

To Our Readers

Because New Year's Day falls on a Friday, next week's "River City" will run on Thursday, Dec. 31. If you wish to submit any information for the "River City" edition next week, please have that information to us by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

New At The Library

Here's what's new at the Yankton Community Library this week:

ADULT BOOKS

- **Ashley Bell** by Dean Koontz; Fiction
- **The Bone Labyrinth** by James Rollins; Fiction
- **Bryant & May and the Burning Man** by Christopher Fowler; Fiction
- **The First Hostage** by Joel C. Rosenberg; Fiction
- **Invisible City** by Julia Dahl; Fiction
- **The Relic Master** by Christopher Buckley; Fiction
- **So You Don't Get Lost in the Neighborhood** by Patrick Modiano; Fiction
- **The Verdict** by Nick Stone; Fiction
- **Eisenhower's Armies** by Niall Barr; Nonfiction
- **The Snoopy Treasures** by Nat Gertler; Nonfiction
- **Writing Your Novel from Start to Finish** by Joseph Bates; Nonfiction

ADULT AUDIO BOOKS

- **The Theory of Death** by Faye Kellerman Fiction

ADULT DVDS

- **Ant-Man**
- **Fantastic 4**
- **McFarland USA**
- **Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation**
- **Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials**

EASY BOOKS

- **Bear and Bunny** by Daniel Pinkwater; Fiction
- **Double Happiness** by Nancy Tupper Ling; Fiction

Did you know that you can reserve an item from home? Staff will then notify you as soon as the item is available.

The Bookworm

Bittersweet 'Grandmother' Will Bring Tears, Smiles

"My Grandmother asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry" by Fredrik Backman; © 2015, Atria; 372 pages

BY TERRI SCHLICHTENMEYER

"I forgive you." Are there any three more powerful words? Can "I love you" — also used for countertops, couches, or coats — be bestowed such mercy? I don't think so.

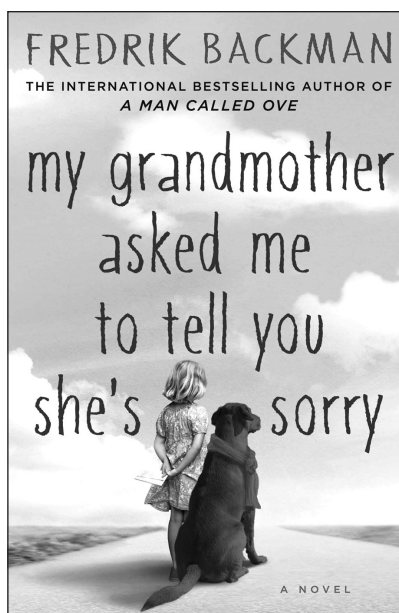
"I forgive you." In release and relief, those words put things back on track — although, in the new book "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry" by Fredrik Backman, the transgressions hardly need absolution.

Every grandmother's house smells a little different.

Some smell like cookies or old magazines, soup or stale perfume. But seven-year-old Elsa's granny's flat — the whole building, in fact — smelled like coffee, cigarettes, a "very large animal of some sort," and Granny.

For her entire life, Granny was the only friend Elsa had. Granny played games with Elsa, gave her rides in Renault (the car Granny said she won in a poker game), told Elsa stories (Granny loved stories!) and she taught Elsa how to get to the Land-of-Almost-Awake, the magic kingdom of Miamas, and a troubled knight named Wolfheart. Granny had a lot of superpowers, one of which was always being on Elsa's side.

And that, perhaps, was why she never mentioned the word "cancer" to



Elsa. She didn't want Elsa to know, or to mourn. That was probably why Granny never said goodbye before leaving Elsa with an assignment befitting a knight of Miamas.

The assignment was a treasure hunt (Granny loved treasure hunts!), with clues and messages for people in their building: Britt-Marie, who was a "nag-bag," and her husband, Kent; the boy who danced, and his mother, Maud, who fixed everything with cookies, and Lennart; Al, who drove Taxi. The first clue took Elsa to the door of a vicious

dog that lived downstairs. If the dog didn't kill her, surely the second delivery would: it was an apology for The Monster, who lived next to the dog.

As Elsa made the deliveries, three more clues appeared until everything — including Granny's not-so-goodbye — began to make sense. And so did the knowledge that "It's possible to love your grandmother for years and years without really knowing anything about her."

Did you ever read a novel that was so captivating that when it was over, you felt a little adrift? That's how I was when I finished "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry."

If you can remember that time in your life when magic was real, grown-ups were mysteries, and you were about to learn the truth about both, then you're halfway to understanding what makes author Fredrik Backman's book so appealing: though she's "insanely" precocious, Elsa still relies on a magic-and-pretend life that's whisked away so quickly, it's breathtaking. And yet, that having-to-grow-up-fast time is mercifully aborted by the posthumous wishes of the kind of grandmother you'll wish you had, the one who knows there's no need to hurry childhood's exit.

Bring tissues when you start "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry," but bring your funnybone, too. It's that kind of book — one that, if you miss it, you'll never forgive yourself.

Final Day For Capitol Trees Dec. 26

PIERRE — The decorated Christmas trees in the South Dakota Capitol will only be on display through Saturday of this week.

The display is open daily to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST through Saturday, Dec. 26.

Representatives of organizations and communities who decorated the trees will return to Pierre on Sunday, Dec. 27, and Monday morning, Dec. 28, to take the trees down.

For more information, find Christmas at the Capitol on Facebook.

Adult Coloring Session Set For Library

The Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut Street, invites adults to join the staff Saturday, Dec. 26, and Sunday, Dec. 27, from 2-4 p.m. each day, for the latest trend in stress busting: coloring.

No registration is required and there will be no instruction, no lesson plan, and no agenda. Just bring your creative mind and perhaps a friend or two. A quiet space with calming music will relieve all that holiday stress and worry. All supplies are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

For more information, call the library at 668-5275.

Preservation Commission Meets Dec. 28

What are the most pressing issues related to preserving history in Yankton County? That'll be the main topic of discussion when the county's Historic Preservation Commission meets on Monday, Dec. 28.

The public meeting begins at 3 p.m. in the County Commission chambers. All interested persons are welcome. The commission will discuss the results of the new historic preservation levy and make recommendations to the county commission on budget priorities.

Commission members include Jim Means, Ken Jones, Crystal Nelson, Roger Huntley and Bernie Hunnhoff.

Holiday Break Activities At Library

The Yankton Community Library is hosting holiday break boredom-buster activities after Christmas.

The staff is showing "The Minion Movie" on Monday, Dec. 28. It is rated PG and is 90 minutes long.

Tuesday, Dec. 29, is game day with board games and Wii available. The library will provide a variety of games, but you can also bring your own.

Free building time with the library's LEGO and DUPLO bricks is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 30. All activities are from 2-3:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Preschoolers must be accompanied by an adult or teen.

Call the library at 668-5275 if you have questions.

L&C Rec. Area Hosts First-Day Hikes

Lewis and Clark Recreation Area invites park visitors to take a winter bird watching hike and a fitness hike on New Year's Day as part of America's State Parks' First Day Hikes initiative in all 50 states, and the Surgeon General's challenge for all Americans to walk or wheel 22 minutes per day.

Assistant Park Manager Tonna Hartman will lead a guided bird watching hike through the park beginning at 10 a.m. Friday Jan. 1, 2016. Participants are asked to meet at the Lewis & Clark Recreation Area Welcome Center, located five miles west of Yankton on Highway 52, and should bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather.

After the bird hike Tonna will give a 30-minute presentation on birding at the Welcome Center. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

The fitness hike will begin at 11 a.m. after the winter bird watching hike.

"A park entrance license is required year-round for all vehicles entering the park," said Shane Bertsch, District park supervisor. They may be purchased at the self-pay station at the entrance booth or at the Welcome Center during business hours.

Cribbage Lessons Slated For Library

Are you interested in learning to play cribbage? If so, lessons will be offered at the Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut Street in January.

Scott Kooistra and members of the Yankton Cribbage Club will be at the library on the following Sundays from 2-4 p.m. each of these days: Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the rules of cribbage and practice playing the game.

"Cribbage is a wonderful card game for the whole family and a great game for children to learn how to use simple math skills," said Kooistra. "Once you learn, a typical game of cribbage takes only fifteen minutes to play. We hope a lot of people join us. The cribbage instruction is FREE, and we'll have prize giveaways each week."

Both individuals and teams of two are welcome. Cards and cribbage boards will be provided.

For further information, contact the library at 668-5275.

Year In Review

Trump, Williams, Jenner Among TV's Most Eye-Popping Moments In 2015

BY FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — It's been a year of shifting sands in late night. A year of broken trust in two vastly different TV personalities. And a year when presidential debates became must-see TV.

Here's a rundown of 10 big television happenings in 2015:

SAY 'GOOD NIGHT':

Late-night TV's transformation began in January, when Larry Wilmore's new "Nightly Show" claimed the Comedy Central slot previously held by Stephen Colbert's "Colbert Report." Then in February, Jon Stewart announced he was leaving Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" and, in July, he did. In March, James Corden took over CBS' "Late Late Show" and Trevor Noah was declared the incoming host of "The Daily Show," debuting in September. In May, David Letterman retired from CBS' "Late Show" and, in September, Colbert arrived as its new host.

RATINGS EMPIRE:

Fox's "Empire" premiered in January and quickly became a rip-roaring success. Its audience grew every week through its May season finale — a virtually unprecedented feat — and it launched Taraji P. Henson's fearless, outrageous Cookie as the year's breakout character, complete with a real-life fashion line. Meanwhile, stars from Mariah Carey and Cuba Gooding Jr. to Pitbull and Marisa Tomei were lining up to guest on the show. All in all, a rare case of a broadcast-network drama truly shaking things up.

STREAMS GLEAM:

Streaming was where the TV action was this year as an increasing number of viewers gleefully cut the cable cord (or at least fantasized about it) while plugging into outlets like Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hulu, which all upped their stake in original content. Newcomers kept viewers' heads spinning, including the Spanish-language Univision Now channel and, now in beta, the comedy channel Seeso. Meanwhile, CBS' All Access streaming-video service grabbed viewers' attention by announcing that early in 2017

it would be the exclusive U.S. home for a brand-new "Star Trek" series.

ANCHOR AWAY:

Trusted NBC "Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams, who reported so credibly on wars for NBC News, got caught fudging his own stories as a guest on "Late Show" and elsewhere. His was a precipitous fall from grace (and the top tier of NBC News) as he was benched and replaced by Lester Holt. Though he would continue to be banned from NBC, he was eventually deemed sufficiently trustworthy to play on second-string MSNBC, where he quietly emerged from hiding in September.

A COKE AND A SMILE:

May marked the end of "Mad Men," a drama that made its network, AMC, golden while helping certify television as the artistic equal of film. After seven seasons plotting the style, agita and misbehavior of the '60s white-collar class, it concluded in properly shrewd fashion: Don Draper (series star Jon Hamm), who had dropped out of the ad game in despair, was struck with his own brand of consciousness-raising while he meditated at a yoga retreat, then returned home armed with a New Age epiphany for a classic Coke commercial. (Another beloved series, "Downton Abbey," was winding down for its final season in early 2016.)

'19 KIDS' DOWN FOR THE COUNT:

Trouble hit the long-running TLC reality show "19 Kids and Counting" after the oldest of the Duggar brood, 27-year-old Josh, became the subject of revelations that, as a teenager, he had fondled four of his sisters and a baby sitter. A portrait of wholesome family life, "19 Kids" had been TLC's most-watched series, averaging 3.2 million viewers, until it was pulled from the air in May, then officially canceled in July. In August, Josh publicly apologized for a pornography addiction and cheating on his wife, and, in November, he was sued by an adult-film actress who claimed he assaulted her when consensual sex turned rough. None of that kept TLC

from producing three specials featuring two of the sisters victimized by Josh for airing in December.

TRANSITIONING INTO NEW INSIGHT:

Gender reassignment was a conspicuous theme in 2015. Amazon's award-winning scripted series "Transparent" entered its second season. In June, "Becoming Us" premiered on ABC Family as an unscripted series focusing on an Illinois teen whose father was becoming a woman. July brought "I Am Jazz," a TLC unscripted series about 14-year-old Jazz Jennings, who was born male but at 2 years old knew she was a girl. And also in July, the docuseries "I Am Cait" arrived on the E! network to chart the former Bruce Jenner's transition to Caitlyn Jenner as part of a highly orchestrated coming-out campaign that included an April interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer and a Vanity Fair cover.

HUGER THAN EVER:

Donald Trump has long been a familiar face on TV, especially since 2004, when he debuted as host of NBC's "The Apprentice." That relationship abruptly ended last June, not long after Trump's incendiary remarks about Mexican immigrants made while announcing his GOP presidential candidacy. In his new role, he scored an even better TV gig. He became a sought-after guest on talk shows, newscasts and as host of "Saturday Night Live," and proved to be a ratings magnet for presidential debates (see below). Trump's typically measured self-assessment: "Nobody gets ratings like me."

NO DEBATING, THEY'RE A HIT:

Presidential debates were big draws and big business for the networks that presented them in 2015 — at least, when Donald Trump was involved. The first Republican debate was watched by 24 million viewers, the highest-rated broadcast in Fox News Channel's history. The second debate, with nearly 23 million viewers, made similar history for CNN. The third debate, seen by 14 million viewers, broke records for CNBC. And with the fourth debate, Fox Business Network landed its biggest-ever audience, 13.5 million viewers. (The first Democratic presidential debate, deprived of Trump or any other fireworks, delivered a paltry 8.5 million viewers to CBS.)

HORRIBLY ROUTINE:

From TV's eyes in the sky while the horror transpired to plundering the shooters' home, TV news was there in San Bernardino, California. It was there in Colorado Springs, Colorado. And Charleston, South Carolina. And, of course, Paris. And so many more. The grim, graphic visuals from these repeated mass shootings began to harden into ritual for viewers and even correspondents covering them. One tragedy after another, it was raw repetition of something out of control, with no end in sight.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Frazier Moore is a national television columnist for The Associated Press. He can be reached at fmoore@ap.org and at http://www.twitter.com/wfrazier. Past stories are available at http://bigstory.ap.org/content/frazier-moore

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Shop Early!

Our store and gas station will close at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed Christmas Day so our employees can spend the holiday with their families. We will re-open at 6:00am on Saturday, December 26.

Happy Holidays From All Of Us At...

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