

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 1 of 27

- 1- Dr, Rath ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Preschool Screening
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Upcoming events on gdilive.com
- 2- Golden LivingCenter Help Wanted Ad
- 3- Senator Rounds' Weekly Column
- 4- Region 1A BBB Pairings
- 5- Lana Greenfield's Column
- 6- Pray, Anderson place at state
- 6- Geese at Sand Lake Refuge
- 7- Record highs set on Saturday
- 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

Monday, February 29

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

School Lunch: Soft shell tacos, refried beans, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice and chow mein noodles, broccoli, Waldorf salad, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Arletta Peterson, Mary Haying, Tyra Leonhardt

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

4:30pm: Region 1A Boys in Groton (4:30 pm: Roncalli vs. Milbank; 6:00: Groton vs. Webster, 7:30: Britton-Hecla vs. Tiospa Zina

Tuesday, March 1

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables, buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding with bananas.

Anniv: Craig & Tasha Dunker

Birthdays: Delores Leonhardt, Mitchell Locke, Alicia Clocksene

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

7:00pm: Region 1A Girls Title Game at Britton

2016 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 4 and 5 year olds February 29 and March 1

Parents of children ages 4 and 5 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened.

Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization record.

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

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

Dr. Geoffrey Rath - Optometrist

Eye Exams Glaucoma Tests Rx's Filled
- All Types Contact Lenses -

Doctor here Mondays Only - Office open Thursdays.
701-349-3223 to make appointments & adjustments

Hours at Ellendale, N.D. are:

Monday 9 - 12 & 1 - 5 Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 2 of 27



Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line



gdilive.com

Coming up next week at gdilive.com

Boys Regional Game

6:15 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29

Groton Area vs. Webster Area (not finalized yet)

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

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 3 of 27



Justice Scalia: The Gold Standard

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia will be greatly missed by his family and loved ones, as well as all Americans who share his core conservative values and beliefs. For almost 30 years, Justice Scalia was one of the court's strongest defenders of our Constitution. His brilliant legal mind and animated character will be remembered, studied and celebrated for generations to come. The Senate recently paid its respects to Justice Scalia by unanimously passing a resolution honoring his life, legacy and legal contributions to our country.

Justice Scalia's death has left a vacancy on the bench of our nation's highest court that will be difficult to fill. Under the Constitution, the president is allowed to nominate a replacement, and the Senate has a Constitutional role of "advice and consent." This is a Constitutional responsibility that I take very seriously. The Supreme Court is the final authority for interpreting federal laws and the Constitution. The decisions it makes often have long-lasting ramifications that – in one vote – can dramatically alter the course of our country.

At a time when the current administration has stretched the limits of the law and attempted to circumvent Congress and the federal court system, choosing the right candidate with the aptitude for this lifetime appointment is as important as ever. After giving it much thought, I have determined that my benchmark for the next Supreme Court Justice will be Justice Scalia himself. Scalia's strict interpretation of the Constitution and deference to states' rights set a gold standard by which his replacement should be measured.

Recently, every Republican member of the Senate Judiciary Committee—which is in charge of reviewing court nominations—sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell expressing their firm belief that the people of the United States deserve to have a voice in determining the next Supreme Court justice. In their letter they wrote, "Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution is clear. The president may nominate judges of the Supreme Court. But the power to grant - or withhold - consent to such nominees rests exclusively with the United States Senate." As a result, the committee does not plan on holding any hearings related to this issue until after the election in November. This decision will allow the American people to have a voice in the next Supreme Court Justice based upon who they elect as president in the upcoming election.

Whoever is confirmed to fill the open seat on the Supreme Court will be serving a lifetime appointment. Keeping in mind the current political makeup of the court, the man or woman who will replace Justice Scalia has the potential to hold incredible influence over the ideological direction of the court for generations to come. It is critically important that the next justice is committed to upholding the principles of the Constitution. We owe it to Justice Scalia, our judicial system, the Constitution and every American to uphold the highest standards when determining our next Supreme Court Justice.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 4 of 27

Region 1A Boys Basketball Tournament

#1 Sisseton

Score:

Date: Thursday, March 3rd
Time: 6pm
Site: Groton Area HS

Score:

#4 Britton-Hecla

Score:

Date: Monday, Feb. 29th
Time: 20 Min. after 2nd game
Site: Groton Area HS

Score:

#5 Tiospa Zina

Score:

Date: Tuesday, March 8th
Time: 7pm
Site: Groton Area HS

CHAMPION

State Qualifier

#3 Groton Area

Score:

Date: Monday, Feb. 29th
Time: 20 Min. after 1st game
Site: Groton Area HS

Score:

Score:

#6 Webster Area

Date: Thursday, March 3rd
Time: 20 Min. after 1st game
Site: Groton Area HS

Score:

#2 Aberdeen Roncalli

Score:

Date: Monday, Feb. 29th
Time: 4:30pm
Site: Groton Area HS

Score:

Score:

#7 Milbank Area

Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
Sisseton	43.30	15-5
Aberdeen Roncalli	42.80	12-8
Groton Area	41.40	12-8
Britton-Hecla	40.60	10-10
Tiospa Zina	39.75	9-11
Webster Area	38.90	8-12
Milbank Area	38.30	5-15

Follow the Tigers on

gdilive.com

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 5 of 27



Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Greetings once again from Pierre. Crossover week proved to be a long one. For those of you who do not know what that means, all of the House bills had to be heard and voted on in the House by Wednesday. Now we will hear the Senate bills that have been passed and sent over to us for review.

HB1116, which authorizes municipalities to impose sales and use tax for a specified amount of time, was passed this week by our chamber. This bill was supported by many small towns in my district for the purpose of being able to complete special projects such as water and sewer upgrades. What makes the bill attractive is that it is a specified project for a specific time period and has to have the voters' approval before it can go forth. Checks and balances, therefore, are in place.

HB1169 discusses one attendance center operating within another school district. The specifics on this are as follows: Two school districts have been in disagreement over a situation where a rural school in one district was unhappy with an employee sent out to instruct students. When no solution was reached within the district, an employee of another district was hired. This seemingly created a need at the state level to consider this bill which prevents one attendance center from setting up a school within the boundaries of another. For example, 1169 prevents Clark from purchasing a building in Henry and sending teachers over there to teach students on behalf of the Clark district. It passed the House, but it is sad that it was needed as it should have, in my opinion, been solved at the local level.

HB1146, a bill which gives tribes approval to enter into agreements with the Governor to authorize their own high school equivalency tests, was approved overwhelmingly. I saw the stats on what the GED tests have done to our Native friends through the years. While they used to graduate 45-57 on one of the reservations per year, they now graduate 7 or 8. I asked why the problem. The answer was difficulties students had with the common core math on this current exam. As we encourage people to get a GED and to be able to enter the work force, it appears to be a very appropriate bill. We will now await the Senate's approval.

Very soon we will be discussing SB131. This is a very difficult part of the taxing package. The money, allegedly collected for education, will clearly create winners and losers by the proposed new funding formula. Part of our district (Castlewood, Estelline, Hamlin, Warner) appear to make gains while the western part does not (Redfield, Doland, Groton, Clark, Willow Lake). What is the difference? It is the teacher-student ratio. Some of these schools have larger classes and/or fewer teachers per student enrollment. In order for the pay gap to be aligned properly with the rest to reach the ideal target, the latter mentioned schools would have to cut teachers. It is that "simple." I feel this was not the original intention of we are trying to do. This education package should be in place to attract teachers to the profession and to our state and not create winners and losers. Now some will say "pass amendments." While some will be presented, the "winners" of this package will implore their representatives to leave it alone; the "losers" will seek changes and more across the board even raises; my district.....well, it looks divisive. Half may be happy; half not. ALL will be unhappy if none of this goes to teachers. The complexity continues with SB131 appearing to have a built in waiver in place which further complicates the process. Please read these bills: HB1182, SB 131, 132, and 133 to be informed as to their contents and intended or unintended implications.

Until next week, stay tuned to SDPB2 at 2 P.M. for live broadcasts. (The Senate proceedings appear after the House in a taped edition.)

Kayla Bailey, a senior at Warner High School, is currently serving as a page in the House. She is working very hard and is doing a great job, and I am pleased to be her sponsor.

You may contact me at lane.greenfield@gmail.com or rep.lanagreenfield@state.sd.us. You may also call House Chambers at 773-3851.

Until next week, may you stay well and safe as we head one week closer to spring!!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 6 of 27

Pray, Anderson place at state

B - 126 - Trevor Pray (33-9) placed 7th and scored 6.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Stas Sutera (Canton) 48-7 won by fall over Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 33-9 (Fall 5:43)
Cons. Round 1 - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 33-9 won by decision over Landon Sivertsen (Miller/Highmore-Harrold) 30-9 (Dec 6-2)

Cons. Round 2 - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 33-9 won by decision over Aaron Elijah (Sioux Valley) 38-10 (Dec 7-5)

Cons. Round 3 - Dalton Bodewitz (Marion/Freeman) 48-17 won by decision over Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 33-9 (Dec 4-2)

7th Place Match - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 33-9 won by forfeit over Jaden Shepherd (Mobridge-Pollock) 16-6 (For.)

B - 285 - Brandyn Anderson (35-12) placed 6th and scored 9.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 35-12 won by decision over Austin Moore (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 18-9 (Dec 8-5)

Quarterfinal - Payton Smith (Canton) 34-16 won by decision over Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 35-12 (Dec 5-2)

Cons. Round 2 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 35-12 won by decision over Logan Barboza (Flandreau) 32-17 (Dec 4-3)

Cons. Round 3 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 35-12 won by fall over Conor Hoy (Beresford) 38-18 (Fall 3:38)

Cons. Semi - Colten Nelson (Burke/Gregory) 30-9 won by fall over Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 35-12 (Fall 1:27)

5th Place Match - Payton Smith (Canton) 34-16 won by decision over Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 35-12 (Dec 5-2)



This photo is courtesy of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks at the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 7 of 27



Record High Temperatures Set Saturday, Feb 27th



Location	New Daily Record	Previous Daily Record
Aberdeen	68°	65° in 1895
Watertown	60° (Tie)	60° in 1921
Pierre	71°	68° in 1988
Mobridge	73°	65° in 1988
Sisseton	63°	60° in 1932
Kennebec	76°	67° in 1932
Timber Lake	69°	65° in 1988

Location	New Monthly Record	Previous Monthly Record
Mobridge	73°	70° on Feb 29 th in 1895
Kennebec	76°	75° on Feb 21 st in 2000

An exceptionally warm air mass enveloped much of the High Plains on Saturday, February 27th. Many daily record high temperatures were broken across northeast and central South Dakota, and a couple new all-time February high temperatures were set as well.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 8 of 27

Today in Weather History

February 28, 2007: Another late February strong low pressure area moving across the central plains spread heavy snow of 6 to 11 inches across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Many school and college classes were cancelled and many events were postponed. Road conditions became very poor with some accidents occurring along with ditched vehicles. The snow continued into the first day of March and ended between in the morning. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Aberdeen, 7 inches at Wilmot and Artichoke Lake, 8 inches at Conde, Watertown, and Milbank, 9 inches at Browns Valley and Wheaton, and 11 inches at Clark. This heavy snow event was followed by more snowfall along with blizzard conditions which developed across the area during the afternoon and evening of March 1st.

1792: Heavy snow collapsed the Ashley River Bridge in Charleston, South Carolina.

1900 - A massive storm spread record snows from Kansas to New York State. Snowfall totals ranged up to 17.5 inches at Springfield IL and 43 inches at Rochester NY, with up to 60 inches in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. (David Ludlum)

1952 - An intense storm brought coastal sections of southeastern Massachusetts to a halt, stranding 3000 motorists on Lower Cape, and leaving ten thousand homes on the Cape without electricity. Winds gusting to 72 mph created mountainous snowdrifts of the 18 inches of snow which buried Nantucket and Hyannis. A barometric pressure reading of 29.02 inches was reported at the center of the storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A powerful storm produced severe thunderstorms in Louisiana and Mississippi early in the day. About mid morning a monstrous tornado touched down near Moselle MS and grew to a width of two miles as it passed near Laurel MS. The tornado traveled a distance of 40 miles killing six persons, injuring 350 others, and causing 28.5 million dollars damage. The tornado swept homes right off their foundations, and tossed eighteen wheel trucks about like toys. Strong straight line winds associated with the powerful storm system gusted to 70 mph at Jonesboro AR and Carbondale IL. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms in California produced severe weather during the early morning hours. Strong thunderstorm winds, gusting to 74 mph, downed trees in the Sacramento area. Unseasonably mild weather prevailed in the northwestern U.S. The afternoon high of 71 degrees at Portland OR was a February record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Thunderstorms in the southeast corner of the nation produced winds gusts to 58 mph at Fort Lauderdale FL, and a total of seven inches of rain. Heavy snow whitened parts of the Northern Plateau and the Northern Rockies, with ten inches reported at Marion MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Showers and thunderstorms over the Southern Plains Region capped a record wet February for parts of Oklahoma. Totals for the month ranged up to 9.11 inches at McCurtain, with 4.63 inches reported at Oklahoma City. Snow and sleet fell across northern Oklahoma, with four inches reported at Freedom and Jefferson. Snow also spread across southern Kansas into Missouri and Arkansas, with six inches of snow reported at Harrison AR. In Alaska, February temperatures at Nome averaged 21 degrees below normal, ranging from -38 degrees to 29 degrees during the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

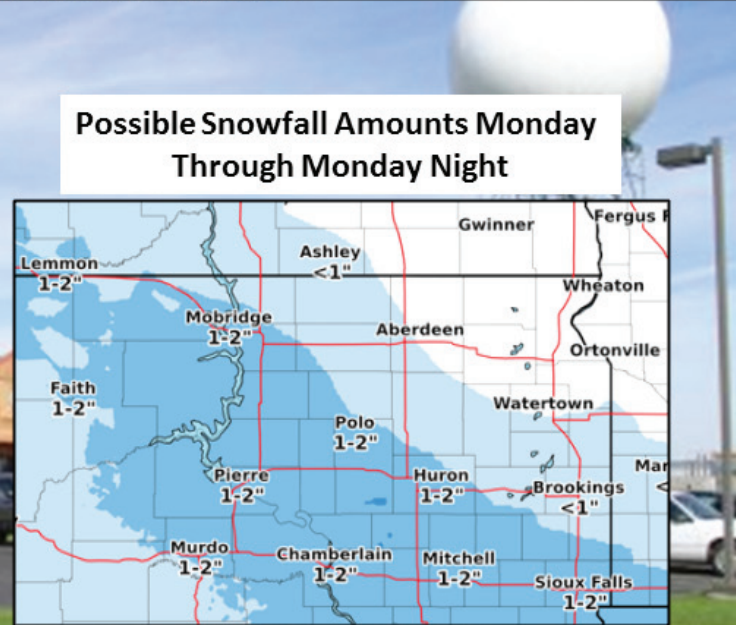
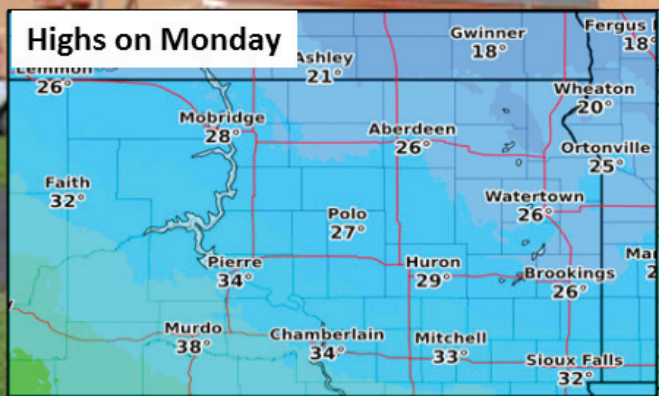
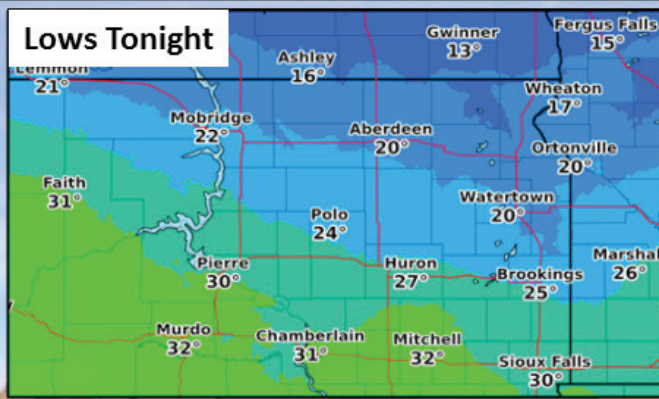
2012 - The first confirmed February tornado in Nebraska state history struck Lincoln and Logan Counties shortly after 4PM. The EF-0 tornado was on the ground intermittently for up to six minutes and traveled 3 miles before dissipating in southwest Logan County. The path of the tornado was over open rangeland and cropland where limited damage occurred. Patches of snow were still on the ground at the time. (NWS North Platte)

Groton Daily Independent



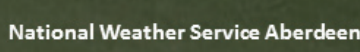

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 9 of 27

Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night
						
Partly Cloudy then Mostly Cloudy and Blustery	Blustery. Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Flurries	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Snow
Low: 20 °F	High: 25 °F	Low: 10 °F	High: 30 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 18 °F

Turning Colder to Start the Work Week Wind and Snow on the Way Too!



Expect Winds Conditions Early Monday Morning!

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  Like  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 02/28/2016 at 3:50PM

An arctic front will slide southward across the area during the early morning hours on Monday. This front will bring strong northerly winds of 20 to 30 mph with higher gusts to most locations. Stronger winds are possible in northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota. A storm system crossing the region along the front will bring accumulating snow to most locations Monday afternoon through Monday night.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 10 of 27

Yesterday's Weather

High: 61.0 at 3:06 PM

Low: 29.4 at 12:41 AM

High Gust: 20 at 3:08 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 59° in 1934

Record Low: -27 in 1962

Average High: 33°F

Average Low: 13°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.55

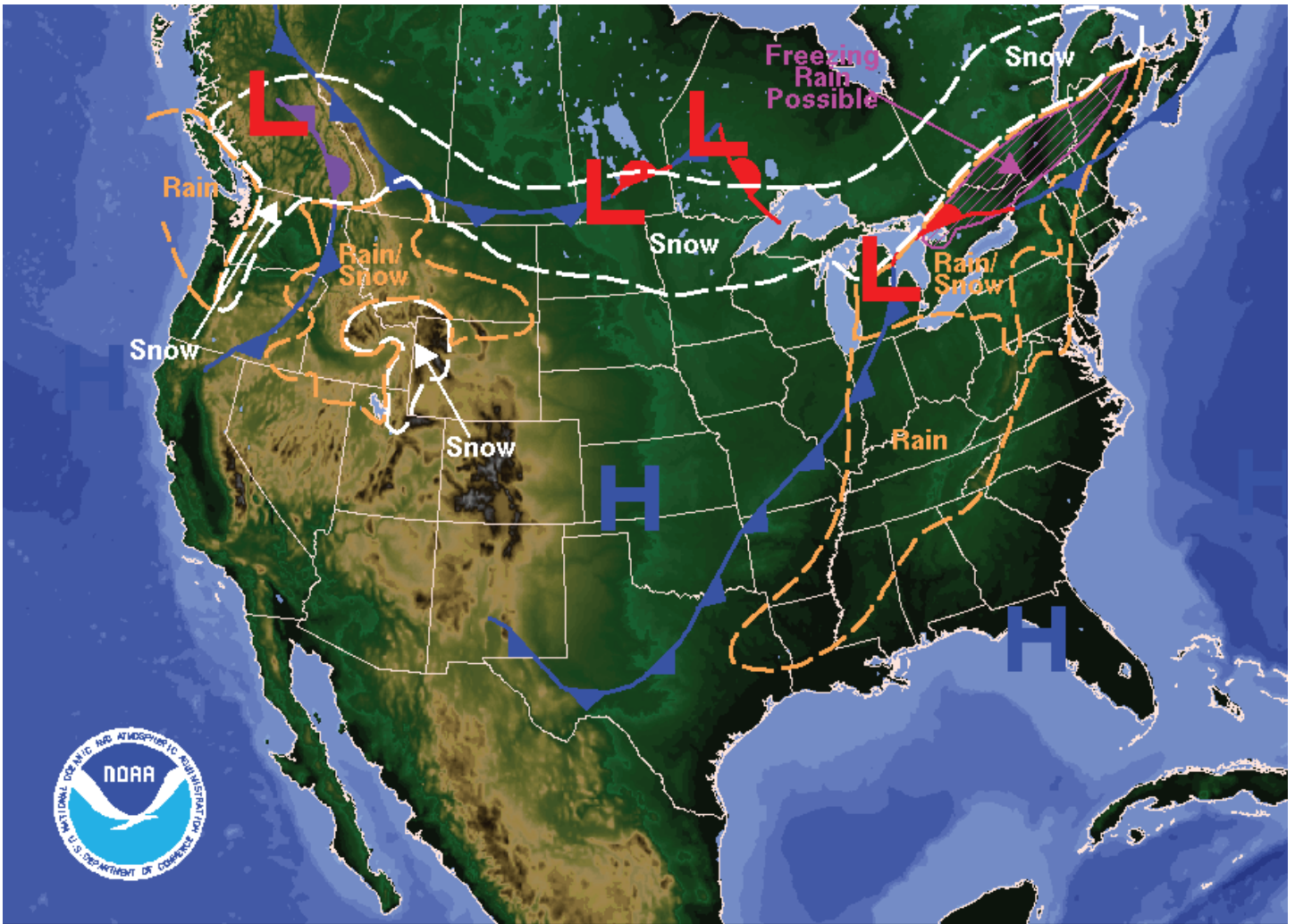
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.60

Average Precip to date: 1.02

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:18 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Feb 28, 2016, issued 4:06 PM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 11 of 27



WHY BE AFRAID?

John Wesley – evangelist, author, and hymn writer – had always thought of himself as a Christian. Once, however, as he was traveling across the Atlantic Ocean, the ship he was on encountered a violent storm. He became frightened and terror stricken.

As he observed his fellow passengers, he noticed that the group of Moravian missionaries remained peaceful and unafraid, showing no fear. When the storm passed and the seas were calm once again, he went to one of the missionaries and asked, "Why weren't you afraid?"

"Why should we be afraid," he answered, "we know Christ." Then looking at Wesley he asked, "Do you know Christ?" And Wesley, the preacher, realized for the first time in his life that he did not know Christ as His Savior.

We may know all about the Bible, but not know the Savior of the Bible. We can know of His miracles, but never believe or accept the fact that it was the miracle of His death, burial, and resurrection that made our salvation possible. Only when we call upon His name, repent of our sins, and receive Him as Savior will we be born again.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that if there is one reading this devotional who is not born again, that he or she will accept You now. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 8:19-39 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

News from the Associated Press

Boy, 16, dies in ultra-terrain vehicle crash near Selby

SELBY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 16-year-old boy was killed when the ultra-terrain vehicle he was driving crashed near Selby.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says three other teenagers who were passengers were hurt.

Authorities say the driver lost control on a gravel road five miles northwest of Selby and rolled in the ditch early Sunday.

The name of the driver is being withheld until his family is notified. Two girls, 15 and 17 years old, and a 15-year-old boy had minor injuries.

No one was wearing seat belts. The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating.

Driver shot by deputy during Pennington County traffic stop

Pennington County sheriff's officials say a deputy fatally shot a motorist during a struggle after a traffic stop late Friday

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A sheriff's deputy fatally shot a motorist during a struggle after a traffic stop in Rapid City, Pennington County sheriff's officials said Saturday.

The shooting happened at about 11:26 p.m. Friday, the department said in a statement. Authorities said a struggle ensued minutes into the traffic stop, and that the deputy fired his duty weapon multiple times.

Officials identified the motorist as 35-year-old Abraham Mitchell Fryer of Sturgis. Both the deputy and Fryer were transported to Rapid City Regional Hospital by ambulance, and Fryer was pronounced dead at the hospital, authorities said.

The sheriff's office said Deputy Robert Schoeberl was treated and released, though his injuries were not disclosed. Authorities said no one else hurt in the incident.

Calls to the sheriff's office seeking more details about the incident were not immediately returned Saturday.

The investigation into the shooting has been turned over to the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation. The agency is being assisted by Rapid City police and the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Authorities said the deputy is on standard paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said a report should be completed within 30 days.

Interactive series to raises awareness of poverty plight

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Prosperity Initiative is planning an interactive series on poverty awareness on the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology campus to shed light on the realities of poverty and serve as a call to action.

The initiative's Kelsie Lawrence is leading the three-part series. It will cover such topics as cultural and global diversity, personal development and community involvement.

More than 20 agencies from Rapid City and the Black Hills region participate in the Prosperity Initiative, which strives to improve lives by assisting individuals in the transition from poverty to prosperity.

The first session, "Poverty 101," is 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Surbeck Center ballroom.

Other sessions are scheduled for March 14 and March 21.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 13 of 27

Saturday's Scoreboard The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

District 2AA First Round: Yankton 56, Harrisburg 46

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

District 8B Championship: Ethan 44, Hanson 33

Hot-shooting Western Illinois beats South Dakota 90-76

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Garret Covington scored 16 points and Western Illinois shot 50 percent from the floor to beat South Dakota 90-76 on Saturday night and snap a four-game skid.

Covington, a junior, made three 3-pointers and has 77 in his career to move to third all-time in the program, one shy of second and nine back of leader Ceola Clark.

Jabari Sandifer and Mike Miklusak had 15 points apiece for Western Illinois (10-17, 3-13 Summit League), which shot 46 percent on 11-of-24 shooting from long range. Miklusak hit four 3-pointers and Sandifer had two.

Tre Burnette scored 18 points to lead South Dakota (14-17, 5-11).

The Leathernecks had a 25-point halftime lead, and South Dakota used a 32-13 spurt to pull to 67-61 with 9:30 remaining. Jalen Morgan answered with a layup, Miklusak made a free throw and Covington sank a 3-pointer and Western Illinois cruised from there.

South Dakota St. grabs share of title, beats ORU 73-65

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Freshman Mike Daum scored 20 points on Senior Night to lead South Dakota State to a 73-65 win over Oral Roberts on Saturday to secure a share of the Summit League regular season title.

South Dakota State (23-7, 12-4), which tied with IPFW for the title, will have the No. 2 seed going into the conference tournament.

Reed Tellinghuisen had 15 points, George Marshall added 13 and Keaton Moffit chipped in 10 for the Jackrabbits, who finished their second season undefeated at home, picking up 29 straight wins on their home floor.

South Dakota State shot 61 percent from the field in the first half to take a 41-31 lead at the break. The Jackrabbits were 28 of 54 for the game, while limiting Oral Roberts to 24-of-52 shooting.

Obi Emegano made 8 of 10 free throws for 22 points to lead Oral Roberts (14-16, 6-10).

2 South Dakota Highway Patrol captains retiring

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota Highway Patrol captains are retiring this month after long careers with the agency.

Capt. Kevin Karley is stepping down as commander of District 3 in Rapid City. He's been with the Highway Patrol for 30 years.

Capt. Alan Welsh is the commander of District 2 in Sioux Falls. He's been with the Highway Patrol for 27 years.

Patrol Superintendent Col. Craig Price says that ever since Karley and Welsh started their careers as troopers, they've exemplified the professionalism of the agency.

Price says permanent replacements for the two captains will be announced later.

Lt. Jeff DeVaney has been named as interim commander in Sioux Falls. Lt. Jason Ketterling has been named as interim commander in Rapid City.

Proton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 14 of 27

Georgia's Marshall, Notre Dame's Fuller post best 40 times

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Georgia running back Keith Marshall and Notre Dame receiver Will Fuller produced the fastest 40-yard dash times during workouts Saturday at the NFL's annual scouting combine.

Marshall was clocked at 4.31 seconds. Fuller came in at 4.32. The only other player who was faster than 4.4 was TCU receiver Kolby Listenbee at 4.39.

Nobody seriously threatened Chris Johnson's combine record of 4.24, which was set in 2008.

Louisiana Tech's Jeff Driskel had the fastest time among quarterbacks, 4.56, with TCU's Trevone Boykin and North Dakota State's Carson Wentz next at 4.77.

California running back Daniel Lasco had the longest broad jump at 11 feet, 3 inches, and the best vertical jump at 41½ inches.

Cardinal admits 'scandalous' response to abuse allegations

NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ROD MCGUIRK, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — One of Pope Francis' top advisers acknowledged Sunday that the Catholic Church "has made enormous mistakes" in allowing thousands of children to be raped and molested by priests over centuries as he testified at an extraordinary public hearing of an Australian investigative commission just a few blocks from the Vatican.

Australian Cardinal George Pell testified via videolink from a Rome hotel to the Royal Commission sitting in Sydney. In the front row of the conference room were two dozen Australian abuse survivors and their companions who had traveled across the globe to be on hand for Pell's testimony, a significant show of accountability in the church's long-running abuse saga.

The lead counsel assisting the commission, Gail Furness, questioned Pell about current Vatican efforts to address the scandal as well as Pell's past in Australia, including how he dealt with abuse allegations as a priest, educator and adviser to former Ballarat Bishop Ronald Mulkearns.

Pell asserted at the start: "I'm not here to defend the indefensible. The church has made enormous mistakes and is working to remedy those." He said the church had "mucked things up and let people down" and for too long had dismissed credible abuse allegations "in absolutely scandalous circumstances."

He termed Mulkearns' handling of Australia's most notorious pedophile priest, Gerald Ridsdale, as a "catastrophe for the church" and suggested that he would be a candidate for a proposed Vatican tribunal to hear the cases of negligent bishops. But Pell also acknowledged that he too had made mistakes in often believing the priests over victims who alleged abuse.

"I must say in those days, if a priest denied such activity, I was very strongly inclined to accept the denial."

It's the third time that the Australian cardinal, Pope Francis' top financial adviser, has testified about the sex abuse scandal, but the current round has generated intense international attention because it is taking place a short walk from the Vatican. In the conference room were media from Australia, the U.S., Italy, and Britain, as well as Rome-based priests and members of the Catholic community.

The commission, which is more than halfway through a 435-million Australian dollar (\$300-million) government-authorized probe into how all Australian institutions dealt with abuse, agreed to let Pell testify from Rome because he was too ill to travel home. Two weeks ago, it also agreed to let victims be on hand to re-create the type of public hearing that Pell would have faced in Australia.

David Ridsdale, who was abused for four years by his uncle, Gerald Ridsdale, said victims in recent days had conducted more than 100 media interviews before Pell's testimony even began — and was grateful that the horror of what transpired in Ballarat was finally getting known outside of Australia. Gerald Ridsdale is in prison after being convicted of multiple abuse convictions.

The deeply Catholic town in Australia's Victoria state has been devastated by disclosures about the huge number of abuse victims, scores of whom have killed themselves in a cluster of abuse-related suicides unseen anywhere else. More than 40 people including abuse victims gathered at the Ballarat Town Hall to watch Pell's testimony on three television screens.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 15 of 27

David Ridsdale said Ballarat's survivors merely want Pell to "stand up and take responsibility on behalf of the church" for what transpired in Pell's own hometown.

"We're here to seek the truth. We're here to heal our city," David Ridsdale said. "We have the highest suicide rate among men in Australia. We have some of the worst drinking and violence problems. And it all stems from that abuse."

Midway through the first of an expected three to four nights of testimony, Ridsdale seemed unimpressed by Pell's admission of the church's failings.

"Words are one thing. Actions are another," he said, in calling for a church-funded compensation scheme that addresses the fact that many survivors are so traumatized by their abuse that they cannot support themselves financially.

The commission's current hearings relate to Ballarat and how the Melbourne archdiocese responded to allegations of abuse, including when Pell served as a Melbourne auxiliary bishop.

Pell, who was born and raised in Ballarat, was ordained a priest there in 1966 and was a consultant to Mulkearns, who moved Gerald Ridsdale between parishes for years.

During the opening address at a Royal Commission hearing in Ballarat last week, the lawyer assisting the commissioner said that as a consultant, Pell would have been responsible for giving advice to the bishop on the appointments of priests to parishes.

Pell has long denied allegations that he was involved in transferring Gerald Ridsdale — with whom he once lived at the Ballarat presbytery — and said he never tried to buy the silence of Ridsdale's nephew, as he alleges. Pell said he had no suspicions that Gerald Ridsdale was a deviant: In fact, when Gerald Ridsdale was finally brought to justice, Pell accompanied him to court.

In a statement Sunday, Pell repeated his support for the Royal Commission's work, vowed to meet individually with victims who had travelled to Rome and said he hoped the coming days "will eventually lead to healing for everyone."

He said he had tied a yellow ribbon on the fence in the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens in a show of solidarity with the "Loud Fence" movement launched in Ballarat to support survivors of abuse.

Pell has defended his response to the abuse scandal while a bishop and later the archbishop of Melbourne, though he has expressed regret over encounters with victims seeking compensation, saying he and others in the church failed in their moral and pastoral responsibilities to them.

Anthony Foster testified at an earlier inquiry that when he and his wife sought compensation over the abuse their daughters suffered, Pell showed a "sociopathic lack of empathy." Their eldest daughter was repeatedly raped by priest Kevin O'Donnell and committed suicide. Her younger sister was raped by the same priest and began binge drinking. One day while intoxicated, she was struck by a car and is now severely disabled.

Foster, who successfully petitioned the Royal Commission to allow survivors to be present for Pell's testimony, said it was "astounding and empowering for victims" that the commission was now sitting in judgment of Pell on a global stage.

"I feel as though we haven't just brought it to Rome. We've brought it to the world," Foster said Sunday. "This is to some extent showing the rest of the world how it can be done."

The Royal Commission, which the government launched in 2012, has no power to file criminal charges. But commissioners can note in their report whether they believe someone has broken the law and refer the matter to police and prosecutors.

Rubio shifts to the offensive in an effort to slow Trump

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

KENNESAW, Georgia (AP) — A flood of mainstream Republican officials and donors have lined up behind Marco Rubio in the week since former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush suspended his campaign for president.

And yet Rubio's team concedes that neither the influx of support, nor the conversion of many of Bush's

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 16 of 27

wealthy donors, is enough to stop Donald Trump.

Instead of riding the wave of new support alone, Rubio has been forced to speed up plans for an all-out assault on the billionaire businessman's character.

Rubio had hoped to wait until the chaotic Republican nominating campaign had shrunk to a two-man race. But with a growing sense of urgency among GOP stalwarts to settle on a Trump alternative, the young Florida senator is trying to simultaneously slow Trump and cast himself the savior of the party's future.

"I will never quit. I will never stop until we keep a con man from taking over the party of Reagan and the conservative movement," Rubio thundered at a rally with 2,000 people in Oklahoma City on Friday.

It is a delicate balance.

Rubio, a 44-year-old first-term U.S. senator, is trying to project leadership in the party while also going after Trump using his own game, marked by mockery and uncanny aim for his opponent's vulnerabilities.

But it's a necessary one, says Rubio's latest big endorsement, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam.

"Rubio looked around and thought, 'Well, I might not like it, but that's what the media is covering and that's what people are responding to.'"

But Rubio is quickly getting a feel for what he began during Thursday's debate, launching a direct challenge to Trump's appeal to working class voters.

In recent days, Rubio has dished about Trump's on-stage perspiration and alluded, jokingly, that Trump may have wet his pants. He's also taken to referring to the billionaire businessman as a "con artist" dozens of times a day while campaigning.

"It's amazing to me. A guy with the worst spray tan in America is attacking me for putting on makeup," Rubio charged as he campaigned in Georgia on Saturday. "Donald Trump likes to sue people. He should sue whoever did that to his face."

But make no mistake: Rubio's new tack is a fight for survival.

He trails Trump in virtually all of the 11 states holding nominating contests on March 1, known as Super Tuesday. The Florida senator has finished in no better than second place in the first four primary contests. Trump has won three out of four. And Texas Sen. Ted Cruz remains a top-tier contender, even after finishing in third place in the last three contests.

Given Trump's momentum, Rubio's team says publicly the senator's best chance for the nomination might be a contested national convention in July. That could happen only if Rubio prevents Trump from accumulating the majority of delegates in the months-long primary season that extends through June.

But Rubio said Saturday he expects to win the nomination outright.

"It'll take a few days to realize the game he's running. He's going to start to lose support, maybe not in time for Tuesday, but certainly in time for all states," Rubio said of Trump to reporters in Alabama, during a blur of Super Tuesday state stops. "I really believe the voters will decide."

And with Bush now out of the race, Rubio has begun reeling in donors once loyal to the former governor.

Some Florida-based donors, as well as top donors and fundraisers in Washington, D.C., Chicago and elsewhere were ready to join Rubio's team immediately after Bush left the race. Rubio also attended a fundraiser in Midland, Texas, a longtime Bush stronghold, on Friday that featured several former Bush donors.

"There are a number of us, now that Gov. Bush is out of the race, who were very impressed with his debate Thursday, and see him as the one to take down Trump," said Chicago investor Craig Duchossois, who shifted from Bush to Rubio. "He showed he's not going to take any crap from him."

Rubio aides confirmed Sunday that Chicago investor Muneer Satter, a former leading Bush campaign donor, had joined Rubio's campaign as a member of his national fundraising leadership.

In the past two weeks, Rubio has also won the backing of four governors and 20 members of Congress, more than all of his Republican rivals combined.

Rubio had hoped to forestall a one-on-one brawl with Trump until there were only two. Cruz, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson remain in the race, although none have the level of support from as many governors and members of Congress as Rubio.

In a year of the outsider, however, it's unclear how much that will boost his momentum.

And in the meantime, Rubio's assault on Trump's character continues.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 17 of 27

Audiences in Super Tuesday states Oklahoma, Georgia and Alabama ate up the tough talk as he whipped through Southern states.

"It's about time he take his gloves off and start fighting," said Gary Baker from Okmulgee, Oklahoma. "I think he should have started punching sooner."

Better late than never, said Greg Strimple, a Republican pollster and former adviser to the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

"The Rubio campaign needs to set-up a contrast on Trump, equate Trump to the culture of corruption Americans hate — where the rich get richer and middle class pays the price," Strimple said.

Rubio says there's time, but none to waste.

"If you sense a sense of urgency, it's not just about winning," Rubio said. "It's about the idea that the party of Reagan and the conservative movement could fall into the hands of a con man, who's pulling the ultimate con job on the American people."

Former Klan leader at center of latest GOP campaign joust

BILL BARROW, Associated Press

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump is drawing criticism for refusing to denounce an implicit endorsement from former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, with Marco Rubio using the matter to hammer the billionaire businessman ahead of the Super Tuesday primaries.

Trump was asked Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" whether he rejected support from the former KKK Grand Dragon and other white supremacists after Duke told his radio followers this week that a vote against Trump was equivalent to "treason to your heritage."

"Well, just so you understand, I don't know anything about David Duke. OK?" Trump told host Jake Tapper. "I don't know anything about what you're even talking about with white supremacy or white supremacists."

The comments sparked a wave of censures with just two days to go before 11 states hold GOP primaries involving about a quarter of the party's total nominating delegate count.

Trump was asked Friday by journalists how he felt about Duke's support. He said he didn't know anything about it and curtly said: "All right, I disavow, ok?"

Trump hasn't always claimed ignorance on Duke's history. In 2000, he wrote a New York Times op-ed explaining why he abandoned the possibility of running for president on the Reform Party ticket. He wrote of an "underside" and "fringe element" of the party, concluding, "I leave the Reform Party to David Duke, Pat Buchanan and Lenora Fulani. That is not company I wish to keep."

Campaigning in Virginia, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio pounced on Trump's latest position on Duke, shifting to a more serious tone after spending the weekend mocking his rival's hair and "the worst spray tan in America."

"We cannot be a party who refuses to condemn white supremacists and the Ku Klux Klan," Rubio told thousands of supporters gathered in Leesburg, Virginia. "Not only is that wrong, it makes him unelectable. How are we going to grow the party if we nominate someone who doesn't repudiate the Ku Klux Klan?"

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz also weighed in on Sunday, calling Trump's comments "Really sad."

"You're better than this," Cruz wrote. "We should all agree, racism is wrong, KKK is abhorrent."

Democrat Bernie Sanders also lashed out at his Republican rival on Twitter, writing: "America's first black president cannot and will not be succeeded by a hatemonger who refuses to condemn the KKK."

Trump also garnered backlash Sunday for recently retweeting a quote from Benito Mussolini, the 20th century fascist dictator of Italy, which reads: "It is better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep."

Trump told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday, "I know who said it. But what difference does it make whether it's Mussolini or somebody else? It's certainly a very interesting quote."

The first-time candidate has long described his campaign as a "movement" of the "silent majority," a phrase borrowed from former President Richard Nixon's "Southern strategy" aimed at working-class white voters in the decade after the peak of the civil rights movement.

The latest shake up in the GOP race comes as attention shifts to the South, where the region will domi-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 18 of 27

nate on Super Tuesday — March 1 — and the weeks beyond.

Trump holds commanding leads across the region, with the exception of Cruz's home state of Texas, a dynamic that puts tremendous pressure on Rubio and Cruz as they try to outlast each other and derail Trump.

The two first-term senators continue a personal and policy-based barrage against Trump, warning his nomination would be catastrophic for the party in November and beyond.

"We're about to lose the conservative movement to someone who's not a conservative and (lose) the party of Lincoln and Reagan to a con artist," Rubio said Sunday on Fox News.

Trump, for his part, relishes his position, mocking the Republican establishment and his flailing rivals. "It's amazing what's going on," he told NBC, calling his campaign a "movement."

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton, who received another burst of momentum Saturday after her lopsided victory in South Carolina, turned her attention to the Republican field on Sunday, all-but-ignoring rival Bernie Sanders during campaign events in Tennessee.

Starting her morning with stops at two Memphis churches, Clinton offered an implicit critique of Trump, issuing a call to unite the nation and asking worshippers to reject "the demagoguery, the prejudice, the paranoia."

Asked by actor Tony Goldwyn, who later campaigned with Clinton in Nashville, about her thoughts on Duke's support for Trump, Clinton described it, simply, as "pathetic."

Trump also rejected calls from Rubio — who he repeatedly referred to Sunday as "Little Marco" — and Cruz to release his tax returns, saying he can't share returns that are under IRS audit. The senators on Saturday released summary pages of several years' worth of their personal returns. Trump says he's already shared his personal financial details in separate disclosure forms.

Separately, Cruz warned the "Trump train" could become "unstoppable" if he rolls to big victories Tuesday. Cruz cast Trump as a carbon copy Clinton and suggested that not even Trump "knows what he would do" as president.

Tuesday, Cruz said, "is a battle to determine where conservatives go."

Still, Cruz confirmed to CNN's Jake Tapper that he "will support the Republican nominee, period, the end." Rubio has sidestepped questions about whether he could support Trump.

'Deadpool' tops 'Gods of Egypt' at box office

DERRIK J. LANG, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A group of ancient Egyptian deities couldn't take down the merc with a mouth.

Marvel's antihero blockbuster "Deadpool" continued to dominate North American movie theaters over the weekend, earning an estimated \$31.5 million in its third week and besting newcomer "Gods of Egypt," according to comScore estimates Sunday.

The total domestic haul for 20th Century Fox's comic book adaptation starring Ryan Reynolds as Marvel's foul-mouthed mercenary now stands at \$285.6 million, making it the third highest-grossing R-rated film behind "American Sniper" and "The Passion of the Christ."

Lionsgate's "Gods of Egypt" featuring Gerard Butler as a rebellious Egyptian god debuted in second place with \$14 million. The film, which reportedly cost \$140 million and also stars Brenton Thwaites and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, is Hollywood's first major flop of the year.

"Lionsgate went for it, and I think the unpredictability of this marketplace made it too tough for them," said Paul Dergarabedian, comScore's senior media analyst. "I think we'll probably have to wait until 'Batman v Superman' to see another massive opening weekend."

"Gods of Egypt" faced backlash last year for casting mostly white actors in a film based on Egyptian mythology.

The film's director Alex Proyas, who was born in Egypt, apologized in a statement in November. Lionsgate issued a separate statement that said they are deeply committed to making films that reflect the diversity of their audiences and pledged to do better.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 19 of 27

Other newcomers that failed to topple "Deadpool" this weekend included the feel-good Olympic tale "Eddie the Eagle" in fifth place with \$6.3 million and the heist romp "Triple 9" in sixth place with \$6.1 million.

"The Revenant" was the only Academy Award contender to crack the weekend's Top 10 with \$3.8 million in its 10th week of release. The survival epic leads Oscar nominees with 12 nods at Sunday's 88th annual ceremony, including best picture, best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio, best supporting actor for Tom Hardy and best director for Alejandro G. Inarritu.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Deadpool," \$31.5 million (\$40.2 million international).
2. "Gods of Egypt," \$14 million (\$24 million international).
3. "Kung Fu Panda 3," \$9 million (\$4.5 million international).
4. "Risen," \$7 million.
5. "Eddie the Eagle," \$6.3 million.
6. "Triple 9," \$6.1 million (\$450,000 international).
7. "How To Be Single," \$5.2 million (\$6.1 million international).
8. "The Witch," \$5 million.
9. "Race," \$4.3 million.
10. "The Revenant," \$3.8 million (\$14.1 million international).

Clinton allies preparing for Trump nomination, fall campaign

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

LISA LERER, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Emboldened by her South Carolina landslide, Hillary Clinton is shifting her focus to Republican front-runner Donald Trump as her party seeks consensus on the best ways to challenge the billionaire's unpredictable nature in a general election.

As Clinton enters the series of Super Tuesday contests this week, allies of the former secretary of state, unaffiliated Democratic strategists and the national party are stockpiling potential ammunition about Trump, reviewing reams of court filings, requesting information about his business dealings from state governments and conducting new polls to test lines of attack.

Among the likely options: Questioning Trump's qualifications and temperament to be president, scrutinizing his business practices and bankruptcy filings, and re-airing his inflammatory statements about women and minorities who will be central to the Democrats' efforts in November.

"Is this the guy you would trust with the nuclear codes? Is this the guy you would trust with your son or daughter in the military? Is this the guy you would trust to run the economy?" asked Gov. Dan Malloy of Connecticut, a Clinton backer, pointing to a likely argument from Democrats.

Clinton, celebrating her rout of Democratic rival Bernie Sanders in South Carolina's primary, took direct aim at Trump's message on Saturday night, telling supporters, "Despite what you hear, we don't need to make America great again. America never stopped being great."

"But we do need to make America whole again. Instead of building walls, we need to be tearing down barriers," she said.

While party leaders see Clinton in a favorable position against Trump, they caution that the real estate mogul has shown a mastery of the media and an ability to stay on offense throughout the GOP primaries. And they acknowledge Trump has successfully tapped into a deep vein of economic insecurity running through the electorate.

"Any race he is in is unpredictable," said David Brock, a Clinton supporter who oversees several Democratic super PACs. "Any strategy we come up with today is going to have to be awfully flexible because we don't know what to expect from this guy."

Clinton aides and allies also worry that Trump's unorthodox constituency of working-class white voters might allow him to put more states in play — particularly Midwestern swing states like Ohio and Wisconsin

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 20 of 27

— compared to past nominees like Mitt Romney and John McCain. And they note large voter turnouts in GOP primaries won by Trump.

But Democrats predict a Trump nomination could have a splintering effect on the Republican party and are looking for ways to exacerbate it.

A new survey of 800 likely Republican voters commissioned by a Democratic firm led by Stan Greenberg, who served as President Bill Clinton's pollster, found that 20 percent of Republicans are "uncertain" whether they would back Trump or Clinton in a head-to-head match-up.

The number included one-quarter of Catholics and one-third of moderates, according to the survey by the Democracy Corps' Republican Party Project shared with The Associated Press.

The poll found Trump's share of the vote drops among Catholics and moderates when Democrats describe him as an "ego-maniac," "disrespectful to women," untrustworthy with the nation's nuclear weapons and supporting a "big oil agenda."

"If people are fearful that you can't trust Trump with nuclear weapons, if you have Republican validators like Sen. McCain and other Republicans in the foreign policy establishment saying they can't trust Trump, there's a potential for a splintering off of huge Republican base voters," Greenberg said.

But Republicans, Democrats argue, haven't mounted a sustained campaign to undermine Trump's image as a successful dealmaker. They envision a more extensive critique that would galvanize minority voters and women against Trump.

"Is there anything in his business record that suggested he'd be inclusionary," asked Mark Morial, president of the National Urban League. "Did he hire minority-owned contractors? How diverse is the senior leadership of his companies?"

Stephanie Schriock, the president of EMILY's List, which backs female Democratic candidates who support abortion rights, said Trump's derogatory comments about women during the primaries would mobilize female voters. She said as the "head of the party," Trump would influence Senate races in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Florida.

Clinton's campaign, meanwhile, is increasingly pointing to Trump as the likely GOP nominee. Her rhetoric of "tearing down barriers" presents a contrast to Trump's vow to build a massive wall along the Mexican border. In a recent fundraising appeal, Clinton said Trump was "looking more and more likely to be the Republican nominee. The man who riles up his crowds by calling Mexican-Americans criminals and suggesting Muslims should be banned from entering this country has limitless resources to run his campaign."

Her message underscored Democrats' interest in holding Trump below 30 percent support among Hispanics, a level few think would allow the businessman to win the White House.

While Trump spends far more time assailing his Republican rivals, he has previewed some attack lines he would likely use against Clinton, describing her as a liar and failed secretary of state who would have been indicted over her email scandal were she not so cozy with President Barack Obama. He has made clear he's ready to take personal shots, bringing up her husband's past infidelities and suggesting she was complicit in what Trump has described as the former president's abuse of women.

Clinton aides say their campaign is focused on winning the primary and have not begun formally sketching out how they would tackle Trump or any Republican opponent. But that doesn't mean they aren't keeping a close eye on the fellow New Yorker.

"The challenge that the Republicans are having running against him is that it's a party that's having an identity crisis," said Clinton strategist Joel Benenson. "And they haven't been able to resolve that."

Trump: Judge's ethnicity matters in Trump University suit

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump is trying to deflect attention from a class-action civil lawsuit involving the former Trump University by pointing to the ethnic background of the judge in the case.

Asked on "Fox News Sunday" what U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel's ethnicity has to do with the law-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 21 of 27

suit against him, Trump replied:

"I think it has to do perhaps with the fact that I'm very, very strong on the border, very, very strong at the border, and he has been extremely hostile to me," Trump said.

According to the California class-action complaint in front of Curiel, a one-year apprenticeship that Trump University students were promised ended after students paid for a three-day seminar. Attendees who were promised a personal photo with Trump received only the chance to take a photo with a cardboard cutout. And many instructors were bankrupt real estate investors.

Trump University emerged as a campaign issue at Thursday's GOP debate, raised by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

"There are people who borrowed \$36,000 to go to Trump University, and they're suing now — \$36,000 to go to a university that's a fake school," Rubio said. "And you know what they got? They got to take a picture with a cardboard cutout of Donald Trump."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz jumped in, adding: "It's a fraud case. ... I want you to think about, if this man is the nominee, having the Republican nominee on the stand in court, being cross-examined about whether he committed fraud."

At a rally in Arkansas on Saturday, Trump took a break from his standard campaign speech to downplay the lawsuit pending against the business, which was founded by Trump and offered students instruction on real estate investments.

"It's a small deal, very small," Trump said of the suit, which could force him to take the stand this summer.

Trump specifically railed against the judge in the case, and at one point noted the judge's Hispanic ethnicity.

Trump claimed the case should have been thrown out years ago, "but because it was me and because there's a hostility toward me by the judge - tremendous hostility - beyond belief." He then noted, as an aside: "I believe he happens to be Spanish, which is fine. He's Hispanic — which is fine."

A message left for Curiel, was not immediately returned. Curiel is a judge in the Southern District of California and based in San Diego.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, whose office has filed a separate civil \$40 million complaint against Trump University in state court, accused Trump of "racial demagoguery." Schneiderman sued Trump University in 2013 alleging it committed fraud and fleeced 5,000 people out of millions of dollars.

"I will not engage in a debate about ongoing litigation," Schneiderman said in a statement issued after Trump made his comments. "But there is no place in this process for racial demagoguery directed at respected members of the judiciary."

Schneiderman noted that New York's state Supreme Court ruled that Trump University operated illegally in New York as an unlicensed educational institution.

Schneiderman's suit alleges that Trump University falsely promoted itself as an educational institution even after the state education department warned it to stop. The complaint accuses Trump of falsely promising that Trump University students would receive intense training from experts hand-picked by Trump himself.

During breaks in the seminars, Schneiderman's complaint alleges, participants were urged to call their credit card companies and ask to increase their credit limits. Once the credit lines were secured, Trump University staff tried to persuade students to pay for additional services.

Trump, at the rally, dismissed the cases as the work of "a sleazebag law firm" and suggested that Schneiderman's intervention was politically motivated.

"I could've settled this suit numerous times. Could settle it now. But I don't like settling suits," Trump said.

States reduce jobless checks, adding pressure to unemployed

DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — When Demetrius White recently lost his job as a \$10-an-hour forklift driver loading pallets of shampoo, he applied for unemployment benefits to help support his family.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 22 of 27

That aid will not last as long as it once did, because White is among the first group of people affected by a new Missouri law reducing the duration of jobless benefits. His \$200-a-week checks will last no more than three months — just half as long as what has typically been available.

“That’s a dramatic change, really,” White said. “Thirteen weeks, I don’t know if I’ll be able to find a job.”

States traditionally have offered up to half a year of aid for the unemployed as they search for new jobs. But since the end of the Great Recession, eight states have reduced the number of weeks that people can draw benefits, while others have cut the amount of money the unemployed can collect.

The cutbacks generally are intended to help shore up unemployment insurance trust funds, which went insolvent in 35 states following the recession that began in 2008. The changes could save hundreds of millions of dollars for businesses that pay unemployment taxes.

President Barack Obama is pushing in the opposite direction. The White House warns that states are engaging in a “damaging erosion” of unemployment benefits. Obama’s budget plan would require all states to provide at least 26 weeks of benefits while expanding coverage to more part-time and intermittent workers.

The Republican-led Congress appears unlikely to approve the president’s plan during an election year. GOP governors and state lawmakers initiated many of the recent cutbacks to unemployment benefits. And they point to declining unemployment rates as evidence that jobs are getting easier to find.

“When there’s more jobs available, it’s kind of common sense — you shouldn’t need as long as a duration of unemployment benefits,” said Missouri Senate Majority Leader Mike Kehoe, a Republican who handled the legislation reducing benefits.

The 1935 Social Security Act prompted states to enact unemployment programs, which typically pay people about half the amount of their previous paychecks. In 1938, more than four-fifths of the states offered benefits for 16 weeks or less. But all states gradually increased their benefits to at least 26 weeks. South Carolina was the last to do so in 1968.

In 2011, Missouri became one of the first states to reverse course by cutting that to 20 weeks. Last year, the GOP-led Legislature overrode a veto by Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon to further shorten the benefits, linking their duration to the state’s unemployment rate. Because unemployment is below 6 percent, people can get no more than 13 weeks of benefits.

The new limit went into effect in January, even though a legal challenge brought by attorneys for the AFL-CIO is now before the Missouri Supreme Court. The lawsuit seeks to block the new law because of an alleged procedural violation by senators.

For some unemployed workers, the new state laws have added another layer of anxiety to an already unsettling situation.

White is one of about 36,000 Missouri workers who filed initial unemployment claims in January. A married father of two, he already has taken out a high-interest loan to help pay for his daughter’s college tuition. His wife remains employed as a teacher, but White said the family is starting to fall behind on bills, including electricity. He is afraid he will not be able to make mortgage payments.

“It’s been a struggle,” White, 43, said while picking up materials about temporary jobs from a state work center in Jefferson City. “I don’t have confidence of a job or hirings.”

The Missouri law is projected to reduce annual unemployment payouts by \$83 million — a reduction of nearly one-fourth.

Neighboring Arkansas reduced its unemployment benefits to 20 weeks under a law that took effect last October. Those shortened benefits run out this month for some people, though the state won’t say how many.

South Carolina and Michigan also limit benefits to 20 weeks. Sliding scales linked to unemployment rates have resulted in limits of 16 weeks in Kansas, 14 in Georgia, 13 in North Carolina and 12 in Florida.

Some states also have reduced the maximum weekly payments, narrowed who can qualify and increased work-search requirements that can result in delayed or denied benefits if not met.

“We’ve experienced a wave of very drastic benefit reductions,” said Claire McKenna, a policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project, a New York-based group that serves as an advocate for low-wage workers and the unemployed.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 23 of 27

Ohio could be the next state to shorten benefits. A bill by Rep. Barbara Sears would cut benefits to as few as 12 weeks by linking their duration to the unemployment rate. It also would make other benefit changes while trying to replenish an unemployment insurance trust fund that owes \$773 million to the federal government.

The legislation is projected to reduce unemployment payments by an average of \$475 million annually from 2018 to 2025.

Sears said some people who remain jobless for several months are "kind of settling in on unemployment and riding it until almost the last week before they're re-engaging in the workforce." A shorter benefit period could prompt them to find work, she said.

"When you know you're going to go off of unemployment, there is an overwhelming urge to be less particular maybe about finding the exact job that you lost," said Sears, a Republican from the Toledo area.

Advocates for the poor dispute that assertion. After the reductions in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, the percentage of adults ages 25 to 54 with jobs in those states grew more slowly than the national average, according to the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington-based liberal think tank.

A coalition of Ohio health and human services groups has warned that shorter unemployment benefits could increase poverty. Some people will turn to food stamps or charities, sell their possessions or their blood plasma and run up credit card debt just to get by, said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and co-chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future.

"Once you fall into poverty, the chances that you're going to be able to get back out are going to be pretty difficult," she said.

Business groups contend the benefit cutbacks are an appropriate way for workers to shoulder part of the costs of rebuilding depleted trust funds.

At one point following the recession, states owed a total of \$51 billion to the federal government to repay loans for unemployment benefits. To recoup that, the U.S. government temporarily raised the unemployment tax paid by businesses in many of those states.

Besides Ohio, the only states still in federal debt are California, with \$6.4 billion, and Connecticut, which owes about \$100 million. But the Obama administration says just 20 states have enough reserves in their trust funds to weather a recession for a year. Obama has proposed to gradually increase employer taxes to help solidify the trust funds.

Vampire attack: Debt-laden companies imperil China's growth

PAUL WISEMAN, AP Business Writers

JOE MCDONALD, AP Business Writers

China isn't just contending with falling stocks, a plunging currency and a slowing economy. It's got vampire trouble, too.

The Chinese economy is pock-marked with companies that can't pay their bills and survive only with government help. Jiangshi, the Chinese call them — "vampire companies." Or zombies.

These ghoulish companies and their debts are hindering the world's second-biggest economy and will likely do so for years. Companies that miss debt payments inflict losses on banks, which then find it hard to lend even to solid companies. By propping up vampire companies, the government can weaken the entire economic ecosystem.

All of which helps explain why the global economy is sputtering and why investors have been gripped by panic.

"It's undoubtedly a very serious problem," says Charles Collyns, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance. "The Chinese so far have been very reluctant to let market mechanisms work their way."

On Friday, as finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of 20 major economies began meeting in Shanghai, Zhou Xiaochuan, head of China's central bank, insisted that Chinese authorities closely monitor debt loads. Even so, he said he expects China's economy "to grow at a moderate-to-high pace."

The debt buildup is vast. Chinese corporations (excluding financial companies) had amassed \$14.5 trillion in debt by mid-2015, up 4½-fold from eight years earlier, according to the McKinsey Global Institute.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 24 of 27

That debt equaled 131 percent of China's gross domestic product, up from 76 percent in mid-2007. That's nearly double U.S. corporate debts' share of U.S. GDP, McKinsey says.

China's total debts — everything owed by corporations, households, government and financial firms — climbed from \$6.6 trillion in mid-2007 to \$31.9 trillion by mid-2015. It equals 290 percent of China's GDP, McKinsey says — astoundingly high for a still-developing economy.

When banks lend with a frenzy, they tend to make blunders as they shovel money to companies that can't repay. Buried in bad loans, banks tend to curtail the credit that's vital to growth.

For years, China's debts remained fairly stable. But they surged after Beijing delivered a huge stimulus program in 2008 to fight the global recession. Under orders, state-owned banks pumped out loans. And local governments piled up debt to finance the construction of low-income apartments, roads and other projects meant to juice growth.

By keeping China's economy humming, the stimulus program helped energize the global economy. And it added little to Beijing's own debt because it appeared on the books of banks and state-owned companies. Some loans financed factory construction in poor regions or development in areas with disadvantaged ethnic groups.

Now, the debt is returning to haunt China.

Still, the debt isn't likely to ignite a financial panic like the one that paralyzed Wall Street in 2008 and closed Greek banks. China won't have to beg foreign creditors for a bailout in exchange for growth-killing spending cuts and tax hikes.

"This is not a Greece-like situation," says Susan Lund, a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute. "Only 5 percent of Chinese debt is owed to foreign creditors."

Beijing has enough money to absorb a load of bad debts and avert a catastrophe. Yet the debts will likely hobble its economy for years. The problem, says Ruchir Sharma of Morgan Stanley Investment Management, isn't just the magnitude of the debts. It's also the speed with which China accumulated them.

Sharma and his team reviewed what happened to 30 countries that quickly ran up private debts after World War II. It wasn't pretty. All suffered sharp slowdowns. He suspects that China's economy is headed toward 4 percent annual growth from the 6.9 percent the government reported for 2015.

Most economists aren't as pessimistic. But there's widespread suspicion that China's official numbers overstate growth.

The China Banking Regulatory Commission says bad loans are "generally under control" and account for just 1.67 percent commercial bank loans.

Many analysts are dubious.

"No serious person thinks it's less than 7 or 8 percent," says Harvard University economist Kenneth Rogoff. "The question is, is it actually 10 to 15 percent?"

Debt-burdened companies face another threat: Falling prices, which raise their inflation-adjusted borrowing costs. Jason Thomas of the Carlyle Group investment firm says Chinese companies involved in construction, mining and manufacturing are often paying inflation-adjusted loan rates above 12 percent.

Economists say China must let uncompetitive companies die and write off their debts. In developed economies like the United States, it's common for companies to fail or to use bankruptcy laws to restructure.

Beijing says that's what it wants to do. In January, Zhang Yi, who oversees state-owned properties, vowed to weed out "zombie" companies by 2020.

Easier said than done — especially in a country where uncompetitive companies with big debts are often owned by the government or have powerful connections. Officials are tempted to intervene to rescue vampire companies, partly to save jobs.

The state-owned steelmaker Sinosteel has repeatedly been allowed to postpone its payments to bondholders. The government of Yunnan province intervened in November to avert a default after the state-owned Yunnan Coal Chemical Industry Group ran short of cash to pay bondholders.

And the Yunnan government restructured Yunnan Coal's debt and is monitoring its finances, according to Yunnan Yunwei Co., a unit of Yunnan Coal.

In the meantime, the debt keeps rising. China reported 1.94 trillion yuan (\$298 billion) in new corporate loans last month, up 85 percent from a year earlier, Barclays notes.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 25 of 27

Local and provincial governments have a perverse incentive to let zombie companies stagger on, notes Minxin Pei, a government professor at Claremont McKenna College: In an economy with too many companies, those that outlast the competition eventually stand to win.

"If I kill my zombie and you don't kill yours, I sacrifice," Pei says.

Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University professor and former head of the International Monetary Fund's China division, cautions:

"A lot of the debt has gone to finance unproductive investment in sectors where there is already a lot of excess capacity. There will be a big price to pay eventually to clean up these debts."

Beijing wants to find a way out. It's pushed companies to merge. It let China Shanshui Cement Group, a cement maker, default on a bond — part of an effort to press Shanshui into being absorbed by a rival.

Another government effort was less successful: Last year, state media urged ordinary Chinese to buy stocks. The idea was that those purchases would lift share prices, allowing troubled companies to issue new stock and use the proceeds to shrink debt.

For a while, it worked. The Shanghai Composite Index jumped nearly 70 percent from February through mid-June 2015. Then the bubble burst. The Shanghai stock index is down 22 percent this year and 46 percent from its peak.

China has killed off zombie companies before. The reformist Premier Zhu Rongji cut off lending to inefficient state-owned companies, forcing many out of business and wiping out 35 million jobs between 1998 and 2002. But a booming economy — average annual growth topped 8 percent in those years — allowed many of the laid-off to find new work or to retire and rely on children with jobs.

Things will be tougher with economic growth dipping toward 6 percent — or lower.

"The odds of China having a sharp slowdown — say to 3 or 4 percent — are pretty high," warns Rogoff, a former chief economist of the IMF. "They're in a risky situation."

Chinese pastor, wife who opposed cross removals sent to jail

GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese husband and wife who led a Christian congregation that opposed a government campaign to remove crosses atop churches have been given long prison sentences for illegal activities, including corruption and disturbing social order, state media said.

A court in eastern Zhejiang province on Friday sentenced pastor Bao Guohua to 14 years in prison and his wife, Xing Wenxiang, to 12 years after concluding that they had illegally organized churchgoers to petition the government and disturb social order, according to the state-run Zhejiang Daily newspaper.

The couple also was accused of "tricking" members of its congregation into donating \$336,000 that was spent on cars and other personal purchases while pretending to lead an ascetic lifestyle, the newspaper said. The court sentenced 10 other church members to prison, the report said, without giving details.

For the past two years, Zhejiang's Christians, particularly in the coastal city of Wenzhou, home to a large Christian population, have been locked in a bitter dispute with local authorities who have removed hundreds of crosses from churches in the province, saying they violate building codes, or demolished churches altogether.

Zhejiang's religious leaders, many of whom lead churches sanctioned by the government, say the attitudes of local authorities have turned sharply negative in recent years as the Christian population grew in number and influence. Several well-known figures who have resisted the government campaign to remove crosses through legal challenges or public denunciations have been targeted with criminal prosecutions.

The clash over the Zhejiang Christians' religious rights has been complicated by the fact that they have received help from overseas supporters at a time when the Chinese government is particularly sensitive to what it considers foreign meddling in domestic issues. In the past year, China's government has relentlessly pursued and jailed human rights lawyers that have received training and funding from foreign sources.

Zhang Kai, a Beijing-based Christian lawyer who was detained one day before he was due to meet a U.S. envoy in August, was shown on television late Thursday night confessing to organizing illegal religious gatherings and undermining China's political system with backing from China Aid, a Texas-based group

that has funded the churches' efforts to resist the cross removals.

China Aid said in a blog post Friday that the government action against Bao's church and other Christian leaders amounted to "religious persecution."

Last month, provincial authorities opened a separate corruption probe into the prominent pastor Gu Yuese, who openly spoke out against the government's clampdown on Christian activity. With 10,000 members, Gu's Chongyi church is the largest Protestant congregation in the Chinese-speaking world.

Rubio, Cruz release tax summaries in challenge to Trump

JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz released summary pages of their recent tax filings on Saturday, seeking to capitalize on GOP front-runner Donald Trump's refusal to release similar information.

Despite making promises to release his tax records, Trump has balked at doing so, saying he won't disclose the filings until the IRS finishes auditing his returns.

"We're putting these out today to put pressure on Trump and the other candidates to release theirs," said Rubio campaign spokesman Alex Conant.

Cruz, meanwhile, speculated that there could be "a number of bombshells" in Trump's tax returns, from exaggerations about the celebrity businessman's earnings to "significant contributions to Planned Parenthood."

The two candidates now pressing Trump have not released their complete tax returns, as Mitt Romney did in 2012 and Hillary Clinton did last year. Both Rubio and Cruz produced the first two pages of their filings to the Internal Revenue Service, which don't include key details about subjects such as their tax deductions.

Both Cruz and Rubio have left the door open to releasing more information, with Cruz essentially daring his opponents to go first.

"If Marco wants to release the complete thing for the recent years, I'm happy to do so as well," Cruz said. But he reserved his sharpest comments for Trump, calling the front-runner's delay "unprecedented in presidential politics."

Every major party candidate since 1976 has released his full tax returns at some point during the campaign, according to Joseph Thorndike, a tax historian and contributing editor to Tax Notes, an accounting trade publication.

But while Thorndike faulted Trump for backing away from releasing his tax returns, he called partial releases such as those by Rubio and Cruz "fake transparency."

"If you're going to release your tax return, you need to release your tax return," he said, calling such disclosure a rite of passage for candidates.

The tax returns released by the two lawmakers, combined with their previously released personal financial disclosures, offer an overview of their financial lives since arriving in the Senate.

Rubio released portions of his 2010 through 2014 returns on Saturday, adding to 10 years of tax documents he had previously made public.

Since winning election to office in Washington, they show Rubio's income has ranged from \$276,059 to \$938,963, and he has paid between \$46,500 and \$254,894 in federal income tax. Most of the income came from a business that collected royalties on two books: Rubio's memoir, "An American Son," and a pre-campaign tract, "American Dreams."

In 2012, Rubio's most lucrative year, his effective tax rate topped out at a little more than 31 percent. But by 2014, the family's income dropped to \$335,963, an amount on which the Rubio and his wife Jeanette paid a 24 percent tax rate. Rubio's earnings that year were padded by cashing out \$68,241 from his retirement savings.

Cruz released portions of his 2011 through 2014 returns. They show he and his wife Heidi brought in an annual average of \$1,131,792, with large portions of their income coming from Cruz's work in 2011 and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 214 ♦ 27 of 27

2012 at the law firm Morgan, Lewis and Bockius, and his wife's work at Goldman Sachs. Cruz also reported \$190,000 in income coming from a book advance from Harper Collins in 2014.

The returns show that Cruz and his wife reported more than \$5.2 million in income in those years and paid an average effective tax rate of 37.6 percent.

The summary returns yield few details on either candidate's charitable giving, but they indicate that the Texas senator, who has banked on the support of evangelicals and appealed to voters on matters of faith, hasn't tithed a full 10 percent of his income.

"All of us are on a faith journey, and I will readily admit that I have not been as faithful in this aspect of my walk as I should have been," Cruz told the Christian Broadcasting Network in January.