

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, December 6

State FFA Leadership CDE in Pierre

**Birthdays:** Maddie Howard • Nancy Sundstrom

• Karen Wolter

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Program practice

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

5:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Christian Literature Circle

## Monday, December 7

State FFA Leadership CDE in Pierre

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

**School Lunch:** Cheese sticks, puzzle tots, carrots and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Turkey Chow Mein, rice and Chow Mein noodles, broccoli, Waldorf Salad, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Megan Weber • Morgan McNickle • Landon Marzahn

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

5:30pm: Financial Aid Night

7:00pm: City Council Meeting

## Tuesday, December 8

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

**School Lunch:** Lasagna hot dish, corn, tea bun, romaine salad, fruit

### 2015 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

**Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015**

Parents of children ages 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena. Please park and use the east entrance to the gym.

## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

**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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## Pray, Anderson are winners at Clark-Willow Lake Tourney

Trevor Pray and Brandyn Anderson both took first place at the Clark-Willow Lake wrestling tournament held Saturday in Clark.

Coach Dana Dargatz said, "Saturday's tournament showed good heart, determination, and talent when they took to the mat at the Clark invitational to start the year."

Trevor Pray wrestled at 120 pounds and he scored an escape in the third period to decision Britton-Hecla's Preston Jones in the first match, 3-2. Pray then held off a rally by Carsten McNeill of Redfield-Doland in his second match to win, 5-4. Dargatz said, "Trevor Pray competed at the 120 pound weight class which was the superior weight class of the day. Beating familiar foes from Britton and Redfield. It was really nice to see Trevor picking up where he left off last year. He is so talented and quick that makes him so fun to watch!"

Brandyn Anderson wrestled at 285 pounds and he won both of his matches by fall. He pinned Chase Sigdestad of Webster, 1:27, and he pinned Ethan Ninke of Webster in 1:30. Dargatz said, "Brandyn Anderson did as expected on the day winning the tournament deservedly so."

The only other wrestler was Thomas Cranford at 126 pounds. He was pinned in his first match by Joey Hubsch of Webster, 2:58. Cranford was pinned by Joe Woodring in his second match in 4:18. Dargatz said, "Thomas Cranford battled his opponents and showed a lot of growth from last year being his first."

Dargatz said, "I'm really proud of how the boys competed. They have done everything I've asked of them thus far, and to see them where there at so early in the season pleases me because I know they only have good things to come."

**In case you are wondering of where the wrestling co-op with Webster is at, the Groton Area/Webster Area wrestling co-op will be discussed at the December 10th Webster School board meeting.**



**James Valley Telecommunication's  
Holiday Open House**

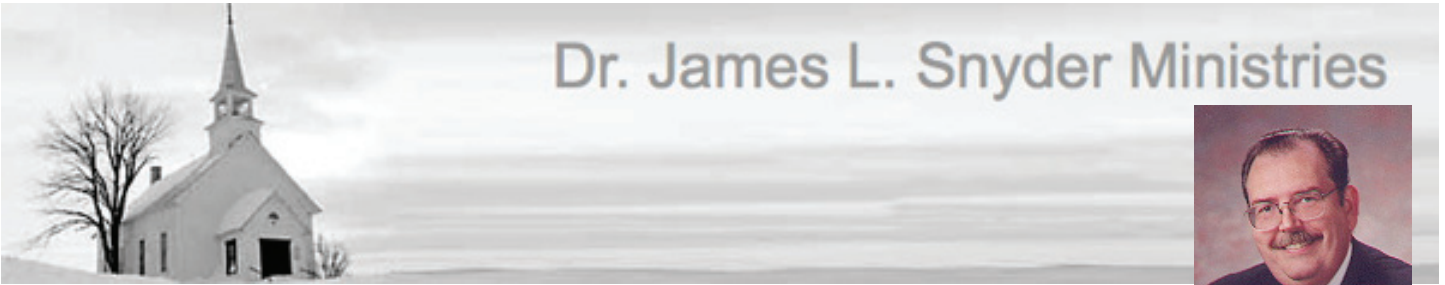
**Tuesday, December 8th 10am-4pm  
235 E 1st Ave Groton**

Christmas Treats, In-Store Specials &  
Door Prizes (including a \$100 JVT Credit)!

**12 Days of Christmas Giveaway**  
Register to win at [jamesvalley.com](http://jamesvalley.com)

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## Dealing with the Cha Ching Syndrome



Maybe because I am getting older I am feeling more of the strain of the activity of the season: shopping, which is not my favorite pastime any time of the year. I cannot say that for the other occupant in our usually merry domicile.

If anybody is a shopping queen, the trophy has to go to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I do not know if she invented shopping, I just know it is in her DNA. In our house, DNA means "Deal Negotiator Authority." If she cannot make a deal, nobody can.

I have discovered something quite disturbing during this time of the year. I call it the Cha Ching Syndrome.

It all came together when my wife came home from one of her shopping sprees very excited about how much money she had saved. If there is a coupon available anywhere, she has it, or knows where to get it.

It hit me one day; how much money did she have to spend to save money?

I first recognized my Cha Ching Syndrome when my wife convinced me to go shopping with her. She caught me by surprise and I could not think of any excuse not to go with her. At least not any excuse she would buy into.

"It will not take too long," she pleaded in such a way that I could not refuse. "I just need someone to help me take the packages out to the car."

"Then," she said with an infectious smile, "we can go and have lunch together. Doesn't that sound like fun?"

How can you possibly argue with that? I could not come up with any legitimate excuse and so I "volunteered" to go with my wife shopping with one qualifying element; she had to take her car. I did not want to use my gas to do something I was not excited about doing.

I had a sinking feeling in my stomach that it would not be my favorite day. A favorite day for me would be staying at home reading one of my favorite books on my favorite easy chair. The word "favorite" can never be associated with going to the mall.

We made it to the mall and my wife knew exactly where to start. I knew where I wanted to go, but I was under strict orders to assist my wife in this shopping extravaganza.

I could not help but notice how many stores there were in this mall. I never knew there were this many stores in the entire world. Where do these stores come from? Who in the world is buying all this stuff to keep the stores operating?

As I looked around, I noticed the mall was crowded with people. I had to be careful so not to be run over or run over anybody. There was such an obsession to buy that I had to be careful not to get in anybody's way. I am ready to die, but I sure do not want to die in a shopping mall. That would be the epitome of blasphemy as far as I am concerned.

"Oh," my wife said gigglingly, "are we going to save money today?"

Then it slowly began to dawn on me. How can you save money in a shopping mall whose only intention is to get as much money out of your wallet as possible?

As we went to the first cashier to pay for our purchases, I heard a faint Cha Ching. I did not think too much of it at the time.

When we came to the second cashier, I heard a little louder, Cha Ching, Cha Ching.

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The first one did not get my attention, but this one did. Then we went to the third cashier. Almost booming in my head I heard, Cha Ching, Cha Ching, Cha Ching.

We were getting close to the end of her shopping spree and she said there was one more store she needed to go to. Patiently, and loaded down with packages, I followed her to the last store of the day. Do not ask me which it was, after awhile they all look the same to me.

I felt like I was backed into a corner. We were at the register and my wife looked at me and said very calmly, "Do you have any cash on you? I've used up all mine."

Slowly, I open my wallet, pulled out all the cash I had and with a trembling hand handed it over to her. Cha Ching.

"Thank you," she said, "you helped me save a lot of money today."

All I could hear was Cha Ching echoing in my head and I could barely understand what she was saying.

When it was all over my wife saved \$39.14 (Cha Ching) which only cost me \$219.79 (Cha Ching, Cha Ching, Cha Ching).

During our lunch, which I ended up paying for (Cha Ching) all she could talk about was all the money (Cha Ching) she had saved today and had me to thank for it. Sometimes it is best to go along so you can get along.

Paul understood the power of money, he wrote "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10).

To be obsessed with money is to lose the real value of life.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net) or website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).



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## Driving In Winter Weather

**A column by Gov. Dennis Daugaard:**

There's nothing like the first snowfall of the year. When I was young, a heavy storm meant no school, and my sisters and I would play cards with Dad, after we did the farm chores.

Snow is nice until you have to drive in it. Though South Dakotans know how to handle snow and cold weather, we still need to prepare ourselves for the hazardous driving conditions winter brings.

Driving in winter weather is a serious matter. Every year during the holiday season, the Highway Patrol sees a spike in traffic accidents and fatalities. Around the Thanksgiving holiday this year, 10 people lost their lives in car crashes and several others were severely injured.

If you will be traveling for Christmas or New Year's, prepare yourself. Before you travel, go to [SafeTravelUSA.com/SD](http://SafeTravelUSA.com/SD), call 511 or download the SDDOT 511 app to check road conditions. Pack a flashlight, blankets, drinking water and a shovel. Make sure your car is ready for the trip by checking your tires and scraping off the ice from all of your windows.

When you're driving, take it slow and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination. It's usually a good idea to leave cruise control off. Conditions can change quickly in the winter and you need to be ready.

Don't crowd the plow. Department of Transportation crews work long hours in the worst conditions, and they do their best to keep our highways clear of ice and snow. When you approach a snow plow, leave at least four car lengths between you and the back of the plow. Never pass a plow on the right. This is the direction plows push the snow.

No matter what season it is, always wear your seatbelt and make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up. Nearly two-thirds of those who died in car crashes in South Dakota in the last year were not wearing their seatbelts. Whether you are traveling across the state or just driving a few blocks, buckling up could save your life.

Traveling to spend Christmas with loved ones is well worth it. To keep the holidays from turning tragic, do all that is within your power to arrive safely at your destination. Be safe and have a great holiday season.

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## Groton Chamber Holiday Boxes are out about in Groton!

This Week (thru 12/04) – Dairy Queen

Next Week (thru 12/13) – Lori's Pharmacy

Stop by each participating businesses and register for \$25  
Groton Chamber Bucks – or a prize supplied by the business.  
Prizes will be drawn weekly – starting over each week with  
entries!



Merry  
Christmas

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## Today in Weather History

December 6, 1969: An unusual period of almost continuous snow began in southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota on the afternoon of the 5th and continued until late on the 10th. The Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport reported 88 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> consecutive hours of snowfall, which amounted to 14.2 inches total. The snowfall was generally 3-9 inches in the western half of Minnesota, with slightly lesser amounts in eastern South Dakota. Two inches snow fell at Summit and Sisseton; 2.5 inches at Watertown and Waubay; 3.0 inches at Clear Lake; 3.1 inches at Aberdeen; and 4.0 inches at Artichoke Lake, Webster, and Milbank.

December 6, 1913: A snowstorm from December 1st through the 6th dumps a record total of 45.7 inches in Denver, Colorado. This is the most snow ever recorded in a single Denver snowstorm.

December 6, 1970: The National Christmas tree in 1970 was a 78 foot spruce from South Dakota. On the way to Washington the train carrying the tree derailed twice in Nebraska. On the weekend before the lighting event, the tree toppled in gusty winds and required new branches to fill it out.

1886 - A great snowstorm hit the southern Appalachian Mountains. The three day storm produced 25 inches at Rome GA, 33 inches at Asheville NC, and 42 inches in the mountains. Montgomery AL received a record eleven inches of snow. Columbia SC received one to two inches of sleet. (4th-6th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A windstorm toppled the National Christmas Tree at the White House. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Another in a series of storms brought high winds and heavy rain to the northwestern U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. In northern California, Crescent City was drenched with 2.58 inches of rain, and winds gusted to 90 mph. Up to fourteen inches of snow blanketed the mountains of northern California, and snow and high winds created blizzard conditions around Lake Tahoe NV. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - The morning low at Bismarck, ND, was eleven degrees warmer than the record low of 25 degrees at Meridian MS, and during the afternoon half a dozen cities in the north central and northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Alpena MI with a reading of 57 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Heavy snow blanketed the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Totals in the southern foothills of Colorado ranged up to 17 inches at Rye. Arctic air invaded the north central U.S. Lincoln NE, which reported a record high of 69 degrees the previous afternoon, was 35 degrees colder. International Falls MN was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 9 degrees below zero, and temperatures in northern Minnesota hovered near zero through the daylight hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)







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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 37.1 at Midnight

**Low:** 21.3 at 11:45 PM

**High Gust:** 29 at 12:02 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 69° in 1939

**Record Low:** -30° in 1972

**Average High:** 28°F

**Average Low:** 9°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.11

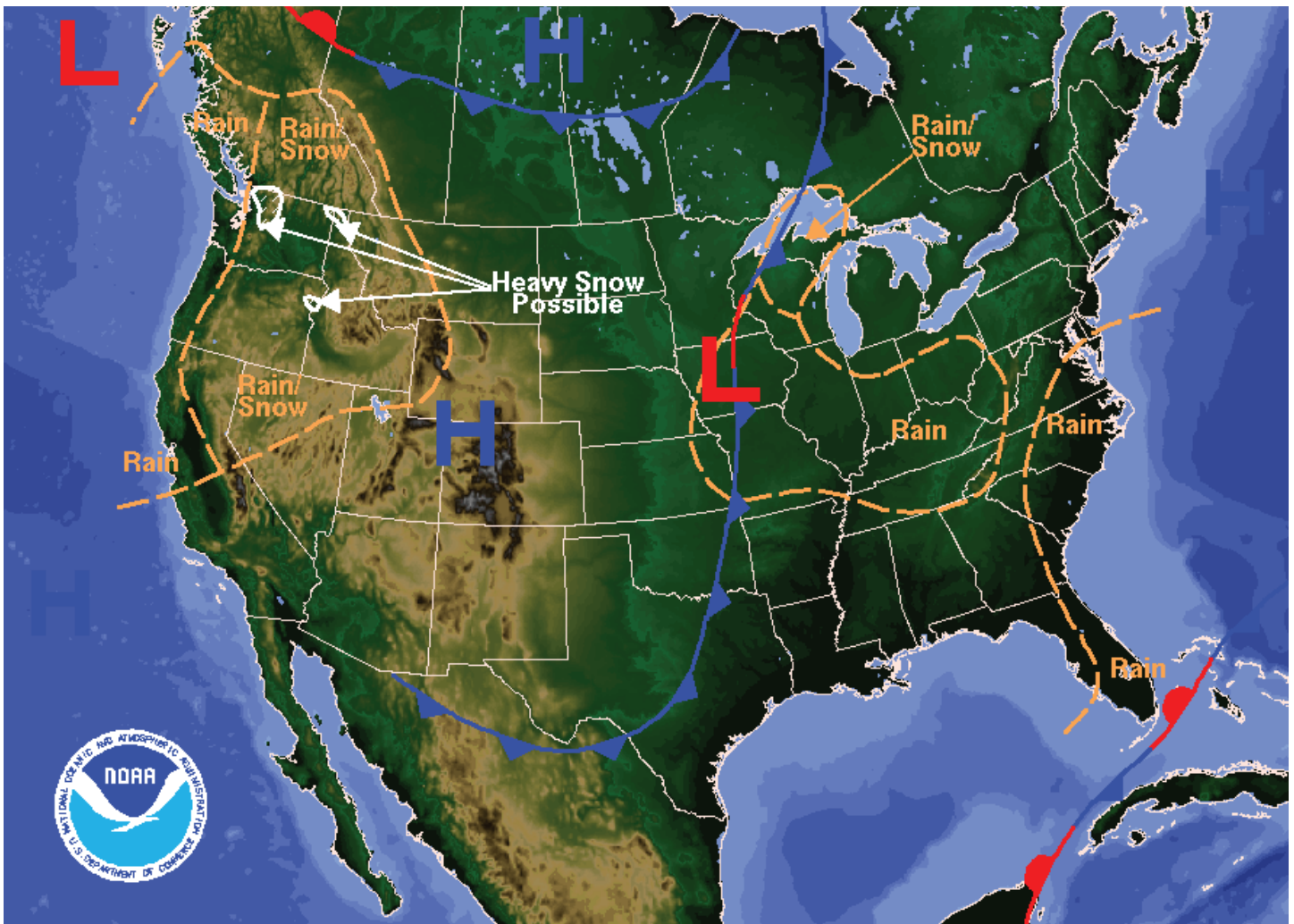
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.52

**Average Precip to date:** 21.31

**Precip Year to Date:** 20.34

**Sunset Tonight:** 4:50 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:59 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Dec 06, 2015, issued 3:49 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## PROUD TO BE HUMBLE

A tourist visiting a monastery was impressed with the daily routine of the monks. Awakening at dawn, they would pray for hours, eat little food, and spend time alone meditating and reading their Bibles or labor on their farm. Curious about the nature of their mission, he asked one of the monks to explain how they were different from the other monastic orders.

"Well," said the monk, "when it comes to learning, we don't compare with the Jesuits. When it comes to good works, we're no match for the Franciscans. But when it comes to humility, we're at the top!"

It is inappropriate for Christians to attempt to appear humble and downplay the gifts that God has given them. God has endowed each of us with certain gifts that are unique to us. We must accept them graciously, develop them to their fullest, and use them to the glory of God.

If we want to grasp the meaning of humility we must look to our Lord and Savior. Here is one Who was with God and equal to God, but willingly laid it aside. He lived a selfless life of service to others and then suffered a horrible death on the cross for our salvation. In humility He accomplished His Father's plan doing whatever He could to reflect in word and deed His love.

Pride comes naturally, but not humility. When we do difficult things in a loving and caring manner – as Jesus did – we are living godly humility.

**Prayer:** Father, we often pray to be humble not wanting to accept our responsibility to be humble. Grant us a willing heart to set ourselves aside. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** 1 Peter 5 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Black Hills State, USD seek to offer new bachelor's degrees**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has given initial approval for Black Hills State University and the University of South Dakota to explore new baccalaureate degrees.

Black Hills State in Spearfish is looking to offer bachelor of fine arts degrees in photography, graphic design and studio art.

USD in Vermillion is considering bachelor of business administration degrees in innovation and entrepreneurship and in operational analytics.

Both universities will return to the Board of Regents later for official approval of these degrees once they complete further planning for the new programs.

### **Bareback rider Peebles wins second consecutive round**

**KEITH FREEMAN, Associated Press**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Steven Peebles won his second consecutive bareback round Saturday night in the National Finals Rodeo, scoring 86.5 points on Cool Water.

Peebles, from Redmond, Oregon, has jumped from 14th to third in the standings in the first three rounds with a season total of \$151,960. He leads the NFR aggregate standings with 252 points and tops all NFR competitors with \$71,875.

"I feel awesome mentally and physically," Peebles said. "After riding through pain all season and barely making it into the finals, to be able to do all of this has me speechless. I'm trying not to overthink it and don't want to change a thing. I want to keep spurring every horse jump-for-jump until this is over."

Four-time champion Kaycee Feild of Spanish Fork, Utah, leads with \$158,290. He failed to earn a check Saturday with a 72.5 on Red Gold.

"People asked me before I got here if I thought I had a chance coming in 14th," Peebles said. "I really wanted to come in here the first few rounds and be able to win and get caught up to Kaycee. I wanted to be caught up by the middle of the rodeo and have a clean slate, so this feels great."

In team roping, header Aaron Tsinigine of Tuba City, Arizona, and heeler Ryan Motes of Weatherford, Texas, claimed their second round victory in 4.0 seconds. Tsinigine and Motes are each second in the standings, with \$146,230 for Tsinigine and \$145,098 for Motes.

"Two out of three rounds is everything I've always dreamed of," Tsinigine said. "Winning two of the first three rounds blows the roof off for me. It's what I was pretending to do when I was a little kid roping the dummy; I was roping at the NFR and I was winning rounds. This is fun, and so far so good. But the main thing is I'm going to try and catch 10 head here."

Header Clay Tryan of Billings, Montana, and heeler Jade Corkill, of Fallon, Nevada, tied for sixth in 9.3 to remain atop the standings with \$153,612 each.

In bull riding, defending champion Sage Kimzey of Strong City, Oklahoma, increased his lead by finishing second with an 84.5 on Mellow Yellow. Kimzey has earned \$205,331. Cody Teel of Kountze, Texas, won the round with an 86.5 on Lineman.

In steer wrestling, Clayton Hass of Terrell, Texas, won with a 3.6 and moved into third place with \$131,411. Ty Erickson of Helena, Montana, second in 3.8, regained the lead with \$142,934. Clayton Hass of Terrell, Texas, won with a 3.6.

In saddle bronc riding, Cody DeMoss of Heflin, Louisiana, retook the lead by winning with an 84 on Big Fork. DeMoss has earned \$167,897.

In tie-down roping, Timber Moore of Aubrey, Texas, took over the lead by tying for third with a 7.7. Moore has earned \$149,452. Caleb Smidt of Bellville, Texas, and Tyson Durfey of Savannah, Missouri, tied for first at 7.5.



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In barrel racing, Lisa Lockhart of Oelrichs, South Dakota, remained the leader by finishing sixth in 13.94. She has earned \$197,482. Taylor Jacob of Carmine, Texas, was second in 13.77.

In all-around, Trevor Brazile of Decatur, Texas, leads with \$328,473 in earnings in steer roping, tie-down roping and team roping. JoJo LeMond of Andrews, Texas, was second with \$160,377.

## South Dakota outlasts Minnesota in 2nd OT, 85-81

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — South Dakota has four players who were raised in Minnesota. The head coach, too. Trailing by six with 95 seconds left in the first overtime, the Coyotes didn't fold. Their Big Ten opponent wilted down the stretch instead.

Tre Burnette had 14 points and the go-ahead layup with 35 seconds left in the second extra session, lifting South Dakota to an 85-81 victory over Minnesota on Saturday afternoon.

"We didn't drive this far to lose," said Shy McClelland, who had 14 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Coyotes (5-3) including a 3-pointer with 1:14 remaining in the second overtime.

Casey Kasperbauer led South Dakota with 17 points, making four free throws in the final 7 seconds to seal the biggest win for the program in seven years playing Division I.

"I've watched games here forever. It's just so hard to win here," said coach Craig Smith, who grew up in Stephen, a tiny town in the northwest corner of the state.

Not only did South Dakota beat Minnesota for the first time in 14 all-time meetings, the Coyotes ended a 47-game nonconference home winning streak for the Gophers. That was the second-longest in Division I behind Duke.

"I know it means a lot to their guys when they come in here and play," Minnesota coach Richard Pitino said.

Jordan Murphy had 19 points and 17 rebounds for the Gophers for his second straight double-double, tying the game on a tip-in with 1 second left in regulation, but he later fouled out.

Nate Mason scored 11 points with a tying 3-pointer in each overtime session, but he had four turnovers without an assist and launched another long shot with 11 seconds remaining when the Gophers could have played for the last shot.

"We've got to run something better than that," Pitino said. "That's on me."

Eric Robertson, who's from the Minneapolis suburb Wayzata, hit the tying baseline jumper with 7 seconds left in the first overtime and finished with 16 points for South Dakota, which used ball screens and effective spacing to continually penetrate a vulnerable Minnesota defense.

Pitino said he was concerned by a sluggishness he saw in practice after a win here Monday over Clemson.

"We can't come out and sleep on any team," Mason said. "I feel like this teaches us a lesson that we can get beat by anybody."

The Coyotes made clear from the start this was going to be a competitive game, taking a 35-29 lead at the break and a 50-40 advantage on Kasperbauer's 3-pointer. The Gophers answered that with 10 straight points and looked like they'd be able to take control in overtime after Murphy's well-timed tip-in.

"I'm not going to lie to you. It hurt a little bit," Robertson said. "But we all came together."

Said McClelland: "We've got a tough group of guys."

South Dakota made the NCAA playoffs in each of its last five years in Division II before moving up to Division I in 2008 and went 22-10 in the 2009-10 season, but success has been harder to come by lately. They finished 17-16 last season, Smith's first, for their first winning record since joining the Summit League in 2011.

"The way regulation ended, where Murphy gets the tip-in essentially at the buzzer, a lot of teams would've folded right there," Smith said.

### TIP-INS

South Dakota: The Coyotes beat a Big Ten team once before, a 58-56 victory at Wisconsin on Dec. 1, 1956. They have five wins over Nebraska all-time but not since 1942, some 69 years before the Huskers joined the conference. The Coyotes play at Illinois on Dec. 19. They beat the Gophers once in football, a

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41-38 victory on Sept. 11, 2010.

Minnesota: The Gophers' three best returning players, Joey King, Mason and Carlos Morris, combined to shoot 9 for 38 from the floor. King finished with 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, but he was 0 for 3 from 3-point range.

## BORDER STATES

South Dakota's campus in Vermillion is a 300-mile drive from Williams Arena. This was the first meeting between the teams since 1985.

## UP NEXT

South Dakota: The Coyotes host Kansas City on Tuesday.

Minnesota: This was the second of three Summit League opponents on the schedule for the Gophers, who barely beat Omaha 93-90 last week, this season. They host preseason conference favorite South Dakota State on Tuesday.

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Minnesota: This was the second of three Summit League opponents on the schedule for the Gophers, who barely beat Omaha 93-90 last week, this season. They host preseason conference favorite South Dakota State on Tuesday.

## Airspace training exercise over Northern Plains a success

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The first U.S. Air Force training exercise in the recently expanded Powder River Training Complex was a success, South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune said.

Forty-one aircraft took part this week in the training at the enormous bomber training area over the Northern Plains. Bombers, fighter jets and refueling tankers practiced maneuvers in the airspace over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming on Wednesday and Thursday.

The expansion of the Powder River Training Complex was approved earlier this year after several years of study and public comment.

"It's exciting to see the culmination of so many years of effort," Thune said in a statement. "Our airmen must have the training they need to return safely after protecting our nation abroad."

The new airspace roughly quadrupled the training airspace for the Air Force to span nearly 35,000 square miles, making it the largest over the continental U.S.

The move came over the objections of some people in the region who worry about military planes disrupting civilian flights, rural communities and ranching operations. Advocates said it will boost military training while reducing costs.

It is intended to be used by various military aircraft, including B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and B-52 bombers from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

## Patrol: 3 killed, 3 injured in head-on crash near Yankton

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says three people were killed and three others were seriously injured in a head-on crash near Yankton.

Troopers say it happened Friday afternoon on Highway 81, north of the city.

The patrol says a vehicle driven by a 55-year-old Robin Mettler of Menno was traveling south on the highway when her car crossed into the northbound lane, striking a car carrying four people.

Trooper say 68-year-old Karol Aeschlimann of Hurley, 71-year-old Lila Rayburn of Hurley and 68-year-old Sandra Johnson of Parker died at the scene. Troopers say 69-year-old Dennis Johnson of Parker suffered



serious non-life threatening injuries.

Mettler and her 21-year-old passenger, Mary Mettler, also were seriously injured.

## **Actor Morgan Freeman unhurt after plane's forced landing**

TUNICA, Miss. (AP) — A plane carrying actor Morgan Freeman and his pilot blew a tire on takeoff from a Mississippi airport and made an emergency landing in which its landing gear collapsed and the plane ran off the side of a runway, authorities said. No one was injured.

Mayor Bill Luckett of Clarksdale, a friend of the 78-year-old Oscar-winning actor, told The Associated Press that the twin-engine plane made what he described as a controlled forced landing just before nightfall Saturday at an airport in Tunica after it had taken off from another airport in his area. Both cities are near each other in northwestern Mississippi, with Tunica about 40 miles southwest of Memphis, Tennessee.

Freeman issued a statement saying he was heading to Texas from Mississippi aboard his plane to shoot a segment for the series, "The Story of God."

"Sometimes things don't go as planned and a tire blew on takeoff, which caused other problems," Freeman said in the statement sent by his publicist. "But thanks to my excellent pilot Jimmy Hobson we landed safely without a scratch."

"I cannot say the same about my plane," Freeman added in the statement, which didn't elaborate on the condition of the aircraft afterward. "I appreciate the concern and prayers for our safety."

Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman with the Federal Aviation Administration, identified the plane as an Emivest SJ-30 aircraft and said the plane reported a "mechanical problem" after taking off from Fletcher Field in Lyon, a community just outside Clarksdale.

An FAA statement emailed by Bergen said the plane's original destination was Sugar Land near Houston, but that the aircraft diverted to the Tunica Municipal Airport in Mississippi where it made the emergency landing at 6:15 p.m. local time Saturday. She confirmed its main landing gear had collapsed and that the plane went off the side of the runway after landing.

The Clarksdale mayor said another plane subsequently went to Tunica to pick up the actor, who has a home in Mississippi.

Randy Stewart, the chief deputy in the Tunica County Sheriff's Office, confirmed there were no injuries, that Freeman was not piloting the craft and that an inspector would check the plane Sunday.

Freeman was involved in a 2008 car accident that seriously injured the actor and a passenger in Mississippi on a rural highway near his home. No charges were filed and Freeman settled a lawsuit in 2009 that was filed by the passenger.

Freeman is known for his roles in "The Shawshank Redemption," "Driving Miss Daisy," "Seven," and "Invictus." He has been nominated for five Academy Awards and won a best supporting actor Oscar for his role in Clint Eastwood's 2004 film "Million Dollar Baby."

## **'Watch over us:' Prayers, chaos ensue as terror hits home**

**BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press**

**PAULINE ARRILLAGA, Associated Press**

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Huddled beneath a desk, a bookshelf shoved against a locked office door, Regina Kuruppu held tightly to her co-workers' hands and began to pray aloud, unable to drown out the terrifying cries coming from one story below. "Heavenly Father," she said as her colleagues tried to offer words of comfort. "Watch over my family. Watch over us."

When the fire alarm had sounded minutes earlier, Kuruppu was sitting at her desk on the second floor of Building 3 at the Inland Regional Center. A 19-year veteran of the organization that helps those with developmental disabilities such as autism and cerebral palsy, Kuruppu was wrapping up her pre-vacation emails, sending notes of thanks to the center's supporters. By week's end she would be off for the month and home doing what she loved: baking for the holidays and stringing Christmas lights outside her home.

The alarm, she thought, was just a drill — until she got downstairs and saw two bodies in a pool of blood

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by the door of the auditorium, the victims' eyes open and unblinking.

She didn't stop to wonder what evil had come to the center that morning or why. Those questions would come later, for her and for a nation left grappling not only with another mass shooting, but another potential act of terrorism at home.

Barricaded back upstairs, Kuruppu could only pray for protection — even as she prepared to die. She thought of her son. She texted her sister. They exchanged their "I love yous." A woman of strong faith, Kuruppu tried to hold fast to hope. But she kept seeing the unseeing eyes downstairs.

"I'm going to leave this world," she thought, believing this December day just might be her last.

Down the street from a Sizzler, around the corner from an IHOP, the Inland Regional Center sits in a nondescript office complex in the middle of Anytown, USA. For San Bernardino — a hardscrabble city that has been crippled by economic woes, whose citizens have grown used to adversity — the facility has always been both a reliable employer for some 600 area residents and a haven for the tens of thousands of vulnerable clients it serves.

December is always an especially busy month at the center's popular auditorium space on the first floor of Building 3, and Kuruppu's co-workers had spent the day Monday decking out the room for upcoming festivities. A tree wrapped with red ribbon sat off to one side. Ornaments hung from the ceiling. Long banquet tables were adorned with red cloths.

The center's annual holiday party for clients was Tuesday afternoon, and a winter dance complete with ugly sweater contest was scheduled three days later. In between, as so often happens, the auditorium had been rented to an outside client: The county's Division of Environmental Health Services had scheduled a training session and holiday luncheon for as many as 90 employees on Wednesday.

Food inspector Chris Nwadike arrived at the auditorium that morning looking forward to time away from the daily grind of the Health Department, where he'd worked some 25 years. Doughnuts, tamales and some downtime with co-workers awaited at an event that always mixed business with pleasure.

For Bennetta Betbadal, a fellow food inspector, the gathering was a chance to see old friends, and she was excited to make a presentation to supervisors and colleagues. For Jennifer Stevens, who started work at the health agency after graduating from college in June, the luncheon was an inaugural event.

As the attendees settled in, supervisors reviewed the year's work and announced plans to hire more employees in 2016. They played a trivia game, vying for gift cards. Some videos followed, including a training movie about landfills, and then came a 20-minute break before lunch.

Nwadike shared a table with restaurant inspector Syed Rizwan Farook, a quiet man employed at the agency for four years who had always done good work. "He's serious with his job," Nwadike said later. "He doesn't play around." It had been a big year for the 28-year-old Farook. Co-workers threw him a shower before his daughter was born. They organized a potluck and collected cash for the new father and his bride of a year, Tashfeen Malik, a woman in Saudi Arabia whom Farook told colleagues he'd met online.

At the banquet, Farook had slipped out before the trivia game, leaving behind a jacket and other belongings, as if he planned to return.

By break time, he was still missing. Nwadike headed for the restroom, while others stepped outside for fresh air or a smoke. Environmental health specialist Denise Peraza used the time to grade papers for a class she taught. It was just before 11 a.m.

Suddenly, doors to the conference room leading to an adjacent parking lot burst open. Sunlight blazed into the room, followed by gunfire blasts. "Five rounds heard," police dispatch recorded at 10:58 a.m. Then one minute later: "Heard about 20 to 25 rounds."

Two figures dressed in black were firing semi-automatic rifles.

Stevens, 22, at first thought someone was playing a joke — until she got hit. "She looked down and she had a big hole in her side," said her mother, Lisa, who recalled her phone ringing a short time after the rampage began and hearing her daughter's horrifying words: "Mommy, I've been shot."

Peraza dove on the floor under a table, alongside co-worker Shannon Johnson, who wrapped his arm tightly around her as they tried to shield themselves with a fallen chair. "I got you," Johnson told Peraza,

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who felt something hit her lower back and then a hot sensation.

Nwadike had been in the men's room about four minutes when he heard a loud blast. He thought something had fallen on the roof or crashed outside. Then a spasm of gunfire tore tiles off the bathroom wall, striking a colleague who sensed immediately what was happening: "Somebody is shooting! Lie down! Lie down!"

From inside the office upstairs, Kuruppu and the three co-workers hiding with her heard the shots and then the wails and then feet running down hallways. She continued to pray as she texted her mom, her niece, her sister. "Gina stay low," her mother pleaded. "I love you," her sister said, and then she typed the words once more.

Downstairs, Nwadike took cover inside a bathroom stall, helpless as he lay listening to his friends crying in pain.

As the bullets kept coming, he, too, began to pray, all the while haunted by a single thought: "When will it be my turn?"

At 11 a.m., San Bernardino Police Lt. Mike Madden was on his way to lunch when the call went out. At 11:03, he was outside the Inland Regional Center, assembling three other law officers to head inside. A mere 10 miles away, the police SWAT team happened to be undergoing active shooter training when a lieutenant heard over the radio: "Shots fired. Multiple victims hit." Already in gear, unit members swapped their ammo for live rounds and rolled out.

At 11:10, when SWAT member Ryan Starling arrived on site, people were running from the building. Madden and the other officers already were inside. Starling's unit headed around back. Six people were down, three of them dead. Starling guessed some of the wounded had crawled to safety. Starling, Madden — even these seasoned lawmen — were overcome by what they encountered next. Inside the auditorium, the smell of gun powder was still fresh. Water from the fire sprinklers sprayed down on a sea of carnage.

"It started flowing outside and I just remember the trail, like a little river of blood coming out," Starling said.

"Unspeakable," said Madden. "It just seemed so senseless that here's people going into their holiday festivities — and now we were dealing with death."

Scattered about, 21 people were wounded but alive, shot in the back, in the head, in the stomach. Stevens and Peraza were among them. Fourteen others were killed, including Bennetta Betbadal, who had fled her native Iran at 18 to escape the persecution of Christians after the Iranian Revolution. Shannon Johnson, whom Peraza believes kept his promise and likely saved her life, was gone, too.

As the hundreds of Inland Regional Center employees spilled from the building, Kuruppu and her colleagues stayed tucked away in the office upstairs. Maybe 20 minutes passed before the door was busted down and men in uniform stood before them, extending their hands to help.

"You're going to be OK," they promised, but Kuruppu wasn't so sure.

Kuruppu came to the center in her late 20s as a case manager with a special connection to those she counseled: Born with Treacher Collins syndrome, a rare disease that left her without cheekbones, ears or a chin, Kuruppu underwent 20 reconstructive surgeries by her teens and endured constant bullying in school. She always knew that as an adult she wanted to help others who were different, and teach them how to survive as her parents had taught her. Some two decades later, she'd worked her way up to a position as a family support specialist, serving as a liaison to other agencies, overseeing support group meetings for mothers and helping to coordinate events in the auditorium.

Through her life, she had survived a lot. Several years earlier, Kuruppu was held at gunpoint during a robbery at a fast-food restaurant. The assailant fled, and she was unharmed, but the emotional wounds that had begun to heal were ripped open by Wednesday's violence.

Later that day, she reunited with her family and, back at home, her brother hung the Christmas lights that very night to try and comfort her. That helped, some. And the strength that has always seen her though life is still there.

"I look back at what I have gone through, and there has never been a traumatic incident that I have



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not come back from. I will bounce back from this," she said the next day. "I hug my 23-year-old son and tell him, 'This is why I tell you I love you every day, because you never know from one moment to the next what's going to happen.'

"Fear is not what God wants us to feel. He wants us to feel at peace."

Peace hasn't found San Bernardino yet. Too many questions remain unanswered, even as new and startling revelations begin to surface about the assailants — Farook and his wife, Malik. The two fled within minutes of the shooting, and some four hours later police found them in an SUV that had been spotted leaving the crime. A chase ended on a residential street about 2 miles away. Farook and Malik, 29, died in a shootout with police, leaving behind their 6-month-old daughter.

The couple were armed with assault rifles and semi-automatic handguns and unleashed 76 rounds until they were outgunned by nearly two dozen officers who fired 380 rounds, police said. Investigators would later find a cache of ammunition and pipe bombs and, eventually, some hints at a possible motive.

The FBI said Friday that it is investigating the shooting as an act of terrorism, but the agency's director said there is no indication that the two were part of a larger plot or members of a terror cell. A U.S. law enforcement official told The Associated Press that Malik, under a Facebook alias, had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and its leader. A Facebook official said Malik praised Islamic State in a post at 11 a.m. Wednesday, around the time the couple stormed the Inland Regional Center.

If the investigation confirms the massacre was inspired by Islamic extremism, it would be the deadliest such terrorist attack on U.S. soil since Sept. 11, 2001.

For those who worked alongside Farook, the allegations are difficult to fathom.

"I said, 'No, it's not him! He's quiet. He doesn't make any trouble,' Nwadike said. "I didn't see anything that this guy would do this type of thing. . Syed has never, ever gotten into a confrontation with anybody."

And, yet, most of the dead and wounded were county employees, many of whom had worked alongside their killer.

"When I look at those that died, I know them. I'd see them almost every morning. That touches me, and then I start thinking about myself," said Nwadike, who understands how lucky he was. The 63-year-old father of four escaped unhurt. "I'm still talking. Right now, I'm home. That's what I know."

Arrillaga reported from Phoenix. Contributing to this report were AP reporters Gillian Flaccus, Amanda Lee Myers, Nicole Evatt and Amy Taxin in San Bernardino and John Rogers, Andrew Dalton and Christine Armario in Los Angeles.

## Today in History The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 6, the 340th day of 2015. There are 25 days left in the year. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins at sunset.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery, was ratified as Georgia became the 27th state to endorse it.

### On this date:

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York.

In 1884, Army engineers completed construction of the Washington Monument by setting an aluminum capstone atop the obelisk.

In 1889, Jefferson Davis, the first and only president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans.

In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah (muh-NAHN'-guh), West Virginia.

In 1917, some 2,000 people died when an explosives-laden French cargo ship collided with a Norwegian

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vessel at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the city.

In 1922, the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which established the Irish Free State, came into force one year to the day after it was signed in London.

In 1939, the Cole Porter musical comedy "Du Barry Was a Lady" opened on Broadway.

In 1947, Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Harry S. Truman.

In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit failed as Vanguard TV3 rose about 4 feet off a Cape Canaveral launch pad before crashing down and exploding.

In 1969, a free concert by The Rolling Stones at the Altamont Speedway in Alameda County, California, was marred by the deaths of four people, including one who was stabbed by a Hell's Angel.

In 1971, the original Auto-Train, which carried rail passengers and their motor vehicles from Lorton, Virginia, to Sanford, Florida, went into operation. (Although the privately owned line went out of business in 1981, Amtrak revived the service in 1983.)

In 1989, 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then took his own life.

**Ten years ago:** Two women detonated explosives in a classroom filled with students at Baghdad's police academy, killing 27 people. An Iranian military transport plane crashed in a Tehran suburb as it was trying to make an emergency landing, killing at least 115 people, including 21 on the ground. Philadelphia won the first NHL scoreless game that was decided by a shootout, beating Calgary 1-0.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama announced a compromise with the GOP to extend Bush-era income tax cuts despite Democratic objections; the agreement included renewing unemployment benefits and reducing Social Security taxes for one year. Talks between Iran and six world powers recessed with no sign Tehran was ready to discuss U.N. Security Council calls to curb its nuclear activity. Pat Gillick, whose teams won three World Series titles in 27 years as a major league general manager, was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee.

**One year ago:** Officials announced that American photojournalist Luke Somers and a South African teacher, Pierre Korkie, were killed during a high-risk U.S. raid to free them from al-Qaida-affiliated militants in Yemen. In a runoff in Louisiana, Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy defeated Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu, denying her a fourth term and extending the GOP's domination of the 2014 midterm elections.

**Today's Birthdays:** Comedy performer David Ossman is 79. Actor Patrick Bauchau is 77. Country singer Helen Cornelius is 74. Actor James Naughton is 70. Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Frankie Beverly (Maze) is 69. Former Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., is 67. Actress JoBeth Williams is 67. Actor Tom Hulce is 62. Actor Wil Shriner is 62. Actor Kin Shriner is 62. Actor Miles Chapin is 61. Rock musician Rick Buckler (The Jam) is 60. Comedian Steven Wright is 60. Country singer Bill Lloyd is 60. Singer Tish Hinojosa is 60. Rock musician Peter Dinklage (R.E.M.) is 59. Rock musician David Lovering (Pixies) is 54. Actress Janine Turner is 53. Rock musician Ben Watt (Everything But The Girl) is 53. Writer-director Judd Apatow is 48. Rock musician Ulf "Buddha" Ekberg (Ace of Base) is 45. Writer-director Craig Brewer is 44. Actress Colleen Haskell is 39. Actress Lindsay Price is 39. Actress Ashley Madekwe is 34. Actress Nora Kirkpatrick is 31. Christian rock musician Jacob Chesnut (Rush of Fools) is 26. NFL quarterback Johnny Manziel is 23.

**Thought for Today:** "Americans have always been able to handle austerity and even adversity. Prosperity is what is doing us in." — James Reston, American journalist (born 1909, died this date in 1995).

## Liberty president calls for an armed Christian campus

**STEVE SZKOTAK, Associated Press**

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. urged students, staff and faculty at his Christian school to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon on campus to counter any copycat attack like the deadly rampage in California just days ago.

"Let's teach them a lesson if they ever show up here," Falwell told an estimated 10,000 of the campus community at convocation Friday in Lynchburg. While Falwell's call to arms was applauded, his remarks

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also seemed to target Muslims.

"I've always thought if more good people had concealed carry permits, then we could end those Muslims before they walked in .," Falwell said. The final words of his statement could not be clearly heard on a videotape of the remarks.

However, Falwell told The Associated Press on Saturday he was specifically referring to Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, the husband and wife who shot and killed 14 people at a holiday party in San Bernardino on Wednesday.

Falwell's remarks generated a sharp rebuke from Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who called the comments "reckless."

"My administration is committed to making Virginia an open and welcoming Commonwealth, while also ensuring the safety of all of our citizens," McAuliffe said in a statement issued late Saturday. "Mr. Falwell's rash and repugnant comments detract from both of those crucial goals."

Falwell also said he believed the campus needed to be prepared in the face of the increasing frequency of mass killings. He cited, for example, the 2007 massacre of 32 people at Virginia Tech, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, and less than 100 miles southwest of Liberty.

"What if just one of those students or one of those faculty members had a concealed permit and was carrying a weapon when the shooter walked into Virginia Tech? Countless lives could have been saved," he said.

Falwell's message is apparently being heeded. He said more than 100 people had asked Liberty police about a free class to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Liberty was founded by Jerry Falwell Sr., who was among the nation's first conservative cultural warriors. The Moral Majority founder's barbed commentary on contemporary matters such as gay Americans made him a reviled figure to some and a pioneering conservative crusader to others.

Following the San Bernardino shootings, which left 14 dead, Falwell said he began carrying a .25-caliber handgun in his back pocket. He said he's had a permit for more than year.

During his address Friday, Falwell mentioned the weapon and reached around seemingly to fetch it.

"Is it illegal to pull it out? I don't know," he said, laughing, drawing some hoots from the audience.

Asked if he was concerned by the prospect of thousands of armed young people on campus, Falwell said Virginia has a minimum age of 21 for a carry-conceal permit. He said that meant only older students would be armed.

More than 14,000 students are enrolled at Liberty.

Falwell said he had also reached out to a first responder in San Bernardino to see if the school could offer scholarship assistance to his children.

Falwell's remarks were first reported by the News & Advance (<http://bit.ly/1Na9kYd>).

## Plane kills deer during landing at California airport

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — An Alaska Airlines plane has struck and killed a deer while landing at the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport.

Alaska Airlines spokeswoman Bobbie Egan told the Santa Rosa Press Democrat on Saturday (<http://bit.ly/1Q7vi3Y>) the deer apparently wandered into the planes' path and was hit Wednesday.

Egan says the plane was scheduled to continue on to Los Angeles, but that flight was canceled so the aircraft could be inspected.

She says the Bombardier Q-400 turboprop was not damaged, but the tires were changed as a precaution.

Egan says the unusual incident led to the cancellation of two flights with 81 passengers, some of whom didn't fly until the following day.

## Town official quits over 'Christmas' tree lighting ceremony

ROSELLE PARK, N.J. (AP) — A New Jersey city council's decision to add the word "Christmas" to the name of its tree-lighting ceremony prompted one council member to step down because it "turned it from



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a non-religious event to a religious one.”

Charlene Storey announced her decision just minutes after the Roselle Park council approved the change Thursday night, NJ.com (<http://bit.ly/1ILdHHf> ) reported. Her resignation takes effect Jan. 7.

Storey, who was raised Catholic but describes herself as a non-believer, said the town’s decision to change the ceremony’s name from “A Tree Lighting” to “A Christmas Tree Lighting” favors one religion and “cuts non-Christians out of the loop.”

Storey said she regretted having to resign but called the issue a matter of principle.

“I cannot in good conscience continue to be part of a council that is exclusionary or to work with a mayor who is such,” Storey said in her resignation letter.

Roselle Park Mayor Carl Hokanson praised Storey for her work on the council. He said everyone is entitled to their own beliefs, but also noted that each town can use whatever title it wants to use for the ceremony.

“It’s not a street, it’s not a building, it’s a Christmas tree,” Hokanson said.