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Wednesday, Aug. 13

Senior Menu: Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy, Peas, Tomato Spoon Salad, Carrot Bar, Whole Wheat Bread

Anniv: Jonathan & Mandilyn Fliehs

Birthdays: Logan Nilsson • Sam Furman • Mike Weber • Ralph Merkel • Jennifer Neff • Dee Riley

• Don Hepola

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

7:00pm: Christian Missionary & Alliance Midweek Family night (kids, youth, adults)

Thursday, Aug. 14

HS Football Practice Starts HS Volleyball Practice Starts **Senior Menu:** Meatloaf, Baked Potato/S.Cream, Creamed Peas, Fruited Jello, Whole Wheat Bread **Birthdays:** Doug Bahr • Tammy Voss • Jean Peterson • Annette Helm

6:00pm: Groton Lions Club meeting at Lisa Harry's



The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is back and is open!

Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back in Groton at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool. Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield

FOR RENT

Attached garage. Major appliances included. \$700 per month Roger: 605/397-7118

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8958: Ada Siders competes in the barrel racing completion at the Dacotah Stampede Stick Horse Rodeo (Photo by Char Telkamp)



8919: Trey Wright puts his horse through its paces in the Sr. Stock Seat Equitation Class during the Youth Horse Show at the Brown County Fair. (Photo by Char Telkamp)



Tessa Erdmann earned reserve market goat and junior champion showmanship yesterday at the jackpot goat show in Aberdeen.



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Today in Weather History

1987: A succession of thunderstorms produced rainfall that was unprecedented in 116 years of precipitation records at Chicago, Illinois during an 18 hour period from the evening of the 13th to the early afternoon of the 14th. The resulting flash flood was the worst to ever strike the Chicago metropolitan area, causing 3 deaths and water damage that amounted to 221 million dollars worth. O Hare International Airport received an event total of 9.35 inches of rain in 18 hours, shattering the previous 24 hour record of 6.24 inches. For a period of about 24 hours, the airport was only accessible from the air as all roads were blocked by high water, including the Kennedy Expressway.

1950: Hurricane Able was the first Atlantic hurricane to be given a "phonetic" name. The first storm was named with an "A", the second with a "B", and so on. It was not until 1953 that actual names were given to tropical storms.

1955: Hurricane Connie dumped copious amounts of rain as it moved up the East Coast. Over five inches of rain fell on New York City in twenty hours, flooding the city's subways.

1982: A thunderstorm struck Barrow, AK with pea-sized hail and 43mph winds.

1986: 3.04 inches of rain fell in Flagstaff, AZ, the most ever for a single day in August in the city.

2004: After passing just west of Key West with 110mph winds, Hurricane Charley intensified rapidly and possessed 145mph gusts just three hours later as it made landfall on the west coast of Florida. The storm crossed the state, bringing 100mph winds to Walt Disney World. It re-emerged over the Atlantic Ocean still as a Category 1 hurricane, and then curved northward into the Carolinas. There were 15 fatalities.

2011: Powerful thunderstorm winds caused a large concert stage to collapse at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, killing seven people and injuring 48.

2012: At 4pm Needles, CA reported light rain with a temperature of 115 degrees, which is the world's hottest temperature ever recorded while rain was falling.

One of Groton's finest homes looking for a new family



Over 7,000 sq. ft. of living area. Six bedrooms, six baths, two kitchens, living room, dining room, study room, two family rooms, theater room, oversized three-stall garage, irrigation system.



102 N Main, Groton Office: 605/397-2424 Home: 605/397-8565



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U.S. Postal Service's Financial Woes Continue Following \$2B Loss in Q3

WASHINGTON, DC—August 12, 2014—The U.S. Postal Service ended the June 30, 2014, quarter with a net loss of \$2.0 billion, compared to a net loss of \$740 million for the same period last year. The Postal Service has recorded a loss in 21 of the last 23 quarters, the excepted quarters being the two in which Congress rescheduled the Retiree Health Benefits prefunding payments.

Revenue continues to improve as a result of the Postal Service's January mail price increase, successful sales and marketing initiatives, and continued success in growing the package business. Total operating revenue of \$16.5 billion increased by \$327 million, or 2.0 percent, compared to the same period last year.

Shipping and Package revenue was up 6.6 percent. Standard Mail revenue was up 5.1 percent, driven by a 0.9 percent increase in volume and the January 2014 price increase. First-Class Mail volume was down 1.4 percent, but the January price increase offset this decline, resulting in a 3.2 percent revenue increase.

"We're seeing momentum in our package business and continued use of direct mail as an advertising medium," said Postmaster General and CEO Patrick Donahoe. "We've been effective in developing and marketing our products, and we're improving how we leverage data and technology—all providing a higher return on mail for many customers and causing them to take a fresh look at the Postal Service."

Total operating expenses for the third quarter of 2014 were \$18.4 billion, an increase of \$1.5 billion from the same period last year, driven mainly by the Workers' Compensation fair value adjustment.

FOR RENT

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Kendra at 605/215-4000.

FOR SALE

Beautiful and spacious townhouse for sale by owners. Three bedrooms, three baths, finished basement with a custom wet bar. Heated 2 car attached garage. Low monthly rural utilities and low rural taxes. Priced to sell. If interested, please call Lisa @ 605 290 2404 or Dennis @ 605 880 4821.



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Compensation and benefits expenses increased by \$15 million, or 0.1 percent, compared to the third quarter of 2013, as contractual pay increases were offset by work-hour reductions and more efficient use of available labor flexibility.

"Due to continued losses and low levels of liquidity, we've been extremely conservative with our capital, spending only what is deemed essential to maintain existing infrastructure," noted CFO and Executive Vice President Joseph Corbett. "To continue to provide world-class service and remain competitive, we must invest up to \$10 billion to replace our aging vehicle fleet, purchase additional package sorting equipment, and make necessary upgrades to our infrastructure."

Corbett also said that the organization will be unable to make the required \$5.7 billion retiree health benefit prefunding payment to the U.S. Treasury, due by Sept. 30, 2014. Comprehensive postal legislation is necessary to eliminate this liability and provide a basis for the Postal Service to return to long-term financial health.

This quarter's results were improved as a result of implementing the exigent price increase, which the Postal Regulatory Commission has ruled as a surcharge to be collected only until the Postal Service recovers a total amount of \$3.2 billion of incremental revenue, estimated to occur in the second half of 2015. The Postal Service has petitioned the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to review the PRC's order on the exigent price increase. Among other things, the Postal Service's position is that the PRC improperly and artificially limited the amount of relief to which the Postal Service was entitled as a result of the Great Recession.

Following is a summary of third quarter results of Operations compared to same period last year.

Total mail volume of 37.7 billion pieces compared to 37.8 billion pieces: Shipping and Package volume increased 7.7 percent; Standard Mail volume increased 0.9 percent; First-Class Mail volume declined 1.4 percent. This was the 32nd consecutive quarterly decline for First-Class Mail volume.

Operating revenue of \$16.5 billion increased \$327 million or 2.0 percent.

Operating expenses before non-cash Workers' Compensation and Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund expenses of \$16.5 billion increased from \$16.3 billion, a 1 percent change.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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THURSDAY



TODAY



Cloudy

TONIGHT

High: 84 °F Low: 60 °F



Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 84 °F

20%

THURSDAY



Slight Chc Thunderstorms Low: 63 °F



High: 85 °F

FRIDAY

Chance Thunderstorms



Chance

Thunderstorms

Low: 66 °F

FRIDAY



SATURDAY

Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 86 °F





Southerly winds will begin to transport warm moist air back into the region over the next couple of days. Small chances for showers and thunderstorms exist tonight and Thursday, but more widespread precipitation is expected as a front moves across the region on Friday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 83.5°F at 7:04 PM Low: 45.7°F at 6:27 AM High Gust: 9 mph 2:12 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 112° in 1965

Record High: 112° in 1965 Record Low: 35° in 1964 Average High: 83°F Average Low: 57°F Average Precip in Aug.: 0.94 Precip to date in Aug.: 0.79 Average Precip to date: 14.80 Precip Year to Date: 9.77 Sunset Tonight: 8:44 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:33 a.m.



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GOD - OUR GUIDANCE SYSTEM

Often, life's disappointments end up a being one of God's special appointments. Like a good father, God will not allow anything into our lives that will permanently hurt, harm or hinder us from accomplishing His purpose for our lives. Often, what seems to be an accident is a very special appointment from God waiting to make sense to us.

Quite often I find it disheartening when I hear a Christian say, "This is my lucky day!" or "I can't believe that I'm this unfortunate!" or "God must not love me as much as He does others or He would have given me that job."

Life, for the Christian is not chance. It is choice – God's choice for us. But as He allows things to come into our lives, we are responsible for looking at "it" through His eyes and choose how we are going to respond to "it."

Consider the story of Joseph. His brothers sold him into slavery. Then, he was falsely accused of doing things he did not do. But, it did not matter. He had to pay the consequences and was thrown into prison for two years of hard labor.

And what did he say to his brothers? "Guess what. You meant to do evil and harm me. But, God turned your evil intentions into good for His glory!" God led him from being a prisoner to becoming a premier!

Our eyes keep us from seeing beyond the immediate - what is right now. But God sees our past, the present and the future He has for us to become Christ-like.

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts and minds and make us willing to accept Your Leadership and Lordship each day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

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News from the Associated Press

Gay SD prep coach will keep job at private school

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — A volleyball coach at St. Mary High School in Dell Rapids who has publicly announced he's gay says he's being allowed to keep his job.

Nate Alfson announced he was gay last week on the website www.outsports.com . He later said he was concerned about his future with the private Catholic school.

Alfson met with school officials Tuesday and later said in an email to www.outsports.com and on his Facebook page that he will not lose his job. He did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment Wednesday.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls issued a statement saying "all persons, whatever their attraction, are to be treated with respect, compassion and justice."

Alfson is believed to be the first openly gay high school coach in South Dakota.

Dakotas producing good-size soybean, wheat crops

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Corn production is down slightly in the Dakotas, but the soybean crops are at record levels and wheat production has rebounded.

The latest report from the Agriculture Department estimates South Dakota's soybean crop up 7 percent from last year and North Dakota's soybean crop up 37 percent. The increase comes at the expense of corn production, which is expected to drop 5 percent in South Dakota and 9 percent in North Dakota. Both states' winter wheat crops are forecast to be more than double the size of last year's. Spring wheat production is expected to be up 14 percent in South Dakota and up 16 percent in North Dakota. Good growing conditions are a reason. North Dakota's spring wheat yield is projected to be a record 47 bushels per acre.

Fire shuts down hotel, restaurant in Spearfish

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the cause of a fire that shut down two businesses in Spearfish.

Authorities say the late-night Monday blaze prompted the evacuation of the Howard Johnson Inn and the adjacent Pizza Ranch restaurant.

Firefighters contained the blaze to a few rooms in the hotel but there was smoke damage throughout the building.

No one was hurt.

Fire damages businesses in Tea; no injuries

TEA, S.D. (AP) — A fire has caused heavy damage at an industrial building in Tea.

No one was hurt in the Tuesday night blaze. More than 30 firefighters from five area communities had to truck in water to fight the flames.

The building houses at least three businesses. The amount of damage wasn't immediately known. The cause of the fire was not immediately determined.

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Grant to help low-income students take AP tests

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Education is receiving more than \$7,500 in an effort to help more low-income students take Advanced Placement exams.

The Advanced Placement Test Fee Program aims to encourage historically underserved students to take the university-level tests and earn college credit for high school courses. The U.S. Department of Education says the goal is to reduce the time and cost required to earn a degree after high school.

The grant funding will be used to help pay for low-income students taking approved Advanced Placement tests administered by the College Board, the International Baccalaureate Organization and Cambridge International Examinations.

Record crops predicted; farmers market carefully DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Farmers will produce a record-breaking corn harvest this year, surpassing earlier expectations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which on Tuesday revised upward its estimate of this year's corn crop to 14 billion bushels to exceed last year's 13.9 billion bushel record.

A bigger crop was expected as adequate rain and cool temperatures made for favorable growing conditions in the 18 states that produce 91 percent of the nation's corn. The abundant harvest has driven prices lower, prompting farmers to take more control of their grain marketing by building more on-farm storage, holding onto the crop and timing the sale to maximize profit.

The USDA said the amount of corn produced from each acre will reach a new nationwide average of 167.4 bushels, up from the earlier spring estimate of 165.3 bushels. The record 164.7 bushels per acre average was set in 2009.

Iowa remains the nation's top corn producer with an expected 2.44 billion bushels. Illinois is a close second with 2.22 billion bushels, followed by Nebraska with 1.51 billion and Minnesota with 1.34 billion.

Soybean production also will set a new record of 3.8 billion bushels, the USDA said, confirming its earlier prediction. The previous record was 3.4 billion bushels in 2009. Soybean production per acre also will break a record with a yield 45.4 bushels, beating the 2009 record of 44 bushels per acre.

Farmers have been forced to exercise more control over grain marketing by storing it until prices pushed lower by the large harvest improve.

"Either through permanent or temporary storage, you're going to see huge quantities going into storage," said Scott Irwin, a University of Illinois professor of agricultural and consumer economics. "Elevators will pile it onto the ground. Farmers may put it in these long plastic tubes out of South America."

The tubes are temporary plastic bag storage systems that have become increasingly popular in the past few years after successful use in Argentina and Canada. The bags when filled can be the length of a football field and 8 to 10 feet in diameter. They can store grain for several months.

The storage increase is driven by low prices, problems with availability of rail cars to ship grain in the Midwest, and trucking bottlenecks that occur at elevators during harvest, said Craig Fisher, a Richard-ton, North Dakota, farmer who sells bags and bagging equipment.

"It's fundamentally changed farming for me," he said. "I can farm all I can handle now and not worry about bottlenecks. I can store it in the bags and worry about trucking it later."

The construction of permanent grain bins also has increased. Farmers stored 11.78 billion bushels of grain on farms in 2012, according to the latest data available from the USDA. That was up 20 percent from 2002.

On-farm grain storage has become one way farmers take more control of their own grain marketing.

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"By being able to store it, if a farmer can keep the grain off of a glut of supply, he may be able to sell it in December at a much better deal," said Chip Nellinger, a futures market specialist at Blue Reef Agri-Marketing Inc., a risk management and agricultural product marketing firm in Morton, Illinois.

Corn for December delivery fell 14 percent during July. It was trading around \$5 a bushel until it began a steep decline in early May.

It traded at \$3.65 a bushel as Tuesday's report was released.

Soybeans for November delivery were trading at \$10.58 a bushel. They had been above \$12 as recently as June.

The lower prices will not immediately lower the cost of groceries, although they could help bring down prices of beef and pork since livestock producers will pay less for feed that contains corn and soybeans.

The lower prices have a significant impact on profitability for farmers since they're harvesting a crop that cost them more to produce than they can immediately sell it for.

"It's hard to sell \$5 corn when you recently sold \$6 corn. And it's really hard to sell \$4 corn," said Chad Hart, an agriculture economist at Iowa State University.

Students get \$50K geological model software gift

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology has received more than \$50,000 worth of software that students will be able to use in geological modeling.

The school says the student chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists received the gift from the technology company Leapfrog.

The software is geared toward mining, hydrogeology and geothermal energy industries. It is used in the study of mineral deposits.

Kelli McCormick is an instructor at the school's mining engineering and management department. She says the program is commonly used by exploration and mine geologists.

McCormick says the donation will benefit students who may need to know the software's inner workings before entering the workforce.

Kansas plant reopening after 'pink slime' dispute ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A shuttered Kansas processing plant that produced a treated ground beef product critics dubbed "pink slime" plans to reopen next week with limited operations amid rebounding sales, the company said Tuesday.

Beef Products Inc. said it planned to start collecting fresh beef trimmings at its Garden City facility beginning Monday to support its current Dakota City, Nebraska production operations. The Kansas plant is the first to reopen since the company closed three of its facilities over the 2012 controversy about the meat.

The Dakota Dunes, South Dakota-based company will rehire 40 to 45 workers for two shifts of fresh beef trimmings collection and a third shift cleaning crew at its Garden City location.

"It is good news for that community," said Jeremy Jacobsen, a spokesman for the Dakota Dunes, South Dakota-based BPI, said Tuesday.

Some 236 workers at the Garden City plant lost their jobs in 2012 amid the dustup over a meat product called lean, finely textured beef.

"BPI continues to experience growth and remains confident this growth will continue," Craig Letch, BPI's director of food quality and safety, said in a news release. "Although business conditions are not

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yet to the point where we can resume lean beef production operations in Garden City, this is certainly a step in the right direction."

The uproar prompted Beef Products to suspend operations at plants in Amarillo, Texas; Waterloo, Iowa; and Kansas that cost nearly 700 jobs.

Loss of revenue over the controversy was a contributing factor in Cargill's shutdown of its plant in Plainview, Texas, that employed more than 2,000 people, although the tight cattle supply played a larger role in that decision, Cargill spokesman Mike Martin said Tuesday. Cargill also shut down a facility in Vernon, California, outside of Los Angeles that further processed the meat product.

BPI filed a lawsuit in 2012 against ABC News and others, saying that the network's coverage prompted consumer to shun the product and led to the plant closures and layoffs. BPI said it lost 80 percent of its business in 28 days.

BPI hasn't said exactly how much sales have rebounded.

US attorneys host human trafficking forum in SD REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement officials fighting human trafficking and sexual assault cases in the Dakotas want to increase the help they receive from medical professionals and the public in general to identify victims of these crimes.

The message was stressed Tuesday during the first day of a conference sponsored by U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson from South Dakota and U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon from North Dakota that was meant to raise awareness of these crimes.

The discussions emphasized how medical professionals can help identify victims, the way they should talk to survivors and the kind of assistance they can provide to people in distress. Doctors and nurses were encouraged to look closely at possible signs of abuse that victims visiting emergency rooms or doctors' offices may show: lack of eye contact, untreated STDs, inability to say the city or state they are in.

A senior adviser at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Katherine Chon, cited a study conducted among 107 human trafficking survivors that showed that almost 88 percent of victims had at least one interaction with a medical professional while they were still being victimized.

"Change happens at a community base level," Chon said. "It's all hands on deck. We need local authorities, federal authorities, parents, educators, health care providers, school nurses, anyone and everyone in the community who has some interaction with potential victims of human trafficking."

Johnson said members of the community can help by reporting to authorities any suspicious activities they believe could lead to these crimes, such as men frequently coming in and out of a house at odd hours of the day where young women are also present.

"Any place where you have a large community, you have a demand and the pimps will find a way to find the supply," Johnson said. He added that many people believe human trafficking originates in other countries and don't realize there are homegrown victims.

He described to the audience — mostly medical professionals — how some victims whose traffickers have now been prosecuted were forced into commercial sex operations: A women with a developmental disability in Sioux Falls was picked up by a trafficker while she was biking down the street; a 13-year-old met her pimp at a party where he was serving alcohol; and another person was lured into sexual trafficking after meeting a man who bought her cigarettes.

At least 20 people have been indicted by federal authorities on human trafficking charges in South

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Dakota in the last four years, including three who received life sentences.

The event, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and Avera Health, will run through Thursday in Sioux Falls. Purdon is scheduled to participate in discussions Wednesday and Thursday.

Report: Other state health plans better than SD's KEVIN BURBACH

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's public workers receive less-generous health plans than their counterparts in most other states, but their insurance benefits are superior to other South Dakota residents who have private insurance or are enrolled in the federal marketplace, according to a study released Tuesday.

The report, which the Pew Charitable Trust bills as the first of its kind, is a comprehensive look at how states are spending money on health care for state employees. It shows the richness of the plans in each state by looking at the "actuarial value," or the average percentage of health care costs paid for by the plan.

On average, state health plans nationwide paid 92 percent of a typical enrollee's health care costs last year. In South Dakota, health plans paid 89 percent of health care costs, which is more comprehensive than most plans people choose through the Affordable Care Act or receive from their private company, but one of the lowest in the nation for public employees, according to the study's findings.

In only eight other states do public employees pay a greater portion of their health care costs. Health care plans in Georgia cover 80 percent of medical costs while plans in Connecticut cover 98 percent on average.

Most people nationwide that are buying insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplaces are choosing the "sliver" plan, which means 70 percent of the costs are covered. South Dakota's plan for state workers at 89 percent would be considered a "gold" plan under the marketplace designations. The "platinum" tier begins at 90 percent.

Plans through private companies typically cover around 80 percent of the costs.

While overall medical costs covered by the state in South Dakota are lower, the report finds South Dakota provides benefits unlike many others.

Only South Dakota and six other states cover the total cost of health care premiums for individual employees. All states, except North Dakota, have to at least pay a percentage of the premiums for their dependents.

On average, state employees pay about 15 percent of their monthly premium costs.

Eric Ollila, the executive director of the South Dakota Employees Organization, which lobbies for state workers, said employees have seen changes or increases to their plans almost every year.

"While state employees are grateful for the health insurance they have, they would certainly like to keep it where they're at, if not get better," he said.

Mom accused of meth possession pleads not guilty

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City mom arrested for methamphetamine possession in her home where her three children lived has pleaded not guilty.

Thirty-six-year-old Mandy Scott is charged with a half-dozen counts, including aggravated child abuse and felony possession of a controlled substance. Christopher Wright, a co-defendant in the case, is facing similar charges.

The Rapid City Journal reports (http://bit.ly/1q7aLub) that Scott's three children were removed from

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the house after the arrest.

Scott's attorney, Thomas Diggins, could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

Judge Wally Eklund denied Scott's request to grant her visitation of her children. She is free on \$25,000 bond.

Police arrest boy for construction site vandalism

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say an 11-year-old boy has been arrested for allegedly causing \$10,000 in damage to a construction site.

Police says the incident was reported Monday morning after the discovery of damaged doors and windows and cans of paint splattered onto several different surfaces.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader says (http://argusne.ws/1ro0R9p) neighbors near the site identified the boy as a suspect, and he was found with dry paint on his arms and legs.

Police believe the boy did not act alone and are working to find another suspect.

Man, woman charged with kidnapping in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a Sioux Falls couple attacked a woman at a mobile home park and kidnapped her by putting her in the backseat of an SUV after she blacked out.

Thirty-two-year-old Robert Wise, of Crooks, and 30-year-old Heather McBeth, of Sioux Falls, are charged with aggravated assault and kidnapping.

The incident happened Monday morning. The victim told police the pair strangled her until she was unconscious and she eventually woke up in the back of an SUV.

Authorities say a witness gave police a description of the vehicle and a license plate number and the two suspects were pulled over after a brief chase.

The 30-year-old victim received medical treatment for scratches and bruises.

It wasn't immediately clear if Wise and McBeth had lawyers.

Vet with PTSD pleads guilty in teen sex case JOE MANDAK, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder pleaded guilty to a charge that he took a 13-year-old family friend across state lines for sex.

Joshua Baker, 33, of Leeper, was charged by state authorities with kidnapping a girl he had met through relatives and begun a sexual relationship with when she was 12. Those charges have been on hold since federal authorities took over the case weeks after Baker was found with the girl and arrested in Martin, South Dakota, in April 2013. Baker has been in custody since.

Baker faces at least 10 years in prison when he returns for sentencing Dec. 2 before a federal judge in Pittsburgh. Baker's public defender declined to comment after the guilty plea.

At Tuesday's hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Shaun Sweeney laid out the series of events that led to the interstate trip and Baker's capture.

Baker was a married father of two young children when he met the girl at a family gathering in 2012. Baker allegedly told his cousin that the girl — then 12 — "looked sexy when she wore a certain kind of stockings," Sweeney said. That was the only fact Baker disputed as Sweeney detailed the case to U.S. District Judge Cathy Bissoon.

Baker began a sexual relationship with the girl and planned to run away with her the following spring,

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Sweeney said.

Without announcing his plans, Baker went with his wife to a car dealership with \$5,000 from an insurance claim, looking to purchase a vehicle the day before he and the girl left Pennsylvania, the prosecutor said. When Baker's wife went to the restroom, Baker left with the money, dropped a letter in his home mailbox telling his wife he wanted a divorce and drove away in the couple's car, he said.

Baker then drove to the girl's house and waited outside until her mother went to sleep about 1 a.m. March 28, 2013, the prosecutor said. The girl left the house about an hour later and joined Baker for a trip through several states, during which they had sex several times, Sweeney said.

The couple aroused the suspicious of an alert optical store clerk in Rapid City, South Dakota. The clerk told police Baker told her the girl was his sister, even though they were holding hands.

Another employee wrote down Baker's license plate number, and that evening, the clerk searched the Internet and found a notice that the girl had disappeared from her home several days earlier. She called the police in Rapid City and in Clarion, Pennsylvania, where Baker was charged with kidnapping.

Rapid City police tried to catch Baker when he was scheduled to bring the girl back for an appointment at the eyeglasses store on April 5, but they never showed. Instead, police in Martin, South Dakota, spotted the car at a Dairy Queen on April 6.

Earlier this year, Baker's father told a judge his son's behavior changed for the worse since serving with the military in Iraq and that he had sought counseling and taken medication for PTSD.

Clarion County District Attorney Mark Aaron said he expects to drop the state kidnapping charges once Baker is sentenced to the 10-year federal minimum prison term.

Man beaten in front of ND strip club dies

WILLISTON, N.D. (AP) — A man who was attacked outside the entrance of a Williston strip club has died from his injuries, investigators said Tuesday.

Dean Niederklopfer, 25, was taken off life support at a Minot hospital late Monday, almost four days after he was attacked, Williston Detective David Peterson said. A man and woman facing charges related to the attack are jailed in South Dakota, where authorities say the pair fled after the beating outside Whispers bar.

"Dean was an innocent victim," Peterson said.

Kyle Siler, a 29-year-old former bouncer at the club, faces an aggravated assault charge, while his girlfriend, 30-year-old Jessica Gibson, faces a charge of hindering law enforcement. It wasn't immediately clear if additional charges would be filed in light of Niederklopfer's death.

Officers found Niederklopfer unconscious after being called to the scene just after midnight Friday. Witnesses told investigators that Siler had gone out his way to punch Niederklopfer. Part of the incident was caught on a security video, which also showed Gibson recording the incident on her cellphone, according to police.

Peterson declined to say what may have led up to the attack.

Local prosecutors declined comment about additional charges, and the clerk of courts said it had not yet received additional documents in the case. Siler is originally from California, but police haven't said where Gibson or Niederklopfer are from.

Siler and Gibson were arrested Friday night by a highway patrolman near Belle Fourche, South Dakota. The couple was still being held Tuesday at Meade County Jail in Sturgis as they await extradition, Peterson said.

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Court documents don't list attorneys for either Siler or Gibson, and prosecutors declined to say if they had yet retained attorneys. No publicly listed phone numbers could be found for the couple.

Niederklopfer's death marked the second death stemming from violent confrontations in front of the oil boomtown's two neighboring strip clubs in the last year and a half. In March 2013, a 28-year-old Williston man was shot on the sidewalk outside the clubs after an argument. Jonathan Horvath, 46, of Idaho, was convicted in the death.

Life sentence for man convicted of killing mother

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — A Hot Springs man convicted of killing his mother three years ago and hiding her body will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Attorney General Marty Jackley and Custer County prosecutor Matt Brown say 28-year-old Matthew Tornquist was sentenced Tuesday to life with no possibility for parole. Tornquist also got 10 years on a grand theft charge.

Authorities say Tornquist killed 56-year-old Catherine Tornquist in October 2011 in Fall River County, stole money from her and hid her body. A Pennington County jury last month found Tornquist guilty of first-degree murder and grand theft.

The woman's body has not been found despite more than 50 searches.

Weak weekend tornado confirmed in Deuel County

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The National Weather Service says a weak tornado caused minor damage at Lake Cochrane in Deuel County over the weekend.

The Saturday afternoon twister had estimated peak winds of 75 mph and was rated an EF-0, the weakest on the enhanced Fujita scale.

Weather service officials say the tornado touched down on the lake's northern shore and traveled less than a mile before lifting. It caused mainly minor damage to docks, boats, boat lifts, canopies, trees and shrubs, though two houses suffered damage. One lost a portion of its roof.

New idea for VA facility has educational focus

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — A proposal to save the historic Veterans Affairs hospital in Hot Springs includes adding a medical college, and medical research and treatment using stem cells.

The three-pronged approach is being broached by the Veterans National Recovery Center of Des Moines, Iowa. Officials will submit the plan to Veterans Affairs as the federal agency determines the future of the century-old South Dakota facility.

The facility opened as the Battle Mountain Sanitarium in 1907 to treat Civil War veterans. The National Trust for Historic Preservation in June named it as one of America's 11 most endangered historic places.

The VA wants to abandon the building as part of a restructuring of its services in the Black Hills. The agency is studying the various impacts of doing so. The comment period ends Saturday.

Sanford getting \$7.1M grant for cancer research

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health is giving Dakotas-based Sanford Health more than \$7.1 million over five years for cancer research.

The money will be used to recruit participants for clinical trials, quality-of-life studies and research on the delivery of cancer care, Sanford said in a statement.

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The grant was among 53 awarded nationwide through the institute's \$93 million Community Oncology Research Program. Sanford Health is the only program participant in the Dakotas and Nebraska.

"Advances in cancer care make this the appropriate time to expand the outreach of clinical trials to community-based facilities, which is where most people access care," said David Pearce, vice president and chief operating officer for Sanford Research.

"Sanford emerged as an ideal selection for (the program) because of our history of success in recruiting patients for clinical trials, infrastructure and physician volumes already in place to support an advanced cancer program, and a research team capable and ready to contribute to research bases for the implementation of these trials," Pearce said.

Sanford Health bills itself as the nation's largest, rural not-for-profit health care system, with locations in 126 communities in nine states. The network includes 39 hospitals, 140 clinics, 1,360 doctors in 81 specialty areas of medicine, and more than 26,000 employees.

Sanford is based in Fargo, North Dakota, where it operates the Roger Maris Cancer Center, and in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where it is building a multimillion-dollar breast cancer facility. The facility was part of a 2011 announcement in which philanthropist T. Denny Sanford pledged to give the health system bearing his name \$100 million to find a cure for breast cancer. His mother, Edith, died of the disease when he was 4 years old.

Work underway on \$19.4M indoor pool in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officials in Sioux Falls have started demolishing an outdoor pool as they prepare to begin work on an indoor facility.

The City Council in May approved \$19.4 million in funding for the indoor pool at the city's Spellerberg Park. City residents in April had rejected a ballot measure for a new outdoor pool at the park following a campaign by a group pushing for an indoor complex.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held Monday at the site of the outdoor pool, which will be razed over the next couple of weeks. Design of the indoor facility will be done over the fall and winter. Construction is to begin in the spring, with the facility opening in the fall of 2016.

10 Things to Know for Today The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today: 1. PALESTINIANS MULLING EGYPTIAN TRUCE PLAN

Cairo's proposal calls on Israel to ease its siege of the Gaza Strip but stops short of including Hamas' demand for a full lifting of the blockade.

2. IRAQ'S INCUMBENT PREMIER FIGHTS TO HOLD ON TO POWER

Nouri al-Maliki has lost the support of Iraqi politicians, the international community and Shiite powerhouse Iran.

3. LAUREN BACALL DIES AT 89

The actress created on-screen magic with Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" and "The Big Sleep" — and off-screen magic in one of Hollywood's most storied marriages.

4. DETAILS OF ROBIN WILLIAMS' DEATH EMERGE

The 63-year-old actor hanged himself with a belt and was found dead in a bedroom at his home by his personal assistant, authorities say.

5. POLICE WON'T RELEASE NAME OF COP INVOLVED IN TEEN'S SHOOTING

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Authorities in Ferguson, Missouri, say death threats prompted them to withhold the name of the officer who fatally shot black teenager Michael Brown.

6. POPE'S KOREAN VISIT FINDS A THRIVING CHURCH COMMUNITY

Despite a history of persecution, South Korea now has ten times as many Catholics as half a century ago.

7. HOW EBOLA, EVEN WHEN CURED, CAN BE A CURSE

Kadiatou Fanta, a 26-year-old Guinea medical student who survived the disease, finds herself shunned by her family and professors, who fear being contaminated.

8. CHINESE TEENAGERS FLOCK TO AMERICAN SCHOOLS

With the rise of a richer middle class in China, high schoolers head to the U.S. in record numbers. 9. WHO IS FEELING THE HEAT IN TIMES SQUARE

Costumed characters are receiving less in tips because police leaflets that tell tourists they don't have to tip them.

10. WHERE DOUBLE AND TRIPLE WORDS RULE

Buffalo is hosting the 25th National Scrabble Championship on Sunday with over 500 players from 11 countries competing for the top title.

AP News in Brief

Palestinian negotiators mull Egyptian proposal for Gaza ahead of expiration of 3-day truce

CAIRO (AP) — Palestinian negotiators were mulling over an Egyptian proposal to end the monthlong Israel-Hamas war as the latest 72-hour cease-fire in the Gaza Strip was due to expire on midnight Wednesday.

Since the truce went into effect Sunday, Israel has halted military operations in the coastal territory and Gaza militants have stopped firing rockets.

The cease-fire was meant to give the two sides time to negotiate a more sustainable truce and a roadmap for the coastal territory.

A member of the Palestinian delegation to Egyptian-brokered talks in Cairo said Wednesday that his team was considering an Egyptian proposal, which was tabled on Tuesday. Egyptian mediators have been were ferrying between the Palestinians and their Israeli counterparts in an attempt overcome the differences between the sides.

The Egyptian proposal calls for easing parts of the Israeli blockade of Gaza, bringing some relief to the territory, according to Palestinian officials in the talks. But it leaves the key areas of disagreement, including Hamas' demand for a full lifting of the blockade and Israeli calls for Hamas to disarm, to later negotiations.

Israeli tactic to stop soldiers' capture criticized after its use kills some 100 Palestinians

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli military tactic that allows overwhelming fire to stop the capture of soldiers — even at the risk of killing them — is facing criticism after its use in the Gaza war killed some 100 Palestinians.

The military used the "Hannibal Procedure" after soldiers feared militants had captured an officer,

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unleashing heavy shelling on the southern Gaza town of Rafah. Now, a group is calling on the military to abandon the practice, saying it puts captured soldiers at unreasonable risk and can lead to civilian deaths.

In an army with a strong ethos of "no soldier left behind," there is a near obsession with preventing the abduction of Israeli troops, in part because past cases have ended in painful, lopsided prisoner exchanges after years of protracted negotiations. New recruits learn that if they see a soldier being captured and rushed away in a car, they should shoot at the vehicle to stop its progress, even if it risks the soldier's life.

The "Hannibal Procedure" was designed in the mid-1980s by Yossi Peled, then head of Israel's Northern Command, after Hezbollah guerrillas captured two soldiers in southern Lebanon.

The actual order was drafted along with two of his top staff officers, Col. Gabi Ashkenazi, who later became the Israeli military chief, and Col. Yaakov Amidror, who recently ended a term as Israel's national security adviser. Hannibal was a legendary military commander who battled the ancient Romans, though officials say the name was selected randomly by a computer.

'I prefer to prevail': Lauren Bacall — actress, author, legend — had a remarkably unique life

NEW YORK (AP) — Lauren Bacall had one of those incredible lives.

The wife and co-star of Humphrey Bogart. A Tony Award-winning actress. A National Book Awardwinning author. A giant of fashion. A friend of the Kennedys. One of the last survivors of Hollywood's studio age.

A star almost from the moment she appeared on screen to the day she died, Tuesday, at age 89, at a New York City hospital.

"Stardom isn't a career," Bacall once observed, "it's an accident."

What a lucky accident it turned out to be.

Troops step up Baghdad security as world support for new PM grows

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi troops imposed heightened security in Baghdad Wednesday as international support mounted for a new prime minister to replace Nouri al-Maliki, who has called on the armed forces to stay out of politics amid fears of a possible coup.

Tanks and Humvees were positioned on Baghdad bridges and at major intersections on Wednesday, with security personnel more visible than usual. About 100 pro-Maliki demonstrators took to Firdous Square in the capital, pledging their allegiance to him.

The embattled premier has grown increasingly isolated, with Iraqi politicians and much of the international community lining up behind Haider al-Abadi, a fellow member of his Shiite Dawa party tasked by the president with forming a new government that can unite the country in the face of an onslaught by Sunni militants.

Widespread discontent with al-Maliki's divisive rule has reached the point where both Saudi Arabia and Iran -- regional rivals often bitterly divided over Iraq -- have expressed support for al-Abadi. The United States, the European Union and the United Nations have also expressed support for new leadership.

But al-Maliki, whose bloc won the most votes in April elections, has thus far refused to step aside and

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rejected the appointment of al-Abadi as unconstitutional. Al-Abadi was selected by the main Shiite alliance which includes al-Maliki's bloc, but the Islamic Dawa party says al-Abadi "only represents himself."

Sharpton urges peaceful protests, says police must identify officer who shot Missouri teen

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — The Rev. Al Sharpton pressed police Tuesday to release the name of the officer who fatally shot an unarmed black teenager in suburban St. Louis, and he pleaded for calm after two nights of violent protests over the young man's death.

Police said death threats prompted them to withhold the name of the officer, who was placed on administrative leave after fatally shooting 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, where the incident has stoked racial tension, rallies and a night of looting.

Investigators have released few details, saying only that a scuffle unfolded after the officer asked Brown and another teen to get out of the street. At some point, the officer's weapon fired inside a patrol car, police said.

"The local authorities have put themselves in a position — hiding names and not being transparent — where people will not trust anything but an objective investigation," Sharpton said during a news conference in St. Louis where he was joined by Brown's parents.

He also echoed pleas for peaceful protests by the NAACP and Brown's father, Michael Brown Sr., who told the crowd: "I need all of us to come together and do this right. ... No violence."

Consumers with immigration issues must act by Sept. 5 to avoid losing health law coverage

WASHINGTON (AP) — The clock is ticking for hundreds of thousands of people who have unresolved issues affecting their coverage under the new health care law.

The Obama administration said Tuesday that letters are going out to about 310,000 people whose citizenship or immigration details don't match what the government has on file.

These consumers need to send in their documentation by Sept. 5. Otherwise their coverage will end Sept. 30.

Of the 8 million people who signed up for private coverage through President Barack Obama's law, more than 2 million at one point had discrepancies of some sort that affected their eligibility. That number has been greatly reduced — but the remaining cases are proving difficult to resolve.

People living in the country illegally are not allowed to get coverage. Officials at the Health and Human Services Department said the letters will notify consumers with unresolved citizenship and immigration issues that they can upload their documents to the HealthCare.gov website, or mail them in.

Martyrs, missionaries, peace with Pyongyang

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis' five-day visit to South Korea will be the first time in a quartercentury that a pope has been on the divided Korean peninsula. Francis plans to bring a message of peace and reconciliations to Koreans on both sides of the 38th parallel, while encouraging Catholics in the region to spread their faith. Here are five things to know about the trip, which gets underway with Francis' departure Wednesday from Rome and arrival in Seoul on Thursday morning.

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Vatican protocol calls for the pope to send greetings to the heads of state of the countries he flies over when traveling. Usually, these telegrams aren't worth mentioning, except that Pope Francis will be flying through Chinese airspace en route to Seoul. China and the Holy See haven't had diplomatic relations since 1951, when the officially atheistic Communist Party took power and set up its own church outside the pope's authority. As a result, the papal fly-by will offer Francis a rare chance to speak directly to the Chinese leadership. When St. John Paul II last visited South Korea in 1989, tensions were so high that China refused to let his plane fly through its airspace. Instead, the Alitalia charter flew via Russian airspace, providing John Paul with a first-ever opportunity to send radio greetings to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. (He said he hoped to visit Moscow soon.) Francis has already exchanged informal (and private) letters with Chinese President Xi Jinping, so the papal telegram should at the very least offer a first public view of Vatican efforts under Francis to engage the Beijing leadership.

UN says it's ethical to try untested Ebola drugs, but supply of 1 experimental drug is gone

MADRID (AP) — The World Health Organization declared it's ethical to use untested drugs and vaccines in the ongoing Ebola outbreak in West Africa, although the tiny supply of one experimental treatment has been depleted and it could be many months until more is available.

The last of the drug is on its way to Liberia for two stricken doctors, according to a U.K.-based public relations firm representing Liberia. The U.S. company that makes it said the supply is now "exhausted." Later Tuesday, Canada said it would provide some of its experimental Ebola vaccine for use in West Africa.

A Spanish missionary priest who died Tuesday in Madrid was the third person to receive the experimental treatment called ZMapp. Two U.S. aid workers who received it in recent weeks are said to be improving.

The outbreak, the biggest in history, has killed more than 1,000 people in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria.

There is no proven treatment or vaccine for Ebola; several are in early stages of development. ZMapp, made by Mapp Pharmaceuticals, is so new that it has never been tested in humans, although an early version worked in some monkeys infected with Ebola. It's aimed at boosting the immune system's efforts to fight off Ebola.

Play ball: Steve Ballmer takes over as LA Clippers owner after court confirms \$2 billion sale

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steve Ballmer finally has an NBA outlet for his rah-rah displays of emotion as the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers.

The former Microsoft CEO's record \$2 billion purchase of the team was confirmed by a Los Angeles judge on Tuesday, clearing the way for the avid pickup basketball player to take over the team from Donald Sterling, who unsuccessfully fought his estranged wife over the sale.

The sale achieves Ballmer's longtime goal of owning a team. He made a bid last year before owners chose to keep the Kings in Sacramento, rather than allow them to be sold to a group that included Ballmer and moved to Seattle.

Now the man with the booming voice and energetic high-fives, who was Microsoft's biggest booster,

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has got his own team to share with his wife and three sons.

"We're a family that likes basketball," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, August 13, the 225th day of 2014. There are 140 days left in the year. **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 13, 1934, the satirical comic strip "Li'l Abner," created by Al Capp, made its debut. **On this date:**

In 1624, King Louis XIII of France appointed Cardinal Richelieu (ree-shuh-LYOO') his first minister. In 1792, French revolutionaries imprisoned the royal family.

In 1814, the Cape Colony in southern Africa was ceded by the Dutch to Britain. Swedish physicist Anders Jonas Angstrom was born in Logdo.

In 1846, the American flag was raised for the first time in Los Angeles.

In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

In 1923, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was again elected Speaker of Turkey's Grand Assembly.

In 1932, Adolf Hitler rejected the post of vice chancellor of Germany, saying he was prepared to hold out "for all or nothing."

In 1946, author H.G. Wells, 79, died in London.

In 1961, East Germany sealed off the border between Berlin's eastern and western sectors and began building a wall that would stand for the next 28 years.

In 1979, Lou Brock of the St. Louis Cardinals became the 14th player in major league baseball history to reach the 3,000th career hit plateau as his team defeated the Chicago Cubs, 3-2.

In 1981, in a ceremony at his California ranch, President Ronald Reagan signed a historic package of tax and budget reductions.

In 1989, searchers in Ethiopia found the wreckage of a plane which had disappeared almost a week earlier while carrying Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 other people - there were no survivors.

Ten years ago: A stronger-than-expected Hurricane Charley roared ashore Florida's Gulf Coast as a dangerous Category 4 storm, resulting in at least 10 U.S. deaths. Hutu marauders raided a U.N. refugee camp in western Burundi, shooting and hacking at least 150 Congolese Tutsis to death. The summer Olympic games officially opened in Athens. TV chef Julia Child died in Montecito, California, two days short of her 92nd birthday.

Five years ago: The Philadelphia Eagles signed Michael Vick to a one-year deal, prompting criticism from animal rights activists over his role in a dogfighting ring. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Cleveland Browns receiver Donte Stallworth for the entire season after Stallworth served 24 days in jail for DUI manslaughter in the death of 59-year-old Mario Reyes in Miami.

One year ago: Israel released 26 Palestinian inmates, many convicted in grisly killings, on the eve of long-stalled peace talks, angering families of those killed by the prisoners. Tompall Glaser, 79, a country music singer, publisher and studio owner best known for his association with the outlaw movement against record labels, died in Nashville.

Today's Birthdays: Former Cuban President Fidel Castro is 88. Actor Pat Harrington is 85. Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is 81. Actor Kevin Tighe is 70. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is 68. Actress Gretchen Corbett is 67. Opera singer Kathleen Battle is 66. High wire aerialist Philippe Petit is 65. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke is 65. Golf Hall of Famer Betsy King is 59. Movie direc-

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tor Paul Greengrass is 59. Actor Danny Bonaduce is 55. TV weatherman Sam Champion is 53. Actress Dawnn (correct) Lewis is 53. Actor John Slattery is 52. Actress Debi Mazar is 50. Actress Quinn Cummings is 47. Actress Seana Kofoed is 44. Country singer Andy Griggs is 41. Country musician Mike Melancon (Emerson Drive) is 36. Actress Kathryn Fiore is 35. Pop-rock singer James Morrison is 30. Actress Lennon Stella (TV: "Nashville") is 15.

Thought for Today: "The great business of life is to be, to do, to do without, and to depart." - John, Viscount (VY'-kownt) Morley of Blackburn, English journalist (1838-1923).