

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, October 15

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Submarines, potato chips, fruit.

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, orange sherbet, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Mark & Tammie Hanson

Birthdays: • Brad Morehouse • Kourtnei Stumpf
• Rhonda Foote • Teal Schinkel • Jaymie Overacker
• Russell Davidson

9:00am: Rachel's Challenge at Aberdeen CC Lee Elementary Gym

1:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA

3:30pm: Region Cross Country at Webster

4:00pm: 7th Grade VB at Ipswich, 8th Grade at 5 pm

6:00 pm: Volleyball at Hamlin with JV/C matches starting at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match

Friday, October 16

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

School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans, romaine salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: John & Chris Wheeting

Birthday: Nancy Larsen

Saturday, October 17

Oral Interp at NSU Festival

Birthdays: • Gladys Dirks • Judy Fliehs • Laura Ptacek • Dylan Krueger • Tyler Rossow • Jackson Bahr

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Rounds Introduces Fall Semester Interns



Sophie Doeden with U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) introduced two South Dakota college students as fall 2015 interns in his Washington, D.C., office.

Sophie Doeden is from Beresford, SD, and is the daughter of Troy and Christine Doeden of Beresford and the granddaughter of Arlis and Doug Doeden of Groton. She is a junior at Northern State University in Aberdeen. Sophie is majoring in political science and minoring in history and economics. She is involved in Girls State and teaches Sunday school at her church.

Kristi Blackler is from Rapid City, SD, and is a senior at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Kristi is majoring in political science and international studies. She is active in Model United Nations and College Republicans.

Intern duties include tracking legislation, researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol, handling constituent phone calls, sorting mail and providing legislative support. Interns work closely with constituents and staff, polish their research and writing skills and gain an in-depth understanding of a U.S. Senate office.

The fall internship program in Sen. Rounds' office lasts through December. College students interested in a spring 2016 semester internship in the Washington, D.C. office or in one of Sen. Rounds' state offices can visit www.rounds.senate.gov, call Erin Budmayr at (605) 224-1450, or email a resume and cover letter to erin_budmayr@rounds.senate.gov. College credit is available.

A little lady is on her way!

It's a baby shower honoring
SYDNEY ERICKSON

.....

Saturday, October 24
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
1104 N 3rd St | Groton, SD
(2 blocks north of the park)

.....

Sydney is registered at Target



Making Homemade Apple Cider

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Drinking fresh apple cider is a great way to celebrate autumn. Making it yourself can be an even greater treat, but there are some tips to keep in mind to keep your cider safe, explains Lavonne Meyer, SDSU Extension Food Safety Field Specialist.

Below Meyer shares those tips.

Avoid using apples that have visible signs of decay or mold growth. Apples used for cider don't have to be flawless, but they do need to be free from spoilage.

Cut out any spoilage areas as the spoiled areas will cause the juice to ferment and will ruin the cider.

Wash apples thoroughly before pressing or grinding to make cider. Remember, windfall apples could be contaminated with bacteria. Raw juice or cider has been linked with E.coli 0157:H7. Outbreaks usually happen when fallen fruit comes in contact with domestic or wild animals that frequent an orchard.

Also, wash your hands and sanitize the equipment.

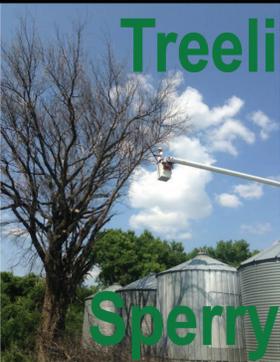
To sanitize equipment, place washed and rinsed utensils and equipment in a mixture of 1 tablespoon household bleach per gallon of water for at least 1 minute. Air dry to avoid contaminating equipment and utensils with an unclean and sanitized drying cloth.

Grinding is necessary to release the juice from the apples. Let the crushed fruit stand for 30 minutes to an hour to yield more cider from the apples.

The cider can be pressed from the crushed apples in a cider press. A homemade press for small batches can be made using a strong jelly bag and a rolling pin. The bag should be pressed slowly and steadily to avoid bursting the bag.

Pasteurize the cider to ensure safety by heating to at least 160 degrees F. Pasteurization kills harmful bacteria. This is especially important if pregnant women, young children, older adults and people with compromised immune systems are going to drink the cider.

Store pasteurized cider in the refrigerator for immediate use, or up to 5 days. Put cider in the freezer if you want to keep it longer. To freeze, pour hot cider into plastic or glass freezer containers, leaving ½ inch to 2 inch headspace for expansion, depending on the size of the container. Refrigerate until cool and then place in the freezer.



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Sperry Stump Removal

Today in Weather History

1880 - A violent early season blizzard raked Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Saint Paul MN reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Railroads were blocked by drifts of snow which remained throughout the severe winter to follow. Gales did extensive damage to ship on the Great Lakes. (15th-16th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - Hurricane Hazel struck the Carolina coastline. The hurricane demolished every pier along a 170 mile stretch from Myrtle Beach SC to Cedar Island NC, and obliterated entire lines of beach homes. Hurricane Hazel also destroyed 1500 homes as it moved inland with seventeen foot tides. Winds between Myrtle Beach SC and Cape Fear NC gusted to 150 mph. Hurricane Hazel caused 163 million dollars damage, and claimed the lives of 98 persons. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1966 - Iowa experienced its worst late season tornado of record. In just one minute a twister tore through the town of Belmond leveling 75 percent of the businesses, and 100 homes, causing more than eleven million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

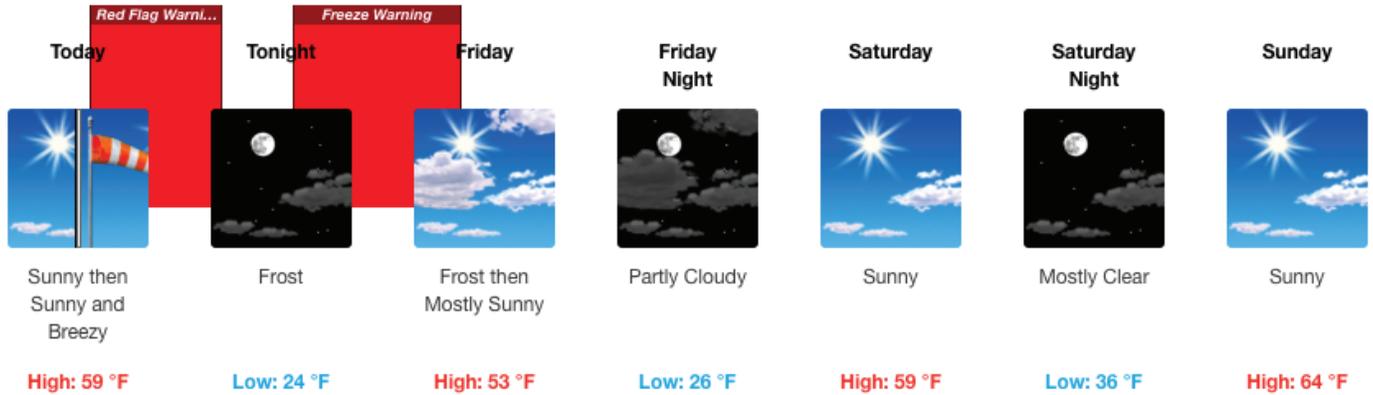
1987 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the eastern U.S., with thirteen cities reporting record low temperatures for the date. The low of 34 degrees at Montgomery AL was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. Lows of 32 degrees at Harrisburg PA and 34 degrees at Parkersburg WV marked their third straight morning of record cold. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - The cold high pressure system responsible for the record low temperatures in the eastern U.S. began to move out to sea, giving way to a trend toward "Indian Summer". Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced golf ball size hail at Altamont KS and hail two inches in diameter at Yates City IL. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Jerry made landfall at Galveston, TX, at 6 30 PM (CDT). Winds at the Galveston Airport reached 75 mph, with gusts to 100 mph. Tides along the island were six to eight feet, and rainfall totals ranged up to slightly more than six inches north of Beaumont. Three persons were killed when their vehicle was blown off the Galveston seawall into the pounding surf. Total damage along the Upper Texas Coast was estimated at fifteen million dollars. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Lower Michigan during the late morning. Two persons were injured when a tree fell on their camper at the Traverse City State park. While strong northerly winds ushered much colder air into the central U.S., unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central and eastern U.S. The afternoon high of 82 degrees at Bluefield WV was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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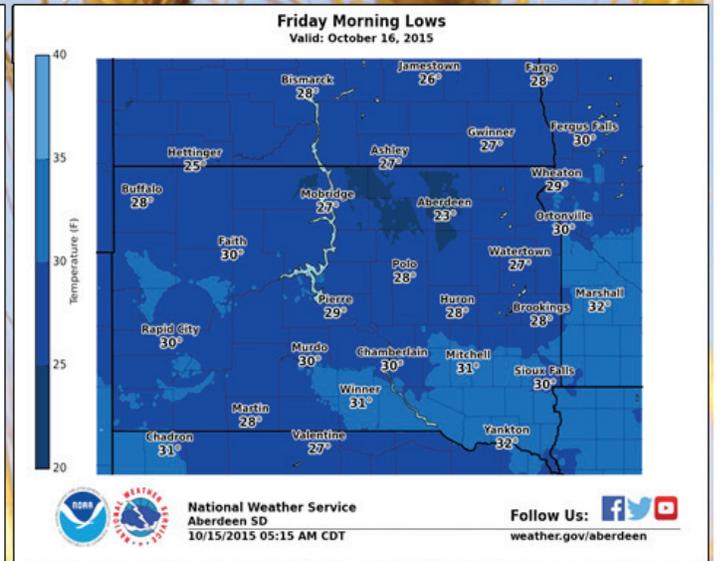
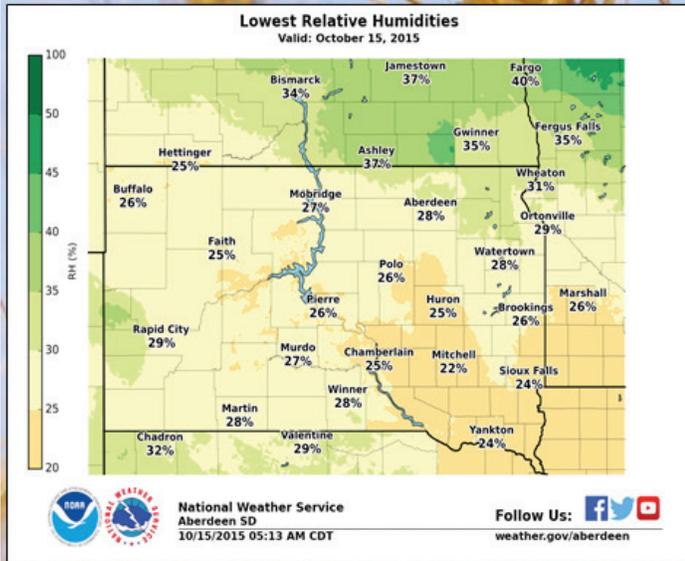

Fire Danger Today, Freezing Temps Tonight

Today

- Breezy/gusty northwest winds and low relative humidity

Tonight

- Winds become light
- Sub-freezing temperatures



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
Updated: 10/15/2015 5:21 AM Central

Published on: 10/15/2015 at 5:25AM

Gusty northwest winds and low afternoon humidity will bring very high fire danger to the region today. Later tonight, cold Canadian high pressure will settle in over the region and bring sub-freezing temperatures. Lows will drop into the 20s which will likely bring a killing freeze to a good portion of the area.

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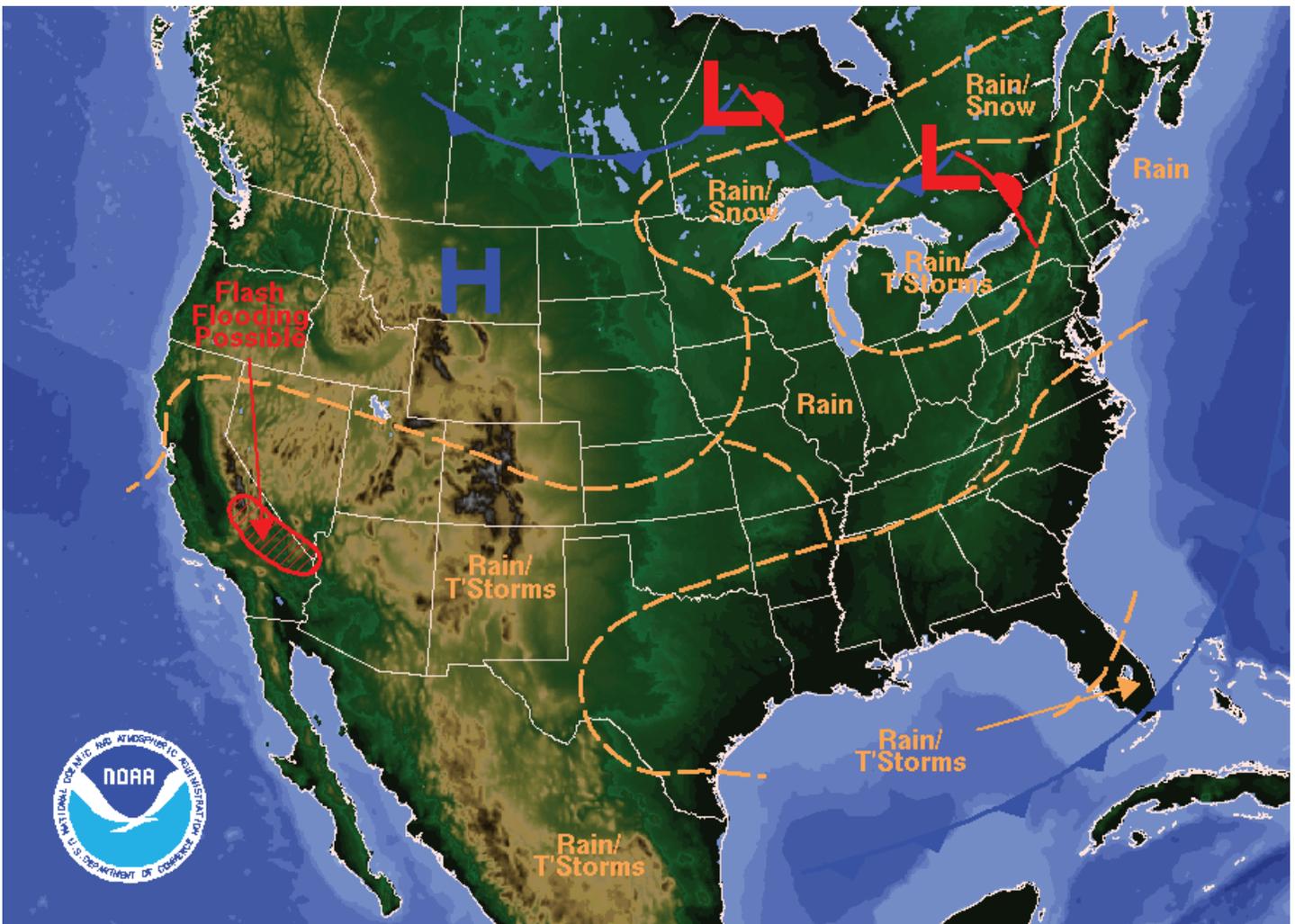
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 71.2
Low: 29.8
High Gust: 24
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 88° in 1958
Record Low: 18° in 1992
Average High: 58°F
Average Low: 33°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.09
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 19.57
Precip Year to Date: 18.12
Sunset Tonight: 6:48 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Oct 15, 2015, issued 4:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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MAKING GOOD TIME

The pilot of the company aircraft had been flying the corporate executives from one city to another on a whirlwind tour. After they landed, the plane serviced and their meeting over, they would leave.

One day he decided he would have a little fun with his passengers and made the following announcement: "Gentlemen, there's no cause for alarm, but I feel that you should know that we've been flying without a radio, compass, radar or navigational beam for the last hour. I'm not sure where we are heading, but we are making great time." They all gasped.

Jesus once said that the only way to enter into God's Kingdom is through a narrow gate. He did not say that it is impossible to enter the Kingdom, but that there was only one way. Many believe that they can find God without following His specific directions. They design their own plan to suit their own interests. It is like traveling with no map or compass, no GPS or road signs. What they do seems right to them but it is not - even though they enjoy it and make "great time."

The "narrow gate" is believing in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Who died for our sins and can save us.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for providing the way, the truth and life eternal through Your Son, our Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because[a] narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

News from the Associated Press

Murder suspect seeks to suppress police interview video

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The attorney for a Rapid City murder suspect is seeking to keep video of police interviews out of Michael Hand's trial.

Nineteen-year-old Hand has pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity to second-degree murder in the July 2014 death of 47-year-old Myron Rock. Rock's body was found in an alley. An autopsy concluded he'd been beaten and strangled.

Police Detective Rick Arlaud testified Wednesday that Hand was read his rights before he was interviewed the day of the killing, agreed to speak with police and waived his right to an attorney.

Psychologist Mark Perrenoud testified Hand is considered intellectually disabled, though he said Hand is capable of understanding his rights.

Judge Craig Pfeifle (FY'-flee) will rule on the motion later. Hand's trial is to start Nov. 16.

Board of Regents names system director of human resources

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has named a new system director of human resources.

The board announced Wednesday that Kayla Bastian's appointment is effective this week.

Bastian has served in the Board of Regents' central office since 2009. She will report to Mike Rush, regents' executive director and CEO.

Bastian has previously worked as the board's assistant human resources director.

Rush says she comes to the position with a "strong understanding" of public higher education in the state.

Bastian is replacing Barbara Basel. She resigned to take a job at the Maricopa Community College System in Arizona.

DOT workers to spend 3 days repairing I-90 bridge over I-29

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Department of Transportation workers will be repairing the bridge deck in the westbound lanes of the Interstate 90 bridge over I-29 for the next three days.

The DOT will be reducing westbound I-90 to one lane through the interchange during construction, and the speed limit is being lowered to 45 mph.

Officials say ramp traffic will be maintained throughout the project but the space for merging traffic will be limited. Drivers are asked to slow down and be aware of suddenly slowing and merging traffic both through the interchange and on the ramps.

APNewsBreak: Dayton to tour mines in Michigan, S. Dakota

BRIAN BAKST, Associated Press
STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton has planned trips to mines in South Dakota and Michigan as his administration prepares for a major decision on whether to advance copper and nickel mining on the Iron Range.

Dayton spokesman Matt Swenson told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the governor will tour the Gilt Edge mine in western South Dakota on Oct. 27 and Eagle Mine in northern Michigan on Oct. 30. Dayton's administration is evaluating environmental issues surrounding the proposed PolyMet mine in northeastern Minnesota.

The PolyMet project has already caused divisions in Dayton's Democratic Party between those who see its job potential and those who worry about environmental damage.

Swenson says Dayton wants to assess the community impact of the mines. The tours will be private.

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"Both visits are part of the Governor's due diligence to see first-hand the operations and impacts of mine sites similar to the PolyMet project proposal," Swenson said.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources plans to issue the final environmental impact statement on PolyMet next month. The DNR plans to rule on the adequacy of the massive document in February. If it gets the green light, PolyMet could then start applying for the necessary permits.

Mineral mining is ingrained in Minnesota's history, but the extraction proposed by PolyMet would be unique. Dayton has called the permitting decision the "most difficult and consequential decision I'll make as governor."

Paul Dancic, executive director of the conservation group Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, applauded the governor's plans.

"The enormous risk that PolyMet poses to the St. Louis River, Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters justifies the time and effort" of the tours, Dancic said in a statement.

The Eagle Mine is about 40 miles west of Marquette on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It went into production in September 2014 after a 12-year legal and political battle with parallels to the struggle over PolyMet.

Environmental groups and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community fought to prevent the underground mine from being built, saying it poses a serious risk to groundwater and a nearby river. Similar to PolyMet's ore deposit, the Eagle Mine's nickel and copper are bound up in sulfide minerals that can leach sulfuric acid when exposed to air and water. Mining opponents also worry about ongoing prospecting that could lead to more mines in the area.

Though the UP historically was a major copper producing area, nickel is the biggest resource at the Eagle Mine. Its owner is Lundin Mining Corp. of Toronto. Lundin has projected that it will extract 360 million pounds of nickel and 295 pounds of copper during the mine's projected eight-year life. The company says the mine was designed to meet or exceed all state requirements for non-ferrous metallic minerals mining.

Another similarity with PolyMet is that the Eagle Mine converted a former iron ore processing plant, the Humboldt Mill, which formerly belonged to Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company (now Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.). PolyMet will reuse a former LTV Steel Mining Company processing plant in Hoyt Lakes that it bought from Cleveland Cliffs.

No major environmental problems have been reported at the Eagle Mine so far. In contrast, the Gilt Edge Mine near Lead in the Black Hills of South Dakota is a federal Superfund cleanup site that has already cost taxpayers over \$100 million.

The former gold and silver mine was abandoned in 1999. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the most recent mine operator, Brohm Mining Company, left behind about 150 million gallons of acidic, heavy-metal-laden water in three open pits and millions of cubic yards of acid-generating, sulfide-bearing waste rock. Some interim remedies are in place at the site, about 6.5 miles east of Lead, but the cleanup is still years away from completion.

Dancic called the Gilt Edge mine a lesson for Minnesota, saying the state "can't afford a disaster like that."

One of the issues with PolyMet is whether the company can provide sufficient financial assurances for a proper cleanup when it eventually closes. Brohm forfeited a \$6.4 million mining bond, which wasn't nearly enough to cover the costs. Four mining companies that operated the site previously agreed to contribute \$30 million to the cleanup.

Federal judge testifies on allegations of improper plea deal

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge in North Dakota took a new seat in the courtroom Wednesday when he was called to testify over allegations that he promised a Bismarck attorney "favors" if he agreed to defend a man who was eventually convicted of murder and drug conspiracy charges.

U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson in 2008 sentenced Gabriel Martinez to life in prison for the killing of Lee Avila in an East Grand Forks, Minnesota, trailer home. Authorities say Avila was shot nine times in front of two small children in a dispute over a methamphetamine deal that was part of a massive drug ring.

Among the complaints by Martinez in his appeal is that his attorney in the case, Thomas Dickson, and Erickson improperly discussed a plea deal and that defense attorneys coerced him to change his plea to guilty rather than going to trial. U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken from South Dakota was called in to preside over Wednesday's hearing.

Erickson testified that he asked Dickson to take the case but never discussed possible sentences and never had dinner with him during the proceedings, as Martinez suggested. Martinez also said Dickson told him the judge "owed him favors" and would get him a better deal at sentencing.

"I don't think I owe any lawyer anywhere in the United States a favor," Erickson said. "I do my job, they do theirs."

Erickson said he contacted Dickson, who has 34 years of experience in high-profile cases, because the case was eligible for the death penalty and the judge could not find any qualified Fargo attorneys who did not have conflicts. Erickson said another prominent attorney, Robert Hoy, of Fargo, was busy with the death penalty case of Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., who was convicted of kidnapping and killing a University of North Dakota student.

"He was not enthusiastic about taking it," Erickson said of Dickson, "just like every other lawyer I've asked about a death case."

Prosecutors decided not to seek the death penalty against Martinez, one of 66 people charged in the case that federal authorities dubbed "Operation Speed Racer." Authorities said the conspiracy had ties to the violent Arellano Felix drug cartel in Mexico and moved drugs to North Dakota and elsewhere. Five people were convicted in Avila's murder.

Martinez said in his appeal that he wanted to go to trial but his attorneys promised him he would get 30 years as part of the plea deal. Martinez got his wish to testify Wednesday when he took the stand wearing orange jail clothing with his hands and legs shackled.

"My lawyers told me I would get 30 years," Martinez told Viken. "I want justice."

Dickson denied Martinez's accusations that the defense team failed to investigate the case, failed to prepare for trial and failed to subpoena witnesses who could have helped the defendant.

"If there was any possible way to point the finger at someone else, we would have done that," Dickson said.

Dickson said the defense lawyers — and Martinez himself — agreed that Martinez would not prevail at trial and would most certainly get a life sentence. The only chance was the plea agreement, but Dickson said he made no promises or guarantees to his client about his sentence.

"I did not agree with the (life) sentence," Dickson said. "I think it was too much."

South Dakota approves polygamist group's water request

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota regulators approved a secretive polygamist group's request to draw water more quickly at its remote Black Hills compound even though the sect declined to provide many details about the number of people living there.

The state Water Management Board on Wednesday approved the application, which faced opposition from nearby landowners. The same panel had said in July the sect needed to provide more details after Seth Jeffs, water operator for the United Order of South Dakota and the brother of imprisoned sect leader Warren Jeffs, didn't provide clear answers to questions about the sect and its compound.

Seth Jeffs didn't attend the hearing on Wednesday. Attorney Jeffrey Connolly told regulators that his clients "decline, frankly" to offer more evidence because it "is not necessary to meet the legal burden" to access the water.

Board members who voted in favor of approving the application said that despite the lack of candor, the group met the legal burden to access the water. Member Rodney Freeman, who "reluctantly" supported approving the water application, said Jeffs previously offered "evasive testimony" and said Jeffs' failure to appear before the committee Wednesday offended him.

"My sense of being offended doesn't amount to a hill of beans when I look at the law," Freeman said.

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A state Department of Environment and Natural Resources staff recommendation also said the water application should be approved.

Michael Hickey, an attorney for nearby landowner Linda Van Dyke Kilcoin, who opposed the application, said he's "disappointed" because at the July meeting he got the impression that if Jeffs didn't appear, the application would be denied.

Connolly declined to comment after the hearing. Jeffs didn't immediately respond to a telephone message requesting comment.

Jeffs and members of the United Order of South Dakota, a religious trust run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or FLDS, asked to roughly double the rate of water it can draw at the compound to 200 gallons per minute from 95 gallons.

The group says the water is for houses, gardens and orchards at its 140-acre property and that the additional capacity would mostly be used in the spring and summer months, but nearby landowners are concerned the request means an influx of members is looming. The application includes adding an additional well at the property.

The FLDS is headquartered in a community along the Arizona-Utah border. Members believe polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. Warren Jeffs, considered by the group to be a prophet who speaks for God, is serving a life sentence in a Texas prison for assaulting two of his child brides, and other leaders have been convicted of similar crimes.

Seth Jeffs pleaded guilty in 2006 to harboring Warren Jeffs as a fugitive.

The group's fenced-in South Dakota compound, complete with a guard tower, sits on hilly, rugged land it bought about a decade ago. Several buildings dot the complex, including residences, a chapel and school, greenhouse, and farm buildings. The compound was quiet Monday afternoon. The guard tower appeared empty, and a nearby gate swung open in the wind.

At the July board meeting, Seth Jeffs repeatedly said that he doesn't know how many people live at the compound, though he spent almost all of his time there. He said then that he would need the authorization of the trust's leaders to conduct a census at the compound.

Jeffs said in a document filed ahead of the July hearing that the number of people at the compound is within the limits of wastewater permits. The system has a 126-person capacity.

South Dakota winter wheat seeding, emerging ahead of average

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — About half of South Dakota's winter wheat crop has emerged, after another week of favorable weather.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 89 percent of the crop is now seeded, ahead of average. Forty-seven percent of the crop has emerged, slightly ahead of average.

Winter wheat is seeded and emerges in the fall, goes dormant over the winter, begins growing again in the spring and is harvested in the summer.

South Dakota's corn harvest is still behind average at 21 percent, but the soybean harvest is nearing three-fourths done and is close to average. The sunflower harvest is just getting underway, at 5 percent complete.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 52 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 75 percent adequate to surplus.

Sioux Falls ends ban on MMA bouts at city-owned facilities

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Leaders in Sioux Falls have ended the city's decade-old ban on mixed martial arts competitions at city-owned facilities, because new state regulations make the local ordinance unnecessary.

The City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to repeal the 2005 ordinance prohibiting MMA fights in city parks and buildings and requiring bouts held at private sites to be licensed by police. The action opens the door for promoters that use large venues, such as Ultimate Fighting Championship, to consider

bringing events to Sioux Falls.

Doug Martin, a promoter in the sport, told KELO-TV that fan turnout at a few events held in Sioux Falls shows there is untapped potential.

"The fan base is here. They want it. It's inevitable," he said.

Councilwoman Christine Erickson, who led the effort to end the ban, said it was adopted during a time when the sport was largely unregulated. South Dakota last year established a regulatory athletic commission that oversees fighting sports.

"Back in 2005 there were a lot of bad actors in that industry," Erickson said. "This sport has come a long way from what it was. Gone are the days where two people would be in the back parking lot of a bar."

Martin, who works with fighters involved with Ultimate Fighting Championship, said UFC could potentially hold events at the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

"It's the fastest-growing sport in the world, and the (state) commission is going to ensure the safety of the fighters," he said.

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. OBAMA TO KEEP TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN BEYOND 2016

The president's decision casts aside his promise to end the war on his watch and instead ensures he hands the conflict off to his successor.

2. DEMOCRATS ACKNOWLEDGE BLACK LIVES MATTER DURING DEBATE

The candidates adopt the movement's slogan and raise the core concerns stemming from police killings of African-Americans.

3. POLICE LEAD PEOPLE FROM BALTIMORE CITY HALL

Officials could not be reached immediately for comment on their activities at the protest and whether they had confirmed anyone was formally taken into custody.

4. WHERE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP'S INFLUENCE IS FELT

The extremists' sway extends well beyond the land it controls in Syria and Iraq, reaching recruits around the world, including the Asia-Pacific region.

5. HOW EX-MEMBERS OF CONGRESS USE UNSPENT CASH

They can pretty much do whatever they want with leftover campaign money as long as it's political or charitable.

6. LAMAR ODOM'S 14-YEAR NBA CAREER

He is now on life support, but people are recalling he won two championship rings and an Olympic medal while earning a reputation as a teammate who sacrificed personal statistics for team success.

7. RIHANNA, MICK JAGGER PARTY AS GOLD-RUSH MOOD GRIPS HAVANA

Ten months after the U.S. and Cuba declared detente, the city is filled with celebrities coming for fun and hedge-fund managers sizing up chances to make millions.

8. POLICE UNSURE WHAT 'SINS' PROVOKED ATTACK ON BROTHERS

Investigators are still working on details of what motivated the spiritual "counseling" that led to the death of Lucas Leonard, 19, and hospitalization of his 17-year-old brother, Christopher.

9. WHO IS JOINING CYBERESPIONAGE GAME

Researchers identify a group of smaller, poorer nations as users of spyware, suggesting that a recent series of leaks hasn't deterred governments from investing in malicious programs.

10. U.S. OLYMPIANS TO VISIT BOSTON

Despite the city's opposition to hosting 2024 Summer Games, United State Olympic Committee brings prominent athletes to the city to drum up support for Rio.

AP News in Brief

Democratic presidential candidates acknowledge Black Lives Matter issues during debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates gave a meaningful public nod to the Black Lives Matter movement in their first televised debate, fully adopting its slogan and raising the core concerns stemming from police killings of African-Americans that protesters have articulated while disrupting some of their campaign events.

The candidates were careful to avoid uttering the phrase “all lives matter,” showing they clearly learned from confrontations earlier this year with Black Lives Matter protesters. Some in the movement say the phrase “all lives matter” minimizes the deaths of African-American men and women at the hands of law enforcement.

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, the first to be confronted by Black Lives Matter protesters while campaigning, called during the debate for “major, major reforms” to the criminal justice system and invoked the name of Sandra Bland, the black woman found hanged in a Texas jail after being arrested on a traffic charge.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley apologized last summer after using the alternative “all lives matter” slogan. On the stage Tuesday night in Las Vegas, he said, “Black lives matter, and we have a lot of work to do to reform our criminal justice system, and to address race relations in our country.”

Observers noted that the candidates discussed some issues that people have complained about for years, even though there was no minority candidate in their midst — a rarity for Democrats. A black candidate has sought the Democratic presidential nomination in almost every election cycle since Jesse Jackson’s second White House bid in 1988. Former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, who is Hispanic, ran in 2008. No minority candidates ran against President Bill Clinton in his 1996 re-election campaign.

Syrian troops launch fresh offensive in central province of Homs

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Activists and state media say Syrian government forces have launched an offensive in the central province of Homs under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

Syrian state TV said troops captured the town of Khaldiyyeh near the central city of Hama and killed several militants in the village of Teir Maalah near the city of Homs, Syria’s third largest.

Homs-based activist Bebars al-Talawy said the offensive began early Thursday and was preceded by intense air strikes and shelling.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Russian warplanes conducted at least 15 airstrikes on the edge of the rebel-held town of Talbiseh and nearby areas killing 10 people including six opposition fighters.

Syrian troops launched offensives in Idlib and Hama provinces last week under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

The Latest: Officers lead people from Baltimore City Hall protest against police commissioner

BALTIMORE (AP) — The latest on protests by the Baltimore Uprising coalition, which occupied City Council chambers at Baltimore City Hall to protest a council subcommittee’s vote in favor of making the interim police commissioner permanent:

4:30 a.m.

Police officers grouped before dawn outside Baltimore City Hall and could be seen by an Associated Press reporter leading at least 12 people from the government building to police transport vans and other vehicles. Several of those being escorted away could be seen in plastic handcuffs, their hands behind their backs.

Approximately 25 officers initially formed a line in front of City Hall and more police were seen with their vehicles out back as protesters were led out. More than a dozen others outside City Hall looked on at the police activity, chanting, "It is our duty to fight for our freedom, we have nothing to lose but our shame!"

How Islamic State group is affecting and inspiring extremist activity in far-off Asia-Pacific

The influence of the Islamic State group extends well beyond the land it controls in Syria and Iraq, reaching recruits around the world, including the Asia-Pacific region. Below, 10 Associated Press writers based in the region discuss how the extremist movement is affecting their countries:

AUSTRALIA

The Islamic State group has been particularly effective at recruiting followers in Australia. An estimated 120 Australians are believed to be fighting with the movement and other militant groups in Syria and Iraq, a relatively high number given Australia's population of just 24 million. Many more have followed the group's calls for inciting violence within Australia, including a group of teens arrested this year on suspicion of plotting an Islamic State group-inspired attack at a Veterans' Day ceremony.

In a bid to stem the flow of foreign fighters, Australia made it a criminal offense for its citizens to travel to certain parts of Iraq and Syria that are held by Islamic State movement fighters. The government has also canceled the passports of people it believes are planning to join the fight in the Middle East.

Lamar Odom's former teammates remember the big man's sublime skills and selfless career

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Although Lamar Odom's marriage to Khloe Kardashian introduced him to untold millions of fans who don't know a power forward from a paparazzo, reality television notoriety was only a small part of a life largely spent in basketball.

Odom won two NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers and an award as the league's top reserve during his 14-year pro career, adding to a trophy case that also includes an Olympic medal and a FIBA world championship medal.

Odom was a can't-miss prospect from the start of his playing days in Queens, a skilled ball-handler in a rangy big man's body. His versatility got him through a truncated college career into the NBA, where he played for four franchises and became known as an invaluable teammate who repeatedly sacrificed personal statistics for team success.

"All he cared about was playing basketball," said Knicks star Carmelo Anthony, a longtime friend. "He wanted to give back to the league. Every time I talked to him, that's all he talked about."

Odom's teammates and friends throughout the sport paid tribute after he was found unconscious in a Nevada brothel and rushed to a hospital this week. Several basketball figures visited Odom's bedside, including Kobe Bryant and Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak.

Rihanna, Katy Perry, Mick Jagger party as gold-rush mood grips Havana following Cuba-US thaw

HAVANA (AP) — By midnight, the basement of one of Havana's hottest clubs is packed wall-to-wall for a private concert by one of Cuba's biggest pop stars.

Squeezed among the usual crowd of sleek young Cubans and paunchy, prowling European tourists, the owner of one of New York's hippest restaurants discusses his new Havana boutique hotel project. At the bar, a Swiss venture capitalist describes meeting with Communist Party officials about partnering on a marina complex. An Ohio woman who runs a bespoke guide service for wealthy Americans shows her clients iPhone photos of the private villa where they'll have a waterfront paella dinner the next day.

The foreigners visiting Havana used to be Canadians and Europeans on cheap beach package tours and left-leaning Americans on dutiful rounds of organic farms and neighborhood health clinics. Ten months after the U.S. and Cuba declared the end of a half-century of official hostility, the mood in Havana has changed.

The city is filled with celebrities coming to party and hedge-fund managers sizing up their chances to make millions in one of the last bastions of communism. As an influx of American cash starts feeling imminent and inevitable, there's a giddy, frothy feeling in the air, at least the air breathed by Havana's privileged. While most Cubans remain on the outside looking in, Havana's high society has a gold-rush, center-of-the-universe pulse that hasn't existed here since Fidel Castro stormed down from the mountains in 1959 and threw out the last group of foreigners who saw Havana as their tropical playground.

"The next big bubble is going to be nightlife. That's what happened to Cancun," said Ziad Chamoun, a Boston-area restaurant and club owner turned wine importer who was drinking champagne in a waterfront villa on Saturday afternoon with five friends, including the head of one of the world's largest emerging-market investment funds.

Police: Brothers beaten by family, church group to force them to confess sins, but what sins?

NEW HARTFORD, N.Y. (AP) — The fatal beating of a young man and the savage attack on his younger brother by relatives and fellow members of an upstate New York church was intended to get them to confess their sins, investigators said, but they still haven't determined what those supposed sins were.

Police said spiritual "counseling" at the Word of Life church turned into an hours-long attack Sunday night in which Lucas Leonard, 19, and his 17-year-old brother, Christopher, were pummeled with fists and kicked. They suffered injuries to the abdomen, genitals, back and thighs.

Eventually, Lucas Leonard stopped breathing and relatives took him early Monday to a hospital, where he died, police said. Authorities went to the church and found his younger brother, who was hospitalized in serious condition.

"Both brothers were subjected to physical punishment over the course of several hours, in hopes that each would confess to prior sins and ask for forgiveness," Police Chief Michael Inserra said Wednesday.

He said investigators were still working on details of what provoked the attack.

8 ethnic rebel armies sign cease-fire pact with Myanmar government; major groups stay away

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's government and eight smaller ethnic rebel armies signed a cease-fire agreement to end more than six decades of fighting, but other more powerful groups refused to come on board, signaling that peace will remain elusive for some time to come.

The pact was signed at a ceremony in Myanmar's administrative capital, Naypyitaw, by President Thein Sein and representatives of the groups. The refusal by the larger armies, such as those of the Kachin and Wa ethnic groups, to sign it robs Thein Sein of what he had hoped would be the crowning achievement of his five-year term.

Still, the agreement, called the "National Ceasefire Agreement" despite its truncated list of participants, is seen as a first step toward ending longstanding insurgencies against the Burmese-majority government by various minority groups demanding autonomy and control over their natural resources in the north, northeast and east of the country.

Ethnic groups, representing 40 percent of the country's 52 million people, have found themselves victims of military abuses and discrimination in areas spanning from health and education to road construction and access to electricity.

"Although some organizations are currently not ready to sign, the government decided to conclude the (agreement) with the vanguard group." Thein Sein said in a speech at the signing ceremony.

German authorities order mandatory recall of VW cars with software that evaded emissions tests

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's motor transport agency is ordering a mandatory recall of Volkswagen cars sold with software that enabled them to evade diesel emissions testing.

The dpa news agency reported that the Federal Motor Transport Authority rejected a Volkswagen proposal for a voluntary recall.

Germany's Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt is set to announce details of the recall later Thursday. Volkswagen CEO Matthias Mueller has said a recall could start in January and be completed by the end of next year in Germany. The company has said around 11 million cars worldwide, 2.8 million of them in Germany, have the software that duped U.S. inspectors.

Volkswagen faces possible fines after U.S. authorities discovered it had equipped 482,000 cars with software that disabled emissions controls except when the cars were being tested.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, October 15, the 288th day of 2015. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 15, 1915, "The Metamorphosis," Franz Kafka's famous absurdist tale about a man named Gregor Samsa who wakes up one morning to discover that he has been transformed into a huge, insect-like creature, was first published in the German literary journal *Die Weissen Blaetter* (dee VY'-sehn BLEHT'-ur) (The White Pages).

On this date:

In 1783, the first manned balloon flight took place in Paris as Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier ascended in a basket attached to a tethered Montgolfier hot-air balloon, rising to about 75 feet.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte, the deposed Emperor of the French, arrived on the British-ruled South Atlantic island of St. Helena, where he spent the last 5 1/2 years of his life in exile.

In 1905, Claude Debussy's "La Mer" (The Sea), a trio of symphonic sketches, premiered in Paris.

In 1914, the Clayton Antitrust Act, which expanded on the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1917, Dutch dancer Mata Hari, convicted of spying for the Germans, was executed by a French firing squad outside Paris.

In 1940, Charles Chaplin's first all-talking comedy, "The Great Dictator," a lampoon of Adolf Hitler, opened in New York.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering (GEH'-reeng) fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 1969, peace demonstrators staged activities across the country as part of a "moratorium" against the Vietnam War.

In 1975, the book "Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape," a history of sexual assault authored by Susan Brownmiller, was first published.

In 1990, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was named the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. South Africa's Separate Amenities Act, which had barred blacks from public facilities for decades, was formally scrapped.

In 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

Ten years ago: Iraqis voted to approve a constitution. A crowd that had gathered to protest a neo-Nazi march in Toledo, Ohio, turned violent, prompting the mayor to declare a state of emergency.

Five years ago: The Obama administration reported that the federal deficit had hit a near-record \$1.3

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trillion for the just-completed budget year. Workers hugged, cheered and set off fireworks as a huge drill broke through a last stretch of rock deep in the Swiss Alps for construction of the 35.4-mile Gotthard Base Tunnel, which is scheduled to officially open in June 2016.

One year ago: Fresh signs of slow global economic growth and the Ebola crisis sent stocks on Wall Street tumbling as much as 460 points in the most turbulent day since 2011 before partially recovering; European shares slid as well. The Kansas City Royals advanced to their first World Series since 1985 after finishing a four-game sweep in the AL Championship Series with a 2-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles. The San Francisco Giants came within one game of winning the NL Championship Series with a 6-4 win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Today's Birthdays: Former auto executive Lee Iacocca is 91. Jazz musician Freddy Cole is 84. Singer Barry McGuire is 80. Actress Linda Lavin is 78. Rock musician Don Stevenson (Moby Grape) is 73. Actress-director Penny Marshall is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 70. Singer-musician Richard Carpenter is 69. Actor Victor Banerjee is 69. Former tennis player Roscoe Tanner is 64. Singer Tito Jackson is 62. Actor-comedian Larry Miller is 62. Actor Jere Burns is 61. Actress Tanya Roberts is 60. Movie director Mira Nair is 58. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 56. Chef Emeril Lagasse is 56. Rock musician Mark Reznicek (REHZ'-nih-chehk) is 53. Singer Eric Benet is 49. Actress Vanessa Marcil is 47. Singer-actress-TV host Paige Davis is 46. Country singer Kimberly Schlapman (Little Big Town) is 46. Actor Dominic West is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ginuwine is 45. Actor Chris Olivero is 36. Christian singer-actress Jaci (JAK'-ee) Velasquez is 36. Actor Brandon Jay McLaren is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keyshia Cole is 34. Tennis player Elena Dementieva is 34. Actor Vincent Martella is 23. Actress Bailee Madison is 16.

Thought for Today: "A friend to all is a friend to none." — Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 B.C.).