

Summit showdown

Two top teams in conference meet in Brookings. PAGE 12



Politics + religion

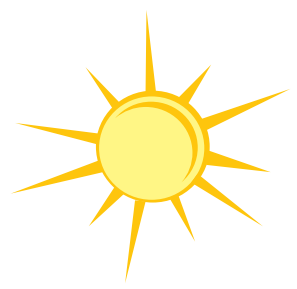
Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio, are praying to be spared from deportation. PAGE 6



Weather

Sunny, with a high near 51. We didn't make that up. That's the real number. Starting with a five.

MORE WEATHER ON PAGE 3



The Brookings Register

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Rhoden makes Lt. Gov. choice

Tony Venhuizen is longtime presence in state GOP.

By SETH TUPPER & JOSHUA HAIAR
South Dakota Searchlight

A Sioux Falls legislator and longtime presence in South Dakota Republican politics, Tony Venhuizen, is Gov. Larry Rhoden's pick for lieutenant governor.

Rhoden announced his choice Wednesday morning at the Capitol in Pierre, two days after he was sworn in as governor. Rhoden succeeded former Gov. Kristi Noem, who resigned Saturday to become secretary of the federal Department of Homeland Security.

Rhoden's nomination of Venhuizen is subject to approval by the Legislature.

"Tony is a problem solver for the people of South Dakota," Rhoden said in a press release. "He is never shy to show leadership and take on challenging issues."

Venhuizen is a 42-year-old attorney and native of Armour, a small town in southeastern South Dakota. He's also the son-in-law of Republican former Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Venhuizen and his wife, Sara, have three school-age children.

He earned his bachelor's degree in political science and history from South Dakota State University in 2005 and his juris doctorate from the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law in 2008.

Venhuizen served for 10 years in the Governor's Office, including time as chief of staff to Daugaard and Noem.

Since 2023, Venhuizen See LT, page 2



Tony Venhuizen

20 Larson jobs leaving Brookings

By JAY ROE
The Brookings Register

BROOKINGS — Twenty professional jobs at Larson Manufacturing are being moved to a Chicago suburb, according to the storm door maker's parent company. The affected Brookings employees will face a choice to either relocate or accept a severance package.

Parent company Fortune Brand Innovations said in a release they are consolidating regional administrative offices nationwide into a two-building campus in Deerfield, made possible in part through tax credits from the state of Illinois. They plan to have more than 1,000 employees working out of the new

See LARSON, page 2



Courtesy photo

Twenty professional jobs will leave Larson's Brookings facility.

Man dies in prison

22-year-old got 15 years for first-degree rape in 2021.

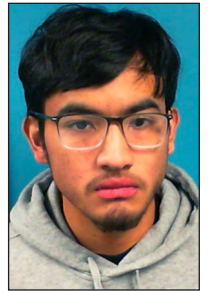
By JOSH LINEHAN
The Brookings Register

SIoux FALLS — A Brookings man serving a 15-year sentence for rape has died at the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls at age 22.

Tajhon Cayou died at a Sioux Falls hospital on Jan. 27, according to a news release from the South Dakota Department of Corrections.

Cayou was sentenced to 15 years at the state pen after pleading guilty to first-degree rape in Brookings County Circuit Court in July of 2021.

According to court documents the victim was a 12-year-old girl who immediately reported the assault to a school counselor, who immediately reported it to authorities.



Tajhon Cayou

According to contemporaneous Register reporting, Cayou fled Brookings County in 2021. He was apprehended in Nebraska on a warrant.

Cayou was then ultimately extradited back to Brookings County to face charges in a multi-state effort.

In exchange for Cayou's guilty plea, a second count of first-degree rape was dismissed.

First-degree rape is a Class C felony in South Dakota punishable by up to life in prison and a \$50,000 fine. The conviction carried a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Circuit Judge Greg Stoltenburg found no mitigating factors to deviate from the mandatory minimum. And a pre-sentence psycho-sexual evaluation found him a higher than average risk to reoffend, according to the Register story when Cayou was sentenced.

Inquiries as to the cause and manner of death of Cayou were not returned by press time.

— Linehan is the Register's managing editor and welcomes comments a jlinehan@brookingsregister.com



Mondell Keck/Brookings Register file photo

Recovery efforts are continuing in downtown Brookings from the Dec. 30 blaze at Brost's Fashions, which destroyed the business and caused damage and destruction to other nearby businesses and apartments.

Brost's fire ruled accident, cause unknown

By MONDELL KECK
The Brookings Register

BROOKINGS — The Brost's Fashions fire in downtown Brookings on Dec. 30 has been ruled accidental in nature and its cause officially undetermined.

The new information came to light from Brookings Fire Chief Pete Bolzer in a Wednesday news release from the city. The blaze at 318 Main Ave. collapsed the building housing Brost's Fashions, partially collapsed the building housing Seven Songbirds Boutique at 320

Main Ave., and damaged several other businesses. Twelve apartments were also affected at the time, with four destroyed, leaving an estimated 18 people looking for a place to live.

In an earlier story in the Brookings Register, Bolzer said the fire originated in the business's basement. The release from city further noted that it was in the area of an electrical service panel.

"It was probably one of the nastiest, most contrary fires I've ever fought in 45 years," Bolzer said in the See FIRE, page 2

Brookings, Aberdeen to partner

First Impressions program aims to give fresh look.

By MONDELL KECK
The Brookings Register

BROOKINGS — How people perceive others plays a crucial role when it comes to things such as school, work or just living life in general — and that adage also applies to communities taking part in the new First Impressions program, such

as Brookings and Aberdeen.

"We're really excited to be part of the inaugural First Impressions program in the state of South Dakota," Visit Brookings Executive Director Laura Schoen Carbonneau said at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. "The closest comparison that we can use to explain what this is, is it's kind of like a secret shopper program, but it's across the entire community."

The program is over-

seen by South Dakota State University Extension and involves each community sending a group of volunteers to its "sister" community to assess their partner's strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of someone who's never been there before.

Schoen Carbonneau said Aberdeen was chosen to serve as the "sister" community to Brookings because both cities share similarities, including population, manufactur-

ing, higher education and family friendly attractions.

The effort in Brookings is being spearheaded by Visit Brookings, Downtown Brookings and the Brookings Area Chamber of Commerce.

The goal is to have each volunteer group comprised of a retired couple, a young family, a single person and so on. The volunteers will receive some training as well and, ideally, won't be familiar with their destination. See CITY, page 2



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Brookings HEALTH SYSTEM

Trump power grabs spark constitutional crisis

Associated Press

Just a little over a week into his second term, President Donald Trump took steps to maximize his power, sparking chaos and what critics contend is a constitutional crisis as he challenges the separation of powers that have defined American government for more than 200 years.

The new administration's most provocative move came this week, as it announced it would temporarily halt federal payments to ensure they complied with Trump's orders barring diversity programs. The technical-sounding directive had enormous immediate impact before it was blocked by a federal judge, potentially pulling trillions of dollars from police departments, domestic violence shelters, nutrition services and disaster relief programs that rely on federal grants. The administration on Wednesday rescinded the order.

Though the Republican administration denied Medicaid was affected, it acknowledged the online portal allowing states to file for reimbursement from the program was shut down for part of Tuesday in what it insisted was an error.

Legal experts noted the president is explicitly forbidden from cutting off spending for programs that Congress has approved. The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to appropriate money and requires the executive to pay it out. A 50-year-old law known as the Impoundment Control Act makes that explicit by prohibiting the president from halting payments on grants or other programs approved by Congress.

"The thing that prevents the president from being an absolute monarch is Congress controls the power of the purse strings," said

Josh Chafetz, a law professor at Georgetown University, adding that even a temporary freeze violates the law. "It's what guarantees there's a check on the presidency."

Democrats and other critics said the move was blatantly unconstitutional.

"What happened last night is the most direct assault on the authority of Congress, I believe, in the history of the United States," Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine, said Tuesday.

While some Republicans were critical, most were supportive.

"I think he is testing the limits of his power, and I don't think any of us are surprised by it," said Sen. Kevin Cramer, a North Dakota Republican who is close with Trump.

At first blush, the Trump administration appeared to be following the correct procedures in identifying potential spending cuts, and the Impoundment Control Act outlines a procedure for how they could become permanent, said Rachel Snyderman, a former official at the Office of Management and Budget who is now at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

Congress must eventually sign off on any cuts the administration wants to make, Snyderman said, though she noted that no president since Bill Clinton, a Democrat, has been successful in getting that done. Congress did not act on \$14 billion in impoundment cuts Trump proposed during his prior term, she said.

"We have to see what the next steps are," Snyderman said.

The attempt to halt grants came after Trump, who during the campaign pledged to be "a dictator on day one," has taken a number of provocative moves to challenge legal constraints on his

power. He fired the inspectors general of his Cabinet agencies without giving Congress the warning required by law, declared that there is an immigrant "invasion" despite low numbers of border crossings, is requiring loyalty pledges from new hires, challenged the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship and is moving career staff out of key positions at the Department of Justice to ensure his loyalists control investigations and prosecutions.

On Tuesday evening, the new administration made its latest move, trying to prune the federal workforce by offering pay until the end of September for those who agree to resign by the end of next week.

The Trump actions have all led to a cascade of court challenges contending he has overstepped his constitutional bounds. A federal judge in Seattle has already put on hold Trump's attempt to revoke birthright citizenship, calling it a blatant violation of the nation's foundational legal document. On Tuesday, nonprofit groups persuaded a federal judge in Washington to put the administration's spending freeze order on hold until a fuller hearing on Feb. 3.

Democratic attorneys general also rushed to court to block the order. New Mexico Attorney General Raul Torrez, a Democrat, said the swiftness of the court action against Trump's spending freeze demonstrates the "carelessness" of the order.

"My hope is that the president, working with Congress, can identify whatever his priorities are and can work through the normal constitutional order that is well established that limits the power of Democratic and Republican presidents," he said.

LARSON

Continued from page 1

center by the end of 2027. Fortune's digital headquarters will be in San Francisco. The company's manufacturing, distribution, sales offices and international facilities will be unaffected.

In an email, a company spokesperson for Fortune told *The Register* that production jobs in Brookings will not be impacted and the 20 people affected are being asked to relocate.

The spokesperson said, "we understand that some will choose to remain in their current city, and for those who elect not to move with their job, we are making sure they are supported with benefits and resources, including severance pay, COBRA and outplacement services. Associates who opt out of relocation will have a minimum 90-day advanced notice of their last day of work, and some associates will have a much longer notice period."

Fortune Brands announced a timeframe of between July and September for the job relocations. The company is offering impacted workers an "expenses-paid site visit, an enhanced relocation assistance program, and in most cases, an increase in base pay" if employees choose to move.

Fortune is the parent corporation of a number of other companies, including Moen, Therma-Tru and Master Lock. According to Forbes, the corporation has a market cap — or total value of outstanding shares of stock — of \$9.06 billion.

Larson Manufacturing was founded in 1954 by Oscar Larson, who initially ran the company as a one-man operation. In 1961, a manufacturing plant was built in Lake Mills, Iowa and the Brookings facility opened in 1964.

Dale Larson began his career with Larson Manufacturing in 1962, and led the expansion of manufacturing to Brookings. When Oscar Larson died in 1968, Dale Larson became the Larson Manufacturing Company president and CEO.

Dale Larson remains a prominent Brookings and South Dakota philanthropist, donating tens of millions to numerous causes and groups, including the Humanities Council, Habitat for Humanity, the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains and the Brookings Ice Skating Association — Larson Ice Center in Brookings bears his name.

Fortune Brands completed their acquisition of Larson in December of 2020. In September of 2022, Fortune closed the Iowa plant and Larson facilities in Texas and Mississippi — a move that resulted in 300 employee layoffs.

Email Jay Roe at jroe@brookingsregister.com.

CITY: Price of golf is going up at Edgebrook

Continued from page 1

tion community.

"These visits will happen in the summer; that just seems to be the best time to visit both communities," Schoen Carbonneau said. "You don't have to worry about weather, you can really get out and enjoy the outdoor opportunities."

The final report will be provided in the fall by SDSU Extension to city leaders and the broader community.

"This tool is particularly useful because as a matter of human nature, all communities have difficulties viewing their surroundings as others — customers, visitors, potential residents, and potential businesses — see them," per information from SDSU Extension. "Our views are skewed by over-familiarization, a lack of differing

perspectives, expectations, and a reluctance to be completely honest with our neighbors when dealing with difficult issues, such as the appearance of buildings, customer service, and the maintenance of public facilities."

Schoen Carbonneau has high hopes for the program, which won't cost Brookings anything to participate in because of its inaugural nature.

"We think it will definitely be a nice opportunity to just get those fresh eyes," she said. "If it turns out that there's something that is maybe needing to be addressed, that's something that we can as a community take a look at and say, 'Huh. This is what people coming to our community think about our community. Is it something that maybe we need to address?'"

In other business at Tuesday night's meeting, councilors:

- Learned that the School of American and Global Studies at SDSU is hosting a "Religion and Values" forum on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at the South Dakota Art Museum, 1036 Medary Ave. The speaker will be Kristen Renwick Monroe, a political scientist whose research explores the moral courage of individuals in times of crisis. The public is invited to attend.

- On a 6-0 vote, with Councilor Brianna Doran absent, approved an ordinance accepting the report from the Brookings City Charter Commission and setting an April 8 election date for submission of the proposed changes to the city's voters. Essentially, the charter is the city's equivalent of the U.S. Constitution.

- Approved, on a 6-0 vote, higher rates at Edgebrook Golf Course.

- Agreed to rezone 1115 W. 20th St. from Agriculture A District to Residence R-3 Apartment District, and also gave the green light to a preliminary plat for Blocks 1-4 of Prairie Sunset Addition.

Both were 6-0 votes, and are steps toward what will eventually become a large-scale residential development with 99 housing units — 41 twin homes and 17 single-family homes.

The approvals came only after a resident's concerns regarding water and traffic issues were addressed. Plus, there are other regulatory steps that still need to be taken, so the issue will be before the City Council again at some point.

— Contact Mondell Keck at mkeck@brookingsregister.com.

FIRE: \$22,000 raised to help those affected by blaze

Continued from page 1

Jan. 3 story. "The fire wasn't what it appeared to be. It didn't behave the way we expected it to behave, and it seemed like we were behind the eight ball constantly."

Financial assistance

A fundraising update was also provided Wednesday by Downtown Brookings Executive Director Kirsten Gjesdal. In a word, things are going well.

"We now have a, in partnership with Brookings Economic Development (Corp.), we have an application out for businesses to apply for relief funds, and that is a combination of funds put in by BEDC and the hat have been received," she told the *Brookings Register*. "That is out now, and so we're hoping that will help with those businesses that were affected."

Gjesdal said those unexpected fire-related costs include things such as item inventory, remediation, insurance deductibles, etc. The

application is available online at brookingsedc.com/business; click on the button titled "Downtown Brookings Business Fire Relief Grant Program."

Money-wise, she said a little over \$22,000 has been raised so far; of that, \$10,000 has been dispersed to residents — such as apartment tenants — who were affected by the blaze. The remaining funds, including money that has yet to come in from other fundraisers and money jars, will be directed toward fire-impacted businesses.

"That number is definitely growing," Gjesdal said. "This is before we take in any of the jars that are distributed around the community — that's before any of that money has been deposited. There's been a couple of different fundraisers that haven't been deposited yet. That number is growing, which is, I think, amazing. It's a really fantastic show of community."

Water usage

Regarding the fire's cause being

officially undetermined, Bolzer said it shouldn't have any practical effect on insurance coverage.

"The fire cause has no bearing on insurance except if the insured utilizes the fire to commit fraud," he pointed out.

He also took a moment earlier this month to shine a light on the firefighters from Ramona — they, along with personnel from Volga and Madison, gave a hand to the Brookings Fire Department.

Bolzer said Ramona had a lot of volunteers in their certified firefighter class and inquired if they could come and assist — he expected five or six to show up, but was surprised when 10 to 12 arrived.

"They really wanted to come help us out, so I wasn't going to turn them down," he said. "Most of these are real young guys, and it was an educational experience for them. It's probably something none of them will ever experience again — hopefully not!"

In closing, City Councilor Bonny Specker provided insights

from Brookings Municipal Utilities regarding the city's water system performance during the Dec. 30 fire.

"The pressure did remain consistent throughout the fire," Specker reported during the Jan. 14 meeting. "They did have to turn on the pumps sort of at full capacity. The combined flow rate from all the efforts was 5,000 gallons per minute."

She said all the water towers remained above half full, which is critical for keeping pressure in the water lines. An estimated total of 1.6 million gallons of water was used to fight the blaze.

"Our crews worked tirelessly to contain the fire and prevent its spread to neighboring buildings, despite the significant hazards they faced," Bolzer said in the city's release. "On behalf of the Brookings Fire Department, I want to thank our mutual aid partners and the community members for their support."

— Contact Mondell Keck at mkeck@brookingsregister.com.

LT: Rhoden says he has not made up mind about running in '26

Continued from page 1

has served as a state representative from District 13 and as vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, which takes a lead role in crafting the state budget. He also chaired the Legislature's 100th Session Planning Committee in 2024. He resigned his seat in the legislature Wednesday, which will allow Rhoden to appoint a replacement.

Rhoden acknowledged Wednesday to reporters that throughout his and Venhuizen's service in state government, the two haven't agreed on everything. Rhoden said finding "a person with integrity" was more important than that.

"Sometimes we weren't on the same side, but we always had a lot of mutual respect," Rhoden said.

Beyond his experience in government, Venhuizen is president of the board of directors of the South Dakota Historical Society

Foundation, a member of the board of directors of the Trail of Governors Foundation and of the SDSU Research Park, and a former member of the board of directors of the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce.

As a hobby, Venhuizen maintains the SoDak Governors blog, where he writes about South Dakota political history. He also regularly updates a historical reference book he wrote, "The Governors of South Dakota."

Rhoden mentioned Venhuizen's historical expertise Wednesday. "He may know more about South Dakota's history than anyone I've ever met. And he uses that knowledge to help shape where our state is heading in the future."

Venhuizen thanked Rhoden for the opportunity to serve.

"It's a pretty surreal feeling," Venhuizen said.

"I'm not sure I've entirely absorbed it. But I'm looking forward to it."

The choice adds potential intrigue to the 2026 campaign for governor. Rhoden will serve the remainder of Noem's term through that year, and will have to choose whether to seek election.

Rhoden said Wednesday he has not made a decision about that.

"And I have no reason to not be honest with you," he added.

Meanwhile, Venhuizen said years ago while he was a student at SDSU that he wanted to be governor someday, and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, has long been considered a potential future candidate for governor. Current Attorney General Marty Jackley may also be interested in another run for governor after running unsuccessfully against Noem in a 2018 Republican gubernatorial primary.



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LOCAL/STATE

Brookings Activity Center News



Natalie Buenger, physical therapist with Avera, discussed how to deal with dizziness

Plenty of stuff going on at BAC

The Brookings Activity Center has been offering a wide range of exciting programs to kick off the year! January brought a mix of educational and creative opportunities, such as Navigating Dizziness with an Avera physical therapist, Propagating Household Plants with Bri from Flowers on Main, and crafting wine bottle snowmen. Members also explored Home Health Services and stayed active with fitness classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 a.m., included with membership.



Edna Noldan and Julie Hawks display their snowman wine bottles.



An SDSU nursing student provides foot care at the Brookings Activity Center.



Brookings Activity Center members participates in an exercise class.

SDSU hosting space settlement design contest for high schoolers

BROOKINGS — High school students wanting to keep their feet on the ground while still getting a good feel for what it would be like to live on Mars are encouraged to participate in the South Dakota Space Design Competition at South Dakota State University March 8-9.

The contest is part of an international event sponsored by Industry Simulation Education, which has been designing aerospace engineering contests since 1984, and is being hosted in South Dakota by SDSU's Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering.

Working as teams, students will be tasked with developing a request for proposals for a settlement in space. The contest will focus on initial settlements and beginning economic activity near and on Mars, so it is a good chance for students to exercise creativity and gain knowledge about what it takes to live in space.

SDSU graduate engineering students will serve as mentors.

Project specifics will not be announced to students until they arrive on campus March 8. Also, students will be matched with other students they do not know in order to add to the communications challenge. The top 10 students will advance to the world championships at Kennedy Space Center in July.

The contest begins at 8 a.m. March 8 and goes through the night with students to make their 20-minute presentations Sunday morning. Early Sunday afternoon one team will be announced as the South Dakota finalist. The event is to be completed by 3 p.m.

The cost is \$175 per student and includes meals, accommodations, all required material and an event T-shirt.

For more information, contact Jennifer Bickett, event coordinator at the Lohr College of Engineering at Jennifer.Bickett@sdstate.edu or 605-688-6792.

— From SDSU Marketing & Communications

Historian Meacham to speak in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS — Augustana University and the Center for Western Studies announced recently that the 28th Boe Forum on Public Affairs will feature an evening with Jon Meacham, presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. The talk, entitled "What Has America Learned?" will be held at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 19, in the Elmen Center on Augustana's campus.



Jon Meacham

Meacham, a former managing editor at Newsweek, is a highly sought-after commentator, regularly appearing on national news outlets, such as MSNBC and CNN. He is also a frequent guest on "Morning Joe," "Real Time With Bill Maher," "The 11th Hour" and was featured in Ken Burns' documentary series, "The Roosevelts: An Intimate History." In addition, Meacham has released two podcasts with the History Channel: "Hope Through History" and "It Was Said."

"The Center for Western Studies is thrilled to bring renowned historian Jon Meacham to Sioux Falls and the surrounding region as the first of two successive forums designed to commemorate America's 250th anniversary in 2026. We've asked Mr. Meacham to reflect on America's past and the lessons we have learned. Next year, the Boe Forum speaker will be asked to peer into the future of the American republic," said Dr. Harry Thompson, executive director of the CWS — the sponsor of the Boe Forum.

As an author, Meacham has written multiple New York Times bestsellers.

Meacham is also the co-author of "Impeachment: An American History," which reveals the complicated motives behind the three impeachments in U.S. history. His latest book, "The Call to Serve," honors the 100th anniversary of George H.W. Bush's birth — an illuminating portrait of a man who was more than his politics.

"Jon Meacham's renowned body of work on those most influential in shaping our nation's past and present, combined with his leadership and scholarly contributions, positions him to deliver one of the most insightful, hopeful and timely addresses in the history of the Boe Forum on Public Affairs," said Augustana President Stephanie Hersheth Sandlin. "His perspective will undoubtedly bring fresh and valuable context to the current state of our union, reminding us all that we are both called and empowered to contribute to a brighter tomorrow."

Meacham is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, fellow of the Society of American Historians and visiting professor at Vanderbilt University, where he holds the Rogers Chair in the American Presidency. In 2024, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Joe Biden and honored as a Library Lion of the New York Public Library.

Tickets for the 28th Boe Forum are free and available to the public beginning Monday, Feb. 10, at 8 a.m. To secure your free ticket, visit augie.edu/BoeTickets.

— From Augustana University

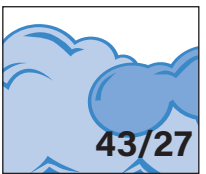
Brookings weather



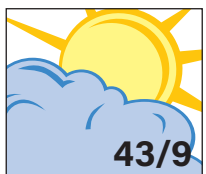
Thursday Sunny, with a high near 51. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon.
Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



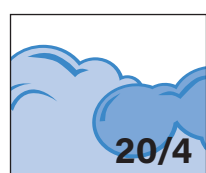
Friday Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. Breezy, with an east northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.



Saturday Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43.
Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.



Sunday Partly sunny, with a high near 43.
Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 9.



Monday Mostly cloudy, with a high near 20.
Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 4.

Information from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Sioux Falls

Student News

MSU-Moorhead dean's list

MOORHEAD, Minn., — The following students from the area have been named to the Minnesota State University Moorhead dean's list in recognition of academic achievement for fall semester 2024.

Brookings: Tyson Brandt and Madison Kepner
Egan: Joanna Stading
Colman: Addison Bates



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NATION

Private company's plane breaks the sound barrier

By HALLIE GOLDEN
The Associated Press

A sleek white aircraft became the first independently developed jet to break the sound barrier Tuesday, tearing through the air tens of thousands of feet above the Mojave Desert and a crowd of delighted onlookers.

The XB-1 aircraft accelerated to Mach 1.05 within about 11 minutes of taking off, according to Boom Supersonic and live video of the test flight.

The flight at the Mojave Air & Space Port in Mojave, California, took place as the company works to revive supersonic passenger travel, which died with the grounding of the Anglo-French Concorde more than two decades ago. Boom plans to focus next on the Overture airliner, which it says will carry as many as 80 passengers while moving at about twice the speed of today's subsonic airliners.

"XB-1's supersonic flight demonstrates that the technology for passenger supersonic flight has arrived," Boom founder and CEO Blake Scholl said in a statement. "A small band of talented and dedicated

engineers has accomplished what previously took governments and billions of dollars."

The aircraft, which flew for the first time in March, is made almost completely from lightweight carbon fiber. It uses an augmented reality vision system to help with landing, since its long nose and high-angle approach can make it difficult for pilots to see.

"The future of aviation is here and now," Amy Marino Spowart, president and CEO of the National Aeronautic Association, said in a statement. "Not only is there hope for faster and better commercial flight, but Boom proves that it can be done sustainably."

Boom is one of several companies with an eye on supersonic passenger travel. Any new such service will likely face the same hurdles as the Concorde, which flew over the Atlantic and was barred from many overland routes because of the sonic booms it caused.

Sonic booms are heard on the ground when airplanes fly faster than the speed of sound — typically about 760 mph near sea level but varying depending on tempera-



Boom Supersonic via AP

The Boom Supersonic's XB-1 aircraft breaks the sound barrier, Mach 1, during a test flight Tuesday over the Mojave Desert in California

ture, altitude and other conditions, according to the Congressional Research Service.

As a supersonic plane speeds through the air, it pushes molecules aside with great force, forming a shock wave "much like a boat creates a wake in water,"

according to NASA.

Tuesday's flight happened in the same airspace where in 1947 Charles "Chuck" Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier, piloting an orange, bullet-shaped Bell X-1 rocket plane.

Across the Nation

White House rescinds memo freezing federal money

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's budget office on Wednesday rescinded a memo freezing spending on federal loans and grants, less than two days after it sparked widespread confusion and legal challenges across the country.

The memo, which was issued Monday by the Office of Management and Budget, had frightened states, schools and organizations that rely on trillions of dollars from Washington.

Administration officials said the pause was necessary to review whether spending aligned with Trump's executive orders on issues like climate change and diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

But on Wednesday, they sent out a two-sentence notice rescinding the original memo. The reversal was the latest sign that even with unified control of Washington, Trump's plans to dramatically and rapidly reshape the government has limits.

Administration officials insisted that despite the confusion, their actions still had the intended effect by underscoring to federal agencies their obligations to abide by Trump's executive orders.

"The Executive Orders issued by the President on funding reviews remain in full force and effect and will be rigorously implemented by all agencies and departments," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said, blaming the confusion on the courts and news outlets, not the administration. "This action should effectively end the court case and allow the government to focus on enforcing the President's orders on controlling federal spending."

The White House's change in direction caught Congress off guard, particularly Trump's Republican allies who had defended him throughout the brief saga.

"This is Donald Trump. He throws hand grenades in the middle of the room, and then cleans it up afterwards," said Sen. Kevin Cramer of North Dakota. "I just think the guy's a genius."

Former U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez gets 11 years in prison

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez was sentenced Wednesday to 11 years in prison for accepting bribes of gold and cash and acting as an agent of Egypt — crimes his own lawyer said earned him the nickname "Gold Bar Bob."

U.S. District Judge Sidney H. Stein announced the sentence after the Democrat tearfully addressed the judge, saying he'd lost everything he cared about, except for his family.

"You were successful, powerful, you stood at the apex of our political system," the judge said. "Somewhere along the way, and I don't know when it was, you lost your way and working for the public good became working for your good."

Menendez's actions, the judge said, feeds the cynicism of voters.

"What's been the result?" he said, noting a lengthy investigation of a five-year crime. "You lost your senate seat. You lost your lordship and you lost your good name."

Menendez, 71, who tearfully told the judge in court that he was chastened, was defiant when he stepped before

cameras at a bank of microphones outside the Manhattan courthouse, saying: "I am innocent."

He then railed against the judicial system and aligned himself with President Donald Trump's recent criticisms of the judicial system, particularly in New York City.

Trump signs immigrations act

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed the Laken Riley Act into law, giving federal authorities broader power to deport immigrants in the U.S. illegally who have been accused of crimes. He also announced at the ceremony that his administration planned to send the "worst criminal aliens" to a detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The bipartisan act, the first piece of legislation approved during Trump's second term, was named for Riley, a 22-year-old Georgia nursing student who was slain last year by a Venezuelan man in the U.S. illegally.

"She was a light of warmth and kindness," Trump said during a ceremony that included Riley's parents and sister. "It's a tremendous tribute to your daughter what's taking place today, that's all I can say. It's so sad we have to be doing it."

Trump has promised to drastically increase deportations, but he also said at the signing that some of the people being sent back to their home countries couldn't be counted on to stay there.

"Some of them are so bad that we don't even trust the countries to hold them because we don't want them coming back, so we're gonna send 'em out to Guantanamo," Trump said. He said that he'd direct federal officials to get facilities in Cuba ready to receive immigrant criminals.

"We have 30,000 beds in Guantanamo to detain the worst criminal aliens threatening the American people," the president said.

The White House announced a short time later that Trump had signed a presidential memorandum on Guantanamo.

The move immediately doubles U.S. detention lockup capacities, Trump said at the signing ceremony, noting that Guantanamo is "a tough place to get out of."

In subsequent comments to reporters outside the White House, new Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said of expanded detention facilities that "we're building it out" and that the administration would seek funding via spending bills Congress is set to consider.

The administration's border czar, Tom Homan, said U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement would run the facility in Cuba and that the "the worst of the worst" could go to Guantanamo.

Still, the details of Trump's plan were not immediately clear. The U.S. military base has been used to house detainees from the U.S. war on terrorism for years.

Couple convicted of mistreating kids

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A West Virginia jury has convicted a couple who were accused of neglect and forced labor involving their adopted children, including locking some of them in a shed, forcing them to sleep on the floor and use buckets as toilets.

The jury deliberated for eight hours before reaching a verdict on Wednesday

in the trial of Jeanne Kay Whitefeather and Donald Ray Lantz.

The couple, who are white, were accused of mistreating their children — all of whom are Black. They went on trial in mid-January on more than a dozen felony counts each that included forced labor, civil rights violations, human trafficking and child neglect.

The jury convicted Whitefeather on all 19 counts against her, including the civil rights violations. Lantz was found guilty on 12 counts out of 16. He was acquitted of four counts of civil rights violations.

Whitefeather and Lantz adopted the five siblings while living in Minnesota, moved to a farm in Washington state in 2018, and then brought the family to West Virginia in May 2023, when the children ranged in age from 5 to 16.

The couple was arrested in October 2023 after neighbors saw Lantz lock the oldest girl and her teenage brother in a shed and leave the property. A deputy used a crowbar to get them out.

Inside the main residence, a 9-year-old girl was found alone crying in a loft with no protection from falling, according to a criminal complaint. A fourth child was with Lantz when he eventually returned. Deputies were later led to the couple's youngest daughter.

The children were found in dirty clothes and smelling of body odor, deputies said, and the eldest boy was found barefoot with what appeared to be sores on his feet.

All five were turned over to Child Protective Services after the couple's arrest.

During the trial, neighbors in Sissonville testified they never saw the children play and witnessed Lantz make them stand in line or perform difficult chores around the yard, including lifting heavy items. After Lantz noticed the curious neighbors, the children mostly stayed indoors.

The couple's eldest daughter, now 18, testified that the outdoor work occurred mostly in Washington and that some of them were forced to use their hands for

digging.

She also said the children were fed a steady diet of peanut butter sandwiches at scheduled times, some left over from a previous meal. Some kids were forced to stand in their rooms for hours and keep their hands on their heads. The oldest girl and boy shared a room, including the same bucket for using the bathroom while the other held up a sheet for privacy.

She also said the children slept on the floor and barely bathed.

The couple and their attorneys pushed back on the allegations, with Lantz testifying that the chores were assigned to teach the children responsibility.

Fed hold rates steady

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve left its benchmark interest rate unchanged Wednesday after cutting it three times in a row last year, a sign of a more cautious approach as the Fed seeks to gauge where inflation is headed and what policies President Donald Trump may pursue.

In a statement, the Fed said the job market is "solid," and noted that the unemployment rate "has stabilized at a low level in recent months." The Fed also appeared to toughen its assessment of inflation, saying that it "remains somewhat elevated." Both a healthier job market and more stubborn inflation typically would imply fewer Fed rate cuts in the coming months.

In a news conference Wednesday, Fed Chair Jerome Powell largely deflected questions about recent comments from President Trump, including one from last week, when Trump said he would lower oil prices and then "demand" lower rates. He also said he would speak with Powell about it.

"I'm not going to have any response or comment on whatever the president said," Powell said. Asked if Trump had communicated his desire for lower rates directly to Powell, the Fed chair said he had "no contact."

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RECORDS

Meetings

Saturday, Feb. 1

■ Brookings AA has meetings at 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at 135 First Ave. S. For more information, call 605-692-6070.

■ BLAST (Building Lives Around Sound Truth) is held at 4 p.m. every Sunday afternoon (refreshments and coffee) The group provides an engaging family Bible study where the truth of God's Word is applied to everyday lives)

Sunday, Feb. 2

■ Brookings AA has meetings at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at 135 First Ave. S. For more information, call 605-692-6070.

■ Margo's Place women's support group holds a Zoom meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Sunday. For more information, call 692-SAFE (7233).

Monday, Feb. 3

■ The Brookings Toastmasters Club 3712 meets every Monday that is not a holiday from noon to 1 p.m. in the classroom at McCrory Gardens at 631 22nd Ave. The club provides an opportunity to develop or improve public speaking skills.

Visitors are welcome. The club also provides a Zoom option. For more information, send an email to brookingstoastmasters3712@gmail.com.

■ The Hybrid Postpartum Support Group meets at Brookings Health System. Find support for life after baby, bonding with your baby, coping with this major life change, mindfulness and relaxation, relationships, communication and self-care. To register, call 605-692-5447. The meetings are every Monday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. both on Zoom and in person at Brookings Health System,

Conference Room C. You will receive an email with Zoom details upon registration if you are joining virtually. The group is facilitated by licensed clinicians Elizabeth Milton, LPC-MH, and Curstie Konold, MSW.

■ The Brookings United Church of Christ hosts an ecumenical interfaith coffee and conversation on Mondays at the Brookings Activity Center at 10 a.m. weekly.

■ Brookings AA has meetings at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. at 135 First Ave. S. For more information, call 605-692-6070.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

■ The Optimist Club of Brookings meets every Tuesday at noon at Pizza Ranch, 1815 Sixth St.

■ The Brookings Rotary Club meets at noon each Tuesday in the Brookings Activity Center, 320 Fifth Ave. For more information, contact Club President Michael Gonda at michael.gonda@sdsstate.edu.

■ Margo's Place hosts a weekly women's support group from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday. For more information, call 692-SAFE (7233).

■ Brookings Masonic Lodge No. 24 meets on the first Tuesday of the month 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge building. For more information, contact Doug McFarland at 605-690-3991.

■ New Beginnings Baby Café supports breastfeeding mothers in every aspect of nursing, from starting to weaning and every variation in between. It is facilitated by two registered nurses who are also IBCLC lactation consultants. New Beginnings Baby Café occurs every Tuesday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Prairie Perk-Up coffee shop on the first floor of Brookings Hospital, 300 22nd Ave.

■ New Day Al-Anon meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at First United Methodist Church, 625 Fifth St. Follow the signs inside the church for the exact location.

■ An AA Foxhall workshop speaker meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Peace Lutheran Church at 1104 22nd Ave. S. in Brookings.

■ Brookings AA has meetings at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. at 135 First Ave. S. For more information, call 605-692-6070.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

■ Brookings AA has meetings at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. at 135 First Ave. S. There is also a women's group meeting in the basement of the Newman Center at 1321 Eighth St. For more information, call 605-692-6070.

■ A men's big-book study session Alcoholic Anonymous meeting is 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Peace Lutheran Church at 1104 22nd Ave. S. in Brookings.

Thursday, Feb. 6

■ The Kiwanis Club of Brookings meets every Thursday at noon at the Mission Coffeehouse in First Lutheran Church at 337 Eighth St.

■ Margo's Place women's support group holds a walk-in "in person" meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Thursday. For more information, call 692-SAFE (7233).

■ Big Sioux Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at 413 W. Second St. S., Brookings. For more information, contact Jacob Roth at jacob.roth@sdwg.cap.gov or 605-496-2890.

■ The Brookings Parkinson support group will meet on Thursday, Feb 6, from 1:30-3 p.m. at the main First Bank and Trust

building. The meeting is held in the basement with an elevator available for use. All those with Parkinsons Disease and their caregivers are invited to attend.

■ New Beginnings Baby Café supports breastfeeding mothers in every aspect of nursing, from starting to weaning and every variation in between. It is facilitated by two registered nurses who are also IBCLC lactation consultants. New Beginnings Baby Café occurs every Thursday evening from 10 a.m. to noon at The Prairie Perk-Up coffee shop on the first floor of Brookings Hospital, 300 22nd Ave.

■ Al Anon meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at 135 First Ave. S.

■ Brookings AA has meetings at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. at 135 First Ave. S. For more information, call 605-692-6070.

Friday, Feb. 7

■ Brookings AA has meetings at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. at 135 First Ave. S. For more information call 605-692-6070.

■ The Brookings Wildlife Federation holds its monthly info-lunch on the first Friday of the month. The infolunch will be held at noon at the Outdoor Adventure Center, 2810 22nd Ave. S.

A light buffet will be available for a free-will donation. The BWF is affiliated with the South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation. For more information, contact BWF President Bob Kurtz (605-695-1361).

To have your organization's weekly or monthly meeting placed on the Meetings Calendar, email the location, time and contact information for the organization to dkott@brookingsregister.com.

Obituary

James Berreth

Brookings

May 28, 1933 - Jan. 25, 2025

It is with loving sadness that we announce the death of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, James Delano Berreth, age 91, of Brookings, SD, on Saturday, January 25, at his home following a brief struggle with Stage IV pancreatic cancer.

A celebration of life gathering will be held this summer. He will be interred in the Eureka City Cemetery.

James Delano Berreth, a newspaper editor/owner/publisher for more than 50 years was a native of Eureka, SD. He was born on May 28, 1933, on a farm northwest of Eureka, the son of Albert and Ottelia (Ottmer) Berreth. At age 12 he started his newspaper career by working as a printer's devil at the weekly Northwest Blade. He continued his part-time employment until he graduated from high school. He stayed in the newspaper business until his retirement.

Berreth attended South Dakota State University where he worked his way through college, operating the linotype and presses at Harold's Printing and during the summer months held jobs in Washburn, ND, Orange City, IA and Tracy, MN.

He received his BS degree with a major in journalism in 1955. After a short stint as a reporter in Rock Rapids, IA, he entered the U.S. Navy in November 1955. He served aboard four different aircraft carriers in the Pacific — Essex, Lexington, Bon Homme Richard and the Hornet. He was assigned to the admiral's staff.

He married Kathryn Lavonne Carnahan, a registered nurse from Sioux Falls. They were married for 60 years. Kathryn died on Aug. 5, 2017.

Following his tour of duty, he served as news and sports editor for the Chamberlain (SD) Register while his wife worked as a nurse at the Chamberlain Hospital. In 1959 he bought his first newspaper, the Spencerville (OH) Journal News, in partnership with Tony Beebe of Chamberlain. Berreth sold his share on the paper in 1962 when he and his wife purchased the Carver County News in Watertown, MN — a newspaper he owned until retirement. During that time, he wrote a column each week for nearly 40 years titled, "Grin & Berreth."

Jim sold his business and retired in 1999. During his nearly 40 years in Watertown, he owned the Waconia Patriot, the Mound Laker, the Orono Pioneer, the Norwood/Young America Times, the Delano Eagle and was part-owner of the Glencoe Enterprise. He served seven years on the Minnesota Newspaper Association

Board of Directors and was a member of the MNA Half Century Club. Over the years his newspaper was listed by MNA as one of the top yearly award winners for outstanding community journalism in Minnesota.

He served on the South Dakota State University Foundation board of directors. In 1996 he received the Distinguished Journalist Award from the Journalism and Mass Communications Department at SDSU. He also served on the SDSU Athletic Advisory Board.

Jim and his wife were faithful financial supporters of SDSU. There are currently four different Berreth student scholarships being funded at the university.

For several years prior to retirement, he and his wife lived in Park Rapids, MN, before moving to Brookings in 1996. For more than 30 years they wintered in Mesa and Sun Lakes, AZ.

Over the years the Berreths served on the church councils of Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown, MN, and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mesa, AZ. He served on the Watertown-Mayer MN school board and held offices in the local chamber of commerce. He also served on the board of Waconia Ridgeview Hospital Foundation for nine years as well as the board of the Hutchinson Telephone Company. He was also part owner of Greenleaf Assisted Living in Brookings and Minnesota Greenleaf in Thief River Falls, MN.

Berreth especially enjoyed reading, writing and sports, primarily golf and football. He felt humor should be a part of everyday life and injected humor in almost all discussions. Jim and Kathryn were members of the Brookings Country Club for more than 20 years and were charter members of the Alta Mesa Country Club. He was always active in his church and one of the highlights of his Christian life was when he and his wife were baptized in the River Jordan during a trip to Jerusalem.

Cooking was one of his primary hobbies and especially enjoyed making meals for family and guests.

Berreth is survived by three daughters, Julie (V.J.) Smith of Brookings, SD, Jan Bee of St. Clair MI, Jennifer (Geoff) George of Minnetonka, MN and one son, J.D., Brookings, SD. Grandchildren include Dan (Tina) Ackerwold, Tom Ackerwold, Laura Ackerwold, Blake (Abel) Leon, Linzi Bruehan, Goldi (Josh) Lynch, Sidney (Ben) Prisbe, Flannery Berreth, Trevor Berreth, Molly (Nick) Goodier, Kelly (Adam) Ganrud, Mary (Cody) Meyers and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister-



James Berreth

in-law Donna Berreth and brother-in-law Gary Oster.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Don, and sister Carolyn, mother-in-law, Thelma and sister-in-law, Diane, as well as his wife Kathryn of 60 years (sixty years of a great marriage — never once considered divorce. Murder? — twice a week).

Condolences may be sent to the family through www.rudesfuneralhome.com.

Court Report

Court report 1-9

CLASS I MISDEMEANORS

Joey Scott Donkersloot, 39, Sioux Falls, DUI, fined \$850.50 and sentenced to 30 days in BCDC, all jail time suspended upon conditions imposed by the court.

Dylan Michael Schons, 25, of 820 Roberts Ave. Apt. 1, second-offense DUI, fined \$947 and sentenced to 90 days in BCDC, 80 days of jail time suspended upon conditions imposed by the court.

Jovaun D. Clayton, 31, Sioux Falls, first-degree petty theft — more than \$400, fined \$396.50 and sentenced to 30 days in BCDC, all jail time suspended upon conditions imposed by the court.

Market Report

Soybean Processors, Volga

(Any size self-unloading trucks or wagons accepted)

Soybeans (Jan.)	9.86
Soybeans (Feb.)	9.91
Soybeans (March)	10.01
Soybeans (April)	10.09
Soybeans (May)	10.09
Soybeans (NC 25)	9.99
Meal Hi-Pro (Jan.)	27780
Meal Hi-Pro (Feb.)	27780

(For more information, visit www.sdsbp.com.)

AgFirst Farmers Cooperative, Brookings

Corn (Jan.)	4.43
Corn (Feb.)	4.43
Corn (March)	4.58
Corn (Oct. 25)	4.12
Soybeans (Jan.)	9.71
Soybeans (Feb.)	9.71
Soybeans (March)	9.73
Soybeans (April)	9.85
Soybeans (Oct. 25)	9.94

(For more information, visit www.agfirstfarmers.com)



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Event tickets, which include dinner, are \$12 for students, \$15 each for adults and children under 12 are free. Find the tickets online at <https://sdsstate.venue.net/events/IN-BSA>

For more information, call Mohammad Ashik Alaha at 605-651-9128 or email mohammadashik.alaha@jacks.sdsstate.edu



CHURCH

Thoughts on politics and religion

Luke 13:31-32-31 *At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." 32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'*

"Politics doesn't belong in the church." I can't tell you how many times I and many of my clergy colleagues have heard some form of this statement. (But usually not clergy who call themselves evangelicals because a certain type of political leaning is typically expected from them).

But after a while it becomes exhausting pointing out the fact that the entire Bible itself is a political document.

In fact, the word "politics" itself comes from the ancient Greek word "politeia" which is derived from the Greek word "polis" which means "city" or "state."

So the word "political" simply describes how we live together in community within a city or state (or nation). And of course, the Old Testament begins with narratives of how Adam and Eve and their sons lived together, and then how Abraham and his descendants lived together,

and then the Law of Moses codified how the Hebrew people were to live together, and then the prophets decried how the people of Israel were failing to live together as God had called them. Then in the New Testament, Jesus came on the scene and constantly chided the Pharisees for failing to live together in a God pleasing way.

And after his death, the apostle Paul went on to write to the early church about how they should live together with the Gentiles and each other. So suffice it to say, the whole Bible is laced with directives to people of faith about how to live together with one another (i.e. politics).

The unfortunate thing is that many people unintentionally (or sometimes intentionally) conflate the word "political" with the word "partisan." Jesus was in fact very political, but he was not partisan.

There is a huge difference. Being partisan has to do with joining a "party" and aligning yourself with the power structures that exist within that political party. And the parties of Jesus' day were not just religious, they were political (and he had plenty to choose from). There were the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Essenes,

and the Zealots. But he didn't align himself with any of them. He knew no political group had a perfect corner on every aspect of God's will. So he thought and taught independently about every political issue of his day (and there were many of them).

When Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and said the second one like it was to love our neighbor as ourselves, he was making two separate statements. The first commandment was strictly religious, and the second was strictly political. How we love God is a matter of religion; but how we love our neighbors is a matter of politics. And calling the political leader of his time a "fox" was not only a political statement, but an example of him speaking truth to power.

Just last week my sister in the faith, Bishop Mariann Budde received criticism for her sermon at the inaugural prayer service, which was deemed "political."

What was her crime? Asking the president to be merciful to immigrants living in our country. Guess what? Her message was very much political and very much biblical (which anyone who

REFLECTIONS



THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS WAS WRITTEN BY THE **MARK JOHNSEN**, PASTOR OF **BROOKINGS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

has ever read the Bible would know). She was attacked as all prophets are in their time (from the Old Testament to MLK Jr.) but like all of them, history will prove her words to be righteous and true.

So what did Jesus mean by calling Herod a "fox?" I suspect he meant that Herod was a ruthless predator who looked for vulnerable prey to pounce upon, and used his cunning to achieve his goals, no matter who it hurt. Given that definition, would Jesus refer to the current leader of our government using that term? I don't know. You tell me. Because I wouldn't want to appear "political."

Church Briefs

Bible talks planned

VOLGA — Bible talks for the elderly, parents and children will be held every Wednesday in January and February.

The talks will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Volga Community Center at 109 Samara Ave. in Volga. No collection will be taken.

Coffeehouse tips go to McGeough Foundation

BROOKINGS — The Mission of the Month at the Mission Coffeehouse at First Lutheran Church for January is The Kelly McGeough Foundation.

Families request assistance from the Kelly McGeough Foundation for many different reasons. The foundation receives requests for travel costs associated with the treatment of a child at a specialized hospital, uninsured clinical treatments, food and lodging.

The Kelly McGeough Foundation is unique in that it serves families in the maximum amount of \$7,500 per child with catastrophic illnesses or circumstances.

It is also unique in the ability of the organization to negotiate with care providers (clinics and hospitals) to forgive part of the bill with the foundation paying the remainder. This has helped many families and has also helped the Kelly Foundation to be wise in money management.

The Kelly McGeough Foundation was established in 1983 in honor of 10-year-old Kelly McGeough who fought a valiant fight against leukemia. His memory lives on with a foundation established to assist other families whose children are undergoing catastrophic illness or situations.

New Vatican document offers AI guidelines

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A Vatican document released Tuesday offers wide-ranging ethical guidelines for the application of artificial intelligence in sectors from warfare to health care, with an underlying call that the burgeoning technology must be used as a tool to complement, and not replace, human intelligence.

Pope Francis has issued several warnings about the risks associated with AI technology, and this new document by the Vatican's doctrine and cultural offices expands on what the pontiff has already said. It comes as a new AI chatbot by Chinese tech startup DeepSeek has raised the stakes in the AI technology race, catching up with American generative AI leaders at a fraction of the cost.

The document underlines that human responsibility needs to grow in proportion to the new technology, and that the impact of AI's uses in various sectors "may not always be predictable from their inception."

"AI should be used only as a tool to complement human intelligence, rather than replace its richness, the document said in its conclusion.

The document warns that AI has the potential to increase instruments of war "well beyond the scope of human oversight," which could provoke "a destabilizing arms race." Weapons systems that can identify and strike targets without human intervention, removing "the unique human capacity for moral judgement and ethical decision-making," it said.

"No machine should ever choose to take the life of a human being," the document warned.

The document warns that AI is not a substitute for "authentic human relationships," and cites its lack of empathy as a risk when anthropomorphizing AI in areas such as child development or interpersonal relationships.

"While human beings are meant to experience authentic relationships, AI can only simulate them," the document said.

The document cites the risk that "as society drifts away from connection with the transcendent, some are tempted to turn to AI in search of meaning and fulfillment — longings that can only be truly satisfied in communion with God."

"The presumption of substituting God for an artifact of human making is idolatry, a practice Scripture explicitly warns against," the document said.

Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio, turn to faith amid deportation fears

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (AP) — At the end of a recent Sunday service, the pastor of the First Haitian Evangelical Church of Springfield, Ohio, asked ushers and musicians to form a circle around him as he knelt in prayer, flanked by the flags of Haiti and the United States.

Many had come to receive his blessing and hear his guidance on how to deal with federal agents in case of raids stemming from President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration. Other congregants stayed home out of fear and growing uncertainty.

"I asked God to protect my people," the Rev. Reginald Silencieux said after the service, reflecting on his final prayer. "I prayed especially for the Haitian community, and I prayed for U.S.A. too, because Trump is our president. As a church, we have an obligation to pray for him because he's our political leader right now."

Some of Springfield's estimated 15,000 Haitians are seeking solace and divine intervention in their churches or at shops that sell spiritual products. Community leaders say many are overwhelmed by fears Trump will end or let expire the Temporary Protected Status program that allows them to remain in the U.S. legally.

"The community is panicking," said Viles Dorsainvil, the leader of Springfield's Haitian Community Help and Support Center. "They see the arrests on TV in other parts of the country and they don't know what's going to happen."

"The majority of immigrants in the U.S.A. are not criminals, and they're hard-working people," he added. "Any administration with common sense would rather work with those kinds of immigrants than deport them."

Last year, Trump falsely accused Haitians in Springfield of eating their neighbor's cats and dogs. The false rumors exacerbated fears about division and anti-immigrant sentiment in the mostly white, blue-collar city of about 59,000.

In the weeks after his comments, schools, government buildings and the homes of elected officials were targeted with dozens of bomb threats.

"Before, we had a different type of fear — it was a fear of retaliation, whether it was the far right, the Proud Boys," said Jacob



AP Photo/Luis Andres Henao

Jean-Michel Gisnel cries out while praying with other congregants at the First Haitian Evangelical Church of Springfield on Sunday in Springfield, Ohio.

Payen, a Haitian community leader and owner of Milokan Botanica, a religious shop that sells Haitian spiritual and natural healing products.

"Now, there's a fear of deportation. That keeps a lot of people from going out and has caused a lot of people to have left," he said, pointing to the usually busy commercial plaza where his business is located and that was now more quiet than usual.

Between selling religious candles and spiritual ointments, Payne guided customers with immigration forms, employment authorization cards and questions on their TPS applications.

Brutus Joseph, 50, who works installing solar panels, said he came to the botanica to find spiritual relief. But he also wanted to speak his mind.

"I don't feel right at all. I have a lot in my chest," Joseph said in Creole through an interpreter. "My wife and I can't even sleep because we're so worried. We're law-abiding citizens — all we did is to be Haitian. We didn't think we'd be treated like this by the (Trump) adminis-

tration. I'm praying to God that the president changes his mind."

Joseph especially worries about the future for his five children, including one who is a senior in high school in Springfield and plans to attend college this year.

"If I leave here, there's no future for my children. My children can get raped and killed if I go back, so I

have everything to lose," he said, making an appeal to Trump as a fellow family man who is married to an immigrant.

The Rev. Philomene Philostin, one of the pastors at the First Haitian Evangelical Church, bemoaned the lower-than-usual attendance at Sunday's service.

"They don't have to be scared. They have to be alert," she said. "They shouldn't be scared to the point where they don't come to church."

The migration concerns of clergy and other community members in Springfield are shared by many faith leaders nationwide. In several cities, including New York, Philadelphia and Portland, Oregon, inter-faith groups are discussing how to provide security and support to migrants in their communities, including those who are undocumented.

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FRIDAY JANUARY 31, 2025

M = Mediacom S = Swiftel D = Dish Network DT = DirecTV

Grid listing TV channels (M, S, D, DT) and times (8 AM to 3:30) for Friday, January 31, 2025. Includes program titles, descriptions, and actor names.

FRIDAY EVENING JANUARY 31, 2025

M = Mediacom S = Swiftel D = Dish Network DT = DirecTV

Grid listing TV channels (M, S, D, DT) and times (4 PM to 11:30) for Friday Evening, January 31, 2025. Includes program titles, descriptions, and actor names.



Andrew Holtan/Register

South Dakota State's Paige Meyer goes up for a shot during a 63-55 win over North Dakota State on Wednesday night at First Bank & Trust Arena in Brookings.



Andrew Holtan/Register

South Dakota State's Brooklyn Meyer prepares to put up a lay up during a game against North Dakota State on Wednesday night at First Bank & Trust Arena in Brookings.

Jackrabbit women outlast Bison, 63-55

By **ANDREW HOLTAN**
The Register

BROOKINGS – South Dakota State outscored North Dakota State 8-0 in the final three minutes on Wednesday night and that gave the Jackrabbits a 63-55 win over the Bison.

“That was a really important win for us,” said SDSU head coach Aaron Johnston. “To get through the first half of the conference [schedule], to be 8-0, we feel really good about that. It was a fun home game for us. I thought the crowd was fantastic. ... Really proud of our team for making plays down the stretch.”

The Jacks (18-3, 8-0) and Bison (14-7, 6-2) were tied 55-55 with 3:15 to play. Katie Vasecka then hit a three to give the Jacks the lead. Vasecka was in the game due to foul trouble on Haleigh Timmer and it wasn't the first time that the freshman has hit a big shot down the stretch of a game. SDSU senior point guard Paige Meyer said the team trusts Vasecka a lot in big moments despite her being in her first season in the yellow and blue.

“She definitely doesn't look like a freshman out there. She has a lot of confi-

dence in herself and we have a lot of confidence in her, so I think having her know that we just trust her to make those plays [helps] and she's been doing a great job with it,” Paige Meyer said.

Paige Meyer had some big buckets of her own in the fourth quarter. She made a lay up after Vasecka's 3-pointer and scored seven points in the final five minutes. Johnston said she was more decisive in the fourth quarter and is someone that is going to will her team to victory.

“How they were handling her with ball screens was tough. ... She just wasn't hesitating in that fourth quarter. She just went instead of trying to set things up so much. She just got to the ball screen and got off of the ball screen and kind of created for herself. She made a couple of big plays there and I just saw her play without hesitation. ... She's someone who knows how to win and I'm glad she's a Jackrabbit,” Johnston said.

It was a game of runs between the two teams. They traded baskets in the first four and half minutes of the game as it was 10-10. NDSU then scored five

straight points and took a 15-13 lead into the second quarter.

The Bison would hit a three 15 seconds into the second quarter and then it was all Jackrabbits. SDSU proceeded to score 18 straight points and led 31-18 with 1:22 left in the first half. During the quarter the Jacks held the Bison scoreless for nearly nine minutes and led 31-20 heading into halftime.

Johnston said his defense propelled the large run in the second quarter, paired with quality possessions on offense.

“Our defense was really good [in the second quarter]. I thought we forced them into a lot of tough shots. We rotated well, doubled well, helped well. It was just difficult for them. Then offensively, we were efficient. I think the first quarter we turned it over five or six times and then in the second quarter we took care of the ball and got back to going inside and establishing Brooklyn [Meyer] down low,” Johnston said.

The third quarter was a different story for SDSU. The Jacks led 37-27 with 4:46 left in the third and then the Bison went on a 14-0 run to take a 41-37 lead

with 54 seconds left in the quarter. The run consisted of four straight three's and a mid-range jump shot.

Johnston said his team was trying to take away the Bison's inside game and that left shooters open on the perimeter in the third.

“... The third quarter we just weren't as sharp as we needed to be. They made a lot of three's. They did a good job. We had been helping inside taking away some of their post touches and they countered with some three's there. We also weren't good offensively,” Johnston said.

SDSU would trail 41-39 heading into the final quarter. The Jacks opened the quarter with a 6-1 run and a Timmer three gave SDSU a 45-42 lead. The Bison then scored four straight to regain the lead. The Jacks then trailed 51-49 and Paige Meyer scored five straight points to put the Jacks up 54-51 with 4:40 to play. Abby Schule hit two free throws, Brooklyn Meyer knocked down one of two at the line and Abbie Draper made a jumper to tie things up and set up the final three minutes of play.

SDSU shot 46.2% from the field and was 3-of-9 from three. Brooklyn Meyer led the Jacks with 24

points and nine rebounds. Paige Meyer and Timmer each had 13 points. Mesa Byom had four points, five assists and 10 rebounds.

NDSU shot 37.5% from the field and was 9-of-20 from three. Schulte led the Bison with 14 points. Draper had 13 points and eight rebounds. Molly Lenz had nine points and Avery Koenen had eight points.

The Jacks had 15 turnovers and the Bison had 18. There were a total of 31 fouls called in the game. SDSU was 12-of-16 at the free throw line and NDSU was 10-of-16.

Paige Meyer said the Jacks knew it was going to be a physical game and they just needed to make sure they answered.

“We knew it was going to be a physical game. I thought we matched that well. We'll do a little recovery tomorrow but we knew it was going to be physical,” Paige Meyer said.

Johnston has preached over the years that the Jacks play a hard non-conference schedule because they want to be ready for close games like this come March. This time it came in late January and he said it's important that his team responded to the pressure

of a close game the right way.

“That was a conference tournament intensity I thought,” Johnston said. “The teams were really competing for something [and it didn't feel like] a typical game on a Wednesday night. You have to [have experience in high intensity games]. We've been on both sides. We've had some games where we lost and learned from those and what we didn't do well, but also had some of the success when you win.”

“We've won a lot of close games this year. I always feel like the difference between great and good year's is winning close games. That's the reality. This one was a big one for us tonight and I was really happy with how they responded. They were really big down the stretch.”

SDSU has now won 23 straight games over NDSU. The Jacks' last loss to the Bison came on Jan. 4, 2015, in Fargo.

The Jacks have now won 55 straight Summit League games. They'll look to continue their streak on Saturday when they take on Omaha on the road at 2 p.m.

Nebraska volleyball coach John Cook retires

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska women's volleyball coach John Cook, who won four national championships and more than 700 matches in 25 seasons, announced his retirement Wednesday and Louisville coach Dani Busboom Kelly was named his successor.

Cook, 68, took over at Nebraska in 2000 after seven years at Wisconsin and finished with a career record of 883-176. His .834 winning percentage is fifth-best all-time in Division I. He was 722-103 at Nebraska for an .875 winning percentage that is best in the country over the last 25 years.

In addition to winning national titles in 2000, 2006,

2015 and 2017, Cook led the Cornhuskers to 12 NCAA semifinals, nine Big 12 titles and five Big Ten championships. He coached five Olympians, and in 2023 he helped organize an outdoor volleyball match at Memorial Stadium that drew 92,003 fans. He was national coach of the year in 2000, 2005 and 2023.

Busboom Kelly, a native of nearby Cortland, played at Nebraska from 2003-06 and was an assistant under Cook from 2012-16. She was hired as head coach at Louisville in 2017, and she won four Atlantic Coast Conference championships and led the Cardinals to two of the last three NCAA title matches. She



was 203-44 in eight seasons. Louisville announced associate head coach Dan Meske would take over.

Busboom Kelly, 39, was the

starting libero on Nebraska's 2006 national championship team and was an assistant when the Huskers won the 2015 national championship.

Utah Hockey Club narrows the choice of a permanent name to three finalists. It won't be the Yeti

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Utah Hockey Club has chosen three finalists for the permanent team name it will adopt beginning with the 2025-26 NHL season.

The franchise will use a final round of fan voting to decide among the Utah Mammoth, Utah Hockey Club and Utah Wasatch. Team officials backed away from including Yeti as a finalist after being unable to work out a co-existence agreement with Yeti Coolers to use the name in branding and merchandising.

“They have a unique trademark that allows them to prevent the use of the word Yeti or Yetis,” Smith Entertainment Group executive Mike Maughan said. “They made a determination for the sake of their brand that they didn't want to enter into a coexistence.”

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office earlier this month refused a request by the club, citing a “likelihood of confusion” with other notable brands using the name, such as Yeti Coolers. An email sent Wednesday by The Associated Press to Yeti Coolers LLC seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Fans in attendance at the next four home games,

starting Wednesday night against Pittsburgh, will vote at designated iPad stations at the Delta Center to help decide the team's name and logo. It will unveil a first look at designs for the logo, jerseys and branding associated with each choice.

Only fans in attendance will be allowed to vote at the Penguins game, against Columbus on Friday, St. Louis on Sunday and Philadelphia on Tuesday. The permanent team name and logo will be unveiled ahead of Utah's 2025-26 regular-season opener.

Wasatch filled the finalist spot originally intended for Yeti. Wasatch is a reference to the Wasatch Mountains, which run north to south along the east side of the Salt Lake Valley.

“We wanted to honor this idea people had for a mythical snow creature like the Yeti and bring a very Utah-centric approach to it,” Maughan said. “Because we have the Wasatch Mountains, because we have the Wasatch Front, we have so many different iterations or ways we can do it. We wanted to honor the sentiment of one of those top names of the last iteration (of fan voting) while also including a Utah-centric version of it.”

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