo

Shally Roggen, of Roggen Angus in Brandon, won the Breeder of the Year award at the 2019 South Dakota Angus Association Annual Meeting and Banquet, Dec. 14 in Mitchell. Pictured from left are Joshua Mohnen, South Dakota Angus Association president; Shally Roggen; Dick Roggen; and Jon Bussmus, South Dakota Angus Association director.

## JILL'S JOURNAL cont. from page 2

payments, before it comes home with you.

I have credit cards, a few of them with balances - nothing too hefty, of course - but yet the debt is there. Every month, I plunk as much as my bank account allows, and then like all "I-want-that-now" shoppers, about the time the balance is zeroed out, something else seems to grab my attention.

While the payment plan established with Ms. B's may not have given me instant gratification, knowing that my end-goal was waiting on a hanger in the backroom was all the inspiration this working gal needed to bring home the prize - one package at a time.

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# Hansen destined for state HS hoops Hall of Fame

**Jill Meier**  
Journal editor

Austin Hansen grew up a farm kid. And as all farm kids know, there's always work to be done.

But Hansen's dad, Wayne, gave his kids the opportunity to help with the chores – and chase their dreams, too.

Austin's dream was basketball.

"We had a basketball court set up on the hill of our yard that was a dirt court with a wooden backboard and a chain link net on a wooden pole," says Hansen, who guided the Lynx to the program's first AA state title in 1998. "There were some challenges there, but at the end of the day, it made me a better ball handler."

It also set him up for a lifetime of playing – and coaching – the game, which has led to his most recent accolade: Induction into the 2020 South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Hansen is one of 12 individuals and a team to be inducted March 28 at the 11th annual Hall of Fame Banquet to be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls.

"It's definitely a surprise," says South Dakota High School's 1998 co-Mr. Basketball. "I don't think it's something you're thinking about or looking for, but when I did get the call, it was a fun call. You have to

work extremely hard to get yourself to a certain point to go out and perform, and I was fortunate to go out and play for some coaches that gave me some responsibility and allowed me to play my style of basketball. I also had some teammates that really sacrificed on the floor and gave up their individual accolades to allow me have the ball in my hands."

It's fair to say that basketball has been a way of life for Hansen, who is now an assistant coach for the Utah State men's basketball team.

"Basketball is what I've always done, what I've always known and what I've always been comfortable with. It's been good to me and I feel like I've worked hard with the game and been rewarded by the game for my effort," he said. "I've had some really good experiences with the game of basketball. I've been able to travel the world and meet so many people because of it, and when I got done playing at South Dakota State, I felt like the next step was to move into coaching and help guys grow and have the type of experiences I had because of it."

Hansen's no stranger to hall of fame honors. In 2011, he was inducted into Brandon Valley's Athletic Hall of Fame, and regards both inductions as "humbling."

"I had a ton of fun growing up in the Brandon Valley



Submitted photo

Austin Hansen, a 1998 Brandon Valley High grad, is a 2020 inductee into SD High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

School District and being a part of that community. Just the support meant so much," he said. "It's a football school and there's a ton of tradition there and you know the pinnacle is getting to the Dome for a football state championship. But it was a goal and dream of mine to get basketball on the map since it was not as much of a tradition at the time, and I was fortunate enough to have a group of guys that had the same goals and aspirations and put the same work in to get there. And the support from com-

munity put it over the top."

Throughout high school, Hansen worked at the local Dairy Queen and Pizza Ranch and still remembers how local fans would come in and talk to him about last night's game or the big game coming up.

"They were so supportive and it made such a difference in the motivation to keep working," he said.

While Hansen was surely one of South Dakota's best to play the game in the late 90s, the state had other top prospects in players like Mitchell's Mike Miller who went on to NBA fame. Hansen also remembers Aberdeen Central, Spearfish, O'Gorman and Yankton presenting challenges, too.

"That's what made it really fun," he recalls. "We had a very competitive group of guys that loved playing on the big stage. To be able to practice during the week and get after each other and then be able to go out and perform before a packed gym in a crazy environment, that made the difference in some of those games."

Hansen says his teammates made his success on the hardwood possible.

"I played with a group of guys that were very competitive and also put in the work. We weren't the biggest or fastest team out there, but our chemistry and how hard we worked at the game helped us as a team and me as a player. We had a good run and in a humbling way, I guess I was the face of our program. It was fun to put Brandon Valley basketball on the map in South Dakota and have people respect what we did," he said. "I loved playing in front of our fans. We were the smallest school in AA but we had the loudest and best fans in the state. To be able to play against the Mitchells and the Sioux Falls O'Gormans in front of sell-out crowds made a difference for us, especially in those fourth quarters, and not only in our gym, but it extended it to the state tournament, too."

Hansen helped guide the Lynx to the state tournament as a junior, too. The team finished third that year, which fueled him and his teammates to take aim at the title the following year, which they did. He ranks winning

three straight games at state in Rapid City his senior year as one of his best memories as a Lynx.

"My junior year, we had three unbelievable crowds in Sioux Falls, but my senior year in Rapid City on semi-final night against Mitchell in front of a crazy crowd, our student section was lined up baseline to baseline," he remembers. "It was the same the next night against O'Gorman."

He also throws some kudos to his high school coach, Brad Thorson.

"The one thing he did is he allowed us to get in and work on our games in the summer, which is a unique thing, and on the floor, he knew how to coach each one of us, how to reach each one of us and allowed us to play to our strengths. He gave us freedom to be basketball players and helped us reach our potential," he said.

From Brandon Valley, Hansen went on to have an outstanding collegiate basketball career at South Dakota State, where he was a four year-letter winner. As a multiple All-Conference and Academic All-Conference performer, he led his teams to a conference title and four regional tournament appearances. He set the SDSU career 3-point record and finished as the school's third all-time leading scorer.

Hansen's connection to the game allowed him to gain valuable coaching experience at various levels. His most recent assignment was being named assistant coach at Utah State, in April 2018.

After Aggies head coach Craig Smith recruited the Valley Springs native to Utah, he said, "Austin brings a wealth of coaching experience to the table. He has a great feel for what it takes to win and is an excellent teacher of the game. Our guards were some of the best in the league at South Dakota because of Austin's abilities. He brings a pit bull mentality to the game and will not be outworked."

At Utah, Hansen is largely tasked with recruiting, game preparation and player development, and it's a role he relishes.

"Being a guard, naturally working with perimeter players is what I do," he

continued on page 9

## 36<sup>TH</sup> Annual Ed Polzine Cancer Fund



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# Journal Sports

## Roosevelt slips by Lady Lynx on home floor

Jill Meier  
Journal editor

The Lady Lynx let this one slip away.

But it was not for a lack of trying.

Instead, Sioux Falls Roosevelt (3-4) stepped up when needed to squeak out a 49-44 win over Brandon Valley (3-4) Jan. 14.

Lynx head coach Mike Zerr chalks the home loss up to missed opportunities.

“We have to take each possession for what it is – an opportunity for us to execute in that situation in that moment,” Zerr said. “We had moments where we did that and moments where we didn’t and Roosevelt did. Give them credit, they played well and did what they needed to do to get a win in our gym.”

Early on, the game was going BV’s way. In the first two and a half minutes, the Lynx out-scored the Riders 10-3 and widened the spread to nine on a long bomb pass from Kylie Foss to Hilary Behrens. The Lynx closed out the quarter with a Mara Schaap 3-pointer to make it a 17-11 game at the quarter’s end.

Roosevelt’s Macey Nielson was BV’s nemesis in the second quarter. The senior drilled the net for seven points to get her team within one of the Lynx at 21-20, and Kaela Martinez put the Riders over the top at 23-21 when she dropped one in from the perimeter.

The Rough Riders contained BV to six points in both the second and third quarters. The Lynx closed out the second quarter with a bucket by Hilary Behrens, which Hattie Giblin answered to give Roosevelt



Jill Meier/BV Journal

India Bradfield makes a drive for the basket Jan. 14 as Roosevelt’s Kaela Martinez keeps pace with the Lynx junior. The Rough Riders contained Brandon Valley to six points in both the second and third quarters en route to the 49-44 win.

the 26-23 advantage heading into the break.

Zerr, who views the Lynx and Riders as “two evenly matched teams,” said Roosevelt did a great job of forcing his team to execute in the half court offensively. “At times, we struggled with that. Just like we try and do to teams, they were aggressive, took it into the paint and created opportunities for themselves, which translated into some easy baskets and some frustrating ends to some really good defensive possessions by us for a big portion of the shot clock,” he said.

A Hannah Behrens to younger sister Hilary resulted in a bucket to bring the Lynx within one early on in the third, and BV regained the lead when India Bradfield drained a pair of free throws. Nielson answered back with two free throws and Shayla Tuschen upped their lead to three with a bucket.

The Lynx added two free throws and the Riders closed out the third with back-to-back 3’s by Taliyah Hayes and Cierra Watkins. With a quarter to go, the Lynx trailed by seven, 36-29.

BV’s 15-point fourth quarter just wasn’t enough to overcome the Riders’ minimal lead. The Lynx got baskets early on from Hilary Behrens and Emma Jarovski to get within three of the Riders, 37-34. Nielson dropped a pair of free throws to up the lead to seven, which was answered by a Hannah Behrens basket for the 45-40 score, still Roosevelt’s favor. The Lynx watched the game slip away at the free throw line the rest of the way, getting points from Giblin, Tatum Kooima and Tuschen for the 49-44 ending.

The Lynx had a good night at the charity stripe, where they canned 73 percent of their shots, 11-15. From the floor they netted 15-51 (29 percent).

The Behrens sisters both finished the night in double figures. Hilary had 13 to her credit and Hannah scored an even dozen. Emma Jarovski aided with nine and India Bradfield accounted for seven.

For Roosevelt, Macey Nielson led the charge with 13 points. Taliyah Hayes tossed in eight and Kaela Martinez chipped in five.

The Rough Riders picked

up 14 points of their 21 opportunities at the free throw line. They were charged with nine turnovers and hauled down 28 rebounds, 10 on the offensive end of the court.

The Lynx worked the glass for 26 rebounds. Hilary and Hannah Behrens had six and five, respectively. Jarovski was credited with four and Bradfield had three.

“These were two very evenly matched teams,” Zerr said. “Our goal is to learn and get better from each opportunity we have to play.”

Zerr said his team learned that when they execute and are poised on offense, they get the ball in the paint to create scoring opportunities.

“We also learned we are still a very good defensive basketball team and as long as we keep doing that we are going to have a chance to win in every contest we play. We will take advantage of those opportunities to get better and continue to work on those items to accomplish that goal, continue to grow and ‘trust the process’, so to speak,” Zerr said.

**Brandon Valley 17 23 29 44**  
**SF Roosevelt 11 26 36 49**

**Brandon Valley (2PFG, 3PFG, FT, TP):** Kennedy Nuebel 0-1 0-0 0-0 0; India Bradfield 2-6 0-1 3-3 7; Mara Schaap 0-2 1-4 0-0 3; Kylie Foss 0-2 0-0 0-0 0; Emma Jarovski 2-6 1-1 2-4 9; Hilary Behrens 4-13 1-4 2-2 13; Grace Gerken 0-0 0-1 0-0 0; Hannah Behrens 4-9 0-2 4-6 12; Sidney Thue 0-1 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 12-38 3-13 11-15 44.

## BV boys fend off pesky Riders in 61-58 win

Jill Meier  
Journal editor

Brandon Valley faced a tale of two halves in their 61-58 Jan. 14 road win over Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

In the first half, the Lynx simply could do no wrong.

“We played crazy good in the first half – championship caliber,” BV coach Brent Deckert boasted. “Not so much in the second half.”

Given the opportunity, Deckert said his team should have stayed on the floor at half time. “It was the best we’ve executed all year early in the game.”

The Lynx roared to a 20-9 lead in the first quarter and elevated it to one after two quarters of play, 32-20.

Then came the third quarter. Roosevelt turned up the heat and out-scored the Lynx 18-9 to get within three of their guests, 41-38.

“We struggled in the third quarter but we got what we wanted,” Deckert said. “Post-ups, layups and free throws; we just had a few silly turnovers mixed in.”

Despite both teams pumping in 20 point in the fourth, BV’s first-half scoring production was just enough to escape the Riders’ gym with the Metro Conference victory.

The Riders sent the Lynx to the charity stripe for 31 tries, of which BV capitalized on 19. Deckert terms the stat as “critical” but says his team “was fortunate to get the

win with as difficult as points were in the fourth quarter.”

The Lynx got double-digit performances from Gavin Terhark and Jackson Hilton. Terhark was a beast under the basket, attacking the net for 11 tries, making good on five. The Riders also kept him busy at the charity stripe, where the Lynx senior capitalized on 7-13. Terhark also tapped the net for a lone 3-pointer en route to his 20-point game production.

“Gavin played like a man and Thomas Scholten had his best game of the year,” Deckert said.

Hilton finished the night with 18 points, and three seemed to be his number: 3-of-7 from two-point range, 3-of-6 from the perimeter, 3-of-5 at the free throw line.

As a team, BV shot 33 percent from two-point range (9-27), 47 percent from 3-point territory (8-17) and 61 percent at the line (19-31).

In addition to his 20-point production, Terhark hauled in 14 of the team’s 27 rebounds and contributed four assists and two blocks.

Scholten latched onto six rebounds and dished off four of BV’s 14 assists. Hilton and Jaksen Deckert both aided with two assists. Jaxon LaBrie and Aydin Lloyd each had two of BV’s seven steals. BV also had 14 turnovers in the game.

**Brandon Valley 20 32 41 61**  
**SF Roosevelt 9 20 38 58**

**Brandon Valley (2PFG, 3PFG, FT,**



Jill Meier/BV Journal file photo

Aydin Lloyd puts up a shot at the Sanford Pentagon earlier this season when the Lynx faced DeLaSalle, Minn. The Lynx boys return to the home floor Thursday night when they host Brookings at 7 p.m.

**TP):** Jaxon LaBrie 0-1 1-2 1-2 4; Jaksen Deckert 0-1 0-0 0-1 0; Thomas Scholten 1-3 1-2 4-6 9; Joe Kolbeck 0-0 2-3 2-2 8; Aydin Lloyd 0-1 0-0 2-2

2; Payton Tietjen 0-1 0-0 0-0 0; Jackson Hilton 3-7 3-6 3-5 18; Gavin Terhark 5-11 1-4 7-13 20. **Totals:** 9-27 8-17 19-31 61.

## LYNX PAWS

### Splitrock Ladies Bowling League results

The Splitrock Ladies bowled Jan. 14. Here are the highlights: High Team Game & Series, Rheault Ag Supply LLC, 900 & 2,527; High Individual Game, Pat Paulsen, 181; High Individual Series, Cheryl Scholl, 478.

DeVona Engebretson picked up the 3-5-7 split; Kathie Franz picked up the 5-6 split; Jackie Engebretson picked up the 3-6-7-10 split and bowled 51 pins over her average; Ann Behrend picked up the 3-10 split twice; and Joann Gundvaldson bowled 50 pins over her average.

### S.D. Prep Media Basketball Polls

Week of Jan. 20. First-place votes are listed in parentheses.

**Class AA Boys**  
1. Yankton (10) 7-2 78 2  
2. Huron (5) 6-1 68 3  
3. O’Gorman (3) 7-2 59 4  
4. BV 7-2 47 1  
5. Roosevelt 5-3 13 5  
**Receiving votes:** Rapid City Central 2, Sioux Falls Lincoln 2, Rapid City Stevens 1.

**Class AA Girls**  
1. O’Gorman (18) 8-0 90 1  
2. Stevens 10-0 72 2  
3. Harrisburg 10-0 54 3  
4. Lincoln 4-2 32 5  
5. Washington 4-3 20 4  
**Receiving votes:** Rapid City Central 2.



# Journal Sports

## Arrows shoot down Lynx boys in ESD meeting

**Jill Meier**  
Journal editor

Watertown canned seven 3-pointers in the third quarter Thursday while the Lynx boys dropped five in all total, which led the Arrows to a 66-58 Eastern South Dakota Conference victory.

Lynx head coach Brent Deckert said his team made many initial mistakes on both ends of the court.

“In the past we’ve shown urgency in covering up for some of those mistakes, and

through a bit of hustle and determination, we haven’t been hurt by it,” he said. “Tonight, was different.”

Deckert said the Arrows lambasted the net with layups and open 3’s. “And we just didn’t have enough juice in the tank to finish the game.”

Brandon Valley controlled the first half, rallying to 22-10 lead after a quarter of play and 33-22 at the half.

In the break, the Arrows regrouped and took aim at

chipping away at the lead, and they did it from the perimeter.

“Give the Arrows credit,” Deckert said of Watertown’s seven 3’s scored in the period. “Instead of us being determined to battle it out, we just didn’t play with the effort it takes to win on the road.”

Watertown completely dominated the second half, taking over the lead 47-46 by the end of third, and out-scoring BV 19-12 in the fourth en route to the 66-58

victory.

BV’s scoring came from Gavin Terhark, who finished the night with 21 points. Jaxon LaBrie and Jackson Hilton helped out with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Aydin Lloyd chipped in five.

The Lynx shot 33 percent from the perimeter (5-15) and inside the arc, dropped 15-34 (34 percent). BV was on fire at the free throw line, where they shot 87 percent, 13-15.

Terhark was a beast on

the boards, latching onto 13 of the team’s 27 total. Both Thomas Scholten and Hilton had four to their credit.

Joe Kolbeck and Hilton accounted for four and two, respectively, of BV’s 11 assists. The Lynx also charted a pair of steals and had 14 turnovers in the loss.

Deckert said the Lynx, now 7-2 on the season, had concerns following the let-down after the Sioux Falls Roosevelt game.

“That’s exactly what we need to learn from,” the

coach added.

**Brandon Valley 22 33 46 58**  
**Watertown 10 22 47 66**

**Brandon Valley (2PFG, 3PFG, FT, TP):** Jaxon LaBrie 3-4 2-4 1-2 13; Jaksen Deckert 0-2 0-0 1-2 1; Cole Sylaasen 0-0 0-1 0-0 0; Thomas Scholten 1-2 0-1 0-0 2; Joe Kolbeck 1-6 0-1 2-2 4; Aydin Lloyd 1-2 1-1 0-0 5; Payton Tietjen 0-2 0-0 0-0 0; Jackson Hilton 0-2 2-7 4-4 10; Gavin Terhark 8-13 0-0 5-5 21; Jay Jurgens 1-1 0-0 0-0 2. **Totals:** 15-34 5-15 13-15 58.

## Behrens’ 30-point production lifts BV to 58-46 win

**Jill Meier**  
Journal editor

The Lady Lynx evened their season mark to 4-4 behind the firepower of freshman Hilary Behrens’ 30-point production in Thursday’s 58-46 road win at Watertown.

Brandon Valley implemented a late-game surge to fend off the 0-8 Arrows, who got within five points late in the fourth quarter before the Lynx pulled away for good.

“It’s always a challenge to go on the road in our league and get a win,” said Lynx head coach Mike Zerr. “I was glad to see our team be able to get out to a fast lead and then just play within themselves throughout the game.”

BV led their hosts at all four quarter stops, 16-12 after a quarter of play; 31-23 at the half; 41-34 at the end of three; and a 58-46 ending.

“In the fourth quarter when we needed to get stops and salt the game away, our girls really stepped up and finished,” Zerr said. “We talk about having pride in our defense and that pride in defense travels with us no matter where we play and gives us a chance in every game.”

While Behrens’ 30-point performance clearly stands out, Zerr said the freshman “did it within herself, doing the things we see each and every day in practice. She took the shots she needed to for our team and did a nice job distributing and being willing to share it when they took things away from her.”

Zerr also took notice of the job Emma Jarovski did on defense.

“Emma did an outstanding job defensively on one of the premier perimeter player in our state in Megan Fannin, guarding her the vast majority of the night with her teammates communicating and helping out when they needed to,” the coach said.

Along with Hilary Behrens’ 30 points, Mara Schaap and Jarovski both dropped in seven points and Hannah Behrens knocked down six.

The Lynx made 4-13 from beyond the arc (31 percent), 16-35 inside the arc (46 percent), and 14-21 free throws, a 67 percent performance.

BV charted 18 rebounds, and Hannah Behrens led the charge with seven.

The Lynx also had 15 assists and 15 steals. Schaap, Kylie Foss and Hilary Behrens all had three assists to their credit. Sidney Thue and Jarovski both had two.

Jarovski picked off four steals, while Hilary Behrens and



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Kylie Foss found herself surrounded by a swarm of Roosevelt Rough Riders in last week’s game. This week, the Lady Lynx hosted undefeated Harrisburg and travel to Brookings Thursday and Sioux Falls Lincoln on Saturday.

Foss both had three.

Hannah Behrens and Jarovski each had two of the team’s six total blocks.

BV also took good care of the ball, turning it over just six times in the ESD Conference win.

The Lady Lynx opened a busy week of action Tuesday when they hosted Harrisburg. The girls travel to Brookings Thursday for a 7 p.m. game and head to Sioux Falls Lincoln for a 5 p.m. game on Saturday.

“We have a big week coming up with three games in five days. Our depth will again be a great asset this week,” said Zerr, who will continue to rely on his bench to play some quality minutes.

“Being a bench player is a challenging job and we’re

thankful to have five, six, seven girls outside of our starting lineup that are willing to contribute their best when their number is called. They put the time in every day and it shows in our execution and level of play that carries over when our bench gets their opportunities to play.”

**Brandon Valley Lynx 16 31 41 58**  
**Watertown Arrows 12 23 34 46**

**Brandon Valley (2PFG, 3PFG, FT TP):** Kennedy Nuebel 0-1 0-0 0-2 0; India Bradfield 0-1 0-1 2-2 2; Mara Schaap 0-0 1-2 4-6 7; Kylie Foss 2-3 0-1 0-1 4; Emma Jarovski 0-0 0-3 1-2 7; Hilary Behrens 7-13 3-4 7-8 30; Grace Gerken 0-1 0-0 0-0 0; Hannah Behrens 3-6 0-2 0-0 6; Sidney Thue 1-2 0-0 0-0 2; Aneesha Scott 0-0 0-2 0-0 2. **Totals:** 16-35 4-23 24-21 58.

### HANSEN cont. from page 7

said. “Everybody gets to a stage where that’s (head coach) the next step, but I do enjoy being in the role I have as an assistant. I get to

be hands-on with the guys and get to be in the war room for strategy prep for the next game. Being a head coach, the basketball side of

things is a whole different ballgame. PR and media relations take the forefront and basketball is second fiddle.”

Prior to Utah, Hansen coached at the University of

South Dakota, helping the Coyote men to unprecedented success at the Division I level with back-to-back 20-win seasons, a regular season Summit League Championship and the school’s first ever appearance in the Summit League Tournament Championship game.

He oversaw the perimeter players at USD, guiding his athletes to several all-league honors and one of the most efficient offenses in the Summit League. Prior to USD, he was an assistant coach at Northern Colorado for a season, where he helped the Bears to an appearance in the CollegeInsider.com Post-season Tournament and an 18-14 overall mark. Hansen joined UNC following five years as an assistant coach at his alma mater, South Dakota State, where he helped

the Jackrabbits to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances in 2012 and 2013, along with two Summit League Tournament Championships and one regular season title.

He began his coaching career at Minnesota State in Mankato, Minn., helping the Mavericks post an overall mark of 116-37, including four-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. Hansen coached 12 players to all-North Central Conference honors, including two MVP awards and placed five on the academic all-NCC teams.

As a player at SDSU, Hansen was a four-year letter winner and a two-time team captain, while earning a pair of all-region and three all-NCC honors. He led the Jackrabbits in scoring all four years and

finished his playing career as the second-leading 3-point shooter and third-leading scorer in program history. During his junior year, he led the Jackrabbits to a North Central Conference regular season and postseason championship.

As a Lynx, he was a three-year letter winner and led BV to two straight state tournaments. He was a two-time All-Conference and first team All-State selection, along with being named South Dakota Player of the Year and co-Mr. Basketball after his senior season.

Hansen and his wife, Andrea, reside in River Heights, Utah, and are parents to three girls, Hannah, 7, Hadlee, 5, and Harper, 3.

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**VAN** cont. from page 3

put the word out on social media, and it spread like wildfire. Hansen received a slew of calls, texts and Facebook messages and comments telling him the van had been spotted in a certain Brandon neighborhood, and then in Sioux Falls. Despite the conflicting reports, he was appreciative of the support from the community.

"It's crazy how much it spread in one night, people reaching out," Hansen said.

He also offered a reward for information leading to the vehicle's whereabouts: one free Pizza Ranch buffet a month for a year.

Police called Hansen around 9:30 a.m. Sunday to let him know the vehicle had been found – undamaged – at Pioneer Park, with the keys inside. The van appeared to have gotten "hung up in some snow," he said, but "started right up."

"We think somebody took it for a little joyride, a little adventure," Hansen said. "Nobody got hurt. We'll take that for a win."

Because the delivery van was discovered by a city employee who isn't a Brandon resident, Hansen decided to donate the reward to the school district's backpack program for needy families.

"Basically, in my eyes, it's on behalf of the community," he said. "We feel like we could give it back to someone else."

Lt. Jamie Steffel with the Brandon Police Department said he's happy the vehicle was recovered, and the department would welcome any information regarding the theft.

"It's never a good idea to leave your vehicle running or unlocked," Steffel added. "That tends to go by the wayside in this weather."

As of Monday afternoon, there weren't any suspects.

**LOCALS**

cont. from page 3

"I spent a few hours Saturday showing homes to a couple from Texas who are thinking about moving here. Brrrrr. The good news is that they love our town." – Harry Buck

"Tom, Kat and I were supposed to fly to Punta Gorda for the weekend. After our flight was cancelled, we decided to pretend we changed our minds and went on a winter getaway instead of the beach. Tom went outside and fed the birds, and I took pictures from inside of beautiful things the snow made. We turned on our fireplace and watched movies all day. We were happy to be all together. Plus, we saved lots of \$\$\$. I always try to find a way to look at the positive side of any situation." – Lilian Keough

"Working because I happen to live in town while everyone else lives out of town ... After working, I then plan to relax by making some hats and scarves for those in need." – Monica Morris

"I spent all yesterday binge watching the first season of *Schitt's Creek*. I swear I'll be more productive today!" – Molly Murphy MacFarland

**Something on your mind?**  
Share it in a Letter to the Editor.  
Email editor@bvjournal.info



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Snowblowing and shoveling were part of the weekend chores local residents faced from the snow and winds.



After being cooped up at home for two days, youngsters wasted no time in having fun on the sledding hill at McHardy Park Sunday afternoon.

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**STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

**GRANT GUNDERSON**  
Senior | BVHS Class of 2020

When Grant Gunderson begins classes at South Dakota State later this year, the 2020 Brandon Valley High School senior will already have 16 credits "in the bank."

His willingness to tackle dual credit courses in high school like calculus, English literature and AP chemistry are making those credits possible.

"Grant has pushed himself academically by taking AP and college credit courses while balancing all of his extra-curricular activities that he is involved with at BVHS," noted principal Mark Schlekeway. Christina and Emery Gunderson's son says he is simply preparing for the future.

"For me, I prioritize that," he said. "It's all to help me later on life, putting in the work now."

Grant will study data science and theatre at SDSU. The first degree is to prepare him for a future in data analysis, and the second will serve as a "good outlet". He envisions working for a hospital, taking all data and analyzing it to solve problems. "Ideally, I could work at Sanford; that would be the best-case scenario," he says. As for theatre, "I know there are a ton of good outlets locally, so this is something I can do as a hobby to keep that in my life."

Grant balances his academics with a variety of extra curriculars, the bulk of which center around music and fine arts. This year, he added student council president to his resume after peers elected him to the job.

"He has taken this honor very seriously," Schlekeway said, adding the position has led him to learn how to run meetings. "He has an amazing vision of always trying to help others. If you have ever attended a chorus or orchestra concert, fall play, one acts or musical, you most certainly have had the chance to watch Grant perform. His passion for the fine arts is evident, and he is a great role model for those who hope to follow in his footsteps in the many years to come."

Grant gives his BVHS educational experience a top grade.

"It's way better than I could have ever imagined," he said. "The genuine connection I've developed with my teachers makes learning 100 percent better, especially because I can tell them my name."

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**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT**

**Sidney Bonestroo**

High school football games are among Sidney Bonestroo's fondest memories of her time as a student at Brandon Valley High School.

The 2020 BVHS senior also enjoys the TV show, *Grey's Anatomy*, the color teal, the Green Bay Packers and the music of Luke Combs and NF. Her favorite school lunch is Mr. Rib.

And if given the opportunity, Combs is also her choice to enjoy a sitdown lunch with.

"I would choose him because I really love his music and I would love to get the chance to meet him," Sidney said.

The daughter of Amy Underberg and Mitch Bonestroo plans to attend South Dakota State next year, where she will study pre-law and athletic training.



Sidney Bonestroo

**Landon Smith**

Landon Smith is preparing to see the world through the eyes of others

The 2020 Brandon Valley High School senior will attend South Dakota State this fall to pursue a degree in human biology. Post SDSU, he plans to go to school for optometry.

Landon has been an involved student at Brandon Valley High, which has largely centered around music endeavors. He's played with the BVHS band and Marching Lynx

all four years of high school. He was a member of the jazz band for three years, orchestra for all four years, pit orchestra for three years and a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society for two years.

In addition, he's a member of the Lynx club bowling team.

Outside the walls of BVHS, the son of Lonna and Kevin Smith, of Brandon, has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America, Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church Youth Group, both the Math National Honor Society and National Honor Society, and the South Dakota Symphony



Landon Smith

**Youth Orchestra.**

Evita Peron is his pick to have lunch with.

"I studied her life in Spanish II and remember being very interested in the details. She accomplished many things which improved the lives of the Argentinian people, but there is also much debate over whether she used some government and charity funds on herself. There is so much about her that we do

not know and it is hard to tell if she was a good or bad person. I think having lunch with her and asking her about the secrets she kept while she was the first lady of Argentina would be riveting," he explains.

Among his list of favorites are mini corn dogs from the school cafeteria, the Green Bay Packers, the color orange, *Parks and Recreation*, and YouTube personality, Shane Dawson.

Among his best memories of high school is band camp in 2016.

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