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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.

There are still four cards left on the Angel Tree at the Groton Dairy Queen.

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.

Birthdays: Lincoln Lane, Jerrica Loeschke, Steve Schaller. Miranda Blumhardt, Skylar Bonn

4:00pm: GBB hosts Ipswich (7th grade at 4 pm, 8th at 5 pm, JV at 6:30 followed by varsity)

Friday, December 11

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Super nachos, French fries, lettuce, fruit.

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, pineapple/mandarin orange sauce.

Anniversary: Dave & Connie Nilsson

Birthday: Carly Guthmiller

Saturday, December 12

Conference Debate (location TBD)

Birthdays: Brittany Ronning • Jason Warrington • Robert Meister • Alan Nierman

9:00am: Santa Day at Professional Management Services

9:00am: Robotics at Rapid City Stevens

10:00am: Wrestling Tourney at Lamoure

2:00pm: Double Header hosts Leola-Frederick (Girls JV at 2 pm, Boys JV at 3 pm, Varsity girls at 4:40 pm and boys varsity at 6 pm)

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

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Shih Tzus 19, Chipmunks 14, Jackelopes 12, Pocket Gophers 10, Coyotes 9, Foxes 8
Men's High Games: Brad Waage 232, Mike Siegler 226, Roger Spanier 215, Doug Jorgensen 211, Roger Colestock 201, Steve Giedt 200
Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 186, 169, Sue Stanley 172, Vicki Walter 168, Lori Giedt 168
Men's High Series: Brad Waage 626, Mike Siegler 590, Roger Spanier 568
Women's High Series: Darci Spanier 474, Lori Giedt 458, Dar Larson 457

Conde National League

Team Standings: Mets 25.5, Cubs 25, Giants 19, Pirates 18, Braves 17, Colts 15.
Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 212, Bryce Dargatz 181, Troy Lindberg 179.
Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 541, Bryce Dargatz 516, Troy Lindberg 470.
Women's High Games: Alice Severson 173, Mary Larson 172, Michelle Johnson 168.
Women's High Series: Mary Larson 446, Alice Severson 445, Michelle Johnson 442.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Team Standings: Jungle Lanes 27, James Valley 26, Ken's 23, Ten Pins 20.
High Games: Vicki Walter 212 and 178, Vickie Kramp 161, Mary Jane Jark 159.
High Series: Vicki Walter 534, Mary Jane Jark 438, Vickie Kramp 433.

Smith Thank You

To the individuals and families who contributed to our "Bridal Shower Box" at Lori's Pharmacy,
Thank you so much for your generous gifts! Shane and I received many beautiful kitchen décor and serving dishes, as well as some bake and cookware. We are very excited to begin setting up our home together and have such wonderful things! I truly enjoyed being able to explain to my future in-laws the generosity of my community as I opened the gifts! They were amazed at the close-knit family and friends that I have had the privilege of being surrounded with during my time in Groton. I can only hope that the future communities Shane and I make our home in are half as welcoming as my childhood home!
Thank you so much,
Marah Smith

Snyder Family Thank You

A very heartfelt thank you from the family of Doc Snyder to the Classes of 1989 and 1991 for providing a special place for us to stay in Groton and to be together with extended family as we celebrated his life this week. A special thanks to all those who helped provide food and treats so generously for us here.
Thank you also to Kiersten Sombke and Vicci Stange for the extra TLC, additional food and childcare.
We appreciate all the thoughtfulness, prayers and loving support from the Groton community during this time.

No Girls JV Game on Saturday

There will be NO JV girls game this Saturday (12th) at 2pm vs L/F! Leola/Frederick does not have enough girls at this time to play a JV game. So, the JV boys game will start at 3pm on Saturday...followed by the Varsity girls and Varsity boys!

Schwan, Daly graduate from USD

Two Groton Area students have graduated from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, at its winter commencement. They are Shannon Lorraine Daly with a BS in Education and Anna Marie Schwan with a doctor of education degree and a first major in educational administration. Schwan is the Groton Area middle/high school principal.



Groton Chamber Holiday Boxes are out & about in Groton!

This Week (thru 12/11) – Lori's Pharmacy
\$25 Chamber Bucks OR Savory Seasoning!

Next Week (thru 12/18) – Professional
Management Supply
\$25 Chamber Bucks OR Mystery Gift!

Stop by each participating business 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

iGrow Readers Promotes Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Among South Dakota's Youth

BROOKINGS, S.D. - To combat obesity among South Dakota's youth, SDSU Extension developed iGrow Readers. A program which pairs children's books, like Little Red Hen, Bread and Jam for Francis and Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun, with activities which promote healthy eating and physical activity.

Today, the tested and evidence-based program is available online, free to the public on iGrow.org.

"After five years of testing, we are excited for the public to use iGrow Readers because it provides opportunities to increase healthy eating and physical activity in young children, their families and their caregivers," said Suzanne Stluka, SDSU Extension Food & Families Program Director.

Like most great ideas, iGrow Readers was inspired by a teaching tool initially created by an SDSU Extension team member to teach preschoolers about healthy eating.

"Children love being read to," Stluka said. "Storybooks have long been an avenue to promote one of the foundations for early childhood & elementary education, which is literacy and today, SDSU Extension uses them to serve as a conduit to promote physical activity and nutrition."

In 2010, Karlys Wells, SDSU Extension Associate decided it was time to standardize the lessons and update them to reflect MyPlate, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutritional guideline program which replaced the Food Pyramid.

"We have ever-increasing rates of obesity among young children - pre-schoolers even. If we can educate them early on about healthy eating and physical activity and how to incorporate both into their daily lives, it could positively impact the rest of their lives," said Wells.

With a master's in Curriculum and Instruction, Wells, along with guidance from several SDSU Extension staff and SDSU faculty members, developed the nutritional and physical activity curriculum, which accompanies all 31 books in the iGrow Readers collection. She also designed a parent newsletter for each book, which provides parents with background information and an easy recipe they can prepare with their child.

"iGrow Readers works because the stories, on their own, are compelling - so you have the child's attention. Then the curriculum is designed to link the stories to healthy eating and physical activity lessons which are taught through hands-on activities which engage the child yet again," Wells explained.

At home, at daycare or in school

Once the curriculum was developed - two nutritional activities and two physical activities accompanied each children's book - it was tested in Head Start, summer reading, community rec, after school programs and pre-schools.

"Our transdisciplinary team spent five years testing the program to make sure it is evidence-based and ready for use in a multitude of avenues," Stluka said.

The resulting data showed children who participated in iGrow Readers were more likely to try new foods and ask their parents for nutritional items when they grocery shopped together.

"In the end, children became aware of nutritional information and have a more positive attitude toward healthy eating and increased physical activity," Wells said.

Through iGrow Readers, parents, teachers and childcare providers can access the curriculum online for free. The only item they need to purchase or check out from their local library is the storybook.

"When we selected books, we made sure they were not only engaging and colorful, but readily available," Wells said.

iGrow Readers also includes eight Native American storybooks which come with Native American-focused lessons that in addition to healthy eating and physical activity, also promote Oceti Sacowin Essential Understandings for Native American programming.

An added benefit to iGrow Readers is that it can have a positive impact on an entire family.

"Data showed that children can have an impact on parents' eating and activity habits because they request healthier foods when at the grocery store," Wells said.

iGrow Readers is categorized by grade. To learn more and download iGrow Readers, visit www.iGrow.org.

S & S Lumber/Hardware Hank of Groton will be closing at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, for inventory and will reopen at normal hours on Thursday.

Tips for a Holiday Season Filled with Less Sugar & More Fun

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The holidays are here! It is a time to celebrate with family and friends - but for many of us, it is a time to over-eat, gain weight and feel sluggish, explained Megan Erickson, SDSU Extension Nutrition Field Specialist.

"On average, Americans gain 1 to 2 pounds during the holiday season. Making healthy choices during the holiday season can be a challenge," Erickson said. "But ask yourself this, "Do you really want your waistline to suffer year after another?"

The temptations of sweetness surrounds us - according to the American Heart Association, Americans are swallowing 20 teaspoons of sugar daily. "This contributes to 352 calories with zero nutritional value," Erickson said.

She added that consuming too much sugar can increase the risk of developing diabetes and obesity. "The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends limiting the consumption of added sugars," she said.

In today's society, people turn to food for energy. But, Erickson explained that if that food is sugary, it will raise blood sugars providing a short burst of energy which most likely will result in an energy crash. "Making healthy food choices is a method for boosting our energy levels. A balanced meal includes fruits, vegetables, lean protein, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products which will provide you with an overall lasting increased energy level," Erickson said. "By reducing your sugar intake, you may have more energy or even lose weight."

Tips to reduce your sugar intake this holiday season:

Scaled back coffee. Scale back slowly on the amount of sugar added to your morning coffee. Try a little low-fat milk, a pinch of cinnamon or even a sugar substitute. Shrink the size of your flavored coffee or ask for fewer flavored pumps.

Morning kick-start. Instead of reaching for the sugar to sprinkle on your cereal or oatmeal, try adding some fresh fruit or dried fruit.

Satisfy the craving. Try eating a piece of fresh fruit or fruit salad.

Swap out the pop. Select sugar-free or low-calorie beverages. Water is always the best choice.

Moderation. Select smaller portions of your favorite holiday treats.

Eat fresh, frozen, dried or canned fruits. Select fruits canned in 100% juice. Avoid fruit canned in syrup.

Substitution in baked goods. Substitute an equal amount of fruit puree, i.e. applesauce, for oil in cake, brownies or bread. The fruit will add flavor and keep your baked goods moist.

Reduce. In baked goods, such as cookies, pie fillings, and brownies, reduce the sugar by one-third to one-half. Try adding extracts such as vanilla, almond and lemon for added sweetness.

"You may be thinking that you have to leave out all of the holiday foods you love. That is not the case. Enjoy a cookie or two! Remember moderation is key," Erickson said.

By incorporating the suggestions provided above, Erickson said small cuts in sugar will make a big difference in creating a more energized self and a healthier lifestyle throughout the entire holiday season.

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10 to enter SD Sports Hall of Fame

Former Minnesota Vikings linebacker Ben Leber headlines a group of 10 people selected for induction into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2016. The group will be inducted on Saturday, April 9 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

Also chosen was Steve Heidenreich, the first South Dakotan to run a four-minute mile. Other athletes joining Leber and Heidenreich include Greg Hansen, Doug Schlepp (basketball) and Jim Mitchell (basketball), Patricia Reisdorfer (running) and Joe Trudeau (football). In addition, the class will include Rapid City Stevens wrestling coach Tom Long, Northern State basketball coach/athletic director Bob Olson and referee/volunteer Rich Hanson.

Ticket information for the 2016 Hall of Fame Banquet will be released at a later date. With this class of inductees, the SD Sports Hall of Fame boasts membership of 276.

Leber was actually selected last year but was unable to attend the induction banquet. Leber lives in Edina, Minn.; Hansen, Hanson, Reisdorfer and Mitchell in Sioux Falls; Trudeau in Jefferson; Long in Centennial, Colo.; Schlepp in Tucson, Ariz.; Olson in Aberdeen; and Heidenreich in Breckenridge, Colo.

Below are bios of the inductees:

Ben Leber. A 1997 Vermillion High grad, Leber played 10 seasons as a linebacker in the NFL, mostly as a starter. The 6-foot-3, 244-pounder was a third-round draft pick of the San Diego Chargers in 2002 and was an immediate standout as he was named to the Pro Football Weekly and Football Digest All-Rookie teams, finishing the year with 50 tackles, five sacks and three forced fumbles. He had 80 and 60 tackles the next two seasons before injuries limited him to 22 tackles in 2005. As an unrestricted free agent, Leber signed with the Vikings in 2006. That season, he had 46 tackles, three sacks, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries, including one in the end zone against the Detroit Lions for the only TD of his career. The next season was even better with 67 tackles and five sacks. In 2008 he had 64 tackles and he had 46 in 2009 and 2010. He played briefly for the St. Louis Rams in 2011 before retiring. In his career, Leber had 496 tackles, 24 sacks, 12 forced fumbles and five interceptions. At Vermillion, he rushed for 1,404 yards as a junior and 1,350 as a senior. Following his standout prep career, he became a two-time All-Big 12 linebacker at Kansas State. A third team AP All-American as a senior, he finished his career with 216 tackles which ranked fifth all-time in program history.

Steve Heidenreich. A 1971 Watertown High and Indiana University graduate, Heidenreich broke the 4-minute barrier a number of times. The 5-foot-10, 130-pounder was a top candidate to make the 1976 Olympic team in the 1,500 meters before a near fatal accident in March, 1976, when he was hit by a car while running. His best mile time was 3:58.4 in 1975. He ran a 3:38.8 1,500 (equivalent to a 3:56.0 mile) while representing the United States at a meet in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1975. Heidenreich anchored a 4-mile relay to a world indoor record in 1975. The first Big Ten runner to run a 4-minute mile indoors (4:00 exactly in 1976), he was Big Ten mile champ and All-American in 1975 (finishing fourth in the outdoor mile in 4:02.24). He also was sixth in the mile at the NCAA outdoor meet in 1974. In cross country for IU in 1972, Heidenreich won six straight meets, setting course records in five. At Watertown High School, he set state records in the mile (4:11.2) and 2-mile relay (7:55.1). He finished second in the mile (4:11.8) at a national prep meet near Chicago on June 12, 1971.

Greg Hansen. A 1970 Hurley High and Dakota Wesleyan graduate, Hansen averaged a double-double for eight consecutive seasons – four at Hurley and four at DWU – and was all-conference all eight seasons. At Hurley, the two-time all-stater had 1,989 points and 1,663 rebounds with career highs of 62 points and 34 rebounds. As a freshman, Hansen averaged 13 points and 13 rebounds, upping those numbers to 24 points and 21 rebounds as a senior. Also a standout in football, Hansen was recruited by legendary Maryland coach Lefty Driesell but elected to stay in South Dakota and play for DWU. For the Tigers, the 6-foot-7 forward started all 92 games and scored in double figures 89 times for Coach Gordie Fosness. In his DWU career, he scored 2,146 points and had 1,047 rebounds. He had career averages of 23.3 points, 11.4 rebounds and 3.3 assists a game. A big man with a soft touch and good shooting range, Hansen twice led the Tigers to South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference titles. He still holds the DWU single-season free-

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throw record of 92 percent. A member of the DWU, SDIC and South Dakota High School Basketball halls of fame, Hansen served as sports editor of the Mitchell Daily Republic and the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Rich Hanson: A 1954 Aberdeen Central and 1958 Northern State graduate, Hansen has been officiating high school and college sports since 1959. He was a high school and college basketball referee from 1959-79 and a football referee from 1963-84. He officiated the first football game at the DakotaDome in 1979. A track and field official since 1975, Hansen has been a starter for countless high school and college meets while also serving as a volunteer at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays since 1964. He has been supervisor of officials for the Sioux Interstate Conference, the Greater Dakota Conference and the Metro Conference. A commissioner of the South Dakota-Iowa Conference from 1998-2000, Hansen has been a longtime member of the Sports & Rec Committee of the Sioux Empire Area Chamber of Commerce. He received the National Federation Officials Association National Distinguished Contributor Award in 1995 and the NFOA active Track and Field Official Award for S.D. in 1991. Named the B'nai B'rith Sioux Falls Sportsman of the Year in 1995, he has received the Dan Lennon Award (USD), the Milt and Clara Harvey Award (Augustana) and the Steve Withorne Memorial Award (officiating). He was named to the Sioux Falls Public Schools Appreciation Hall of Fame in 2007.

Joe Trudeau. A 1969 Jefferson High and USD graduate, Trudeau starred on one of the most famous prep football teams in state history. He started four years on a Jefferson team that went 35-1 with a 33-game win streak. As a junior, he scored 20 TDs and caught 28 passes for a team that outscored foes, 676-27. As senior he scored 13 TDs and caught 25 passes (for 560 yards) and blocked 10 punts. Jefferson beat Onida, 35-13, in a much-ballyhooed game for the mythical state title as a senior. As a senior in high school, Trudeau was all-state in football and basketball and placed second in both the low and high hurdles at state, helping the Blackhawks win the state Class B track title. As a junior, he was honorable mention all-state in football and won the high hurdles and was second in the low hurdles as Jefferson won the state track title. As a sophomore, he led Jefferson to a second place team finish by taking second in the high hurdles and third in the low hurdles. From his standout prep career, Trudeau moved on to USD, where he was a standout in football and track. A two-time all-North Central Conference tight end, Trudeau set the school record for receiving yards in a season (543 yards on 22 receptions) and set the record for longest TD reception (84 yards vs. Idaho State) as a junior. As a senior, he helped the Coyotes to the NCC title. In track, he placed second in the high hurdles in the NCC meet as a junior and third as a sophomore. He is a member of the USD Hall of Fame.

Jim Mitchell: The all-time leading scorer in South Dakota School for the Deaf basketball history, the 6-foot-1 Mitchell averaged 27.2 points a game in 1954 as a senior, including a 52-point game against Worthing. Mitchell, who set the national deaf scoring record of 27.2 ppg, never scored fewer than 18 points in a game that season. He was named U.S. deaf basketball player of the year in 1954 by "Silent Worker" and "The Frat" publications. Mitchell, nicknamed "Dead Shot," averaged 25.7 points as a junior. He also was a standout in track and football. After high school, he excelled in basketball, softball, volleyball and bowling. He was an all-star seven times in basketball and three times in softball while competing for the Sioux Falls Deaf Club at the Midwest Athletic Association for the Deaf Tournament. Named MVP in basketball (1955) and volleyball, he was inducted into the MAAD Hall of Fame in 1970.

Tom Long: Long coached Rapid City high school wrestlers for 33 years – the first 13 at Rapid City High School and the last 20 at Rapid City Stevens. Perhaps best known for winning eight state titles during his tenure, he coached Olympian Randy Lewis to several national high school records. Lewis went on to win an Olympic gold medal in 1984. Long, who began his coaching career in 1956, was chosen national high school wrestling coach of the year in 1983. After retiring in 1989, he was named to the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's Hall of Fame in 2001.

Patricia Reisdorfer: A 1976 Adrian (Minn.) High graduate, Reisdorfer was the first woman inducted into the Augustana Athletic Hall of Fame (in 1990). She lettered in basketball, volleyball and track at Adrian. A walk-on, she won the first cross country meet she competed in at Augustana. In addition, she was Augustana's first female All-American in cross country, finishing 14th at the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (a forerunner of the NCAA) national meet in 1979 in Tallahassee, Fla. In track she

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set school records at 1,500, 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000 meters in 1980. The 10,000 time of 34:44 – still the school record – was set in Eugene, Ore., at the national meet, in which Reisdorfer was 11th overall and the top finisher among Division II runners. That time bettered her previous best, an all-time state collegiate record of 35:37 that she set at the AIAW Region 6 meet in Des Moines, Iowa. After college, she ran 12 marathons (including the 1987 Boston Marathon) and ran in numerous 5K/10K races.

Doug Schlepp. A 1970 Java High graduate, Schlepp had a stellar career at the South Dakota School of Mines, finishing as South Dakota's all-time leading men's collegiate basketball scorer with 2,440 points. And, what made it special was the 5-foot-11 guard set that mark before the advent of the three-point shot. He led the 1973 Hardrockers to their first ever appearance in the NAIA national tournament. At Mines, Schlepp still holds 13 school records, including points in a game (44) and free-throw percentage in a game (14 of 14), season (197) and career (617). He also holds the single-game assist record (18) and the season steal record (134). In his final three seasons, Schlepp averaged 24.3, 26.5 and 27.3 points a game. He earned honorable mention NAIA All-American honors in 1973 and was a third-team All-American in 1974. At Java, he was all-state in basketball while placing second in the high jump at the state meet.

Bob Olson: An Aberdeen Central and Northern State graduate, Olson played a central role in helping NSU succeed in athletics for almost 40 years. He was a standout basketball player for the Wolves after a great career at Aberdeen Central. As a four-year player for the legendary Bob Wachs, Olson built a reputation as one of the Wolves' best defensive players. He and his teammates compiled a 75-38 four-year record. Early in his coaching career, he coached the NSU women's basketball team to a 44-10 record in two seasons. He was named the NSU men's coach in 1985. In his 14 seasons in that position, Olson's teams were 305-129, won six conference titles and advanced to nine national tournaments, including two national championship games. Olson was named the national coach of the year once and the conference coach of year five times. He helped the school make the transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II. In 1999, Olson became the athletic director, serving NSU in that position for 13 years until he retired in 2012.



December 12, 2015

9:00am – 11:00am

At Professional Management Services (on Main St.)

Chamber Holiday Box will be available.

K & A Photography (Angela Dobbins & Kandi Weismantel)

will be available to capture your moments with Santa.

Will have order form for pictures or option for CD.

If would like more information please call (605) 228-9549.

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Here is how the Schwan's fundraiser works.

Customers phone in the order or order online
They use the code. 25179

If they regularly order online they are asked if they want to contribute to a fundraiser

That is when they put the code in.

Between Dec 2 and Jan 16, we will earn 20% of sales

If a customer orders an ecertificate-and online gift card we get \$10 for the \$25 ecertificate.

When you get an ecertificate, you can go in and purchase right away or you can print it out if you want to give it as a gift or save it for later.

Customers are limited to one ecertificate...BUT if you use an alternate email address you can purchase more than one

If you are not a regular Schwan's customer, when you place your order they will tell you what day
And approximate (2 hour) time they plan to deliver.

You can be a one time customer and support us.

If you order online you must give them a credit card number, however you can switch payment at the door.

It took me a few fundraisers to realize that if I purchase during the first 45 days I contribute 20% and save my ecertificates for after the Jan 16 date, duh! Before that I was purchasing ecertificates and using them right away.

Our greatest income will be during this 45 day period.
After that we will earn 5% until April 16.

Schwan's
Cares™
A Fundraising Network



Support Us

*Giving back to your community
never tasted so delicious.*

Schwan's Home Delivery offers over 350 delicious foods, flash-frozen at the peak of freshness and conveniently delivered to your door. Through Schwans-Cares.com, you can order from Schwan's Home Delivery and help our organization meet its fundraising goals. When you order by **January 16th, 2016**, 20% of product and 40% of eGift Card sales will go back to the organization.

Here are two ways to support us!

Order Online:

1. Visit Schwans-Cares.com
2. Enter Campaign ID: **25179** into the search box located in the upper right hand corner then click to open campaign.
3. Click "Shop to Give" and then select either the "Buy Now" or "Shop Now" option.
4. Select team member, if applicable
5. Start shopping!

Order by Phone:

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: **25179**

Thank you for your support!

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Shop online at Schwans-Cares.com
or call 1-855-870-7208



Today in Weather History

December 10, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across parts of Lyman and Jones Counties on the 10th and 11th. Some amounts included 6 inches at Kennebec and Okaton and 8 inches at Murdo.

December 10, 1699: A severe ice storm hit Boston, Massachusetts causing much damage to orchards.

1946 - The temperature at New York City soared to 70 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1949 - The barometric pressure at Las Vegas, NV, reached a record low reading of 29.17 inches (987.8 millibars). (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought high winds to the eastern slopes of the Northern and Central Rockies. Winds gusted to 97 mph at Mines Peak CO. In Wyoming, up to a foot of snow blanketed the Teton Village Ski Resort, northwest of Jackson. Strong chinook winds in the Central High Plains Region, gusting to 61 mph at Scottsbluff NE, warmed temperatures to near 70 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Squalls produced heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Totals in northeastern Ohio ranged up to 14 inches at Harpersfield, and totals in western New York State ranged up to 14 inches at Sodus. In the snowbelt of Upper Michigan, the Ontonogon area reported two feet of snow in two days. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Heavy snow fell across the northern and central mountains of Colorado, with 24 inches reported at Steamboat Springs. Six to twelve inches of snow fell in the Denver and Boulder area delaying plane flights and snarling traffic. Heavy snow also spread across the Central Plains into the Mississippi Valley. Winner SD received 11 inches of snow, and more than ten inches of snow was reported north of Sioux City IA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992 - A slow-moving Nor'easter storm batters the northeast U.S. coast killing 19 people.

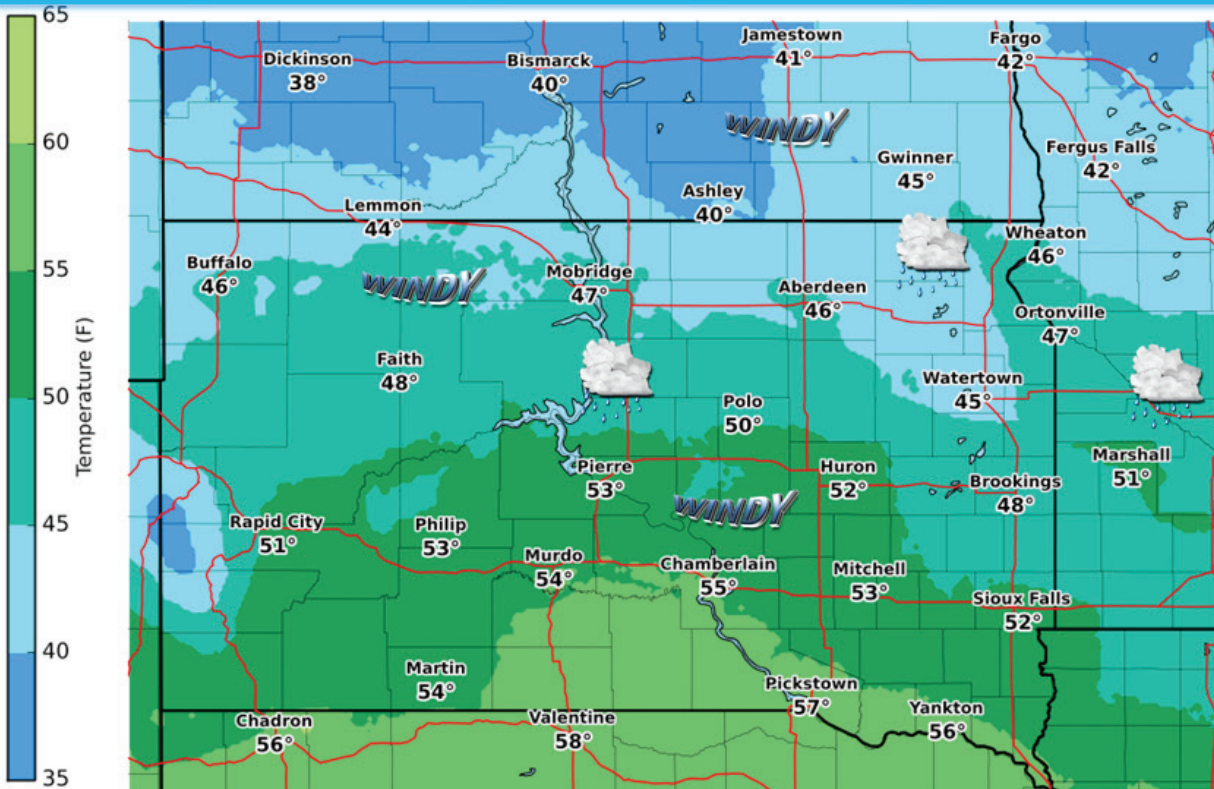
December 10, 2002: A shower of tiny fish rained down on Korona, a village in the mountains of northern Greece. A Greek television reported the incident was caused by a waterspout on Lake Doirani.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
20%		30%		20%	30%	
Breezy. Slight Chance Rain then Mostly Sunny	Increasing Clouds	Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy
High: 45 °F ↓	Low: 22 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 32 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 33 °F

Windy and Mild Again Today, Morning Showers East



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
12/10/2015 03:47 AM CST

Follow Us:   
weather.gov/aberdien

Published on: 12/10/2015 at 4:30AM

A system moving across the Northern Plains will bring a few showers, and gusty winds to the region. Temperatures will remain mild.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 42.2 at 3:15 PM

Low: 25.0 at 2:37 AM

High Gust: 25 at 11:22 AM

Precip: 0.00 - Raining

Today's Info

Record High: 58° in 1979

Record Low: -29° in 1972

Average High: 27°F

Average Low: 7°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.18

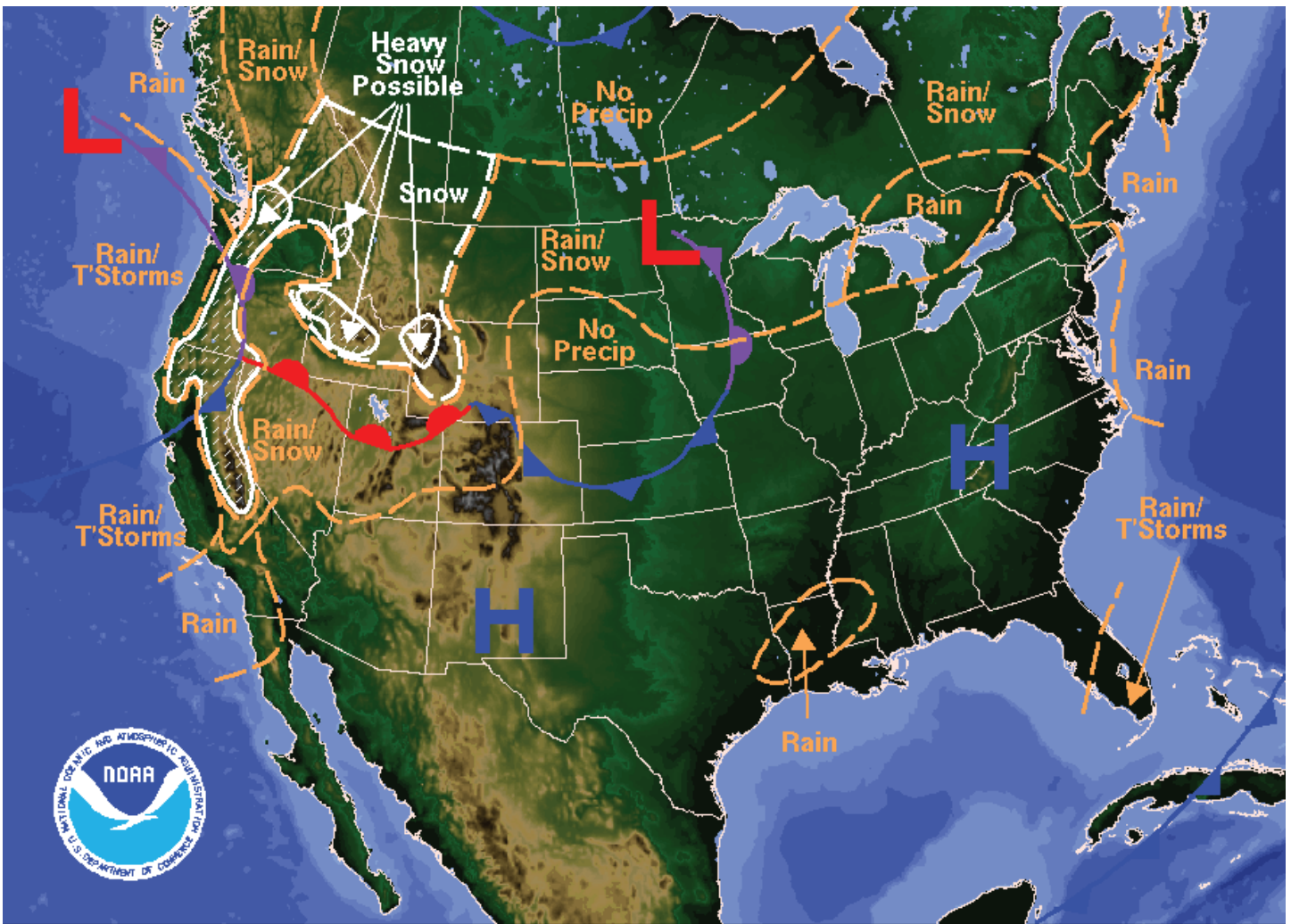
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.52

Average Precip to date: 21.38

Precip Year to Date: 20.34

Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:03 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Dec 10, 2015, issued 5:00 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



I'VE SHOT MYSELF

In Texas a man got tired of thieves breaking into his store. So he rigged a shotgun to shoot anyone who entered when it was closed. One morning he came to work and forgot to dismantle the trap. He opened the door and the gun went off. As he fell to the floor he cried, "I've shot myself!"

Sometimes our great ideas can get us "killed." We are attracted by the things of this world and become influenced by its many "traps." We begin to believe that our plans are better than what God has planned for us. Scripture teaches us that sin leads to death. We mindlessly walk in paths that lead to our destruction and death. Instead, we need to surrender our lives to God and to ask Him to make His way known to us as we read and trust His Word. We need to look to God for His purpose in our lives. As we accept His precious gift of salvation and eternal life, we must realize that we are citizens of His kingdom and obligated to live lives that honor Him.

Prayer: Father, help me recognize the sin in my life that keeps me from growing into the likeness of Your Son. I pray that Your Holy Spirit will convict me and cleanse me and make me pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

News from the Associated Press

Historical Society puts Civil War veteran records online

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society's Archives has put an index on its website listing information about dead Civil War veterans who were members of a fraternal veterans' organization in the state.

The historical society announced Wednesday that it had put information from the South Dakota Grand Army of the Republic's annual journals online.

The organization would list the known deaths of its members during annual meetings. The historical society says nearly 1,300 Civil War veterans were recorded in the journals between 1884 and 1937.

Historical society volunteers put the information in the database. State Archivist Chelle Somsen says the archive is grateful for the help volunteers provide for the benefit of the public.

Open Meetings Commission meet in Oacoma next week

OACOMA, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Open Meeting Commission is set to meet in Oacoma next week. Wednesday's agenda will include oral presentations on the Mitchell City Council, the Sully County Commission, the Sully County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Sully County Board of Adjustment. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. CST at the Cedar Shore Resort. It's open to the public.

The commission is made up of five state's attorneys. If the commission finds that a state or local board has violated the open meetings law, it can issue a public reprimand.

Registration now open for 109-mile Mickelson Trail Trek

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Biking enthusiasts can now register for next year's three-day, 109-mile Mickelson Trail Trek in the Black Hills.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says registration is now open for the 600 spots for the event's 19th edition.

The ride over the weekend of Sept. 16-18 runs from Edgemont to Lead-Deadwood. It is open to everyone 14 years old or older.

The event began as a celebration of the completion of the rails-to-trails project and continues as a way to introduce new riders to the trail.

The \$190 registration fee includes the trail pass, shuttle service, refreshments and some meals. Riders are responsible for accommodations and mechanical support.

Former Vikings linebacker Leber going into South Dakota hall

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former Minnesota Vikings linebacker Ben Leber is among 10 people being inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame next year.

The group will be inducted Saturday, April 9, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

Also among the group is Steve Heidenreich, the first South Dakotan to run a 4-minute mile, and Doug Schlepp, who ended his basketball career at the School of Mines as South Dakota's all-time leading collegiate scorer with 2,440 points.

Leber actually was chosen for induction in the 2015 class but couldn't attend, so he's being inducted with the 2016 class.

The 1997 Vermillion High School graduate played 10 seasons in the NFL, mostly with the Vikings. He also played for the San Diego Chargers and St. Louis Rams. He retired after the 2011 season.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 139 ♦ 15 of 31

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. WESTERN FIRMS CONNED BY 'DOUBLE FAKES'

AP finds that China's anti-counterfeiting investigations industry is rife with double-dealing by freelance investigators who boost their commissions by producing the fakes they are paid to fight.

2. WHAT SAN BERNARDINO GUNMAN'S RELATIONSHIP WAS TO GUN BUYER

Syed Rizwan Farook and the friend who bought the assault rifles used in the mass shooting were related through marriage and may have plotted an attack together three years ago.

3. WHAT ADVOCACY GROUPS FEAR IS ON THE RISE

They believe there has been a spike in anti-Muslim incidents across the U.S. that can be linked to the carnage in Paris, the mass shooting in California and the inflammatory rhetoric of Donald Trump.

4. PLANNED PARENTHOOD SUSPECT STUNS COURTROOM

Robert Lewis Dear, accused of killing three people in an attack on the Colorado clinic, defies his own defense attorney, declaring himself a "warrior for the babies."

5. WHICH ASIAN CITIES MAY BE IMPACTED MOST BY WARMING

Projections that seas will rise by more than 3 feet this century put Shanghai, Mumbai, Jakarta and Bangkok under water.

6. US KEEPS WRAPS ON NEW COMMANDO FORCE FOR IRAQ

Special ops forces being dispatched to Iraq to conduct raids against the Islamic State group do not fit neatly into the strategy for defeating the extremists.

7. HOW POSSIBLE TAX DEAL WOULD PLAY INSIDE BELTWAY

A late push by the White House and Congress to strike a deal extending dozens of tax cuts could end up delivering major political victories for Obama and Ryan.

8. LATEST POLICE SHOOTING REVEALS SHORTCOMING

San Francisco is one of only two large cities in the country barring its officers from using stun guns, and the city's police chief wants that to change.

9. DEBATE RANKLES HOLLYWOOD

The Golden Globe nominations are at the center of the drama surrounding the categorization of this year's movies and actors.

10. HOW MADONNA HONORED PARIS VICTIMS

The Material Girl staged an impromptu concert at Republique plaza, where she performed John Lennon's "Imagine" accompanied by a guitarist.

Man surrenders after hearing cops outside storage unit

EDGEWATER, Fla. (AP) — A man who authorities say was growing marijuana in a central Florida storage unit panicked when he heard a police helicopter hovering nearby and called 911 to surrender.

The problem? Edgewater police officers were in the neighborhood Wednesday afternoon to investigate an unrelated suspicious death.

It was shortly after 12:30 p.m. when 47-year-old Jasper Harrison told the dispatcher he was "the guy" they were looking for, adding he wanted to come out without being shot.

Harrison told the dispatcher he wanted police to contact him.

An officer called and got directions to his storage unit. Police found 150 grams of cultivated marijuana and nine plants inside. Harrison faces charges of growing marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school and intent to sell. It's not known if he has a lawyer.

Rubio joins brother to campaign on veterans' issues

CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Marco Rubio is using a real-life example to talk about his commitment to the Department of Veterans Affairs — his big brother.

The Republican presidential candidate and Florida senator will appear in Iowa Thursday with his brother Mario, an Army veteran. It'll be his first time on the 2016 campaign trail for Mario Rubio.

Marco Rubio will offer his plans to reform a system plagued by long delays for those seeking care and allegations of falsified records, according to his prepared remarks. As a prime example, Rubio will point to his brother, who served in the Army from 1968 through 1971, and has been waiting on dental work for a service-related injury.

"He's had to file a claim and wait for a hearing, which could take anywhere from 18 months to three years. Meanwhile, he's stuck waiting for the procedures he needs," Rubio says in his prepared remarks. "Mario is going through the exact same bureaucratic nightmare every other veteran in his situation has to go through. And like so many of them, he will tell you how confusing it has been, how even the forms he has to fill out seem almost intentionally complicated."

Rubio said his brother was injured during training and taken to a dentist but the visit was never officially recorded. So far, the VA has not provided work he needs today.

Marco Rubio is seeking more transparency and accountability at Veterans Affairs, promising to get rid of underperforming workers and provide more public oversight. He would also make it easier for veterans to seek private care.

Mario Rubio, 65, lives in Jacksonville, Florida where he works for the city.

Christmas comes early to 8-year-old disfigured by fire

MARY ESCH, Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, N.Y. (AP) — A little girl who lost her family and suffered disfiguring burns in an arson fire is having an incredible Christmas, thanks to the generosity of thousands of strangers around the world who were moved by her simple Facebook wish.

"This year's been magical, amazing," said Liz Dolder, who posted a picture of her niece, Safyre Terry, on Facebook earlier this month. The post showed Safyre with a Christmas card tree Dolder got at a thrift store, and said the 8-year-old hoped to get enough cards to fill it.

"I haven't found a word in my vocabulary to describe what has happened," Dolder said Wednesday.

Kevin Clark, a member of a motorcycle group who met Safyre at a benefit bikers held for her this fall, reposted the picture. Before long, it had been shared tens of thousands of times, and cards and gifts started pouring in from across the United States and overseas.

Another friend put a post on the YouCaring.com crowdfunding site with a \$15,000 goal to help Dolder and her husband, Mike — Safyre's new family — deal with medical costs and other financial challenges. More than \$174,000 has been donated since the Christmas card post went viral this week.

On Wednesday, Safyre opened some of the hundreds of cards and gifts that had arrived at a post office box in a local mall. There were teddy bears, stuffed kittens, handmade jewelry, personalized Christmas tree ornaments, whimsical socks, books and cards signed by whole classrooms of schoolchildren.

Safyre opened a silver box with a card that said, "Every princess should have a tiara. Here's yours," and then skipped to Dolder to show her the shiny rhinestone tiara, saying "Look, Mom!"

Safyre has endured much since the awful day in May 2013 when firefighters found her clutched in the arms of her dying father, who had shielded her with his body and saved her from the flames that killed him and Safyre's three younger siblings in their apartment in Schenectady in upstate New York. She has had countless reconstructive surgeries to rebuild her mouth, nose and face. She eventually lost a hand and a foot to repeated infections. But her spirits lifted considerably last January when a tracheal tube was removed and she was able to speak again.

"That's when she came back out," Dolder said, wiping away tears. "She's been through hell and back. But she's an amazing girl, just so full of life and love. We can't keep her to ourselves. We wanted to share with the world her message of faith, hope and love."

Safyre, with long sandy hair, pink leggings and glitter-spangled sneakers, showed not a hint of self-consciousness as TV cameras pressed in to record her opening gifts and cards Wednesday afternoon. Asked by reporters what she would say to the strangers who had been moved to send these things, she beamed into a camera.

"Thank you!" she said.

Planned Parenthood suspect: 'I am a warrior for the babies'

SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — The man accused of killing three people in an attack on a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic defied his own defense attorney in court, declaring himself a "warrior for the babies" who would not be silenced by the lawyer tasked with potentially saving his life.

Robert Dear, 57, repeatedly interrupted public defender Daniel King and accused him of seeking a gag order in the case to conceal what Dear portrayed as Planned Parenthood's crimes that led to the Nov. 27 assault. The conflict added a new level of turmoil to a politically charged case that has already sparked debate about when political speech becomes a call for violence.

"You'll never know what I saw in that clinic," a bearded, unkempt and shackled Dear yelled on Wednesday in one of more than a dozen outbursts as King successfully argued for the gag order by contending that public discussion of the investigation could prejudice potential jurors. "Atrocities. The babies. That's what they want to seal." A deputy squeezed Dear's shoulder in an effort to quiet him.

King appeared to be trying to follow the same playbook he used in his defense of Colorado theater shooter James Holmes, whom he convinced a jury earlier this year to spare from execution on the grounds of his mental illness. But, as Dear was formally charged with 179 counts of first-degree murder, attempted murder and other crimes that could lead to the death penalty, he was having none of it.

"Do you know who this lawyer is?" Dear exclaimed of King. "He's the lawyer for the Batman shooter. Who drugged him all up. And that's what they want to do to me."

Holmes was on anti-psychotic medication this year during his trial for the 2012 shootings that killed 12 people and wounded 70. He was sentenced to life in prison.

"Seal the truth, huh? Kill the babies. That's what Planned Parenthood does," Dear yelled later. At another point, he snapped at King: "You're trying silence me." Then he said: "Let's let it all come out. Truth!"

King did not directly address the outbursts, though at one point during a break he leaned over to Dear and said: "I know what you're trying to do; it's not going to work." King raised doubts about whether Dear is competent to stand trial, saying defense attorneys wanted investigators to turn over evidence as soon as possible so they could assess the "depth of his mental illness."

Colorado Springs police have refused to discuss a potential motive in the Nov. 27 attack, which wounded nine and killed three. But even before Wednesday's startling outbursts, there was mounting evidence that Dear was deeply concerned about abortion.

He rambled to authorities about "no more baby parts" after his arrest. And a law enforcement official told The Associated Press this week that Dear asked at least one person in a nearby shopping center for directions to the clinic before opening fire. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

On Wednesday, Dear interjected as Judge Gilbert A. Martinez discussed a pretrial publicity order, saying, "Could you add the babies that were supposed to be aborted that day? Could you add that to the list?"

At one point, Dear yelled simply, "Protect babies!"

Later, he accused his attorneys of being in "cahoots" with Planned Parenthood to "shut me up."

"I want the truth to come out. There's a lot more to this than for me to go silently to the grave," he shouted.

Dear has lived in remote locations without electricity or running water and was known to hold survivalist ideas.

One of his three ex-wives, Barbara Mescher Micheau of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, said he vandal-

ized 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.

Killed in the attack were Garrett Swasey, 44, a University of Colorado-Colorado Springs officer who rushed to the scene; Ke'Arre Stewart, 29, an Iraq war veteran who was accompanying someone at the clinic; and Jennifer Markovsky, 35, who also accompanied a friend at the clinic.

Five other officers were shot and wounded in the rampage.

Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers said Monday that responding officers rescued 24 people from inside the clinic building and helped remove 300 people from surrounding businesses where they had been hiding while the shooting unfolded.

Martinez set the next hearing for Dear for Dec. 23. A first-degree murder conviction can lead to life in prison or the death penalty.

At the end of Wednesday's hearing, the judge looked at Dear and said, "Are you finished?"

After California shooting, fears of Muslim harassment rise

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

MIKE BALSAMO, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A severed pig's head was left outside a mosque in Philadelphia. An Islamic center in Florida was defaced. A Sikh temple in California was vandalized by someone who mistook it for a mosque and left graffiti that included a profane reference to the Islamic State group.

Advocacy groups believe there has been a spike in anti-Muslim incidents across the United States in recent weeks that can be linked to last week's mass shooting in California and the inflammatory rhetoric of Donald Trump and other Republican presidential candidates. And they say that Muslims are fearful the backlash could lead to further harassment and violence.

"The spike began with the Paris attacks and has intensified with what happened in San Bernardino and now with what Donald Trump is proposing," Ibrahim Hooper, lead spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said Wednesday. "I have never seen such fear and apprehension in the Muslim community, even after 9/11."

The FBI, which keeps statistics on hate crimes committed nationwide, said data about 2015 will not be available until next year. But the Anti-Defamation League said it has tracked more than three dozen incidents since the Nov. 13 terror attacks in Paris that left 130 dead.

"We're talking at least three dozen that we're aware of and I'm sure there are many more incidents that haven't been reported," said Oren Segal, the director of the ADL's Center on Extremism.

"With legit terror attacks and the public discourse about them, it has created an atmosphere ripe for these types of stereotypes and incidents," Segal said. "People are exploiting them."

Segal said that the pace of the incidents appears to have picked up since the Dec. 2 shooting in San Bernardino that killed 14 people and injured 21 others. The suspects, Syed Rizwan Farook, and his wife Tashfeen Malik, later died in a gun battle with police.

That incident prompted Trump on Monday to propose a complete ban on Muslim immigrants into the US, triggering a fierce debate that has dominated the national political conversation. Advocates say other GOP presidential candidates also have fueled anti-Islamic sentiment, including Ben Carson who suggested a Muslim should not be president and Rick Santorum who questioned whether the U.S. Constitution protected Islam.

"The ground had been primed for this kind of harassment by the ongoing demonization of Islam," said Hooper. "After 9/11 there were hate crimes on the edges of society, but now it's in the mainstream with the leading Republican presidential candidate saying Muslims are not wanted in America."

Among the incidents reported since the California shooting:

— In Philadelphia, police have stepped up patrols around houses of worship after a severed pig's head was left outside the Al Aqsa Islamic Society. Police are continuing to investigate; no arrests have been made.

—A Florida man was arrested after authorities said he vandalized the Islamic Center of Palm Beach in North Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday. More than a dozen windows were broken.

—The imam of an Islamic center in St. Louis, Missouri, told a local television station that someone claiming to be a former Marine left a threatening voicemail message on the mosque's answering machine on Saturday. Fox 2 TV (KTVI), which obtained a copy of the recording, reported that the man said he "killed a lot of Muslims" and, using expletives, said he would decapitate Muslims.

Sometimes it's hard for authorities to decipher whether the suspects are fueled by bigotry or whether there's something else in play.

The New York Police Department said 55-year-old Piro Kolvani walked into the Fatima Food Mart in Queens on Saturday and had a brief exchange with the store clerk before allegedly assaulting him. The clerk, Sarker Haque, 53, told WPIX-TV his assailant shouted "I kill Muslims," before punching him in his left eye.

Kolvani told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he was trying to buy something in the store when he had an exchange with the clerk, but vehemently denied religion had any role. Kolvani was arrested on an assault charge but the Queens District Attorney's office has not determined if he'll be charged with a hate crime.

Court records show Kolvani, a resident of Jacksonville, Florida, was arrested there after allegedly pulling his pants down in front of a Walmart store on Nov. 21.

Judge rejects Texas' latest attempt to block Syrian refugees

PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A federal judge knocked Texas for offering "largely speculative hearsay" about extremists possibly infiltrating Syrian refugees seeking to resettle in the state, rejecting another attempt by Republican leaders to keep out families fleeing the war-torn country.

U.S. District Judge David Godbey's Wednesday ruling cleared the way for the last of 21 Syrian refugees, many of whom are children under the age of 15, to resettle in Houston on Thursday.

The first dozen arrived earlier this week despite Texas mounting the most aggressive campaign of nearly 30 states that have vowed to ban Syrian refugees following the Paris attacks. Texas is the only state that has taken the U.S. government to court in an effort to block resettlements, but Godbey signaled skepticism about the lawsuit filed last week.

"The fact that this Court is required to assess the risk posed by a group of Syrian refugees illustrates one of the problems with this case," Godbey wrote in a three-page order. "The Court has no institutional competency in assessing the risk posed by refugees."

Godbey, who was appointed to the Dallas court by former President George W. Bush, added that such questions are generally left to the discretion of the federal government.

The Obama administration says refugee vetting is rigorous and can take up to two years. The Justice Department first responded to the lawsuit by telling the court that states can't block resettlements, after which Texas abruptly dropped a request to halt the first wave of refugees from coming to Dallas.

But the second try from Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, filed Wednesday, said there was new "evidence" that refugees pose potential danger. He cited public comments this week from Republican Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, who said federal counterterrorism officials have indicated that individuals with terrorist ties have attempted infiltrating the U.S. refugee program. McCaul did not go into detail.

Paxton also argued that Texas law enforcement officials have concerns about refugee vetting. Godbey said that although the court recognizes the risks of terrorism, the state had failed to show "competent evidence" that the latest arrivals have intent to cause harm.

Texas "argues that terrorists could have infiltrated the Syrian refugees and could commit acts of terrorism in Texas. The court finds that the evidence before it is largely speculative hearsay," Godbey wrote.

Paxton spokeswoman Cynthia Meyer said the "safety and security of Texans is our utmost priority" and that the office will continue seeking information about arriving refugees.

Despite the ruling, Texas' lawsuit over refugee resettlements is not over. A hearing is likely to come in January, said ACLU attorney Rebecca Robertson, who is representing a resettlement nonprofit that Texas also sued.

Even as governors in some states say Syrian refugees aren't welcome, resettlement agencies and volunteer groups with refugees continue welcoming them. In Indiana, a couple and their two young children arrived at the invitation of the Roman Catholic archdiocese in Indianapolis, which went on with plans to resettle them despite calls from Gov. Mike Pence not to do so.

Pence and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott were among more than two dozen Republican governors who said they would refuse any new Syrian refugees following the deadly Nov. 13 Paris attacks, which have been linked to the Islamic State group operating in Syria.

Chicago mayor apologizes for teen's death, vows reforms

SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Mayor Rahm Emanuel, known for keeping vise-like control over Chicago and his own political image, finds himself in the weakest position of his long public career as he struggles to respond to a police scandal, claims of cover-ups at City Hall and calls for his resignation.

But the former White House chief of staff has said repeatedly that he will not step down. The nation's third-largest city has no process for a mayor to be recalled, though a state lawmaker from Chicago introduced a proposal Wednesday to allow for it. And most of the cries for Emanuel to resign have come from grassroots activists and residents, not from the city's political powerbrokers. The next election — should he seek another term — isn't until 2019.

On Wednesday, the mayor used a special meeting of the Chicago City Council to try to calm the firestorm, apologizing for the fatal shooting of a black teen by a white officer and promising "complete and total" reform.

"I take responsibility for what happened because it happened on my watch. And if we're going to fix it, I want you to understand it's my responsibility with you," Emanuel said during a sometimes-emotional speech that lasted nearly 45 minutes. "But if we're also going to begin the healing process, the first step in that journey is my step.

"And I'm sorry."

The remarks were Emanuel's lengthiest and seemingly most heartfelt since the public got its first look last month at the squad car video that showed 17-year-old Laquan McDonald veering away from officer Jason Van Dyke before Van Dyke began shooting, hitting McDonald 16 times. Van Dyke is charged with first-degree murder.

Critics have repeatedly accused Emanuel of keeping the footage under wraps until after he won a tougher-than-expected spring election for a second term. The mayor has denied the claim and acknowledged Wednesday that he should have pressed for prosecutors to wrap up their investigation sooner so the video could be made public.

But his contrition did little to ease the anger in the streets. Hours after the speech, protesters overflowed an intersection in front of City Hall, then marched through the financial district and blocked a major intersection for a short time as police directed traffic around them. Officers guarded the doors to the Chicago Board of Trade as demonstrators approached.

Outside City Hall, retired schoolteacher Audrey Davis carried a sign reading, "Mayor Emanuel is morally corrupt!"

Calling the speech "politically expedient," Davis said, "I don't want to hear anything from him except, 'I tender my resignation.'"

Davis, who is black, said she fears for her 25-year-old grandson when he comes home from college.

"Each time he comes home, my heart is in my throat in case he meets up with a racist cop," Davis said. "We shouldn't have to live like this."

Since the video emerged, Emanuel has scrambled to contain the crisis. He fired his police superinten-

dent after days of insisting the chief had his support. He also reversed course on whether the U.S. Justice Department should launch a civil-rights investigation, saying he would welcome it only after presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and other top Democrats endorsed the idea.

In news conferences, he has appeared worn down, fumbling answers to reporters' questions or avoiding them entirely by walking away, with cameras rolling. On Wednesday, Democratic state Rep. La Shawn Ford filed legislation outlining a lengthy process for a city special election.

"I don't think I've ever seen him grapple with anything quite like this," said longtime ally and adviser David Axelrod, who also served with Emanuel in the Obama White House.

Axelrod said Emanuel worked on the speech all weekend, with input from him and others. But he said the speech alone isn't what matters.

"You don't earn trust back with one speech," Axelrod said. "You earn trust back with actions."

The most likely effect of the crisis will come in the form of pushback from aldermen, who have long been considered a rubber stamp for the mayor's initiatives, said political consultant Delmarie Cobb. She said the black community "has been awakened," and Emanuel can expect a tougher re-election if he tries again.

"He definitely won't run unopposed, and it will be a viable candidate," said Cobb, who is black.

The mayor won re-election in April by a healthy margin, but only after suffering the embarrassment of not getting a majority in a five-candidate February election, forcing the first mayoral runoff in decades.

At the time, he pledged to listen more and to "bridge the gaps between the things that divide us."

In the months that followed, his public schools CEO, who oversaw closings of about 50 schools that angered many residents, was indicted on corruption charges. Emanuel also pushed through the largest tax increase in city history to deal with a budget crisis.

His administration has warned of massive mid-year layoffs in the public schools and is in the midst of rocky contract negotiations with the Chicago Teachers Union. This week, union members are voting on whether to authorize a strike. They could hit the picket lines as early as March.

After the video was made public, other flashpoints kept coming. Footage was released of another police shooting — this one deemed justified by prosecutors — and of another man who died in police custody. A review by the city's quasi-independent police watchdog agency showed that of 409 shootings involving police since 2007, the agency found only two with credible allegations against an officer.

Police reports from the McDonald shooting included officer accounts that differed dramatically from the video.

In his speech, Emanuel noted the problems are ones that have plagued Chicago for decades, and that there are no simple solutions.

"We have to be honest with ourselves about this issue. Each time when we confronted it in the past, Chicago only went far enough to clear our consciences so we could move on," he said. "This time will and must be different."

Category kerfuffle adds to drama of Golden Globe nominations

JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

Agreement has been hard to come by in Hollywood's awards season, even when it comes to who's in the hunt for what.

The Golden Globe nominations, which will be announced by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in Beverly Hills, California, on Thursday morning, are at the center of the drama surrounding the categorization of this year's movies and actors. Delineating drama and comedy (or musical) is a task unique to the Golden Globes, which honor films and lead performances for both. But this year, what roles qualify as lead or supporting parts is also stirring debate.

The disagreements are making for some peculiarities in a season considered unusually wide open. A day after receiving supporting actress nominations from the Screen Actors Guild Awards, for example, Rooney Mara ("Carol") and Alicia Vikander ("The Danish Girl") will be considered for a best actress Globes nod. The HFPA ruled that both are co-leads, vetoing the submissions of each film's campaign strategists.

The decision was applauded by some, who noted the considerable screen-time of each. (Mara's actu-

ally surpasses that of her co-star, Cate Blanchett.) More questionable, though, was the HFPA's decision to consider David O. Russell's "Joy" and Ridley Scott's "The Martian" comedies.

Such a route is considered slightly easier going for those movies. "The Martian," a box-office hit and a possible Oscar favorite, stands a better chance of winning best picture at the Globes as a comedy than as a drama, where the field includes Tom McCarthy's acclaimed Boston Globe drama "Spotlight," Todd Haynes' '50s romance "Carol" and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's frontier epic "The Revenant."

"The Martian" is first and foremost a sci-fi adventure, but it's at least peppered throughout with humor from Drew Goddard's script. "Joy," is no sure nominee, even in comedy, but it's in the more awkward position of not really containing any comedy. Though its director David O. Russell has usually blended melodrama with screwball, his latest, starring Jennifer Lawrence as a mother and an inventor, is his most sober film.

Judd Apatow, whose own Amy Schumer comedy "Trainwreck" will compete in the category, earlier scoffed at such category hijinks: "Trying to dominate the comedy category when you are really a drama afraid of dramatic competition is a punk move," he said on Twitter.

The category kerfuffle will be one thing to look for Thursday morning. So will be whether the Globes can shed any light on an awards season thus far all over the map. George Miller's "Mad Max: Fury Road" was named best film by the National Board of Review. The New York Film Critics Circle selected "Carol." And the Los Angeles Film Critics Association went for "Spotlight."

"Spotlight" comes into the Globes enjoying the status as Academy Awards front runner, but stinging slightly after two of its stars, Mark Ruffalo and Michael Keaton, failed to land supporting actor nominees from the Screen Actors on Wednesday. The film did earn a nod for best ensemble and a supporting nomination for Rachel McAdams.

Ricky Gervais will return as host for the Globes on Jan. 10. His third time in the gig follows three straight years of Tina Fey and Amy Poehler as hosts. Last year's NBC telecast dipped slightly from 2013's 10-year high, drawing 19.3 million viewers. Best drama went to Richard Linklater's "Boyhood," while Wes Anderson's "Grand Budapest Hotel" captured the comedy category.

Chinese-backed electric carmaker picks Nevada for \$1B plant

MICHELLE RINDELS, Associated Press

JUSTIN PRITCHARD, Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — A Chinese-backed electric car company with visions of revolutionizing transportation — but no product to show yet — announced plans Wednesday to build a \$1 billion plant near Las Vegas, marking the second time in just over a year that Nevada has landed a coveted project from the budding industry.

California-based automaker Faraday Future's choice of Nevada over three other states is contingent on state lawmakers' approval of tax incentives that haven't been publicly described. The company's announcement, in a letter to Nevada legislators that was obtained by The Associated Press, also came with the revelation that it's backed by a Chinese billionaire investor who styles himself after Apple's late Steve Jobs.

"We plan to revolutionize the automobile industry by creating an integrated, intelligent mobility system that protects the earth and improves the living environment of mankind," wrote Jia Yueting (ZHAW' YOO'-weh-ting), who's the founder and CEO of the holding company LeTV.

Faraday has offered few details on its product so far, but has said it hopes to bring a vehicle to market as early as 2017 and plans to unveil a concept car in January ahead of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Company spokeswoman Stacy Morris added that Faraday will share its manufacturing plans very soon.

Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval and his top economic development officer are scheduled to attend a news conference in Las Vegas on Thursday that's expected to include a formal announcement of a tentative agreement to bring the plant to North Las Vegas. Tax breaks to seal the deal would need authorization from Nevada lawmakers, who approved a \$1.3 billion incentive package in a special session last year to secure electric carmaker Tesla Motors' massive battery factory outside of Reno.

One automotive industry analyst noted Wednesday that Faraday was starting behind Tesla and traditional auto makers that are already developing technology to provide vehicle Internet access and over-the-air updates to electronic controls.

"I'm not saying they can't succeed, but they're not going to be first," said Stephanie Brinley, senior analyst with IHS Automotive in Southfield, Michigan.

Economics Professor Edward Leamer, director of the Anderson Forecast at the University of California, Los Angeles, said an upstart company might find it hard to sell enough vehicles to break even.

"It could be tough going," he said. "That whole electric vehicle marketplace is tough, with oil prices low."

The startup of about 500 employees has poached executive talent from electric carmaker Tesla and also draws its name from a luminary scientist — Michael Faraday — whose discoveries in the early 1800s laid the groundwork for the modern electric motor.

Nevada topped finalists California, Georgia and Louisiana in the race to land the 2.5 million square foot plant. It's expected to sit on 600 acres in North Las Vegas's Apex Industrial Park and bring 4,500 jobs to Nevada.

Mayor John Lee called the site choice "a transformational opportunity" for his city of about 220,000 residents. North Las Vegas boomed as the nation's fastest-growing city in the early 2000s and nearly busted when the recession hit and pushed it close to insolvency.

It also comes as Nevada, the state hardest-hit by the housing crisis, attempts to diversify its casino-heavy economy by attracting high-tech companies. In addition to clearing the way for Tesla, state officials have awarded hundreds of millions of dollars in incentives to encourage data centers to build and expand in the state.

"I'm excited about the opportunity and I hope it works out," said Republican Assembly Majority Leader Paul Anderson, who will need to rally support for the deal among lawmakers, some of whom have publicly expressed skepticism. "I look forward to working with people across the board to see if we can get these jobs created."

The Faraday Future news came a day after another Southern California company working on a futuristic transportation project, Hyperloop Technologies, announced plans to expand to the same industrial park. The firm, which is trying to develop a system that would propel passengers and cargo through nearly airless tubes at the speed of sound, said it will build a test track and conduct early-phase testing at the park.

Hyperloop officials, who haven't decided on a location for a larger, second-phase test track, said they chose Nevada because the state was able to move quickly to approve the project.

Faraday Future is another foray by a China-based firm into the US transportation market. A proposed high-speed train from Southern California to Las Vegas and an electric bus company are other examples, as a massive country that has grown at breakneck speed begins to export its expertise in moving people around.

Prosecutor will seek death penalty in Kentucky boy's death

VERSAILLES, Ky. (AP) — An Indiana man has been indicted for murder after police say he fatally stabbed a 6-year-old Kentucky boy in the head during a burglary. A prosecutor says he plans to seek the death penalty.

A Woodford County grand jury charged 32-year-old Ronald Exantus on Wednesday with murder, first-degree burglary, two counts of second-degree assault and one count of fourth-degree assault. He's accused of fatally stabbing Logan Dean Tipton early Monday in the boy's home while the child was sleeping.

Commonwealth's Attorney Gordie Shaw told the Lexington Herald-Leader (<http://bit.ly/1OiWarM>) that because the slaying was committed during the course of a first-degree burglary, it's a capital case. He declined to elaborate, and gave no information about why Exantus went to the boy's home.

Exantus is being held on \$1 million bond. Arraignment is Jan. 6.

Republicans call Interior's mine spill report 'whitewashed'

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Republicans alleged a "whitewash" of a Colorado mining accident that unleashed 3 million gallons of toxic wastewater and requested a nonpartisan investigation after the Interior secretary said Wednesday there was no evidence of criminal negligence.

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cleanup crew doing excavation work triggered the spill in August at the inactive Gold King mine near Silverton, Colorado. It fouled rivers in Colorado, Utah and New Mexico with contaminants including arsenic and lead, temporarily shutting down drinking water supplies and raising concerns about long-term effects to agriculture.

The accident prompted harsh criticism of the EPA for failing to take adequate precautions despite warnings a blowout could occur. Yet Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said a review by her agency showed the spill was "clearly unintentional."

"I don't believe there's anything in there to suggest criminal activity," Jewell testified during an appearance before the House Natural Resources Committee.

Republicans were dissatisfied. They pointed to earlier statements in which Jewell and other agency officials said the Interior review focused on technical mining issues — not the potential culpability of those involved in the spill.

Immediately after Wednesday's hearing, committee Chairman Rob Bishop asked Congress's non-partisan Government Accountability Office to investigate the Interior Department's evaluation. The Utah Republican accused Jewell and other agency officials of stonewalling his repeated efforts to obtain documents relevant to the spill.

Bishop also questioned why the authors of the Interior evaluation included an agency official, civil engineer Michael Gobla, who discussed cleanup work at Gold King with EPA prior to the spill. Gobla also worked with the EPA during its response to the accident.

"How can you claim this report was even remotely independent?" Bishop asked.

California Republican Rep. Tom McClintock later added that the Interior review was "a complete and deliberate whitewash."

The EPA Inspector General's Office is conducting a separate investigation.

With assistance from the minority Democrats on the House panel, Jewell sought repeatedly during Wednesday's 2-1/2-hour hearing to steer the conversation to the broader issue of tens of thousands of abandoned mines on public and private lands across the U.S.

"We are having another hearing that ignores the elephant in the room. Instead we are looking at a scapegoat," said Rep. Don Beyer, Democrat-Virginia.

Many of those are "legacy" mines whose owners have long since abandoned them, leaving taxpayers potentially on the hook for cleanup costs.

There is little money to spend on old mines that could cost tens of billions of dollars to clean up, Jewell said, leaving government officials struggling simply to determine the scope of the problem.

The response to the Gold King spill cost the EPA almost \$17 million through Nov. 24, according to an agency spokeswoman.

The spill occurred when workers for EPA and its contractor, Environmental Restoration LLC, started excavation work that was intended to allow them to safely drain the mine.

Among the questions still unanswered is why EPA's cleanup crew was seemingly caught unaware by the accident. A June 2014 EPA work order warned of the potential for a catastrophic blowout at Gold King after pressurized water had built up for years inside the collapsed entrance to the mine.

Federal officials have not released documents related to the Gold King investigation that The AP has sought through public records requests. That includes criticisms over the scope of the Interior evaluation, from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers geotechnical engineer who peer-reviewed the agency's work.

Jewell aide David Palumbo, the deputy commissioner for operations at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, said during Wednesday's hearing that pending record requests were under internal review to determine

what documents could be released.

There's also lingering disagreement over the role played by Colorado officials in the lead-up to the spill. Colorado officials have said they had no authority to manage, assess or approve any work at Gold King.

But officials from both the EPA and Interior have continued to insist that personnel from the Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety had agreed to the work being done when the blowout occurred.

Yahoo's new plan: Spin off itself, not its Alibaba stake

MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Internet pioneer Yahoo, under pressure from unhappy shareholders and desperate to avoid a huge investment-related tax bill, will break itself apart — just not in the way it had previously planned.

The company will now aim to spin off its struggling Internet business — essentially, everything associated with the Yahoo brand name — into a new company. Yahoo itself would then become little more than a holding company for its \$32 billion stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.

For most of the past year, Yahoo had planned instead to spin off the Alibaba stake into a separate holding company called Aabaco. That corporate maneuver was designed to sidestep more than \$10 billion in taxes Yahoo might otherwise owe. But the IRS jeopardized that plan by refusing to guarantee a tax exemption.

The about-face could mean big changes for hundreds of millions of users who rely on Yahoo websites, services like email and other mobile applications. CEO Marissa Mayer plans to outline a cost-cutting reorganization late next month; many analysts speculate that Yahoo may simply sell off that business if the latest overhaul doesn't bear fruit quickly.

The uncertainty and reshuffling threaten more distractions at a time when Yahoo is already struggling in digital advertising against rivals such as Google and Facebook. It also may raise more doubts about whether Mayer will be able to turn around Yahoo, even though company Chairman Maynard Webb said Wednesday that the board of directors remains in her corner after three-and-half years on the job.

"The bottom line is the saga continues," Macquarie Securities analyst Ben Schachter wrote in a Wednesday note titled "The Never-Ending Story."

Yahoo's new spinoff plan could be even more complicated than the original Aabaco spinoff. It may take more than a year before Yahoo shareholders get stock in a newly formed company that has yet to be named.

"This means they have squandered an entire year and now it's going to take another year while the core business continues to get weaker," BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis said.

With Yahoo hanging in limbo, prospective bidders could emerge for the company's Internet operations, which Wall Street has been valuing at next to nothing. Analysts believe Yahoo's websites, mobile applications, ad services and well-known brand eventually could be worth \$3 billion to \$5 billion. Suitors might include AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications, Comcast Corp., IAC/InterActiveCorp and private equity firms that specialize in buying troubled companies.

Webb, though, emphasized there are no plans to sell Yahoo's Internet business, which he called "tremendously undervalued" in a Wednesday conference call. The best path forward, Webb said, involves "separating the Alibaba assets from our operating businesses and also turning around the performance in our operating business."

Those remarks seemed to disappoint investors hoping that Yahoo's latest change in course might be a precursor to a sale. Yahoo's stock shed 45 cents to close at \$34.40. The shares have fallen by 32 percent so far this year.

Yahoo's board met last week to review Mayer's stalled turnaround attempts, as well as whether to move ahead with the previously planned Alibaba spinoff. Although the board unanimously voted in favor of dropping the spinoff, it emerged from last week's meeting with one less director. The company disclosed Wednesday that Paypal co-founder Max Levchin, a director recruited by Mayer, is resigning from the board to concentrate on running his latest financial services startup.

Mayer said she believes Yahoo's Internet business is in significantly better shape than when she arrived, largely because it is pulling in more traffic and advertising in the increasingly important smartphone and tablet market. Even so, Yahoo's net revenue declined by 8 percent from the prior year in the third quarter and an even steeper decline is forecast for the current quarter ending in December.

When Yahoo announces those fourth-quarter results next month, Mayer also plans to unveil a shake-up that is supposed to jettison the company's least profitable products and likely will lead to layoffs.

It will be the latest overhaul of a company that is now on its fifth full-time CEO in the past decade, all of whom have struggled to define what Yahoo's mission should be. In the backdrop, Yahoo also has had to ward off a hostile takeover bid from Microsoft Corp. and quell shareholder uprisings spearheaded by activist investors Carl Icahn and Daniel Loeb. Another activist shareholder, Jeff Smith of the New York hedge fund Starboard Value, had threatened to lead a mutiny if Yahoo's board hadn't backed off from the Alibaba spinoff.

"The narrative around Yahoo and our valuation is complicated," Mayer said Wednesday during an appearance on the financial news channel CNBC.

The handling of the Alibaba stake is crucial to Yahoo shareholders because of the money involved. If Yahoo is taxed on the gains in its original \$1 billion investment, the bill would exceed more than \$10 billion.

Yahoo also owns a stake in Yahoo Japan that's worth \$7 billion to \$8 billion. The revised plan calls for the Yahoo Japan holdings to move into the new company that will house its Internet operations.

Tech stocks lead a broad decline in the US market

BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A slump in technology shares on Wednesday helped turn early gains in U.S. stock indexes into losses across industries, extending the market's losing streak to a third day.

Investors sent the Dow Jones industrial average up 200 points in morning, then began dumping some big tech stocks. Apple fell 2.2 percent and Microsoft lost 1.5 percent.

By the end of the day, seven of the 10 industry sectors in the Standard and Poor's 500 index fell. Suppliers of raw materials, the focus of aggressive selling in recent days, rose 3.1 percent as investors hunted for bargains.

"You've got two days of massive selling of oil and commodity companies, so perhaps some are oversold," said Bryn Mawr Trust Chief Investment Officer Ernie Cecilia. He added, though, that they weren't cheap enough yet for him to join in the buying.

The Dow index lost 75.70 points, or 0.4 percent, to 17,492.30. The S&P 500 gave up 15.97 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,047.62. The Nasdaq composite dropped 75.38 points, or 1.5 percent, to 5,022.87.

Yahoo slumped after the struggling Internet company said it would scrap a spinoff of its big stake in the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. The stock lost 45 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$34.40. Yahoo said it will instead explore breaking off the rest of its business into a new company.

Some of the biggest gainers were stocks that suffered big losses the day before. Freeport McMoRan, a miner that fell 7 percent on Tuesday, rose 3.7 percent, gaining 25 cents to close at \$6.99.

Helping boost raw material stocks were news reports that two giant chemical companies, Dow Chemical and DuPont, were in talks to combine. Dow Chemical rose \$6.07, or 11.9 percent, to \$56.97. DuPont climbed \$7.89, or 11.8 percent, to \$74.49.

Oil drillers, which have been beaten down recently, also rallied. Exxon Mobil and Chevron each rose 1.3 percent, despite another drop in benchmark U.S. oil.

Bill Strazzullo, chief market strategist at Bell Curve Trading, said a recent slump in oil and other major commodities is signaling that the global economy is weak. That could mean more rocky days in the market.

"You got commodities in a death spiral, and that's just not impacting the U.S., but the global economy," he said. "Investors are taking off risk."

Among other stocks making big moves Wednesday, Costco fell \$9.15, or 5 percent, to \$159.72 after reporting weaker earnings than analysts were expecting.

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Benchmark U.S. crude slipped 35 cents to close at \$37.16 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 15 cents to close at \$40.11 a barrel in London. In other trading, wholesale gasoline rose 2.8 cents to close at \$1.232 a gallon, heating oil fell two cents to \$1.239 a gallon and natural gas fell 0.8 cent to \$2.062 per 1,000 cubic feet.

U.S. government bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.21 percent from 2.22 percent late Tuesday. The U.S. dollar fell to 121.24 yen from 123.05 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1023 from \$1.0890.

Previous and industrial metals futures closed broadly higher. Gold edged up \$1.20 to \$1,076.50 an ounce, silver rose seven cents to \$14.19 an ounce and copper gained a penny to \$2.07 a pound.

New rule: Truck drivers must electronically record hours

JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An estimated 3 million commercial truck and bus drivers must electronically record their hours behind the wheel under a new government rule aimed at enforcing regulations designed to prevent fatigue.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration plans to release the final rule on Thursday. A copy was provided to The Associated Press.

Drivers have been required to keep paper logs of their hours dating back to 1938, but accident investigators and safety advocates have long complained that it's easy to change the logs or keep two different sets of records to evade restrictions on hours. Electronic logging devices automatically record driving time by monitoring engine hours, vehicle movement, miles driven, and location information.

"This automated technology not only brings logging records into the modern age, it also allows roadside safety inspectors to unmask violations of federal law that put lives at risk," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said.

Efforts to require electronic logs that are more difficult to tamper with have been opposed by drivers who own their truck or small fleets of trucks. The drivers say the companies that hire them to haul freight will be able to access the electronic logs and pressure drivers who haven't reached their limit of legally-allowed hours to stay on the road even if they want to rest.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, which sued the safety administration to block the rule, says on its website that it questions "the need for truckers to spend money on an unproven technology that is no more effective than paper logs when it comes to safety and hours-of-service compliance."

The safety administration estimates the electronic devices will provide a net savings of \$1 billion a year, mostly through paperwork reductions. It also estimate about 26 lives will be saved and 562 injuries prevented each year. The rule also contains procedural and technical provisions designed to protect commercial truck and bus drivers from harassment resulting from information generated by the devices, the agency said.

The rule sets performance and design requirements for the devices. It also exempts from the requirements tow truck drivers, drivers who use time cards to record their hours and trucks and buses older than model year 2000. Drivers living in Canada and Mexico that operate on U.S. roads will also be required to use the devices.

The rule goes into effect in 60 days, and gives companies two years after that to start using the devices. Companies which have previously installed recording devices that meet current standards but don't meet requirements of the new rule can continue to use them for four years. The rule permits the use of smart phones and other wireless devices for recording driving hours so long as they satisfy technical specifications and are approved by the agency.

Although the Department of Transportation was ordered by Congress to develop regulations requiring electronic recording devices in 1995, the safety administration didn't take action until ordered to do so by a federal appeals court in 2004 in a lawsuit regarding limits on trucker hours. The agency's first attempt at a rule was overturned by another federal appeals court decision in 2011.

Three years ago, Congress again directed the safety administration to issue a rule requiring the devices and set a deadline of Oct. 1, 2013.

5 charged with plotting terror attack in Australia

KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — A teenager and four men were charged Thursday with planning a “terrorist” attack on an Australian government building, part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged plot, police said.

A 15-year-old and 20-year-old man from western Sydney were arrested and charged with “conspiracy to conduct an act in preparation for a terrorist act,” said Michael Phelan, the Australian federal police’s deputy commissioner of national security. Three other men, already jailed on separate terror charges, were later charged with the same offense, police said. All face a potential sentence of life in prison if convicted.

Officials said the arrests were not related to a new terror threat, but linked to a plot they uncovered a year ago that prompted a series of raids in Sydney in December 2014. That plot involved a plan to target a government building in Sydney, possibly a federal police building, Phelan said. Those arrested Thursday had been under police surveillance since then, which led to the charges.

Phelan was vague on details of the alleged plot, and said police weren’t sure exactly what role the teen may have played in the planning, what the specific target would have been or how the attack was to be carried out. Police believe the plot, and another one that would have targeted a random member of the public in Sydney, were influenced by extremists overseas, Phelan said.

“A lot of the people we are dealing with — and emphasizing this is only a small group of people — are clearly radicalized to the point of talking about and acting out with violence. How they’ve become radicalized, we don’t actually know,” he said.

Police have conducted a steady stream of raids across the country since the government raised the nation’s terrorism warning level in September 2014 in response to the domestic threat posed by supporters of the Islamic State group.

Sleepless, tense climate negotiators haggle over Paris deal

ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

LE BOURGET, France (AP) — Sleep-deprived and increasingly tense, diplomats and climate negotiators outside Paris struggled Thursday to narrow down a 29-page draft of an unprecedented deal to tackle climate change— but countries remained at odds on critical issues a day before the organizers’ deadline for an agreement.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reached out to two major developing nations — Brazil and India — and is expected to meet other negotiators as the Obama administration works for a deal that reflects its concerns about global warming but doesn’t require congressional approval.

Climate negotiations continued until about 5 a.m. Thursday (0400 GMT, 11 p.m. EST Wednesday) before resuming midmorning, and a new draft accord is expected to be released sometime during the day, a French diplomat said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations.

The draft released Wednesday left major issues unresolved, including the long-term goal of an eventual accord, and which countries should pay to help the most vulnerable nations cope with global warming.

The French organizers of the two-week talks want a final agreement by Friday night, though U.N. climate conferences rarely end on time.

This time is different from past talks, because the French organizers pushed countries to set their own emissions targets before the Paris conference, and the U.S. and China, who have clashed over climate in the past, bridged key differences earlier this year.

Another thing different this time is the scale of the proposed deal: Ministers from more than 190 coun-

tries are trying to craft the first climate accord asking all nations to reduce or slow their emissions. The previous agreement, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, required only rich countries to do so.

"The outlook is positive, but there is still a lot of work to be done," Elina Bardram, head of the EU climate delegation. The draft is "still too heavy."

Chinese negotiator Gao Feng was one of many suggesting the talks won't finish on time. "Friday or maybe Saturday, I think we will get it."

Kerry was holding talks at the Le Bourget conference site with the environment ministers of Brazil and India, according to the U.S. State Department. Brazil and India are among the biggest nations demanding that richer countries pay and do more to reduce carbon emissions.

One unresolved question for the deal is its long-term goal for fossil fuels — oil, coal and gas — that are the source of most man-made emissions and provide most of the world's energy today. Replacing them with renewable sources like wind and solar power requires big investments, which poor countries say they can't afford without help.

The document doesn't settle the sensitive question of whether advanced developing countries such as China and oil-rich Arab nations should join industrialized countries in providing financial aid.

Thai trafficking investigator flees to Australia

SYDNEY (AP) — Thailand's highest-ranking police investigator in charge of human trafficking has fled to Australia, telling Australian media on Thursday that he feared for his life after his findings implicated "influential people" at home who want to silence him.

Police Maj. Gen. Paween Pongsirin told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the Guardian Australia newspaper that he was too afraid to return to Thailand and planned to seek political asylum in Australia. A photograph showed him standing on the banks of the Yarra River in Melbourne, where he said he had arrived a few days ago.

It was the first sighting of Paween in weeks, following unconfirmed reports in Thai media that he had fled. His Thai mobile phones were switched off and he could not be reached for comment.

Paween headed a high-profile task force created earlier this year after the discovery of 36 bodies and shallow graves in the mountains of southern Thailand in May. The finding exposed a network of jungle camps run by traffickers, who human rights groups have long said worked in complicity with corrupt Thai officials, a claim authorities in Bangkok had routinely denied.

Thailand vowed a crackdown and put Paween in charge. Dozens of people were arrested, including local politicians in southern Thailand, government officials, police and a senior army officer.

Paween told The Guardian that he faced pressure not to pursue the perpetrators too enthusiastically.

His investigation was disbanded in September after five months, although it was far from finished, he said.

Soon after, he was abruptly transferred to an insurgency-plagued region of southern Thailand despite his protests that he would be targeted by traffickers and senior police involved in the trade. He quit his job and fled, he said.

Asked who halted the probe, Paween said: "Influential people involved in human trafficking."

He did not name anyone, but added: "Human trafficking is a big network that involves lots of the military, politicians and police. While I was supervising the cases I was warned all along."

Paween's comments are bound to embarrass Thailand's military government, which has promised to rid the country of traffickers and corruption.

The U.S. State Department in July said it was keeping Thailand on its human trafficking blacklist, and retained Thailand's Tier 3 ranking, the lowest level in its annual Trafficking in Persons report. The ranking designates Thailand as a country that has not made sufficient progress in tackling human trafficking.

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Ali responds to Trump's call to ban Muslims from entering US

WASHINGTON (AP) — Boxing legend Muhammad Ali on Wednesday criticized Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump's proposal to ban Muslims from entering the United States, calling on Muslims "to stand up to those who use Islam to advance their own personal agenda."

Ali, one of the most famous Muslims in the world, issued a statement saying, "True Muslims know that the ruthless violence of so called Islamic Jihadists goes against the very tenets of our religion."

He added, "I believe that our political leaders should use their position to bring understanding about the religion of Islam and clarify that these misguided murderers have perverted people's views on what Islam really is."

Ali's statement Wednesday, first reported by NBC News, did not identify Trump by name but was directed at "presidential candidates proposing to ban Muslim immigration to the United States."

"They have alienated many from learning about Islam," Ali wrote.

President Barack Obama, in a televised address to the nation Sunday night, called on Americans to reject discrimination, saying, "Muslim Americans are our friends and our neighbors, our co-workers, our sports heroes."

On Twitter early Monday, Trump asked, "What sport is he talking about, and who?" — even though Trump has met Ali several times, and even received an award named after the former heavyweight champion in 2007.

The 73-year-old Ali, who was born Cassius Clay, converted to Islam and changed his name in 1964.

Another Muslim sports icon, basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, weighed in Wednesday with an essay on Time.com. He described Trump as the Islamic State group's "greatest triumph," a candidate who "preys on the fears of the public, doing ISIS's job for them."

Abdul-Jabbar wrote that Trump's claims "have elevated him to the level of a James Bond super-villain. And like those villains, he is doomed to failure."

Also Wednesday, Detroit Lions running back Ameer Abdullah, who is Muslim, spoke with reporters about Trump's proposal.

"When you have someone like him say some things — he has a very large following — it's kind of disappointing from my perspective," Abdullah said. "I just encourage everyone to educate yourself before you take a stance on something that you may not really know about."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 10, the 344th day of 2015. There are 21 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 10, 1905, the O. Henry short story "The Gift of the Magi" was published in the New York Sunday World Magazine under the title "Gifts of the Magi."

On this date:

In 1520, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict demanding that he recant, or face excommunication.

In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state of the Union.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

In 1915, the Irving Berlin song "I Love a Piano" was copyrighted by Berlin's music company in New York.

In 1931, Jane Addams became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; the co-recipient was Nicholas Murray Butler.

In 1948, the U.N. General Assembly adopted its Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first black American to receive the award.

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, saying he accepted it "with an

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abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind.”

In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona.

In 1972, baseball's American League adopted the designated hitter rule on an experimental basis for three years.

In 1984, South African Bishop Desmond Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1994, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, pledging to pursue their mission of healing the anguished Middle East.

Ten years ago: A Nigerian jetliner crashed while landing in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, killing all but two of the 110 people on board. A U.N. conference on global warming ended in Montreal with an agreement by more than 150 nations (not including the United States) to open talks on mandatory post-2012 reductions in greenhouse gases. Chief U.N. nuclear inspector Mohamed ElBaradei (ehl-BEHR'-uh-day) accepted the Nobel Peace Prize. Former Sen. Eugene McCarthy, 89, died in Washington. Actor-comedian Richard Pryor, 65, died in Encino, California. Reggie Bush was named winner of the Heisman Trophy (however, Bush forfeited the trophy in 2010 because of improper benefits he'd received while a star running back at Southern California).

Five years ago: The Norwegian Nobel Committee honored Chinese literary critic Liu Xiaobo (lee-OO' show-BOH'), imprisoned for urging political reform, by presenting his \$1.4 million Nobel Peace Prize diploma and medal to an empty chair. A federal jury in Salt Lake City convicted street preacher Brian David Mitchell of kidnapping and raping Elizabeth Smart. (Mitchell was later sentenced to life in prison.)

One year ago: Current and former CIA officials pushed back against the Senate Intelligence Committee's report released the day before which concluded that the United States had brutalized scores of terror suspects during interrogations, calling the report a political stunt by Senate Democrats which tarnished a program that saved American lives. NFL owners moved quickly and unanimously to change the league's personal conduct policy, announcing it would hire a special counsel to oversee initial discipline.

Today's Birthdays: Soap opera creator Agnes Nixon is 88. Former Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter (YEYE'-tur) is 85. Actor Tommy Kirk is 74. Actress Fionnula Flanagan is 74. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tavares is 74. Actress-singer Gloria Loring is 69. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 69. Country singer Johnny Rodriguez is 64. Actress Susan Dey is 63. Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is 59. Jazz musician Paul Hardcastle is 58. Actor-director Kenneth Branagh (BRAH'-nah) is 55. Actress Nia Peeples is 54. TV chef Bobby Flay is 51. Rock singer-musician J Mascis is 50. Rock musician Scot (cq) Alexander (Dishwalla) is 44. Actress-comedian Arden Myrin is 42. Rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes) is 41. Rapper Kuniva (D12) is 40. Actor Gavin Houston is 38. Violinist Sarah Chang is 35. Rock musician Noah Harmon (Airborne Toxic Event) is 34. Actor Patrick John Flueger is 32. Actress Raven-Symone is 30.

Thought for Today: "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." - Amy Carmichael, American missionary (1867-1951).