

Things to watch ahead of 2016 campaign

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's a whole year of campaigning, positioning and politicking to go before the next campaign for president kicks off with the Iowa Caucus in early 2016. Here's a look at 10 things to look out for this year that might tell us something about how that campaign (which is really already underway) may shake out.

1. Courtrooms Before Campaigns

Three Republican governors who appear likely to run for president face legal issues at home that could derail a campaign before it gets started. Texas Gov. Rick Perry was indicted in August on two felony counts of abuse of power for publicly threatening to veto funding for public corruption prosecutors, and then making good on that threat. An investigation into alleged illegal coordination between Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's 2012 recall campaign and conservative groups is on hold pending action from the state Supreme Court, while federal prosecutors in New Jersey continue to investigate what role Gov. Chris Christie's administration played, if any, in tying up traffic on the George Washington Bridge in 2013.

2. Middle Class Economics

The stock market is up, unemployment is down and economists are giddy about prospects for America's economy to grow in 2015. But while economic indicators are glowing, how middle class voters benefit amid the recovery will shape the presidential campaign. So far, many have not: the typical American family's income is 8 percent lower than it was before the recession hit in 2007.

3. Iowa Straw Poll

The Iowa Republican Party's presidential straw poll has come under sharp scrutiny in the past two campaigns after elevating candidates out of step with the larger Iowa and national GOP. The event, held the summer before the winter caucuses, is also a source of tension among campaigns which pay a steep price to take part in what is nominally a fundraiser for the state party. Gov. Terry Branstad, Iowa's six-term governor, wants to end it, while the Iowa Republican Party chairman and central committee have the votes to keep it going.

4. GOP Governors and Medicaid

Two years into the Affordable Care Act, Republican governors remain divided over whether to adopt a key provision of the law that provides health insurance to poor uninsured people via Medicaid. Pos-



In this 2011 file photo, Republicans enter Hilton Coliseum before casting their ballots in the Iowa Republican Party's Straw Poll, in Ames, Iowa.

sible GOP White House prospects, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, accepted what's known as Medicaid expansion. Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal refused, citing concern over the cost. Others, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, adopted hybrid programs that expand insurance coverage with limits.

5. Right to Work

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker faces the prospect of another public fight with organized labor early in 2015 should the state's GOP-controlled legislature try to pass a "right to work" law, which would make private labor union membership optional. Walker's successful effort to curtail the union rights of public employees led to weeks of visible and vocal protests in Madison during his first term, something he's eager to avoid as he weighs if and when to enter the race for president. But it is a priority for Republican lawmakers who expanded their majorities in the midterm elections and aren't as tied to the law's presidential political implications as their ambitious governor.

6. Republican Debates

After a prolonged 2012 primary season that left their presidential nominee bloodied, the Republican National Committee is making significant changes to its debate schedule ahead of the presidential primary season. Party leaders plan to dramatically reduce the number of

debates and assert more control over the selection of moderators. Still, logistical questions remain for a 2016 primary field that could feature well more than a dozen high-profile contenders.

7. Immigration Actions

Perhaps no issue will riddle Republicans as much as immigration in the next presidential campaign. GOP hopefuls must balance an appeal to conservatives who detest anything they view as "amnesty" for people living in the U.S. illegally, while also reaching out to the nation's fast-growing Hispanic population. Some GOP lawmakers are also at work drafting business-friendly bills to boost visas for farm and high-tech workers. Republicans running for president will be asked if they back their party's actions in Congress, and if not, be expected to propose their own solutions.

8. Common Core

In a Republican primary where the candidates may have more similarities than differences, the party's debate over the Common Core education standards could be explosive. Once endorsed by state leaders in both parties, some conservatives have attacked the voluntary standards as a government takeover of education.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush may have more on the line than anyone, having dedicated much of his political career to education and refusing to withdraw his support for

Common Core. One-time supporters, such as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, have reversed course and become vocal critics.

9. Clinton and the Economy

Hillary Rodham Clinton drew snickers this past summer when, while promoting a book for which she was handsomely paid, she said she and husband Bill Clinton were "dead broke" when they left the White House. She continues to give speeches that command fees of \$200,000 or more, traveling to them by private jet. With an income that places her among the top 1 percent of Americans, and close ties to Wall Street dating to her time as a senator from New York, how Clinton shapes her economic message will be watched by a party with a renewed focus on income inequality and economic anxieties for middle-class families.

10. WWWD: What Will Warren Do?

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has, for months, told anyone able to ask that she "is not running for president." That has not stopped hopeful liberals in the Democratic Party from talking up a Warren campaign. Will it be enough for them if Warren were to declare that she "will not" run for president? Or will their hopes for an insurgent campaign from the left linger deep into 2015, should the populist senator stick with her grammatically flexible description of her plans for 2016?

BRIEFLY

Snowy, cold across West for New Year's

(AP) — A blustery winter storm dumped snow and ice across the West on Wednesday, making driving treacherous in the mountains from California to the Rockies and forcing residents and party-goers in some usually sun-soaked cities to bundle up for a frosty New Year's.

Giddy residents in Southern California foothills snapped photos of snow-covered lawns as kids tossed snowballs. In suburban Phoenix, swimming pools and cactus-lined backyards were dusted with the white stuff.

The storm swept from California into the Mojave Desert and Las Vegas, bringing snow to parts of northern Arizona and New Mexico along the way, the National Weather Service said.

Gusting winds toppled trees throughout California, killing at least three people in the state in recent days.

Idaho shooting victim supported gun rights

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Concealed weapons are part of everyday life in Idaho, and that's unlikely to change in the Mountain West state despite a shocking accident in which a 2-year-old boy reached into his mother's purse, grabbed her gun and shot her in the head inside a Wal-Mart.

Veronica J. Rutledge was shopping Tuesday morning with her son and three nieces in Hayden, Idaho, when the young boy got ahold of the small-caliber handgun. It discharged one time, killing her.

The boy, Rutledge's only child, had been left in a shopping cart with the purse. The 29-year-old Rutledge had a concealed weapons permit.

Guns were a big part of Rutledge's life. Her father said she practiced at shooting ranges and she and her husband had a concealed weapons permits. He said for Christmas this year, her husband gave her the purse with a special zippered pocket for a concealed weapon.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny and very cold	Mostly cloudy and chilly	Partly sunny	Cloudy, a bit of snow and rain	Periods of snow and rain

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
22° 12° 34° 24° 34° 28° 42° 37° 46° 33°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
25° 15° 34° 24° 36° 28° 40° 35° 46° 32°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW
Yesterday 20° 8°
Normals 40° 26°
Records 65° (1996) -10° (1978)
PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 2.80"
Normal month to date 1.60"
Year to date 13.24"
Last year to date 8.92"
Normal year to date 13.07"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW
Yesterday 25° 8°
Normals 39° 27°
Records 57° (1970) -8° (1978)
PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 1.34"
Normal month to date 1.45"
Year to date 7.60"
Last year to date 5.46"
Normal year to date 9.92"

SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 7:36 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:21 p.m.
Moonrise today 2:03 p.m.
Moonset today 4:04 a.m.

Full Last New First
Jan 4 Jan 13 Jan 20 Jan 26

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today, but some clouds across the north. Clear tonight.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny today; cold. Partly cloudy tonight; cold across the north.
Western Washington: Partly sunny today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow.
Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy near the Idaho border and in the mountains today; partly sunny elsewhere.
Cascades: Sunny to partly cloudy today. Mainly clear tonight; cold. Clouds and sun tomorrow.
Northern California: Plenty of sunshine today. Clear and chilly tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	44	31	pc	48	36	c
Baker City	20	10	s	27	14	c
Bend	30	17	s	40	18	pc
Brookings	52	38	s	52	39	s
Burns	25	10	s	31	13	s
Enterprise	25	11	pc	32	18	c
Eugene	37	24	s	44	30	pc
Hepburn	25	14	pc	36	23	c
Hermiston	25	15	pc	34	24	c
John Day	32	7	s	38	21	pc
Klamath Falls	37	18	s	42	22	s
La Grande	23	11	s	34	22	c
Meacham	24	12	s	33	23	c
Medford	43	26	s	49	29	s
Newport	45	31	s	48	35	c
North Bend	49	33	s	51	36	s
Ontario	21	11	s	26	18	s
Pasco	24	14	pc	32	22	c
Pendleton	22	12	s	34	24	c
Portland	38	25	s	41	31	pc
Redmond	27	11	s	39	16	pc
Salem	39	24	s	44	30	pc
Spokane	19	13	c	25	13	c
Ukiah	30	15	pc	38	24	c
Vancouver	39	23	s	41	30	c
Walla Walla	23	16	pc	33	24	c
Yakima	27	15	pc	33	18	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	37	17	s	42	16	s
Hong Kong	66	55	s	65	58	s
Jerusalem	59	40	pc	54	41	c
London	54	50	c	52	38	pc
Mexico City	72	42	pc	72	42	s
Moscow	35	34	pc	36	32	c
Paris	40	35	pc	50	35	sh
Rome	48	34	s	51	35	s
Seoul	24	13	s	29	13	sn
Sydney	85	70	pc	83	70	r
Tokyo	41	33	c	44	36	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	VAR 2-4	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	VAR 2-4	SW 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Rain and ice will affect part of the South Central states today. Snow will wind down in Arizona and Utah, but continue in New Mexico and Colorado. Spotty snow will stretch from the Great Lakes to Montana.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 82° in Tamiami, Fla. Low -35° in Big Piney, Wyo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	36	18	sn	34	16	sf
Atlanta	54	41	pc	52	46	r
Atlanta City	43	35	s	47	34	pc
Baltimore	42	27	s	45	29	pc
Billings	33	20	c	37	14	c
Birmingham	52	40	pc	49	45	r
Boise	21	12	s	27	18	s
Boston	34	27	s	39	24	s
Charleston, SC	58	40	s	60	48	r
Chicago, IL	40	30	s	41	32	c
Chicago	27	20	s	29	23	pc
Cleveland	31	24	s	33	24	pc
Dallas	36	34	i	39	37	r
Denver	25	2	s	38	15	s
Detroit	28	23	pc	33	20	pc
El Paso	52	33	c	49	30	sn
Fairbanks	18	-7	pc	7	-4	s
Fargo	21	5	sf	25	16	c
Honolulu	76	63	pc	77	63	t
Houston	48	43	s	51	48	r
Indianapolis	29	23	s	33	26	pc
Jacksonville	64	49	pc	69	56	pc
Kansas City	33	22	pc	36	27	pc
Las Vegas	44	31	pc	47	30	s
Little Rock	37	35	r	40	38	r
Los Angeles	60	40	s	62	42	c
Louisville	38	31	pc	39	34	pc
Memphis	41	36	r	41	40	r
Miami	81	70	c	82	72	pc
Millwaukee	28	17	c	28	22	pc
Minneapolis	24	7	sf	21	14	s
Nashville	43	34	pc	42	39	r
New Orleans	60	53	c	69	64	r
New York City	36	31	s	41	31	s
Oklahoma City	32	27	i	38	32	i
Omaha	32	16	s	31	21	pc
Philadelphia	39	30	s	43	30	pc
Phoenix	50	35	pc	55	34	pc
Portland, ME	31	23	pc	35	16	pc
Providence	35	25	s	39	24	s
Raleigh	50	35	s	55	41	c
Rapid City	37	11	pc	42	23	pc
Reno	35	15	s	42	20	s
Sacramento	52	28	s	54	33	c
St. Louis	38	30	pc	40	33	pc
Salt Lake City	28	13	pc	32	20	pc
San Diego	60	40	s	62	44	pc
San Francisco	56	41	s	56	42	c
Seattle	41	31	pc	44	36	c
Tucson	50	31	pc	48	28	s
Washington, DC	45	33	c	48	35	pc
Wichita	33	19	c	35	28	c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.