

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 1 of 32

- 1- Hanlon Brothers ad
- 1- Pre-School 3-year-old screening ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- City Council Story
- 2- James Valley Telco Open House Ad
- 4- FCCLA News
- 4- Bahr Family News
- 5- Groton Chamber Holiday Boxes
- 6- Dr. Holm's Column
- 7- Attorney General Jackley's Column
- 8 - Today in Weather History
- 9- Local Weather Forecast
- 10- National Weather Map
- 10- Local Weather
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12 - News from the Associated Press

## Tuesday, December 8

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

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

**Senior Menu:** Hot roast beef combination, carrots, Mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie.

**Birthday:** Colton Monson

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

6:30pm: JH GBB game at Groton (1 game only)

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Council

## Wednesday, December 9

**School Breakfast:** French toast sticks, sausage links, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Hot dogs, baked beans, broccoli and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit sauce, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Traci Davies, Shelby Tietz, Ann Rix, Brooklyn Gilbert, Doris Anderson, Sydney Holmes, Wesley Morehouse

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

12:30pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli Middle School

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

7:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Advent Service

## Thursday, December 10

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

**School Lunch:** Turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

**Senior Menu:** Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

### 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.

**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**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent



**Hanlon Brothers**  
**Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of  
Stockdams with our  
60' reach trackhoe

**605/395-6531**

## Delinquent accounts given extensions

The city held its first delinquent utility hearing in a long time. Justin Fischbach showed up for the hearing and explained to the council that he is having some tough times right now. "I don't have any excuses," he said. He said he can pay \$200 on the 15th and get caught up in February when he gets his tax refund. The council agreed to grant the extension with the \$200 payment on December 15 and January 15 and then paid in full by the end of February.

Matt Anderson came before the council to talk about his payments. He fixed up a pickup and is trying to sell it to get some extra cash. And he added that he has missed some work while he was in the hospital. He gets paid on Friday, but said cash will be short because of missed work. He said he could commit to \$100 every two weeks and he said he hopes to be current by the end of the year. The council agreed to accept \$100 every two weeks and any extra that he has can be applied to the bill.

Kari Bartling came before the council to talk about the Duane Rudd estate. She said the probate is in the court system and the court will decide when the bills get paid. "If you trust me, we can get it paid in full. I'm going to go with what the judge told me because of the unique situation," Bartling said. "I think they would be willing to pay a few dollars in late fees than to spend \$200 an hour to get court approval to pay the bill." Bartling said there will be enough money to pay it in full. "I personally guarantee that it will get paid," she said. The council granted the extension.

Scott Fordham did not appear at the hearing, but had paid \$450 which paid for half of the bill and he promised to pay \$250 on the 15th. Councilman Eddy Opp said if the payment is not made the power should be turned off. The council agreed to the payment on the 15th.

The Charles Meister estate is also waiting for court approval before payment can be made.

Shawn Lambertz, electric superintendent, talked about changing out transformers and trimming service lines. He reported that the garbage truck hit a street light pole on Sixth Street and 14th Avenue. There is



**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)

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 3 of 32

also a mitigation grant of \$309,000, but the engineers said unless the city can prove outages, justify the grant will be difficult to get. The city will not apply for the grant.

Terry Herron, city supervisor, reported there is no frost in the ice rink right now, so making ice will be in the distant future, if at all. Outside of the one snow removal, the city crew has been doing some maintenance on equipment. City Finance Officer Anita Lowary said that Lien's Construction wanted to haul in 1300 tons of concrete to the rubble site. "I said no. That's too much for our rubble site," she said. Herron said the state inspector said concrete could be hauled to the old lagoon, but getting trucks in and out of there could be difficult. The city has been granted to discharge its lagoon, which started on Monday. It will take about a week to complete the process.

There was discussion on the snow removal ordinance, or lack there of. Lowary said the City of Baltic has a neat little ordinance that deals with snow removal. The city does not windrow the snow to the center of Main Street on the first go-round because the sidewalks are not cleared off at that time. Then the next day the city pulls the snow away and removes it.

Three vehicles were issued a warning during the past winter storm, according to police officer Jerry Bjerke. There is no tow truck in Groton so moving vehicles after a snow makes it difficult to enforce tickets. "After the first snow fall, it's not a big deal," Bjerke said. A Groton snow removal ordinance will be presented at the next council meeting.

The minutes were amended to clarify Burt Glover's comment about following the established protocol to administer the delinquent utility customers instead of strictly enforcing it.

Lowary reported a good financial report. "I am so pleased to hand you one that has no negative figures," she said. The city had received \$2.8 million in bond revenue and by Wednesday, she had paid out \$2.6 million. "I had a wonderful day," she said. "I have never made so many checks - \$2.6 million worth of them. Seventeen bonds were paid off with one bond." The loan payment for next year will be \$308,660.35. In 2017 the payment will be \$288,498.60, in 2018 it will be \$286,198.60 and in 2019 it will drop down to \$264,889.79 with the annual payments to be less in 2020 thereafter because the three other loans will be paid off.

The council discussed the electric rates and the increase in cost to the city from Heartland Consumers Power District. Lowary reported that the city will see an increase of \$34,000 a year in rates. The city rate is 9.7 cents per KWH to its customers. Lowary said raising the rate 3.3 percent would bring the rate to 10 cents per KWH. However, Councilman David McGannon said, "I think making 50 percent profit is enough. I think we should look at what we are spending our money on instead of raising the rates. I feel we really don't have to raise our rates. That's my opinion."

Lowary said that Groton is higher than Aberdeen and rural cooperatives, "and that bugs a lot of people." McGannon said the city's dual fuel rate (5 cents) is even higher than the surrounding area.

Lowary said Heartland should look at its own structure. She said that people at Heartland are getting paid triple or double of what she is making in Groton and she has been here for 35 years.

The city is looking at accepting credit cards for payments. Lowary said she is hoping to have a recommendation soon and to have it up and going in January.

The city authorized to pay the annual fee to the Northeast Council of Government which will be \$1,533.89, up from \$100 from last year. Councilman Jay Peterson said if the city is going to do just routine business, then why spend the money on it. City Attorney Drew Johnson said NECOG is a liaison between the cities and the government in Pierre. "They do lobby for us in Pierre," he said. Peterson said, "It looks like it's a

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 4 of 32

good insurance policy."

The city authorized to donate a lightbar found in the old jail to the Groton Fire Department.

The council gave first reading to a supplemental budget to balance all funds by the end of the year.

Some of the funds from the Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner were given to the city to buy new, light-weight tables for the community center. The amount given was \$1,200.

At the last council meeting, councilmen questioned the purchase of two batteries for a police vehicle. The Tahoes are equipped with two batteries. Both vehicles have two batteries.

After an executive session, the council hired the following warming house personnel: Justin Olson as attendant and manager at \$9.25 an hour; and the following as attendants at \$8.50 an hour: Tara Telkamp, Jamie Krueger, Joe Groeblichhoff, Landon Marzahn, Taylor Holm and Hunter Monson.

Second reading was given to the salary ordinance and city employees will be given a 2 percent raise in 2016.

The city will shut down at noon on Christmas Eve.

## FCCLA News

The Groton FCCLA Chapter met on November 3, 2015 in the FACS room. FCCLA president, Hannah Webb, called the meeting to order, there were 34 members present. We opened the meeting with our opening ceremony, minutes of the previous meeting were read. No corrections were made. The Treasurer's report was read by treasurer, Lexi Harder. Unfinished business included having the fruit sales forms, and if dues aren't paid, no pizza party. New business included District meeting in Clark Friday, December 11. Each member needs 100pt. To go to state. The meeting was adjourned with the closing ceremony. The secretary's record was submitted by Kellyn Fluke. Snacks were provided by the officer of the month, Kellyn Fluke.

## Bahr Family News

On November 26 Roxanne and Mike Fey hosted Thanksgiving. Those in attendance were Julia Roberts, Fargo, N.D, Stephanie Fey and Steven Dahlman Rosholt, Marvin Bahr, Brookings, Alvin and Donna Bahr, Turton and Stevie and Nicole Fey, Ferney. They also celebrated Mike Fey and Marvin Bahr birthdays.



## 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

## **Civil War Surgery** By Richard P. Holm, MD

About 150 years ago, one in four fighting in the Civil War died, amounting to some 620,000 deaths. Two-thirds were due to disease, not injury, and a full half of non-traumatic deaths were from diarrheal illness, unknowingly due to contaminated water. The remaining non-traumatic deaths were from respiratory illness, particularly lethal because 90% of the soldiers were weakened by chronic diarrhea and malnutrition.

That said, 1/3 of the deaths that came from injury would have been worse, had it not been for the surgeons that became experienced during the Civil War. There had been radical improvements in weaponry at the time with new rapid-fire rifled muskets, which caused cone-shaped bullets to spiral, giving impressive accuracy at a 300-500-yard range. In the face of such deadly weapons, smart soldiers hid behind trees, rocks, earth-works, but too often had exposed legs or arms. It's no surprise limb injuries accounted for 70% of all wounds. These bullets tore enormous easily infected wounds with shattered bones, pieces of clothing, and non-sterile skin pulled into the wounds.

Most trauma surgery had to be performed during the first 24 hours after injury in open air field tents. The value of sterility was not yet realized, and there was no understanding of clean instruments, clean wounds, or even clean hands. The world would have to wait ten more years before Joseph Lister popularized sterile surgical technique, and before the value of clean water was understood.

One war reporter wrote: "They would work for days without washing. As he waited for the next man to be placed on the table, the surgeon would stand back... holding his knife in his boot or even in his teeth." Another description: "The surgeons and their assistants, stripped to the waist and bespattered with blood... cut and sawed away with frightful rapidity, throwing the mangled limbs on a pile nearby as soon as removed." Without sterile technique to repair a wound, amputation actually provided a better chance of survival.

Although there was no sterility, anesthesia was available during the Civil War. Ether had been discovered in the 1840s, and by 1861 chloroform became popular by field surgeons because it was less flammable, less nauseating, and more portable. Records indicate that during the entire war, general anesthesia was given 80,000 times with only 43 recorded anesthesia deaths. Screams coming from surgical tents were not from anesthetized patients, but from wounded soldiers about to have surgery.

Then, as the war ended, some 15,000 experienced surgeons returned to their home communities all over the US. Who would have thought that from the horrors of war, lifesaving knowledge of anesthesia and surgery would spread throughout this country?



## **Marty Jackley**

South Dakota Attorney General (2009-Present)

United States Attorney for South Dakota (2006-2009)

Law Degree, USD (1992-1995)

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, SD School of Mines (1988-1992)

## **Use of Force**

Recent national incidents have placed focus on the many challenges the law enforcement profession faces. This has made the already difficult job of a law enforcement officer even tougher. Officers are put in situations where they are expected to make split second decisions that are often a matter of life or death for both themselves and the general public. The last position any officer wants to be placed in is having to use lethal force.

Since I began serving as Attorney General in 2009, my office has issued 22 Officer Involved Shooting summaries. These reports are generated when any law enforcement officer in the State of South Dakota uses lethal force in their official capacity.

In 2003, then Attorney General Larry Long saw the need to implement the Officer Involved Shooting protocol and summary. It was deemed necessary to have an outside agency and the Attorney General review the facts in each case and make a determination as to whether the use of lethal force was justified.

Since 2003, the Attorney General's Office has released 33 Officer Involved Shooting reports. In all but 6 of these situations, the subjects tested positive for either alcohol, marijuana, felony drugs or a combination of some type. In addition, several of the subjects suffered from mental health issues. In no instance did an officer test positive for alcohol or drug use.

The Attorney General's Law Enforcement Training Division (LET) considers the "Use of Force" training an integral part of the 13-week basic training certification course. The "Use of Force" training is foundationally built and includes three phases: 1) officer presence and verbal communication; 2) less than lethal force; and 3) deadly force.

Officer presence and verbal communication are the first means to de-escalate a situation through arbitration and mediation. The second phase of the training involves less than lethal force philosophies including, but not limited to baton, taser, OC (pepper spray), defensive tactics and bean bags. The third phase is the use of deadly force. LET continually reinforces these three phases throughout the entire 13-week basic course. In addition, LET provides advanced training throughout the state to keep veteran officers refreshed year-to-year on the topic of "use of force".

Given the unpredictable nature of their surroundings, law enforcement officers will have to determine the proper response and level of force that is needed to take control of the many different situations that confront them daily. In the unfortunate situation where lethal force is applied, we put stock in the training they have received to help them make the right decisions. The Officer Involved Shooting protocol and summary that will follow, are the right balance between transparency with the public and the integrity of the criminal justice process. We depend heavily on our law enforcement officers. When you see one of your officers, please consider taking a moment to thank them for all that it takes to protect our communities.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 8 of 32

## Today in Weather History

December 8, 1995: A powerful Arctic front moved across west central Minnesota and central, north central, and northeast South Dakota throughout the day with winds of 30 to 60 mph. With temperatures falling and one to four inches of snowfall in the morning and afternoon, the high winds produced blizzard conditions with blowing snow and extreme wind chills of 40 to 70 below zero. Many schools, college classes, and activities were canceled for the day. Travel was also greatly affected.

1892 - A tremendous ice fall occurred at Gay Hill, TX. Ice averaged four to six inches in diameter. (David Ludlum)

December 8, 1935: From the Monthly Weather Review for December 1935, "The outstanding flood of December 1935 was the record breaking overflow of Buffalo and White Oak Bayous at Houston, Texas on the 8 and 9th. This destructive flood was caused by excessive rainfall over Harris County, Texas during a 42 hour period on the 6th, 7th, 8th, with amounts ranging from 5.50 inches at Houston" to 16.49 inches at the Humble Oil Company in the northwestern part of Harris County.

1938 - The temperature at La Mesa, CA, soared to 108 degrees to set a U.S. record for the month of December. (The Weather Channel)

1963 - Lightning caused the crash of a jet airliner killing 81 persons at Elkton, MD. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - A cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. continued to produce high winds along the coast, and heavy snow blanketed parts of the western U.S. Snowfall totals in the mountains of western Nevada ranged up to 18 inches at Heavenly Valley, and near the Boreal Ski Resort, and winds at Reno NV gusted to 56 mph. Thunderstorms over southern Florida deluged the Florida Keys with up to five inches of rain. Strong winds, gusting to 48 mph at Gage OK, ushered wintry weather into the Central High Plains. Goodland KS, which one day earlier was 63 degrees, was blanketed with two inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Santa Ana winds buffeted southern California, with gusts to 92 mph reported at Laguna Peak. The high winds unroofed buildings, and downed trees and power lines, igniting five major fires, and numerous smaller ones. Damage was estimated at 15 to 20 million dollars. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A winter storm spread snow and freezing rain across much of the Atlantic Coast Region, from Georgia to New Jersey. Snowfall totals ranged up to seven inches, at Stanton VA and Tobacco MD. Up to six inches of snow blanketed the mountains of northern Georgia. More than one hundred auto accidents were reported in Gwinnett County GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 9 of 32

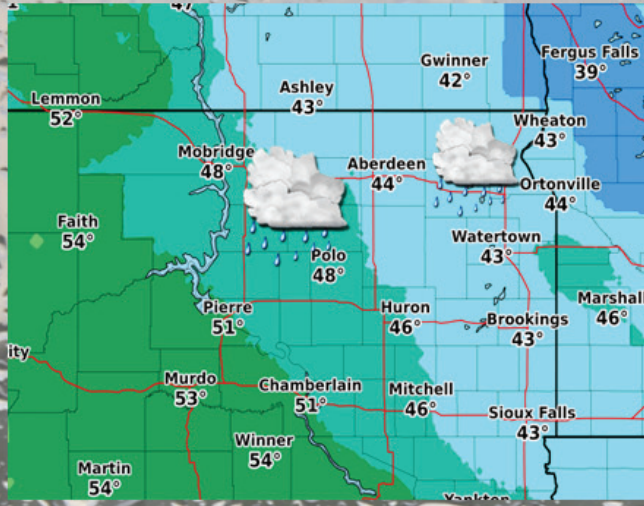
Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
20%			30%	20%		30% 30%
Slight Chance Rain/Freezing Rain then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain	Breezy. Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow then Chance Rain/Snow
High: 44 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 44 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 36 °F



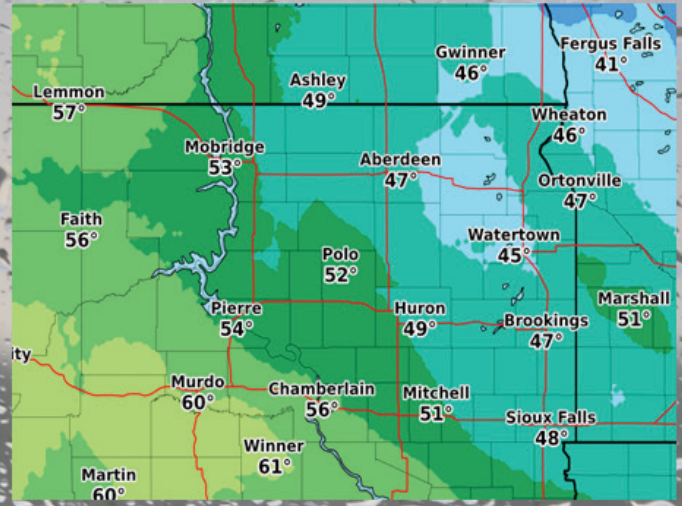
## Showers Today, Clearing Tomorrow



High Temperature Today



High Temperature Wednesday



Brief periods of light freezing rain are possible early this morning east of Mobridge

### National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 12/8/2015 3:15 AM Central

Published on: 12/08/2015 at 3:19AM

A weak trough of low pressure will move across the region today bringing some light showers. Early this morning there is the potential for light freezing rain before temperatures climb above freezing. Precipitation will exit this afternoon and dry weather will move in for tonight and Wednesday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 10 of 32

## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 39.5 at 3:17 PM

**Low:** 25.3 at 8:49 AM

**High Gust:** 23 at 1:26 AM

**Precip:** 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 57° in 1894

**Record Low:** -27° in 1927

**Average High:** 28°F

**Average Low:** 8°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.14

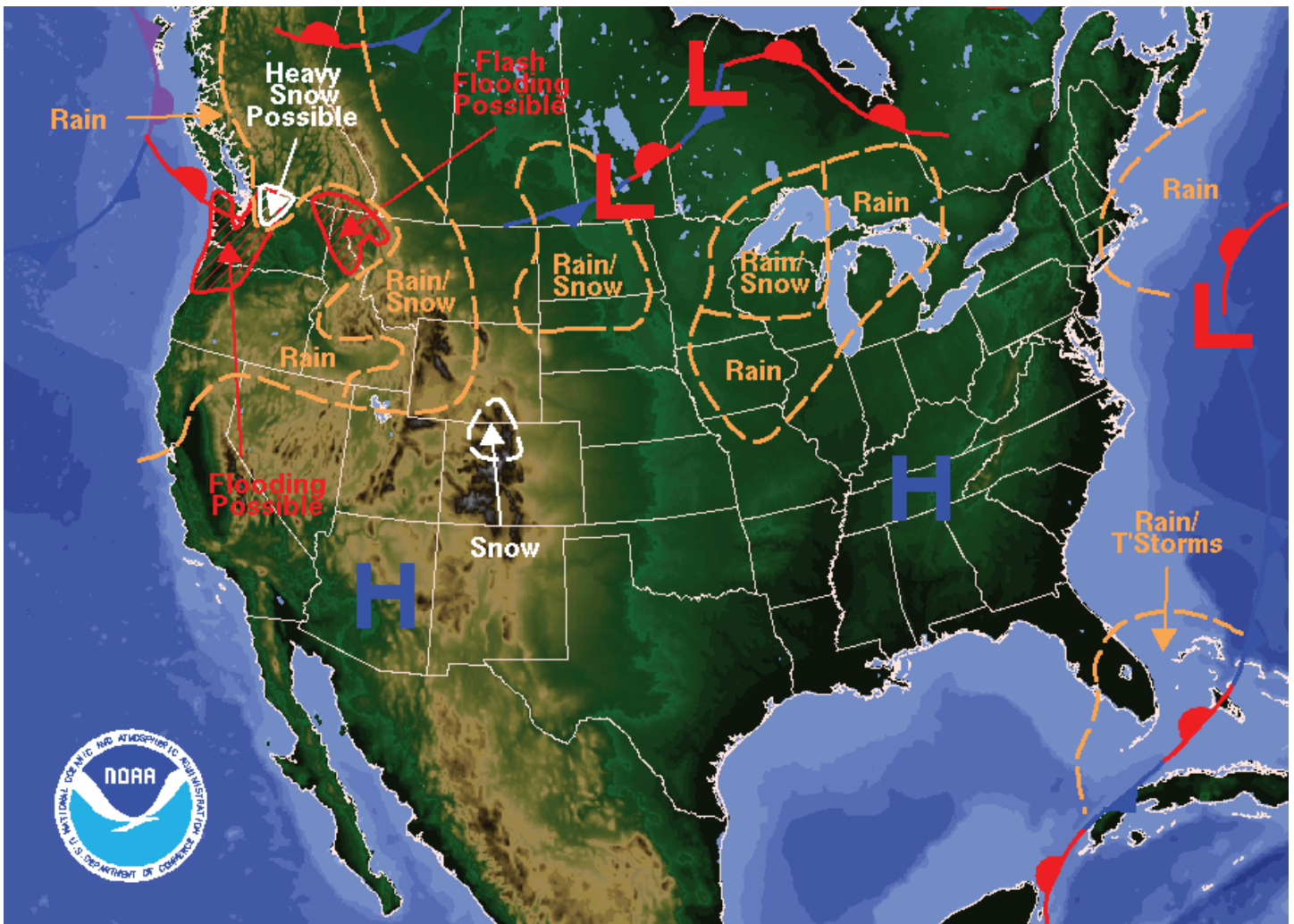
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.52

**Average Precip to date:** 21.34

**Precip Year to Date:** 20.34

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

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Dec 08, 2015, issued 4:25 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## MY ONE AND ONLY LOVE

A shopper once said to a sales associate, "I want the most beautiful gold heart that you have in your store on the finest gold chain available for my fiancé."

After considering many different choices, he made his decision, and said, "I'll take that one."

"Shall I inscribe her name on it?" asked the sales associate.

"Oh no!" came the instant reply. "If we break up, I would like to use it again."

How different is God's love. We hear it in the words of Jesus when He said, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." How comforting it is to know that God's love is permanent. How fortunate we are to know that God's love is guaranteed by His Word. How wonderful it is to know that God's love is for everyone. And finally, how grateful we are to know that His love makes our salvation through Jesus Christ possible.

**Prayer:** Help us, Father, to understand how much You love us. May those who read this "Seed" come to know You and accept Your Son as their Savior and love Him because He first loved us and gave Himself for us. Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** 1 John 4:11-12 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Sioux Falls casino robbed at gunpoint; clerk not injured**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating the armed robbery of a casino. Authorities say a male wearing a ski mask and a bandanna and wielding a handgun entered the Happy Jack's Casino shortly after midnight and demanded money from the clerk. The suspect fled with an unknown amount of cash. The clerk was not hurt.

### **Gov. Dennis Daugaard to outline budget proposal to lawmakers**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is outlining his key priorities for the 2016 legislative session. The governor's budget address is scheduled for Tuesday. He will outline his spending plans to state lawmakers at the state Capitol in Pierre.

Daugaard says better-than-expected revenues will allow him to propose larger budget increases. Daugaard says he plans to discuss issues including paying off debt and a task force that examined education and how to raise teacher pay.

He says he won't outline specific proposals from the work of the education task force until his State of the State speech.

The 2016 legislative session is scheduled to begin Jan. 12.

Lawmakers are set to wrap up their man run in mid-March and return for consideration of gubernatorial vetoes at the end of that month.

### **South Dakota attorney general's annual Pie Day is Saturday**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley will host the 18th annual Pie Day in the state Capitol in Pierre this week.

The event includes free pie, cookies, coffee and ice cream. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and features free entertainment.

Pie Day began when Mark Barnett was attorney general.

Barnett, now a circuit judge in Pierre, told workers at a polling place that state law prevented them from offering snacks or goodies to voters. Instead, he invited them to Pierre to have pie, and the event has been held each year since.

### **Daugaard: Better revenue will allow larger proposed budget**

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Monday that better-than-expected state revenues will allow him to propose larger budget increases for the 2016 legislative session.

Daugaard is to outline his spending priorities in a Tuesday budget address to lawmakers at the Capitol. Daugaard told The Associated Press that he plans to discuss issues including paying off debt and the work of an education task force that examined how to raise teacher pay in South Dakota.

But, the governor said he won't outline specific proposals from the task force until his State of the State speech.

Daugaard also said he will discuss the state's work with the federal government on a potential Medicaid expansion, but didn't say whether he would propose an expansion of the program for low-income and disabled people on Tuesday.

A coalition Daugaard established is exploring the viability of expanding Medicaid.

The measure under review would pay for the state's share of a potential expansion in part by broadening access to services that are fully funded by the federal government, with the goal of freeing up enough state funding to pay for the addition of more residents to the Medicaid program.

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch, a Republican, said his mind isn't made up about Medicaid expansion but he has "substantial concerns" about potential unexpected costs. Democratic Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton said he hopes Medicaid expansion and education are "at the forefront" of the address.

Gosch said he hopes Daugaard leaves some funds uncommitted to be put into budget reserves or set aside for lawmakers to appropriate. He also hopes more money will be added to the state's schools above what is required by law.

South Dakota's economy is better and more stable than many states, Daugaard said.

"It's certainly a different situation than five years ago, considerably different than that," Daugaard said.

The state closed the fiscal year that ended on June 30 with a budget surplus, piling up \$21.5 million more than projections because of higher revenues and lower-than-anticipated spending.

Revenues grew by an unexpected \$10 million and state spending was \$11.5 million lower than economic estimates, which lawmakers approved in March. Stronger receipts in construction and insurance taxes coupled with lower spending for education and Medicaid were largely responsible for the surplus for the 2015 budget year.

Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Jason Dilges said those trends have continued into the current budget year.

## Attorney general won't pursue fantasy sports felony charges

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The thousands of South Dakota residents who wager on daily fantasy sports won't be the target of felony indictments from state authorities without a clearer directive from the Legislature, South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Monday.

Jackley said his decision was based in part on uncertainty over whether the contests are predominantly skilled-based or constitute illegal gambling under state law. An industry representative last month told state gambling regulators — who decided they have no authority over online fantasy sports — that the contests are legal in South Dakota.

Jackley said he would like state lawmakers to provide a clearer definition of where daily fantasy sports wagering falls.

"I'm a strong believer that if you're going to take away somebody's liberty and freedom, you need to be satisfied the law is clear," he said.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard told The Associated Press on Monday that he believes wagering on daily fantasy sports should be considering gambling under South Dakota law.

"I think it's no more a game of skill than blackjack is a game of skill, and so if blackjack's a game of chance, then I believe fantasy football should be considered a game of chance as well," he said.

Industry lobbyist Griffin Finan has said more than 25,000 South Dakota residents are estimated to participate in daily fantasy sports contests each year. The industry may pursue legislation to clarify that fantasy sports are exempt from state gambling oversight and impose consumer protection measures on operators.

Finan told the state Commission on Gaming last month that fantasy sports is predominantly based on skill rather than chance, making it legal in South Dakota. Finan spoke for the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, DraftKings and FanDuel, two companies that are the target of the New York attorney general's office.

Finan, director of public affairs at DraftKings, said in a statement Monday that the company welcomes Jackley's decision and said the firm looks forward to working with the attorney general and the Legislature.

"We strongly agree that any government authority should review the facts and the relevant law very carefully before taking away one's liberty and freedom to play the fantasy sports games they love and have been playing for years," Finan said.

Jackley has reminded South Dakota residents that they could run afoul of other states' laws, depending on the jurisdiction where the wager is received.

Jackley said Monday he will continue reviewing alternatives such as civil remedies through the courts and action with other state attorneys general.

The games — in which customers pay to put together rosters of real-life professional athletes in order to compete against others in online leagues — have come under heavy scrutiny this year after both Boston-

based DraftKings and New York-based FanDuel spent millions of dollars on advertisements pitching the games to casual sports fans ahead of the 2015 NFL season.

A DraftKings employee winning \$350,000 in a contest on rival FanDuel earlier this year — beating more than 200,000 other players — raised questions about possible insider trading.

## **Butte County state's attorney, husband facing drug charges**

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — The state's attorney in Butte County and her husband are facing drug charges.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley on Monday said 31-year-old Heather Plunkett and 33-year-old Ryan Plunkett were arrested Friday in their hometown of Belle Fourche.

Each of the Plunketts faces one count each of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia and ingesting substance other than alcohol. The three charges are misdemeanors.

Details of how the drug was found and the arrest were not immediately released.

Heather Plunkett has held the job of state's attorney since 2011. She did not immediately return a phone message and email seeking comment on the case Monday.

## **Fort Sisseton in northeast SD to host a frontier Christmas**

LAKE CITY, S.D. (AP) — Fort Sisseton Historic State Park in northeast South Dakota is set to host its annual frontier Christmas this weekend.

Park manager Christopher Soukup says Saturday's event is an authentic, old-fashioned Christmas celebration.

Visitors will get a chance to make traditional Christmas ornaments as well as egg-baked bread. Visitors will also have an opportunity to take a sleigh or wagon ride through the fort grounds; get an up close look at traditional sleigh bells; see demonstrations on how wool and other natural fibers are made into clothing; and try old-fashioned rope turning.

The free event, which will also feature a tree lighting and caroling ceremony, will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A park entrance license is required.

## **Professional Bull Riders return to South Dakota in 2016**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Professional Bull Riders will return to South Dakota for the second year in a row with a two-day event in 2016.

The event on April 2-3 at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls will be the 12th on the 2016 PBR Built Ford Tough Series schedule that will culminate at the world finals in Las Vegas in November. It is expected to feature the world's top 35 bull riders.

In March, 2004 PBR World Champion Mike Lee captured his first win of 2015 in Sioux Falls. Lee will return to defend his title in 2016, alongside two-time and reigning World Champion, J.B. Mauney, as well as North Dakota natives Nathan Schaper and Stetson Lawrence.

Tickets for the Sioux Falls event go on sale Monday.

## **State lawmakers in 10 states push debt-free college options**

JULIE CARR SMYTH, AP Statehouse Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Lawmakers in 10 states launched a legislative push Monday intended to make debt-free public college a priority of the 2016 election.

In a teleconference, the group of Democrats announced plans to introduce resolutions in the early primary states of New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina, the political battleground state of Ohio and in Illinois, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Missouri, South Dakota and Hawaii.

The lawmakers said that with rising college debt near crisis levels in the U.S., they hope the measures jumpstart a national conversation on the topic and provide momentum to existing or future bills. At least three of the lawmakers involved are 30 or younger.

The resolutions assert that a well-educated workforce is essential to the country and that, while student debt is high, "public investment in higher education pays off." It says the G.I. Bill resulted in "a 7-to-1 return on investment for our national economy and that workers with college degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less on government services."

The Democrats' effort, organized by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, advocates a three-pronged approach that includes funneling more federal aid to states, giving more financial help to students and finding ways to creatively contain costs. The PCCC modeled the state resolutions on a pair of resolutions that have been introduced in Congress.

Kayla Wingbermuehle, who's directing the group's campaign on debt-free college, said all three major Democratic presidential candidates are on board and "the progressive strategy now is to go deep, unifying the Democratic Party around debt-free college and ensuring that there's an undeniable mandate in November of 2016."

Republicans also are working on ways to reduce college debt.

In Ohio, Gov. John Kasich, a Republican presidential contender, convened a task force on college affordability earlier this year. The group came back with recommendations to cut costs that included handing dorms and cafeterias over to private operators, collaborating on health care costs and providing more digital textbooks and study materials. Colleges and universities in the state also are working together at Kasich's instruction to create joint budget goals that eliminate duplication that can add to the state's higher education costs.

## **Police: 3 people arrested after cocaine was found in car**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Police say three people are facing drug charges after almost 200 grams of cocaine were discovered in a car during a traffic stop.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the car was stopped around 8 p.m. Saturday after the driver cut off another vehicle that had the right of way. Clemens says an officer smelled marijuana coming from the vehicle, and a search uncovered three bags with cocaine.

Clemens says 19-year-old Blake Schroeder, 19-year-old Matthew Houff and 18-year-old Abbygail Thomas, all of Sioux Falls, were arrested. They face charges of possession and distribution of a controlled substance, and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

Records show Schroeder, who was driving the car, and the passengers are at the Minnehaha County Jail. It wasn't immediately clear if they have legal representation.

## **Child pornography suspect wanted in Sioux Falls found dead**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who failed to appear in court more than a month ago on child pornography charges has been found dead.

Police say the body of 50-year-old Kevin Harty was discovered in a snow-covered van outside of a business on Friday. The cause of death is still being investigated but authorities don't believe it is suspicious. An autopsy is planned.

Harty had not been seen since Oct. 30, and there was a warrant for his arrest.

He was arrested in December 2013 after allegedly downloading child porn in his home

## **1st of 5 walls unveiled for Spearfish Veterans Monument**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Officials in Spearfish have unveiled the first granite wall in a veterans monument that has been years in the making.

More than 900 names are etched on the first wall that was unveiled in a Sunday ceremony. It came five years after the formation of a fundraising committee.

The monument honors veterans from Spearfish who have served honorably, dating to the Spanish-American War. There eventually will be five walls, symbolizing the five branches of the military — Army,

Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

"This is a community that takes pride in its veterans," said Boyd Dean, a member of the fundraising committee. "They'll know that this community honors its veterans and that a lot of history is etched into these walls."

World War II and Korean War veteran Arne Koski attended Sunday's ceremony and said it's a day he will never forget.

"It was great to see that there," he said of his name on the black granite wall that weighs more than a ton. "It's really neat; you know, my son, he inscribed it on a piece of paper already. I'll get one later. A lot of people are doing that and it's great, it's really great and an honor."

The monument's cost is estimated at about \$250,000. The fundraising group passed the halfway point last spring and is continuing its efforts, according to Dean.

"We still have a ways to go, but what a great start," he said.

## Couple practiced at shooting ranges before California attack

**AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press**

**JUSTIN PRITCHARD, Associated Press**

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Just days before he carried out an attack that killed 14 people, Syed Farook practiced with a rifle during one of several recent visits to a local shooting range, authorities said. Sometimes he was joined by his wife, his partner in the carnage.

An instructor at Riverside Magnum Range — about 20 miles from the Inland Regional Center where the two targeted Farook's co-workers a few days later — said Farook visited the range on Nov. 29 and 30.

John Galletta said Monday that nothing was out of the ordinary about Farook's behavior, but that he asked a representative why his rifle might be smoking, and was told it was most likely because it was new.

Asked whether in hindsight he or others at the range should have been suspicious of Farook, Galletta said: "How are you able to determine what somebody's intents are?"

As more details on the married couple emerged, the FBI said Farook and Tashfeen Malik had long since embraced radical ideology.

"We have learned and believe that both subjects were radicalized and have been for quite some time," said David Bowdich, chief of the FBI's Los Angeles office, said at a news conference Monday.

He added: "The question we're trying to get at is how did that happen and by whom and where did that happen? And I will tell you right now we don't know those answers."

Authorities also disclosed that a year before the rampage, Syed Farook's co-workers at the county health department underwent "active shooter" training in the same conference room where he and his wife opened fire on them last week.

It was not immediately clear whether Farook attended the late-2014 session on what to do when a gunman invades the workplace, San Bernardino County spokeswoman Felisa Cardona said.

Two employees who survived the attack said colleagues reacted Wednesday by trying to do as they had been trained — dropping under the tables and staying quiet so as not to attract attention.

"Unfortunately, the room just didn't provide a whole lot of protection," said Corwin Porter, assistant county health director.

Farook, a 28-year-old restaurant inspector born in the U.S. to a Pakistani family, and Tashfeen Malik, a 29-year-old immigrant from Pakistan, went on the rampage at a holiday luncheon at about the same time Malik pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group on Facebook, authorities said. The Muslim couple were killed hours later in a gunbattle with police.

Authorities also discovered 19 pipes in the couple's home in Redlands, California, that could be turned into bombs, Bowdich said. The FBI previously said it had found 12 pipe bombs.

Newly released emergency radio transmissions from the fast-moving tragedy show that police identified Farook as a suspect almost immediately, even though witnesses reported that the attackers wore black ski masks.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 17 of 32

An unidentified police officer put out Farook's name because Farook had left the luncheon "out of the blue" 20 minutes before the shooting, "seemed nervous," and matched the description of one of the attackers, according to audio recordings posted by The Press-Enterprise newspaper of Riverside.

In addition to the 14 killed, 21 people were hurt. At least six remained hospitalized, two in critical condition. President Barack Obama said in a prime-time address Sunday night that the attack was an "act of terrorism designed to kill innocent people."

The killers had "gone down the dark path of radicalization," he said, but there was no evidence they were part of a larger conspiracy or were directed by an overseas terror organization.

The two assault rifles used in the attack had been legally purchased by an old friend of Farook's, Enrique Marquez, authorities said, but they are still trying to determine how the couple got the weapons. Marquez has not been charged with a crime.

Meanwhile, most of the county's 20,000 employees went back to work for the first time since the rampage five days earlier plunged the community into shock and mourning.

Authorities tightened security at county buildings and offered counseling.

Employees in the environmental health division, where Farook and many of his victims worked and which held the active-shooter training a year ago, will be off until next week.

"We held each other and we protected each other through this horrific event," said county Health Director Trudy Raymundo, who was in the room during the attack, "and we will continue to hold each other and protect each other."

Porter, her colleague, said neither shooter spoke before firing.

"We weren't quite sure if it was an exercise the staff were throwing that they forgot to tell us about," he said, "but we all reacted instinctively and went under our tables."

## 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. TRUMP ESCALATES GOP RHETORIC ON MUSLIMS

For most of the Republican front-runner's rivals in the 2016 race, as well as numerous other Republicans, his call for a "shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" crosses the line.

### 2. HOW MUSLIMS REACT TO TRUMP'S PROPOSAL

"If we were all bad, then the world would be uninhabitable," says Somchai Jewangma, an officer with Thailand's Sheikhu Islam Office.

### 3. COUPLE PRACTICED AT SHOOTING RANGES BEFORE CALIFORNIA ATTACK

The FBI says Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik had been radicalized "for quite some time."

### 4. WHO FACES RIFTS IN FIGHT AGAINST EXTREMISTS

Political spats surrounding foreign forces on Iraqi soil expose a disconnect between Washington and Baghdad in the U.S.-led coalition's fight against the Islamic State group.

### 5. PISTORIUS GRANTED BAIL FOLLOWING MURDER CONVICTION

Judge Aubrey Ledwaba says the double-amputee Olympian will be placed under electronic monitoring and may only leave his uncle's home between 7 a.m. and 12 p.m.

### 6. CHICAGO MAYOR ON DEFENSE OVER SHOOTING

Rahm Emanuel says the killing of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald by Officer Jason Van Dyke brought the city to "an inflection point."

### 7. FEAR AT THE TAP

Uranium, the stuff of nuclear fuel for power plants and atom bombs, is showing up in drinking-water systems in major farming regions of the U.S. West.

### 8. POPE OPENS VATICAN HOLY DOOR

Francis will launch his yearlong "revolution of tenderness" amid unprecedented security aimed at thwarting the threat of a Paris-style attack at the Vatican.

## 9. WHERE TINY HIGH-TECH SECTOR REPRESENTS RARE SUCCESS STORY

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip launch dozens of startups in recent years despite the conflicts and closures that have devastated the local economy.

## 10. STAPLETON HELPS BRING COUNTRY MUSIC BACK TO GRAMMYS

"I don't make records with the thought of awards. That being said, what a wonderful treat to be recognized by your peers," says the singer, who scored four nominations.

## **AP WAS THERE: John Lennon was shot 35 years ago**

**RICK HAMPSON, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — EDITOR'S NOTE: The death of John Lennon still reverberates as a defining moment for a generation and for the music world.

A man who helped define rock and roll, a leader of the peace movement, an icon of the Baby Boom generation, his sudden shooting death at the hands of Mark David Chapman inspired shock and mourning, and for many marked the end of an era.

Chapman was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison and was last denied parole in August 2014.

"I am sorry for causing that type of pain," Chapman told the parole board then. "I am sorry for being such an idiot and choosing the wrong way for glory." Chapman can try again for parole next year.

At a 2010 hearing, Chapman recalled that he had considered shooting Johnny Carson or Elizabeth Taylor instead, and said that he chose Lennon because the ex-Beatle was more accessible, that his century-old apartment building by Central Park "wasn't quite as cloistered."

Thirty-five years after the death of a cultural touchstone, The Associated Press is making a version of its original coverage available with photos.

Former Beatle John Lennon, who catapulted to stardom with the long-haired British rock group in the 1960s, was shot to death late last night outside his luxury apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, police said.

Authorities said Lennon, 40, was rushed in a police car to Roosevelt Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving.

Doctors said he suffered seven severe wounds in his chest, back and left arm, but they did not know how many bullets had hit him. Dr. Stephen Lynn said, "I am sure he was dead when he was shot."

Police said the shooting occurred outside the Dakota, the century-old luxury apartment house where Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, lived. It is across the street from Central Park.

Police said they had a suspect and described him as "a screwball" with no apparent motive for shooting Lennon.

Lt. John Schick said he expected the man, in his mid-20s, to be held through the night.

Lennon's wife was not hurt.

Chief of Detectives James Sullivan said Lennon and his wife were walking into the enclosed courtyard of the Dakota about 10:50 p.m. when five shots rang out. Lennon staggered up a few steps into the building and collapsed, he said.

Police Officer Anthony Palma, who was one of the first officers to arrive, said officers found Lennon lying face down in the office of the nine-story apartment building and carried him to a patrol car. Miss Ono was taken to the hospital in another car, he said.

Palma said she became hysterical when doctors told her that Lennon was dead. "Tell me it isn't true," he quoted her as crying.

Sullivan said the suspect was a 25-year-old man from Hawaii who had reportedly been hanging around the Dakota for some time.

Jack Douglas, Lennon's producer, said he and the Lennons had been at a midtown studio called the Record Plant and that Lennon left at 10:30 p.m. Lennon said he was going to get something to eat and go home, Douglas said.

A bystander, Sean Strub, said he was walking south near 72nd Street when he heard four shots. He said

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 19 of 32

he came around the corner to Central Park West and saw Lennon being put into the back of a police car. Some people say they heard six shots and said John was hit twice," Strub said. "Police said he was hit in the back."

He said others told him the assailant had been "crouching in the archway of the Dakota. ... Lennon arrived in the company of his wife and the assailant fired."

At Roosevelt Hospital, Dr. Lynn announced that Lennon was dead shortly after midnight. He said Lennon had been brought in shortly before 11 p.m.

"Extensive resuscitation efforts were made and despite transfusions and other methods he could not be revived," he said.

"Significant damage was done to the major vessel in the chest," Dr. Lynn said. "There was massive blood loss and he could not be saved. ... I am sure he was dead when he was shot. ... His house is less than a mile away from the hospital and I don't think it was possible to rescue him by any means."

Lennon rocketed to fame in the early 1960s when he and fellow Britons Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr introduced a sound that changed the course of rock 'n' roll.

Lennon, who turned 40 on Oct. 9, was responsible for writing many of the group's songs.

In an interview earlier this year— his first major interview in five years — Lennon said he had wanted to leave the Beatles as early as 1966 but did not make the move until four years later because he "just didn't have the guts."

After the Beatles broke up in 1970, Lennon continued writing songs and recording.

But in 1975 he dropped out for five years, saying he wanted to be with Yoko Ono and their son, Sean. Lennon also had a son, Julian, by his first wife, Cynthia, whom he left in the late 1960s.

In 1976, he won resident's status in the United States after a court fight against a deportation order stemming from a British drug conviction.

It was not until last summer that he returned to music, and his 14-song album, "Double Fantasy," was released last month. The album, which includes songs by his wife, is based on Lennon's experiences over the five years, during which he kept house, cooked and cared for their son.

The seed for the Beatles band dates to 1955 when Lennon met McCartney at a Liverpool, England, church social. They started performing as a duo called the Quarrymen and were joined three years later by Harrison.

Starr did not come into the band until 1962 — a year before the Beatles hit the top of the charts in Britain with "Please Please Me."

"Beatlemania" did not cross the ocean to the United States until 1964.

## Muslims decry Trump's proposal to keep them out of US

The Associated Press

U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump has called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States," immigrants and visitors alike, because of what he describes as hatred among "large segments of the Muslim population" toward Americans. The Associated Press is asking Muslims around the world for their thoughts on his proposal:

AYA, a 22-year-old college graduate in Cairo who declined to give her full name for fear of alienating her family:

"I was born to Muslim parents and wore the veil at a young age. Now I am an atheist, but I can't tell anyone or take it off because they will probably kill me. My question to Donald Trump is: How do you know the Muslim you are banning is actually Muslim? Don't you think an extremist can fake denounce Islam and enter as a Christian or an atheist and still blow up your country? This is not how you fight terrorism; this is how you fan it."

BASSEM YOUSSEF, former talk show host known as the Jon Stewart of the Middle East:

(On Twitter) "I didn't know Donald Trump was fluent in Nazi."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 20 of 32

TAREQ, 22-year-old college student in Cairo

"I don't pray. I drink. I try to sleep around. All my friends do. I am about as Muslim as (Trump) is. Ban Muslims? Does he have any idea how many Muslims are just Muslims on paper?"

YARA FARIS, 23-year-old journalist in the West Bank. She hopes to study international journalism at Columbia University:

"The U.S. will always be the best place to study, and I don't think the U.S. would deny Muslims entry just because they are Muslims."

"I see Trump as a crazy man. He always gives crazy statements and recently I read a report that shows that 60 percent of Trump's statements were based on wrong information."

USAMA SALLAH, prominent Palestinian businessman in Jerusalem who lived in the U.S. for 14 years

"I think that these statements are a shame. This is not the United States that I knew, and I'm sure that the majority of the Americans don't agree with it because it doesn't represent American values."

"I will continue to visit the United States whenever possible because I know that America is a great country in which there is no place for such racist opinions. And for those who agree with him, I ask: How would you feel if Arab and Muslim countries decided to ban Americans from entering them?"

AHMED JALAJEL, Palestinian journalist in east Jerusalem who visited the U.S. last year as part of a State Department-sponsored program:

"I'm sure that what I heard from Trump doesn't represent the United States. In America, I have seen a democratic country, nice people who love life, a great country that is ready to receive people from all over the world and a country of great values that Trump certainly doesn't represent."

"As a Muslim, I don't think that Trump represents the United States; he only represents himself."

SAM BAHOUR, a Palestinian-American business consultant who moved from Youngstown, Ohio, to Ramallah, West Bank, in the 1990s, called the comments "disgraceful" and "absurd."

"The backlash is going to be against Muslims. The Muslim community understands the inherent racism in some pockets of U.S. political life."

"This makes the melting pot not melt at the end of the day."

Bahour said relatives in the U.S. have been telling him "how they are hearing comments in the street, supermarkets, really racist comments. It's not going to be the same being a Muslim in America, even once this passes."

AZIZA YOUSEF, a computer science professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia:

"He's racist... I think Trump is representing himself. I don't think he represents Americans."

"Why is it that when there are crazy people who happen to be Muslim, they blame all Muslims? I will not be responsible for someone who commits a crime who happens to be a Muslim. I will not defend myself or defend Islam because a guy or person who happens to be Muslim did something stupid."

Yousef is traveling to her vacation home in Virginia this weekend with her children and grandchildren as she does every year.

"I spend a lot of money there three to four months out of the year. Muslim tourists and those that live there as students help the economy of the United States."

SOMCHAI JEWANGMA, an officer with Thailand's Sheikhu'l Islam Office, which governs the country's Muslims:

"I don't think that can ever be done. The United States has economic ties with Islamic countries and there are millions of Muslim people in America. This is just a policy to please those who don't like Muslims"

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 21 of 32

and to gain more support.”

“It’s true that there are Muslim extremists, those who don’t have good intentions for Islam. But there are 1.7 billion Muslim people in the world. If we were all bad, then the world would be uninhabitable.”

Somchai also said entry rules already have become stricter: “When I applied for a U.S. visa, I was inspected for months.”

AZRA KHAN, president of the Canberra Islamic Center in Australia, said Trump’s proposal is the wrong way to address last week’s attack in San Bernardino, California, in which a Muslim couple killed 14 people:

“Clearly Donald Trump is trying to inflame the situation. Clearly this tragedy is not about Muslims.”

“He could better improve the situation if he were to say, ‘Let the U.S. take guns more seriously and ban them.’ That one simple solution would be much more suitable and make the streets of America far safer.”

NUR JAZLAN MOHAMAD, Malaysian deputy home minister, said the proposal is not aligned with America’s image as tolerant and democratic, and could play into the Islamic State group’s hands by alienating Muslims who are already in the U.S.”

“His proposal reflects the thinking of many people in America, and this is worrying.”

KEYSAR TRAD, the chairman of the Sydney-based Islamic Friendship Association of Australia, said Trump’s statement reflected political desperation.

“Donald Trump’s statement is a desperate statement by a desperate man who knows that he’s clutching at straws and has no chance of winning the election. So he’s trying to win it off the back of the Islamophobia industry.”

AMIDAN SHABERAH, the chairman of the Indonesian Council of Ulemas, an influential clerics’ organization, said Trump’s comments were a “big, big mistake.”

“He should not turn a blind eye to the fact that most of Muslims in the world strongly condemned any kind of extremism and radicalism in the name of Islam and our hearts and prayers go out to all victims of terrorism regardless of their faith.”

“Trump’s statement clearly shows us that Western society has a phobia against Islam, that people cannot distinguish between Islam and terrorist acts that rejected by mainstream Muslims.”

IKEBAL PATEL, former president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils:

“He’s trying to alienate not only the Muslim population of the United States but all the Muslims around the world.

“Nobody in their right mind would in any way condone what has just happened with those two individuals in that town, but to condemn in one fell swoop all the Muslims and to try to suggest that Muslims shouldn’t be allowed in America is quite ridiculous.”

## Chicago mayor: Shooting brought city to ‘inflection point’

MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — With federal agents preparing to scrutinize Chicago’s police practices in a wide-ranging civil rights investigation, Mayor Rahm Emanuel is defending measures the city has already taken in the wake of protests over the fatal shooting of a black teenager by a white officer.

Emanuel said the city would press ahead with initiatives of its own just hours after U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced the Department of Justice investigation into racial disparities and the use of force by Chicago police, saying at a news conference that he was “not going to wait.”

But such assurances are likely to be met with skepticism in a city that’s been plagued for years by a string of incidents of apparent police abuse followed by promises of reform. Several activist groups said

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 22 of 32

they planned further protests in light of a decision announced Monday by Cook County's top prosecutor not to criminally charge another officer for shooting a 25-year-old black man under different circumstances.

Emanuel said at a Monday afternoon news conference outside his office at City Hall that the shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald by Officer Jason Van Dyke had brought the city to what he called "an inflection point." A squad-car video of the shooting sparked days of protests, criticism of how Emanuel and other officials handled the incident, and calls for federal intervention.

"It is clear to me when you look at Laquan McDonald and other experiences — and they go way back in history — ..., then none of the things we've done in the past have measured up to the scope, the scale and consequences of what needs to be done," Emanuel said.

Emanuel introduced a newly appointed leader of the city's Independent Police Review Authority, which investigates police shootings. Since the shooting, he has also established a task force to improve police accountability and named an interim police chief after forcing out Superintendent Garry McCarthy.

The federal intervention follows recent ones in Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri, and comes nearly two weeks after the release of the squad-car video showing Van Dyke shooting the teenager 16 times. Van Dyke was charged with first-degree murder Nov. 24, more than a year after the killing and just hours before the release of the footage.

The civil rights investigation, which is separate from an existing federal criminal investigation of the shooting itself, will also review how the department handles misconduct accusations. Justice Department officials say they use so-called patterns-and-practices probes to identify systemic failings in troubled police departments and to improve trust between police and the communities they serve.

"When suspicion and hostility is allowed to fester, it can erupt into unrest," Lynch said Monday morning.

Emanuel initially said a federal civil rights investigation would be "misguided," but then later reversed course. He indicated repeatedly on Monday that he now welcomed the federal intervention.

"It's in our self-interest for them to be here," he said. "We not only accept it, we need it."

Also Monday, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez said there would be no charges against Officer George Hernandez in a separate case — the shooting of the 25-year-old black man, Ronald Johnson III, who was shot in the back while fleeing the police. Authorities say he was carrying a gun in his hand as he was killed on Oct. 12, 2014.

Alvarez and Assistant State's Attorney Lynn McCarthy spent more than 30 minutes detailing evidence before showing the dashcam video, which similarly to the McDonald case has no audio. The state's attorney's office overlaid police radio communications.

The video shows Johnson running from police across a street with several officers in pursuit, and then one officer fires. Johnson is not on screen when he was struck by two bullets.

The video was also slowed down to show what McCarthy said was a gun in Johnson's hand. Prosecutors say a loaded weapon was found in his hand after he was killed. She also said Johnson ignored officers' commands to stop and drop his weapon and had been in a physical altercation with at least one other officer before he was shot.

The attorney for the Johnson family, Michael Oppenheimer, said the prosecutors' investigation was a "joke" and an affront to Johnson's family and Cook County citizens. They have filed a lawsuit against the city, claiming that Johnson was not armed when killed.

Organizers said late Monday that roughly 50 to 100 protesters were marching and rallying on the city's South Side. Some chanted for Alvarez and Emanuel to step down.

Alvarez has been criticized for not filing charges long ago in the McDonald case, in which the video shows the teen veering away from officers when Van Dyke opens fire from close range. He continues shooting even after McDonald crumples to the ground.

At the news conference Monday, reporters asked Interim Police Superintendent John Escalante why he and other department brass approved a report in which Van Dyke and other officers described McDonald as acting aggressively moments before he was shot — accounts that seemed to contradict video footage. Escalante responded that superiors didn't have to sign off on the officers' accounts — and when pressed later on the issue, he left the room with Emanuel without responding.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 23 of 32

The Chicago City Council signed off on a \$5 million settlement with McDonald's family even before the family filed a lawsuit, and city officials fought in court for months to keep the video from being released publicly. The city's early efforts to suppress the footage coincided with Emanuel's re-election campaign, when the mayor was seeking African-American votes in a tight race.

The Justice Department has opened 23 investigations of police departments since the start of the Obama administration.

If the Justice Department finds systemic violations, the investigations typically result in court-enforceable agreements between the federal government and the community that serve as blueprints for change and are overseen by an independent monitor. The federal government has the option of suing a police department that is unwilling to make changes.

## Survivors return to Pearl Harbor 74 years after attack

**AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press**

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — A few dozen elderly men who survived the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor 74 years ago gathered at the site to remember fellow servicemen who didn't make it.

The U.S. Navy and National Park Service hosted Monday's ceremony in remembrance of those killed on Dec. 7, 1941. More than 3,000 people joined the survivors.

Adm. Harry Harris, the top U.S. military commander in the Pacific, said the day "must forever remain burned into the American consciousness."

"For 74 years, we've remembered Pearl Harbor. We've remained vigilant. And today's armed forces are ready to answer the alarm bell," said Harris, who leads the U.S. Pacific Command.

He said the military was also working to "keep the alarm bell from sounding in the first place" by refocusing its attention on Asia and the Pacific region with the aim of maintaining stability, prosperity and peace.

Ed Schuler, 94, said he keeps returning to Pearl Harbor to honor his old shipmates killed on the USS Arizona.

He said 125 sailors from his ship, a light cruiser called the USS Phoenix, had transferred to the Arizona the day before the attack. They were all killed, he said.

"I come back just to renew my acquaintance," said Schuler, who lives in San Jose, California.

Robert Irwin of Cameron Park, California, was in the barracks when the attack began and saw Japanese planes flying overhead. A fellow sailor saw a Rising Sun insignia on the wings and asked Irwin if he knew what the "red ball" was.

The seaman first class hopped on a truck that took him to the USS Pennsylvania, where he fed ammunition to the deck of the battleship.

"It brings back some lousy memories," said Irwin, of returning to Pearl Harbor. But he comes to the annual ceremony because the attack was a "big thing in my life." The 91 year old served as firefighter in San Francisco after the war and retired as a lieutenant in 1979.

The event was held on a Navy pier overlooking the USS Arizona Memorial. The pier straddles the battleship that sank nine minutes after being hit. It remains a gravesite for many of those killed.

One part of the ceremony didn't go as planned.

The Navy destroyer USS Preble was scheduled to sound its whistle to start a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the minute the attack began 74 years ago. Hawaii Air National Guard F-22s were due to fly overhead to break the silence about 45 seconds later.

But Navy Region Hawaii spokeswoman Agnes Tauyan said the program was running behind, and the Preble didn't sound its whistle. Fighter jets flew overhead on schedule, but the master of ceremonies was still speaking.

A moment of silence was held shortly afterward.

Tauyan said everyone came together to honor and remember the war dead and those who survived the attack. She said the Navy heard nothing but positive feedback about the ceremony.

"I feel we've accomplished our mission," she said. Tauyan characterized the problem with the moment

of silence as a "small glitch."

More than 2,400 sailors, Marines, and soldiers were killed at Pearl Harbor and other military installations on the island of Oahu.

## Search is on for NFL quarterback Jay Cutler's brother-in-law BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Investigators are trying to piece together what happened to NFL quarterback Jay Cutler's brother-in-law, whose hasn't been heard from since his car was found abandoned more than a week ago near a remote dirt road in Utah.

Michael Cavallari, 30, lives in Southern California and was arrested on an allegation of making threats there Nov. 23, authorities said Monday.

Four days later, a rancher found Cavallari's car with its engine on and the air bag deployed in Utah, Grand County Sheriff Steven White said. It was about 200 miles south of Salt Lake City and 5 miles south of Interstate 70, in a part of the state that's home to several national parks.

Cavallari apparently was driving by himself, though it's unclear where he was going, authorities said. He is the brother of reality TV personality Kristin Cavallari, who married Cutler in 2013.

Evidence shows Michael Cavallari's 2014 Honda Civic hit a couple of big rocks and washes, likely causing the air bag to deploy, White said.

White said crews have been searching the area on foot and by helicopter but they have found no trace of Michael Cavallari. It's difficult to find footprints in the frozen ground, he added. Temperatures in the area have been at or below freezing every night since the car was found up against a small embankment.

There were no signs of foul play.

Hours before his Honda was discovered, Michael Cavallari — who lives in San Clemente, California — stopped at a convenience store about 60 miles away and asked for directions to Salt Lake City.

Credit card transactions and surveillance video show he was at the store in the town of Monticello at 3:30 a.m. on Nov. 27.

In California, Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Jeffrey Hallock said Monday that deputies arrested Michael Cavallari on suspicion of making criminal threats Nov. 23. He bailed out of jail Nov. 25.

He was arrested outside Dana Point City Hall with a loaded shotgun following a report from a woman who called the sheriff's department to say he had been outside her apartment with a shotgun, according to a police report.

The unnamed woman told deputies the two had argued days earlier, and she was afraid because he kept returning to her apartment. Police reported smelling alcohol on Michael Cavallari's breath when he was arrested. He acknowledged having a loaded shotgun in his trunk, the report said.

He was taken into custody without incident, and he denied doing anything to the woman, who reported the incidents to authorities.

Michael Cavallari works for his father's corporation, White said. He is single and has no kids.

Kristin Cavallari rose to fame in the mid-2000s when she appeared in the MTV reality series "Laguna Beach" and "The Hills." She and Cutler have three children together.

On Monday, Kristin Cavallari posted a photo on Instagram of her and her brother as kids at the beach with a message thanking people for their thoughts and prayers.

"We remain hopeful and I will share any news that we receive," she wrote.

Cutler starred collegiately at Vanderbilt and now plays for the Chicago Bears in the NFL. The 32-year-old said little Sunday when asked about whether the situation with his missing brother-in-law was a factor in his team's loss.

"No," Cutler said. "We stayed focused, and we adjust better than anybody."

Cutler's head coach, John Fox, said Monday he's aware of the situation but doesn't know much about it. Fox said the franchise provides resources for players to deal with off-field issues, including sports psychologists.



The Cavallari family asked authorities to respect their privacy in the first days after Michael Cavallari disappeared. They decided allow police to go public this weekend in hopes that somebody might come forward with more information, White said.

Michael Cavallari's father and stepfather have been in Utah to help with the search, the sheriff said.

Police are gearing up to launch new searches but are first strategizing the best areas to look. People recreate at sand dunes in the area, and White said he's hopeful someone who was there knows something.

## **AP NewsBreak: Shooting suspect asked direction to clinic**

**SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press**

DENVER (AP) — The man accused of killing three people at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado asked at least one person in a nearby shopping center for directions to the facility before opening fire, a law enforcement official said, offering the clearest suggestion yet that he was targeting the reproductive health organization.

The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Prosecutors this week plan to charge Robert Lewis Dear, 57, with murder and other crimes in the Nov. 27 attack that also left nine other people wounded. Colorado Springs police have refused to discuss a motive for the fusillade, but there's mounting evidence to suggest Dear was deeply concerned about abortion, having rambled to authorities about "no more baby parts" after his arrest.

Dear asked at least one person in the nearby shopping center where the Planned Parenthood was earlier that morning, the official said.

A second law enforcement official said Dear assembled propane tanks around a vehicle and brought at least 10 guns, including rifles and handguns, to the clinic, where he swapped gunfire with officers during an hours-long standoff. It was unclear whether Dear purchased all of them, but despite brushes with the law, he had no felony convictions that would have prevented him from buying a firearm.

Planned Parenthood cited witnesses as saying the gunman was motivated by his opposition to abortion.

A Colorado Springs police spokeswoman on Monday referred questions about the investigation to El Paso County Sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Frank, who said she could not comment on the ongoing investigation.

Dear had been living in remote locations without electricity or water and was known to hold survivalist ideas. One of his three ex-wives, Barbara Mescher Micheau of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, said he had vandalized a South Carolina abortion clinic at least 20 years earlier, announcing to her that he had put glue in the locks of its doors, a common protest technique among activists trying to shut down abortion clinics.

Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers on Monday would not discuss Dear's motive or details of the investigation, but he praised responding officers, who he said rescued 24 people from inside the clinic building and helped remove 300 people from the surrounding businesses where they had been hiding while the shooting unfolded.

"They went in at their own peril, but that contributed to basically 24 people getting out of that building safely," Suthers said of the officers. Five officers were shot in the rampage, one of them fatally. The other victims were accompanying separate friends to the clinic when they were killed.

## **Official: Palestinian killed in clashes with Israeli troops**

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — A Palestinian official says a Palestinian was killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

Health ministry spokesman Mohammed Awawdeh said the Palestinian was killed early Tuesday at the Deheishe refugee camp near Bethlehem. Awawdeh said he was shot in the head.

The Israeli military said Palestinians attacked soldiers on "routine activity" in the area with pipe bombs and burning tires. It said forces fired warning shots to disperse them. The military is investigating the Palestinian claims, it said.

Tensions are high after more than two months of near-daily Palestinian attacks that have killed 19 Israelis. At least 109 Palestinians have been killed. They include 73 people said by Israel to be attackers, with the remainder killed in clashes with Israeli troops.

## Trump rejects criticism of his proposal to ban Muslims

**JILL COLVIN, Associated Press**

**BRUCE SMITH, Associated Press**

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (AP) — Donald Trump is rejecting criticism that his proposal to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. is un-American and has critics comparing him to Adolf Hitler.

Trump said Tuesday that what he's proposing is "no different" than President Franklin Roosevelt — "who was highly respected by all" despite his wartime measures that included putting Japanese-Americans in internment camps in the U.S.

Trump told ABC's "Good Morning America" that banning Muslims is warranted because the U.S. is essentially at war with Muslim extremists who have launched attacks, including last week's mass shootings in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14.

"We are now at war," Trump said, adding: "We have a president who doesn't want to say that."

Trump's proposal has been denounced by many of his fellow Republican presidential candidates.

## Fear at the tap: Uranium contaminates water in the West

**ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press Writers**

**SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press Writers**

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — In a trailer park tucked among irrigated orchards that help make California's San Joaquin Valley the richest farm region in the world, 16-year-old Giselle Alvarez, one of the few English-speakers in the community of farmworkers, puzzles over the notices posted on front doors: There's a danger in their drinking water.

Uranium, the notices warn, tests at a level considered unsafe by federal and state standards. The law requires the park's owner to post the warnings. But they are awkwardly worded and mostly in English, a language few of the park's dozens of Spanish-speaking families can read.

"It says you can drink the water — but if you drink the water over a period of time, you can get cancer," said Alvarez, whose working-class family has no choice but keep drinking and cooking with the tainted tap water. "They really don't explain."

Uranium, the stuff of nuclear fuel for power plants and atom bombs, increasingly is showing in drinking water systems in major farming regions of the U.S. West — a natural though unexpected byproduct of irrigation, drought, and the overpumping of natural underground water reserves.

An Associated Press investigation in California's central farm valleys — along with the U.S. Central Plains, among the areas most affected — found authorities are doing little to inform the public at large of the risk.

That includes the one out of four families on private wells in this farm valley who, unknowingly, are drinking dangerous amounts of uranium. Government authorities say long-term exposure to uranium can damage kidneys and raise cancer risks, and scientists say it can have other harmful effects.

In this swath of farmland, roughly 250 miles long and encompassing cities, up to one in 10 public water systems have raw drinking water with uranium levels that exceed safety standards, the U.S. Geological Survey has found.

More broadly, nearly 2 million people in California's Central Valley and the U.S. Midwest live within a half-mile of groundwater containing uranium over the health limits, University of Nebraska researchers said in a study in September.

Entities ranging from state agencies to tiny rural schools are scrambling to deal with hundreds of tainted public wells.

That includes water wells at the Westport Elementary School, where 450 children study outside the

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 27 of 32

Central California farm hub of Modesto.

At Westport's playground, schoolchildren take a break from tether ball to sip from fountains marked with Spanish and English placards: "SAFE TO DRINK."

The school is one of about 10 water-well systems in Central California that have installed on-site uranium removal facilities in recent years. Prices range from \$65,000 to millions of dollars.

Just off Westport's playground, a school maintenance chief jangles the keys to the school's treatment operation, locked in a shed. Inside, a system of tubes, dials and canisters resembling scuba tanks removes up to a pound a year of uranium from the school's well water.

The uranium gleaned from local water systems is handled like the nuclear material it is — taken away by workers in masks, gloves and other protective garments, said Ron Dollar, a vice president at Water Remediation Technology, a Colorado-based firm. It is then processed into nuclear fuel for power plants, Dollar said.

Before treatment, Westport's water tests up to four times state and federal limits. After treatment, it's safe for the children, teachers and staff to drink.

Meanwhile, the city of Modesto, with a half-million residents, recently spent more than \$500,000 to start blending water from one contaminated well to dilute the uranium to safe levels. The city has retired a half-dozen other wells with excess levels of uranium.

State officials don't track spending on uranium-contaminated wells. But the state's Water Resources Control Board identified at least \$16.7 million the state has spent since 2010 helping public water systems deal with high levels of uranium.

In coming years, more public water systems likely will be compelled to invest in such costly fixes, said Miranda Fram, a researcher with the U.S. Geological Survey in Sacramento.

Fram and her colleagues believe the amount of uranium increased in Central Valley drinking water supplies over the last 150 years with the spread of farming.

In California, as in the Rockies, mountain snowmelt washes uranium-laden sediment to the flatlands, where groundwater is used to irrigate crops.

Irrigation allows year-round farming, and the irrigated plants naturally create a weak acid that is leeching more and more uranium from sediment.

Groundwater pumping pulls the contaminated water down into the earth, where it is tapped by wells that supply drinking water.

The USGS calculates that the average level of uranium in public-supply wells of the eastern San Joaquin Valley increased 17 percent from 1990 to the mid-2000s. The number of public-supply wells with unsafe levels of uranium, meantime, climbed from 7 percent to 10 percent over the same period there.

"We should not have any doubts as to whether drinking water with uranium in it is a problem or not. It is," said Doug Brugge, professor of public health and community medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. "The larger the population that's drinking this water, the more people that are going to be affected."

In California, changes in water standards since the late 2000s have mandated testing for uranium in public water systems.

For private well-owners and small water systems, however, officials were unable to point to any public health campaigns in the most-affected areas, or any help testing or dealing with uranium-contaminated wells.

"When it comes to private domestic wells, we do what we can to get the word out. It's safe to say that there's always more than can be done," said John Borkovich, head of water quality at the state Water Resources Control Board.

The Associated Press commissioned independent sampling of wells at five homes in the countryside outside Modesto. The results: Water from two of the five private wells tested over the government maximums for uranium — in fact, two and three times the maximum.

None of the five families had ever heard that uranium could be a problem.

"It would be nice to be informed, so we can make an informed decision, and those wells can be tested," said Michelle Norleen, one of the five, who was later relieved to learn her own water had tested safe.

## **Beluga whale at Georgia Aquarium died of acute heart failure**

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia Aquarium officials say the sudden death of a beluga whale that appeared to be in perfect physical condition was due to acute heart failure.

The Aquarium issued a statement Monday saying that a necropsy showed Maris' heart and other tissues had "microscopic lesions."

The statement noted that earlier in the week of her death, Maris had received a routine ultrasound that showed nothing abnormal.

University of Georgia pathologists and Georgia Aquarium veterinarians conducted the necropsy.

Dr. Gregory Bossart is senior vice president and chief veterinary officer for the aquarium. He said in the statement that "no predisposing cause for the heart failure could be determined from the necropsy."

Maris died suddenly in October. Born in 1994, she arrived at the Georgia Aquarium in 2005.

## **Mayor bans Trump after candidate suggests blocking Muslims**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — A Florida mayor says he's banning Donald Trump from his city after the Republican presidential candidate called for the U.S. to stop Muslims from entering the country.

Playing off of Trump's earlier words, St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman tweeted Monday that he was banning Trump "until we fully understand the dangerous threat posed by all Trumps."

The Tampa Bay Times (<http://tinyurl.com/hk5hz4k>) reports the mayor's jab was retweeted more than 1,200 times in about an hour.

Trump's proposed ban is in response to what he called hatred among "large segments of the Muslim population" toward Americans.

Trump said the ban should be implemented "until we are able to determine and understand this problem and the dangerous threat it poses."

Trump's proposal was quickly condemned by other Republican and Democratic presidential candidates.

## **Police: Man flees from police, gets haircut before arrest**

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Authorities say a man wanted for failing to signal a lane change ran from Tulsa police and stopped to get a haircut before being arrested.

The Tulsa World (<http://bit.ly/1SK4LHL>) reports that the 27-year-old man was arrested Sunday on several complaints, including eluding police after a felony conviction and possession of a firearm after a felony conviction.

Police say they saw the man's car cross several lanes of traffic and a police officer tried to pull him over. They say after a pursuit, the man got out of his car and ran to an apartment complex. Police later found the man inside an apartment.

Officers noted the man "sporting a freshly clipped head with extremely short hair" despite reportedly having a "large amount of hair" when running from his car.

## **Cheaper oil buoys consumers, hammers producers**

**DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writer**

DALLAS (AP) — Oil prices have been lower for longer than expected. Now, with OPEC's decision to keep pumping at current levels, analysts expect oil to remain relatively cheap well into 2016 and maybe longer.

That, of course, is good news for consumers and fuel-guzzling industries like airlines, but oil producers are being squeezed and thousands of workers in the oil patch have been laid off.

The price of a barrel of oil fell Monday to \$37.65, a nearly seven-year low. Energy stocks, from giants Exxon and Chevron down to independent producers, took a beating.

What's causing the upheaval? Simply put, supply and demand are out of synch, and that's causing ripples across economies, creating winners and losers.

ROBUST SUPPLY, SO-SO DEMAND

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 29 of 32

U.S. oil production rose from 5 million barrels a day in 2008 to an estimated 9.3 million barrels a day in 2015. That unexpected surge, coupled with OPEC's unwillingness to cut production, left the world awash in oil and sank prices. Supply is outpacing demand by about 1.4 million barrels a day, according to Judith Dwarkin, chief economist at ITG Investment Research.

Meanwhile, economic growth has been slower than expected, undercutting demand for energy. China's economy has slowed, Japan is in recession, and Europe continues to struggle. The U.S. economy is growing, but more-efficient cars have blunted the need for more fuel.

The U.S. government predicts U.S. production will drop 6 percent next year as oil companies curtail unprofitable projects. Globally, "it could take well into 2017 to work off the surplus inventory," Dwarkin said.

## HEYDAY FOR CONSUMERS

Motorists see the effect of cheaper crude every time they fill up. According to AAA, the national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline on Monday was \$2.03 and should soon drop below \$2 for the first time since 2009. Gas is already below \$2 at nearly two-thirds of the nation's 130,000 gas stations, according to the price-watching site GasBuddy.com. A gallon of diesel is more than \$1 cheaper than at this time last year, benefiting shippers.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst for Oil Price Information Service, says the nationwide average could drop as low as \$1.75, before turning around in the spring, possibly going as high as \$2.75 in time for driving season.

All that pocket change and low interest rates are leading many consumers to splurge on new cars, particularly bigger ones. SUV sales have jumped 45 percent since November 2012, when gas was around \$3.63 a gallon. But car-buying in key oil states has tailed off, according to IHS Automotive. New vehicle registrations in Texas and North Dakota rose just slightly this year through September, after outpacing the nationwide growth in the boom oil years.

Saving on gasoline could improve shoppers' holiday spirit. Cheaper gas "frees up money that could be spent elsewhere, so that's a plus for holiday shopping," said Scott Hoyt, senior director of consumer economics at Moody's Analytics.

Cheap oil also translates to lower heating bills. The average household using heating oil will spend \$1,360 this year, \$493 less than last winter, according to the EIA.

Big airlines such as American, United and Delta burn billions of gallons of jet fuel every year, and savings from cheaper fuel are helping them post record profits. Thanks to cheaper fuel, travelers are seeing a slight drop in average airfares after five straight years of fares rising faster than inflation.

## PRODUCERS FEEL THE PAIN

Oil companies, their employees, and their subcontractors are feeling the pinch from lower prices. Profits are down at the majors such as Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp., but independents are suffering more.

"Exxon is not going to go out of business even if oil goes down to \$10," said Fadel Gheit, an energy analyst for Oppenheimer. But many smaller independents will be forced to consolidate because they can't handle the higher costs of acquiring acreage, expensive drilling technology and declining fields in the U.S., he said. "It can't get any bleaker."

According to government figures released Friday, the energy and mining sector — that's mostly oil and gas exploration and production — has lost 122,300 jobs in the last year. Paychecks for those still employed are smaller: Average wages in the energy industry have fallen 1.5 percent at a time when other workers are earning slightly more than they did a year ago.

On Monday, the NYSE ARCA Oil and Gas index dropped nearly 4 percent. Exxon and Chevron fell more than 2 percent, while smaller oil companies incurred steeper losses.

## GOVERNMENTS FEEL PINCH

Several energy-producing states, such as Alaska, mapped out budgets based on oil at \$50 to \$60. Their plans are crumbling now that crude prices are around \$40. Natural gas prices also are down sharply and the future for coal looks bleak. In North Dakota, overall revenues are 7.5 percent lower than were expected for the two-year budget cycle that began July 1.

Overseas, collapsing oil prices have undercut exports and the economy in Venezuela, leading to shortages of goods and contributing to the ruling socialist party's defeat in legislative elections Sunday. In Russia,

the government budgeted its spending on \$50 crude. Its oil-dependent economy is expected to shrink 3.4 percent this year, according to the International Monetary Fund. On Monday, the ruble fell 1.3 percent against the dollar to a three-month low.

## Oil price drops to lowest since 2009, sinking energy stocks

**BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — A sharp drop in the price of oil on Monday rattled investors and helped push stocks lower across several industries.

Investors sold from the start of trading following a decision by OPEC last week not to cut production. Benchmark U.S. crude dropped nearly 6 percent, deepening its stunning 1½ year plunge, to close at its lowest level in nearly seven years. The losses were broad, with seven of the 10 industry sectors in the Standard & Poor's 500 index closing lower.

As they have all year, oil drillers bore the brunt of the selling. Chevron and Exxon Mobil, both members of the 30-stock Dow Jones industrial average, each fell nearly 3 percent.

"There was a big hope that OPEC would announce a production cut, but it just didn't happen," said Mizuho Securities Chief Economist Steven Ricchiuto. He added: "The whole world is facing excess supply as the global economy slows."

The Dow gave up 117.12 points, or 0.7 percent, to 17,730.51. The S&P 500 fell 14.62 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,077.07. The Nasdaq composite dropped 40.46 points, or 0.8 percent, to 5,101.81.

Airlines stocks were among the winners as investors anticipated bigger profits thanks to falling fuel costs. JetBlue Airways jumped \$1.01, or 4 percent, to \$26.49. Delta Air Lines also rose 4 percent, gaining \$2 to close at \$51.78.

In theory, lower oil prices should help many stocks because consumers often spend money elsewhere that they save at the pump or on heating bills. But investors have been disappointed.

"Retailers have been waiting for the pump-price dividend to filter into their stores, but for the most part we're not seeing it," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank.

Meanwhile, the shift in the U.S. to producing more oil has made the stock market more vulnerable to price swings in the commodity.

In each of the past three quarters, as oil prices have tanked, earnings per share for energy companies in the S&P 500 have dropped more than 50 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ, a financial data provider. After Monday's drop, their stocks are down 22 percent since the start of the year.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Chipotle Mexican Grill dropped \$9.45, or 1.7 percent, to \$551.75. The restaurant chain warned late Friday that an outbreak of E. coli linked to its restaurants sent sales plummeting by as much as 22 percent in recent weeks.

— Keurig Green Mountain soared 72 percent after agreeing to be acquired by a private equity firm. The stock jumped \$37.19 to \$88.89.

— Office Depot plunged nearly 16 percent after regulators said they would try to block a proposed purchase of the company by rival Staples for \$6.3 billion. Office Depot dropped \$1.04 to \$5.59. Staples fell \$1.70, or nearly 14 percent, to \$10.66.

— Stocks of gun makers soared on the prospect of big sales amid a push for greater gun control following the San Bernardino shootings. Smith & Wesson Holding added \$1.45, or 7.6 percent, to \$20.44.

U.S. crude fell \$2.32, or 5.8 percent, to close at \$37.65 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, its lowest price since Feb. 2009. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell \$2.27, or 5.3 percent, to \$40.73 a barrel in London.

In other energy trading in New York, wholesale gasoline fell 6.1 cents, or 4.8 percent, to close at \$1.209 a gallon, heating oil lost 6.3 cents, or 4.7 percent, to close at \$1.280 a gallon and natural gas fell 11.9 cents, or 5.4 percent, to \$2.067 per 1,000 cubic feet.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 31 of 32

U.S. government bond prices edged up. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.23 percent from 2.27 percent late Friday. The euro slipped to \$1.0843 from \$1.0871 and the dollar edged up to 123.33 yen from 123.22 yen.

Precious and industrial metals futures ended broadly lower. The price of gold slipped \$8.90 to \$1,075.20 an ounce, silver lost 20 cents to \$14.33 an ounce and copper gave up three cents to \$2.05 a pound.

## US consumer credit rises \$16 billion in October

**JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumers borrowed more heavily for auto and student loans in October, taking out debt that helps them find jobs and commute to work.

The Federal Reserve said Monday that consumer borrowing rose \$16 billion in October to \$3.5 trillion. But the pace of borrowing decelerated sharply from the \$28.5 billion increase in September.

Nearly all of the October gain came from the category that covers auto and student loans, while credit card borrowing edged up a mere \$200 million. The increase suggests that more Americans are borrowing to improve their educational skills and upgrade their cars and trucks, instead of relying on debt to fund their daily shopping and emergency expenses.

Many economists expect that consumer spending will be relatively healthy in the coming months because of strong job gains that have bolstered auto and home sales for much of 2015. Yet a struggling global economy has tempered U.S. growth as the year draws to an end.

The Labor Department reported last week that employers added 211,000 jobs in November and 298,000 in October. The unemployment rate held steady at 5 percent last month. The report showed evidence that workers pushed to the sidelines during the Great Recession and sluggish six-year recovery are filtering back into the job market.

The overall economy has advanced despite a waning global economy. A stronger dollar, slowing growth in China, a recession in Japan and a struggling Europe have been a drag on U.S. manufacturing, dampening overall growth. U.S. gross domestic product — aided by consumer spending — advanced at an annual rate of 2.1 percent in the July-September quarter, down from a 3.9 percent rate in the prior quarter.

The deceleration is expected to continue.

The Atlanta Fed forecasts that growth will slip in the final three months of 2015 to an annual rate of 1.5 percent. The private forecasting firm Macroeconomic Advisers estimates that the rate will be 1.7 percent.

## Today in History The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2015. There are 23 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

### On this date:

In 1765, Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, was born in Westborough, Massachusetts.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1865, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius was born in Haemeenlinna.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1940, the Chicago Bears defeated the Washington Redskins, 73-0, in the NFL Championship Game, which was carried on network radio for the first time by the Mutual Broadcasting System (the announcer

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 137 ♦ 32 of 32

was Red Barber).

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1962, the first session of the Second Vatican Council was formally adjourned. Typographers went on a 114-day strike against four New York City newspapers.

In 1972, a United Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while attempting to land at Chicago-Midway Airport, killing 43 of the 61 people on board, as well as two people on the ground; among the dead were Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, U.S. Rep. George W. Collins, D-Ill., and CBS News correspondent Michele Clark.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1982, a man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. (After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.)

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1992, Americans got to see live television coverage of U.S. troops landing on the beaches of Somalia as Operation Restore Hope began (because of the time difference, it was early Dec. 9 in Somalia).

**Ten years ago:** A Southwest Airlines jet landing at Chicago Midway International Airport during a snowstorm slid off the runway and onto a busy street, killing a boy in a car. In Iraq, a suicide bomber set off explosives inside a packed bus bound for a southern Shiite city, killing 32 people.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama rejected claims that he had betrayed Democrats by cutting a deal with Republicans on Bush-era tax cuts and implored his party to back the compromise, arguing it could jump-start the economy. Hackers rushed to the defense of WikiLeaks, launching attacks on MasterCard, Visa, Swedish prosecutors, a Swiss bank and others who had acted against the site and its founder, Julian Assange. A fire that started during an inmate brawl swept through an overcrowded prison in Chile, killing at least 81 people.

**One year ago:** The U.S. and NATO ceremonially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked their invasion of the country to topple the Taliban-led government. Britain's Prince William sat down with President Barack Obama in Washington while his wife, Kate, made an impression of a down-to-earth duchess on preschoolers and prominent British expats in New York.

**Today's Birthdays:** Flutist James Galway is 76. Singer Jerry Butler is 76. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 74. Actress Mary Woronov is 72. Actor John Rubinstein is 69. Rock singer-musician Gregg Allman is 68. Reggae singer Toots Hibbert (Toots and the Maytals) is 67. Actress Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 62. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 59. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 58. Country singer Marty Raybon is 56. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim is 56. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 54. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 53. Actor Wendell Pierce is 52. Actress Teri Hatcher is 51. Actor David Harewood is 50. Rapper Bushwick Bill (The Geto Boys) is 49. Singer Sinéad (shih-NAYD') O'Connor is 49. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 49. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 43. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 39. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 37. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 36. R&B singer Chrisette Michele is 33. Actress Hannah Ware is 33. Country singer Sam Hunt is 31. Rock singer-actress Kate Voegelé (VOH'-geh) is 29. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 26. Actress Wallis Currie-Wood (TV: "Madam Secretary") is 24. Actress AnnaSophia Robb is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "War does not determine who is right - only who is left." - Author unknown (although this sentiment is sometimes attributed to Bertrand Russell).