

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 1 of 32

- 1- Johnson Agency ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Missing dogs
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- City Council Meeting Minutes
- 3- Frosty morning
- 4- Ord. 703 - Disposal of snow and ice
- 5- Schwan's to give to SD Destination Imagination
- 6- Lady Tigers go 6-0 with win over Langford
- 8 - Today in Weather History
- 9- Local Weather Forecast
- 10- National Weather Map
- 10- Local Weather
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12 - News from the Associated Press

Missing one red male lab Buddy and one black female lab Lucy. Call Franne Sippel 397-7949 or Marc 397-7950.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken patty sandwich, French fries, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Austin Luecke, Brett Anderson, James Torguson

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

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Good Cheer Circle

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

School Breakfast: Egg and cheese omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic toast, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham and raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, California blend vegetables, crazy cake.

Anniv: Bill and Vicki Podoll

Birthdays: Alfred Tastad, Carla Ronning, Samantha Bunke, Zachary Townsend, Stephanie Luvaaas-Jung

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Ladies Aid LWML

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

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

6:45pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St.
Groton, SD 57445

Office: 605/397-2424
Home: 605/397-8565



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 2 of 32

Minutes from City Council Meeting

January 4, 2016

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7pm at City Hall for their regular first monthly meeting with the following members present: Fliehs, Blackmun, Opp, Peterson, McGannon, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Glover was absent. Also present were: Attorney Johnson, Finance Officer Lowary, Shawn Lambertz, and Terry Herron.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Fliehs and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

The financial report was approved on a motion by Fliehs and seconded by McGannon. All members present voted aye.

The following bills were approved for payment on a motion by McGannon and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

Executive Payroll 484.85 salaries; Administrative Payroll 8,142.75 salaries; Public Safety Payroll 13,391.06 salaries; Public Works Payroll 25,211.36 salaries; First State Bank 7,919.24 ss & wh; Cons Fed Cr Union 975.00 emp savings; Office of Child Support Enforcement 344.31 child support; City of Groton 13.88 postage; 1st National Bank 6,975.69 West Sewer loan payment; 1st National Bank 4,344.69 RR Sewer Crossing loan payment; Blackmun, David 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Border States 2,179.09 materials; Chase Visa 1,398.55 refrigerator, supplies, postage; Daly, Kay 50.00 Heartland appliance rebate; Darrels Sinclair 14,654.00 tires; Fliehs, Duane 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Groton Chamber of Commerce 490.00 dues; Groton Ford 2,045.60 repairs; Groton Independent 120.40 subscriptions & publishing; Harry Implement 20.00 hose end; Heartland Waste 6,153.28 garbage hauling; Herron, Terry 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; James Valley Telecommunications 925.79 telephone, internet; Drew Johnson 1,075.00 legal services; Lambertz, Shawn 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Mahan, Tom 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Martin, John 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Milbank Winwater 62.77 repair cplgs; NECOG 1,533.89 dues; Northern Truck Equipment 124.31 spinner disc; NW Energy 10.00 nat gas; Professional Management Service 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; S&S Lumber 173.60 fluid, wood, brackets, lock; Schwab Inc 115.99 stampers, ink; SD Board of Operators Cert 36.00 cert renewals; SD Dept of Env & Nat Res 1,500.00 annual wastewater fee; SD Retirement 9,888.64 retirement; SD Water & Wastewater Assoc 20.00 dues; Stolle, Bill 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; US Postal Service 225.00 mail permit; Verizon Wireless 41.61 gate comm.; Walter, Don 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; WEB Water 9,600.79 water

Department reports were given by Terry Herron, Public Works Supt.; and Shawn Lambertz, Electric Supt. Topics included were skating rink, snow plowing, new LED street lights, servicing mowers, transformer change outs, and tree trimming. Herron and Lambertz left meeting at this point.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Peterson to recognize the following volunteers and employees and thank them for their service. All members present voted aye. Baseball volunteers: Lars Hanson, Justin Hanson, Matt Locke, Steve Giedt, Travis Antonson, Brenda Waage, David Blackmun, Mitchell Locke, Bary Keith, Jim Lane, Jerry Locke, and Steve Diegel; Planning and Zoning Commission members @ \$25/meeting: Les Hinds, Gordon Nelson, Jeff Steen, Sherwin Nyberg, and Chris Kahli; Elected Officials: Mayor Scott Hanlon @\$400/mon; Council Members: David McGannon, David Blackmun, Ed Opp, Mary Fliehs, Jay Peterson, and Burt Glover @ \$1,200/year; City Employees: Anita Lowary, Finance Officer @ 5,439.20/mon; Peggy Locke, Deputy Finance Officer @ 19.97/hr; April Abeln, Assistant Finance Officer & Police Secretary @ 19.54/hr; Stacy Mayou, Police Chief @ 4,826.64/mon; Jerry Bjerke, Asst Chief @ 4,324.32/mon; Justin Cleveland, Police Officer Level 1 @ 4156.88/mon; David Hunter, Police Officer Level 2 @ 3,661.84; Terry Herron, Public Works Coordinator & Street & Water Supt @ 27.10/hr; Dwight Zerr, Wastewater Supt @ 23.89/hr; Shawn Lambertz, Electric Supt @ 35.70/hr; Dan Sunne, Electric Lineman @ 30.60; Branden Abeln, Asst Street Supt @21.96/hr; Paul Kosel, Technology Specialist @ 23.30/hr; Jim Gerdes, Public Works Laborer @15.80/hr; Justin Olson, Warming House Manager @ \$9.25/hr; and Taylor, Holm, Jamie Krueger, Tara Telkamp, Landon Marzdan, Hunter Monson, and Joe Griebinghoff, Warming House Attendants @ \$8.50/hr.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 3 of 32

Moved by Fliehs and seconded by Peterson to give second reading to Ordinance No. 703, Disposal of Ice and Snow. All members present voted aye.

Legislative Days on Feb 2 & 3 in Pierre were announced and Lowary will attend for SDML.

Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer



Yesterday everything had a thick coat of frost on it from the fog that set in over night.

Ordinance No. 703

An Ordinance entitled "The Disposal of Snow and Ice".

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota that the following ordinance entitled "The Disposal of Snow and Ice" be added to the 2012 Revised Ordinances of the City of Groton to read as follows:

The property owner, tenant, person in possession, or person removing snow and ice from any sidewalk, public or private driveway, parking lot or parking area, shall dispose of accumulated snow and ice upon such property as follows:

- A. Snow and ice shall not be deposited on any sidewalk at any time.**
- B. Snow and ice shall not be deposited on any public street or alley at any time.**
- C. Snow and ice shall not be deposited so as to obstruct or interfere with the passage or vision of vehicular or pedestrian traffic at any time.**
- D. Snow and ice shall not be deposited upon or around any mailbox so as to obstruct or interfere with the delivery or collection of the United States Mail at any time.**
- E. Snow and ice shall not be deposited upon any fire hydrant, as specified above, so as to obstruct or interfere with access to the fire hydrant at any time.**
- F. Snow and ice upon the property shall be piled on the same property or hauled to any appropriate disposal site off premises.**

Passed first reading: 12/23/15

Passed second reading: 1/4/16

Published: 1/6/16

Effective date: 1/26/16

**Scott Hanlon
Groton City Mayor**

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 5 of 32

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!

© 2014 Schwan's Home Service, Inc. All rights reserved. 0301



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



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 6 of 32


Lance Frohling
Groton Location Manager
605-397-2671
frohlingl@fullcircleag.com

\$100 Off
When you spend
\$500 or more.

Must present coupon at time of purchase.
Expires 3-31-2016

HARR'S
Auto Body

FREE ESTIMATES • LIFETIME WARRANTY

225 BC Highway 19, Aberdeen ~ 605-725-4900

\$500
Trade Assistance
Voucher for purchase
of new or used vehicle

Must present coupon at time of purchase.
Expires 3-31-2016



www.harrmotors.com ~ 605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

\$100 OFF
Any Tree Service

\$50 OFF
Any Tree Service

Fully Insured.
Credit Cards Accepted.
* \$500 min. for \$100 off
\$300 min. for \$50 off.
Not eligible on previous estimates or work completed


FREE ESTIMATES
605-725-WOOD
Mason Dinger:
605-216-6098
Trevor Zeck:
605-216-8910

Lady Tigers go 6-0 with win over Langford

The Groton Area Lady Tigers went to 6-0 on the season with a 55-16 non-conference win over Langford Area Monday night in Groton. The Tigers led at the quarterstops at 18-2, 28-10 and 46-10.

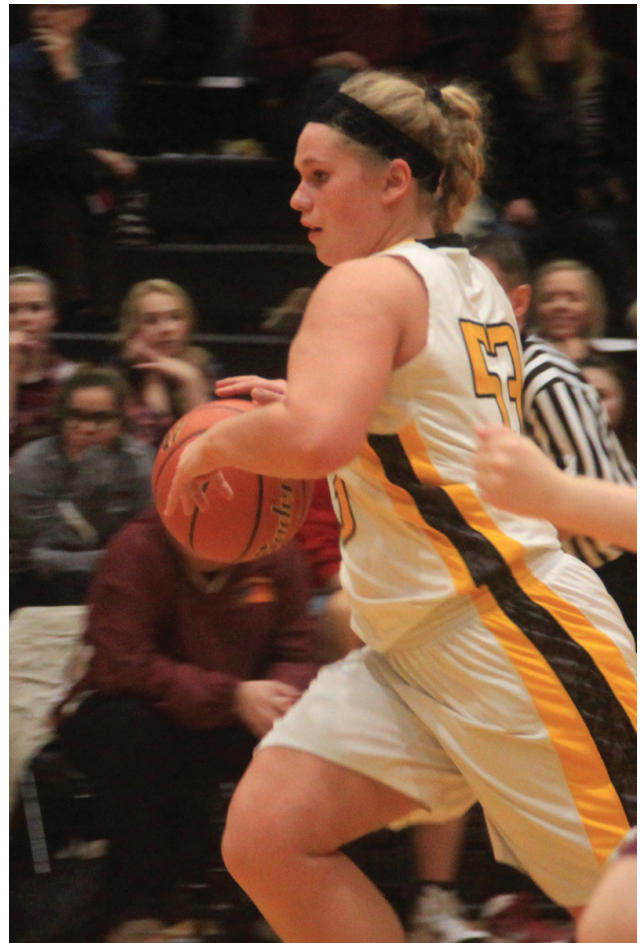
Carly Wheeting led the Tigers with 14 points followed by Katie Koehler with nine, Audrey Wanner eight, Gia Gengerke six, Harleigh Stange five, Alex Stange four, Jessica Bjerke three and Emily Locke, Miranda Hanson and Payton Maine with two each.

Groton Area made 49 percent of its field goals, was three of 11 from the line, had 25 rebounds with Wheeting having six, nine assists with Locke and Wheeting each having two, 24 steals with Locke having six, Gengerke had one block and the Tigers had eight turnovers and seven team fouls.

The Lions were led by Madi Nelson with six followed by Julia Swenson with five, Sami Wika three and Addy Taylor two.



Langford's Ashley Gustafson and Groton's Harleigh Stange. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Carly Wheeting. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 7 of 32



Jessica Bjerke. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Katie Koehler. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Shailei Sanderson had six rebounds for the Lions.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 40-19. Scoring for Groton Area were Payton Maine, Jenny Doeden and Taylor Holm with nine each, Miranda Hanson, Gia Gengerke, Alex Stange, Sam Menzia, Portia Kettering and Jodi Hinman with two each and Madison Sippel with one. The Lions were led by Shailei Sanderson with nine followed by Sami Wika with four and Ashley Gustafson, Madeline Reints and Bailey Widener with two each.

Groton Area will travel to Milbank Area on Thursday and will play Tea Area at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Redfield classic.



Audrey Wanner. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 8 of 32

Today in Weather History

January 5, 1994: A low pressure system traveled from the Dakotas, across southern Minnesota and to the Great Lakes Region, from the late morning of the 5th, through the early evening of the 7th. By the early evening hours on the 7th, up to three and one-half feet of snow had fell along the higher terrain of Lake Superior. The storm also produced heavy snow across parts of central Minnesota. Six inches or more occurred across much of central Minnesota. In west central Minnesota, Wheaton and Artichoke Lake received 5 inches, with 6 inches at Browns Valley.

January 5, 2012: Numerous record high temperatures were broken across central and northeast South Dakota along with west central Minnesota throughout the week. Some of the records were broken by as much as 12 to 17 degrees and had been held for 80 to 90 years. Aberdeen surpassed their all-time record high for January by 3 degrees with 63 degrees on Thursday, January 5th. Kennebec tied their all-time record high for January with 70 degrees on January 5th.

1835 - It was a record cold morning in the eastern U.S. The mercury at the Yale Campus in New Haven CT plunged to 23 degrees below zero, and reached 40 below in the Berkshire Hills of Connecticut. (David Ludlum)

1904 - Bitterly cold air gripped the northeastern U.S. Morning lows of -42 degrees at Smethport PA and -34 at River Vale NJ established state records. (The Weather Channel)

1913 - The temperature at the east portal to Strawberry Tunnel reached 50 degrees below zero to tie the record established at Woodruff on February 6, 1899. (David Ludlum)

1982 - A three day rainstorm in the San Francisco area finally came to an end. Marin County and Cruz County were drenched with up to 25 inches of rain, and the Sierra Nevada Range was buried under four to eight feet of snow. The storm claimed at least 36 lives, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - A massive winter storm spread heavy snow from the southwestern U.S. into the Rockies. In Utah, the Alta ski resort reported a storm total of 42 inches of snow. Winds gusted to 64 mph at Albuquerque NM. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



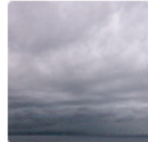

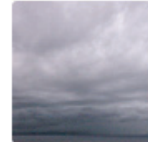


1988 - Thunderstorms helped produce heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Snow fell at the rate of four to five inches per hour, and snowfall totals ranged up to 69 inches at Highmarket NY. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

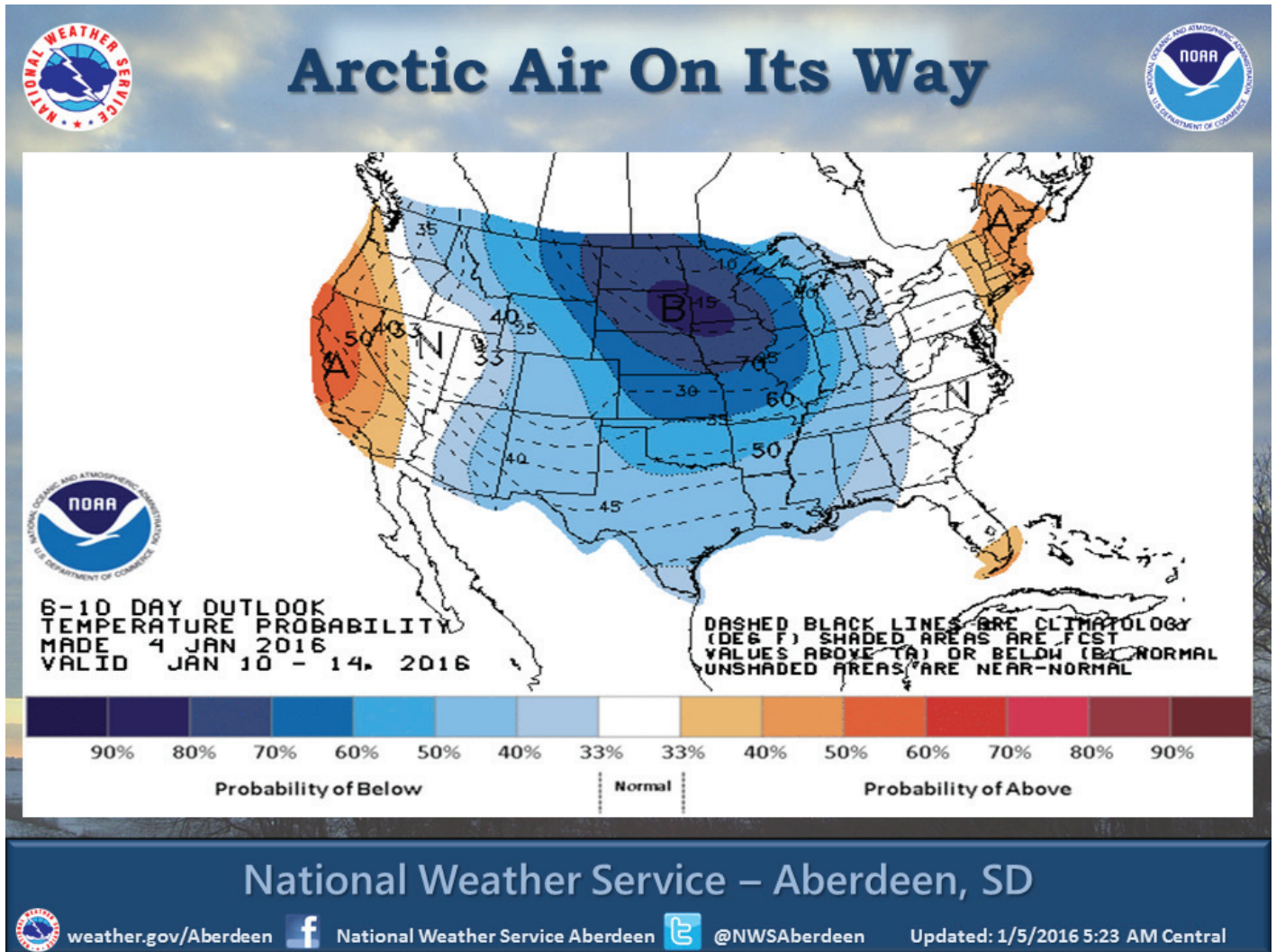
1989 - A strong Pacific cold front produced heavy snow and high winds in Nevada. Winds gusted to 80 mph north of Reno, while up to two feet of snow blanketed the Lake Tahoe ski area. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Central Gulf Coast Region. New Orleans, LA, was drenched with 4.05 inches of rain in 24 hours. An overnight storm blanketed the mountains of northern Utah with up to eleven inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 9 of 32

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Sunny and Breezy then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow 20%	Cloudy	Chance Snow 30%	Chance Snow 30%
High: 29 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 25 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 28 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 23 °F



It still appears that much colder air will be spreading south across the Dakotas and Minnesota this weekend and persisting into next week. The image shows the 6 to 10 day outlook for temperatures, which has very high probabilities for below normal across the area. Current forecast highs for Sunday may struggle to reach zero for eastern South Dakota, while overnight lows fall well below zero.

Published on: 01/05/2016 at 5:34AM

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 10 of 32

Yesterday's Weather

High: 18.9 at 1:48 PM

Low: 9.2 at 2:45 AM

High Gust: 11 at 7:26 AM

Precip: 0.0

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 2012

Record Low: -34° in 1912

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.07

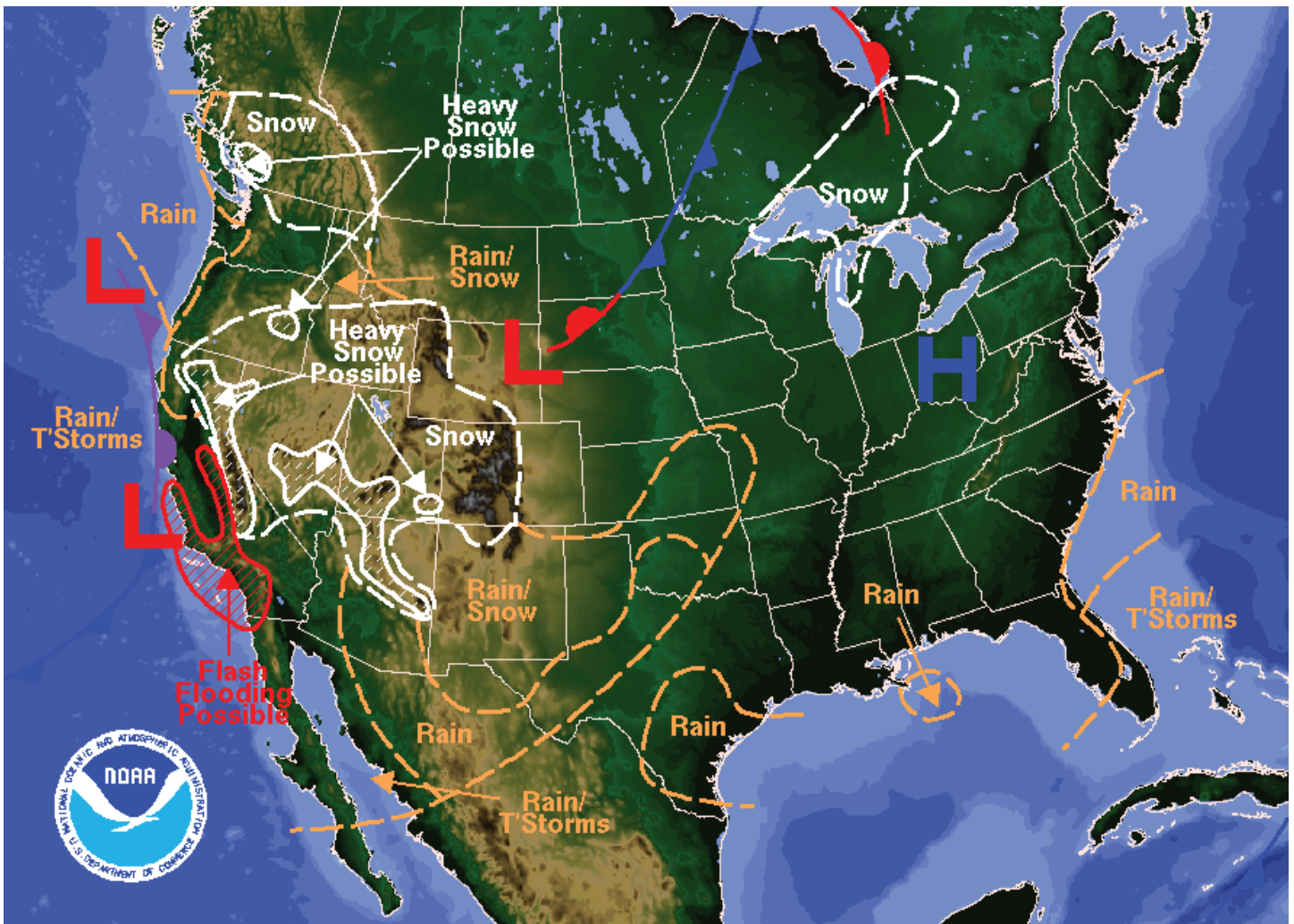
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.07

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:03 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jan 05, 2016, issued 3:15 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



THE WORLD ON FIRE

Read 2 Peter 3:10-13 NIV

A man said to Mark Twain, "I'm worried. The world's coming to an end."

"Don't be worried," replied the humorist. "We can get along without it."

There was a time when the trends and direction of men's lives were only toward evil, and the Lord destroyed the world with a flood.

Once more it seems that the trend of men's lives is toward evil and the world's about to be ripe for the destruction by fire.

St. Peter said, "But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

Since there'll be a new home of righteousness, let's make preparation for it.

Noah came into the ark before the flood. Why don't you come to the Lord before the fire?

Prayer: We need Thee, Lord Jesus, and we need Thee right now. We can't do without Thee. Come into our hearts right now: in Christ. Amen.

News from the Associated Press

Sioux Falls man gets 20 years for killing girlfriend in 2014

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man convicted of first-degree manslaughter in the stabbing death of his girlfriend has been sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Authorities say Michael Martinez stabbed 21-year-old Beverly Guerra 14 times with a knife during an alcohol-fueled argument in their apartment in July 2014. He was convicted last fall of manslaughter but acquitted of murder.

Judge Susan Saber sentenced Martinez on Monday, saying the incident did not warrant a light sentence but also did not call for the maximum punishment of life in prison. She called the 20-year sentence “middle ground.”

Members of Guerra’s family say they don’t think justice was served.

Guerra’s 3- and 6-year-old children were in a back room when she was killed. They were put in the custody of social service officials.

Sioux Falls convenience store robbed of cash at gunpoint

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating the armed robbery of a convenience store. A male wearing a hooded sweat shirt and a mask over his face walked into the Kum & Go store with a handgun about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Authorities say he fled on foot with an undetermined amount of money. No injuries were reported.

South Dakota DOT pays out nearly \$50M to counties, cities

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation has paid out nearly \$50 million in state highway funding to counties and some city governments.

The department says the funds replaced federal highway dollars, giving counties and cities more flexibility to pay for road and bridge projects. The funds for the payouts are the result of a bill approved by the 2015 Legislature that included a package of tax and fee hikes to generate funds specifically for roads and bridges.

After the bill went into effect, the department began an exchange of the locally available federal funds for state funds. Unlike the federal dollars, the state funds aren’t restricted to a particular highway project or road segment.

Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist says the funds should immediately help local governments “address critical infrastructure needs.”

State regulators to make decision on Keystone XL pipeline

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota regulators are set to decide whether to again approve construction of the embattled Keystone XL oil pipeline through South Dakota.

The Public Utilities Commission is scheduled to make a decision on Tuesday about the project.

The state authorized TransCanada Corp.’s pipeline in 2010, but permits must be revisited if construction doesn’t start within four years.

The commission is now considering the company’s guarantee that it can complete the project while meeting the conditions of the 2010 approval.

The pipeline would transport oil from Canada to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines headed to the Gulf Coast.

President Barack Obama blocked the pipeline in November. But an attorney for the company has said TransCanada remains committed to the project, which could be revived under the next president.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 13 of 32

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 56, Leola/Frederick 47
Arlington 60, Howard 25
Corsica/Stickney 60, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 32
Dell Rapids 79, Pipestone, Minn. 54
Garretson 64, Dell Rapids St. Mary 48
Herreid/Selby Area 70, Linton-HMB, N.D. 59
Hot Springs 60, Oelrichs 50
Lemmon 64, Grant County, N.D. 37
Potter County 60, Northwestern 34
Rapid City Christian 77, Dupree 28
Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 58, Eureka/Bowdle 43
Waverly-South Shore 56, Waubay/Summit 18
White River 85, Kadoka Area 33
Wolsey-Wessington 47, Mitchell Christian 42

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 67, Corsica/Stickney 45
Britton-Hecla 50, Rosholt 46
Colman-Egan 57, Marion 27
Deubrook 53, Chester 43
Groton Area 55, Langford 16
Irene-Wakonda 59, Freeman 58, OT
Kimball/White Lake 50, Miller 44
Leola/Frederick 65, Aberdeen Christian 32
Lower Brule 68, Iroquois 30
McCook Central/Montrose 65, Sioux Falls Christian 37
McIntosh 61, Solen, N.D. 40
Milbank 49, Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta, Minn. 45
Oelrichs 64, Hot Springs 51
Parker 58, Bon Homme 36
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 44, Harrisburg 31
St. Francis Indian 65, Ainsworth, Neb. 40
Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 34, Eureka/Bowdle 24

Deadwood woman claims \$6.7 million Hot Lotto jackpot

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Deadwood woman is now a multi-millionaire.

South Dakota lottery officials say Susan Nickle on Monday claimed a \$6.7 million Hot Lotto jackpot.

The odds of winning the Hot Lotto jackpot are 1 in about 29 million.

Nickle bought the ticket for the Dec. 9 drawing at a store in Johnson Siding. The store will receive \$10,000 for the sale.

Hot Lotto is played in 14 states and the District of Columbia. The jackpot sits at \$1.2 million for the next drawing, on Wednesday.

Secretary of State certifies loan interest rate amendment

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A constitutional amendment that would cap money lenders' interest rates in South Dakota unless a borrower agreed to a higher rate is on its way to the 2016 ballot.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Monday that her office approved the measure. Krebs' certification can be challenged through Feb. 3.

The office looks at signatures and petition completeness as part of its review before the measures can appear on the ballot.

The amendment would cap interest rates at 18 percent annually unless the borrower agreed to a higher rate in writing. It also says no law capping interest is valid unless the borrower can agree to a different rate.

The measure's sponsor didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The amendment requires a simple majority of votes to pass.

Police: SD man arrested after kidnapping ex-girlfriend

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities say a Sioux Falls man is facing kidnapping and other charges after he took his ex-girlfriend from her home on New Year's Eve.

Sioux Falls Police spokesman Sam Clemens says 40-year-old Roger Randall Stoebner was arrested Friday outside a local hospital where he had taken the victim for treatment.

Clemens says Stoebner carried the 36-year-old woman out of her home and to his van Thursday. Clemens says she tried to get out of the van at a stop light, but Stoebner pulled her back inside and hit her in the face and stomach. Clemens says Stoebner bit and continued to punch the woman after they got to another home.

Records show Stoebner remains at the Minnehaha County Jail.

It wasn't immediately clear Monday if he has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Survey gives continuing signs of Midwest economic doldrums

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy continues to slow in nine Midwestern and Plains states because crop and energy prices remain low and the strong dollar is hurting exports, according to a survey released Monday.

The region's overall economy index remained in weak territory and declined to 39.6 in December, from 40.7 in November. Any figure below 50 suggests a slowing economy.

"The U.S. dollar strengthened by almost 10 percent in 2015. This along with economic weakness among the nation's chief trading partners has squeezed, and will continue to squeeze, U.S. and regional manufacturers," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the monthly survey.

Business leaders were a bit more optimistic this month. The December confidence index improved to 49.1, from November's 41.2.

Business leaders are asked about a variety of factors each month and the results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The employment index fell to 37.1 in December, from November's 41.7. Goss said the region has lost about 18,000 manufacturing jobs over the past year, which represents about 1 percent of such jobs.

"Areas and industries heavily dependent on manufacturing, especially those linked to exports, agriculture and energy, are experiencing the largest losses," Goss said.

The export order index declined to 33.8 in December, from November's already weak 39.5. The import index grew to 40 in December, from 37 in November.

"The strong U.S. dollar, making U.S. goods less competitively priced abroad, and a weaker global economy, slammed new export orders for the month," Goss said.

The wholesale inflation index increased to 48.2 in December, from November's 42.6.

The inventory index also increased to 43.6, from November's 39.2.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 15 of 32

Powerball lottery ticket sold in Rapid City worth \$50,000

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Powerball ticket sold in Rapid City is worth \$50,000 in the latest drawing. South Dakota lottery officials say the ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Powerball to win the game's third prize in Saturday's drawing. The winning numbers are 5, 6, 15, 29 and 42, the Powerball is 10 and the Power Play is 2.

The odds of winning Powerball's third prize are 1 in about 913,000. Winners have about six months to claim their prize.

Powerball is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot is at \$400 million for the next drawing, on Wednesday.

Rapid City man hospitalized after explosion in mobile home

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man suffered what authorities say are life-threatening injuries in an explosion in a mobile home in Rapid City.

Fire Department Battalion Chief Rob Powell says the man in his 60s was taken to a hospital after the blast about 6:30 p.m. Sunday with burns to his face and upper airway. His name was not immediately released.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately determined but Powell says it appears to be accidental. He says it might be linked to an oxygen tank the man was using for breathing.

The home was destroyed and a pet was killed. Vehicles in front of the home and at least one neighboring home were damaged.

Pierre plumber accused of raping girl held without bond

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Pierre man accused of raping a teenage girl in a home where he had done plumbing work is being held without bond.

Thirty-year-old David Timmons is facing a rape charge that could land him in prison for life if he's convicted. He could enter a plea at a Feb. 17 hearing.

Timmons last week asked Magistrate Judge Leo Disburg to grant him bail, saying he wasn't a flight risk. Disburg sided with prosecutor Graham Oey, who requested no bond, saying Timmons was a flight risk and also a danger to the girl.

The Capital Journal reports that a major factor in the judge's decision was that Timmons' parents refused to accept custody of him while his case proceeds.

Chicago lawyer resigns after judge rules he hid evidence

MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A top city of Chicago lawyer stepped down after a federal judge accused him of hiding evidence in a fatal police shooting, the latest allegation of wrongdoing amid ongoing scrutiny of how the city deals with such cases.

Separately, the city agency that investigates police shootings vowed greater transparency, saying Monday that it would start divulging some details of active cases as it tries to bolster public confidence in the process.

Since November, Chicago has been dealing with fallout from the release of a video showing a white officer fatally shooting black teenager Laquan McDonald. The video prompted protests and led to a wide-ranging civil rights investigation of the entire police department by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Monday's 72-page opinion from U.S. District Judge Edmond Chang was part of a civil lawsuit brought by relatives of Darius Pinex, a black man, who was shot and killed by police during a 2011 traffic stop in Chicago.

The officers, Raoul Mosqueda and Gildardo Sierra, said they opened fire as Pinex refused orders and put his car in reverse. The officers had said they stopped Pinex because his car matched a description they heard on their police radio of a car suspected of involvement in an earlier shooting. But records emerged

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 16 of 32

after the trial began that officers weren't listening to the channel broadcasting the radio traffic about the suspect's car. The judge said a city lawyer "intentionally concealed" that evidence.

The judge on Monday tossed a jury's finding in April that the police shooting was justified, ordered a new trial and instructed the city to pay attorney's fees to the plaintiffs.

"Attorneys who might be tempted to bury late-surfacing information need to know that, if discovered, any verdict they win will be forfeit and their clients will pay the price," the judge wrote. He said Jordan Marsh, a senior corporation counsel, also later lied about when he was aware of the evidence.

The judge also accused the law department, which defends city employees accused of wrongdoing, of shoddy record-keeping, saying it contributed to the problem in the Pinex case.

The city law department announced Marsh's resignation later Monday, saying it "does not tolerate any action that would call into question the integrity of the lawyers who serve" Chicago. It also said it was reviewing its training and evidence-gathering procedures.

But a lawyer for the Pinex family, Steve Greenberg, said Marsh's actions reflect on the city law department as a whole. He accused the department of not acting quickly enough when it realized its attorney wasn't forthcoming about critical evidence.

"It shows the city hasn't just fought to protect officers, it also fights tooth and nail to protect its lawyers," he said. "I don't think they cared that (Pinex) got killed, they didn't care what the truth was and they didn't care they cheated (with the evidence)."

A city law department spokesman said he did not have a way to leave a message for Marsh seeking comment. And there was no public telephone listing for a Jordan Marsh in Chicago.

Also Monday, the head of the Independent Police Review Authority — which is responsible for investigating complaints of excessive force by officers — told reporters that greater openness about ongoing investigations would be a point of emphasis as she tries to win the lost confidence of Chicagoans, many of which believe the agency has operated for years to bury police wrongdoing.

Sharon Fairley said IPRA still won't be able to divulge all the details about investigations while they are underway. But she added: "The difference is we are no longer going to be standing by a hard-and-fast rule that we will never discuss the details of an investigation until it's complete. I think that position is now untenable."

In McDonald's case, IPRA and city officials cited the ongoing investigation in not making the video public for more than a year. It was released Nov. 24 following a state court order. It showed Officer Jason Van Dyke shooting McDonald 16 times as he walked away from police carrying a folded 3-inch knife.

Protests sparked by the video included some directed at IPRA, which was created in 2007, ostensibly with the independence it needed to hold officers accountable. But in practice, it rarely ruled against officers.

Fairley also announced several other reforms, including the hiring of a new chief of staff, a new chief investigator and the creation of a new community outreach position.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed Fairley, a former federal prosecutor, to head IPRA last month after her predecessor resigned amid the growing protests.

Fairley also announced Monday that she was not aware of any video of another recent disputed police shooting.

On Dec. 27, police fatally shot 55-year-old Bettie Jones, who authorities said was killed accidentally, and 19-year-old Quintonio LeGrier, who police said was being "combative." Both were black.

Attorneys for Jones' family filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city Monday. A wrongful death lawsuit was filed last week by the father of LeGrier.

Bee Gees manager Robert Stigwood dies at 81

LONDON (AP) — Impresario Robert Stigwood, who managed the Bee Gees and produced 1970s blockbusters "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever," has died. He was 81.

Stigwood's office said he died Monday. The cause of death wasn't immediately available.

Born in Adelaide, Australia, in 1934, Stigwood moved to Britain in his 20s and managed Eric Clapton and Cream before signing brothers Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb, collectively known as the Bee Gees.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 17 of 32

He later moved into movies, producing films of the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" and The Who's rock opera "Tommy," as well as disco drama "Saturday Night Fever" — set to a Bee Gees soundtrack — and the nostalgic musical "Grease."

Lloyd Webber paid tribute to Stigwood on Twitter, calling him a "great showman who taught me so much."

No-hurry defense: Refuge takeover requires delicate response

REBECCA BOONE, Associated Press

GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

BURNS, Ore. (AP) — The armed activists who flocked to a remote wildlife refuge to take a stand against the federal government also looked prepared for a nippy day of hunting or fishing.

They were bundled in camouflage, plaid shirts, ear muffs and cowboy hats in the bleak, snow-covered high desert of eastern Oregon where they seemed more likely to encounter a bird or animal than a member of the public outside their own group or the throng of news media beyond the pickup trucks blocking the entrance to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

That may be one of the main reasons law enforcement hadn't taken action Monday against the group numbering close to two dozen who were upset about the imprisonment of father-and-son ranchers who set fire to federal land.

"These guys are out in the middle of nowhere, and they haven't threatened anybody that I know of," said Jim Glennon, a longtime police commander who now owns the Illinois-based law enforcement training organization Calibre Press. "There's no hurry. If there's not an immediate threat to anyone's life, why create a situation where there would be?"

Schools were closed for the week in Burns, about 30 miles north of the refuge, out of an abundance of caution, but no one had been hurt and no one was being held hostage on Monday.

The takeover puts federal officials in a delicate position of deciding whether to confront the occupiers, risking bloodshed, or stand back and possibly embolden others to directly confront the government.

The activists seized the refuge about 300 miles from Portland on Saturday night as part of a decades-long fight over public lands in the West.

The armed group said it wants an inquiry into whether the government is forcing ranchers off their land after Dwight Hammond and his son, Steven, reported back to prison Monday.

The Hammonds were convicted of arson three years ago for fires on federal land in 2001 and 2006, one of which was set to cover up deer poaching, according to prosecutors. The men served no more than a year until an appeals court judge ruled the terms fell short of minimum sentences that require them to serve about four more years.

Their sentences were a rallying cry for the group calling itself Citizens for Constitutional Freedom, whose mostly male members said they want federal lands turned over to local authorities so people can use them free of U.S. oversight.

The group — led by two of the sons of rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a 2014 Nevada standoff with the government over grazing rights — sent a demand for "redress for grievances" to local, state and federal officials.

"We have exhausted all prudent measures and have been ignored," Ammon Bundy said.

The group, which included a couple of women and some boys and girls Monday, did not release a copy of its demands and Ammon Bundy would not say what the group would do if it got no response.

President Barack Obama said Monday federal authorities were monitoring the situation, but agents made no apparent moves to surround the property or confront the group — an approach that reflected lessons learned from bloody standoffs at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and Waco, Texas, in the early 1990s.

That prompted complaints from many observers who suggested the government's response would have been swifter and more severe had the occupants been Muslim or other minorities.

"There seems to be somewhat of a reluctance to think white people are as dangerous as people of color," said Heidi Beirich of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 18 of 32

Beirich said the group was emboldened by the government's failure to hold Cliven Bundy or his supporters accountable in 2014 after hundreds of armed anti-government activists rallied to his defense when federal authorities started seizing his cattle over more than \$1 million in unpaid grazing fees.

Michael Barkun, an emeritus professor at Syracuse University who has studied extremist groups, said not confronting the Oregon group could embolden others.

"You can say, well, a negotiated settlement emboldens them," he said. "But by the same token it deprives them of a confrontation that some of them want."

The Hammonds have distanced themselves from the protest group and many locals, including people who want to see federal lands made more accessible, don't want the activists here, fearing they may bring trouble.

Seeds of the dispute date back decades in the West, where the federal government owns about half of all land.

In the 1970s, Nevada and other states pushed for local control over federal land in what was known as the "Sagebrush Rebellion."

Supporters wanted more land for cattle grazing, mining and timber harvesting and opponents wanted federal government to administer lands for the widest possible uses, including environmental and recreational.

The refuge established in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt to protect birds from hunters selling plumes to the hat industry has expanded to 300 square miles over the years.

The valley rimmed by distant mountains contains lakes and marshland and now surrounds the ranch Dwight Hammond bought with his father in 1964.

Hammond said his family resisted pressure to sell the ranch as the federal government chipped away at his grazing allotments and increased fees on other lands.

Ammon Bundy said the group plans to stay at the refuge as long as it takes.

A look at where countries stand in Saudi Arabia-Iran dispute

JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Diplomatic tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which began with the kingdom's execution of a Shiite cleric and later saw attacks on Saudi diplomatic posts in the Islamic Republic, have seen countries around the world respond.

Some nations have followed the Saudis' lead in severing or downgrading ties with Iran, while others have offered words of caution aimed at cooling the war of words before it escalates further.

Here's a look at where countries and other regional actors stand at this point:

THE MAIN ACTORS:

SAUDI ARABIA — The kingdom severed ties to Iran after attacks on two of its diplomatic posts following its execution of a Shiite cleric last weekend; it also later cancelled all flights between the two nations.

IRAN — Since the attack on the diplomatic posts, Iran says it has made arrests and has criticized the violent protesters. However on Tuesday, President Hassan Rouhani took a slightly harder line, saying Saudi Arabia's move to sever ties with his country couldn't "cover its crime" of executing Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr.

COUNTRIES BACKING SAUDI ARABIA:

BAHRAIN — The tiny, Shiite-majority island kingdom off the Saudi coast, which long has relied on Saudi Arabia for support of its Sunni rulers, was the first to cut ties with Iran. Bahraini officials repeatedly have accused Iran of training militants and attempting to smuggle arms into the country, which hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

SUDAN — The African nation cut its diplomatic ties to Iran and gave Iranian diplomats two weeks to leave the country. Sudan once tilted toward Iran, but has been looking to Saudi Arabia for aid since the secession of oil-rich South Sudan in 2011.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — The oil-rich country of seven emirates says it will reduce the number of diplomats in Iran, recall its ambassador and focus only on business relations. While backing Saudi Arabia,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 19 of 32

it may have chosen to reduce — rather than completely sever ties — because of a long trading history with Iran.

KUWAIT — The oil-rich country is recalling of its ambassador from Tehran, but it isn't immediately clear how Kuwaiti-Iranian diplomatic ties will be affected. Tiny Kuwait is home to both Shiites and Sunnis living in peace and has the most free-wheeling political system among all Gulf nations.

THE MEDIATOR:

OMAN — The sultanate has long historical ties to Iran and served as the base for secret talks between Iranian and U.S. officials that jump-started the deal reached between Iran and world powers over the Islamic Republic's contested nuclear program.

THOSE BACKING IRAN:

LEBANESE HEZBOLLAH MOVEMENT — Hezbollah was founded in 1982 with the help of Iran's Revolutionary Guards after Israel invaded Lebanon. The group is one the main Iran-backed factions in the region.

SYRIA'S EMBATTLED PRESIDENT BASHAR ASSAD — Iran has been one of the biggest supporters of Syria since the 1980s and has stood by Assad's government in his country's grinding civil war. Saudi Arabia has been one of the biggest benefactors of those trying to overthrow him.

OTHER REGIONAL ACTORS:

ISRAEL — Israel considers Iran to be its greatest regional threat because of its nuclear program, its arsenal of long-range missiles, its support of anti-Israel militant groups and its repeated threats to destroy it. While Israel has no direct ties to Saudi Arabia either, the countries have come closer because of a shared concern over Iran's growing influence.

THE PALESTINIANS — The Palestinian Authority issued a statement after the execution of al-Nimr saying that it stands alongside the Saudis in their fight against "terrorism." The Saudis are the largest donor to the Palestinian Authority in the Arab world, providing them some \$200 million annually. The PA, and the Fatah faction that leads it, has had a strained relationship with Iran because of its support of its rival, Hamas.

YEMEN — The Arab world's poorest country is torn by a civil war pitting its internationally recognized government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, against Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who are supported by Iran.

THOSE URGING CAUTION:

THE UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged Saudi Arabia and Iran to support peace efforts in Syria and Yemen and avoid escalating tensions.

EUROPEAN UNION: The 28-nation bloc, which opposes the death penalty, criticized Saudi Arabia's mass executions and said al-Nimr's case undermined freedom of expression and basic political rights in the kingdom. Since tensions flared between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the EU foreign policy chief has had phone contact with both sides, fearing an escalation would further destabilize the whole region.

THE UNITED STATES — The White House has urged Saudi Arabia and Iran to not let their dispute derail efforts to end the Syrian civil war, while President Barack Obama's administration also hopes to see the Iranian nuclear deal through.

UNITED KINGDOM — Britain and Iran reopened their respective embassies in 2015, four years after hard-line protesters stormed the British embassy in Tehran. Saudi Arabia is a key diplomatic and economic ally of Britain, though Middle East Minister Tobias Ellwood said Britain told the kingdom about its "disappointment at the mass executions."

TURKEY — Turkey has urged both Saudi Arabia and Iran to ease tensions, saying the Middle East region is "already like a powder keg" and cannot withstand a new crisis.

GERMANY — Berlin has called on Saudi Arabia and Iran to work to mend their diplomatic ties, while condemning both the mass executions in the kingdom and the storming of the Saudi missions in Iran.

RUSSIA — State news agency RIA Novosti quoted an unnamed senior diplomat as saying Moscow is ready to act as a mediator between Iran and Saudi Arabia. It's unclear whether Russian officials have made a formal offer to work with the two nations.

India says all 6 militants killed in air base siege

CHANNI ANAND, Associated Press

TIM SULLIVAN, Associated Press

PATHANKOT, India (AP) — Indian forces have killed the last of the six militants who attacked an air force base near the Pakistan border over the weekend, the defense minister said Tuesday, though soldiers were still searching the base as a precaution.

Manohar Parrikar stopped short of saying the operation was finished, but Indian officials have said repeatedly that only six gunmen were involved.

Parrikar did not explain how just a handful of gunmen managed to paralyze a large Indian air base for almost four days, insisting that security forces had done "a commendable job." Seven Indian soldiers were killed during the attack.

"I see some gaps (in intelligence) but we will be able to understand only after the investigation. But I don't think we compromised on security," he told reporters after touring the scene of the fighting. He noted that the base is large, and wooded in some places, making it difficult to pin down the gunmen.

Indian officials had been warned beforehand that an attack could be imminent at the Pathankot base, and had flown commandoes there in case of trouble. The warning came after the gunmen kidnapped an off-duty policeman near the base two days before the attack began, apparently to steal his vehicle. The policeman was freed the next day, and warned security forces that a team of heavily armed militants was in the region.

Parrikar said the militants' weapons included AK-47 assault rifles with makeshift rocket launchers attached, mortar rounds that could be fired from the launchers, pistols, and 50-60 kilograms (110-130 pounds) of ammunition.

In the first known claim of responsibility, the United Jihad Council, an alliance of 13 Kashmir-based rebel groups, claimed that its "highway squad," which normally attacks military convoys, carried out the attack.

Alliance spokesman Syed Sadaqat Hussain said in a statement to Current News Service, which is based in the Indian portion of Kashmir, that the attack was a message to India that its security forces were not beyond the militants' reach.

The council is based in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir, the Himalayan region divided between the countries but claimed in its entirety by both.

Sharad Kumar, chief of India's National Investigation Agency, has said that telephone intercepts suggested the attackers were from Pakistan. He gave no details on those intercepts in an interview Tuesday with the television news channel TimesNow.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, on Tuesday, Modi's office said in a statement, noting the Indian prime minister emphasized the need for Pakistan to act against those responsible for the attack.

The attack followed Modi's surprise recent visit to Pakistan and came days before top foreign ministry officials were to meet in Islamabad to discuss a range of outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training insurgents in its portion of Kashmir. Pakistan denies that and says it only provides moral and diplomatic support.

French president honors Charlie Hebdo, kosher market victims

SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Francois Hollande has honored 17 victims killed in Islamic extremist attacks on satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, a kosher market and police a year ago this week, unveiling plaques around Paris marking violence that ushered in a tumultuous year.

Tuesday's ceremonies come as Charlie Hebdo is releasing a special anniversary issue laced with obscene and offensive cartoons, its surviving artists and columnists vaunting their freedom to lampoon everyone from Muslim fundamentalists to children, politicians and Catholic priests.

Victims' families joined Hollande and other dignitaries near the building where Charlie Hebdo staff were holding an editorial meeting when two heavily armed brothers stormed in on Jan. 7, 2015, killing 11 people.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 21 of 32

The plaque begins: "To the memory of victims of the terrorist attack against freedom of expression."

They then paid homage to a police officer killed as he tried to chase down the fleeing gunmen. Spray painted on the sidewalk was a message of support for the Muslim officer, reading "Je suis Ahmed," or "I am Ahmed," in the red, white and blue of the French flag.

After the attacks, people around the world embraced the expression "Je suis Charlie" to express solidarity with the slain journalists, targeted for the paper's caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

Hollande then paid homage to four people killed at a kosher supermarket in an attack that revived concerns about anti-Semitism in the country with Europe's largest Jewish community.

The French president briefly met with some of the survivors of the attack inside the supermarket, including Lassana Bathily, a Mali-born employee of market who hid a group of hostages in the store's underground stockroom. Bathily then sneaked out to speak to police and help the operation to free the 15 hostages and kill the attacker.

Bathily has been hailed as a hero and granted French citizenship.

He told Itele television he was there "to share the moment with families and friends of the victims and colleagues ... to show that we are here with our heart."

The Charlie Hebdo memorial plaque was hastily covered up after authorities discovered a spelling error in the name of slain cartoonist Georges Wolinski. The black covering was later removed, and a new plaque is being prepared after the embarrassing incident.

Hollande will unveil another plaque on Saturday to honor police officer Clarissa Jean-Philippe, who was killed in the southern Paris suburb of Montrouge by one of the attackers on Jan. 8.

Charlie Hebdo's anniversary edition blames Islamic fundamentalists, organized religion, an irresolute government and intelligence failures for the 2015 violence in France.

The widow of a bodyguard killed at Charlie Hebdo said on RTL radio Tuesday that she wants an investigation into security measures at the paper. Ingrid Brinsolaro said her husband "saw dysfunctions" and a lack of security in the office and "it was impossible to do his job correctly in these conditions."

Wolinski's widow told France Info radio she "gets more and more angry" at security gaps. Marise Wolinski said the entrance of the office should have been "bunkerized."

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said he was open to the idea of an investigation, but also defended the government's efforts to ensure security. Also speaking on RTL radio, he said authorities have dismantled 18 recruitment networks and arrested 11 groups planning attacks, and thwarted six attacks since last spring.

The country remains under a state of emergency after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris that killed 130 people, and extra security was on hand for Tuesday's commemorations.

Firm to pay up after making workers clock out for bathroom

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A Pennsylvania company that publishes business newsletters will pay about \$1.75 million to thousands of employees who had to clock out while going on short breaks, including for the bathroom.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports (<http://bit.ly/1Jr39Tc>) that a federal judge has given the U.S. Department of Labor and the Malvern-based company, American Future Systems Inc., until Thursday to submit proposals on managing payment.

The company had argued that it wasn't required to pay employees for short breaks.

The bill includes back pay and damages to 6,000 employees at offices in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio between 2009 and 2013.

The Department of Labor filed a lawsuit in 2012 claiming the company violated the federal Fair Labor Standards Act because employees weren't earning minimum wage when the company required them to clock out for breaks.

Family not happy officer out on bond in motorist's death

BRUCE SMITH, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A former South Carolina policeman charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist will remain under house arrest until his trial begins in the fall.

The release of Michael Slager on bond Monday was a disappointment to the family of the victim, Walter Scott, said Justin Bamberg, the attorney for the family.

"The family is not happy about Mr. Slager getting bond," Bamberg said shortly after Circuit Judge Clifton Newman said Slager could be released on \$500,000 surety bond.

Until he was released Monday evening, Slager had been in solitary confinement at the Charleston County Detention Center since the incident last April.

"This is just another step in the criminal justice process, and the family believes at the end of the day that justice will prevail," Bamberg said.

Slager will have to remain at an undisclosed location in South Carolina and must have no contact with the victim's family.

Slager, a former North Charleston police officer, is shown on cellphone video firing eight times as Walter Scott ran from a traffic stop. The case enflamed a national debate about how blacks are treated by white police officers.

Slager, 34, faces 30 years to life without parole if convicted of murder.

During an hourlong hearing Monday, Newman heard Slager's attorney, Andy Savage, argue that his client should be granted a speedy trial.

Savage said he was prepared to go to court this spring. But prosecutor Scarlett Wilson said the state would not be ready until November.

She is also prosecuting Dylann Roof, the white man charged with murder in the killings of nine black parishioners at a Charleston church. That trial is set to begin in July and the state Supreme Court has issued an order protecting Wilson from trying other cases before that one.

Savage renewed his request for bond after Newman rejected an initial bond request last September. The judge said at the time that Slager posed a threat to the community.

Savage said Monday that Slager has health problems and faced another 11 months in jail before even going to trial.

Scott's father, also named Walter, told the judge he often goes to the cemetery to visit his son's grave, which is adorned with flowers.

"If we let him out, he's going to go home to see his wife and children. All I can look at is a pot of flowers," Scott said.

"I hope you allow me reasonable bond to work on my case," Slager told the judge who conceded "these are excruciating issues for the court to deal with."

But Judge Newman said he was troubled that the trial is being delayed because of the order in the Roof case.

Bamberg urged the Charleston community to remain calm after Slager's bond was set.

"Doing anything to damage someone's property or to hurt another innocent individual is not doing anything that will help the Scott family," he said. "It's not doing anything that is going to have an effect on the criminal trial process. The only thing that can do is land you where Officer Slager is right now, which is a defendant on a criminal charge."

Joe Savitz, a criminal defense attorney in Columbia, said he wasn't surprised Slager was granted the opportunity to get out of jail, given the major events — like the shooting deaths of nine black churchgoers in Charleston and the ensuing debate over the Confederate flag — that have happened in the months since his arrest.

"The Roof case is going to be tried fairly soon," Savitz said. "Everybody is kind of focusing on that."

Missing Hong Kong bookseller's wife drops police report

KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — The mystery surrounding five missing Hong Kong booksellers known for titles banned in mainland China deepened after one purportedly wrote a letter saying he was fine and helping with an investigation on the mainland, prompting his wife to drop a missing person's report.

Hong Kong police said late Monday that Lee Bo's wife canceled the report, but that they would continue investigating the other cases. They didn't say whether Lee had been located.

Lee is among five people associated with publisher Mighty Current, which specializes in books critical of China's Communist Party leaders, who have vanished in recent months. One of the five is British, with Hong Kong media reporting that it is Lee.

Their disappearances have prompted fears that Beijing is eroding the "one country, two systems" principle that's been in place since Britain ceded control of Hong Kong to China in 1997, granting the city civil liberties nonexistent on the mainland, including freedom of the press.

When Lee vanished last Wednesday, he reportedly did not have his travel permit for mainland China with him, triggering speculation that Chinese security agents entered Hong Kong to abduct and spirit him there.

Four other people linked to the publishing company went missing in October, but they were last seen either in mainland China or Thailand.

An image of Lee's handwritten letter was first published by Taiwan's government-affiliated Central News Agency late Monday. Hong Kong media have also published the image, crediting the news agency.

The letter, faxed to an employee at the publishing company's Causeway Bay Bookstore in Hong Kong, said: "Due to some urgent matters that I need to handle and that aren't to be revealed to the public, I have made my own way back to the mainland in order to cooperate with the investigation by relevant parties."

"It might take a bit of time," it said. "My current situation is very well. All is normal."

The letter gave no details about what the investigation was related to.

Britain's Foreign Office responded to inquiries about media reports that Lee is British by saying in an email Tuesday that one of the people reported missing is a British citizen, without naming the individual. It said it was "deeply concerned" about the case and has "urgently requested" help from authorities in Hong Kong and mainland China to find out the person's location and condition.

Hong Kong media reported that Lee's wife, Choi Ka-ping, asked police to drop the missing person's report after learning of the letter, the authenticity of which could not be independently confirmed. Choi's phone number was written on the fax, but calls to her by The Associated Press went unanswered.

Choi told Hong Kong's Apple Daily newspaper that she found his travel permit for mainland China at home after he went missing.

Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers and human rights activists were skeptical the letter proved Lee was safe.

"If he did indeed write the letter, it was almost certainly written under duress," said William Nee, Amnesty International's China researcher. "What we see in mainland China all the time is that police and state security put enormous pressure on family members not to speak to media and not to raise a fuss on social media. If indeed it was state security that detained Lee Bo, one wonders whether the same tactics are being used to silence family members here in Hong Kong."

China's nationalist newspaper Global Times slammed the bookshop in an editorial Monday for "profiting on political rumors" and selling books with "trumped-up content."

"Although the Causeway Bay Bookstore is located in Hong Kong, it actually stays in business by disrupting mainland society," the paper said.

Hong Kong police still have missing person's files open for three other staff members or shareholders of the publisher or the bookstore. A fifth person, Gui Minhai, a Swedish national who is one of the publishing company's owners, went missing in Thailand in October, according to Hong Kong media and

human rights groups.

Swedish Foreign Ministry spokesman Joakim Edvardsson said Monday that the government was "very concerned" about the disappearance of one of its citizens.

Beijing says pollution lessened in 2015 despite smog alerts

LOUISE WATT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Environmental authorities in Beijing say air quality improved in 2015, a year in which they issued the city's first two red smog alerts and showed a greater willingness to disrupt industry and ordinary people in search of cleaner air.

China has been setting national and local targets to reduce its notorious air pollution as citizens have become increasingly aware of the health dangers. Beijing's municipal government has been replacing coal-fired boilers with natural gas-powered facilities, forcing older, more polluting vehicles off the road, and closing or moving factories that are heavy polluters.

The city's average concentration of PM2.5 — small, inhalable particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs and are considered a reliable gauge of air quality — was 81 micrograms per cubic meter in 2015. That was a drop of 6 percent from 2014, and 10 percent lower than 2013, when Beijing started publishing data on PM2.5.

The "number of days of most serious PM2.5 pollution is falling each year," the capital's municipal environmental protection bureau said Monday.

It was, however, still more than twice China's own standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter, and seven times higher than an annual mean of 10 that the World Health Organization gives as its guideline for safe air.

Other pollutants also fell, including sulfur dioxide by 38 percent and nitrogen dioxide by 12 percent. The environmental protection bureau attributed the lowering of sulfur dioxide to the phasing out of coal-fired heating systems.

Beijing's air gets especially bad in the winter, when the burning of coal for heat in northern China increases and weather patterns add to the smog. Almost half of the worst air days were in the final two months, according to the environmental bureau.

Beijing issued its first two red alerts in December under a two-year-old system. It meant half the city's vehicles were ordered off the roads on a given day, factory production was restricted and schools were closed.

In March last year, it lowered the threshold required to trigger a red alert from a forecast of 72 hours of continuous "severe pollution" — a Chinese air quality index reading of more than 300 — to "heavy pollution" or a reading of 200. "The earlier the launch, the greater the emissions reductions," the city government said at the time.

The two red alerts came about because of this lowered threshold and a greater willingness by authorities to issue one, said Ma Jun, of the non-governmental Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs in Beijing.

"I think before there had been some reluctance to do it because it's highly challenging to organize this and it will have a high social and economic cost," said Ma. "There has been a changing mindset on this."

Global stocks mostly lower as China jitters linger

YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Global stock markets were weaker Tuesday even as China's benchmark stabilized a day after plunging nearly 7 percent.

European stocks opened mostly lower. France's CAC 40 fell 0.3 percent to 4,507.35 and Germany's DAX dropped 0.4 percent to 10,244.76. Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.2 percent to 6,105.09. Futures suggested Wall Street was set to extend losses. Dow futures fell 0.5 percent and S&P 500 futures slipped 0.5 percent.

Earlier in Asia, China's Shanghai Composite Index finished down 0.3 percent at 3,287.71 after wavering between gains and losses. It slumped 6.9 percent on Monday, the first trading day of 2016. Japan's Nik-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 25 of 32

kei 225 was down 0.4 percent at 18,374.00 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 1.6 percent to 5,184.40. South Korea's Kospi was up 0.6 percent to 1,930.53 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 0.7 percent to 21,188.72. Markets in Southeast Asia were mixed.

Global stocks started the new year on a grim note as poor manufacturing reports from China and the U.S. triggered fears about waning growth around the world. The steep fall in Chinese markets on Monday prompted authorities to halt trading by using a new "circuit-breaker" mechanism for the first time.

"The moves seen in Chinese stock markets are quite concerning," said Angus Nicholson, market analyst at IG in Melbourne, Australia. Technical indicators "point to a likely renewed sell-off and a revisit of the late-August lows," he said in a market commentary.

Tensions in the Middle East also unnerved investors. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran over the weekend in a dispute over the Saudis' execution of a Shiite cleric. Concerns about a potential threat to world oil supply caused a spike higher in oil prices.

Benchmark U.S. crude was up 4 cents to \$36.80 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 28 cents to close at \$36.76 a barrel on Monday. Brent Crude, the international standard, lost 5 cents at \$37.18 per barrel in London.

In currencies, the dollar slipped to 119.09 yen from 119.43 yen on Monday. The euro weakened to \$1.0775 from \$1.0826.

Israel: Palestinian shot and killed after stabbing soldier

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian attacker stabbed an Israeli soldier on Tuesday in the West Bank, lightly wounding him before troops at the scene shot and killed the assailant, the military said.

The stabbing at the Gush Etzion junction is the latest in three-and-a-half months of near-daily attacks that have killed 21 Israelis since mid-September mostly in stabbing and car-ramming attacks. That death toll does not include the two Israelis killed in a shooting last Friday in the coastal city of Tel Aviv, as the motive for that assault remains unclear.

Police and special forces are still searching for the accused shooter in that attack, Nashat Milhem, an Arab from northern Israel who is considered to be armed and dangerous. He has been on the loose since the attack.

In the latest wave of violence since mid-September, at least 132 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, 91 of them identified by Israel as assailants. The rest died in clashes with security forces.

Israel says the violence is being fanned by a Palestinian campaign of lies and incitement. The Palestinians say it is rooted in frustration stemming from nearly five decades of Israeli occupation.

Deliberate acts cause more airline deaths than crashes

JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An industry tally shows more airline deaths worldwide were due to deliberate acts in 2015 than to accidental air crashes, for the second year in a row.

A report by Flightglobal, an aviation news and industry data company, says there were only eight accidental airline crashes last year, accounting for 161 passenger and crew deaths — the fewest crashes and deaths since at least 1946.

The tally excludes a German airliner that was deliberately flown into a mountainside in the French Alps last March, and a Russian airliner packed with tourists that exploded over Egypt. The toll for those two incidents was 374 killed.

In 2014, the toll from a Malaysia Airlines plane that disappeared and another that was shot down over Ukraine also exceed accident deaths that year.

Faraday reveals sleek, sporty concept car in Vegas

KIMBERLY PIERCEALL, Associated Press

TOM KRISHER, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The automotive future according to a new electric car maker looks an awful lot like a Corvette crossed with the Batmobile.

California-based Faraday Future debuted its sleek electric concept racecar Monday night during the annual CES show that focuses on consumer gadgets and has increasingly become a way for carmakers to show off their latest technological feats.

The 18-month-old company that has remained much of a mystery until recently revealing its primary backer, Chinese billionaire Jia Yueting, won \$335 million worth of incentives from the state of Nevada last month to build a \$1 billion manufacturing facility in a hard-hit Las Vegas suburb.

Not even Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, who pushed for the incentive package and attended Monday's debut, had seen the concept car. Neither had North Las Vegas Mayor John Lee although he visited the California headquarters four months ago and saw "the intelligence building around the car."

"There was no doubt about it that that was the exclamation point," he said, referring to the negotiations to land the manufacturing plant in his city. He was convinced, he said.

Emphasizing the speed at which it will develop and build cars, the company's Senior Vice President of Research and Development Nick Sampson said the company would deliver its first production car in a couple of years.

Sampson said Faraday had so far hired 750 people globally with most at its California headquarters and planned to break ground on its North Las Vegas plant in a few weeks with plans to hire 4,500 people there.

He said his company would utilize digital design and testing of parts and modular construction, making it quicker than competitors.

"You don't need to have a hundred year legacy in the automotive industry to define what the next generation of transportation needs to look and feel like," Sampson said, taking a stab at traditional car makers and likening the future of cars to the debut of the Apple iPhone nine years ago making several models of cell phones obsolete.

But Sampson wasn't saying what the company would build first for production, how much it's spent so far and also wasn't revealing much more information about the company's investors. The company is still shopping for a battery supplier, he said.

The presentation included Ding Lei, co-founder of LETV described as the Netflix of China, who said afterward that his company intends to partner with Faraday on research and development.

The road to make a profitable electric car company hasn't been easy for one of the most well-known in the marketplace. Tesla has only made a quarterly profit once since its 2003 founding.

And traditional automakers have been utilizing modular design and augmented reality in development for years.

Sampson said the difference is that Faraday will be designing only electric cars unlike other car-makers that might have to spend more time redesigning a model to fit a hybrid engine, V6 or V8.

"We're developing one core motor technology," Sampson said.

The company dubbed Monday's debut that included a clear fin running half the length of the car, a single-line of a smile for a headlight and a white interior with a seat inspired by NASA design the FFZero1.

The low-profile waist-high car remained under a white sheet, the centerpiece on a white stage in front of white curtains for most of Monday's night's presentation inside a large tent packed with people and press waiting for the reveal.

"It's an extreme tablet on wheels," said Richard Kim, Faraday's head of global design, saying the concept included the ability to project images on the road much like a "digital copilot," a smart phone dock in the steering wheel, tunnels below the car to funnel air through and a designed horizontal crease along the sides of the car he called the "UFO" line to signal the car was otherworldly.

It's a "car of concepts," he said rather than a concept car.

US Pacific Fleet shrinks even as China grows more aggressive

AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — When the U.S. wanted to show the world it didn't recognize what it called China's "excessive" territorial claims in disputed waters of the South China Sea this fall, it sent a warship near one of Beijing's newly built artificial reefs.

The move came amid a debate about whether the U.S. has enough ships to meet challenges posed by a fast-growing, increasingly assertive Chinese navy that is unsettling some of its neighbors. In its latest move, China announced last week that it would build its second aircraft carrier, this one with domestic technology.

The Navy and its regional component, the U.S. Pacific Fleet, both have fewer ships now than in the mid-1990s. Navy officials say vastly improved technology on those vessels outweighs any disadvantage from a drop in numbers.

Questions about whether the Pacific Fleet has enough resources are more of a reflection of regional anxieties than the Navy's actual capability, said its commander, Adm. Scott Swift.

Even if the entire fleet was in the South China Sea, he said, he'd still get asked whether the U.S. was bringing more forces.

"It's this sense of angst that I hear from those in the region, driven by the uncertainty and the rhetoric and, you know, the challenges that the region is facing right now," Swift said. "But I'm very comfortable with the resources I have."

An expert at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute think tank said the issue in peacetime is whether there are enough American vessels to reassure friends and allies and demonstrate U.S. capacity to use power when it needs to.

In wartime, it comes down to whether enough platforms survive missile strikes to carry on their work, Peter Jennings said.

"I think this is emerging as a serious long-term problem," he said.

The Pacific Fleet currently has 182 vessels, including combat ships like aircraft carriers as well as auxiliary and logistics vessels, said spokesman Cmdr. Clay Doss. That compares to 192 nearly two decades ago.

Around the world, the Navy has 272 ships usable in combat or to support ships in combat, nearly 20 percent less than 1998. The current total includes 10 aircraft carriers.

Swift said he would rather have the Navy he has today — and its advanced technology — than the Navy of two decades ago.

He pointed to the USS Benfold, a guided missile destroyer upgraded with new ballistic missile defenses, as well as three new stealth destroyers, the DDG-1000, in the pipeline, as examples.

One consequence of a smaller fleet has been more time at sea. Retired Adm. Zap Zlatoper, who commanded Pacific Fleet in the 1990s, said six-month deployments used to be "sacrosanct" as anything longer made it harder for the Navy to retain sailors.

Ships now deploy for an average of seven to nine months, though the Navy plans to lower this to seven.

Ship conditions have also suffered. The USS Essex left an exercise with Australia early in 2011 and skipped another with Thailand the following year because it developed mechanical problems after delaying maintenance to stay at sea.

Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a Washington think tank, said these are signs the status quo is unsustainable.

In a November report, Clark outlined alternatives: build more ships, though this would require money Congress may not give the Navy or deploy less, though the Pentagon has been reluctant to accept less of an overseas presence.

The other choices: keep more ships at overseas bases where they would be closer to where they operate or mix up how ships deploy, for example by sending fewer escorts with an aircraft carrier which would free some ships to operate separately.

China's People's Liberation Army Navy has more than 300 surface ships, submarines, amphibious ships and patrol craft, according to the Pentagon's Asia-Pacific Maritime Security Strategy report released in August.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 28 of 32

China's coast guard and other maritime law enforcement fleet, meanwhile, has upward of 200 ships — more than the combined fleets of neighbors with competing claims to tiny islands in the East and South China Seas.

The U.S. Coast Guard has about 280 cutters, or vessels at least 65 feet in length, though they primarily operate stateside.

China has also grown more aggressive in asserting its claims to disputed territory. Since December 2013, it's built what the U.S. estimates to be 3,000 acres of artificial islands in the South China Sea using sand dredged from the ocean floor.

China has said the islands are meant to help ships, fishermen and disaster relief.

The U.S. says the islands will enable China to expand its maritime law enforcement and naval presence further south. It worries China could use them to disrupt sea traffic in the South China Sea, a thoroughfare for 30 percent of global maritime trade.

Some of China's ships are rudimentary, like its existing aircraft carrier.

But Narushige Michishita, Japan scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, said the lay person doesn't know this so the vessels have the same psychological effect on the public as more advanced ones.

Further, he said U.S. forces are spread around the world while China is focused on its own neighborhood.

"So even if the United States spends much more than China, it doesn't mean the local balance stays the same. The local balance in Asia is rapidly changing," Michishita said.

Chargers, Raiders, Rams file for relocation to Los Angeles

BERNIE WILSON, AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego Chargers, Oakland Raiders and St. Louis Rams filed for relocation to the Los Angeles area on Monday night, trying not to be left out in the race to return the NFL to the nation's second-largest market after a 21-year absence.

The Chargers want to partner with the AFC West rival Raiders on a stadium in Carson.

Chargers chairman Dean Spanos has had the right to leave San Diego since 2008, but the team's long, contentious efforts to replace aging Qualcomm Stadium became more aggressive after Rams owner Stan Kroenke announced plans to build a stadium in Inglewood.

The NFL confirmed it received the applications to move for the 2016 season. They will be reviewed by league staff and three committees of owners that will meet in New York on Wednesday and Thursday. All owners will meet in Houston next week and are expected to vote on whether to allow any of the teams to move. A team wanting to move needs 24 of 32 votes.

Los Angeles has been without the NFL since after the 1994 season, when the Raiders moved back to Oakland and the Rams moved to St. Louis. The Rams had been in the L.A. area since 1946.

The Chargers and City Hall have been at odds since 2000, when team owner Alex Spanos said the team needed a new stadium. That was just three years after the stadium was expanded to accommodate the Chargers and Super Bowls.

The stadium saga turned nasty this year as Mark Fabiani, an attorney for Dean Spanos, attacked Mayor Kevin Faulconer and his proposals to keep the team.

In a video posted on the team's web site, Dean Spanos blamed "the inability of the city at the political level to get any kind of public funding or any kind of vote to help subsidize a stadium."

The Chargers' filing came hours after Spanos' son, John, the team's president of football operations, thanked fans for "your unwavering support and passion" in a statement in which he expressed support for beleaguered coach Mike McCoy and general manager Tom Telesco. McCoy will return despite the Chargers going 4-12, their worst record in 12 seasons. Telesco had his contract secretly renewed last summer.

The Raiders and Rams were both 7-9.

The Chargers walked away from negotiations with the city and county in mid-June.

In the three brief negotiating sessions between the Chargers and city and county officials, the team mostly focused on what it called a flawed environmental impact report for a new stadium. The team did not

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 29 of 32

negotiate finances, but it has said in the past that it expects a public contribution of at least 60 percent. Under the city and county's proposal, public funding would be capped at 32 percent, with the team being responsible for overruns.

The Chargers claim 25 percent of their fan base comes from north of San Diego County, although they've declined to offer proof.

Oakland has expressed interest in building a new stadium for the Raiders at the Coliseum site but has no funding plan as of yet.

The Rams currently have a year-to-year lease with the Edward Jones Dome.

Kroenke has ignored efforts by a St. Louis task force that is proposing a \$1.1 billion stadium along the Mississippi River, not far from the Rams' current stadium built in 1995.

The Rams have had 12 consecutive non-winning seasons, including a 15-65 record from 2007-11 that is the worst five-year stretch in NFL history. Out of 21 seasons in St. Louis, they've fielded four winners, including the 1999 Super Bowl title team and 2001 team that lost to Patriots in the Super Bowl.

The St. Louis stadium task force said in a statement it had anticipated the filing "for more than a year" and was "extremely confident" its proposal would be "well received as the league weighs its options in the weeks ahead."

Rams coach Jeff Fisher was head coach of the Houston Oilers when they relocated to Tennessee in the 1996, and that could happen again.

"I shared with the team today, I've been through this experience before," Fisher said earlier Monday. "We have to take the approach and with the assumption that everything's taking place here in St. Louis until we're told otherwise."

Safety T.J. McDonald's father, Tim McDonald, was a rookie defensive back on the Cardinals in 1987 in their final year in St. Louis before owner Bill Bidwill moved the franchise to Phoenix.

"That's kind of crazy," said T.J. McDonald, who's rehabbing from shoulder surgery. "He's told me a lot of stories, too many to try to remember."

Middle linebacker James Laurinaitis said the demands of the season kept it from being too big of a distraction.

"Really, it'll become a big distraction now as you sit with nothing to do and you realize it's what, two weeks or not even (that) away from the decision," Laurinaitis said. "Everyone's just kind of fatigued about it, to be honest. Everyone wants closure to it all, just wants to know one way or another."

Iran, Saudi Arabia tensions can't halt slide in oil prices

DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Even the escalating tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, two big oil-producing countries, can't halt the slide in energy prices.

Oil futures spiked briefly on Monday after the news that Saudi Arabia would cut diplomatic ties with Iran, a development that could be seen as a threat to oil supplies.

Investors quickly discounted those fears, however. After rising by \$1.35, the price of benchmark U.S. crude ended the day down 28 cents to \$36.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell again in Asian trading on Tuesday, dropping 3 cents to \$36.73. Brent crude, reflecting the price of international oils, was down 20 cents at \$37.02 in London.

While oil markets were see-sawing, stock markets sagged on evidence that the global economy might be weaker than expected this year. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 276 points, or 1.6 percent, and was down 468 points earlier in the day.

New reports indicated that manufacturing is continuing to struggle, with factory activity falling in December for the second straight month in the U.S. and the 10th straight month in China.

Slow growth means that the current oversupply of oil could be more stubborn than expected. Government figures show that the stockpile of U.S. crude oil grew by 2.6 million barrels during the week ended Dec. 25 and were 9.9 million barrels higher than a year ago.

Oil prices are likely to remain about where they are until either production drops or the world economy

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 30 of 32

perks up and drives demand higher.

Investors may have regarded the flash of tension between the Saudis and the Iranians over Saudi Arabia's execution of an opposition Shiite cleric as merely saber-rattling. Stewart Glickman, an analyst with S&P Capital IQ, said geopolitical risk has lost some of its ability to influence on oil prices.

"It is maybe a sense of security from the marketplace that with this seeming glut of crude oil that you can have tensions in Middle East and they don't count for as much as they used to three or four years ago," he said in an interview.

The explanation lies partly in robust production from the U.S., Glickman said. Saudi officials are reluctant to cut production in a bid to raise prices because they'll just concede sales to U.S. producers who will fill the void in supply.

Iran wants to regain some oil exports that it lost while under economic sanctions, soon to be lifted, for its nuclear program. Judith Dwarkin, chief economist at ITG Investment Research, said that the confrontation with Saudi Arabia makes the Saudis unlikely to offset Iranian increases by trimming their own production — potentially adding to the glut.

Then there is the question of demand. Weak manufacturing numbers and a plunge in the Shanghai Composite stock index raised new concern about energy demand in China, the world's second-biggest economy.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts that the average price of U.S. benchmark crude this year will rise about 4 percent over 2015.

If that is correct, American motorists will continue getting a break on gasoline compared with prices not long ago. On Monday, the nationwide average price for a gallon of regular was \$1.99, according to the auto club AAA — 22 cents cheaper than a year ago.

The Energy Information Administration estimates that the average U.S. household saved about \$660 on cheaper gasoline last year, compared with 2014.

Obama thrusts gun control debate into forefront of 2016 race

JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is making good on his pledge to politicize gun violence.

The package of gun-control executive actions Obama will formally announce Tuesday has pushed the contentious issue to the forefront of the 2016 presidential campaign, just weeks from the Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses. While Republicans and Democrats are deeply divided on the issue, both parties see Obama's actions as an opportunity to generate enthusiasm among primary voters.

But in a general election, the gun debate becomes a blurrier political proposition. Public opinion polls show Americans overwhelmingly support expanding background checks for gun purchases, but are more divided on the broader question of stricter gun laws. The gun-control advocacy movement has gained wealthy backers, including former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, but the National Rifle Association remains one of the most dominant forces in American politics.

"It's an issue that both (sides) are really going to want to talk about for the next couple of months, but I don't know how much they're going to want to talk about it in the fall," Matthew Dowd, a former political adviser to President George W. Bush, said of the eventual presidential nominees.

For now, Obama's gun actions are a central topic as candidates crisscross Iowa, New Hampshire and other early voting states.

GOP contenders promise that if they get elected, they'll swiftly repeal Obama's actions, which include steps to expand background checks for gun purchases. GOP front-runner Donald Trump vowed to "un-sign" the president's measures. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said that on his first day in the Oval Office, "those orders are gone." Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said that while Obama may currently hold the power of the pen, "my pen has got an eraser."

On the Democratic side, front-runner Hillary Clinton has unveiled her own proposals for gun-control executive actions and enthusiastically endorsed Obama's measures even before the president's official

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 31 of 32

announcement.

"I know that a Republican president would delight in the very first day, reversing executive orders that President Obama has made," Clinton told voters in New Hampshire.

The cornerstone of Obama's executive actions is a background check requirement for guns purchased from dealers even if they're bought online or at gun shows. The new federal guidance aims to narrow the so-called gun show loophole that allows some purchases to occur without a background check.

In announcing the actions in the early days of 2016, Obama is purposely thrusting the issue into the center of the presidential campaign. As he foreshadowed his executive orders last fall, Obama said addressing gun violence is "something we should politicize."

The emphasis on gun issues marks a shift for Democrats, who have shied away from the subject in recent presidential elections, not only because of the NRA, but also due to competing views within the party. Clinton and Obama both treaded carefully on guns when they faced off in the 2008 Democratic primary, and the president didn't attempt to pass congressional legislation until the shooting of elementary school students in Newtown, Connecticut, which occurred about a month after his 2012 re-election.

Democratic losses throughout the South, however, have narrowed the number of elected officials in the party who oppose gun restrictions. Gun-control backers also point to shifts in public opinion and the rise of well-funded advocacy groups as reasons Democratic candidates can campaign on the topic with fewer electoral risks.

Actions to expand background checks, for example, have broad public support. A CBS/New York Times poll conducted in October found that more than 90 percent of Americans favor requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers.

Bloomberg has pumped millions of dollars into gun-control advocacy efforts, including donations to candidates who support more restrictive measures. An organization founded by former Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords, who was badly wounded in a 2011 shooting, also has raised millions to promote gun control measures.

"There's more organization, there's more capacity, there's more money," said Kristin Goss, a public policy professor at Duke University who has studied gun-control advocacy groups. But asked whether the new organizations can succeed in matching the energy and organizational power of the NRA in a general election, Goss said, "That's an open question."

Surveys have shown that gun-control supporters lag those who favor fewer restrictions on most measures of political activism. During the failed legislative efforts in 2013, the NRA mobilized its members to flood Capitol Hill with phone calls and letters urging lawmakers to oppose the White House-backed measures.

Still, Republicans know that while opposing nearly all restrictions on gun laws may be the only acceptable position for many GOP primary voters, it could be less attractive in a general election. Associated Press-GfK polls conducted in October and December found 58 percent of Americans favor stricter gun laws. That's up slightly from 52 percent two years ago.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2016. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1066, Edward the Confessor, King of England since 1042, died after a reign of nearly 24 years.

On this date:

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Virginia.

In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

In 1905, the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals was

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 165 ♦ 32 of 32

incorporated in New York State.

In 1914, auto industrialist Henry Ford announced he was going to pay workers \$5 for an 8-hour day, as opposed to \$2.34 for a 9-hour day. (Employees still worked six days a week; the 5-day work week was instituted in 1926.)

In 1925, Democrat Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming took office as America's first female governor, succeeding her late husband, William, following a special election.

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Massachusetts, at age 60. Construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge. (Work was completed four years later.)

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1953, the Samuel Beckett play "Waiting for Godot" premiered in Paris.

In 1964, during a visit to the Holy Land, Pope Paul VI met with Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople in Jerusalem.

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pennsylvania, home. (UMWA President Tony Boyle and seven others were convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, the killings.) "All My Children" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Elizabeth Dole to succeed Drew Lewis as secretary of transportation; Dole became the first woman to head a Cabinet department in Reagan's administration, and the first to head the DOT.

In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

Ten years ago: Attacks across Iraq killed more than 120 Iraqis and 11 U.S. service members. A building used as a hostel by pilgrims in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, collapsed, killing 76 people. Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson suggested that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's severe stroke was divine punishment for "dividing God's land." (Robertson later apologized.)

Five years ago: John Boehner was elected speaker as Republicans regained control of the House of Representatives on the first day of the new Congress. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs announced he was stepping down. Roberto Alomar and Bert Blyleven were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

One year ago: The price of oil plunged again, falling below \$50 a barrel for the first time since April 2009. Jury selection began in the trial of accused Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv). Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Sarah Zabel presided over Florida's first legally recognized same-sex marriages hours before the ban on such unions formally expired.

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 88. Actor Robert Duvall is 85. Juan Carlos, former King of Spain, is 78. Singer-musician Athol Guy (The Seekers) is 76. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 74. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 70. Actor Ted Lange (lanj) is 68. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 67. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 66. Former CIA Director George Tenet is 63. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 63. Actor Clancy Brown is 57. Singer Iris Dement is 55. Actress Suzy Amis is 54. Actor Ricky Paull (correct) Goldin is 51. Actor Vinnie Jones is 51. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 50. Dancer-choreographer Carrie Ann Inaba is 48. Rock musician Troy Van Leeuwen (Queens of the Stone Age) is 48. Actress Heather Paige Kent is 47. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 47. Actor Shea Whigham is 47. Actor Derek Cecil (TV: "House of Cards"; "Treme") is 43. Actor Bradley Cooper is 41. Actress January Jones is 38. Actress Brooklyn Sudano is 35.

Thought for Today: "It is easy to be tolerant of the principles of other people if you have none of your own." — Herbert Samuel, English political leader (1870-1963).