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# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

## Yankton's Downtown Brims With Optimism



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Santa Claus and his puppet friend Lilly were on hand this weekend at Twist of Pine, one of the newest businesses in downtown Yankton. Local officials and business owners are generally optimistic about the downtown's potential, but they acknowledge more work is needed to revitalize the district.

### But Officials Acknowledge There's Still Work To Do To Achieve Revitalization Of The District

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Today, the Press & Dakotan presents the second part of a three-part series looking at the past, present and future of downtown Yankton.*

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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Downtown Yankton still rises above the banks of the Missouri River more than 150 years after the city was founded. Businesses continue to come and go as time goes along.

One of downtown Yankton's newest businesses is Twist of Pine, which opened in the old Gurney's/WNAX Fair Price gas station at the corner of E. Second St. and Capital St. earlier this year. The store — which sells assorted foods, crafts and other assorted items from South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska — was the brainchild of marketing consultant Lisa Kneiff.

"Twist of Pine kind of started when our Bed

**"To me, any small town, large town or major metropolitan city, the heartbeat of that town or that city is its downtown. If that beat isn't pumping strong, that is not a good sign for anybody or any community. Yankton's heartbeat is not pumping as strong as I think that it can be."**

MIKE HUETHER

& Breakfast got a little bit delayed — we're having some construction and design issues," Kneiff said. "I had done some research on good foods and soaps and things like that, that I

thought would be really fun from the regional area. There was a lot of attention on the fact that we were having all of these visitors from around the world for youth archery, and I realized that Yankton doesn't have really a place that's centralized that had all those items that I've been looking for for my bed & breakfast. I thought, "Gosh, I've already quit my job and the bed & breakfast isn't open yet, so what if I tried to open a store where I could feature and learn about South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska?"

Though originally planned to open in time for the World Archery Youth Championships, the store opened during the week of Riverboat Days this year.

Kneiff looked around the city for a location before finally deciding on downtown Yankton. "I looked at everything," she said. "I looked at different price points, walk-in ready, what

DOWNTOWN | PAGE 7A



PHOTO: ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ  
Jean Cantrell, No Place owner, and her helper, Lance Sweet Jr., 7, pause while adding items to the Warming Pole recently on Delmont's Main Street. The weather was a bit warmer that day, but items still have been moving off the pole to help keep people warm.

## Delmont Warms Up To Giving Project

BY ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ  
P&D Correspondent

DELMONT — It started as an idea seen on the Internet and grew to a "why not here" type of little project: the Warming Pole outside the No Place on Delmont's Main Street.

While it won't be up too much longer, it has already served the needs of many people in the little city hit by the May 10 tornado.

Jean Cantrell, owner of No Place, the local watering hole for many in the area, said the various hats, mitten and even a coat or two seen hanging on the street light pole at the corner of her business are free for the taking. If someone needs a pair of gloves or mittens, she said, or if someone has a no longer needed piece of winter wear to give, it has been an exchange of needs.

"I saw it on the Internet that people started putting stuff out for peo-

DELMONT | PAGE 2A

### Sports



**YHS Wrestlers 7th  
At SFW Meet • 1B**

**Happy Holidays**



**Dec. 21  
4 shopping  
days to Christmas**

### Neb. Ranks 32nd In How It Runs Food Assistance Program

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska says it continues to improve the way it runs its economic and food assistance programs.

The USDA says the AccessNebraska program ranked 32nd in the timeliness of how it handled applications for food stamps in the first half of 2015.

That's up from 39th last year and 52nd in 2013.

Courtney Phillips is CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Phillips says it's excited to see continued improvement in the state's benefits programs.

Last month, the average time to process an application was 11.5 days.

That's down consider-

## Speaker Tells MMC Grads: Be Giving



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Sister Debra Kolecka speaks at Mount Marty College's fall commencement ceremony on Saturday. She encouraged graduates to use Mount Marty's core values throughout their lives.

BY REILLY BIEL  
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Mount Marty College (MMC) never fails to bring successful alumni to inspire hope and inspiration at its graduations, and this year was no different.

On Saturday, Mount Marty College (MMC) celebrated its fall commencement with more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degrees being awarded.

The featured speaker was Sister Debra Kolecka, an MMC alumni who graduated with a nursing degree in 1977. She later earned her Masters of Science in Nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner degree from South Dakota State University. She currently serves on several healthcare boards in the region, including Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and the MMC Nursing Advisory Board.

"Commencement is a time-honored tradition that acknowledges the achievements of our graduates and celebrates their accomplishments," MMC president Marcus Long told the graduates. "It is also a way to acknowledge that this is a time of transition. It marks the beginning of a new journey for you, both professionally and personally."

"When I graduated from high school and college, I thought commencement was the end of something," Kolecka later added. "I later learned that commencement was really a beginning."

For their new beginning, Kolecka advised the graduates to use the core values MMC gave them to grow to be better individuals.

Those values are awareness

MMC | PAGE 2A