



A Crisp Christmas Eve

9 a.m. **22** 3 p.m. **32** | DETAILS: Page 2A

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Images  
From The  
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# Burglary Arrests Made

## Five Yankton Robbery Suspects Are Caught In Mitchell

From P&D Staff Reports

Five suspects in an armed robbery and a home invasion that took place in Yankton Tuesday night have been arrested in Mitchell.

Hailee Horn, 23; Parkston, Demil Spears, 23, Chicago; Devonjae Strong, 24, Chicago; Jo Thomas, 26, Chicago; and Derrell Williamson, 25, Chicago, were arrested Wednesday morning in connection to the two incidents.

All five have been charged with aggravated assault, first-degree petty theft and commission of a felony with a firearm.

Thomas has the additional charge of grand theft related to a stolen vehicle, and Williamson has a related charge for failing to report as a sex offender.

According to a press release from the Yankton Police Department, a report was received at 9:27 p.m. Tuesday of an attempted home invasion

in the 1200 block of Cedar St. The homeowner was able to scare off three individuals without incident.

At 10:31 p.m., residents at an apartment complex in the 1000 block of Walnut St. reported being robbed at gunpoint by four individuals.

An investigation determined that the two incidents were related and the suspects had left

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

**Mount Marty College sophomore Laura Cattle is spending Christmas break with family in her native Australia. She is making the trip thanks to an anonymous donor who covered the \$2,600 plane ticket.**

## Anonymous Donor Sends MMC Student Home For The Holidays

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Laura Cattle is looking forward to a traditional family Christmas, complete with an outdoor barbecue and swimming in the pool.

The Mount Marty College sophomore won't be freezing. Unlike her fellow MMC students, she's spending the holiday break "Down Under" — in her native Australia.

She expects the temperatures to hit triple digits in her native land, where it's summer. Her Christmas celebration will more closely resemble Fourth of July festivities for Americans.

"During Christmas, it's over 100 degrees. We have a barbecue and go to the pool for a swim," she said. "We live on a property that's 2,000 acres. We have a lot of lakes, rivers and dams. We also have a lot of childhood drownings in our country, so my siblings and I have been taught to swim."

Christmas hasn't yet arrived, but Cattle has already received perhaps the greatest gift of all — and she doesn't know the giver.

Cattle didn't plan to go home for the holidays because of the expense. However, an anonymous MMC benefactor paid for her trip home.

"Normally, it costs \$1,600 round trip, but for Christmas it costs \$2,600 round trip," she explained.

The donor's offer came as a surprise, said MMC Development Director Barb Rezac.

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### Sports



**Locals Among Honorees In State Year-End Awards • 5A**



### Inside



**More Letters To Santa • 9A**

### Happy Holidays



**Dec. 24  
1 shopping  
day to Christmas**

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Three students from Yankton's Beadle Elementary School dressed as superheroes — both fictional and real — for the school's annual Halloween Parade in October. To see more photos from the autumn season, see today's "River City." (Photo: Kelly Hertz/P&D)

## Capitol Trees



PHOTO: ELIZABETH 'SAM' GROSZ

Three trees are among the almost 100 displayed at the South Dakota State Capitol this year in Pierre. The trees are, from left: sponsored by Century Link and decorated in honor of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; sponsored by National American University and decorated by Capitol City Florist & Gifts; and sponsored by Delta Dental of South Dakota and decorated in honor Pierre Youth Orchestra. The display is open to the public through Dec. 26.

## Mickelson Earns The 2015 Realtor Of The Year Award After 45 Years Of Service

BY REILLY BIEL  
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A longtime Yankton realtor is ending his career on a high note.

Ted Mickelson of Anderson Realty received the Lewis & Clark Board of Realtors' 2015 "Realtor of the Year" award for his dedicated involvement in real estate and the board.

However, Mickelson doesn't feel he's earned it. "I'm positive they gave it to me because of my age," he remarked.

Mickelson joined the real estate business on Jan. 20, 1970. On Dec. 31, Mickelson will officially retire after 45 years of service.

"Not only has Ted's faithfulness to the principles



Mickelson

of organized real estate, laws and regulations of his board and the code of ethics of the National Association of Realtors, he has also been extremely instrumental in shaping who we are today as a local board," said broker associate/owner of Anderson Realty Rick Daugherty. "Ted's efforts to encourage good real estate practice amongst his peers have been demonstrated through 'leading by example.'"

The Lewis & Clark Board of Realtors is comprised of seven real estate companies in Yankton.

**MICKELSON** | PAGE 3A

## Library Holds Adult Coloring Session To Ease Holiday Stress This Weekend

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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These days, Yankton librarian Linda Dobrovoly is working with a different set of books. What's the library's new addition? Coloring books.

Dobrovoly, who serves as assistant director of the Yankton Community Library, has organized a series of adult coloring sessions. The next rounds are scheduled for 2-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the library's meeting room.

The sessions are free with no pre-registration required. Participants must be at least 18 years old, and they can come and go as they please during a particular session.

"This is new for us, but I saw adult coloring books last summer all over the stores. I was seeing it everywhere," she said. "I'm also reading about it in library blogs and newsletters. College libraries are hosting coloring book parties during finals week."

How popular is the craze? People can't get enough of it, according to surveys and a current

supply shortage which seems tied to the Christmas season.

"Five of the 20 best-selling books on Amazon in 2015 were adult coloring books," she said. "A (Yankton library) staff member tried to purchase colored pencils for her children and was told it was in short supply. The colored pencils would be back in stock Dec. 26."

The surging popularity of adult coloring books prompted the Yankton library to start the program. The first session was held last month.

"We did this previously on the weekend following Thanksgiving," she said. "We purposely chose to do it on holiday weekends. We offer it as a break from the holiday hustle and bustle. Holidays are hard and stressful. We try to provide a space and time for people to take a break."

Dobrovoly acknowledged last month's opening session had a small turnout, which she hopes it grows with more publicity surrounding the coloring books. In addition, the first group

**LIBRARY** | PAGE 2A



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

**Yankton Community Library associate director Linda Dobrovoly works on a picture as part of the adult coloring program. The next session will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the library.**



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**SATURDAY: The Top 10 Local Stories Of 2015**

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK  
**NORTH**  
OF 15TH STREET