

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, December 15

School starting one hour late this morning due to the icy road conditions.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Nachos, refried beans, lettuce, fruit.

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, sunset salad, oatmeal raisin cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Col Arthur Krueger • Marjae Schinkel • Janice Sombke

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

12:00pm: Groton Senior Citizens Christmas dinner and party at Community Center

4:30pm: JH Wrestling at Webster

5:30pm: Groton Garden Club meeting at the Golden Living Center

6:30pm: GBB hosts Tiospa Zina

6:30pm: JHGGB at Warner (7th at 6:30, 8th at 7:30)

7:00pm: City Council Meeting

7:00pm: United Methodist Charge Conference in Groton

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

**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

Tuesday, December 16

St. John's Lutheran Quilting

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Christmas nuggets, baked potato, corn, fruit, Tea buns.

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, Mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: John Sippel • Layne Howard • Sage Mortenson • Dan Schinkel

5:00pm: Wrestling Quad at GHS with Oakes, Wattertown JV and EEK

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back 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.

Record warmest low temperature tied at Aberdeen SD...

A record warmest low temperature of 32 degrees was tied at Aberdeen SD on Sunday December 14th. The previous record of 32 degrees was also set in 1907.

Freezing Rain Advisory

..Freezing Rain Advisory in effect until 9 am CST /8 am MST/ this morning...

The National Weather Service in Aberdeen has issued a Freezing Rain Advisory...which is in effect until 9 am CST /8 am MST/ this morning.

* Timing...through mid morning.

* Ice accumulations...less than a tenth of an inch.

* Other impacts...widespread freezing drizzle and areas of light freezing rain will create icy roads through mid morning. Several reports of slick roads have been received this morning. Travel will be hazardous through the morning rush hour.

Precautionary/preparedness actions...

A Freezing Rain Advisory means that periods of freezing rain or freezing drizzle will cause travel difficulties. Be prepared for slippery roads. Slow down and use caution while driving.

Classifieds

Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

Apartment for Rent

One bedroom apartment for rent. Main Street. Ground level. Washer, dryer and dishwasher. Big walk-in closet. \$550 includes utilities. \$400 if you pay your own utilities. Call Chris Kassube at 605-395-7111.

Help Wanted

Wheatcrest Hills - New Wage Scale - is hiring for PT and FT CNA positions. We are looking for caring compassionate individuals to join our team. CNA certification training class to start in December and January, benefit packages available. Please stop in for application or contact Kristin at 605/448-2251. (1209.1216)



Practical Money Skills

for Life™

By Jason Alderman



IRS Pension Update: New Limits for 2015

Is it ever too late to plan for retirement? No, as long as you're willing to be thrifty and extend your working years and be mindful of your individual and employer-based retirement savings options. Building a successful, comfortable retirement depends on a variety of individual factors, including where you live, how long you plan to work, your health and your other investments and assets.

The IRS recently announced an update for your options, including cost-of-living adjustments that will give many taxpayers the advantage of putting more away during 2015. Here's a summary:

Regular contribution limits for 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal employee Thrift Savings Plan. Increased from \$17,500 (for tax year 2014) to \$18,000 (for tax year 2015). The catch-up contribution limit for employees aged 50 in these plans is increased from \$5,500 to \$6,000. Contribution deadline: Dec. 31.

Annual contribution limits, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA). For both traditional and Roth IRAs, the annual contribution limit is not subject to a cost-of-living adjustment and remains at \$5,500. The over-50 catch-up contribution amount is \$1,000. There are particular restrictions (<http://www.irs.gov/publications/p590/index.html>) based on income levels, workplace retirement plan coverage among other issues. Contribution deadline: April 15.

Higher 2015 income phase-out levels for traditional IRA contributions. For singles covered by a workplace retirement plan, the 2015 cutoff is now increased to a modified adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$61,000 and \$71,000. The IRS website details other significant increases and updates in phase-out levels for married couples and singles.

Higher 2015 income phase-out levels for Roth IRA contributions. The IRS website also updates higher phase-out levels for married and single taxpayers on its website. For married couples filing jointly, the 2015 level is now \$183,000 to \$193,000.

Here's what you can do if you're in your 50s and you haven't yet saved much for retirement:

Get qualified financial advice. Organizations such as the Association for Financial Counseling Planning and Education (<http://members.afcpe.org/search>), Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards list qualified financial advisors, and your state CPA society can suggest tax professionals in your area.

Budget and downsize. Want to retire? Start living like a retiree while you're still working. Most experts believe late starters (50 and over) need to put away at least 10 percent of gross income to start making headway. Create a realistic budget, trim debt and consider cheaper housing, transportation and lifestyle options.

Take advantage of "catch-up" contribution limits. Retirement savers over the age of 50 have the option to put more away not only in traditional and Roth IRAs but also 401(k) plans – not including SIMPLE 401(k)s, 403(b) plans, SARSEP and 457(b) plans (see Annual contribution limits, IRAs above).

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Keep working...strategically. If you're lucky, you love your work or are in a position to change careers to one with better retirement savings options. If so, consult an expert on ways to keep earning and investing effectively.

Bottom line: The government's cost-of-living adjustments will allow you to save more for retirement in 2015, but don't wait until then to evaluate your goals to set – or reset – your retirement planning going forward.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

Groton Area presents musical "Honk"



Groton Area put on the musical, "Honk," Sunday night at the GHS Gym. Pictured are Alec Voss as the drake, Laura Garcia as Ida, Erin Smith as Maureen, Alex Kern as the turkey and Gabbie Kramer as Henrietta.

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The cat, played by Jerick Hanson, was as cunning and clever as a cat could be.



Barb Bunk played the piano throughout the entire two-hour play as Cody Swanson directed the music.



Alec Voss was the first one on stage as the drake.

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Gabbie Kramer (Henrietta) and Maureen (Erin Smith) celebrate as the four duckings hatched out - Madeline Schuelke as Beaky, AnneMarie Smith as Downy, Alexis Hanten as Fluff and Isaac Smith as Billy.



The family takes a stroll around the stage.



Then the big egg hatches and out comes Ugly played by Adam Herman.

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The fish, played by Sarah Stange, Jasmine Schinkel, Devon Poppen and Kaitlin O'Neill, swim around Ugly and Henrietta as Henrietta showed Ugly how to swim.



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The mama duck sticks up for her son as the rest make fun of Ugly.



The cat is looking for an easy meal.

More photos tomorrow

Today in Weather History

1983: Up to five inches of snow on the 14th and 15th, combined with strong winds, produced blocked roads and numerous school closings on the 15th throughout most of the eastern third of South Dakota. No travel was advised from late afternoon on the 14th due to low visibility and blocked roads in Roberts and Brookings Counties. The conditions contributed some to several traffic accidents. Meanwhile, snow also spread across Minnesota on December 13th and diminished late on the 15th. Snow accumulations ranged from 1 to 2 inches in west central Minnesota to higher amounts over 10 inches to the east. Winds increased and temperatures began to fall on December 14th as an arctic cold front pushed through the state. The strongest winds occurred during the night of December 14th and into the morning of December 15th. Near-blizzard conditions developed in the southwest and west central sections of Minnesota where the visibility was reported to be near zero with winds of 20 to 30 mph. The wind chill index dropped to 30 below to 60 below zero. Blowing and drifting snow conditions occurred to some degree throughout all of Minnesota. Many roads were closed due to drifts. Drifting snow continued during the evening of December 15th as the winds and snowfall gradually diminished. This event, associated with an arctic cold front, was the beginning of what would become, and still remains, the coldest stretch of December days on record across most of the area. For the next nine days, beginning on December 16th, Aberdeen did not warm above -6 degrees, enduring temperatures as low as -34 F and high temperatures as low as -15 F. Other stations around the region had very similar cold temperatures during the December 16th through December 24th time period, with temperatures warming into single digits above zero on Christmas Day.

2003: Heavy snow of 8 to 10 inches fell in the Roy Lake and Veblen areas of Marshall County from late morning on the 15th to early morning on the 16th.

1839 - The first of triple storms hit Massachusetts Bay. The storm produced whole gales, and more than 20 inches of snow in interior New England. There was great loss of life at Gloucester MA. (David Ludlum)

1901 - An intense cold front swept across the eastern U.S. The cold front produced heavy rain in Louisiana, and heavy snow in the northeastern U.S. (David Ludlum)

1945 - A record December snowstorm buried Buffalo, NY, under 36.6 inches of snow, with unofficial totals south of the city ranging up to 70 inches. Travel was brought to a halt by the storm. (14th-17th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A major winter storm hit the Great Lakes Region, intensifying explosively as it crossed

Golden LivingCenter-Groton is accepting applications for

Full-Time night RN/LPN
Full-Time CNA
Part-Time/Casual CNA

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The Rewards of Working at Golden Living:

★ Golden Living offers a competitive and comprehensive benefits package. Our benefits for full-time and part-time team members include access to the following programs:

- ★ Competitive Health and Wellness Insurance Plans to include Medical, Dental and Vision
- ★ 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan
- ★ Life, Accidental Death and Disability Insurance
- ★ Tuition Reimbursement Program
- ★ Flexible Spending Accounts
- ★ Community Meal Discount Program
- ★ Paid Time Off and other Leave Programs
- ★ Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

To inquire stop in 1106 N 2nd St. Groton, SD or call Michele Herr, DNS (605) 397-2365. EOE/M/F/D/V

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northern Illinois. High winds and heavy snow created blizzard conditions in southeastern Wisconsin. Winds gusted to 73 mph, and snowfall totals ranged up to 17 inches at LaFarge. The barometric pressure at Chicago IL dropped three quarters of an inch in six hours to 28.96 inches, a record low reading for December. Up to a foot of snow blanketed northern Illinois, and winds in the Chicago area gusted to 75 mph. O'Hare Airport in Chicago was closed for several hours, for only the fourth time in twenty years. High winds derailed train cars at Avon IN. Light winds and partly sunny skies were reported near the center of the storm, a feature typical of tropical storms. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - High pressure in the Pacific Northwest and low pressure in the southwestern U.S. combined to produced high winds from Utah to California. Winds gusting to 70 mph in the San Francisco area left nearly 300,000 residents without electricity. Winds in Utah gusted to 105 mph at Centerville. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A couple of low pressure systems spread heavy snow across the northeastern U.S. Up to two feet of snow was reported along Lake Erie in northeastern Ohio, and up to ten inches was reported in Connecticut. Heavy snow squalls developed over Michigan for the third day in a row. Three Oaks MI reported 25 inches of snow in two days. Twenty-six cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 10 degrees below zero at Wichita KS was a December record for that location. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1997: 20,000 to 50,000 people died when torrential rains triggered raging floods that washed away homes, trees, and complete mountainsides in Venezuela.

1997: Folks in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan enjoyed record high temperatures in the lower 40s as unusual warmth bathed western Canada.

2005 - Freezing rain and ice pellets fell throughout portions of the southeast U.S. The accumulation of ice caused about 683,000 utilities customers to lose power from northern Georgia northward through the western Carolinas. The power outages were the result of ice accretions of up to three-quarter inch in thickness. The ice storm was blamed for at least four deaths (Associated Press).

2010 - A winter storm swept across parts of the Southeast U.S., bringing a mixed bag of snow, sleet, and freezing rain, making for treacherous travel conditions. At least eight people were killed in Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina in weather-related traffic fatalities. Schools were forced to close and thousands of residents lost power in North Carolina and Virginia. The winter storm also impacted Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington D.C. (NCDC)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY
Snow Likely High: 31 °F ↓	Slight Chc Snow Low: 17 °F	Partly Sunny High: 22 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 7 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 19 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 7 °F	Partly Sunny High: 23 °F



Road Conditions Deteriorating

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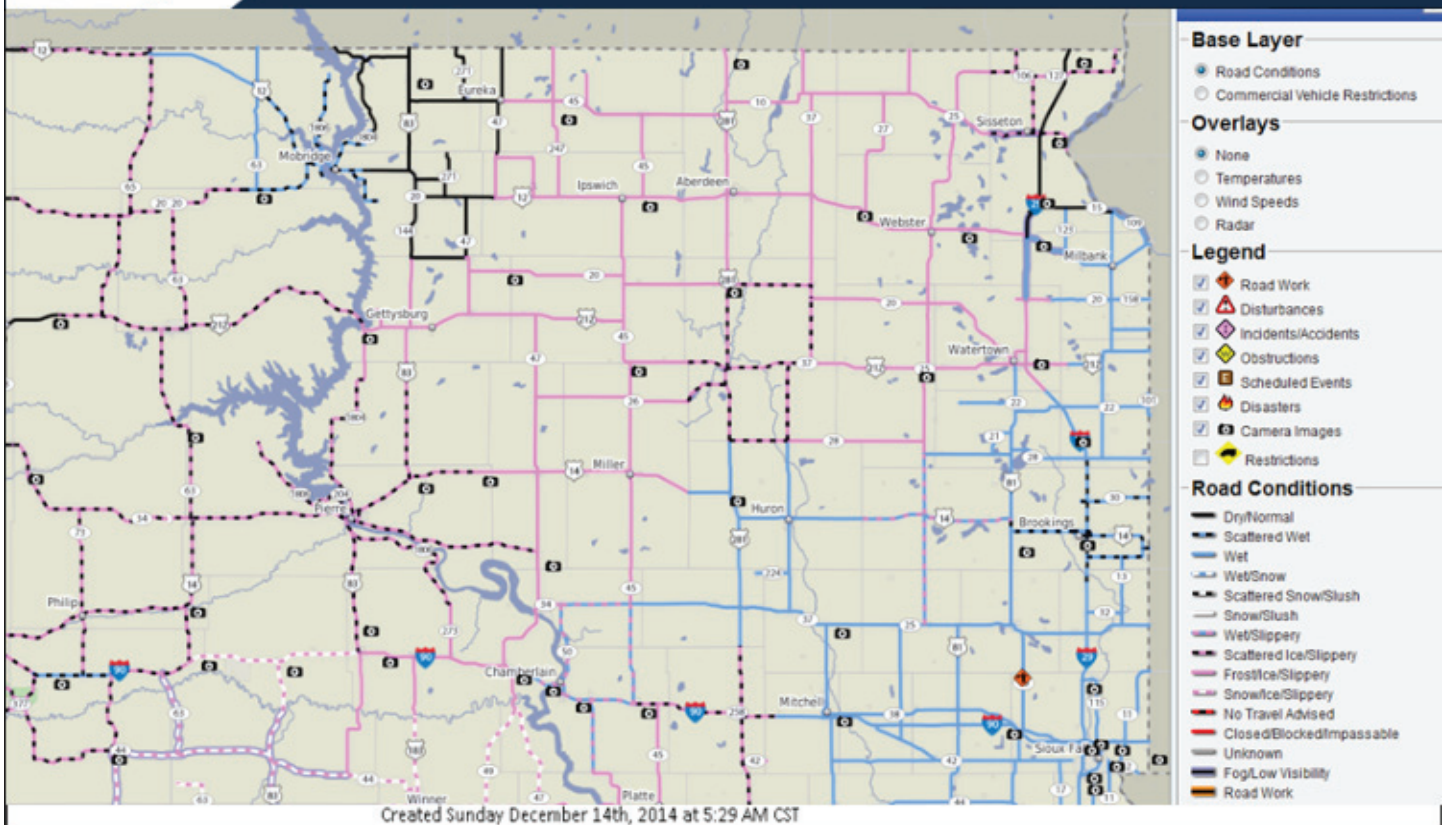
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Several roads across the region have become icy from overnight freezing drizzle and freezing rain. This image is from the South Dakota Department of Transportation, and shows several highways have become icy, shown in the image as pink roads. The legend on the right shows what the different colors relate to in road conditions. Road reports are still coming in and are updated frequently, so this map is subject to change through the morning. This map can be found at www.safetravelusa.com

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 48.5 at 8:23 AM

Low: 31.3 at 11:51 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 18 at 8:35 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1939

Record Low: -24° in 1917

Average High: 25°F

Average Low: 6°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.24

Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.44

Precip Year to Date: 13.99

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Dec 15, 2014, issued 2:59 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



ANYONE ELSE UP THERE?

A man was looking over a cliff when he slipped and began to fall. Sliding down the ledge he grabbed a branch and was hanging on for dear life. Shouting loudly he cried, "Is anyone up there?"

"I am the Lord and I am here," came the answer. "Do you believe in Me?"

"Yes, Lord, I do. But I can't hang on much longer."

"I'll save you," said the Lord. "Just let go."

There was a pause. Finally the man asked, "Is anyone else up there?"

How like so many of us. We doubt the Lord and put our trust in others.

Early in life we are taught to depend on ourselves, to be self-sufficient, strong and solve problems on our own. We also learn to rely on others, look to them for strength and help. Eventually we reach our limits and those we look to for insight, come up lacking. Then, when we become fearful or frustrated, we learn to look to God first and foremost.

Do you remember learning to swim? Can you recall someone standing in front of you in the water and saying, "Jump!" Knowing that they were able to catch us is the faith factor. Jumping in becomes the trust factor.

God's Word constantly encourages us to have faith in Him. It gives us many examples of those who have faith in Him. It is the "letting go" by knowing that He is there to care for us that makes faith work – the trust factor.

Prayer: Teach us, Father, to realize our need to let go and let God meet us at our point of need. May our knowing give way to believing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 60:11, 12 Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless. With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Grants available for SD wildlife projects

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Some funding is available to researchers, educators and naturalists who have an idea for a native wildlife project.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Wildlife Diversity Program will take proposals for its small grants program starting Jan. 1. They're due by Feb. 15.

A total of \$20,000 is available for 2015 projects focused on the inventory of native wildlife species and their habitats, as well as the monitoring of them.

GFP says that since 1997, such grants have funded education, research and monitoring projects focused on native wildlife and their habitats, from the creation of a field guide for the Tiger Beetles of South Dakota to evaluating the nesting ecology of raptors in the Black Hills.

Spearfish woman celebrates 100th birthday

MARK WATSON, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Bernice Dobesh never gave much thought to how old she would like to live until her doctor asked her that very question.

"That stumped me for a while," Dobesh recalled. "I said 'I wouldn't mind being 100 if I still have all my faculties about me.'"

And on Nov. 29, she celebrated her 100th birthday.

She was born on Nov. 29, 1914, in a farmhouse near Springfield to Frank and Thula Swallow, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/12NPxge>) reported.

She lived on the family farm with her parents and brother Maurice and sister Marjorie where they raised oats and corn.

"I lived about 80 rods from a schoolhouse, so I walked to school," she recalled. Eighty rods is approximately a quarter mile. "Every few miles there was another schoolhouse, so none of us had very far to go."

The little one-room country school had 10 to 15 students from first through eighth grade inside.

She headed to Springfield for high school and graduated in 1932. She then attended college in Springfield for a year and obtained a teaching certificate.

"Then I taught at the school where I had gone to school for two years," Dobesh said.

Some of her former classmates were now her students.

"The teacher had to teach all grades, but a lot of times there

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Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

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Every Wednesday!

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would be a grade missing," she said. "Went to school the day after Labor Day and we got out right around the first of May. We didn't have a lot of vacations like they do now."

In 1935 she married George Dobesh whom she met at church in Tyndall.

"His sister and I were put on a committee at church and that is how I met him," she said. "His father died that year, so we lived with his mother for a year on their farm in Tyndall. Then we moved to Springfield and rented a farm."

It was at the new farm that she had three children, two girls and a boy. The eldest, Janet, died from cancer in 1981. Frank now lives on a ranch outside of Belle Fourche and Barbara lives in in Spearfish.

Dobesh and her family, like her parents, raised oats and corn as well as some chickens and cows.

"Everyone had a few cows because you had to have your own milk. You couldn't just go to town like you can now," she said.

The family moved to the Black Hills in 1940 or 1941. Her parents lived in the Hills and George worked at a Civilian Conservation Corps near Custer previously and enjoyed the area.

Bernice stayed at home with the kids and George worked various jobs throughout the years until they moved to the Harry Blair ranch in 1949.

"That's where we lived the longest," she said.

After another move they finally settled in Spearfish around 1960 on Seventh Street.

She began to work at Peterson's Greenhouse in Belle Fourche.

"He hired me for two days. Then he hired me for a week. I was there for years," she said. "Then I decided I'd make my own greenhouse in Spearfish."

Her greenhouse business was unintended. The family now lived on about 20 acres off of Upper Valley and she wanted a small greenhouse to raise vegetables.

People kept stopping by to try to buy tomato plants. She wouldn't sell any.

Finally she began her business selling vegetables from tomatoes to peppers and flowers from geraniums to petunias and lots of bedding plants.

Gardening is something she still enjoys and her apartment at the Ponderosa Apartments has many plants she started.

The couple also worked for the dairy association collecting milk from individual cows at about 20 different dairies from the Hills to Kadoka.

"Some of those dairies had 200 milk cows," she said.

The two took milk samples from each cow multiple times a day and shipped them to a college in Ames, Iowa, where the milk was analyzed for quality and how good of producers the cows were.

They worked for the dairy association for nine years.

As the years went by they sold off different acreages off their land.

"Finally George said, 'Let's sell the house.' He was getting tired of mowing the lawn. That's one thing I never did, mow the lawn."

In 1980 they retired and moved to the Willow Apartments. George passed in 1992 and Bernice moved to her current apartment in 1999.

"Been here ever since," she said.

When asked what she attributes her long life to she said, "I've had so many people ask me that question. I tell them, 'Three meals a day.'"

And there is one meal more important than others.

"Now it's noon, but when I had kids in school we had our big meal at night," she said. "My son said, 'We live on a ranch. Why can't we have hamburgers for breakfast? We got our own meat.' So I started

making hamburgers for them.”

And as expected Dobesh as seen a lot of change in her lifetime.

“I don’t know for sure if it’s good or not,” she said.

“They have this housing act where they can’t tell people where I live. You have to call me. But yet you can take that darn computer and find out if I’m alive or dead.

I’m not really sure if that’s good or not,” she said.

Conversely, electricity has been a good change.

“I still remember my first electric fridge,” she said. It wasn’t until around 1950 that she had electricity in her home.

She and George were involved with getting the Spearfish Senior Citizen Center opened, she was a volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce, her church, Meals on Wheels and even served in the kitchen at the now Tree House Café.

Dobesh has nine grandchildren, nine great-great-grandchildren, “and I can’t even count how many great-grandchildren I have.”

Later she said there were about 20 grandchildren.

Dobesh remains active. She has two craft projects going, one on either side of her chair.

She has made more than 1,000 large doilies and countless smaller ones. Wheel of Fortune and the news is about all the TV she watches. She plays cards three nights a week and attends sewing club twice a week and bingo once a week.

The Century Club also honored her for her 100-year milestone.

Dolly Keehn, of Flandreau, is believed to be the oldest South Dakotan. She was born on March 11, 1905.

State seeks comments on 5-year elk management plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is taking input on its proposed elk management plan for the next five years.

The department’s Division of Wildlife says the document goes over how the state proposes to manage the big game species associated with the state’s diverse habitats and land ownership.

People have until Jan. 5 to submit comments.

The draft management plan can be found online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/elk/default.aspx>.

Quarter of tickets to inaugural balls sell in first week

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Roughly a quarter of the tickets for the two celebratory Jan. 10 inaugural balls in Pierre have been sold in their first week available.

KCCR-AM reports that 25 percent of tickets to the Capitol Ball planned for the state Capitol had been sold by the end of Thursday. About 20 percent had been purchased for the Inaugural Ball scheduled to be held at the Ramkota RiverCentre.

Earlier on Jan. 10, Gov. Dennis Daugaard, state legislators and other officials will be sworn in at a free event at the state Capitol.

Oahe Reservoir releases to be cut during December

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Releases from the Oahe Reservoir in central South Dakota will be significantly cut this month.

KCCR-AM reports that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says releases will average about 18,800 cubic feet per second in December. The average last month was 31,300 cubic feet per second.

The runoff reduction at the reservoir in Pierre is part of an overall system effort. The Corps of Engineers since early fall has been running more water out of upstream dams because of unexpected accumulations of water in the late summer.

Jody Farhat with the Corps of Engineers says the effort has worked well.

SD lawyer works to let undocumented youth stay

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls immigration lawyer is working to help 52 unaccompanied children apply to stay in the country after they entered without documentation.

Taneeza Islam wants the children who are taking refuge in South Dakota to be prepared legally before a judge decides whether to deport them, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1AowXGJ>) reported. She said the children's best chance to remain in the U.S. is to seek asylum or a special juvenile immigrant status.

"To do those applications without a lawyer is difficult, and these are minors who don't speak English and have minimal education," Islam said. "So there are a lot of barriers for these minors who seek relief on their own."

Although the state isn't able to provide many legal resources to the children, Islam is hoping to change that through a Bush Foundation fellowship. Last week, she brought in the Advocates for Human Rights, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit, to train 25 South Dakota lawyers to represent unaccompanied children.

If those lawyers decide to take on the immigration cases of the 52 unaccompanied children currently in South Dakota, they will be paired with one of the nonprofit's lawyers, who will assist them in the case.

Being represented by a trained lawyer could triple the children's chances of staying in the U.S., said Robin Phillips, the group's executive director.

"There's a lot of unmet legal needs, and these cases can be matter of life and death," Phillips said. "The services are needed. We meet with people who have legitimate claims who haven't been able to speak to a lawyer since they have been in the country, and it's critical they have legal representation."

Islam said she plans to continue working to bring legal assistances to the unaccompanied children and their families at little to no cost.

"People need to understand these kids are fleeing violence and crime-ridden areas and coming up through Central America on their own," Islam said.

Applications being accepted for restoration grants

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society is accepting applications for grants to fund large-scale restoration or rehabilitation projects of historic properties.

The Deadwood Fund grant program will award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 for projects scheduled to begin May 1. Funding for the program comes from Deadwood's gaming revenue.

The grants must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis from nonfederal and nonstate sources.

The Historical Society says more than \$126,000 was distributed among 11 projects in 2013. The funds led to a total public-private investment of more than \$470,000.

Applications are due Feb. 1.

SD accepting applications for wildlife grants

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials are now accepting applications for the state's wildlife diversity small grants program.

The program provides funding for researchers, educators and others to carry out projects that focus on native wildlife. The total funding available for 2015 projects is \$20,000.

Tony Leif is director of the division of wildlife. Leif says that projects completed through the program over the past 18 years have resulted in numerous publications in scientific journals, popular educational products and new information on native wildlife species and their habitats.

Previous projects have ranged from the creation of a field guide to the Tiger Beetles of South Dakota to a study of raptors in the Black Hills.

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. GUNMAN TAKES HOSTAGES IN SYDNEY CAFE

Five people have managed to escape from the crisis in the heart of the city's business district while police negotiate with the gunman.

2. HOW WASHINGTON FOUND ITSELF IN A MIDEAST BIND

The U.S. risks alienating European and Arab allies if it vetoes an upcoming UN resolution that would set a two-year timetable for achieving peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

3. WHAT FRIENDS SAY ABOUT STORY ON UVA WOMAN'S RAPE ACCUSATION

They tell The Associated Press that a magazine article that used the woman's account of a sexual assault at a University of Virginia frat house was wrong on key points.

4. PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES CHARGE US MARINE WITH MURDER

Prosecutor says the 19-year-old American is accused of killing a transgender in a hotel room.

5. POLICE CLOSE LAST PROTEST SITE IN HONG KONG

Ten weeks after the pro-democracy movement started its demonstrations, authorities have cleared the only remaining camp in the Asian financial hub.

6. WHERE MACADAMIA NUTS ARE ALL THE RAGE

Sales are skyrocketing in South Korea days after the Korean Air Lines executive's "nut rage" episode sparked national outrage.

7. STALLING TACTICS, GOP MAJORITIES COULD VEX CONGRESS IN 2015

Republicans will feel new pressures to show they can deliver, and President Obama's incentives to veto legislation will add uncertainty to the mix.

8. WHO SEEKS PROSECUTIONS OVER CIA INTERROGATION TACTICS

Civil rights groups in the U.S. and abroad renew calls to charge those in government agencies who relied on harsh techniques to pressure terror suspects.

9. WHY SOME CANCER PATIENTS TEST TREATMENTS ON PERSONAL MICE

They pay private labs to breed mice that carry bits of their own tumors so treatments can be tried first on the customized rodents.

10. BRONCOS CAPTURE 4TH-STRAIGHT AFC WEST TITLE

Sick with flu-like symptoms, Peyton Manning takes four bags of intravenous fluid and leads Denver to

a 22-10 win over the Chargers.

AP News in Brief

5 people escape from Sydney cafe at center of hours-long hostage drama

SYDNEY (AP) — Five people escaped from a Sydney cafe where a gunman took an unknown number of hostages during Monday morning rush hour. Two people inside the cafe earlier held up a flag with an Islamic declaration of faith that has often been used by extremists, raising fears that a terrorist incident was playing out in the heart of Australia's biggest city.

The first three people ran out of the Lindt Chocolat Cafe in downtown Sydney six hours into the hostage crisis, and two women sprinted from a fire exit into the arms of waiting police shortly afterward. Both women were wearing aprons with the Lindt chocolate logo, indicating they were cafe employees.

As the siege entered its 12th hour Monday night, basic questions remained unanswered. Police refused to say how many hostages were inside the cafe, what they believed the gunman's motives might be, whether he had made any demands or whether the hostages who fled the cafe escaped or were released.

"I would like to give you as much as I can but right now that is as much as I can," New South Wales state police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said. "First and foremost, we have to make sure we do nothing that could in any way jeopardize those still in the building."

Police were negotiating with the gunman and said they had no information to suggest anyone had been hurt. Scipione said they had not confirmed whether the siege was related to terrorism.

Israeli settlement construction in West Bank surges under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (AP) — The population of Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank has surged during Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's years in office, growing at more than twice the pace of Israel's overall population, according to newly obtained official figures.

Settlement growth also was strong beyond Israel's separation barrier, seen by many as the basis for a border between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

The figures reflect Netanyahu's continued support for settlement construction, even while repeatedly stating his commitment to the eventual establishment of an independent Palestinian state as part of a future peace agreement. They also could be a topic of discussion as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Netanyahu and European officials this week over a promised U.N. Security Council proposal dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

While Israeli leaders of all political persuasions have built settlements for decades, the U.S. and western allies have dwindling patience for their construction.

From the beginning of 2009 until the beginning of 2014 — Netanyahu returned to office in March 2009 — the Jewish settler population in the West Bank grew 23 percent, to 355,993 people. In comparison, the overall population has grown 9.6 percent to just over 8 million in that time. Figures for 2014 are not expected before late next year.

Mideast peace push at UN puts Obama administration in difficult spot between allies

ROME (AP) — The Obama administration is in a diplomatic bind on the Mideast as Secretary of State John Kerry meets with top Israeli and Palestinian officials in Europe this week.

The U.S. is reluctant to do anything right now that can be perceived as interference in Israel's elections while being pressed by close allies to endorse an Israeli-Palestinian negotiating framework that largely adheres to U.S. policy.

France is drafting a U.N. resolution that proposes a two-year timetable for talks. The draft speaks of the 1967 Mideast borders as the basis for dividing the land, which President Barack Obama has publicly backed, but it doesn't include key Israeli — and U.S. — conditions such as Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state.

The United States has long opposed the idea of the Security Council imposing a framework for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. But for Washington, simply vetoing the plan could have pitfalls.

A veto would upset Palestinians and perhaps some Arab allies frustrated by years of diplomatic gridlock. Several are fighting alongside the U.S. right now against the Islamic State.

Weeks after scathing article, friends of alleged UVa rape victim try to set record straight

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Almost a month after a scathing magazine article portrayed three friends as uncaring in the face of a woman's sexual assault, Kathryn Hendley, Alex Stock, and Ryan Duffin are still trying to set the record straight.

The friends told The Associated Press that the Rolling Stone article about an alleged gang rape at a University of Virginia frat house was wrong on a number of key points, especially its assertion that they urged the victim to not report the attack.

Their alleged indifference was woven into a narrative that used the alleged attack to paint a picture of a culture of sexual violence on college campuses in the United States. The article set off an intense debate about sexual violence, alcohol, fraternities and journalism ethics.

Duffin, a 20-year-old, third-year student referred to as "Randall" in the Rolling Stone article, told the AP that not only did he encourage the alleged victim to go to police, but he started to dial 9-1-1 on his cellphone until she begged off saying she just wanted to go back to her dorm and go to sleep.

"I couldn't help but notice that everything that the article said about me was incorrect," Duffin said.

Sales of macadamia nuts soar in South Korea after Korean Air executive's nut rage

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Nut rage imploded the career of a Korean Air Lines executive and embarrassed her family and country. Now South Korean retailers are experiencing the unexpected upside: a boom in sales of macadamias.

The flavorful macadamia nut was unfamiliar to many South Koreans until Cho Hyun-ah, the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, ordered a flight attendant off a Dec. 5 flight from New York City after she was served them in a bag, instead of on a plate.

She resigned from executive roles including head of cabin service last week amid a storm of criticism about the tantrum that forced the flight to return to the gate. But macadamias are now a household

name in South Korea and with curiosity about their taste piqued, sales are booming.

Auction, a South Korean unit of eBay and South Korea's second-largest e-commerce website, said Monday that sales of macadamias surged nearly 12-fold during the previous five days without any promotions. It said macadamias previously made up 5 percent of its nut sales but were now accounting for almost half.

South Korea's largest online shopping retailer, Gmarket, also owned by eBay, said Macadamia nut sales jumped 20 times during the six days to Sunday compared with the previous week.

Senate report on CIA revives legal debate around interrogation and memos that permitted it

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the CIA sought permission to use harsh interrogation methods on a captured al-Qaida operative, the response from Bush administration lawyers was encouraging, even clinical.

In one of several memos forming the legal underpinnings for brutal interrogation techniques, the CIA was told Abu Zubaydah could lawfully be placed in a box with an insect, kept awake for days at a time and slapped multiple times in the face. Waterboarding, too, was acceptable because it didn't cause the lengthy mental anguish needed to meet the legal standard of torture, the 2002 Justice Department memo says.

The release last week of a Senate report cataloging years of such interrogation tactics has revived debate about legal opinions since discredited and withdrawn and about the decision to not prosecute the program's architects or officers who used the methods. Civil rights groups in the United States and abroad are renewing calls to prosecute those who relied on techniques that President Barack Obama has called torture.

"How can we seriously use the phrase 'rule of law' if crimes of this magnitude go uninvestigated and unprosecuted?" said Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Justice Department, which spent years looking into the matter, says it lacks sufficient evidence to convict anyone and found no new information in the report. It also is far from clear that any international case could be brought.

Detained US Marine charged with murder of Filipino transgender

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine government prosecutors charged a detained U.S. Marine with murder Monday in the killing of a Filipino transgender that reignited an irritant between the military allies over custody of American military personnel suspected of committing crimes.

Prosecutor Emily de los Santos said there was "probable cause" that Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton killed Jennifer Laude, whose former name was Jeffrey, in a motel room, where the victim's body was found in October in Olongapo city, northwest of Manila. She had apparently been drowned in a toilet bowl.

"It's murder," de los Santos told reporters after filing the non-bailable charge against the 19-year-old Pemberton before a regional court. "It was aggravated by treachery, abuse of superior strength and cruelty."

The case reignited a debate over custody of American military personnel accused of crimes. But the looming irritant between the treaty allies over Pemberton's custody was eased after Washington agreed

to move him from a U.S. warship to the Philippine military's main camp in metropolitan Manila, where he remained under American custody with an outer ring of Filipino guards.

Pemberton, who has not been seen in public, would have to appear during court arraignment, de los Santos said, urging loved ones of the victim, who doubted whether the Marine was still in the country, to attend to see him for the first time.

Despite big election win, Japan's Abe faces stiff resistance to economic reforms

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed Monday to prevail over resistance to his plans for economic and political change following a weekend election victory that gives him up to four more years in power.

In Sunday's snap election, the conservative Liberal Democratic Party that has ruled for most of the post-World War II era locked up a solid majority of at least 291 seats. About 35 seats were claimed by the LDP's coalition partner, the Buddhist-backed Komei party, giving the ruling bloc more than two-thirds of the 475-seat House of Representatives.

That majority could enable the coalition to override resistance in the upper house, but not necessarily the powerful vested interests and bureaucrats opposed to major reforms many economists say are needed to revitalize Japan's economy.

"We are taking the energy, power and support we received from the voters and will firmly and directly proceed ahead," a visibly weary but relaxed Abe said in a news conference. "We still face a mountain of difficult problems that needs to be tackled."

Businesses are reluctant to sink their cash hoards in a shrinking home market, farmers are dead set on keeping their cushion of subsidies and tariffs, and voters remain leery of many of Abe's plans. The election victory changes none of that.

American woman, 87, has made conserving Afghanistan's heritage a lifelong passion

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Nancy Hatch Dupree fell in love with Afghanistan on her first visit in 1962, and embarked on a lifelong mission to preserve the rich cultural heritage of an ancient land scarred by modern wars.

In happier times she traversed the country with the other love of her life — archaeologist Louis Dupree, a fellow American — studying its history, writing travelogues and collecting books, maps, photographs and even rare recordings of folk music. The couple continued their efforts, often from abroad, during the tumultuous decades that followed, and their vast collection, now housed at Kabul University's sunlit Afghanistan Center, provides a rare journey through the country's past.

Small and bird-like with grey curls wound into a bun, the 87-year-old Dupree cuts a colorful figure in a bright green salwar kameez, blue cardigan and scarf as she walks through the halls, stopping now and then to point out her favorites among 90 photographs by Steve McCurry, best known for his 1985 National Geographic cover picture of a green-eyed Afghan refugee girl.

The collection includes copies of a glossy monthly magazine, called "The Islamic Emirate," published in English by the Taliban during its 1996-2001 rule, as well as thousands of slides taken by Louis during his work on archaeological digs. There are newspapers dating back to the 1920s and books so rare that Dupree has the only known copies.

Afghans regard Dupree as one of their own, with some even calling her “grandmother of the nation.” President Ashraf Ghani found room at the university when he was chancellor in 2005 to store the tens of thousands of documents in the Dupree collection, and former President Hamid Karzai found the funds to build the center. Both men are old friends of hers.

UN climate talks end with crack in rich-poor firewall, raising hopes for Paris deal

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A last-minute deal that salvaged U.N. climate talks from collapse early Sunday sends a signal the rich-poor divide that long held up progress can be overcome with a year to go before a landmark pact is supposed to be adopted in Paris.

Still, it remains to be seen whether governments can come up with a new formula for how countries in different stages of development should contribute in a way that keeps global warming from reaching dangerous levels.

“This issue will be contentious and it will need to be worked through all the way to Paris,” U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern said after the marathon talks in Lima finished, more than 30 hours behind schedule.

The U.N. talks were still far away from reaching any agreement on reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to a level that scientists say would keep global warming in check. But the Paris agreement would be the first to call on all countries to control their emissions.

The U.S. and other developed nations say that means tearing down the firewall in negotiations that compels only rich countries to rein in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2014. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 15, 1944, the U.S. Senate approved the promotions of Henry H. Arnold, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and George C. Marshall to the five-star rank of General of the Army and the nominations of William D. Leahy, Ernest J. King and Chester W. Nimitz as Admirals of the Fleet. U.S. forces invaded Mindoro Island in the Philippines, encountering little resistance from the Japanese. A single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1814, the “Hartford Convention” began as New England Federalists opposed to the War of 1812 secretly gathered in the Connecticut capital. (America’s victory in the Battle of New Orleans and the war’s end effectively discredited the Convention.)

In 1864, the two-day Battle of Nashville began during the Civil War as Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas attacked Confederate troops led by Gen. John Bell Hood; the result was a resounding Northern victory.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1938, groundbreaking for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington, D.C. with President Franklin D. Roosevelt taking part in the ceremony.

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In 1939, the Civil War motion picture epic "Gone with the Wind," starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1964, Canada's House of Commons approved dropping the country's "Red Ensign" flag in favor of a new design, the "Maple Leaf" flag.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

In 1974, the horror spoof "Young Frankenstein," starring Gene Wilder and directed by Mel Brooks, was released by 20th Century Fox.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo).

In 1991, an Egyptian-registered ferry, the Salem Express, hit a reef and sank in the Red Sea; at least 470 people died, although some estimates are much higher.

In 2001, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, was reopened to the public after a \$27 million realignment that had dragged on for over a decade.

Ten years ago: Time Warner Inc. agreed to pay over \$500 million to resolve federal securities fraud and accounting investigations of its America Online unit. American telecommunications giants Sprint Corp. and Nextel Communications Inc. announced they would merge in a \$35 billion deal. Pauline Gore, mother of former Vice President Al Gore, died in Carthage, Tennessee; she was 92. The boxing drama "Million Dollar Baby," starring Clint Eastwood (who also directed) and Hilary Swank, was put in limited release by Warner Bros.

Five years ago: World leaders formally opened a U.N. climate change conference in Copenhagen. The Washington, D.C. City Council voted to legalize same-sex marriage. Boeing's new 787 "Dreamliner" jet went on its long-delayed first test flight, lifting off from Paine Field in Everett, Washington. Evangelist Oral Roberts died in Newport Beach, California, at age 91.

One year ago: Nelson Mandela was laid to rest in his childhood hometown, ending a 10-day mourning period for South Africa's first black president. Michelle Bachelet easily won Chile's presidential runoff. Academy Award-winning actress Joan Fontaine, 96, died in Carmel, California. Harold Camping, 92, a California preacher who'd used his radio ministry and thousands of billboards to broadcast the end of the world and then gave up when his date-specific doomsdays did not come to pass, died in Oakland, California.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Tim Conway is 81. Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 75. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 72. Rock musician Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 68. Actor Don Johnson is 65. Actress Melanie Chartoff is 64. Movie director Julie Taymor is 62. Movie director Alex Cox is 60. Actor Justin Ross is 60. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 59. Movie director John Lee Hancock (Film: "Saving Mr. Banks"; "The Blind Side") is 58. DNC Vice Chairwoman Donna Brazile is 55. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 54. Movie producer-director Reginald Hudlin is 53. Actress Helen Slater is 51. Actress Molly Price is 49. Actor Michael Shanks is 44. Actor Stuart Townsend is 42. Figure skater Surya Bonaly is 41. "Crowd-hyper" Kito Trawick (Ghostown DJs) is 37. Actor Adam Brody is 35. Actress Michelle Dockery (TV: "Downton Abbey") is 33. Actor George O. Gore II is 32. Actress Camilla Luddington (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 31. Rock musician Alana Haim (HYM) is 23. Actress Stefania Owen is 17.

Thought for Today: "Silence is more musical than any song." - Christina Rossetti, British poet (1830-1874).