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Volume 5 Issue 22

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# Ask the Motor Medics®

Automotive Advice from The Under the Hood® Show

Dear Motor Medics,

I recently had to have a suspension part replaced on my vehicle and I went the cheap route and found one on the internet at half of the price that my local store was offering and at that cost I could not pass it up. Being so cheap and with the free shipping I figured it made sense. The warranty was six months, but I figured they would not sell them if they all went bad and at that price I could by another one if it failed. I installed it myself and 1000 miles later was left stranded missing a wheel. The car was towed, and they found the part I had was very cheaply produced. I tried to call the company, but they have no phone and do not respond to my emails. Is there any way to know how good a part is when purchasing one from a source other than the vehicle manufacturer?

Bart in Wray, Colorado

Dear Bart,

There are some great deals out there but also some very poor-quality parts that can fail and compromise your safety. How can you be sure you are getting good quality parts? Buy locally. You will have a real building you can walk into and real people who will help you if you have a failure. The store will also have the backing of the reputable companies that supply their parts, and you will be supporting your local economy.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,

I took a trip overseas and rented a small car with a gas engine. It looked just like the Ford Focus I own here in the states but had more zip and the fuel economy was much better than what I get at home. I noticed two things when I refueled the car. One the very high cost as compared to ours and two the very high-octane content. I typically use 87-90 octane at home but the lowest available overseas was 95 and with 5% ethanol it was 99. This seems really high. Does this have something to do with the better mileage and power and if so, why don't we have it here in the states?

Martin in Shelton, Washington

Dear Martin,

Most people would not have noticed the octane rating, good eye. You are correct about the octanes effect on fuel economy and power. With higher octane fuel the engines can run higher compression and more timing without detonation equaling more power and efficiency. Therefore, a car with the same cubic inch engine overseas could get better mileage than its counterpart in the states. I can only speculate on the reasons we don't see it here but would guess the price of the higher-octane fuel combined with emissions regulations probably play a part in it. Manufactures are continuously working on ways to increase power while using the same size engine and octane fuel available at American pumps today.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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# Coming in tomorrow's BRANDON VALLEY Journal



Residents who may be impacted by the proposed Heartland Greenway CO2 pipeline gathered in Valley Springs on Saturday to learn more about their rights.

The *Brandon Valley Journal* introduces you to Brandon mayoral candidate Jack Parliament and District 2 House candidate John Sjaarda.

We also have reports from the Feb. 28 and Monday night's meetings of the Brandon City Council, plus details from the Feb. 28 Brandon Valley Board of Education and March 1 Minnehaha County Commission meetings.

Some Brandon Girl Scouts are working toward their Bronze Award, and are organizing an event that will benefit dogs at the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.

Plus, we have a profile on Brandon native Greg Beesley in his new role with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

The Lady Lynx earned a berth to this week's Class AA state tournament in Rapid City, while the Lynx boys fell short in their bid as the result of an intense battle against Sioux Falls Lincoln.

Plus, Brandon Valley powerlifters put it all on the line at their state tournament in Salem on Saturday. *Journal* editor Jill Meier was there with camera in hand to capture the event in photos and words.

Writer Tom Savage also catches you up with BVHS alum Zach Scholten and his role with the Augustana University men's basketball team.

If you're a subscriber, thanks for reading! If you're not, what are you waiting for? Give us a call at 582-9999 so you can be in the know of everything that's "Coming in Tomorrow's *Brandon Valley Journal*"!

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# The L.Y.N.X. Podcast

— LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR —

This week's guest:

**CHASE HOFFMAN**

Mortgage Banker with First National Bank

Spotify, Apple, Facebook: Tuesdays // Midnight  
Alliance: Channels 18 & 21 // Fridays // 9 p.m.  
YouTube @TheLYNXPodcast



You are invited to join us for a real, genuine conversation with one of your neighbors. This podcast will celebrate the people of Brandon, SD and their stories. Each week will feature a guest who will share why they chose to make Brandon their home and what the community means to them. Let us accompany you on your commute, while cooking dinner or winding down for the night. The L.Y.N.X. Podcast is hosted by John Semchenko and can be found on major streaming services.

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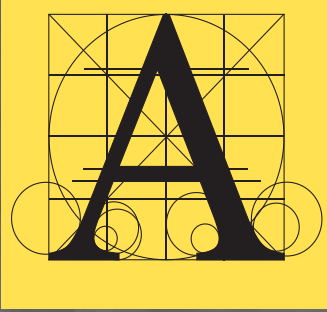
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