

Brandon, MN

1881-2006



The Brandon Auditorium, above, has been an icon in the city since it was built. Also shown is the plaque which is displayed inside the building telling of its building year, 1936.

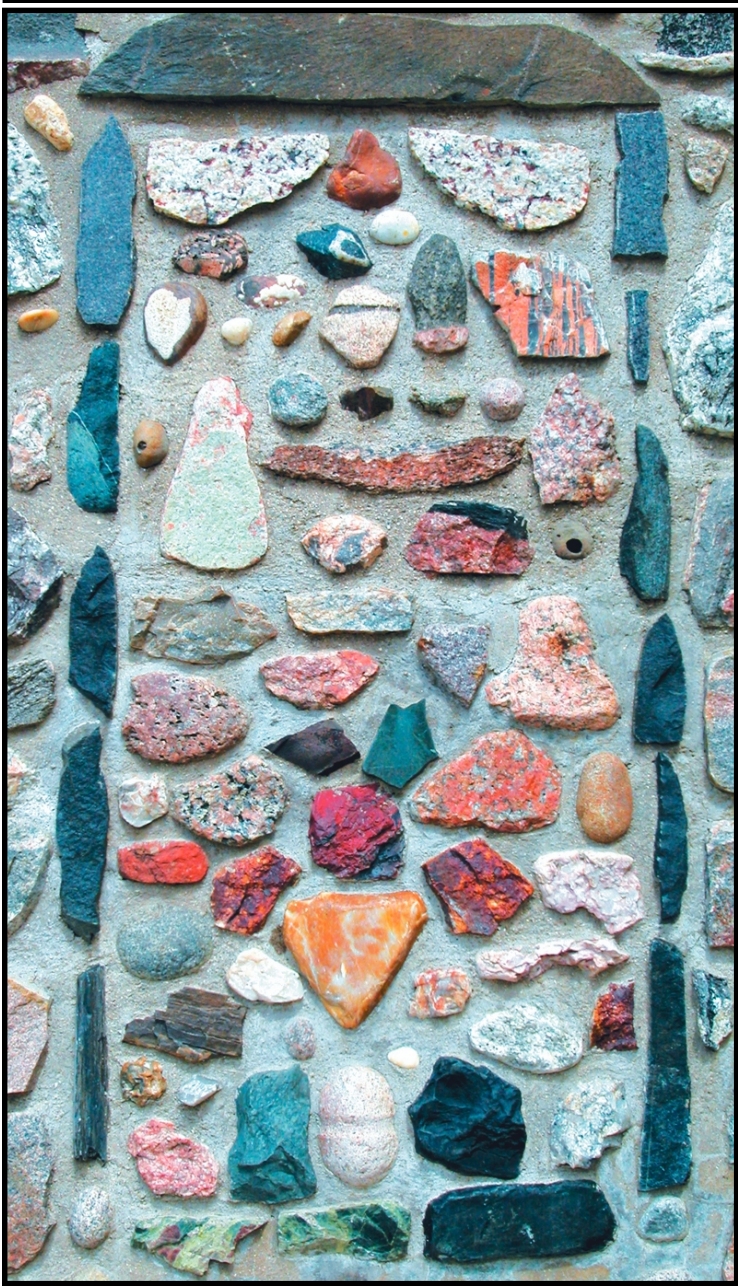
Special Section for Brandon's 125th Celebration

Inside find stories from Brandon's first 100 years as well as stories on the past 25 years.

Stories include:

- The Brandon Auditorium
- The Brandon Lions Club
- The Brandon School
- Edgefield Cemetery
- The Brandon Early Childhood Center
- The growth of the City of Brandon
- The Brandon Mid-Summerfest
- Churches which serve Brandon
- News briefs from the past 25 years
- The 1999 State Champions





This part of the auditorium exterior is a focal point when looking at the outside of Brandon's City Auditorium. The variety of colored stones in the frame is interesting.



The letters on the wall make missing the Brandon City Hall difficult. The door leads to the council chambers and the city clerk's desk.



The versatility of the Brandon Hall can be seen in this photo of the projection booth from which movies used to be projected onto a screen. The room is now used as storage space.



The upper room of the hall has had many uses. It was used as the meeting place for the city council and also a library. There are still shelves of books in the room. Currently the room is used as a meeting place with scouts from the area using it for their regular meetings. For more on the Auditorium see pages 35 and 36.

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At the heart of it all is the Brandon Hall

In this year of the 125th anniversary of the City of Brandon, there is also another anniversary for something that has been at the heart of the city, its many activities, and its people.

In 1936 the culmination of over a year of work was celebrated when the new Brandon Hall opened with a crowd of 5,000 people gathered for the event. The building was completed by the Works Progress Administration.

The estimated cost was \$50,000. It is a two-story, 44 foot by 143 foot building.

The new facility was originally designed as a combined auditorium, fire hall and village office. Original rooms included a balcony, movie projection booth, ticket booth, dressing rooms, a cloak room, a village council meeting room and a clerk's office.

A plaque, shown on the front cover, which is displayed inside the building in the city council chambers, lists the president at the time, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as other members of his administration and the year the hall was completed.

The hall was given a proper celebration when it opened and was hailed as one of the better city halls in the area.

The hall quickly became the center of attention for the small town. It was the place to go for movies, high school basketball games, dances and city council meetings.

The gym space of the hall has hosted events too numerous to list.

The structure is a beautiful site to behold from the outside with its walls dotted with colored local field stones. Above the entrance to the auditorium is a cast concrete relief sculpture of a male athlete and a musician flanking a stylized tree.

The hall has changed with

the times getting needed repairs when necessary. This year the ceiling was lowered with a framework and tiles put in place. A new coat of paint has also helped spruce up the space. In addition, a new door was put on the main entrance of the council chambers. In the auditorium there were two wood doors which allowed for large items to be brought in and taken out. These doors were recently replaced with metal ones. The new auditorium doors should make the space warmer in the winter as the old doors did not seal real tightly.

Whenever there is an event to be held the hall is the first place which comes to mind for most people. Whether its a wedding dance, public hearing, formal dance, children's theater, Pinewood Derby races, basketball practice or elections, the hall has been home to all of those occasions. It gives new meaning to the phrase "multi-purpose facility".

In 1985 the structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The register is a listing of districts, sites and buildings considered to be worthy of preservation.

Even though it is 70 years old, the Brandon Hall continues to be a place that brings people together for important events. The hall will always hold a special place in people's hearts because of all the memories that have occurred there.

This building may not be in the exact center of Brandon but is an important place that seems to always be the center of activity and it will remain for many years a facility that contributes to Brandon in helping it be the great city that it is.

Reprinted from the
Brandon Centennial

Edition

The original village hall served the community well until Feb. 13, 1934 when a special meeting was held by the village council for the purpose of considering the proposition of erecting a new village hall.

The matter of erecting a new hall and voting bonds was discussed.

The council voted to issue the bonds of said village of Brandon to the aggregate amount of \$5,000 for material for a new village hall to the State of Minnesota. Labor for the erection of the hall was secured from federal funds under the Civil Works Administration Program.

A special election was held on Feb. 23, 1934 putting the proposition of issuing bonds to the voters of the village. The election resulted in 134 in favor and 21 opposed.

The plans for the proposed hall were a one-story structure, 46 feet by 100 feet for the main building with a 20 foot lean-to at the west end of the hall.

The main floor of the hall

was to be 30 inches below the sidewalk at the east end and about 18 inches above ground level at the west end. The height of the walls inside the hall were to be 18 feet with a 20-foot ceiling.

The matter of raising the building so as to have the floor of the hall even with the sidewalk on the east end and the extra cost connected therewith was discussed. It was requested to figure the extra cost of the same and report later.

On Sept. 28, 1934 the council accepted the proposal of Mr. Fred Pfeifer, registered architect, to draw the plans and write the specifications for the hall for a fee of three percent of the total cost of the hall including all material and labor.

The grand total estimated cost of the project as per this report was \$37,791.60, including the value of the material salvaged from the old hall.

The plans for the new hall were approved Dec. 5, 1934. An excerpt from the Evansville Enterprise on Nov. 15, 1934 stated: "Brandon is

going to have one of the finest town halls in the country. The old one which has been the amusement place of the people there since early days has been torn down and work is now underway on the new structure which is to be about 140 feet by 46 feet with a full basement, dug in about two feet."

The labor for the construction of the hall was done by local people under the Civil Works Administration Program. All the sand and stone was also hauled in by the area residents.

In the spring of the following year another bond issue for the aggregate amount of \$5,500 was voted on for additional funds to continue the erection of the village hall. Of the 116 ballots cast, 87 were in favor of the proposition and 29 opposed thereto.

After some other setbacks the new hall was finally completed in 1936. The first council meeting in the new hall was held Nov. 2, 1936.

This stone structure is now considered to be a landmark to the city of Brandon.



The framework for the new ceiling in the Brandon Auditorium is shown here. The holes were filled with panels and the lights lowered.

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Take a break at Brandon parks, playground, shelter

When it comes to free time there are plenty of opportunities for young and old to engage in some fun physical activity with the offerings available in Brandon.

The city is home to a fine playground located at the Brandon School.

The fenced-in playground has many climbing and sliding toys for youngsters to work out their energy.

The playground also has a bouncy station as well as a glider and a tunnel slide.

The park also includes a full swing set and a bench to sit on while the kids play.

A fenced-in basketball court is part of the playground as well.

The playground is well used during the year as the school students can be found on it from the beginning of

the school year to the end.

In the spring and summer months, the playground is a destination of many youngsters who feel the need for some challenging fun.

The park was constructed several years ago by volunteers who spent a day putting up the pieces of equipment.

Brandon also offers one of the most versatile parks in the area - Lions Park.

This park is used all year round and is usually occupied by someone for any number of reasons.

In the fall, boards are put up to hold in the ice rink which is used by skaters and hockey players alike. A warming house makes the outdoor activity a little less chilling.

In the spring the boards come down and the park becomes a magnet for children who play on the climbing equipment, take a turn on the slide or experience the highs and lows of the teeter-totter.

The park also has a swing set.

The shelter there provides a place for people to gather out of the wind and have a picnic. Picnic tables are on hand to make outdoor dining a little easier.

For one day a year, the park is the center of attention as it is the location of the Brandon Lions Club's famous BBQ Chicken feed.

The feed is part of the Brandon Mid-Summerfest and is held on the Saturday of the festivities. The Lions use the pit in the shelter to cook the chicken.

As the time for serving nears, the park is the destination of hundreds who form a line while they wait for the delicious delight.

During the feed, the park

almost becomes a small city in itself as the picnic tables are filled, emptied and filled again as the line slowly, gradually and eventually dwindles down.

The park contains a large grassy area which can be used for picnic tables or, when cleared, makes a great kick-ball field.

The restrooms at the park provide another needed convenience and make it that much more useful.

There is also the Earl C. Sletto Memorial Park which honors veterans of Brandon and the Brandon Community Park.

The recently paved Central Lakes Trail runs through Brandon and provides another source of activity. The trail runs from Fergus Falls to Osakis and has been much used by cyclists already. The trail has been used for years by snowmobilers as well.

The advent of the trail being paved prompted community members and organizations to pursue putting up a bike shelter.

The structure is up and being used by bikers who need a rest as they pedal from one town to the next on the trail.

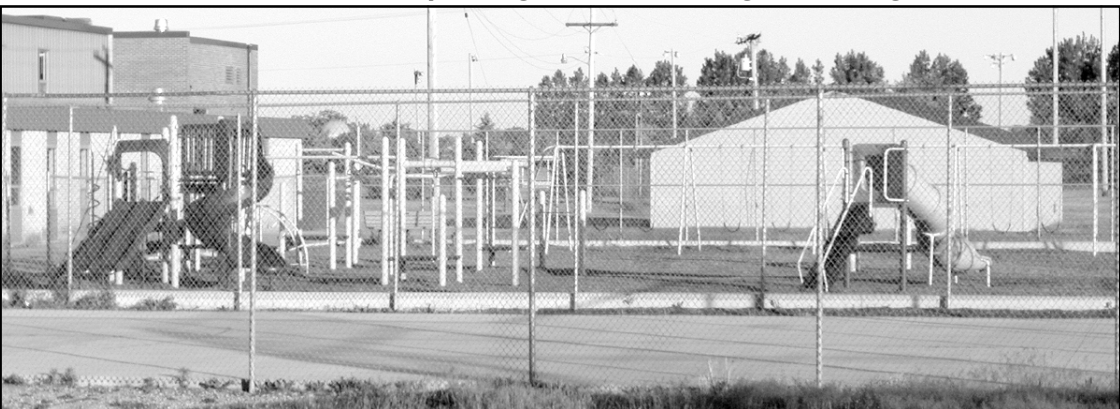
There is a parking area at the top of a hill near the shelter with stairs and lights leading up to it.



The Lions Park is well used with playground equipment, a large grassy area, a shelter and rest rooms. In the winter the park becomes a skating rink with a warming room.



The new bike shelter in Brandon still has that "just built" look and is decorated with shrubs. It provides a great place to take a break while using the Central Lakes trail. The stairs on the left lead to a parking area and are lighted at night.



There's no shortage of things to do at the Brandon School park. Youngsters can get a lot of exercise using the climbing, sliding and swinging equipment.



The Central Lakes Trail in Brandon looking toward Garfield.

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*Best wishes to the community
of Brandon*

Would things be different if it had remained Eskewaia?

Reprinted from the Brandon Centennial Edition

On a surveyors map, dated 1879, it is Eskewaia.

It was a wooded hill from which the view beheld sparkling lakes and sweeping hills. An intersection between the Woods Trail and the Middle Trail stage road, it seemed the perfect place for Henry Gager to locate his claim in 1861. This was two years after the St. Cloud, Fort Abercrombie stage line was started through the area by J.C. Burbank and Co., of St. Cloud, and it was the Burbank and Waite Stage Company that persuaded Henry Gager to locate overlooking Little Chippewa Lake. He was to make the claim, farm, and operate the stage station for the line.

Gager farmed on his claim, and soon there was a little hotel, post office and general store completing Chippewa. The Indian uprising of 1862 drove Gager out, along with 98% of the other settlers who had staked claims throughout the area. Weeks after the uprising, government troops were sent out to reopen the mail routes, and a stockade was placed at the point of Chippewa with soldiers garrisoned there until all fears of a renewed uprising were past. Settlers began to trickle back, and in 1869 Chippewa was renewed when George Fruendrich bought the Gager place.

More and more settlers streamed back onto the land, and in 1866 the old Gager place, Chippewa City, was the headquarters. The stage line continued to be the link with the outside world, and Chippewa grew. In 1868 George Cowing put up a store, Metz and Cotois had a store, Joseph Medbery had his blacksmith shop, and the townsite was established, with the post office of

Chippewa named.

In a series of letters written to the Brandon Echo and published in 1906, V.D. Nichols, an early settler in the region, recalled some of those first homesteaders. He named Hans P. Hanson, Ole Thompson, Haagen Holing, and John Thorkelson, all of whom came by covered wagons pulled by ox teams, searching for new homes. They contended with swarms of mosquitoes, flies and tons of rain, but they stayed on and eventually prospered.

The stage line was discontinued in 1874, when the railroad had reached Melrose, cutting into the line's territory and profits. Local freighters took over the long distance hauling until August of 1879 when the railroad finally was graded near Chippewa.

The site of the railroad was two miles south of the bustling little village, and the engineer, Sewell, busily laid out a new townsite along the tracks. An 1886 Platt book lists Mary Griffen as the proprietress of the new town site.

The railroad meant the only way for goods to reach markets and for businesses to grow. Enterprising businessmen flocked to the new townsite, totally disregarding Chippewa. The townsite was Brandon, named for the birthplace of Stephen A. Douglas (for whom Douglas County was named). Within a short time, Martin Stowe had a large store and residence, Halvor Engemoen of Holmes City built a store and residence, Emil Larson put up a hotel, the railroad built a depot, Pillsbury and Hulbert followed with grain houses, as did David Dows and Co. Brandon was on its way.

In 1881, November 22, the state legislature passed a bill whereby villages of a certain population could incorporate, which Brandon did.

Now, 100 years later, Brandon still recalls its start as Chippewa station and the early years of growth and settlement. Old Chippewa quickly reverted back to a quiet farm where folks in the early 1900's went to pick plums and where nothing remains but a blacksmith shop as a reminder.

In 1886, the Douglas County Platt Book listed the following as residents of Brandon township: Jens J. Angen, F. O. Augdal, P. J. Carlson, J.E. Chack, Henry Diment, T.A. Emerson, Gustavus Guenther, Knud Gunderson, Elling Halgrimson, Halvor Johnson, Goran Johnson, Lars P. Larson, Peder Larson, Jacob Mathison, J. W. Nelson, V.D. Nichols, Dr. C. Nootnagel, J.A. Oleson, Peter Stuberg, Theo Thompson, John Thompson, Ole Thompson, and Fred Wilm.

1886 businesses were as follows: H. Engemoen-dealer in dry goods, ready-made clothing, groceries, hats, caps, boots, shoes, notions, etc.; also dealer in stock; Nils Holmgren-blacksmith; Johanes Hanson-furniture dealer; L. Johnson-dealer in general merchandise; K. Knudson-proprietor of Brandon House; P. Lier-dealer in shelf and heavy hardware, carpenter tools, stoves and tinware, sewing machines, pumps, etc., also harness and saddlery, restaurant; Hugo Lundbohm-dealer in drugs, medicines, paint, oils, varnishes, books, stationary, fancy goods, toilet articles, carefully prepared prescriptions, drafts and money orders sold, also tickets to and from Europe; Emil Larson-dealer in dry goods, boots and shoes, ready-made clothing fancy goods, groceries, hats, caps, etc.; Geo. Myrontown clerk; O.F. Olson-dealer in heavy and shelf hardware, stoves, tinware, carpenter's tools, sporting

goods, barbed wire, pumps, feed mills, plows, wagons, How's scales, farm machinery, glass, etc., also grass seeds at lowest figures; Chas

Pettersen-dealer in general merchandise; August Swanson-sample room (saloon).

From frame buildings to four grain elevators

In 1890, Brandon had grown from a small collection of frame buildings on the wide open prairie to a village of four elevators, three saloons, three general merchandise stores, two hotels, two livery barns, two blacksmith shops, an implement shop, a flour mill, and a population of 225.

Not mentioned in the above list, but in existence, was the first paper published in Brandon, the Brandon Blue Bells. The publisher was a man named Clark who apparently was rather erratic in his duty and would skip editions as the spirit moved him. Prior to 1891, another newspaper was published in Brandon for a time by A.C. Lawrence, of whom it was said that the publishing business did not pay sufficiently to support the appetites of himself and his family, as together they tipped the scales at over 700 pounds.

In 1891, Clark sold the plant of the Blue Bells to Fred Andrews and Hans Peterson, which also happened to be the place where the Lawrence paper, the Douglas County Sentinel, was printed. The name was changed to the Brandon Echo, and a news note in the rival Evansville Enterprise stated the week of April 15, 1891 that "The Echo is pleasantly located in the building formerly used by the Sentinel, a very nice and substantial plant." The first issue of the Brandon Echo appeared the week of April 24, and was "neatly gotten up."

Shortly thereafter, Charles Gustafson accepted the position of foreman, devil, galle boy, compositor, etc. of the Echo.

On May 29, 1891, Hans Peterson sold out his share of the Echo to Andrews, and went to work at a Minneapolis bank. In 1892, Andrews sold to A.C. Lawrence, the former publisher of the Sentinel.

Lawrence didn't make a go of the Echo any more than he had the Sentinel, and shortly sold out to George S. Myron who moved the plant to his home in an effort to cut down the costs.

Myron had some personal habits that interfered with the publishing of a paper, and after his death in 1895, Carl M. Borgen, erstwhile editor of the Evansville Enterprise took over, improving the type and paper. Borgen edited the Echo for 11 successful years before he decided to go into insurance sales. Ownership of the Brandon Echo then passed to the Brandon State Bank, whose body of governors hired Carl A. Wold as publisher.

Wold was a strong temperance advocate, and in his first weeks as Echo publisher, cut off all liquor advertising in the pages on the paper. He soon bought the paper, and his strong stand against saloons and liquor brought him to the attention of prohibition groups, particularly in Alexandria. Three years after taking over the workings of the Brandon Echo, Wold

See PROGRESS, page 7.

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Brandon



Brandon Fire Department always ready to go

The hazards of fire that threaten life or property are all too real and all too common. Thankfully, when it does happen, the people of the City of Brandon and the townships the Brandon Fire Department serve know that they have people they can rely on if they ever have to make the call for help when a fire breaks out.

While the Brandon Fire Department is ready for any fire, it also acts as a First Responder being called out to accidents and other emergencies to offer aid.

The list of equipment the department has is impressive. There are eight units in the department, the numbers are as follows:

1. First Response Trailer with a 6x6 ATV with winch and wildland skid unit, 14 foot johnboat with 15 hp motor, ice rescue gear, two high pressure fill stations for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
2. Pumper with 1,250 gpm, 700 gallon tank, class A foam, PP fan, 600 feet 2 1/2 inch and 500 feet 1 1/2 inch hose.
3. Tanker, holds 1,300 gallons, hose reel with 250 gpm pump.

4. Grass rig, 250 gpm, 300 gallons, winch.

5. Tanker, 1,800 gpm.

6. Grass rig, 250 gpm, 300 gallon tank, 1994 Ford 4x4, Thermal imager, defibrillator.

7. EMS, Medical response equipment, defibrillator, O₂, back boards, splints.

8. Pumper, 1,250 gpm, 1,000 gallon tank, Class A foam, generator, NP fan, 600 feet 2 1/2 inch, 500 feet 1 3/4 inch hose, Lucan extrication and Vetter low pressure bags, scene lighting.

The extrication equipment that the department owns is more commonly called the "Jaws of Life" equipment. It is used to help get people out of crushed vehicles after an accident.

There are 17 day and 25 night personnel on the department.

The water supply the department has to draw from includes a 32,000 gallon water tower and two wells.

Foam is available to fight fires. Class A is on units one and eight.

Communications for the department include 19 hand-held radios, seven mobiles, one base and vehicular re-

peaters.

SCBA's are also part of the department's equipment. It includes 13 draggers, 13 spare tanks, nine spare face pieces and five Rangers with spare tanks.

The beginning of the fire department's history dates back to 1895 when Jacob Tamble was the fire chief. He served in the position until 1902.

Joseph Tamble took over as chief in 1915 and remained the head of the department until 1929.

Albert Holmgren led the department as chief from 1930 until 1954 and is the longest serving chief in the history of the department.

The history of the Brandon Fire Department began eight years after the city was incorporated. The first organizational meeting was held at Otto Johnson's lumber yard Jan. 4, 1889. All men wishing to join the fire company signed up that night. The second meeting was held one week later at which time the group voted to call themselves the "Brandon Fire Company".

At the creation of the fire department there were two

companies; an engine company and a hook and ladder company.

The officers consisted of the chief, chief engineer, associate engineer, secretary and treasurer. In addition, each company had a foreman and assistant foreman.

The early equipment used by the department was primitive compared to today's equipment which includes tanker trucks, foam and high-pressure hoses. Such equipment included a man-drawn hose cart and a stationary fire engine run by steam.

In 1889, the fire company decided to hold drills every

Wednesday night.

Continuing education on fire fighting is still part of the fire department today.

This has included the burning down of two houses in Brandon a few years ago at which time, several fire department members were able to see how fires spread in different circumstances and the controlled burns allowed the fire fighters to gain experience in fighting fires in a controlled environment.

In June, 1894, the Brandon Fire Company ceased to exist and became the Brandon Fire Department which is still here to this day.

Brandon Fire Department

The 2006 officers for the Brandon Fire Department are:

Fire Chief
Richard Korkowski
Asst. Chief
Wayne Stephens
Training Officer
Scott Schaefer
Chief Engineer
Kevin Ellertson
Treasurer
Shaun Carlson
Secretary
Brian Fuchs
EMS/1st Responders
Wayne Stephens
The members of the Brandon Volunteer Fire Department in 2006 are:
Ben Rusch

Bill Koetter
Bonnie Melville
Chad Carlson
Chris Gillespie
Devin Rusch
Eric England
Ernie Schmitt
Jeremy Peterson
Jerry Challes
Mike Wagner
Roger Sammons
Scott Scherrer
Steve Pohlmann
Tim Grabow
Tom Skarka
Tom Trisko
Jeron Buchholz
Jon Dingwall
Josh Buboltz
Vern Kaufman
(currently serving in Iraq)

Brandon Fire Chiefs 1982-2006

1982-89 - Frank McFarlane
1990-91 - Lynn Thompson
1992-94 - Tim Grabow
1995-1997 - Ernie Schmitt
1998-2000 - Jerry Challes
2001 - Jerry Bitzan
2002-03 - Bill Koetter
2004-06 - Richard Korkowski



The Brandon Fire Dept.'s new pumper truck.

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Putting up a school was one of first priorities

Reprinted from the Brandon Centennial Edition

One of the very first priorities of the settlers was a school in which their children might receive a good education. Rural schools popped up all over, each serving a group of families, each designated a district. These were largely ungraded schools with one teacher, and anywhere from 2-3 up to over 20 students, and were held maybe five or six months out of the year. The teacher was usually fresh out of school herself, (or himself) boarding at the homes of the students, and receiving very little in the way of a salary.

The first school in what was to be Brandon District #31 was a log building. This was replaced in 1880 by a large two-story frame building located near the mill. This building was used as a school for about 18 years, at which time the citizens and parents decided that they wanted a new schoolhouse, one with a greater capacity. The old school was sold to the Norwegian Evangelical Church of Brandon for use as a church. After that, O. F. Olson, a Brandon businessman, bought the building, and later sold it to Lars Swingen who used it as a residence and blacksmith shop. It was remodeled and later sold to the Jake Goering family, where the history of the original school stops since the Goerings live there still.

The new schoolhouse in Brandon was to have four rooms and be made of brick. With Edward J. Melby having the contract for construction, it was an imposing building, with a full basement in which the steam heating plant for the edifice could be housed along with the fuel supply. District #1 took in a large area, from farmers

around Stowe Lake on the north, the Nels Nelson and John Thompson farms in the south, the H.P. Hanson estate in the east, and the land north of Devils Lake and Chippewa Lake on the northeast, all in all, a total of 16 sections of the township of Brandon with the village of Brandon in the center (as described in a 1909 edition of the Park Region Echo, a continuation of the Brandon Echo). With such a large area, the attendance in the district was also quite large, and within a short time those in the northwest and southwest broke off to form districts #76 and #82.

District #82 was the scene of the tragedy of 1902 when a tornado hit the area. The Echo earned the story, "During the storm last Tuesday, a small cyclone developed south of Brandon and destroyed the school house in District #82, killing the teacher, Miss Ida Hanson, and injuring one of the pupils, a young daughter of Ole Thompson, so badly that she died the following night. A son of Ole Knudson also had his arm broken. Nearly all the rest of the pupils were injured to a greater or less extent."

The school house was entirely destroyed and parts of it were carried a long distance away. The teacher was crushed by the falling walls and is supposed to have been killed instantly.

In Brandon, school had started in the newly erected brick building which was described as a semigraded school with one year's high school available in 1909. The assessment on the property in 1909 was at \$8,000 and it was said to be well equipped with a library containing over 400 volumes, free textbooks, a large amount of slate black boards, maps and globes nec-

essary for such school work. In later years, the two additional high school grades were added to the school curriculum until the full slate of 12 grades was in the school. Until 1936 the high school pupils had to pay rent on the text books.

The addition of the high school classes necessitated further building programs for the district which were earned out in 1924, 1928, 1938, and 1954. Prior to 1954 there had been some problems with the school building, particularly in the late 1930's and early 1940's. These included below standard artificial lighting in several rooms; no hot water in the washrooms and no show-

PROGRESS

Continued from page 5

moved the Echo to Alexandria, publishing there in September of 1908 and changing the name to the Park Region Echo.

Brandon was without a paper for two years until October of 1910, when Albert B. Johnson of Wyndmere, ND, began publishing the Brandon Forum. The Forum was published on Tuesdays with subscription rates of \$1.25 a year in 1915. Johnson owned the Forum until 1915, when W.J.B. Moses bought it, selling to Jas. J. Scott in 1918.

Other businesses in Brandon before the turn of the century showed the same tendency for change, as ambitions and ability of the men and women involved dictated. In 1891 Brandon was a busy place, as shown by the business related items of news that appeared in the papers of the time.

That was the year that the postmaster, W. Werner, improved the inside of the Post Office by installing a new floor and a new set of Post

er rooms; no ventilation in the typing room; washrooms needed redecorating, in fact, the whole school and other miscellaneous items were brought to the attention of the school board and remedied.

The 1954 addition and maintenance to the school building did not take care of the entire need for space as all physical education classes, as well as band and all sports practices, were held in the city hall. Therefore, in 1957 there was the gymnasium and high school addition to the school.

There was increased enrollment in the Brandon school. It was mostly due to the consolidation of District

Office boxes. Later that spring, a new mail catcher was installed by the rail road, with the hopes that it would prove satisfactory.

Later that summer, considerable wheat came into town to the elevators on Tuesday of the week, and consequently, the business places were very satisfied with the amount of business they received from the farmers. This day probably had nothing to do with the decision of Jacob Nelson to open a lumber yard in Brandon, but the mood of progress was on the town. Later in 1891, a new building was under erection, to be used as a meat market, and plans were that it would be managed by Ed Lee.

Earlier in the year, the report came out that Chr. Peterson of the firm Larson, Peterson and Co., had returned from a trip to the cities, where he had gone to purchase stock for an anticipated busy spring trade in Brandon. Others anticipating a good year of business in the spring had been

31 with all the rural school districts in the townships of Millerville, Moe, and Brandon plus the village of Millerville, 12 in all, and the steadily increasing age of the 1901 school building that led to the decision in 1968 by the school board of renamed District No. 207 to vote for a new elementary school. The old building was torn down in 1969 with the new school open house being held in April of 1970. Again larger enrollment and the need for classrooms and working space became evident, and during the school year of 1979-1980, another addition was added onto the high school wing including remodeling of the kitchen area.

Charles Foslien and F.M. Andrews, who formed a partnership as commission merchants for the purpose of buying all the butter they could get hold of, and paying the highest cash prices for the product.

Prices that summer of 1891 in the general merchandise store ranged from a yard of standard calico being sold for 5 cents, a yard of standard sheeting for 6 1/2 cents, to a smoked ham for 9 1/2 cents a pound. Granulated sugar prices that year were 16 pounds for \$1.

The farming community provided much of the incentive for business in Brandon, and also a lot of the employment. 1891 was the year that C.F. Molden received an entire carload of McCormick binders to sell, and also the year that Ole Foslein went to work for Mr. S. Stewart on his farm throughout the harvest season.

The elevators were busy places after harvest, and Hans Peterson was hired to act as

See PROGRESS, page 30.

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Brandon School has seen many changes

For what Tom Helder is responsible for, the band and choir at Brandon High School, things have not changed much over 25 years as far as the basics of young people playing instruments and singing songs go.

But Helder, who has been at the school since 1980, says technology has changed how he does things.

"Today's technology has affected how I do things. We used to have to order music and wait two weeks to get it. Now we just go on-line and hear how it sounds and we can know what it's like before we receive it. Sometimes we can get sheet music the next day," he said.

In some instances the music can even be downloaded and printed within minutes.

About his students, Helder said they haven't changed much over the years, but sometimes the expectations are different for different groups.

Another change that has been noticed by Helder is open enrollment which allows students to go to different schools without having to live in that district. He said because of this, students come and go on a regular basis.

When Helder arrived at the school, he was the instructor for elementary music and vocal music but did not have any instrument students.

That changed in 1983 when a departing teacher opened the door for Helder to teach senior high and elementary instruments. At that time Evansville shared a junior high instructor.

While the percentage of students who take band and choir has increased, the numbers are about the same with 57 in band and 51 in choir in grades 9-12 for the 2005-06 school year.

What instruments students



Brandon School Board members include, front row, left to right: Chairman Bob Walters, Vice Chairman Tim Wagner, Treasurer Julie Boesl and Clerk Deb Sullivan. Back row, Brandon Superintendent Mark Westby, Brandon High School Principal Tom Trisko, Boardmember Kent Hintermeister, Boardmember Randy Bettermann and Boardmember Lori Meissner.



Members of the Brandon High School Student Council include, front row, left to right: Jared Honebrink and Hannah Olson, grade 7; Ashley Ayres and Tom Anderson, grade 8; and Kyle Walter and Trent Hintermeister, grade 9. Back row, Brandi Ellertson and Gabby Roers, grade 10; Lindsey Wagner and Siri Preston, grade 11; Amy Engel and Brittany Lund, grade 12.

take up in 5th grade changes as the band's needs change. Helder said he discusses the instrument needs with the fifth graders.

Things in choir haven't changed much except that competition is now perfor-

mance based whereas in the past, it was scored differently.

The band's schedule of fall, winter and spring concerts hasn't changed, said Helder.

He added that the band plays for special occasions

such as Memorial Day and the Brandon Mid-Summer-fest parade. Getting the band ready to march is something Helder doesn't mind doing.

"It's important to support the community. This community has done such a won-

derful job of supporting us at our fundraisers and concerts and it's important for us to do things in return," he said.

In 1997 the band took its first trip to Florida to play at Disney World. Since then the

See SCHOOL, page 9.

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SCHOOL

Continued from page 8

band has been back twice. Helder said the Florida trips are helping the numbers for band and choir, but it takes a lot to get the needed funds. He admitted the year after the Florida trip is not that hectic, but it doesn't take long before the next trip is not that far away. The band has begun having a yearly rummage sale to raise funds for the trips. The band also helped out during the school's musicals which in the past have included "Grease", the "Wizard of Oz" and this year's offering, "Suessical the Musical". Helder's wife, Annette, also works at the school teaching music in kindergarten and first grade. One thing that has remained the same over the

years is the need for the band and choir to be heard. "It's a good thing for the band and choir to be out there for people to see and hear and it's good to share their talents with moms, dads and relatives," Helder said. When Brandon fourth-grade teacher Sue Kjelland was asked to name some changes she has seen since coming to the school, technology was near the top of her list also. She said computers and phones in every room are a big change. She said she still stresses cursive writing to her students, but they do get chances to do some keyboarding. The change to more and more computer time for students has caused Kjelland to emphasize the need for stu-

dents to continue to use handwriting and any thank you notes the class needs to send are handwritten by the students. The access to computers has fit into the classroom instruction. In Kjelland's class, the students check the weather twice a day, write reports, check the news and find information on the internet. "We don't use the encyclopedia much anymore. Before the internet, that was our major source of reference," Kjelland said. Keeping students up to date on geography was hard to do with maps on the wall because the world changes so fast. However, maps are kept up to date on the internet, allowing students to be up to date as well. Having a phone in class-

room is now routine and it's hard to imagine a teacher not being able to have one close by. But Kjelland remembers the time when a phone in each room was a luxury. "This is something we've wanted for a long time. Before this, we needed to leave the room to answer the phone and had to find someone to watch the class," she said. The mobility of students and their families is much greater now than it used to be, Kjelland said. She finds students travelling with their families more now and doing it during the school year when in the past, they always waited for summer vacation or days when school was out.

The curriculum is different than when Kjelland started. She said now there is a D.A.R.E. program, more health programs and a positive attitude program.

Testing has become more prevalent than it was years ago. Kjelland said sometimes this puts more pressure on students and teachers to make sure the material is covered.

Students having more choices of things to do after school is also something Kjelland has noticed. She said even in elementary the students have choices such as basketball, volleyball, cheerleading and 4-H.

Kjelland started at the school as a Chapter I teacher in the spring of 1978 and became the fourth grade teacher in the fall of 1978. Over the years she has taught every grade except kindergarten.

What students are bringing to school has changed somewhat with the computerized games and toys and she said Bratz dolls are popular. But she still sees girls who have diaries and boys who like action figures and collect baseball cards.

Although technology is the

most notable change, one thing that hasn't changed is the need to keep students accountable and on track. One advantage to the advances in technology is that it has enabled parents to stay in touch with the teachers. Kjelland said parents can now call the classroom anytime and e-mail back and forth. Kjelland said she has seen parental involvement increase over what it used to be. She said years ago, she only saw parents during conferences.

One change, not necessarily for the better, is the increase in security that schools must now employ. "Someone can't just come into the school anymore, they need to stop at the office and get a pass. There's also a greater need to be aware of the dangers that are out there and the students notice it," she said.

While students may change the toys they bring to class like cell phones or paper footballs, they are still young people who need certain things.

Kjelland said today's students are not unlike those of years ago. "They still like praise, contact, and a pat on the back. They like a handshake now and then, attention and they still want to do well and learn. They are disappointed when they get bad grades and are happy when they get good grades," she added. In addition, she says students still like to help other students and are willing to work in a group.

For Kjelland, one thing hasn't changed for her over the years. "I still enjoy it when someone is struggling and the light goes on and they get it," she said.

| | |
|---|--|
| 2005-06 Brandon School Staff: | |
| Administration | |
| Mark Westby, Superintendent/ Elementary Principal | Sue Kjelland, Fourth Grade |
| Tom Trisko, High School Principal/ Athletic Director | Diane Olson, Fifth /Sixth Grade |
| Office | Gail Schulz, Reading Recovery/ Special Ed/Title One |
| Brenda Haak, Business Manager | Mary Shea, Third Grade, |
| Sandee Olson, Receptionist/ Office Secretary | Debbie Wood, Kindergarten |
| Angela Pederson, Secretary/Technology | Additional Certified Staff |
| High School Staff | Rachel Hammerback, Speech & Language |
| Jennifer Lanners, Business | Jennifer Halvorson, Early Childhood/ Special Ed |
| Kim Dingwall, Special Education | Rebecca Patience, School Psychologist |
| Tom Ellison, Industrial Arts | Linda Saari, ECFE |
| Jennifer Froemming, | Elizabeth Ahrens, Social Worker |
| Jr. Hi math/science, social studies | Lori Lebrasseur, ECFE/School Readiness |
| Tom Helder, Music grades 2-12 | Heather Dewey, Head Start |
| Dan Johnson, Social Studies | Nicole Olson, Head Start |
| Darwin Johnson, Spanish | Vicki Wohlfeil, Head Start |
| Keith Melville, English | Tami Klinefelter, ECFE |
| Tom Otte, Science | Non-Certified Staff |
| Donna Phillips, Counselor | Angela Baker, Elementary Education Aide |
| Lisa Schultz, P.E./Health | Dana Baker, Head Custodian |
| Dick Simpson, P.E./Health | Sue Becker, Elementary Education Aide |
| Marsha Talley, Math | Rosie Hanson, Kitchen Assistant |
| Elementary Staff | Mary Klimek, Media Center |
| Dianne Bjerketvedt, First Grade | Annette Lund, Kitchen Assistant |
| Vicki Carlson, Second Grade | Kelly Lund, Head Cook |
| Brett Dahlseid, Fifth/Sixth Grade | Deb Mounsdon, Special Education Aide |
| Annette Helder, Music | Pam Schjei, Elementary Education Aide |
| | Mike Wagner, Night Custodian |

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Edgefield Cemetery holds a lot of history

The Edgefield Pioneer Cemetery north of Brandon on Douglas County Road 16 is the final resting place of many people. However, exactly who is there will probably never be known.

Even so, efforts have been made to find out, especially by Myron "Bud" Greenquist of Brandon who is responsible for the Brandon Lions Club being involved in the restoration of the cemetery.

Greenquist has searched every record he can think of to try and find out the names of people who are buried there but to no avail. There is one grave marker at the site and evidence of a grave of Civil War veteran C.J. Blatt being relocated from the cemetery to the Brandon Cemetery.

The one stone belongs to George Diment who died Jan. 24, 1883 at the age of 24 years.

Burials in the cemetery continued at least until April 1889 when August Swenson donated three acres in Section 20 of Brandon Township just east of Brandon for a "Brandon Cemetery".

Burials could have continued at Edgefield for some time after 1889 due to the



Bob Reynolds, left, and Myron "Bud" Greenquist at the Edgefield Cemetery sign.

proximity of the homesteaders to the cemetery and ownership of family grave plots there. It has been estimated there may be over 100 pioneers buried in the cemetery.

The significance of the cemetery is the fact it was connected to the original townsite of Brandon.

The original landowner was George A. Freudenreich who purchased the land in 1866. The reality that there are no burial records which can be located led to the conclusion that the landowner handled the sale of grave plots on a private basis.

In 1879, the railroad reached the area but was about 2 1/2 miles south of the village. The town was moved to be near the railroad. Freudenreich recorded the Edgefield Cemetery plat and moved back to his native Switzerland. He kept his real

estate holdings until 1890 and instructed his attorney to sell the land, "excepting and reserving hereby a small tract of land containing about two acres... heretofore dedicated... for cemetery purposes."

The 2-acre plot of land sat for over 100 years with tangled underbrush, 8-foot tall thistles, various weeds, trees of all sizes, beer cans, junk, rock piles, evidence of a dumping ground, and even a deer hunting stand high in a tree.

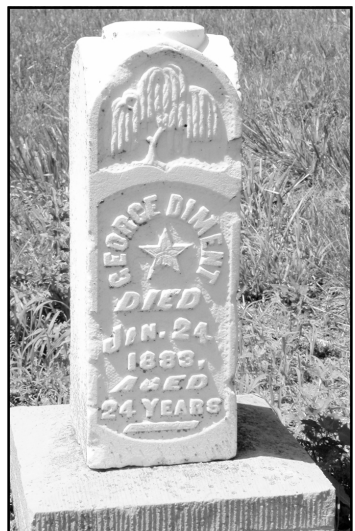
An interest in the cemetery was begun by several Brandon women who wondered about what had happened to it. They searched county and township death and burial records.

Members of the Brandon Lions Club wondered as early as 1993 who was responsible for the cemetery. Research indicated the county

was responsible for cleaning it up and then turning it over to the local governing authority, in this case Brandon Township, or to service organizations to handle the restoration and perpetual care.

Former Brandon Lions member Greenquist made the motion for the Lions to help take care of the cemetery at one of their meetings.

The Lions stepped forward See **EDGEFIELD**, page 11.



This marker is the only one standing in Edgefield Cemetery marking the burial place of George Diment.



This rock, with a cross embossed on it, is believed to mark a family's cemetery plot.

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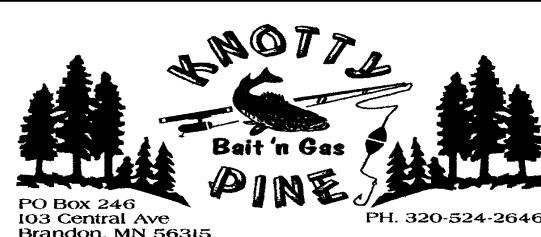
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EDGEFIELD

Continued from page 10

and volunteered to clean up Edgefield.

In the fall of 1997, the clean-up began with many trees being cut down. The work continued into the winter.

Brandon Township helped

the cause where it could. Despite financial constraints, the township aided the project by financing the spraying of weeds, the cost of stump removal and the use of their road grader to level portions of the left side

of the cemetery.

In 1998 the cemetery was re-surveyed.

Today the cemetery is marked by a large iron archway identifying the site as the Edgefield Cemetery with the dates 1866-1899 includ-

ed. The iron marker is the result of a fundraiser by the Brandon Lions Club. The club held the fundraiser in 1998.

People who have been involved with the cemetery include, among others, Jim Augdahl, Bernie Korkowski, Don Swanson, Greenquist, Bob Reynolds and Brandon Township Board members Gaylen Croonquist and Paul Lauthen.

The site has been cleared of much of the brush, junk and weeds which had taken over it for so many years. It has a large open grass space among the grove of trees.

A marker was placed at the cemetery in December 2005 with the history of the piece

of land.

The effort to save this bit of history is a great example of hard work by people in the present preserving the history of those who have come before so it can be handed down to the people of the future.

Because the land belongs to Brandon Township, the future of the cemetery will be for it to remain in the public domain with no threat of it being sold into private hands.

It is hoped in the future that there can be "Historical Marker" signs placed on County Road 16 to direct people to this part of Brandon's history.



A historical marker now sits at the Edgefield Cemetery site. It was placed there in December 2005. Above, workers lower the marker onto a concrete slab. Below are those who helped with the placement, left to right: Bob Reynolds, Jason Brist and Matt Olson of Fergus Falls Monument Company and John Lund. The text contained on the plaque is presented to the right of the photos.



The inscription on the plaque at Edgefield Cemetery reads as follows:

EDGEFIELD

Brandon's Pioneer Cemetery - Est. Ca. 1866

The origin of Brandon and its pioneer cemetery began in 1859, when a road, joined by various ox cart trails, was completed between St. Cloud and Fort Abercrombie on the Red River of the North. This "Abercrombie Trail" gave birth to numerous stage stations along its wilderness route. One such station was Chippewa, so named because of its location off the north shore of Little Chippewa Lake. The station was owned and operated by Henry and Mary Gager under a mail delivery contract with Burbank and Waite Stage Line.

When a Sioux Indian uprising began in 1862, the settlers, including the Gager family, fled the area and were replaced by soldiers from the 8th Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers out of Fort Ripley. Chippewa Station was then called Fort Chippewa. On a hill just west of the settlement, the soldiers built crude sod barracks with logs laid across the top covered with straw and earth. In 1866, as settlers began to return, Swiss immigrant George A. Freudenreich purchased Gager's 160-acre homestead and stage station. He renamed the station Chippewa City and set aside two acres for a cemetery, one third mile to the north. The city was renamed "Brandon" in 1869 as a tribute to Brandon, VT, the birthplace of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, who had been helpful in bringing statehood to Minnesota and after whom Douglas County was named.

Brandon Village thrived. It became a major trading post in the area, with a post office, school, hotel, blacksmith shop, store and barns for horses, mules and oxen. The cemetery was in use by at least 1866. In 1879, the cemetery was platted and officially recorded as "Edgefield Cemetery" by land owner George Freudenreich, who then returned to Switzerland. He later arranged to sell all of his holdings, less Edgefield Cemetery. The railroad reached the Brandon area in the fall of 1879, 2.5 miles south of the original village. Brandon then moved to the railhead, where it stands today. The village stage station, born 21 years earlier and often referred to as "Old Brandon" by the settlers slowly returned to the plow.

It has been estimated that many pioneer families were buried at Edgefield; however, only two headstones have been found. No burial records have been located, leading to the conclusion that Mr. Freudenreich handled the sale of grave plots on a private basis. Burials at Edgefield would have continued well into the 1890s, since "new Brandon" did not acquire cemetery land near its present location until 1889.

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From The Evansville Community Club

Gardonville changing to serve customers better

The Farmers and Merchants Co-operative Telephone Company's 1906 telephone book offered this bit of advice: "Don't expect perfection in telephone service. Telephones, like people, have their weaknesses."

This telephone company is now known as Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association and the emphasis has now been put on delivering perfection to customers when it comes to telephone service and everything else the co-op offers.

It wasn't that long ago that in the early 1980s, the co-op went to single-party service and turned away from the old step-by-step switching.

This was made possible by the purchase of a digital switch that was state-of-the-

art at the time and, of course, rather expensive because of its quality.

At the time, Gardonville was one of the first utilities in the nation to use this type of switch. "This was the pinnacle of technology at the time," said Gardonville Manager Dave Wolf.

The co-op is still using a lot of the overall frame work of that switch but there have been some upgrades to it.

"Purchasing that switch showed foresight and maximized the investment of that piece of equipment.

Wolf said the switch has handled hundreds of millions of calls and is one of the most reliable phone products in the world. "Because of this piece of equipment, Gardonville customers have grown accustomed to no interrup-

tions in phone service," said Wolf.

The switch had an eight-year life expectancy but Wolf feels it can serve the co-op for over 30 years before needing to be replaced.

The cooperative is continually changing and over the past 25 years has not been sitting still and content to just provide quality telephone service.

Wolf said the single most substantial technology change the utility has undergone was the installation of a fiber optic cable.

The co-op has spent 70 to 80 percent of its recent investments in putting in fiber optic cable.

Wolf said fiber optic cable will be the vehicle that carries the co-op through the next 30 years.

"This type of cable allows us to do so much more, switch more phone calls, carry internet, TV and get companies in the Twin Cities access to rural areas. This is like building an 8-lane toll highway," said Wolf.

He added every foot of the cable that is in place is being used.

The co-op has been pursuing offering a package of cable TV channels and will begin with around 50 selections.

Wolf said customers will soon be able to have voice, video and internet all on the same line meaning they can watch TV, talk on the phone and use the internet at the same time.

The 1906 telephone book also says: "A wait of ten seconds at the phone seems like

ten minutes. Be patient."

Having to wait 10 seconds on the phone today is out of the question for customers who expect instantaneous dial tone and fast connections to the people they are calling.

Customers today have a lot of convenient options to choose from such as call waiting, voice mail, distinctive rings, find me and caller ID, just to name a few.

"Our options for phone flexibility have grown. We even now sell advanced phone systems for businesses," Wolf said.

Besides phone services during the last 10 years, the co-op began offering internet service with 10-hour and unlimited dial-up service offered and now high-speed digital service line (DSL) is being offered at several speeds.

As a co-op, Gardonville is owned by its customers and Wolf never forgets that. He said the service it sells is priced at about what it costs to generate. "Our rates are typically quite a bit lower than a non-co-op utility," he said.

Wolf said it doesn't matter where a customer lives, they all deserve the same service. "We serve all of our subscribers, whether they are in a very rural area or in the middle of a town, they get the same service," he said.

The co-op made a major change a few years ago when it purchased Brandon Communications, Inc. Wolf said this purchase gave the co-op a business with 35 years of experience and headed it into the wireless direction. "BCI has its own towers and brought in a whole new market for Gardonville. BCI is a growing business and continues to grow. It was a perfect match," said Wolf.

See CO-OP, page 13.



The Gardonville Board of Directors includes, front row, left to right: Charles Bolin, Lois Larson, Debra Martin and Manager Dave Wolf. Back row, Richard Wagner, Rodney J. Froemming, Richard Anderson and Jerald Morical. Larson was re-elected and Froemming was elected to the board at the annual meeting held April 18, 2006.

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CO-OP

Continued from page 12

Another area the co-op is involved in is economic development. The co-op board has set aside a revolving fund for businesses to use and is actively recruiting businesses in the area.

Wolf said the co-op has done dozens of economic development projects totaling almost 2 million dollars. Some of the more visible projects Gardonville has been involved in include Voyager Aluminum and Wagner Trucking in Brandon and Beartrack in Evansville.

"Gardonville's goal is to create opportunities for co-op members and by doing that we're a valuable member of the community - the community that owns us," said Wolf.

The co-op also participates in the communities it serves by donating money to non-profit groups each month. It also gives back dollars in capital credits to patrons of

the co-op.

While the co-op is actively working to make the communities it serves better, it is also expanding and growing. "If you are not growing you are dying. That's why we are aggressively looking at new markets," said Wolf. He added the co-op is expanding eastward.

The co-op is also expanding in other ways. A new building is going up on County Road 7 in Brandon. The

building will house all of the co-op's inventory, which is now scattered in several locations.

Wolf said the new building is an investment in the co-op's future. He also said the building was constructed with as many local contractors involved as possible.

Actually, when everything is done, there will be two buildings on the site, the other will be a new headquarters for the co-op.

When the new buildings are operational it will open up the buildings now occupied by Gardonville and BCI which will allow other businesses to move into them.

The business of the co-op is reviewed at the annual meeting held in April. The event is held in the Brandon School gym and usually draws a crowd.

Those in attendance hear reports from the board president and Wolf and get a

chance to ask questions about the utility. It is also a time for drawings for door prizes and a meal afterward.

It is also at the annual meeting that members of the board of directors are elected.

There are six districts for the co-op with each having a director and there is one director at-large. The districts include: 1 and 2: Evansville; 3. Millerville; 4. Brandon; 5 and 6: Garfield.

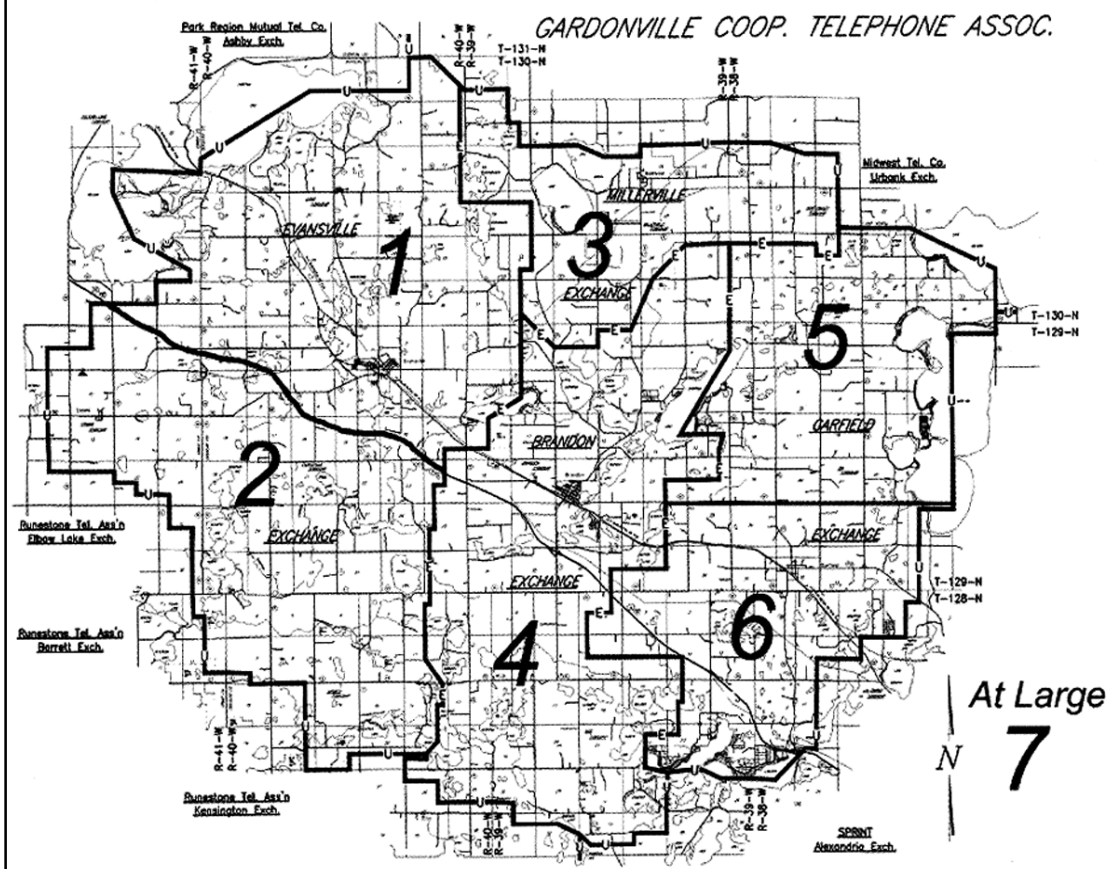


The new Gardonville building on County Road 7 in Brandon will be used for storing the co-op's inventory. The building will serve as one central location for storing the inventory instead of having it scattered in several buildings as it is now. An additional building is planned and will be located on the right hand side of this building as it is seen in this photo. The second building will be the co-op's new headquarters.

Figures from 2005 Annual Report

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Revenues | \$3,123,645 |
| Total Expenses | \$2,542,302 |
| Total Assets | \$12,890,129 |
| Total Liabilities | \$4,118,868 |
| Members Equity | \$8,771,261 |
| Operating Revenues | \$2,350,164 |
| Operating Expenses | \$1,889,876 |
| Income from Operations | \$581,344 |
| Investment Gains | \$240,800 |

District Map



This map shows the district boundaries for the co-op.

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Three churches serve the Brandon faithful

One of the first things to be established in any new town is a church. When there are groups of different faiths, there are churches for each of them to attend worship services.

Today there are three churches which serve the immediate Brandon area: Chippewa Lutheran, Grace Lutheran and St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Chippewa Lutheran

The congregation with the earliest history in Brandon is Chippewa Lutheran which held its first service in 1871. It was founded by Norwegian immigrants who had developed a deep distrust of the state run church in Norway.

The name of the congregation was the Chippewa Free Church. In 1873, the congregation voted to join the Danish conference which lasted until 1887 when the Norwegian Synod split from the Danish.

In 1890, the church, along with St. Petri's south of Brandon, adopted the constitution of the United Lutheran Church, but in 1897 Chippewa severed its relations with the United Lutheran Church; adopting the principles of the Lutheran Free Church in 1899. This union lasted for 69 years.

Then in 1963, the Lutheran Free Church merged with the American Lutheran Church (ALC). This change was followed by joining with Grace Lutheran of Brandon and forming a joint parish in 1966. The union lasted until 1978 when once again Chippewa became affiliated with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations which was made up of Free Lutheran Churches that didn't merge with the ALC.

The current pastor of the church is Tony Stockman. He has been at Chippewa

since 1987.

The pastor said Chippewa Lutheran is a conservative evangelical church and holds to the inherency of the Scripture. "We still hold to the Bible as the Word of God; this is a wonderful doctrinal position to hold," he said.

The church has an active youth group which went on a mission trip in 1998 to Leon, Mexico to help build a church and provide outreach. "Our youth are active; they have done some in-home youth studies and use materials such as the video Bible study series," he said. The church has also put on the Living Nativity during Christmas time when the weather has allowed. There is also Sunday School with about 20 children attending.

The church has over 200 people on its rolls.

Stockman sees a change coming for his church in that members will be aging and that will have to be dealt with as far as ministering to senior citizens. "We need more of a vision for providing for retired seniors," he said. He added one thing that will have to change is that the church will need to be made handicap accessible.

The mission statement of the church reads: "Reaching our community for Christ. 'Here I am, send me.'" Isaiah 1:8. "Our mission is to reach out to people. We need to go out more and visit more; visitation is vital," said Stockman.

The church has an active women's group which has Bible studies and circles.

Chippewa Lutheran is also a part of the community by taking part in many activities. Stockman said the church has held combined Vacation Bible School and takes part in the combined Thanksgiving Eve services with Grace Lutheran Church

and St. Ann's Catholic Church.

One community event the church takes part in is Friendship Days which involves not only Brandon but also Evansville. "Friendship Days is so unique. It is wonderful to see congregations in the community working and pulling together to share the Gospel," said Stockman.

This year, while the City of Brandon celebrates its 125th anniversary, Chippewa Lutheran will be celebrating its 135th anniversary. However, Stockman said any recognition will be low key for this milestone.

Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church traces its beginnings back to 1881 when it was formed by members of the Brandon Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod Church.

In 1905, a new church was finished on the present location of Grace. The total cost of the new church was ap-

proximately \$3,000 with the Ladies Aid having donated \$1,226.25 to assist with costs.

In 1910 Grace Lutheran was formally incorporated with West and East Moe as one parish.

Grace Lutheran boasted a pump organ in the early days and in 1927 Clara Dahl took over the position of organist and continued for nearly 25 years of duty to the church.

As the years went by change was needed. In 1957 the plans were finalized for the building of a new church for the congregation. Construction began Oct. 1 and the first service was held in the new church Feb. 16, 1958.

In 1966 the members of Grace voted to leave the sisterhood of the Moe parish and to unite with the other Lutheran church in Brandon, Chippewa, to make a two-point parish. The parish of Grace and Chippewa continued until 1978 when the

members of Chippewa voted to separate in that year.

Today Grace is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

The worship service at the church varies. There is Communion the first and third Sundays with the traditional liturgies for those services. On other Sundays the church has a Contemporary service with the "Sounds of Grace" leading the music with rhythm instruments, a base guitar and lead singers.

The past three summers, the church's youth ministry has gone on mission trips and in the summer of 2006 has trips planned to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and New Orleans, LA.

Pastor Dennis Preston has been leading the Grace congregation since 1998. Since coming to Grace, Preston has been present for one of the greatest changes the church

See FAITH, page 15.



Chippewa Lutheran Church.

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*Congratulations to the City of Brandon
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Keep up the good work!

From the Parishioners of St. Ann's Catholic Church

FAITH

Continued from page 14

has undergone - a complete makeover. The change took place in 2002 and necessitated the congregation into seeking other places to worship and to meet.

Preston said the faith community in Brandon responded to the call from his church. For 28 weeks until Dec. 8, 2002 the members of Grace held their worship services at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Chippewa Lutheran cooperated in letting Grace hold meetings and Vacation Bible School at its church.

The official dedication of the building project was held May 18, 2003.

Preston said making changes at the church is something that had been talked about for 20 years. In the end, the church has much more space and an elevator which goes from the basement to the entrance level to the Sanctuary level. The church also has a new kitchen area and Fellowship Hall. "The building is very welcoming and pleasing. The Fellowship Hall is open and light and having the elevator to use when we need it is delightful," said Preston.

The new building and space is not just for the congregation. Groups in the community have used it for various events as well and with the new kitchen it makes for a great place to have a meal.

Grace has an active women's group, youth group and recently began using the rotational method of Sunday School teaching.

Also offered at the church is ALPHA ministry which allows people to explore the Christian faith and ask questions.

The congregation has a fall festival and takes part in the Brandon Mid-Summerfest with a salad luncheon.

Each November Grace participates in the community

Thanksgiving eve service with Chippewa Lutheran and St. Ann's. The church is also involved in Friendship Days each fall.

St. Ann's Catholic Church

In the early days of Brandon there were 23 Catholic families. They attended services in Millerville which proved a hardship because some of the families did not have horses with which to make the journey.

A request was made to Bishop Trobec for permission to build a church in Brandon in 1901. Father Raster, the pastor at Millerville, selected St. Ann as patron of the new church and assisted the building committee with the planning of the church.

A wood frame building was constructed in 1902 at a cost of \$2,759.90.

The church was incorporated in 1909 and in 1915 had to be enlarged and improved. The cost of the new improvements was \$3,136 which included a butternut wood altar, statues, new Stations of the Cross and a new furnace.

The needs of the parish were taken care of by pastors from Alexandria and Osakis until 1918. Rev. Daniel O'Driscoll arrived in 1918 and remained until 1919. As the parish grew it became necessary to build a new, larger church.

In 1966 plans were drawn up for the new church and rectory with construction beginning in May, 1967. The first Mass was celebrated in the new red granite church on Christmas Eve, 1967. The blessing of the church and consecration of the altar was on Sept. 29, 1968.

Father Eugene Lemm became the parish's priest in 1993 and also serves Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church in Millerville, where he resides. St. Ann's Parish House is occupied by retired priest Father Richard Heid who provides daily Mass at

**Grace Lutheran Church**

St. Ann's and also regularly says 9 a.m. Sunday Mass at the church.

Lemm said attendance at St. Ann's is doing pretty well. "The involvement and participation of lay people at St. Ann's is very good. The lay people started Adoration on First Fridays and the annual fall festival," he said. Every July 26 the parish celebrates the feast day of St. Ann, the church's patron saint.

The young people of the parish are also active, Lemm pointed out. "We've had young people help out at Vacation Bible School and volunteer in other ways and that's good to see," he said.

Lemm said the Vatican II Council stressed the need for parents to do teaching of the faith in the home and to hand down the faith to their children and he believes that is

happening.

In 2000 the parish adopted the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Barbaças, Venezuela as its sister parish. The relationship has involved members of the parish traveling to Venezuela a number of times to share gifts of faith, hope and charity. The members stay with families and have established long-term relationships. Members of the sister parish have also visited St. Ann's and taken part in such things as pumpkin carving.

St. Ann's has worked well with the other churches in the community. "There is a good ecumenical spirit among the three churches," Lemm said. St. Ann's takes part in the Thanksgiving eve liturgy along with Chippewa Lutheran and Grace Lutheran. St. Ann's also opened

its doors to Grace Lutheran Church to use for its services while their church was under construction. "We like to help out other churches when we can. It was very meaningful for us to help out Grace when they needed help," Lemm added.

Lemm said he has a good relationship with both Pastor Dennis Preston of Grace Lutheran Church and Pastor Tony Stockman of Chippewa Lutheran Church.

St. Ann's has many parishioners from Evansville and other surrounding communities as well as Brandon. Lemm also travels to Crestview Manor Nursing Home each Friday to visit with parishioners there and says Mass at the nursing home on each first Friday of the month.

**St. Ann's Catholic Church**

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Brandon Community Club makes things happen

When it comes to organization, ideas and getting things done, you can count on the Brandon Community Club to take on the tasks of putting together great events for young and old and making sure they happen with as little, and usually no, problems or glitches.

The Brandon Community Club has been instrumental in the town's recent past by helping to make events like the Winterfest, and on a larger scale the Mid-Summerfest, happen.

Without the dedication, time and energy of a group of civic minded people who want to see good things happen in Brandon, the events that are enjoyed by so many probably wouldn't happen at all.

The community club met in past years at the Brandon Senior Center (now known as the Community Center) where the members would discuss things like the parades or pageant, the softball tournament or who was doing what for the Mid-Summerfest.

While the Winterfest has not been held for several years, the Mid-Summerfest has been going strong and getting better and better as the years go by.

What so many people enjoy without much thought or effort actually takes quite a bit of both by those involved.

The Miss Mid-Summerfest Pageant is an evening enjoyed by many. The night features contestants for the crown who will be seniors in the fall. It also includes entertainment, a dance routine, question and answer session as well as an evening gown competition.

Looking at all the details which must be attended to before the doors open to the public for the big night is enough to make any group



Brandon Community Club members attend a recent meeting. Seated, left to right are: Karen Thoennes, Chris Korwkowski, Coleen Lund, Marcia Bolin, Carole Severson, Chris Arndt and Ruth Plaster. Back row, Kim Dingwall, Deb Grommesh, Rusty Blankenship and Karen Lund.

of people tired just looking at the list.

The preparations include getting the contestants to sign up, deciding on a theme, putting together a dance number, finding an emcee, lining up the judges, getting the stage decorated, finding someone to take care of the refreshments, getting sponsors, making appointments for the contestant's photos, rehearsals, publicity and printing programs.

And then there are the Petite Princesses, girls going into second grade who also have a musical number and are introduced along with the contestants.

Fortunately, those who have taken care of the pageant have been dedicated enough to make the event a memorable one for the audience and those taking part. The pageant has been held for 20 years. Those coordinating the event through the past two decades include Debra Grommesh, Karen Thoennes, Florence Byrne, Erika Koep, Heather Bitzan, Stephanie Lund, Mary Burgess and Kim Dingwall.

The community club is also

responsible for putting together the Mid-Summerfest which involves lots and lots and lots of work including running around here and there to make sure the parade runs smoothly, the Kiddie Parade starts on time, the craft show has what it needs and that everyone who has something going on is listed on the schedule.

This past spring, the community club put together the

first Easter Egg Hunt celebration which was a huge success with youngsters hunting for eggs in the straw and playing games.

The advent of Brandon's 125th celebration has meant the community club has stepped it up a notch. The club is working overtime to put together a first-class event. This has meant not only compiling histories of various aspects of the town's

past but also compiling a book, selling souvenirs and putting on special events such as fine dining and dancing fundraisers, a "Miss Tootsie" contest as well as making sure everything from dedications to the all-school reunion to the street dance is on schedule and ready to go.

The Brandon Community Club is certainly a town treasure and a source of pride for the people of Brandon.



The Brandon Community Club's Easter Egg Hunt was a big success in April 2006.

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Early Childhood Center is a great place to learn

The Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program at Brandon School has been a wandering one with all of its ups and downs.

Years ago, ECFE was held in the kindergarten room of the school and in the Little House near the school.

Finally, after some visioning of the potential for some empty space, Brandon has a new Early Childhood Center which boasts some of the best designed areas for such programs in the region.

The ECFE and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) programs are open to any child from birth to five years of age. The Head Start services offered are provided for those who qualify for the federal program.

The essence of early childhood education in Brandon has been to simply provide it to everyone who wants it in the form of ECFE and ECSE and to those who qualify for it from Head Start. The early childhood programs are

blended in Brandon with ECFE, ECSE and Head Start and learning readiness children receiving learning skills from the same teachers, often at the same time.

The space where the room is located used to be a small gym at the school which was used by the elementary students for physical education. However, the space was used less and less for that purpose with the elementary students going to the high school gym for their physical education.

The gym was used for some ECFE events but not on a regular basis.

In the winter, the ECFE children would be bundled up and marched to the gym space where they would have more room to play than they had in the Little House.

Linda Saari has been with the ECFE program in Brandon since 1993. She has seen a lot of changes from what the children had when she started there.

There is no more getting the snow boots, snow suits and mittens on for a walk to the school for play or lunch. She also remembers an old, small playground on the west side of the school which included old tires. Now the children have a wonderful playground to run, slide and swing on.

Mary Rolf, who works with the Head Start program in this area, also believes the room has been a boon to the community. "Having a preschool-appropriate room in Brandon has meant that there is a space in Brandon that we can count on to meet our needs. In the past, we've had to renovate other areas to have licensed space. Since we've had this room in Brandon available to us, we've not had to delay the start of class to accommodate licensing. We've also been able to do so much more cooperative programming with school personnel, such as Early Childhood Special Education, the Reading Buddies and joint family night activities with ECFE," she said.

Saari recalled that she talked with Brandon Superintendent Mark Westby who brought up the idea of renovating the gym.

Westby said the school had this wonderful space that could be put to better use.

The big question then was

where to get the money for such a project. The room was already there but it would take a lot of work and money to make it into something special.

Talks with architect Reed Becker, of Widseth Smith and Nolting of Alexandria, were begun and ideas, designs and costs were discussed.

A big help in getting the room going came from the Bremer Foundation. One factor in getting a \$60,000 grant from the foundation was the collaboration between the Brandon early childhood programs which worked together seamlessly instead of separately as in many places.

The total cost of constructing the room to its present form was \$150,000. Westby said the key to the project becoming a reality was the Bremer grant.

However, the Bremer grant was only part of the needed money for the room. Help was also received from Gardonville Co-op Telephone as well as Child Care Resource and Referral, West Central Initiative, local contributions and Head Start itself with a health and safety grant.

When it was completed, the room was transformed into something simply beautiful in its design and usefulness. "The room was designed as an early childhood center and for use by different groups," Westby said.

The room was divided into areas including a space where parents could meet and discuss certain topics. A long ramp makes the room handicap accessible as well as provides a challenge for some youngsters to see how many times they can go up and down it.

The room also has areas where children can sit with a
See ROOM, page 19.



The Brandon Early Childhood Center is shown above as it looks today. Below is a picture of a Father's Night in the room when it was still the old gym.



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Special nights highlight the importance of reading



Author Tom Fitzpatrick read aloud the book "It Looked Like Spilt Milk" to the crowd gathered for the "Fathers Read Every Day" event. This was the first of two F.R.E.D. nights to encourage parents to read to their children.



Douglas County Librarian Karen Simmons read a book to a group at the Brandon Early Childhood Center.

The Brandon early childhood programs have placed a special emphasis on reading, getting youngsters to read, getting reading materials to youngsters and their parents, and involving parents and grandparents in reading.

Several special nights have been held recently that have combined the ECFE programs of Brandon and Evansville to stress how important it is to get children interested in reading, even if they can't yet, by reading to them.

The Brandon early childhood programs have all kinds of books available to children and there is a story time when the youngsters are read a story.

For parents, there have been two special nights this year when reading was the only thing on the agenda.

People were invited from the Brandon and Evansville early childhood programs to come and hear Tom Fitzpatrick read a book and then talk about the importance of reading.

The night was organized to introduce "F.R.E.D." or Fathers Reading Every Day, a program to get fathers (and mothers) reading to children.

Fitzpatrick held a discussion with parents in the Brandon media center where he asked questions and talked about reading and why it is more important now than it was 20, 15, 10 or even 5

years ago.

The attendance at this event was the largest of Fitzpatrick's presentations he had made up to that point.

The second night was a continuation of F.R.E.D. and again it was the largest turnout for the program yet.

The second evening had a baseball theme with two groups, one of which was read a book by Brandon-Evansville Baseball Coach Tom Otte and the other by Brandon School Superintendent Mark Westby. There was also an appearance by the Beetles baseball team mascot "Ringo". The Beetles instituted a reading program in Brandon and other area schools, by which students could earn a ticket to a Beetles game for reading so many minutes.

Free books were handed out both nights of F.R.E.D. to those who wanted them.

Reading was also part of a family fun night at the Brandon Early Childhood Center in May with Douglas County Librarian Karen Simmons on hand to read and let everyone know the bookmobile would be stopping at the room this summer on Tuesdays.

Reading will continue to be a big part of the early childhood programs in Brandon because it is one of the most important foundations children will build their lives upon.



Brandon School Superintendent Mark Westby read a book to this group.

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ROOM

Continued from page 17

teacher and hear a song, have a book read and take part in activities.

There are two bathrooms and two sinks along with cup-

board and counter space.

The room was transformed from a wide-open space that was a small gym into an eye-pleasing space with a curved divider, slides, a wooden "tree house", enough open

space for a large group and the ability to provide a cozy, quiet area when a teacher wants the ability to be heard by the youngsters.

Before the room became available several children

would make the bus trip into Alexandria at what turned out to be a very high cost with the transportation prices.

Now, 15-20 children are able to receive additional help in the Brandon School. Carol Meissner and Sandy Tubbs also send out public health nurses to offer local pre-school screening.

Westby said the room has meant a lot to the school and the community. He added that the programs for pre-school children allow them to become familiar with what they will experience once they enter kindergarten.

Westby also stressed the importance of having the room in Brandon to allow for the offering of early childhood special education services at the site. With parents being able to have their children seen by professionals in Brandon, they are more likely to utilize the services. Without this availability, children may lose out on the services altogether as some parents may not be able to take their children to Alexandria for the services that the children need. "Being able to offer the ECSE services here is significant. The services parents used to have to go to Alexandria to receive they can now receive right here in Brandon," said Westby.

Having this room in Brandon allows for a connection to be made from the early childhood programs, kindergarten readiness and kindergarten through third grade participation.

Westby said some things are just much easier because of this room. It makes it easier to allow services for students who need them; it is easier for the teachers to have different groups going at the same time; it is easier for parents to have a space to learn about topics such as nutrition, the importance of reading and proper care of

teeth.

And the room has greatly complemented the collaboration in Brandon between the early childhood programs.

Rolf said she believes the benefits have gone beyond the ECFE and Head Start programs to others in the school. "All programs have benefitted from being able to collaborate. In the past, parents of children in Early Childhood Special Education had to bring their children into the school for services. Now, services are available to them while they are in Head Start or School Readiness classes, and the services are a regular part of the classroom routine.

"Because we have several collaborating programs in the same room, there are funding sources that were not previously available to any of us separately. This enables all of us to benefit from additional time, materials and resources.

"Certainly because of the amount of space available, we can more easily work together on programming. When we were in the 'little house' we were very limited in the number of children who could be served at one time, and the programs operated in the same space but on different schedules. Now we have been able to do more collaboratively. As our numbers expand, however, we will have to continue to look at different ways to serve families, and may have to change schedules to accommodate the need," said Rolf.

Changes have been made to the room such as the addition of an office which provides room for the staff to do their work, whether it is paper work or on the computer, and also to store files. Before the advent of the addition, the staff were working in what was essentially a storage area and made it work

See ROOM, page 30.



Members of the Family Initiative Coalition meet on a regular basis to hear speakers give talks on different subjects and to come up with ideas to include the community in helping young people take part in learning and growing.



Family Fun Nights have become a favorite for the children and their parents. The nights include a light meal and usually several activities for both parents and the youngsters. One of the favorites is Quistorff's "Little Bit of Everything" presentations, shown above, which expose the attendees to many different animals.



The Early Childhood Center is used by other groups as well. Here the Douglas County Extension Service held one of their day camps at the room. The space provides tables, a kitchen and rest rooms.

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Brandon 125th Celebration Items:

Celebration Beater Jars - \$30: Available at RanDen Cafe, Ostlund Hardware, Lake Country Motel and Korkowski Signs.

Historic Quilt raffle tickets - \$5 each: Quilt on display and tickets available at Bremer Bank and also at Lake Country Motel, Bob's Adium and Korkowski Signs.

Also available: All-School Reunion Cookbook available for \$10 at Korkowski Signs, Ostlund's Hardware, Lake Country Motel and All the Summerfest events Aug. 1-5 and History Book.

Brandon Celebration Clothing: T-shirts - \$10 and \$12; Sweatshirts - \$20 and \$25; Caps - \$10; Golf Towels - \$8; Tote Bags - \$8. Items available at Korkowski Signs, Lake Country Motel and Bob's Adium

Other items: Post cards - \$1; Bracelets - \$2; Souvenir Buttons - \$1.

Mosaics, painting make entrance special



The parts of this mosaic were put together by artist Roxann Sorenson and members of the Brandon early childhood programs. The hands on both ends of the mosaic are left over tiles youngsters made for the kitchen wall in the Early Childhood Center. From left to right, the symbols and their meanings include: Buffalo, health; Dove, peace; Duck, happiness; Butterfly, longevity; Oriole, friendship; Raccoon, intense curiosity; and Deer, gentleness.



A lot of hard work and elbow grease went into making the panels for the mural which adorns the top of the entrance to the Brandon Early Childhood Center. Children, parents and grandparents took part in putting together the pieces as well as scraping the grout from them. The mosaic legacy will continue. Below is the beginning of a new mosaic project which will entail four squares that are going to form a diamond and be placed near the room entrance. Artist Roxann Sorenson is overseeing this project as she did the one for the door.



The efforts to remake the entrance area to the Brandon Early Childhood Center have been an ongoing project and one that has involved a lot of people of all ages. The mosaics which grace the door are unique and give the entrance a real touch of class while at the same time present a friendly invitation to enter. The door was painted in August 2005 with a rainbow, clouds and sky design by youngsters under the direction of artist Roxann Sorenson. The area near the entrance has a sturdy plastic fence around it with a wood-chip surface. The area has also been landscaped by the Moe 4-H Club with help from the Brandon Girl Scouts and now contains bushes and trees. There are also a few pieces of play equipment. The area provides a place to bring younger children outside in a controlled area while they get some exercise and fresh air.

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Congratulations Brandon on 125 years of progress and growth

Brandon Mid-Summerfest is always special

The wonderful feeling people have after attending the Brandon Mid-Summerfest with all of its activities and gatherings is indeed something special.

This celebration of summer has been going on for quite a few years now and has developed a following not just among the townspeople but of many in the immediate and not so immediate area.

The planning for the next year's event begins almost as soon as the previous one concludes and it is not easy putting on such a fun-filled festival.

A whole host of people are busy working hard to get out the information, seek out parade participants, get things reserved, establish a schedule of events, put together a pageant and coordinate crafters and a quilt display among many, many more things to do on the weekend.

The events have been expanded for the 2006 125th celebration with dedications, dances and reunions.

For the past two decades, a pageant to crown Miss Mid-Summerfest has been the traditional kick-off of the celebration. This year the pageant was moved to Thursday, Aug. 3.

The pageant has been held, for the most part, in the gym of the Brandon School. The time of year usually makes for a warm night but no one seems to leave because of it.

The pageant contestants work on their routines well before the day of the big event and work with the judges to help determine who will eventually wear the crown.

The newly crowned royalty doesn't have to wait long for their first public appearance as they are to

ride atop the Brandon Lions float in the big parade.

On Saturday, the town awakes early as preparations are made for the main parade which includes dozens and dozens of entries. Those taking part in the parade are lined up in order which is no easy feat to make everyone happy and space the entries so that those involved in more than one can get from the end of the route to their next float.

For many years, the parade has run smoothly thanks to the hard work of Izzy Rusch.

If you want to get a good seat for the parade, arrive along Central Ave. early to stake out your viewing spot. Well before the parade begins, the streets are lined up with lawn chairs, blankets, strollers and people standing.

Before the big parade begins, the Kiddie Parade takes place giving the youngsters a chance to walk the parade route in their favorite costume, along with a grown up to see they make the trip safely.

When the big parade takes place, it does not disappoint as unit after unit of area organizations and businesses travel past the viewers.

The parade usually has units from other towns and also includes fire fighting equipment from Brandon and area towns such as Evansville, Millerville, Garfield and Leaf Valley.

When the parade is over, everyone picks up their chairs, blankets and whatever else they brought and gets ready for the rest of the day.

Events include a craft show with plenty of vendors to have something for everyone. The show also includes a quilt display.

During the rest of Saturday there is plenty to do with



The Color Guard leads off the Brandon Mid-Summerfest parade.

games usually held for youngsters near the school and the sand volleyball courts are busy with a tournament. The softball fields are busy with two days of play as well.

Eating opportunities are abundant throughout Saturday with Grace Lutheran Church usually having a salad dinner, a 4-H group selling concessions at the craft show and food available at the softball and volleyball tournaments.

In the early afternoon the

aroma of roasting chicken can be detected around most of the city as the Brandon Lions are preparing for their famous BBQ Chicken feed.

Saturday ends with people dancing in the street, literally, as the street dance near city hall has them on their feet until the early morning.

The final day of the celebration has the conclusion of the softball tournament and something new to the festival, a breakfast buffet at St. Ann's Catholic Church

which started at the 2005 event.

It's a whirlwind weekend filled with fun, friends, family and good old-fashioned summertime memories.

The best thing about the Mid-Summerfest is that it simply gets better as it goes on... thanks to the hard work of many individuals who give of themselves with time and energy without which this wonderful rite of summer would not happen.



Good food draws a crowd to Lions Park.

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News from the past 25 years

1982

January

Brandon School Board members instructed Athletic Director Don Bakken to act in the district's best interest on the question of football conference realignment.

February

The Brandon City Council consented to relinquish all city ties with the Brandon Centennial Committee at its regular monthly meeting.

March

Brandon School Board members were informed by Superintendent Richard Gulbranson that they will have to make budget trimming decisions by the end of May.

April

The Brandon School Board made two final decisions on budget cutting measures. The board decided to eliminate the Title I teacher's aid position and to switch to all-day kindergarten for the 1982-83 school year.

May

Landowners from Brandon's Brennen Addition were present at the city council meeting to discuss tarring the street that runs west from the Brandon School and meets with County Road 16.

June

The City of Brandon held a public information meeting to discuss the study of the sanitary sewer system. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public of the progress made on the studies and the alternative solutions being considered.

July

The Brandon School Board held a public hearing for the purpose of discussing the need for the proposed discretionary levy allowed under Minnesota Law.

August

The Brandon School Board agreed to raise the prices for the 1982-83 school year for football and volleyball games from 75 cents and \$1.50 to \$1 and \$2.

September

Brandon High School Principal Don Bakken told the Brandon School Board that the Minnesota State Assessment Program would be conducted at the school this year.

October

The 1982 payable 1983 local tax levy for the Brandon School will be \$35,000 less than the 1981 payable 1982 levy upon the decision made by the school board at its regular meeting.

November

The Brandon City Council approved by resolution the city's sewage facilities plan and sewer system evaluation study at its regular meeting.

December

No decisions have yet been made on the City of Brandon's proposed storm sewer and sewer rehabilitation projects.

1983

January

Brandon High School students will be part of a state-wide survey on chemical use, according to information given to the Brandon School Board at its regular meeting.

February

The municipal liquor store in Brandon will undergo a few changes in the near future according to the store's manager, Bob Leslie, who reported to the Brandon City Council.

March

The Brandon City Council again discussed the problems with the city's sanitary sewer system at its monthly meeting.

April

The Brandon City Council discussed the development of Pike Point. The development includes 20 lakeshore lots along the west and north sides of Whiskey Lake.

May

The Brandon City Council decided to "crack down" on traffic violators at its regular monthly meeting.

June

The Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association held its 40th annual meeting on Tuesday evening at the Brandon School.

July

Marlene Lund continues at chairman of the Brandon School Board after the board's re-organization which took place at the board's regular monthly meeting.

August

The Brandon City Council accepted the resignation of the city's police officer, Charlie Schultz, effective Sept. 1, 1983. Schultz told the council he would still be willing to fill in at times if the need arises.

September

Several building projects in the city of Brandon were discussed at the council's regular meeting including a low income public housing project.

October

The Brandon City Council approved a resolution to consider the city's solid waste be hauled to an incinerator in Alexandria.

November

A faculty committee at Brandon High School has chosen this year's participant in the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Seminar. Selected for this honor was Mary Jo Thoennes who will be the fifth consecutive Brandon High School participant in this annual event.

December

An early-morning fire gutted the home of Keith and Lila Price on Devils Lake. No one was home at the time the fire broke out. A neighbor called in the alarm.

1984

January

The Brandon City Council decided to keep the water and sewer rates the same for the coming year. The council also agreed to keep the rent for the hall and the multi-purpose room the same.

February

The Brandon School Board continued to review applications for superintendent. The board received about 30 applications. Superintendent Gulbranson will resign March 1.

March

The Brandon School Board voted unanimously to hire William Lockwood as superintendent of the Brandon Public Schools.

April

Carl Madsen of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently gave a presentation on Waterfowl Production to about 18 interested sportsmen in the Brandon Fire Hall.

May

The Brandon Community Clinic Committee met to decide whether or not to continue efforts to provide a medical facility for Brandon. The committee agreed to go ahead with the project.

June

Ray Lanners was honored at a party held last Wednesday evening at Bub's Pub and Grub, for over 34 years of service as mail carrier for the Brandon Post Office before retiring last month.

July

At the Brandon City Council meeting, a petition with 74 signatures was presented by Clarence and Jim Anderson in an attempt to outlaw the grain drying business scheduled to be installed near their home.

August

The Brandon School Board met to pass a resolution to hold a referendum election to increase the mil levy by 3 mils for two years to generate \$29,118.93 in each year.

September

The City of Brandon is eligible to receive funds for the improvement of its wastewater treatment facility. The city has completed step one of the facilities planning process.

October

The Brandon School Board canvassed the votes of the referendum election with 124 people voting for the measure and 110 against it.

November

The Brandon Sportsman's Club is engaged in an effort to purchase property on Moon Lake east of Brandon to develop a public access.

December

The Brandon City Council heard from an engineer on street improvement assessments. The annual percentage rate will be 10.5 percent per year plus principal which will be assessed for 10 years.

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News from the past 25 years

1985

January

Brandon School had a most successful Operation Kids ID day. There were 272 pre-school, elementary and high school students' fingers and palms printed.

February

The Brandon FFA Chapter hosted its annual banquet. President Dan Kuhn gave a warm welcome and reporter Larry Roers gave the invocation before the meal.

March

The Brandon Land O' Lakes Girl Scout Troops, consisting of about 30 girls, has just completed their fifth year of being in existence.

April

The Brandon City Council was updated on the sewer project. The members studied maps of the manhole repairs, sanitary sewer repairs and of the spray irrigation.

May

The fourth, fifth and sixth graders of Brandon spent time at Luther Crest on Lake Carlos for a day of planned activities on Environmental Education.

June

Dr. And Mrs. Lockwood of the Brandon School system have been teaching a course on Functional Literacy known as Adult Basic Continuing Education. Clients may set their own goals.

July

The Brandon School Board elected officers for the school year with Marlene Lund, chairman; Jerome Ledermann, vice chair; Bernie Korkowski, secretary; and Carole Severson, treasurer.

August

Ella Schjei is being honored as the Brandon Senior Citizen Queen for 1985. She was recognized as an Outstanding Citizen and will ride in the parade at the Brandon Mid-Summerfest.

September

The Brandon City Council met for their regular meeting and approved the purchase of 14 new tables for the City Hall. It was decided that the tables are to be at least seven feet long.

October

Brandon Elementary School has been chosen as a pilot for the Minnesota Educational Effectiveness Program beginning with the 1985-86 school year.

November

Brandon Mayor Myron Severson received word that the Brandon City Hall has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

December

A fire gutted out the business building of Hermanson Interior and Gift Shop in Brandon. Firefighters and trucks were called out from Brandon, Garfield and Evansville in 8-below temperature. The building was also used for Schelin Grocery.

1986

January

Robert Lanners has been elected Executive Vice President of First American Bank of Brandon. He will be responsible for the overall supervision of the bank.

February

The Brandon School Board considered cuts in two programs, Agriculture Education and Home Economics, which have suffered from low enrollment.

March

Brandon Future Farmers of America Horticulture teams qualified for state competition for the 11th year in a row. Each team came in second at the Region III contest.

April

From Nelson comes Mike Schmidt, Brandon's new officer in charge at the local post office. His duties include ordering supplies, sorting and casing the mail.

May

Sidney E. Strom recently joined the staff at First American Bank in Brandon. His new duties will include working with commercial and real estate loan clients.

June

The Brandon School 1985-86 budget calls for increased expenditures of \$1,703,372. The difference between this budget and the previous year's is \$194,000.

July

The building in Brandon known as Renke's Feed Store is presently being torn down by Bruce Nelson and Company of Brandon.

August

Tom Ellison was present at the Brandon School Board meeting to be introduced to the board members and be considered for the position of Industrial Arts instructor.

September

After many, many months of waiting and the training in of three officers in charge of the Brandon Post Office, Karl Glade has been sworn in as the new postmaster at the office.

October

The Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District has named Jerome and Betty Ledermann of rural Brandon as "Conservation Farmers of the Year".

November

The Girl Scout Adults of Service Unit No. 41 of Brandon were honored at a special ceremonial meeting. A rededication of previous members and investiture for new adults was held at Grace Lutheran Church.

December

Brandon business leaders met at the Blue Gill Inn to discuss ways and means of increasing economic development in the city.

1987

January

Four Brandon Lions Club members attended the 5-M-4 Mid-Winter Convention. Attending were Mike Ranweiler, Ron Nielsen, Laurel Johnson and Dayton Hermanson.

February

Gail Schulz, a Special Ed instructor at the Brandon School, has been recognized as an award winner in the Dale Carnegie Program in which she is now participating.

March

The annual Brandon Lions Auction was held. It was the biggest auction of its kind in the history of the local club.

April

The Brandon Spring Fling was a big success. The Brandon gym was filled with excited children playing games, doing crafts, getting finger printed and watching puppet shows.

May

Brandon School Superintendent Dr. William Lockwood offered his letter of resignation to the Brandon Board at a special meeting.

June

The Brandon-Evansville softball team is on its way to state after capturing the Region 6A championship.

July

Ray Farwell of Swanville was hired as the new superintendent of the Brandon Schools. The action was taken as part of the regular meeting of the Brandon School Board.

August

Chlorination of Brandon's water supply will continue until Aug. 15 to combat a possible contamination, according to Mayor Myron Severson. Recently a test showed the presence of coliform bacteria.

September

Brandon's contaminated water has been resisting all attempts at testing clear. A test still showed some pipes contaminated with coliform bacteria.

October

New medication procedures for students were outlined for the Brandon School Board by Pam Klimek, LPN and the school nurse. The new procedures are the result of a Minnesota Statute covering school nurses and medications.

November

Brandon School Board members discussed cooperative options at the regular meeting. Superintendent Ray Farwell reported on a meeting held with other interested districts in Ashby concerning an Educational District.

December

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade in Brandon performed the "Nutcracker Suite". Vicki Roers played Marie and Ross Webskowsky played the Nutcracker.

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News from the past 25 years

1988

January

The entire Brandon School Board attended the Minnesota School Board Convention in Minneapolis.

February

Brandon School Board members received a list of recommendations for reductions in programs and staff. The reductions could save the district \$91,870.

March

The Brandon School Board approved a library reorganization at a special meeting. The plan calls for using a faculty member as a part-time librarian.

April

The play "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" was presented in Brandon. The cast included Jeff Kuhn - Charlie Brown, Jenni Starke - Lucy, Nancy Otto - Linus and Jodi Lipka - Snoopy.

May

ProTech Auto recently became the newest addition to the Brandon business community and is owned and operated by Dean Johnson and Gene Alstead.

June

The Brandon-Evansville softball team earned another trip to the state tournament with a 9-7 win over Menahga.

July

George Haslie, 16, from a small town near Biri in southeast Norway is spending three weeks at the Ray Hanson farm in rural Brandon.

August

Brandon elementary students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades will be sharing four teachers under a plan approved by school board members at their regular meeting.

September

Charles and Marcia Bolin, rural Brandon, received the 1988 Conservation Farmer Award from the Douglas Water and Soil Conservation District.

October

Mrs. Lorraine Otto, Field Representative of the Minnesota P.T.A., spoke to Brandon parents and teachers interested in starting a unit for parents of elementary children.

November

A group of 48 concerned citizens of Brandon met at the City Hall to discuss the future economic development of their town. Gene Wenstrom of Elbow Lake and John Rolf, a Brandon banker were the moderators. Carol Rossum set up the meeting and served as chairperson.

December

Mrs. Illetschko's 6th grade science class in Brandon is enthusiastically looking forward to their weather unit. The main reason is because their class won a weather station from WCCO-TV Weather 4 Wildlife.

1989

January

The Brandon Peer Helper Group has been notified they have been approved for a \$2,000 grant.

February

Red shirts, sweaters and the color red were very much in evidence at the 9th annual Valentine's Day party at the Brandon Senior Center on Feb. 14.

March

Don and Chris Taylor and Chris' mother, Ann Gay, are the new owners of the Brandon Cafe, formerly the Brand R, located in the Brandon Business Center.

April

Mark Ledermann, an 8th grade student from Brandon, was one of the top 15 contestants at the Minnesota State Geography Bee held at the Landmark Center in St. Paul.

May

John Pischke, Brandon High School senior, was a sixth-place winner at the National "Business Professionals of America" competition in Dallas, TX.

June

Chiropractor Dr. Lonnie Berger, D.C., opened his business in Brandon. He is originally from Alexandria and had an office in Fergus Falls for many years.

July

The full-sized, hand-stitched quilt which a group of women from St. Ann's in Brandon designed to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the St. Cloud Diocese, was created to show the various organizations and highlights which make up the parish family.

August

Frank and Jeanene McFarlane, long-time residents and active community members have been chosen as this year's Summerfest Parade Grand Marshals.

September

Keith Redfield, director of the Runestone Area Education District, addressed the Brandon High School faculty during their teacher workshop.

October

The Brandon City Council authorized a number of improvements for street and sewer work during the recent months.

November

A group of Brandon fifth grade science students have been introduced to computer programming through the LEGO Logo program. Students include Amy Berger, Chris Wagner, Jacob Hagedorn, Andrew Wagner, Angela Strom and Jason White.

December

The Brandon City Council reviewed the salaries of the mayor, councilmen, civil defense and fire chief. It was decided to leave the salaries the same as last year.

1990

January

Janice Korkowski, daughter of Jim and Judi Korkowski of Brandon, recently completed her student teaching in Surbiton, England.

February

Although "Infanta", Brandon High School's District 22 one-act play entry didn't win a trip to regions, director Karen Slack said she was proud of her actors and the job they did performing it.

March

Dennis and Chis Korkowski of Brandon believe involvement in small towns is the key to their survival. They were recently awarded the Citizens of the Year Award by the Brandon Community Club.

April

The Brandon City Council said no to allowing the sale of Minnesota Lottery tickets at the Municipal Liquor store in Brandon because the money would be taken out of town and could take away from the pull-tab operation.

May

Bob Thoennes received 62 votes in the Brandon School Board election and won a seat on the board after mounting a write-in campaign.

June

The City of Brandon approved the contract with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department for police protection with one amendment, the deputy must live within the City of Brandon for the term of the contract.

July

The Brandon City Council heard an update in their quest for funding the renovation of city hall and found the next step may be finding an architect to formulate a building plan.

August

Frank Goering, often dubbed "a fixture in our community", has been chosen as the Grand Marshal for the year's Brandon Summerfest parade.

September

Les Shafto was welcomed as the new Postmaster at the Brandon Post Office. He replaces Carl Glade who retired in 1989.

October

The Ag Service Center in Brandon is happily looking forward to the completion of a new grain bin which they began building two weeks ago.

November

Don Taylor is the new Mayor of Brandon. He received 149 votes while incumbent Myron Severson received 83.

December

Twenty three days since the November election and the waiting is over for Clair Nelson and Hilda Bettermann. Bettermann has come out on top, winning by 48 votes in a recount after the original tally showed her ahead by 18 votes to earn her seat in the State House of Representatives.

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News from the past 25 years

1991

January

Kathy Ranweiler of Brandon is the co-owner of the all new Lakes Area Insurance Agency in Brandon.

February

Larry and Darlene Deason have moved to Brandon to start Mom's Pizza which opened Jan. 27.

March

The Brandon City Council heard that grant applications have been sent to the National Historical Society and the Bremer Foundation for the funding of the Hall renovation project.

April

The new four-way stop signs with flashing lights were installed in Brandon at the intersection of County Roads 7 and 82. It is expected to take a couple of weeks for people to get used to the change.

May

Randi Hockert and Doug Johnson were elected to the Brandon School Board. Hockert was returned with 68 votes and Johnson won with 60 write-in votes.

June

The Otto Bremer Foundation presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to the City of Brandon in support of the restoration and remodeling of the Brandon City Hall.

July

New Brandon Lions officers for 1991-92 were installed with Clark Baldwin as president of the Lions and Chris Taylor as president of the Lioness Club.

August

Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District poster winners are Marie Helder and Brian Wagner and the mural winners are Jason Bitzan and Brian Wagner, all from the Brandon School.

September

Barb Webb and sister JoAnne (Webb) Reger have opened a second-hand shop in Brandon. The store is located in the Brandon mini-mall.

October

Two public meetings for the Brandon School District, one in Millerville, the other in Brandon, were held to receive feedback on the direction and long-range planning for the district.

November

Brandon elementary students have been laying under the stars observing the sky from inside the large air-filled dome of their Starlab Planetarium.

December

The Brandon Fire Department responded to a house fire at 11 p.m. at the Bruce Magnan residence. The house was engulfed in flames when the department arrived and in the end was completely destroyed. The Evansville Fire Department was called to the scene to assist in fighting the blaze as well.

1992

January

The Brandon Lions Club reported vandalism to the ice rink facilities. A door to the storage area was kicked in.

February

The Brandon School Board declined an invitation to explore building a new school saying it was too far away from the other schools and had a high school that hasn't been affected by costly State Fire Marshal's safety upgrades.

March

Brian Roers, son of Mark and Anita Roers and an eighth grade student at Brandon High School, will compete in the Region IV Spelling Bee in Fergus Falls.

April

Liz Thoennes, daughter of Bernie and Kathy Thoennes of Brandon, was selected as the 1992 Douglas County Dairy Princess at ceremonies in Evansville.

May

Students at the Brandon School have a definite advantage when it comes to researching material for a term paper, facts, a report or just checking out a book. Three computers have been installed and programmed to facilitate the users of the school's modern library.

June

State Rep. Hilda Bettermann IR-Brandon, announced this week she will seek re-election to the State House in District 10B.

July

The Brandon City Council moved to increase water rates by 50 cents per month due to regulations from the department of health.

August

The Brandon School Board approved participation in the federally funded Breakfast Program.

September

Kurt Amundson is the new Brandon School Social Studies teacher and Evansville Geography teacher. He is a 1987 graduate of Starbuck High School.

October

A new elementary computer lab has been set up in the former elementary principal's office at the Brandon School. The school now has two updated computer labs.

November

Over 200 ghosts and goblins gathered on Halloween night at the Brandon Auditorium for the annual Brandon-Millerville Halloween Party sponsored by the Community Club.

December

Reverend Willmore Gunderson of Fergus Falls led the annual Norwegian Christmas Fest held at Chippewa Lutheran Church in Brandon.

1993

January

A multi-car and bus collision occurred on County Road No. 7 near Brandon. All four vehicles, including a school bus, were northbound. No injuries were reported.

February

Brandon students selected for the 1991-92 *Who's Who Among American High School Students* include Jim Boesen, Pat Korkowski, Joy Webskowski, Cynthia Hempeck, Mark Ledermann, James Suchy and Paul Webskowski.

March

The former ProTech Auto gas station and car repair in Brandon has been purchased by Jean Slack and the name changed to "Kountry Korner Store".

April

Stacy Otto, daughter of David and JoAnn Otto of Brandon, was crowned as the 1993 Douglas County Dairy Princess in Evansville.

May

The City of Brandon has been awarded a \$50 grant from the State of Minnesota to be used towards the purchase and planting of boulevard trees. This is the second year the city has participated in "Tree City USA".

June

A special meeting of the Brandon School Board was held for the purpose of discussing options in filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Superintendent Ray Farwell.

July

Billie-Lynne Bracey and Jean Korkowski, both of Brandon Elementary School, were announced as the winners of the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District poster and mural contest.

August

The Brandon Bluejays captured the 1993 Resorters League West championship with two wins over Alexandria.

September

Heidi Korkowski of Brandon was among the group from the St. Cloud Diocese who traveled to Denver for the World Youth Day celebration with Pope John Paul II.

October

The Brandon American Legion presented awards to Frances Brennen for 25 years of service to Post No. 278 and Lydon Sletto who is stepping down from his post commander position of 14 years.

November

The Brandon City Council gave permission to the Brandon Fire Department to buy a new pickup truck to replace the old grass rig.

December

All students attending the Brandon Public school are receiving a hands-on education with top-of-the-line computer equipment and technology. The school has 50 Macintosh computers.

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News from the past 25 years

1994

January

Carole and Myron Severson's 3-stall garage was engulfed in flames on New Year's morning at approximately 4 p.m. Everything in the garage was a total loss.

February

The Brandon Winterfest Medallion was found by Jody Oberg of Brandon and Mary Arneson of Carlos. It was tied to the base of the city sign in Brandon.

March

The Brandon Fire Department added a new 4x4 truck to their fire fighting equipment. It has a 250 gallon water supply with high pressure hoses.

April

The Argone Forest, American Legion Post No. 278 of Brandon, celebrated its 75th birthday at the Brandon Auditorium.

May

There's a new barber in Brandon. Jim Augdahl has purchased Wilber Hopfner's barbershop and has already begun cutting hair.

June

The City of Brandon was recently named a Tree City USA. A Red Splinter Crab Tree was planted in front of the Brandon City Shop in honor of the accomplishment.

July

Rena Einerwold, owner of Rena's Strawberry Blossom in Brandon, reported the thefts of a strawberry printed flag from a flag pole and a strawberry hummingbird feeder hanging in her yard.

August

The Mid-Summerfest in Brandon brought in several hundred people. The weather cooperated with little scattered showers and lots of sunshine.

September

The Brandon School Board approved putting new fold-out doors on the gym stage and installing a new speaker system in the gym.

October

A Brandon couple, Clarence and Diane Otto, were recently recognized for their conservation efforts and were presented the 1994 "Outstanding Conservationist" Award by the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District.

November

Rose and Linus Korkowski have started a new home-based business north of Brandon. They are busy making all kinds of signs including three-dimensional magnetic signs, banners, vinyl graphic signs and seasonal signs.

December

Gardenville Co-op Telephone announced the approval of a patronage payout of \$533,688.07 which was earned during the year 1988. The payout will be paid during the first weeks of December.

1995

January

Angela Peterson, daughter of Marge and Harold Peterson of Brandon and junior at the University of Minnesota, was recruited as the new Junior Director of Public Relations for a volunteer organization on the Duluth campus.

February

Audrey Rolf was crowned as the Brandon Snowball Queen while Shawn Lehn was crowned King. Amy Jesnowski was crowned Princess and Ryan Meissner, Prince.

March

Rick Mittag recently began working at Ag Service Center's fertilizer plant in Brandon. He has many years' experience in the agronomy field.

April

The Brandon Community Club elected new officers with John Rolf, president; Harold "Skip" Brethorst, vice president; Dennis Korkowski, treasurer; and Judi Korkowski, secretary.

May

Brandon's Head Start Group No. 4 took part in a fire safety program given by the Millerville Fire Department. The children were able to use the Douglas County Fire Chief's Safety House.

June

A white flowering crab tree was planted at the Brandon city shed on Arbor Day to mark Brandon being named a Tree City USA once again by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

July

With the beginning of its 17th year of publication, the West Douglas County Record has new owners. Dave and Catherine Bedore of Lakeland recently purchased the newspaper.

August

The Brandon School Board did away with the grade D for students in grades 7-12. Students will need a C to get credit for a class.

September

The Brandon City Council passed a motion to allow the Brandon Firemen's Relief Association to continue selling pulltabs at the Brandon Liquor Store. The lease calls for a payment of \$600 per month.

October

The Brandon School Board discussed a new graduation rule which will go into effect for the ninth grade class of the 1996-97 school year.

November

The Brandon-Evansville football team falls one win short of going to the state tournament losing to Browerville in the Section 5C title contest in the Fargo Dome.

December

The Brandon City Council passed a moratorium on retirements from the Brandon Fire Department. The moratorium will be in effect until the council and others resolve the problem of the Relief Association's deficit.

1996

January

The Brandon City Council reorganized for the year with the following officers: President Pro Tem, Dave Thompson; Public Works Commissioner, Thompson; Liquor Store Commissioner, Wally Schiele; Finance Commissioner, Jim Rolf; Streets Commissioner, Don Taylor; and Parks and Rec Commissioner, Larry Deason.

February

Jim's Gas and Diesel in Brandon has been sold to Dayton Hermanson and his wife, Yvonne. There are plans for a bait and tackle shop with live bait available.

March

The bill concerning the appropriation of bond proceeds for the Brandon Educational, Heritage and Cultural Preservation Center is still alive in this session of the Minnesota Legislature.

April

The City of Brandon will continue to lease about 25 acres of land from Norman and Janet Severson for the purpose of lowering the level of the city's pond system.

May

The Brandon City Council voted to keep the park and rec rates the same this year as last. The charge remains \$10 per child with a cap of \$25 per family.

June

Everything is going smoothly with the capital projects in the Brandon School. They include new bleachers and a new gym floor.

July

The Brandon Economic Development Authority met to discuss the possibility of building a 4-plex at Meadowview Estates in the northern part of town. The EDA decided to look more into dealing with F&L Management and Development, Inc. of Luvuvern to build the structure.

August

The Brandon Mid-Summerfest brought out the crowds. The annual Brandon Lions barbecue chicken dinner had its largest crowd ever, serving between 1,000 and 1,100 people.

September

The Brandon City Council voted to accept a proposed levy of \$60,000 which is \$4,000 over the previous levy.

October

The recommendations by a committee formed to submit new guidelines for human sexuality classes at Brandon were presented to the school board.

November

Mary Lee Korkowski and Patt Johnson were elected to the Brandon City Council. Don Taylor was re-elected as mayor.

December

The Brandon School levy for 1996 payable 1997 will increase 2.27 percent.

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News from the past 25 years

1997

January

The recent snow storm which dumped two feet in the area highlighted the need for the City of Brandon to look into the possibility of purchasing its own snow removal and street clearing equipment.

February

The first Warrior-Tiger/B-E Charger alumni basketball tournament at the Brandon School was deemed a success. The event was a fundraiser for the Brandon band's trip to Florida.

March

The Brandon School Board decided to extend the school year, except for seniors, for two days due to storm days.

April

If Brandon Band Director Tom Helder had to sum up his band's trip to Disney World in just one word, it would be: "wonderful". The band performed at EPCOT Center.

May

Mike Randt will become the newest member of the Brandon City Council at its June meeting. He expressed an interest in being on the council and was voted in to fill the seat vacated by Dave Thompson.

June

The Brandon School Board approved a preliminary budget for the coming school year which calls for revenues of \$1,945,000. This would mean an increase of 11 percent over last year's budget.

July

How water and sewer customers in Brandon will be billed for the services is changing. Billing will now be done on a quarterly basis. There are about 200 water and sewer customers in town.

August

The Brandon City Council approved an ordinance at its last meeting to allow more than one garbage hauler to operate in the city. Previously only one hauler was allowed to serve the city's garbage needs.

September

An hour-and-a-half long discussion during a public hearing on the possibility of the City of Brandon annexing into the city limits land south of the town didn't reach a decision. Instead the council voted to hold a special meeting on the issue.

October

The Brandon Auditorium was packed for "Fran Fuller Appreciation Day" with people wanting him to know they appreciated his kindness and generosity through the years.

November

The Brandon School teachers tentatively approved a contract with the district and the board approved it at its regular meeting.

December

The Brandon City Council set the levy at \$52,000 for 1998 with \$23,000 for bonded indebtedness.

1998

January

A policy setting forth guidelines for access to school computers and the internet in Brandon Schools will now need to be read and signed by both students and parents before the students will have access to computers.

February

The Brandon Lions Radar Run on Nelson Lake draws 200 sleds.

March

The Brandon City Council approved revision of the city code concerning sewer systems. The revision covers requirements for building sewer and inspection and other areas of the system.

April

State Representative Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon) announced that she will not be seeking a fifth term representing District 10B in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

May

The Brandon freshman stock market team of Dan Helder, Eric Wagner and Matthew Korkowski recently finished third in the state in the "Stock Market Game".

June

A pre-school survey for Brandon received a good response reinforcing the fact that there is an interest in having a pre-school in the town. If approved, the pre-school would start in the fall.

July

The most feasible and cost effective solution to solve the infiltration problem for the city of Brandon is to replace the problem areas of the existing sanitary sewer. The cost is estimated to be \$900,000.

August

When Les and Hazel Hermanson were asked to be the grand marshals at this year's Mid-Summer-fest parade, they didn't know if they wanted the job but after thinking about it did accept.

September

As of Sept. 16, Brandon School has its own presence on the world wide web with its own home page. The page was designed by juniors Kyle Roers, Brent Meissner and Digger White.

October

Ryan Lehn, a member of Boy Scout Troop 440, received the Eagle Scut award at a Court of Honor held for him at the Brandon Auditorium.

November

Governor Arne Carlson announced the awarding of a \$125,000 grant to the City of Brandon to assist Voyager Supply and Fabrication with an expansion.

December

A zoning ordinance that would allow the Brandon City Council to designate areas within the city limits to fall into certain categories such as commercial, agricultural, etc., was reviewed in draft form by the council.

1999

January

The new building taking shape in Brandon on County Road 7 will be the future home of Voyager Supply & Fabrication. The business fabricates aluminum and warehouses aluminum extrusion and sheet products.

February

A resolution passed by the Brandon City Council reaffirms the city's support of the Nordic America project being promoted by Tom Hertz.

March

The Brandon-Evansville girls' basketball team wins the Section 5A tournament and earns a trip to the state tournament, winning all three games to claim the Minnesota 1999 Class A championship.

April

A blood drive at the Brandon Auditorium collected 73 pints for the Red Cross Bloodmobile. Kathy Brethorst, Rita Plaster and Jenny Webkowski were the chairwomen of the event.

May

The work on the first part of the Brandon sewer project has begun. Sellin Brothers, Inc. of Hawley is doing the work. The company bid \$198,496.75 for the project.

June

The Brandon School Board approved hiring several new staff including Julie Hebzynski for fifth grade; Brett Dahlseid for technology/media; and Aleicia Claassen for English.

July

After hearing one concern over a zoning map, the Brandon City Council moved to approve the map which designates areas within the city as residential, industrial or commercial.

August

Brandon Mayor Don Taylor officially tendered his resignation from that spot at the Brandon City Council meeting. This leaves two vacancies on the council since one council seat is also open.

September

The Brandon School Board and the teachers in the district came to terms for a new 2-year contract which will cover the current year as well as the 2000-2001 school year.

October

Brandon High School has nominated juniors Dan Helder and Sara Wood for the EXCEL (Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership) Award.

November

The Brandon-Evansville volleyball team captures the Section 6A championship and finishes third at the state Class A tournament.

December

Dan Helder was recently notified that he is an ExCEL award winner. The award is given to students who are active in fine arts and or athletics, who show leadership qualities and who are model citizens in their community.

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News from the past 25 years

2000

January

The Y2K bug was a no show as the new year arrived. Brandon Fire Chief Jerry Challes said nothing went wrong as the calendar turned to the new year.

February

Trent Froemming was declared the winner of the Brandon Geography Bee. Andrea Wagner was second.

March

The Brandon-Evansville girls' basketball team repeats as Region 5A champions but loses its first game in the state tournament.

April

About two dozen people showed up at a public hearing to ask questions about this summer's sewer system work.

May

Construction continues on remodelling the multi-purpose room at the Brandon School. The room should be completed and ready for use before the start of the next school year.

June

The Brandon sewer project will continue with work in the alley between Holmes Avenue and Nelson Avenue from 4th Street to 2nd Street.

July

The number of standards for the Profile of Learning Brandon students will need to graduate has been approved by a majority of the teachers and administration but not by the school board as of yet.

August

The playground at the Brandon School was erected by about 40 volunteers which included members of the Knights of Columbus, Brandon School Board, teachers, current and past students and parents from Brandon and people who just wanted to help out.

September

There are two new faces at the Brandon School this year. Tom Otte is the new science teacher while Tina Eberly is the new English teacher.

October

The Brandon School policy of requiring students to make up any time missed in physical education classes was discussed for 45 minutes by the Brandon School Board and in the end it was decided to change things from the way they are now.

November

Mike Randt, after serving as Brandon's Acting Mayor, was elected to the position outright with 201 votes.

December

Fire broke out in the Main Stream Sports building sometime before 3 am. and as a result, the building was destroyed by the fire.

2001

January

The Brandon School Board took up the issue of what schedule to have for its kindergarten class the rest of this year and for next year. The board decided to try all-day-every-day kindergarten for the final quarter of the year.

February

The Brandon City Council reviewed the recent sewer project completed in the city. Updating city maps to indicate exactly where utilities are located in the city, as well as sewers, watermains and other services the city provides were discussed.

March

Harold "Skip" Brethorst ends his tenure as manager of Gardonville Co-op Telephone which began in 1977, with Dave Wolf hired as the co-op's new manager.

April

A lift station operated by the City of Brandon and located on the property of Ralph and Lillie Olson will remain there as part of a lawsuit settlement the Brandon City Council agreed to at its April meeting.

May

The Brandon Fire Department made it official when it entered into the Douglas County Mutual Fire Aid Agreement at the Brandon City Council meeting. Each municipality in the agreement will make available to others its respective fire-fighting equipment.

June

The Brandon-Evansville softball team won the Section 6A title and placed fourth in the Class A state tournament.

July

The Brandon School Board reacted positively to a deal struck by Minnesota lawmakers. The board reinstated Julie Dahlseid to full-time employment.

August

A paving project for two alleys in Brandon may be completed this year but things will have to fall into place in order to get work started in time to have the roads smooth before the snow flies.

September

The Brandon senior class put out buckets for donations to help the victims of 9/11.

October

After a summer of putting up with a closed road, a rough intersection at Douglas County Roads 7 and 82 and a detour, crews finally got around to putting down some pavement on 82.

November

Brandon's ECFE program has been selected to receive a \$46,692 grant from the West Central Initiative for the Brandon Family Initiative.

December

The Brandon School Board was warned the state's shortfall may have negative consequences for the school's budgets.

2002

January

Beginning Jan. 21, senior citizens in Brandon who have their meal at the Brandon Senior Center will now be going to Fischer's Family Restaurant for them.

February

Brandon voters split on the question of granting an on-sale liquor license to one or more businesses with 94 in favor and 94 against.

March

With no immediate need to fill the position of manager at the Brandon Municipal Liquore Store, the Brandon City Council decided to extend the time period for taking applications for the position.

April

After almost two months the Brandon City Council declared the Feb. vote on liquor licenses was a "no" vote on the question with exactly 94 votes for yes and no. The council sought an opinion from its attorney on the matter.

May

The Brandon School Board accepted the resignation of social studies teacher Joe Broderick who has accepted a new position.

June

The Brandon City Council recently asked Dan Folsom of Widseth Smith and Nolting to estimate the remaining capacity of Brandon's wastewater stabilization ponds. The report showed the existing ponds are currently designed for 95,000 gallons per day for 210 days.

July

Changes to the student handbooks discussed by the Brandon School Board include changing graduation requirements so students need to complete all state and local requirements for graduation in order to take part in commencement ceremonies and to require students to place their coats in lockers and not wear them to class.

August

At its regular meeting, the Brandon City Council approved a resolution creating a tax increment financing district for land that it recently annexed into the city from Brandon Township.

September

The lone new addition to the Brandon School staff this year is Dan Johnson as the social studies teacher and head football coach.

October

The Brandon kindergarten class recognized Fire Safety Week by visiting the Brandon Fire Department.

November

The question of whether or not the City of Brandon should issue on-sale liquor licenses failed 118-97.

December

Brandon's second grade class collected \$161.50 in dimes and donated it to Jingle Bells.

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News from the past 25 years

2003

January

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Fire Administration recently announced the Brandon Fire Department has been awarded a \$6,570 grant from the 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

February

The Brandon City Council held a public hearing on amending a resolution to extend the time period two years for annexing land for NordicAmerica into the city limits.

March

The senior project requirement for Brandon High School has been eliminated and will not be required as of that date meaning this year's seniors will not have to complete it in order to receive a diploma.

April

Grass fires on the east side of County Road 7 near the south end of Whiskey Lake, were successfully contained by the Brandon and Garfield fire departments and crews from the DNR.

May

There was a good crowd on hand for the rededication of Grace Lutheran Church in Brandon.

June

The Brandon-Evansville softball team captured the Section 6A title and earned a trip to the state tournament. The team fought its way to the championship game taking second place.

July

A long-time problem near the Brandon School will be getting attention quickly as the Brandon School Board discussed at its meeting the condition of the parking lot near the school's softball fields.

August

The Brandon-Evansville American Legion captured the District 7 Division II title and advanced to the state event in Ely.

September

A need for more storage space at the Brandon Pro-Ag Service Center has changed the skyline in Brandon. Over the past few weeks two new storage bins have been erected on property next to the Central Lakes Trail.

October

A small but focused group of parents attended a meeting to hear the results of an early childhood survey which included parents of children in the Brandon area.

November

In what was described as amicable negotiations between the Brandon School District and its teachers, the Brandon School Board approved a contract that will give the teachers a slight increase over the next two years.

December

The Brandon School Board set the levy for next year at \$169,698.65 which is an increase of 8 percent over the previous year's.

2004

January

The City of Brandon has a new mayor. The council voted to appoint Doug Johnson as the city's new mayor.

February

If the City of Brandon were to be a perfect place for children what would it look like? This was the question to over three dozen people who attended a visioning session at the Brandon School Media Center.

March

The Red Cross Bloodmobile was in Brandon and collected 49 units of blood with 59 donors and 10 deferred.

April

Maps of the City of Brandon will have to be updated as an addition to the city limits will be developed for residential housing. The land being annexed into the city is owned by Reese Lund and will be called Deere Run Estates.

May

The budget situation for the Brandon School District should be all right for next year, however, beyond that the situation is a bit more uncertain. Brandon Superintendent Mark Westby told the board that without an increase in enrollment or more money from the state, the board may have to look at options for keeping the district running.

June

The Brandon City Council at its meeting decided to take the opportunity to put in a bid for the old Douglas County garage located in the city. The county offered the building for sale to both the city and Brandon Township.

July

Lots for the first phase of the Deere Run Estates development in Brandon are now for sale.

August

The Brandon School has been chosen to be part of a Minnesota Department of Education study on how well prepared young students are for elementary school.

September

Voters in the Brandon School District will have a decision to make this fall as they will be asked to approve authorization for the Brandon School Board to raise additional money for the district's expenses through an excess levy.

October

A standoff between a man who shot at a state trooper and law enforcement officials including state troopers and members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department ended peacefully at the I-94 exit to Brandon.

November

The Brandon excess levy questions passes by a vote of 490-485.

December

Amy Engel and Matt Bruns are the Brandon School nominees for the ExCEL Award.

2005

January

A request for a variance to construct a storage building in a residentially zoned district was discussed at a public hearing by the Brandon City Council. The council made no decision and continued the hearing until its February meeting.

February

Vicki Carlson's second grade class at Brandon led the crowd at the girls' basketball game in the Pledge of Allegiance and also presented it in sign language.

March

NordicAmerica developer Tom Hertz asked for and received a 2-year extension on his agreements with the City of Brandon and Brandon Townships for annexation of land into the Brandon city limits.

April

A survey sent to elementary Brandon School parents indicated 42 would not, 22 would and three mixed on sending elementary children to Evansville in an agreement which would also send 7-12 students from Evansville to Brandon.

May

The Brandon School Board discussed the summer projects which include replacing a section of the sidewalk near the main entrance and a project to test the tile on the stage for asbestos.

June

The Brandon-Evansville softball team claimed the Section 6A crown and earned a trip to the state tournament.

July

The Brandon School Board approved a contract with Marsha Talley to be the high school's new math instructor.

August

Brightly colored mosaics now adorn the top of the entrance to the Brandon Early Childhood Center room.

September

The Brandon School Board approved the maximum levy amount of \$244,969.93 for the coming year.

October

The Brandon Fire Department at its meeting authorized donations totalling \$5,000 to the ongoing Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

November

Incumbents Debra Sullivan and Kent Hintermeister were re-elected to the Brandon School Board with newcomer Randy Bettermann also elected.

December

The Brandon School was sent a letter from the Minnesota Department of Education congratulating the district on the success of its secondary reading and math tests.

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News from the past 25 years

January

Brandon-Evansville girls' basketball Coach Dick Simpson records his 400th win with a victory over Henning.

February

The Brandon Early Childhood Center room was full of noise as parents and children took part in Fathers Reading Every Day (F.R.E.D).

March

Grant Trisko of Brandon High School is one of 28 Minnesota high school juniors to be selected to receive the Minnesota State High School League's ExCEL Award.

April

The last week of March was a busy one for Brandon seventh grader Hannah Olson, daughter of Brent and Sandee Olson. She spent the week in the nation's capital touring the sites and having fun.

May

The Brandon City Council recently passed a motion to increase water rates for the city. The increase will be reflected on the second quarter billing cycle.

June

The first Brandon "Miss Tootsie" contest was held with six contestants vying for the title. Wearing the crown after the competition was Jon Dingwall.

July

Volunteers braved the heat to put down a new layer of wood chips on the Brandon School playground.

August

Brandon is host to a busy and fun 125th celebration. The event was simply excellent from beginning to end.

PROGRESS

Continued from page 5

wheat buyer for the Interstate Grain Company in Brandon for the season. Prices must have been fair, for Jacob Hagedorn was reported to have purchased a span of horses from Amos Johnson for \$230. The year must have been busy, since in October, George L. Mays retired as the owner of the Brandon Roller Mills, and Messrs Meissner, Barsness and T. Eigan assumed full control over the mill. The wheat that fall had been coming in faster than the boys could handle it, or so the reports stated.

As the year wound down, Brandon residents in 1891 could mark it up as having been a good year in town. S.J. King had put in a large stock of merchandise, and reported that business was lively. A new furniture and hardware store under the management of Dr. Cappellen had opened, advertising furniture at the lowest prices, and two other business establishments also were opening their doors, a restaurant, and a dry goods store. Ten years after incorporation, Brandon had boomed.

By 1916, business has stabilized in Brandon, which by then had the record for having shipped more grain than any other depot in the country in 1915. 1916 businesses were listed as follows:

Victor Beraud, barber; Brandon Cement and Tile Factory; Brandon Creamery Association; Brandon Co-operative Creamery; Brandon Farmer's Grain Co. ; Brandon Farmer's and Merchant's Union Elevator Co.; Brandon Forum; Brandon Grain Co.; Brandon Hotel; Brandon Meat Market; Brandon Lumber Co. ; Brandon Potato Co. ; Brandon State Bank; Insurance Agent A.B. Burke; Farmers State Bank of Brandon; Farmer's and

Merchants Co-operative Telephone Co.; A.G. Haber, flour; Holmgreen and Christenson, general merchants; Hoplin and Berg, hardware; Nels Kronberg, blacksmith and farm implements; P.A. Larson, garage; August

ROOM

Continued from page 19

but the new office gives them the quality space they deserve. The office was also a collaborative effort itself with the counters and cabinets made by the Brandon industrial arts class.

"With the additional office space, staff are able to have a place away from the classroom for organizing their projects and paperwork. It also enables them to have space for individual conferences, assessments, etc. My ideal preschool classroom has no teacher space in it. I really believe that the children should have the entire room available to them for their exploration. This gives them a sense of ownership in their own learning and they really make great gains! Having staff space separate from the classroom is a great bonus in this site!" Rolf pointed out.

Changes to the room also include the addition of an elevator which allows for staff and children to ride to the first floor.

The room has provided an opportunity for parents and children to be part of something special. When the children are together, there is no separation of those who are in one program and those who are in another and Rolf feels that is something worthwhile.

"All the children who use the room have benefitted from having a variety of appropriate equipment that is only possible through our collaboration. Children and families are served as a com-

Lehn, livery; Leonard Olund and Co., general merchandise; Dr. Meckstroth; John Melby, painter; Moe and Urness Township Mutual Fire Insurance Co.; Olson Hardware and Implement Co.; T.F. Olson, insurance;

Casper Pehan, confectionery; C.A. Ringdall, drugs; P.J. Seidlinger, harness; L.H. Swingen, blacksmith; Jacob Tamble, furniture; B. T. Teigen, general merchandise; G.R. Videen, restaurant.

munity without identifying who is in which program. Children benefit from the expertise of all the staff who work in the room. For those children who will be going to Brandon School, they become familiar with the building and with other staff who work there. All the children learn about school behavior... we have a long walk through the halls to the lunchroom! The school personnel have been so welcoming and helpful to the preschool that we really feel privileged to be able to give children the opportunity to learn in such a setting," Rolf said.

The early childhood programs in Brandon are impressive because of the rare fact they are intertwined and operate together. This was not forgotten by certain people in the state of Minnesota.

The programs were selected to take part in the Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative project which seeks to emphasize and promote cooperation between parents and early childhood professionals, schools and the community to create a better opportunity for young people to thrive in learning before entering kindergarten. Inclusion in the initiative has meant the formation of a community coalition of parents, early childhood staff, school staff and community members to meet, brainstorm and come up with ways to make things better on all levels for young children and the community as a whole.

The community has been a

big supporter of the early childhood programs in Brandon. Help in funding scholarship program needs has been received from the Brandon Lions, Brandon and Millerville fire departments, Millerville V.F.W., Gardonville Co-op Telephone, and the Douglas County United Way.

The coalition has met for the past few years, mostly in the early childhood room and has come up with many ideas for young children and their parents to experience different ways to learn. Events have included stressing the importance of reading and family fun nights as well as participation in the Brandon Mid-Summerfest, the Brandon Easter Egg Hunt and holding a candidates' forum before the 2004 election.

The room is also used by other groups such as the Douglas County Extension Service which recently held one of its Day Camps at the facility.

With many thanks!

This special section prepared for Brandon's 125th celebration could not have happened without the help of many people, including: Catherine, Emily, Clair and Evan Bedore; Katrina Budke and everyone who provided interviews, information and previewed stories for us.

Your assistance in the preparation of this section is greatly appreciated.

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Congratulations Brandon on 125 years of progress and growth

Brandon, MN - a great small town that's getting bigger



The Brandon City Council members include, front row, left to right: Mary Lee Korkowski, Mayor Doug Johnson and Clerk Debra Grommesh. Back row, Harold "Skip" Brethorst, Mike Ranweiler and Jerry Bitzan.

Over the past 25 years, the town of Brandon has expanded its boundaries and increased the number of businesses and the number of residential dwellings.

The latest expansion of the city is the Deere Run development which is in its first phase. The development is filling up fast with several houses already completed and others under construction.

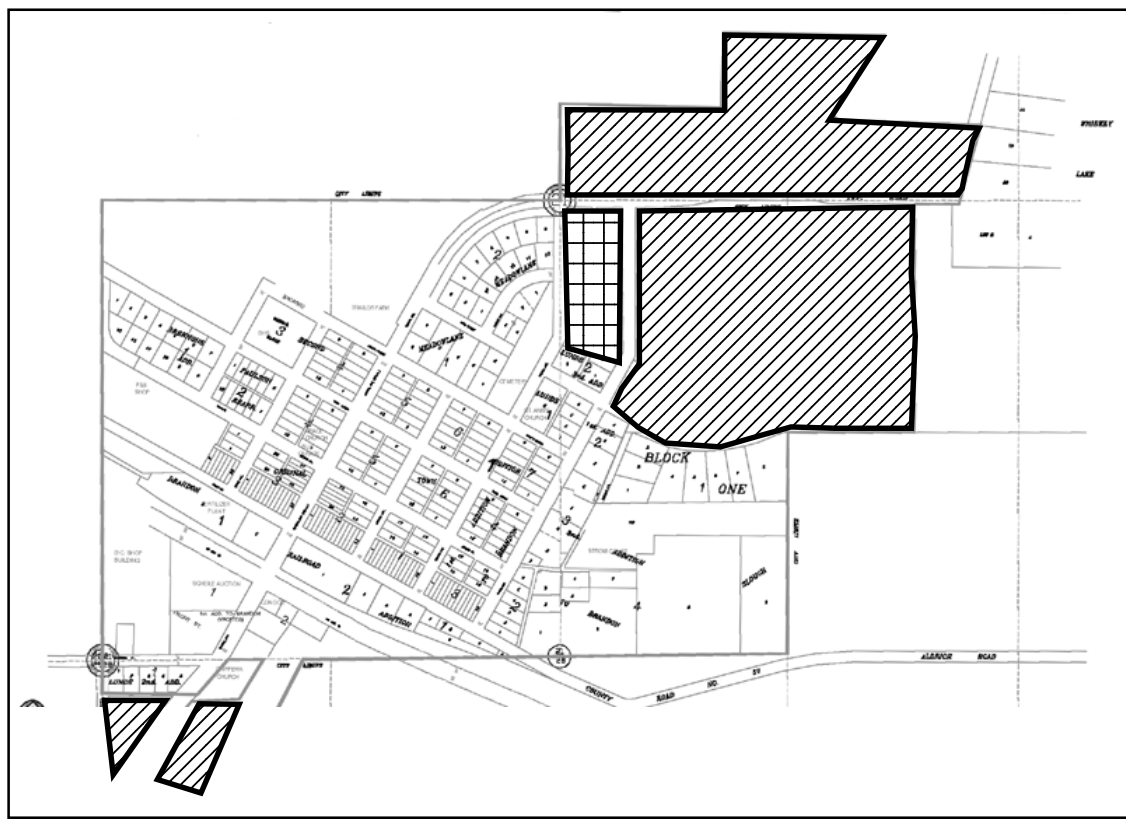
Prior to the Deere Run opportunities for building, there were over a dozen lots available between Nelson St. and Hayes Avenue in Meadowview Estates. These lots were filled with single-family

structures, a town-home and a four-plex.

Annexation has also allowed two new businesses to locate to the city. The first was PROTHERM and the second was VoyageR Aluminum. Wagner Gravel also built a new building in the area, which is located in the northwest part of town on County Road Highway 7.

The city has seen changes in other ways as well.

An extensive sewer project completed a few years ago updated the lines which were badly in need of repair. The repair tore up city streets for an entire summer but in the end the city had an improved



The map above shows the growth of Brandon over the past 25 years. The areas with diagonal lines indicate land annexed into the city limits while the portion with squares is a residential development, Meadow View, built within the city during the past 25 years.

sewer system with new pipes. This should keep a project of this magnitude from happening for another 20 years or so. One of the contributing factors to the progress of the city is an active Economic Development Authority which helps projects move forward.

Changes to the city have also included additional storage space at Pro-Ag Servic-

es, expansion of the trailer court, the building of a motel, and the construction of two convenience stores as well as a building built for Brethorst Excavating.

County Road 82 runs through Brandon and was recently reconstructed to make the road much more drivable than its previous cracked and bumpy condition.

The city continues to operate the Brandon Liquor Store, which contributes to the general fund and helps keep the taxes lower than they would be if it were not open.

Over the years the city council has been a progressive group open to new business and development while at the same time keeping city spending to a minimum.

Annexation of land into the city limits comes from Brandon Township, which surrounds the town. The annexation has been orderly and without protest as the two units of government have worked together to help the city grow.

This summer, the only gravel road remaining in the city is scheduled to be paved as Hayes Avenue from 5th Street north, will be improved with curb, gutter and a bituminous surface.



These are the new houses so far in the Deere Run development.

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Brandon Lions lend a hand in many ways

When there is a need for anything in Brandon or the area those looking for aid always end up at the Brandon Lions Club to make a request for funds. More of-

ten than not, if the cause is worthy, the Brandon Lions do what they can to help.

Since March 3, 1969 when the Brandon Lions Club was founded, people have had a

group of individuals they know they can turn to for assistance in what they are trying to do.

When the Brandon Lions began, there were 28 mem-

bers on the roster and now they number 38. The club meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Community Center.

The ideal of the Lions International Clubs is that its members are dedicated to the idea that men and women who live in a community are in the best position to know who needs help and this is admirably practiced by the Brandon Lions.

The list of donations the Brandon Lions contribute to each year is long and helps the young, old and everyone in between.

The club gives out three scholarships named after deceased members to high school graduates in Brandon and Evansville. The scholarships are named after Les Anderson, Francis Fuller and Robert Schultz.

The Brandon Summer Recreation Project, Brandon Schools, Brandon/Evansville Cub Scout Pack No. 445, American Legion baseball and the Brandon Senior Citizens all benefit from the generous donations of the

Brandon Lions.

The Brandon Lions are also approached by individuals who need donations to take a trip connected with an educational experience, and if a good case is presented, they will gladly help out.

In addition to the local donations the club also awards a Melvin Jones Award and contributes to the Lions Club International Foundation and Lions Hearing Dog Project.

Members of the club are busy year-around with club projects. You will see the yellow-jacketed members at an annual youth fishing seminar, parking cars at the Douglas County Fair, cleaning up road ditches, putting up the boards for the ice rink in Brandon and helping the Edgefield Cemetery project.

Perhaps the most well-known event put on by the club each year is the annual Brandon Lions barbeque chicken feed. This is an enormous task which takes lots of people doing lots of things: getting the pits ready, getting the coals hot, getting the chicken ready, making sure

See LIONS, page 33.



Left to right, Myron Severson, charter member of Brandon Lions; Greg Slack, president; Bob Reynolds, first vice president; Jim Ondracek, second vice president; Bob Piotrowski, third vice president; and Harold Peterson, secretary. Back row, Dennis Preston, treasurer; John Pennie, Lion Tamer; John Rolf, Lion Tail Twister; Paul Lauthen, 2 year board member and Leila Hanson, 3 year board member. Not pictured is Dan Botner, 1 year board member.



The line is long but the wait is worth it because the food is so good at the Brandon Lions barbeque chicken feed during the Brandon Mid-Summerfest.



Scott Nelson of Nelson's Store in Evansville and Brandon Lions member Mike Ranweiler with a box for glass donations at the store. The Lions also have a collection box at Bremer Bank in Brandon.

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LIONS

Continued from page 32

the baked potatoes are done, the corn is ready to serve and all the things that make for a great meal are ready including the drinks, sour cream and buttered bread.

The Brandon Lions chicken feed is known far and wide as one of the best summer meals around. That's why the line forms early and lasts a long time. No one

complains about the wait because the payoff is worth it.

Besides the chicken feed, the Brandon Lions also have a raffle during Mid-Summerfest to raise funds that will be used to help others.

Another presence of the Brandon Lions is in many parades in towns around the area. The club drives the float upon which sit the roy-

alty of the Brandon Mid-Summerfest Pageant.

The Brandon Lions are also involved in the "Recycle for Sight" eyeglass recycling projects with collection boxes in Brandon and Evansville. The club members also pack and distribute Jingle Bells baskets.

Each fall, the club puts on

a Peace Poster contest for sixth graders in Brandon and Evansville. The contest has a theme each year and the students put together a poster with that theme. The posters are judged and three prizes are given out at each school.

The club also rents out tents and picnic tables.

The Lions were founded in 1917 in Chicago, IL by Melvin Jones. The club offers business and professional people a way of sharing their success by helping those less fortunate than themselves. Currently there are more than 46,000 local clubs around the world with over 1.4 million members in 192

countries.

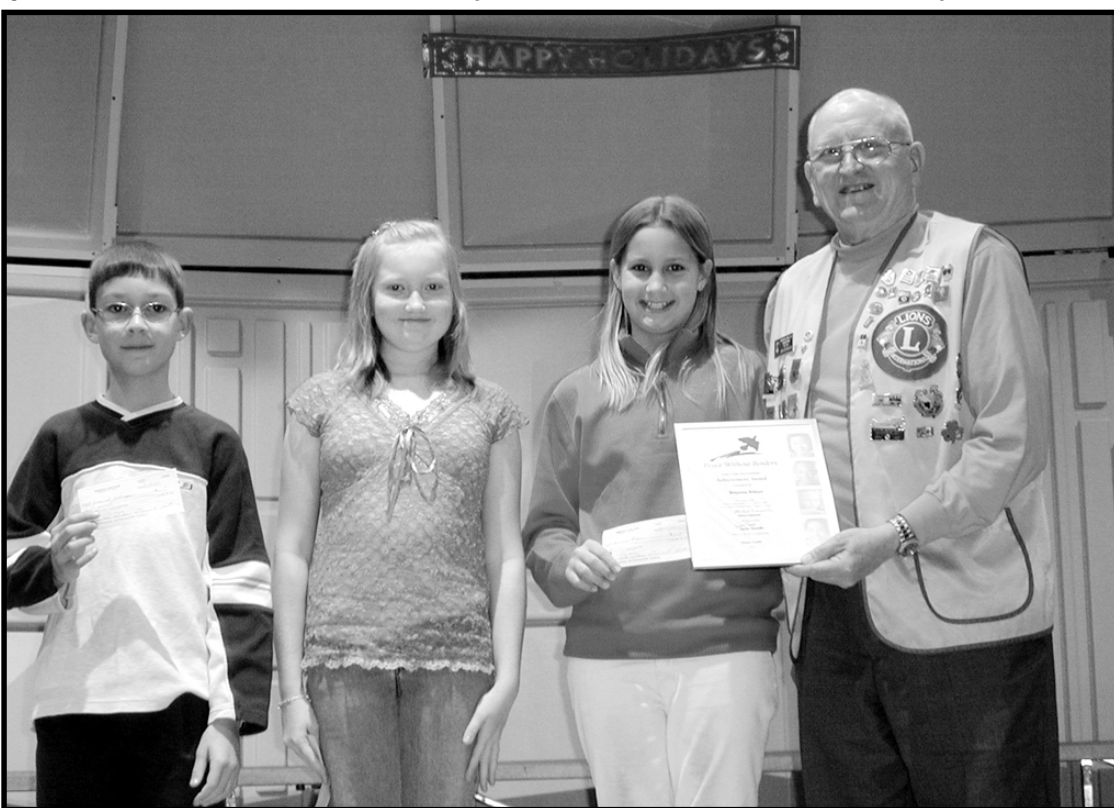
The Brandon Lions Club is in District 5M-4, Region 4, Zone 2.

The Lions association is both non-political and non-sectarian. While members of the Lions speak many languages and profess many religious and political beliefs, they all subscribe to common objectives and ethical principals.

Because of the hard work and dedication of the Brandon Lions to so many worthy causes, this area has been enriched and made a better place to live and work and for that, many, many, many people need to say "Thank you, Brandon Lions".



The Peace Poster contest is sponsored each year by the Brandon Lions. The Brandon 6th grade Peace Poster contest winners, above, include first place Hunter Plaster, second place Tasmine Okerlund and third place Tyson Meissner. Below are the Evansville winners, left to right: Second place, Jeremiah Johnson, third place, Amanda Englund and first place, Brianna Bitzan. In both photos the presentation of the awards was by Brandon Lions member Bob Reynolds.



Brandon Lions Club Donations

- Les Anderson Memorial Scholarship
- Francis Fuller Memorial Scholarship
- Robert Schultz Memorial Scholarship
- Jingle Bells
- Brandon Summer Recreation
- Brandon Schools
- Brandon/Evansville Cub Scout Pack No. 445
- Lions Leader Dog Project
- Legion Baseball
- Lions Club International Foundation
- Lions Hearing Dog Project
- Melvin Jones Award
- Brandon Senior Citizens

Brandon Lions Club Projects

- Youth Fishing Seminar
- Edgefield Cemetery
- Douglas County Fair Car Parking
- Community Sign
- Road ditch clean up
- Brandon Lions Park
- Ice skating rink
- Summerfest chicken feed
- Summerfest raffle
- Tent rental
- Picnic table rental
- "Recycle for Sight" eyeglass recycling
- Pack and distribute Jingle Bells
- Peace Poster Contest
- Lions parade float.

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Charger girls bring home state title in 1999

It was the worst of times. The Brandon-Evansville girls' basketball team lost three of their four final games of the 1998-99 season.

B-E Coach Dick Simpson said of one of those games: "If we had stood in the ocean tonight and shot we probably would have missed the water."

The losses also resulted in no out-right Little Eight Conference title. The Chargers would have to settle for a 3-way first-place tie.

B-E ended the regular season on a positive note with a win over Bertha-Hewitt as they headed into the playoffs as the No. 1 team in the Northeast Division

The playoffs began with a Charger win over Bertha-Hewitt 55-45. The Chargers followed this up with a victory over Hancock 47-41 to advance to the section semifinals.

The next victim for the Chargers was Underwood with B-E besting the Rockets 51-37 to set up a section final against Rothsay.

In the section championship game, the Chargers built a lead that was as large as 14 points. However, the Tigers were able to battle back, but B-E held on for a 47-41 win and trip to the state tournament.

In the opening round of the state event, the Chargers faced off against a seasoned Red Lake Falls team with plenty of state tournament experience. However the Chargers proved to just be too much for the Eagles as B-E left the Concordia Field House with a 44-39 win and a ticket to "The Barn" for the state semifinals.

In the second round the Chargers faced off against Waubun. The Bombers held the momentum in the early going but the Chargers did their talking from the free

throw line. Whenever the Bombers were unfortunate enough to put a Charger player at the line, there was a good chance the baskets would be converted.

As the game went on the Chargers set the tone of the contest and seemed to be right at home in Williams Arena.

The Chargers were up 40-31 after three periods and never looked back.

B-E put 32 points on the board from the free throw line on their way to a 54-43 win. The effort from the free-throw line broke a state record for the most free throws made in a contest.

The win propelled the Chargers into the state final against Red Rock Central, arguably the best team in the state.

The argument would be settled the next day on the court in a 32-minute contest and not with the exchange of words.

As the warm-ups were going on and the bands were playing, Charger fans were filled with hope but there was also some doubt knowing how good Red Rock Central was and the fact they had averaged 65 points in their previous two games.

Previous glory was erased as the ball was lofted for the opening tip and both teams began the game as equals.

The opening quarter found the lead changing hands several times with neither team being able to get much of an advantage on the scoreboard.

The first period ended as it began with a tie with each team having 17 points so the teams were right back where they started with three quarters now deciding the state champion.

In the second period, the Chargers managed to find a way to outscore Red Rock Central 11-8 for a slim 28-25



The state champion Chargers and their trophy.

halftime edge.

Four free throws to open the third period quickly expanded the Charger's lead.

B-E managed to increase its lead by nine points in the third period but had to settle for a 7-point 43-36 advantage going into the final period.

In those final eight minutes, the Chargers took control. After the first half of the quarter was gone B-E enjoyed a 10-point advantage. With the clock ticking down, the Falcons had to foul to put the Chargers at the free throw line and the players came through with free throw after free throw to erase any doubt well before the final buzzer who was going to win the contest.

As the final seconds ticked down and the buzzer sounded, the argument had been settled. B-E, with its quick, aggressive offense, disruptive defense and 82 percent shooting from the free throw line had earned a state title, the gold medals and a unique

trophy with a 61-46 win.

Right after the contest, the Charger players erupted in joy over their accomplishment. They were all over the place. After receiving their medals, they even took a couple of victory laps around the gym.

"We decided to be aggressive and not sit back. We decided to go out and get them and we frustrated them," said Simpson.

When the team arrived back in Evansville, they were welcomed in style as conquering heroes should be. There was a reception at the Evansville gym that provided many with the opportunity to share in something special. The joy of winning the title could be seen on the smiles of the faces of the residents of the area because, simply, it was the best of times.

| 1988-89 Roster | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Name | No. | Grade |
| Mandy Week | 10/11 | 12 |
| Rachel Shea | 12/13 | 12 |
| Karen Siira | 14/15 | 11 |
| Lori Becker | 20/21 | 12 |
| Kami Jesnowski | 23/24 | 11 |
| Amy Becker | 24/25 | 11 |
| Debbie Thoennes | 30/31 | 11 |
| Sara Foslien | 32/33 | 11 |
| Stacy Roers | 35/34 | 11 |
| Jessica Hanson | 40/41 | 12 |
| Debbie Slack | 42/43 | 11 |
| Emilie Week | 44/45 | 11 |
| Katie Arndt | 50/51 | 11 |
| Amber Quinn | 52/53 | 11 |
| Julie Thoennes | 54/55 | 10 |

Head Coach: Dick Simpson. Asst. Coaches: Jim Rolf, Tom Otte. Student managers: Cameo Harper, Sherri Guetter. Statisticians: Alison Ondracek, Jackie Teschendorf, Marlana Shea.

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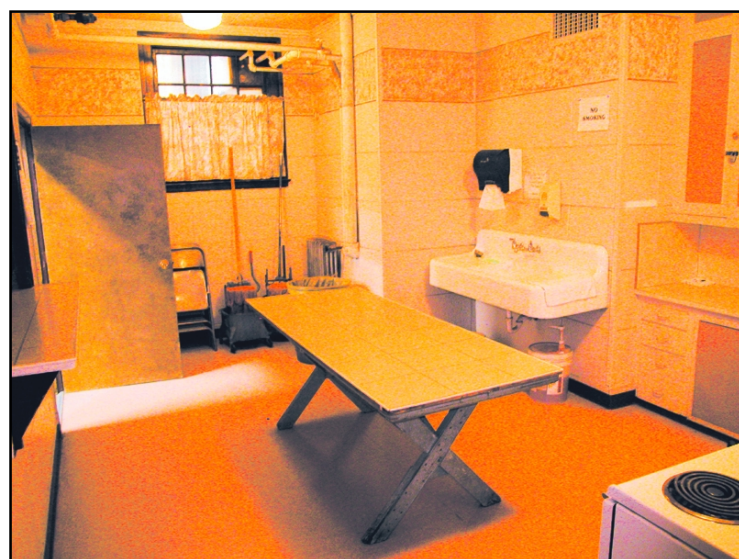
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Artwork has always been a part of the auditorium. Above is a picture, painted by artist Elsa Jemne, that dates from the early days of the building and has been seen by many during the numerous events. It hung in the gym part of the building for many years. It was moved when a hanging ceiling was installed but will again be seen by visitors once it is put back in its familiar place. Wood sculptures by Joseph Bergman also adorn the auditorium. In the gym are two sculptures on the wall on both sides of the stage. One depicts an early settler with a raccoon skin cap and flintlock rifle. The other is a Native American. There are also three wood sculptures in the council chambers which depict farming as it has progressed during the years.



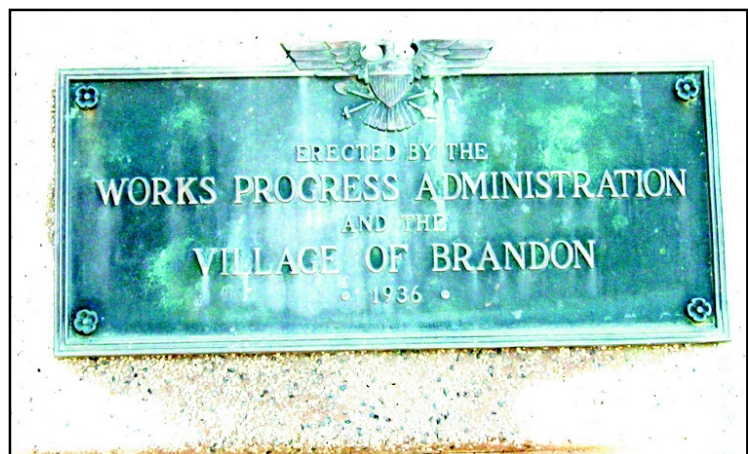
This is the door to the ticket booth. The small space was responsible for selling thousands of tickets over the years as the building was used for movies, dances and basketball games.



The kitchen area of the building is where meals have been prepared for multitudes over the years. It is still used for that purpose today.



These two figures greet visitors as they enter the Hall. The figures represent an athlete, on the left, and a musician. The figures were part of the original construction of the hall and are made out of casted concrete.



This plaque on the outside of the auditorium indicates it was built by the Works Progress Administration.



The gym space of the Brandon City Hall is the centerpiece of the building. The space has been the site of many activities including high school basketball games, wedding and school dances, public meetings, plays, holiday parties and even elections.

Walking onto the gym floor at the Brandon Auditorium, it is easy to forget how many people have trod this floor down through the 70 years of this building's life.

The gym has been the focal point of events too numerous to mention as the decades have gone by.

Entering the gym by yourself, you can almost hear through the silence the basketballs bouncing, the bands playing, the actors delivering their lines, the public officials making their speeches, the toasts at the wedding dances, the eating of popcorn during movie showings.

It was automatic to use the Hall for any imaginable event because it is simply the best place to gather in the Brandon Area.

Through most of the 1950s, the gym was home to high school basketball games. Such gym configurations are rare to find these days with the court lines literally against the walls and the spectators watching from above in the balconies.

People who were young when the Hall opened its doors in 1936 enjoyed the

building then as children and, if they remained in the area, they enjoyed it with their children and are now enjoying it with their grandchildren who are drawn to the

gym for scout meetings, Easter egg hunts, Halloween parties or to take part in a play.

Basketballs still bounce on the floor as it is used by the

Brandon School for certain grades to practice and for youth basketball.

The gym has undergone some changes recently with a new ceiling, door and paint.

No matter how it changes, it will always be the place that brings people together as they go through life because it is part of their life.



The Hall was the location for the first-ever Brandon Miss Tootsie contest which had a packed house as the contestants provided top-notch entertainment. The event was sponsored by the Brandon Community Club.