

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 1 of 27

- 1- Midwest Masonry ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Upcoming events on gdilive.com
- 2- Golden LivingCenter Help Wanted Ad
- 3- Lady Tigers beat Northwestern
- 5- Punxsutawney Phil says easy spring
- 5- Edman recognized by Angus Assoc.
- 5- Monson Cattle joins Angus Assoc.
- 6 - Today in Weather History
- 6- Livestreaming Weddings Ad
- 7- Local Weather Forecast
- 8- National Weather Map
- 8- Local Weather
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10 - News from the Associated Press

Silver Skates Postponed

After skating on the ice, although the surface looks good, we found that it is not frozen solid. We want to keep the skaters safe, so we are moving to our established contingency plan of holding the carnival next Sunday, February 7th. We will hold one performance at 1:00. With cooler temps next week, we will be able to significantly improve the skating rink for the safety of the skaters. If you are unable to attend next week due to prior plans, please contact your instructor.

Tuesday, February 2

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

School Lunch: Taco salad, refried beans, garlic toast, fruit.

Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, green beans, grape juice, sour cream apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Alan Ball, Richard Kapp

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

4:00pm: JHBBB host Langford (7th at 4 pm, 8th at 5 pm)

6:30pm: BBB host Langford Area

Wednesday, February 3

School Breakfast: French toast, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Meatballs, tiny potato, broccoli and dip, tea buns, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar.

Anniv: Craig and Patty Harms

Birthdays: Dale Wolter, Delbert Leonhardt, Dwight Zerr, Tina Guthmiller

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Cen-

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner



405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 2 of 27



Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line



gdilive.com

Coming up this week at gdilive.com

Tuesday, Feb. 2: BBB host Langford Area (JV and Varsity)

Friday, Feb. 5: Boys (JV & V) and Girls Basketball (V) host Hamlin

Saturday, Feb. 6: Boys (JV & V) and Girls Basketball (V) at Warner

Sunday, Feb. 7th: 1 p.m. Performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates

Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 3 of 27

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Lady Tigers run past Northwestern

Groton Area girls picked up the pace and ran past Northwestern in hoop action MOnday night in Mellette, 45-40.

Groton jumped out to a 15-9 first quarter lead, a 27-10 lead at half time and a 27-21 lead at the end of the third quarter. Groton led by as many as 10 points in the fourth quarter, 42-32.

Katie Koehler led the Tigers with 16 points followed by Audrey Wanner with 11, Harleigh Stange and Carly Wheeting each had eight and Emily Locke added two points.

The Wildcats were led by Addison Sparling with 12 points followed by Peyton Groft with eight, Darby Duncan and Evy Peterson each had six and Josie Clemens and Chrissy Stoltenberg each added two points.

The Tigers made 43 percent of their field goals while Northwestern made 28 percent. Groton made six of 15 free throws for 40 percent off of Northwestern's 16 team fouls. The Wildcats made nine of 15 free throws off of Groton's 17 team fouls with Koehler fouling out. Groton had 23 turnovers of which 13 were steals (Addison Sparling had five). The Wildcats had 17 turnovers, 12 of which were steals with Wheeting having four. Wheeting had two blocks and Wheeting, Wanner and Stange each had three of the team's 11 assists. Groton had 10 offensive rebounds with Bjerke having three, and 20 defensive rebounds with Wanner and Wheeting each having five. Northwestern had 26 rebounds with Stoltenberg, Sparling and Clemens each having five. Koehler made two three-pointers and Stange made one for Groton.

The Tigers now go to 10-4 on the season and will host Hamlin as part of a double header on Friday. Northwestern goes to 10-5 and will host Waubay-Summit on Saturday.

Groton won the junior varsity game, 29-22. Scoring for Groton: Miranda Hanson 8, Payton Maine 6, Taylor Holm 6, Gia Gengerke 6, Alex Stange 2, Madison Sippel 1.

Groton made it a clean sweep with a 23-16 C game win. Scoring for Groton: Portia Kettering 7, Sam Menzia 5, Kaycie Hawkins 4, Madison Sippel 3, Eliza Wanner 3, Payton Colestock 1.

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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 4 of 27



Carly Wheeting



Miranda Hanson



Emily Locke

Photos by Julianna Kosel



Audrey Wanner



Katie Koehler

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 5 of 27

Get ready for an early spring. At least, that's what Punxsutawney Phil says.

The weather-prognosticating groundhog did not his shadow as he emerged from his burrow in western Pennsylvania at sunrise on Tuesday, thus indicating springlike conditions sooner rather than later. Had he seen it, at least another six weeks of wintry weather would be in store.

"Take your jackets off," shouted the announcer in the small town that has staged the ceremony for 130 years as he announced Phil's sunny prediction.

That said, flipping a coin is pretty much as accurate as Phil. Since 1988, the furry forecaster has been "right" 13 times and "wrong" 15 times.

Unfortunately, based on past weather data, "there is no predictive skill for the groundhog during the most recent years of the analysis," according to a report released Friday by the National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, N.C.

Local Angus Breeder Recognized for Sustained Efforts to Improve Cow Productivity

Michael Erdmann, Groton, South Dakota, recently re-enrolled in the American Angus Association®'s MaternalPlus® program as a commitment to making genetic improvements in lifetime cow herd productivity. Breeders participating in MaternalPlus are keenly focused to better evaluate herd reproductive performance, the number one profit driver in the cow-calf industry.

MaternalPlus is a voluntary, inventory-based reporting system that collects additional reproductive trait data to provide Angus breeders and their customers the information they need to make effective selection decisions. To date, more than 70 breeders have completed MaternalPlus enrollment.

The program allows producers to capture cow herd and reproductive performance data; gain faster access to preweaning EPDs as a selection tool; characterize females through heifer pregnancy EPDs tied directly to herd genetics; expand new trait development for Angus reproductive and longevity measures; and streamline their ability to track heifer and cow reproductive records through AAA Login.

In addition, MaternalPlus lays the groundwork for selection tools related to cow longevity in the herd. Gathering these records will allow the Association to cultivate research related to cow herd productivity and make improvements similar to what the Angus breed has witnessed in other economically relevant traits.

MONSON ANGUS CATTLE JOINS MEMBERSHIP OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

Monson Angus Cattle, Groton, South Dakota, is a new member of the American Angus Association®, reports Allen Moczygemba, CEO of the national breed organization headquartered in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The American Angus Association, with more than 25,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef breed association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on over 18 million registered Angus.

The Association records ancestral information and keeps production records and genomic data on individual animals to develop industry-leading selection tools for its members. The programs and services of the Association and its entities — Angus Genetics Inc., Angus Productions Inc., Certified Angus Beef LLC and the Angus Foundation — help members to advance the beef cattle business by selecting the best animals for their herds and marketing quality genetics for the beef cattle industry and quality beef for consumers.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 6 of 27

Today in Weather History

February 2, 1960: Heavy icing from freezing rain accumulations from the afternoon of the 2nd to the afternoon of the 3rd occurred mainly across the eastern half of the state. Severe damage to power lines and telephone service occurred in the Watertown and Wessington Springs area. Ice coatings of up to 3 inches thick and having an estimated weight of nine pounds per foot of wire formed around telephone and some power lines over a wide area of the eastern counties. A 300 foot tower high collapsed at Wessington Springs and in some areas utility wires were completely down for stretches of 2 to 3 miles. Some 170 long distance telephone circuits were knocked out in larger cities and 19 towns from Bonesteel on south to Watertown on north were completely without telephone service for two to three days after the storm. Many highways were treacherous and numerous vehicles collided or slid off the road into the ditch. Many schools were also closed.

February 2, 2003: Widespread freezing rain developed across parts of central and into northeast South Dakota through the late night hours producing significant icing of a quarter to a half inch by the late morning hours. No significant tree damage or power outages occurred. Although, travel was greatly disrupted with many accidents and vehicles sliding off the road. The freezing rain changed over to snow during the mid-morning hours and became heavy with 6 to 9 inches of snow accumulating before it ended in the late evening. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Ree Heights, Miller, and Faulkton, 7 inches at Clear Lake, 8 inches at Bryant, and 9 inches at Milbank.

February 2, 2011: Blizzard conditions developed along and east of the Sisseton Hills late on February 2nd and continued into the mid-morning hours of February 3rd. Strong southwest winds of 30 to 40 mph gusting to around 55 mph picked up the existing snow cover causing blizzard conditions which wreaked havoc along Interstate-29. Whiteout conditions and heavy drifting brought traffic to a halt along a stretch of Interstate-29 from north of Wilmot to Sisseton. One-hundred fifty to two-hundred vehicles were stranded along this stretch. A full scale rescue operation ensued during the night and continued into the next day. Interstate-29 was closed from Watertown to the North Dakota border as it took most of the day to clean up all of the stalled vehicles. There were also many accidents along the stretch of the interstate with many people stranded for up to twelve hours. There were also many other people stranded on secondary roads who had to be rescued. No injuries occurred as a result of this incident. The Roberts County Emergency Manager was stranded and conducted emergency operations from his vehicle. Interstate-29 was reopened by the evening of February 3rd.



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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 7 of 27

Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday

Thursday
Night

Friday



Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Partly Sunny



Mostly Cloudy



Partly Sunny

High: 30 °F

Low: 14 °F

High: 26 °F

Low: 13 °F

High: 28 °F

Low: 14 °F

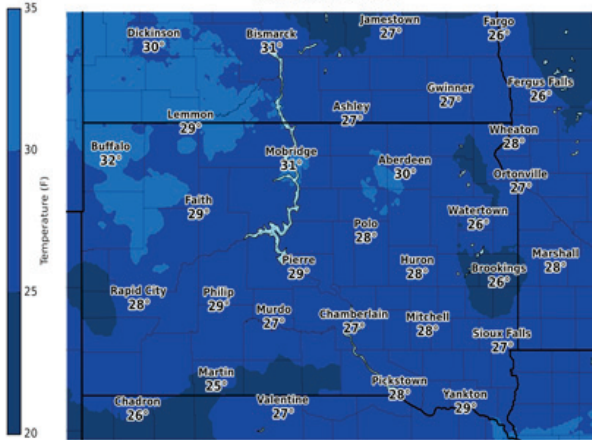
High: 36 °F

Heaviest Snow Staying South

Highs Tuesday

Today's Highs

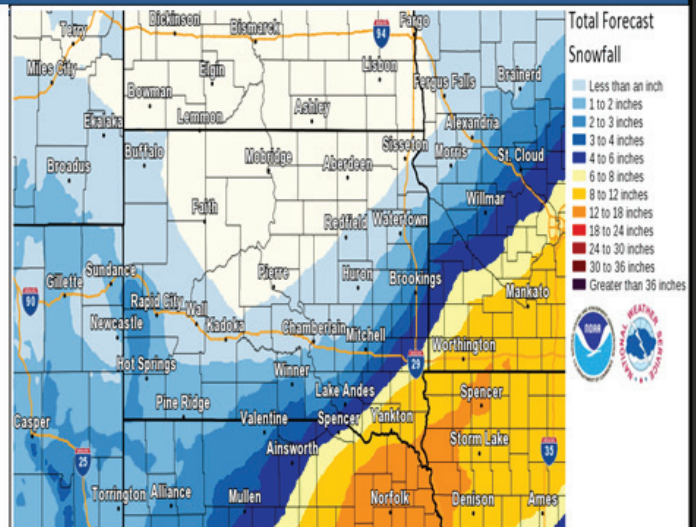
Valid: February 02, 2016



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
02/02/2016 04:52 AM CST

Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)
weather.gov/aberdeen

Snow Total Forecast



Valid ending at Thursday February 4th, 2016 at 6 PM CST

Created Tuesday February 2nd, 2016 at 4:48 AM CST

Major winter storm/blizzard for southeastern South Dakota, Nebraska, southern Minnesota, and Iowa lasting through the day and into tonight...

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen | Updated: 2/2/2016 4:58 AM Central

Published on: 02/02/2016 at 5:07AM

A major winter storm will track northeast across the Central Plains today, spreading snow and wind across the region. This storm will largely miss the Aberdeen forecast area, but will clip portions of east central South Dakota with 1 to 3 inches of snow. Much higher amounts in excess of 8 inches to near a foot will occur over southeast South Dakota. North winds increasing to 20 to 35 mph will also create areas of blowing snow and reduced visibility, which will affect I-29 mainly south of Watertown.

Groton Daily Independent

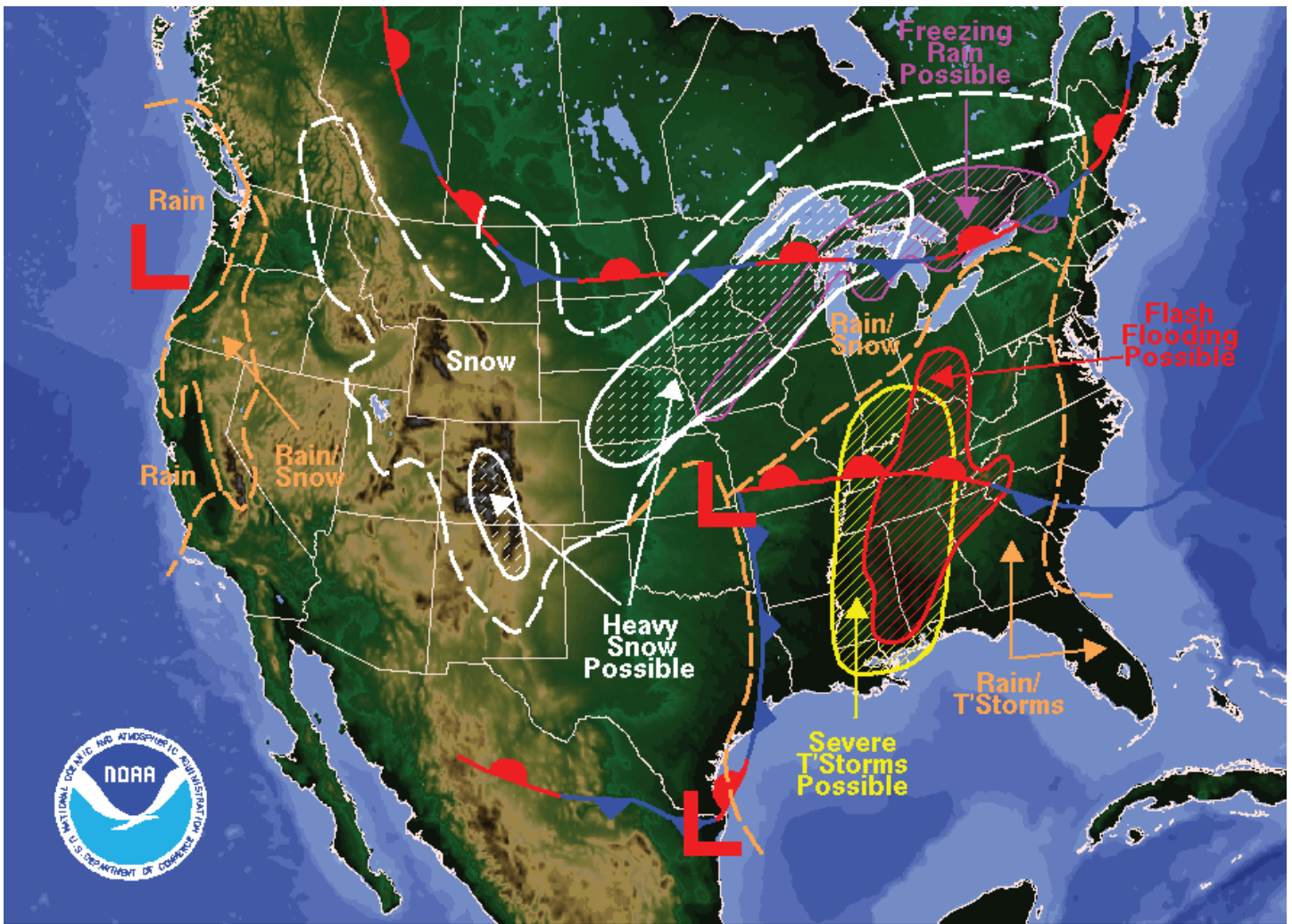
Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 8 of 27

Yesterday's Weather

High: 37.3 at 1:59 PM
Low: 18.7 at 8:06 AM
High Gust: 9 at 9:55 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1991
Record Low: -39° in 1917
Average High: 24°F
Average Low: 3°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.03
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.50
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:41 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:52 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Feb 02, 2016, issued 2:47 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



LEAVING AN IMPRINT

Luther Burbank had the touch of a magician. He transformed the world of agriculture as he brought wonderful new plants and fruits to the fields of farmers.

His secret to success, so it seems, began as a child. Instead of giving him toys and playthings, his parents would give him plants to study and observe. As he grew older, he was taught about the marvels of nature, preparing him for his later profession.

Paul wrote to Timothy and reminded him that he was "taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood and they have given you the wisdom to receive salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus."

The "Holy Scriptures," for Timothy, were the books of the Old Testament which pointed to Christ. So, when he heard Paul preach, he understood his message and became a follower of Jesus. But it was his parents who prepared him for his calling to Servant-hood.

Timothy was a respected Christian who became Paul's representative. He probably knew Paul better than any other person and was even like a son to the Apostle, giving him much comfort and encouragement. The influence of parents always changes history.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to realize the importance that we parents have on our children and how we shape them for their future – in this life and the one to come. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

News from the Associated Press

Winter storm shuts down schools in southeast South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Schools throughout southeastern South Dakota are shut down for the day as a winter storm moves into the region.

The National Weather Service has posted a blizzard warning through Tuesday for the Sioux Falls, Yankton and Vermillion areas. The Mitchell and Huron areas are under a winter weather advisory.

Snowfall totals could reach a foot in the far southeast, with 6-8 inches in Sioux Falls and 2-4 inches in areas to the west and northwest of the city.

Forecasters say winds gusting to 45 mph will make travel hazardous if not impossible.

South Dakota gun permits set monthly record in January

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's secretary of state says the number of concealed carry weapon permits issued in January broke a record set just a month earlier.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs released a report Monday that said there were 3,879 permits issued in the state in January, breaking the monthly record of 2,968 permits set in December. It's also up from 2,204 permits issued in the state in January 2015.

Krebs said in a statement that demands on staffing will need to be re-evaluated to maintain statutory compliance because of "these high-volume increases."

Krebs said last month that her office saw a 21 percent jump in concealed carry permits in 2015 from a year earlier.

Colorado snowstorm sets stage for slick conditions

COLLEEN SLEVIN, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A powerful storm has blanketed Colorado with several inches of snow, and cold overnight temperatures are setting the stage for what will likely be a slick conditions for Denver and other communities just east of the mountains.

National Weather Service meteorologist Kyle Fredin said the storm was expected to drop up to 10 inches of snow in Denver by the time it moves out of the area late Tuesday morning, heading toward Kansas and Nebraska.

"The good assumption is that rush hour is going to be tricky," Fredin said, adding that drivers should be careful of ice that is hidden under a fresh layer of snow.

Snow also was falling in parts of Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona, and it's expected to spread into Iowa on Tuesday, a day after voters gathered for the state's presidential caucuses.

Possible blizzard conditions could complicate candidates' plans to leave Iowa on Tuesday, when snow was also likely in Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The forecast prompted Nebraska state lawmakers to cancel hearings and debates, and some schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin announced closures Tuesday.

The weather system that blew in from California steadily dumped snow on the Denver area Monday, forcing airlines to cancel about a third of the flights at the city's airport. Transportation officials closed a handful of roads, including a long section of Interstate 70, in eastern Colorado on Monday night because of drifting snow and whiteout conditions.

Colorado's mountains have gotten plenty of snow so far this winter. Some experts believe that is the result of an El Nino weather pattern, a natural warming in the Pacific Ocean that interacts with the atmosphere.

Jason Nonemaker was in Aspen for a work trip and said the heavy snow has delayed his travel plans for three days.

"This is the most snow I've ever seen here in Aspen," he said. "This has been unbelievable."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 11 of 27

The same system also brought about a foot of record-breaking snow to Lake Tahoe-area ski resorts, along with rain and cool weather to other parts of Nevada. It caused a pileup on Interstate 80 on Sunday near the Nevada-California line.

In Utah, about a foot of snow has fallen in the southern part of the state and on the ski resorts in the mountains east of Salt Lake City.

In California, strong winds toppled power poles and trees, including one that killed a driver in San Diego County, and ripped off rooftops and even some solar panels.

South Dakota birders asked to help with national count

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Bird enthusiasts in South Dakota will get an opportunity to make their passion count during a citizen's science project to be conducted this month across North America.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department is inviting bird watchers to participate in the 19th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count this Feb. 12 through 15.

State wildlife diversity coordinator Eileen Dowd Stukel says participants have to count birds for at least 15 minutes, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time, and then enter their results online.

The department says the reports provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of birds, contributing relevant information for science and conservation.

The event is hosted by the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Corsica/Stickney 72, Bon Homme 36
Freeman 65, Scotland 55
Herreid/Selby Area JV 93, Wakpala 34
Lake Preston 42, Great Plains Lutheran 38, OT
Langford 57, Rosholt 42
Miller 65, Mobridge-Pollock 55
Parkston 61, McCook Central/Montrose 31
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 66, Ethan 60
Wessington Springs 66, Howard 43

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Arlington 52, Deuel 47
Bon Homme 60, Gregory 55
Castlewood 66, Wilmot 35
Dell Rapids St. Mary 34, Bridgewater-Emery 33
Great Plains Lutheran 38, Lake Preston 32
Groton Area 45, Northwestern 40
Irene-Wakonda 58, Marion 35
Kimball/White Lake 37, Wolsey-Wessington 29
Lyman 72, Colome 37
New Underwood 51, Kadoka Area 22
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 50, Iroquois 44
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 45, Ethan 41
Wakpala 59, Herreid/Selby Area 53
Wall 57, Hot Springs 21

Airline company eyed by Pierre gets federal approval to fly

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A company that Pierre had backed for passenger air service has received federal approval to begin offering scheduled flights.

The city made a recommendation in 2014 that Aerodynamics Inc. provide flights through the Essential Air Service federal subsidy program. But concerns over the company's fiscal resources and managerial competence initially prompted federal officials to consider denying the application.

Aerodynamics last year cut ties with the CEO whose legal and financial problems had led to federal scrutiny. Afterwards, the U.S. Department of Transportation last week gave the company permission to fly scheduled passenger air service.

Company vice president Mickey Bowman tells KCCR radio that approval is still needed from the Federal Aviation Administration. He tells the Capital Journal that Aerodynamics hopes to begin offering two flights per day between Pierre and Denver later this year.

Wyoming-based Great Lakes Airlines has been offering flights from Pierre to Denver and Minneapolis for several years, but it reduced flights twice last year and again this month, dropping a flight on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pierre officials have criticized Great Lakes' service, saying cancelled and delayed flights have driven customers away.

Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill, who led the effort to recommend Aerodynamics as an alternative to Great Lakes, says she'll be meeting with civil leaders this week and will contact federal officials within two weeks about how to proceed.

Aerodynamics has been a regional charter airline since the 1950. It originally was based in Michigan and was moved to an Atlanta suburb in 2012.

Cruz, Rubio eye NH momentum as Dems gird for long fight

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press
KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — A victorious Ted Cruz and buoyant Marco Rubio emerged from Iowa with compelling claims to the outsider and mainstream mantles in the fractured Republican primary, as the presidential race shifted overnight to New Hampshire. Democrats were girding for a protracted slugfest between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, locked in a virtual tie.

Donald Trump, uncharacteristically humble after a second-place Iowa finish, was headed for far friendlier territory in New Hampshire, where the billionaire firebrand had a commanding lead.

Amid historically large turnout in Iowa, the unexpected benefactor was Rubio, who came within striking distance of Trump. Republicans had already been looking to New Hampshire to winnow their congested field, and the Florida senator's strong showing bolsters his case that Republicans should coalesce behind him as the mainstream alternative to the rowdier Trump or Cruz.

"We have taken the first step, but an important step, to winning the nomination," Rubio told supporters in Des Moines.

Monday's Democratic contest was a cliffhanger — "The results tonight are the closest in Iowa Democratic caucus history," said state party chairman Andy McGuire — a far cry from the coronation for Clinton that most Democrats once expected.

Even with an elaborate campaign operation and backing from most Democratic Party leaders, Clinton was unable to stem a flood of enthusiasm from young and liberal voters for Sanders, the eccentric Vermont senator whose viability in a general election is still deeply questioned.

Cruz, the Texas conservative known for his scorched-earth approach to compromise, hoped his triumph in the Iowa caucuses would bolster his standing as the top choice of Republicans seeking an agitator to upend the legacy of eight years under President Barack Obama. Having run a textbook Iowa campaign targeting rural and evangelical voters, Cruz faced a steeper climb in New Hampshire, with its tradition of favoring more mainstream candidates.

"We've built our campaign as a movement for Americans to organize, rallying and banding together

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 13 of 27

against the disaster of the Washington cartel," Cruz told The Associated Press as he made his way to New Hampshire.

Despite falling short of victory, Trump proved he could transform many of his die-hard fans into actual voters — the key question facing his campaign heading into Monday's voting. Yet the results raised an equally curious question: how Trump, who's branded himself as a reliable winner, can handle being a loser.

Thanking supporters at a rally, Trump displayed a rare hint of modesty as he congratulated Cruz and the other Republicans.

"We finished second, and I want to tell you something: I'm just honored," Trump said. "We're just so happy with the way everything worked out."

Although Clinton said she was "breathing a big sigh of relief," and her campaign said it had won an outright victory, the neck-and-neck contest was a blow, evoking the setback she faced in 2008 after her upset loss to then-Sen. Obama. Given the closeness of the Democratic caucuses, the AP did not declare a winner.

Eight years ago, Clinton's victory in New Hampshire breathed fresh life into her campaign. But New Hampshire is also familiar territory for Sanders, who represents neighboring Vermont in the Senate and is well known among the state's voters. Sanders' sizable lead over Clinton in New Hampshire polls has held steady or increased in recent weeks.

Nearly all the candidates planned to return to New Hampshire by midday Tuesday after hopping overnight flights from Iowa. Voters will hold the first primary of the season here on Feb. 9.

Behind Trump, who has led by double digits in New Hampshire in recent polls, the GOP race remained hotly contested. Facing dim prospects in Iowa, Chris Christie, John Kasich and Jeb Bush — all current or former governors — were laser-focused on New Hampshire.

Those three Republicans were clustered close together with Rubio and Cruz, separated by just a handful of percentage points in a CNN/WMUR poll conducted last week. Yet 6 in 10 Republicans said they hadn't yet made up their mind, suggesting plenty could change over the next seven days.

As the GOP winner in Iowa, Cruz collected at least eight of the state's 30 Republican delegates, with Trump winning seven and Rubio six. Democrats apportion their delegates differently, and even with no declared winner, the AP awarded Clinton 22 delegates and Sanders 21. The statewide winner will collect the final delegate.

New Hampshire's primary process, in which voters cast ordinary ballots, offers the candidates a more straightforward sprint toward victory than the quixotic Iowa caucuses. But undeclared voters, who make up the largest bloc in New Hampshire, can vote in either party's primary, infusing the race with an added level of uncertainty. Democrats have 24 delegates at stake in New Hampshire and Republicans have 23.

Both parties were offering New Hampshire voters a candidate roster that was shorter than a day earlier. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican, both dropped out Monday night following dismal showings in Iowa.

Before voters in New Hampshire weigh in, candidates in both parties may have another opportunity to debate. Sanders and Clinton will likely square off Thursday at the University of New Hampshire. The Republicans will meet Saturday in Manchester.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. GOP CANDIDATES EYE NEW HAMPSHIRE MOMENTUM AS DEMS GIRD FOR LONG FIGHT

Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio are emerging from Iowa with claims to the outsider and mainstream mantles in the Republican primary, while the Democratic contest remains a cliffhanger.

2. WHERE NEW DEMOCRATIC ERA IS DAWNING

Led by Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar is preparing to take a leap into uncharted territory, having only known democracy for 14 of its 1,000 years of recorded history.

3. ZIKA VIRUS CALLED GLOBAL EMERGENCY

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 14 of 27

The World Health Organization labels the disease's spread in the Americas an "extraordinary event" that poses a health threat to other parts of the world.

4. WHO IS TRYING TO PREVENT 'LOST GENERATION' OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

EU-funded college scholarships and high school remedial classes are part of new efforts by international donors to help migrants keep up with their education.

5. DETAILS REMAIN SCARCE IN DEATH OF VIRGINIA 13-YEAR-OLD

Police still aren't saying exactly how the lives of a slain seventh-grader and two Virginia Tech students charged in her murder intersected.

6. WHY AFGHAN MEDIA BECOMES TALIBAN'S TARGET

After Afghanistan's most popular broadcaster falsely accused militants of mass rape in a report carried last year, the insurgents declare war against local journalists.

7. FERGUSON RESIDENTS GET A SAY ON POLICE OVERHAUL AGREEMENT

The first of three public meetings on the proposed consent decree is Tuesday night in the St. Louis suburb where 18-year-old Michael Brown was fatally shot.

8. PENNSYLVANIA GROUNDHOG SET TO 'PREDICT' WHETHER WINTER ENDS

Members of Punxsutawney Phil's top hat-wearing inner circle plan to reveal their forecast at sunrise, just before 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

9. BILL COSBY DUE IN COURT

His lawyers will ask a judge to throw out the only criminal case lodged against the TV star from the dozens of accusations that he molested women.

10. VON MILLER IS DENVER BRONCOS' LOOSE LEADER

Not only did the loquacious linebacker set the tone for the team's run to Super Bowl 50, but he also loosened the locker room.

Global stock markets mostly lower as oil extends fall

YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Global stocks were mostly lower Tuesday as oil extended losses following a 6-percent plunge that was sparked by data showing a manufacturing slowdown in the world's two largest economies.

KEEPING SCORE: Europe started lower, with Britain's FTSE 100 down 1.2 percent to 5,985.97. Germany's DAX fell 1 percent to 9,656.78 while France's CAC 40 slipped 1.4 percent to 4,331.20. Futures augured a weak start for Wall Street. Dow futures fell 0.7 percent and S&P 500 futures declined 0.8 percent.

SLOWING MANUFACTURING: The Institute for Supply Management said on Monday that U.S. factory activity shrank in January for a fourth straight month as a strong dollar and weak demand overseas pinched American manufacturers. The ISM's manufacturing index followed a survey showing a slowdown in China's manufacturing. China's official survey found that manufacturing fell to its lowest level in more than three years.

OIL SLIDE: The two reports sent the price of oil sharply lower. Benchmark U.S. oil was down 56 cents to \$31.06 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Monday, the price of U.S. benchmark oil plunged \$2, or 5.9 percent, to \$31.62 a barrel in New York. Brent crude was down 49 cents to \$33.76 in London.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Manufacturing is (the) leading edge of a global growth slowdown," Tim Condon, head of Asia research at ING, said in a daily report. "We think the 50 percent crash in global oil prices in the second half of 2014 caused the manufacturing slump by crushing commodity producers' spending. However, we also think that in 2015 weaker manufacturing, especially in China, began to drive down oil prices. The negative feedback loop is causing severe strains."

ASIA'S DAY: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 finished 0.6 percent lower at 17,750.68 and South Korea's Kospi fell 1 percent to 1,906.60. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 0.8 percent to 19,446.84. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dropped 1 percent to 4,993.30. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines also were lower. But the Shanghai Composite in mainland China rose 2.3 percent to 2,749.57.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 15 of 27

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 120.63 yen from 120.95 yen on Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.0918 from \$1.0900.

The Latest: Sanders says Iowa gives campaign a kick-start

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The latest on developments in Monday's Iowa caucuses, the opening contest in the 2016 race for the White House (all local times):

4:20 a.m.

Bernie Sanders says his razor-thin contest against Hillary Clinton in Iowa is giving his campaign a "kick-start." The Democratic presidential candidate says it shows the American people that "this is a campaign that can win."

Sanders tells reporters traveling aboard his flight to New Hampshire early Tuesday that his message of addressing wealth inequality resonated with voters in Iowa. He predicts it will resonate in the early voting states of New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

Polls show the Vermont senator leading Clinton in New Hampshire. But Sanders would not say whether he considers anything less than victory there a successful outcome. He says his campaign is in it "for the long haul" and predicts that "we are going to win some states, we are going to lose some states."

But Sanders says he took a "giant step" in Iowa to overcome doubts among voters that he could win a general election.

1 a.m.

How close was the Iowa race between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders? Democrats flipped coins in some precincts to determine how to award an extra county delegate, a rare but longstanding procedure to break ties.

Party rules call for a coin flip when support for candidates is even but a precinct has an odd number of delegates to award.

The Des Moines Register reports that Clinton won coin tosses at precincts in Davenport and Des Moines.

The newspaper says party officials ordered another coin flip to decide a dispute between the campaigns at an Ames precinct. Clinton won that toss, too.

Iowa Democratic Party spokesman Sam Lau noted that the flips were to determine county convention delegates, which are only fractions of the state delegates awarded to candidates.

12:50 a.m.

Hillary Clinton's campaign team is casting her performance in the Iowa caucuses as a win, even though she is separated from rival Bernie Sanders by just a few hundred votes.

Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon tells reporters that, "we believe strongly that we won tonight."

He's pointing to Clinton's capture of at least 22 delegates to the party's national convention to Sanders' 21, with one left to be decided.

Clinton spokeswoman Jennifer Palmieri says: "We feel like we have great momentum going into New Hampshire. This was a very hard fought state."

The Associated Press is not declaring a winner in the Iowa caucuses at this time because of the closeness of the race.

12:38 a.m.

Iowa Democratic Party officials say they are gathering results from a small number of precincts where those in charge failed to report results in Monday's caucuses.

Polk County Democratic Party Chairman Tom Henderson says he is frustrated that some precincts in his county have failed to report results in a timely fashion.

By midnight, he says he'd tracked down results from 166 of the 167 precincts in the state's largest county and that someone is being sent to knock on the door of the chairman of the last outstanding precinct.

Henderson says, "I'm frustrated because we do things better than that."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 16 of 27

But he adds, "This is a situation where we have an election that is a near tie. We want to make sure it's accurate."

11:45 p.m.

Ted Cruz's victory in the Iowa caucuses means he'll collect eight delegates to the Republican National Convention.

Donald Trump and Marco Rubio each get seven from the opening contest in the 2016 presidential race. Coming next is Ben Carson with three, followed by Rand Paul and Jeb Bush — one each.

Delegates are awarded in proportion to the statewide vote.

There are three delegates still to be awarded.

11:25 p.m.

How did Ted Cruz do it?

His Iowa victory was propelled by Republican caucus-goers who said they want a candidate who shares their values.

That's according to entrance poll interviews of those arriving at presidential caucus sites on Monday night.

Two-thirds of caucus-goers were born-again Christians, and Cruz was favored over billionaire businessman Donald Trump and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio among that group.

More than 4 in 10 Republican caucus-goers said the candidate quality that mattered most to their vote was that the candidate shares their values.

Among those who said so Cruz on the support of more than 3 in 10, versus just 2 in 10 for Trump or Rubio.

The survey was conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

11:05 p.m.

However Iowa's Democratic caucuses turn out, Hillary Clinton is assured of at least half of the state's pledged delegates.

The Associated Press has awarded 43 of the 44 pledged delegates at stake. Clinton currently leads Bernie Sanders, 22 to 21.

Her delegate lead so far is due to a stronger performance in a congressional district in the southwestern part of the state.

The remaining delegate to be awarded will go to the winner of Iowa.

Sanders says he and Clinton are in "virtual tie" in the Monday night caucuses.

10:55 p.m.

Bernie Sanders says it looks like he and Hillary Clinton are in a "virtual tie" for first place in the Iowa's Democratic caucuses.

The Vermont senator is congratulating his chief rival for waging a "very vigorous campaign" in the first contest of the 2016 election.

Sanders — who calls himself a democratic socialist — says he came to Iowa nine months ago with no money, name recognition or political organization. He says he took on "the most powerful political organization in the United States of America" — namely the Clinton family.

Sanders says the people of Iowa have sent a profound message — that it's too late for what he calls "establishment politics" in the United States.

10:50 p.m.

Voter turnout for the Iowa Republican caucuses was up when compared with the count four years ago. There were more than 180,000 people at Monday's GOP caucuses. That's up from about 121,000 in 2012.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 17 of 27

10:40 p.m.

Hillary Clinton says she's excited for the campaign debate ahead with Bernie Sanders now that they're the only two candidates left in the Democratic presidential primary.

It's too close to call right now in Monday night's Iowa caucuses. But there's already been a big development: Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has dropped out of the race.

Clinton tells supporters that she's breathing a big sigh of relief. She says Democrats have a clear idea about what their campaign stands for and what's best for the country.

10:25 p.m.

Democrat Martin O'Malley is pulling out of the presidential race after the Iowa caucuses on Monday night, but says the party must "hold strong" behind the eventual nominee.

The former Maryland governor says Democrats must stick to their beliefs, including a responsibility to advance the common good.

10:02 p.m.

Ted Cruz tells The Associated Press that his victory in Iowa's Republican presidential caucuses is a victory for the grassroots, and he says his triumph is part of a larger movement of conservatives against what he calls the "Washington cartel."

Cruz says his win "was a victory for courageous conservatives in Iowa and all around the country."

The first-term Texas senator says that from "Day One, we built our campaign as a movement for Americans to organize and rally to band together against the disaster of the Washington cartel."

9:58 p.m.

Donald Trump says he's honored by what he's calling his second-place finish in Iowa's Republican presidential caucuses.

Trump is speaking at an event with supporters after Ted Cruz was declared the winner of the Monday night contest — the first of the 2016 election.

Trump says that when he started the campaign, he was advised not to compete in Iowa because he couldn't finish in the top 10. Trump says he felt he had to do it and wanted to give it a shot.

Trump is congratulating Cruz and the other candidates. He says he thinks he'll win the New Hampshire primary next week and that he will go on to be the GOP nominee and win the White House.

9:50 p.m.

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz might have picked up momentum by winning the Iowa caucuses, but he's not going to collect many delegates.

With his victory, Cruz will get at least eight delegates to the Republican National Convention.

Donald Trump will get at least seven, Marco Rubio will get at least six, Ben Carson will get at least two and Rand Paul will get at least one.

Delegates are awarded in proportion to the statewide vote. There are six delegates still to be awarded.

9:45 p.m.

"We want Ted" is the chant at Ted Cruz's jubilant caucus-night party in Iowa.

And supporters of the Texas senator — who won Monday night's Republican caucuses — are soon to get their wish. Cruz is flying from Cedar Rapids to Des Moines to join the celebration.

The crowd erupted in cheers when TV screen showed that the race was being called for their favored candidate.

9:40 p.m.

Republican Mike Huckabee says he's ending his second bid for the White House.

The former Arkansas governor writes on Twitter that he's "officially suspending my campaign." He's

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 18 of 27

thanking his backers for their loyal support, adding the hashtag #ImWithHuck.

He joined the race last May, with an announcement in the hometown he shares with former President Bill Clinton. But Huckabee became just one candidate in a crowded field that included many political newcomers.

His campaign failed to take off with candidates like billionaire Donald Trump, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio dominating the race.

9:27 p.m.

It's Ted Cruz on top in the leadoff Republican presidential caucuses in Iowa.

The Texas senator has edged past of Donald Trump and a crowded GOP field.

Cruz won with strong support from Iowa's influential evangelical community and conservative voters.

Cruz's victory in the first contest of the 2016 race comes just four years after he rode a tea party wave to win election to the Senate.

The race now moves to New Hampshire, where Trump has strong support among voters frustrated and angry with Washington.

9:20 p.m.

There are big differences when it comes to the age of caucus-goers in Iowa who say they are supporting Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders.

More than 8 in 10 Democratic caucus-goers under 30 say they came to support Sanders on Monday night, as did nearly 6 in 10 of those between age 30 and 44.

But nearly 6 in 10 caucus-goers between age 45 and 64, and 7 in 10 of those 65 and over, came out to back Clinton.

That's according to entrance poll interviews with people arriving at their caucus sites.

The survey was conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks by Edison Research as voters arrived at 40 randomly selected sites for Democratic and Republican caucuses.

9 p.m.

Democrat Martin O'Malley has suspended his presidential campaign.

The former Maryland governor and Baltimore mayor never gained traction against rivals Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

Word about O'Malley's move comes from people familiar with his decision. They weren't authorized to discuss it publicly and requested anonymity.

O'Malley campaigned as a can-do chief executive who pushed through key parts of the Democratic agenda in Maryland. They included gun control, support for gay marriage and an increase in the minimum wage.

But O'Malley struggled to raise money and was polling in the single-digits for months despite campaigning actively in Iowa and New Hampshire.

—Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

8:50 p.m.

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz is the top choice among very conservative caucus-goers in Iowa, while Donald Trump is No. 1 among moderates.

That's according to entrance poll interviews among those arriving at caucus sites conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

Those who say they're somewhat conservative are split between Marco Rubio and Trump.

Half of GOP caucus-goers say they prefer a candidate from outside the political establishment, while 4 in 10 say they prefer someone with political experience.

8:35 p.m.

The crowd has come alive for Marco Rubio at a concert hall that's hosting caucuses for two Iowa precincts outside Des Moines.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 19 of 27

The Florida senator tells caucus-goers that he knows they might have come out to support other candidates in the Republican race. But he also says that he believes "with all my heart I can unite this party."

8:25 p.m.

Ben Carson plans to trade the cold of Iowa for the warmer Florida for a few days.

A campaign spokesman says the Republican presidential candidate is heading home to West Palm Beach after the Iowa caucuses.

Carson plans to speak at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington on Thursday and then will head to New Hampshire.

The plan is to leave Iowa on Monday night in hopes of getting ahead of a winter storm.

"Not standing down" — that's what spokesman Jason Osborne posted on Carson's twitter feed.

8:15 p.m.

Donald Trump's voice is hoarse but he still has lots to say.

He's telling 2,000 Republicans in suburban Des Moines, Iowa, that "we're going to win again" and take back the country.

Trump is criticizing the Obama administration's foreign and trade policy, promising to command respect for the United States in the world.

Trump says his mission in the presidential race is to "make America great again."

8:05 p.m.

Early arrivals at Iowa's Democratic caucus sites are split among health care, the economy and income inequality as the top issue facing the country.

That's according to preliminary results of an entrance poll at caucus locations.

Almost 3 in 10 say experience is the most important quality in deciding which candidate to back. What's next? Honesty and someone who cares about people like them.

Six in 10 say the next president should continue President Barack Obama's policies.

The survey was conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks by Edison Research as voters arrived at 40 randomly selected sites for Democratic caucuses in Iowa.

7:55 p.m.

Republican or Democrat — Jeb Bush is criticizing them all.

President Barack Obama. Hillary Clinton. Donald Trump. Ted Cruz. Marco Rubio.

Bush tells supporters in New Hampshire that Obama is "a failed president." And the former Florida governor is hitting Trump — though not by name — for "insulting" his way toward the presidency.

The latest statewide polls in New Hampshire show Bush in a fight for second place. Trump holds a commanding lead.

7:45 p.m.

Here's what's at stake on the delegate front in the Iowa caucuses.

The Democrats have 44 delegates at stake and the Republicans have 30. That's just a small sliver of what it will take to win each party's nomination.

For Democrats, it will take 2,382 delegates to win the nomination. For Republicans, it will take 1,237.

Hillary Clinton starts off with a big lead because of endorsements by Democratic superdelegates. They're the party leaders who can support the candidate of their choice.

Clinton has 362 endorsements to just eight for Bernie Sanders. Martin O'Malley has two.

Republicans don't have nearly as many superdelegates.

7:37 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 20 of 27

Let the caucusing begin.

On a winter night, Iowans are meeting in party caucuses and express their preferences for the Democratic and Republican candidates in the race for the 2016 nominations.

At stake is crucial early momentum in the campaign. For some candidates, the future of their White House hopes may lie in the balance.

7:10 p.m.

Early arrivals at Iowa's Republican caucus sites are deeply unhappy with how the federal government is working.

That's according to preliminary results of an entrance poll of those arriving at caucus locations.

Four in 10 say they're angry. One-half say they're dissatisfied.

Almost 4 in 10 say the most important quality in a candidate is someone who shares their values.

Also, 2 in 10 want someone who can bring needed change.

The survey was conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks by Edison Research as voters arrived at 40 randomly selected sites for Democratic and Republican caucuses in Iowa.

AP News Guide: Cruz wins Iowa; Dem race up in air

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The opening contest of the 2016 presidential election delivered an Iowa victory to hard-charging conservative Ted Cruz, humble pie to Donald Trump and a night of bristling suspense in a too-close-to-call contest between Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

Soon it will be on to New Hampshire, where the calculus is different. But first there's a Democratic race to sort out.

Developments in the presidential scramble as all eyes turn east:

PATH TO VICTORY

—Neither party's race in the Iowa caucuses produced a quick winner, but it was immediately apparent that the flamboyant Trump, a magnet for excitement from his massive crowds and derision from his rivals, had a terrific fight on his hands — from Marco Rubio as well as from Cruz.

Cruz went into the caucuses with a ground organization that was the envy of his rivals. He scored heavily with conservatives and won the day, leaving Trump and Rubio in a close struggle for second. Late preference polls had suggested a tight finish between Cruz and Trump — with the New York billionaire having a clearer advantage heading into the Feb. 9 New Hampshire primary.

—Clinton's team spent nearly a year building a massive get-out-the-vote operation in Iowa, trying to power her to an Iowa victory that eluded her eight years ago against Barack Obama on his way to the presidency. But she was confronted by surging enthusiasm for Sanders.

Their Iowa race remains up in the air; Sanders, a senator from Vermont, has the advantage in bordering New Hampshire.

Whatever the outcome, Clinton and Sanders will emerge from Iowa with a similar number of delegates. The Associated Press has awarded 43 of the 44 pledged delegates at stake. Clinton currently leads Bernie Sanders, 22 to 21. If she's declared the Iowa winner, she'll have 23. If he is, their delegate allotment will be tied.

END OF THE ROAD

After a negligible Iowa performance, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley dropped out of the Democratic race, leaving only Clinton and Sanders to duke it out. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, winner of the 2008 GOP caucuses, also exited.

BEATING EXPECTATIONS

Even though Rubio's team had made clear he was fighting for third place — and that's where he finished — Rubio outperformed expectations. That's because he shrank a gap in preference polls to finish

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 21 of 27

just behind Trump.

With Iowa (and New Hampshire) offering only a small contingent of delegates needed to win the party nominations, the national campaign at this point is very much about who does better and worse than people think they will.

That changes when the rush of big-state primaries begins and the delegate math becomes decisive.

GOP DISAFFECTION

Voters at Republican caucuses indicated they were deeply unhappy with the way the federal government is working. Half said they were dissatisfied and 4 in 10 said they were angry, according to surveys by Edison Research for The Associated Press and the television networks.

YOUNG & OLD

Democrats under 45 favored Sanders; those older tended to back Clinton, the surveys found. That trend was even more pronounced among the youngest and oldest Democrats interviewed.

THE DEMOCRATS

The bracing Sanders-Clinton contest came down to a struggle between practicality and passion, with both candidates from the left but Sanders farther to the left. That continues in New Hampshire and beyond.

Clinton went hard after Sanders for "magic wand" ideas, like substituting government-paid health care for the hard-won and landmark health law everyone knows as Obamacare.

She called herself a "progressive who wants to make progress and actually produce real results in people's lives."

Said Sanders, "You don't make progress unless you have the courage to look reality in the eye."

THE REPUBLICANS

From one provocative comment to the next, Trump was the man to beat in Iowa, just as he will be in New Hampshire next week despite his defeat Monday. He flouted convention at every turn and capped his iconoclastic ways by blowing off the final Iowa debate in a snit with Fox News.

Cruz, who campaigned and organized exhaustively in Iowa, put into motion a strong ground game to get Iowans to the caucuses.

IOWA VOTERS SAY...

— "Hillary goes out and works with what we have to work with. She works across the aisle and gets things accomplished." — John Grause, 54, of Nevada, Iowa, served as a precinct captain for Clinton.

— "He's the one true conservative in the race. I don't think he's the wolf in sheep's clothing." — Brad Sorensen, 46, of Waukee, who works for the Iowa Farm Bureau, on why he came out for Cruz.

— "I think he's got leadership written all over him." — Wayne Wagemann, 35, who was among more than 2,000 people at a concert hall in Clive, a Des Moines suburb, on why he backed Rubio.

Woodward reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Scott Bauer, Jill Colvin, Thomas Beaumont and Ken Thomas in Iowa and Emily Swanson in Washington contributed to this report.

Iowa Takeaways: Trump can't meet hype, Clinton underwhelms
STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Donald Trump failed to live up to his own hype and finished second to Ted Cruz, but it was a late surge from Marco Rubio that may wind up the as the biggest surprise of the Iowa caucuses.

Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders finished in what the Vermont senator termed a "virtual tie," an outcome that may further embolden her critics even as her team claimed victory.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 22 of 27

The 2016 presidential contest moves on to New Hampshire, where the nation's first primary is now just seven days away. To get you started, here are some takeaways from Iowa's leadoff caucuses:

A HUGE TURNOUT, BUT NOT HUGE ENOUGH FOR TRUMP

Before Monday's contest, the major question about Trump was whether his legion of fans would ultimately become an army of voters.

Plenty did, as turnout in the Republican caucuses was up by nearly 60,000 people compared to 2012. The problem for the billionaire businessman was that he still didn't have enough backers to push past the first-term Texas senator.

Trump, a New Yorker through and through, was never well-positioned to win over rural Iowa's evangelical voters. More than 4 in 10 Republicans arriving at caucus sites said the candidate quality that mattered most in their vote was that the candidate shares their values. Among those who said so, Cruz won the support of nearly 4 in 10, compared to less than 1 in 10 for Trump.

Trump will be quick to point out that Iowa backed two deeply flawed GOP candidates in 2008 and 2012, neither of whom went on to win the party's nomination. Yet he missed an opportunity to deal Cruz a blow that would have made his path to the nomination far easier.

A CLOSE DEMOCRATIC RACE

Hillary Clinton's campaign team declared victory in the early morning hours as they headed to New Hampshire, pointing to her capture of at least 22 delegates to the party's national convention to Sanders' 21 — with one left to be decided.

But the Iowa results appeared likely to benefit Sanders' campaign far more than her own.

"We came in and we took on the entire political establishment and we fought them to a draw," said Sanders adviser Tad Devine. "It's a huge step forward for us. We're very, very pleased with what happened."

Even before the caucuses, Sanders said he was prepared to compete deep into the spring and fight until the summer convention. He raised \$20 million in January and will be well-positioned to build a campaign organization in the lengthy list of states holding contests in March.

Still, Iowa has a largely white, liberal Democratic electorate, which will make it difficult for Sanders to argue that he's a stronger candidate than Clinton to face off against the GOP in the general election.

To do so, he'll need to win over the minority voters who play a major role in upcoming states on the primary calendar, including Nevada, South Carolina and several Southern states that hold contests in March.

IOWA TRUSTED CRUZ

By claiming victory in Iowa, Cruz ensures he'll be a force in the Republican primary contest for weeks to come — if not longer.

He moves on to New Hampshire as the favorite of his party's most conservative voters. Expect him to pick up support from likeminded candidates who underwhelmed on Monday, among them former neurosurgeon Ben Carson and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul — and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who dropped out of the race.

Cruz won with an impressive ground game and beat back brutal attacks from Trump and others about his trustworthiness, the cornerstone of his campaign and his "TRUSTED" slogan.

And he's got built-in advantages that will help him sustain his momentum as the race moves into the spring. Cruz began the year with more money than most of his competitors combined, and after New Hampshire, he'll be able to spend it in more friendly territory as the GOP race moves into the South.

RUBIO RISING

He didn't win the most votes, but Marco Rubio had a very good night in Iowa.

The first-term Florida senator claimed third place, finishing just behind Trump. More importantly, he absolutely dominated his competitors in the mainstream wing of the party, earning more votes than former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich combined.

Rubio's team also proved to be masters of the expectations game. By casting Trump and Cruz as the

overwhelming front-runners in recent weeks, Rubio's strong third place finish exceeded expectations and recent polls alike — which made it feel like a victory of sorts.

Plan to spin off air traffic control generates turbulence

JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The air traffic control system that choreographs the roughly 7,000 aircraft in U.S. skies at any given moment is the most complex, but also one of the safest, in the world — and rarely a thought in the minds of the millions of travelers who rely on it.

A Republican House committee chairman is launching a push this week to take away control of that system from the government and hand it to a nonprofit corporation directed by the airlines, airports, labor unions, business aircraft operators and private pilots, among others. The idea is already generating turbulence as lawmakers and lobbyists line up for and against it.

House Transportation committee chairman Bud Shuster, R-Pa., said last summer when he announced his idea that the U.S. is lagging behind other nations in the transition from a radar-based system to one based on satellites.

It's questionable whether the present system is capable of sustaining current demands, let alone future growth, he said, arguing that delays already cost passengers and the economy \$30 billion a year.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which operates the present system, has been working on its "Next-Gen" modernization program for more than a decade and says much progress has been made. But airlines say they have yet to see significant benefits from the billions of dollars spent on modernization.

The agency's case hasn't been helped by reports from the department's inspector general that say system costs have doubled over two decades while productivity declined, and improvements ordered by Congress were ineffective. Some of the nation's busiest air traffic facilities don't have enough controllers while others have too many.

Under Shuster's plan the system would still be financed with taxes on plane tickets, aviation fuel and other fees. The private corporation that directs it would use the money to float bonds to help pay for long-term modernization, free of worry about whether Congress would approve its budget. The FAA would continue to enforce air safety rules.

"The FAA suffers from an unstable procurement system and an unpredictable federal funding structure that hampers the agency" and keeps it from staying current with new technology, said David Grizzle, a former head of FAA's air traffic organization and a proponent of privatization.

U.S. airlines, with the notable exception of Delta, are the lobbying muscle behind Shuster's proposal. They've been pushing the idea since at least the mid-1990s, but it hasn't taken off in part because of solid opposition from the air traffic controllers union and its Democratic allies in Congress.

Now, that may be changing. Paul Rinaldi, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, has said he's withholding judgment on privatization until he sees the details of Shuster's plan.

Congressional money spats unrelated to air traffic control shut down the FAA briefly in 2011, and similar infighting led to controllers being temporarily furloughed in 2013, snarling air traffic across the country. Union officials now say removing air traffic operations from Congress' oversight might provide greater stability.

Shuster's Senate counterpart, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., also favors privatization and has kept an eye on developments in the House. But in both chambers, the senior Democrats on the committees — Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon and Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida — are opposed. Privatization could "not only put lives at risk, it's also an example of fixing a problem that doesn't exist," Nelson said.

There's also bipartisan opposition to privatization from the top members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its transportation subcommittee, who would lose some of their legislative turf if the FAA budget were removed from their control.

Other anti-privatization arguments are coming from businesses that use their own planes to fly employees around, and air taxi services that fear airlines and the large airports that serve them will dominate the new corporation's board. Airlines could push those smaller services out of large airports to make room for more airliners, or force them to pay a bigger share of the system's costs.

Lawmakers to press commander on troop levels for Afghan war

RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top American commander in Afghanistan faces skeptical lawmakers amid concerns that worsening security conditions demand a greater number of U.S. forces to ensure the gains made in the war-torn country since 2001 aren't lost.

Army Gen. John F. Campbell is slated to testify on Tuesday before the House Armed Services Committee, where members are expected to press him on President Barack Obama's plan to cut American troop levels from 9,800 to 5,500 before he leaves office next January. Obama had backtracked from his initial plan to reduce the U.S. force to 1,000 by the end of 2016.

Republicans have long assailed Obama's exit strategy, arguing that conditions on the ground in Afghanistan, not a calendar, should determine the pace of the withdrawal. With the Taliban staging new offensives and the Islamic State extremist group seeking a presence in Afghanistan, congressional Democrats also are raising the prospect of an extended stay.

"I've always believed that putting a time limit on it is a mistake," Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the committee chairman, said Monday. "To say this is going to take five years, 10 years or 50 years, nobody can say that."

Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., warned against a repeat of Iraq. American forces were withdrawn too rapidly and without a long-term political strategy to ensure the progress they made would hold, he said. U.S. troops had to return to Iraq after the resulting instability allowed IS to grow.

"I've never been an advocate for withdrawing troops on a timetable," said Moulton, a former Marine Corps officer who served four tours in Iraq. "If security is worsening with the number of troops we have there now, then we shouldn't cut them below the current level."

Campbell is expected to retire soon and Obama has nominated Army Lt. Gen. John W. "Mick" Nicholson, Jr., to replace him.

Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., said last week that Congress "desperately" needs an unvarnished assessment of troop requirements even if the recommended number contradicts what Obama has proposed.

"If it's 10,000 that's needed to be effective, then tell us it's 10. If it's (5,000), tell us it's 5," Donnelly said at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing held to consider Nicholson's nomination. "If we don't have enough there, it's just going to make it worse, and worse and worse."

While campaigning for his second term, Obama promised the war in Afghanistan would end on his watch. At the end of 2014, the White House declared an end to combat operations there. Yet American forces and money remain committed as Afghan troops and police slowly take over the fighting.

The mission of the U.S. troops in Afghanistan is to conduct counterterrorism operations and to train and assist the Afghan security forces. Nicholson assured the Senate Armed Services Committee that if confirmed, he will do a thorough review to make sure there are enough American forces to accomplish both assignments.

Nicholson acknowledged, however, that security conditions are worsening in Afghanistan. The Afghans held their own in 2015 during combat against the insurgency, he said, but are still not self-sustaining. The U.S. continues to provide the bulk of the money to train and equip the Afghan military and police — more than \$4.1 billion was allotted in fiscal year 2015 alone to the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, according to the Defense Department.

"The Taliban came at the (Afghan forces) more intensely than perhaps we anticipated," Nicholson said. "Because of that, we did not make the advances we projected we thought we would make."

Overall, the U.S. has committed \$113 billion since 2002 for reconstruction projects in hopes of establishing a stable, functioning Afghan government. Yet, nearly 15 years later, Afghanistan still lacks the capacity to independently operate and maintain the hospitals, roads, power plants, and more built with all the money.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 25 of 27

Panthers, Broncos meet reporters at Super Bowl media circus

EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — What happens when you put Peyton Manning, Miss Universe, an orange-and-blue leprechaun and 200 TV cameras into the same room?

Answer: Super Bowl Opening Night.

The NFL took a good idea gone surreal — what used to be known as “Media Day” — gave it a new name, added a live cover band and moved the whole thing to prime time Monday to kick off Super Bowl week between the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers.

This new and amped-up interview-fest came complete with a guy walking around inside an inflatable football and a newly choreographed players’ introduction that involved all 60 players from each team walking out onto a four-story-high catwalk.

“I had no idea that was a bridge we were standing on,” said Manning, getting ready for his fourth Super Bowl.

And yet, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

“Will you kiss my wife?” one questioner shouted to Panthers QB Cam Newton, who answered his hour’s worth of questions with a sports-drink-themed towel wrapped around his head.

“I don’t think I can do that,” Newton said.

Suffice to say, Manning and Newton — one a five-time MVP, the other a strong favorite to win his first later this week — couldn’t have seen a lot of this coming, no matter how hard they prepared.

Who would play you in a movie? “Maybe a young Robert Redford,” Manning said.

Another reporter — or make that, person with a credential — asked Manning to look into the camera and wish a Happy Chinese New Year to all his friends in that part of the world.

At one point, a reporter from a Spanish-language station cranked up some bass-heavy music and pleaded with Newton to dance.

He passed. “Got to be feeling it,” he explained.

All of this thoughtfully brought to prime time by the NFL for the first time in the 50-year history of the Super Bowl.

For decades, Media Day was a Tuesday-at-noonish affair — scheduled so as not to interrupt the teams’ schedules and to give writers the rest of the week to craft the stories.

But this year, the NFL moved it to Monday night, where minor details like dress code, off-color banter and 8-year-olds asking football players questions after bedtime barely raise an eyebrow.

NFL spokesman Michael Signora described the scheduling change as one that allows “more fans (to) experience what has grown to become a very unique, popular Super Bowl event.”

Conveniently, the NFL-owned NFL Network captured all the action live.

Surprising they didn’t do this earlier. It’s a nod to the reality that “Media Day” has long been a “journalism-free zone” — one in which fans have willingly, for the last five years, paid money for tickets that allow them to sit in the stands and watch the madness unfold.

Speaking of which ...

Late in the Broncos session, Rocky the Leprechaun — a regular at Broncos games over the years — laid a dollar bill out on the blue carpeting of SAP Center and waited to see if someone would pick it up. Several minutes passed. Nobody did.

“Crazy to see that,” he said.

What makes this week so great?

“There’s a lot of happiness,” said the gnome-turned-sociologist. “This world needs all the happiness it can get.”

Only one team will be happy come Sunday night. The Panthers are favored. Manning is a sentimental favorite; at 39, many people expect he’ll retire after this one.

That was one of the few actual news angles being worked on during Denver’s hour of fun behind the mic.

“I haven’t made up my mind and I don’t see myself knowing until the season’s over,” Manning said.

Also, the Broncos were involved in a minor bus crash after practice. There were no injuries. “Just adds to the intrigue of what we’ve had all year,” Manning said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 26 of 27

Back to the important stuff.

Miss Universe, one of the 5,500 “reporters” with credentials for Super Bowl-week festivities, answered more questions than she asked. Most had to do with Steve Harvey. “Yes, I am the real Miss Universe,” she said, referencing Harvey’s embarrassing gaffe a few weeks back.

Harvey was a no-show at this one.

No one missed him.

From the costumes, to the beauty queens, to the guys dressed up like the Swedish Chef from the Muppets, this prime-time special had pretty much everything — except for Donald Trump, who was waiting on caucus results in Iowa.

Manning was asked to recollect a meeting with Trump a few years back. Maybe someday, Newton will meet The Donald, too.

“I tell kids, that oval-shaped pigskin can take you a lot of places,” said the Panthers quarterback, who won the national college championship with Auburn a few years back. “It’s taken me to the White House.”

And to this place. Kickoff is less than a week away.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2016. There are 333 days left in the year. This is Groundhog Day.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1914, Charles Chaplin made his movie debut as the comedy short “Making a Living” was released by Keystone Film Co.

On this date:

In 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated.

In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War, was signed.

In 1887, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, held its first Groundhog Day festival.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1932, Duke Ellington and His Orchestra recorded “It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)” for Brunswick Records.

In 1942, a Los Angeles Times column by W.H. Anderson urged security measures against Japanese-Americans, arguing that a Japanese-American “almost inevitably ... grows up to be a Japanese, not an American.”

In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

In 1964, Ranger 6, a lunar probe launched by NASA, crashed onto the surface of the moon as planned, but failed to send back any TV images.

In 1971, Idi Amin, having seized power in Uganda, proclaimed himself president.

In 1980, NBC News reported the FBI had conducted a sting operation targeting members of Congress using phony Arab businessmen in what became known as “Abscam,” a codename protested by Arab-Americans.

In 1990, in a dramatic concession to South Africa’s black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

In 1992, longtime “Miss America” emcee Bert Parks died in La Jolla (HOY’-uh), Calif., at age 77.

In 2007, tornadoes killed 21 people in central Florida. A grim report from the world’s leading climate scientists and government officials said that global warming was so severe, it would “continue for centuries” and that humans were to blame.

In 2014, Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46, was found dead in his New York apartment from a combination of heroin, cocaine and other drugs.

Ten years ago: House Republicans elected John Boehner (BAY’-nur) of Ohio as their new majority leader to replace the indicted Tom DeLay. Tornadoes tore through New Orleans neighborhoods that had

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 02, 2016 ♦ Vol. 21 - No. 189 ♦ 27 of 27

been hit hard by Hurricane Katrina five months earlier.

Five years ago: Supporters of President Hosni Mubarak charged into Cairo's central square on horses and camels brandishing whips while others rained firebombs from rooftops in what appeared to be an orchestrated assault against protesters trying to topple Egypt's leader of 30 years.

One year ago: President Barack Obama sent Congress a record \$4 trillion budget that would boost tax credits for families and the working poor but also raise taxes on the wealthy. Parts of New England were buried in heavy snow for the second time in a week, with up to 18 inches falling in the Boston area. Jury selection in the trial of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was postponed, and a celebration for the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots was pushed back a day.

Today's Birthdays: Gossip columnist Liz Smith is 93. Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (val-eh-REE' ZHEES'-kahr deh-STANG') is 90. Actor Robert Mandan is 84. Comedian Tom Smothers is 79. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 74. Television executive Barry Diller is 74. Actor Bo Hopkins is 72. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 70. TV chef Ina (EE'-nuh) Garten is 68. Actor Jack McGee is 67. Actor Brent Spiner (SPY'-nur) is 67. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 67. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is 64. The president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), is 64. Model Christie Brinkley is 62. Actor Michael Talbott is 61. Actress Kim Zimmer is 61. Actor Michael T. Weiss is 54. Actor-comedian Adam Ferrara is 50. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 50. Actress Jennifer Westfeldt is 46. Rock musician Ben Mize is 45. Rapper T-Mo is 44. Actress Marissa Jaret Winokur is 43. Actress Lori Beth Denberg is 40. Singer Shakira is 39. Actor Rich Sommer (TV: "Mad Men") is 38. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 30. Actress Zosia Mamet (TV: "Girls") is 28.

Thought for Today: "Mistakes are the portals of discovery." — James Joyce (1882-1941).