

NATION

Republican senators are confronting an unsettling possibility: **Sen. Ted Cruz**, their least favorite colleague, stands within reach of becoming the party's presidential nominee. Worse than that, many **GOP** lawmakers and aides fear the **Texas** senator could ruin **Republicans'** chances of hanging onto control of the **Senate**. **A3**

The current version of the **SAT** college entrance exam has its final run this weekend, when hundreds of thousands of students nationwide will sit, squirm or stress through the nearly four-hour reading, writing and math test. **A3**



WORLD

Almost a decade after former **KGB** officer **Alexander Litvinenko** lay dying in a **London** hospital bed, a **British** judge has concluded who poisoned him: two **Russian** men, acting at the behest of **Russia's** security services, probably with approval from **President Vladimir Putin**. **A10**

REGION

In **Elon**, work has begun on one long-awaited sidewalk project and will soon begin on another. **B1**

SPORTS

The **Buffalo Bills** have made a small but significant addition to the team's regular staff. **B3**



Weather: Snow and sleet
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Storm bears down on East Coast



Above, city of Burlington assistant superintendent of the streets division Mick Brooks moves salt in a shed Thursday morning in Burlington. Below, N.C. Department of Transportation supervisor Van Hodges, right, and transportation worker Stephen Moon clear out the tailgate salt spreader on a truck to avoid freezing.

Photos by Sam Roberts / Times-News

Blizzard brings potential for chaos

By Ben Nuckols
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The commuter chaos caused by a light dusting of snow in the nation's capital was an ominous prelude to the massive blizzard bearing down on the eastern United States on Thursday.

Less than an inch of snow fell Wednesday night in the District of Columbia, Maryland and northern Virginia, but that was enough for roads to immediately freeze over, causing hundreds of accidents and leaving drivers gridlocked for hours. President Obama wasn't spared, as his motorcade slowly weaved and skidded along icy streets to the White House.

The mayor apologized to the city, saying more trucks should have been sent out to lay salt ahead of the snow — a mistake she said won't be repeated ahead of the much bigger storm arriving Friday.

"We are very sorry for (our) inadequate response," District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser said. "We should have been out earlier, with more resources."

The sorry preview raised concerns among people scrambling to prepare for up to 2 feet of heavy wet snow and blizzard conditions across the Mid-Atlantic region. Icy conditions already caused accidents that killed two drivers in North Carolina and one in Tennessee. A truck with a snowplow killed a pedestrian while it was snowing in Maryland.

"It's going to be dangerous out there," said Tonya Woods, 42, a Metro station manager. She had a much longer-than-usual drive home to suburban Clinton, Md., on Wednesday night, and worries that today will be much worse. "I say they should shut things down,"

See **POTENTIAL CHAOS** / Page A2

Get ready: 'Burlington could be the epicenter' of massive storm

By Michael D. Abernethy
Times-News
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Burlington and Alamance County could end up seeing the worst of this winter storm, a National Weather Service meteorologist said Thursday.

More to the story

- Police bracing for the worst / **A2**
- Locals raid grocery, hardware stores / **B1**
- Tips for driving safely in snow and ice / **B2**

As the storm moves through between this morning and Saturday night, some areas will see large snow accumulations. Others will see sleet and ice. Alamance County could get a mix of both, bearing the brunt of the storm.

"We think Burlington could be the epicenter ... where a mixture of snow, sleet and ice accumulates," said meteorologist Brandon Locklear. "Just 10 or



15 miles west could be a world of difference from what you will see."

The storm was expected to begin as light snow around 4 a.m. today, continuing into the afternoon. Sometime this evening, it's believed that snow will change to sleet and freez-

ing rain that could persist as a "freezing mist" into Saturday morning. Another round of snow is expected Saturday.

Between 4 and 8 inches of snow and sleet are expected.

See **BURLINGTON EPICENTER** / Page A2

NOTE TO READERS

Due to the winter storm threat, the Times-News is operating under an early deadline Thursday through Saturday night. This means some regular features or late sports stories won't be available for publication. Readers may notice different delivery times, in some cases earlier than normal. As conditions allow, we will try to make deliveries as quickly as possible. Starting at 6 this morning, access to our website (thetimesnews.com) will be free and will remain so throughout the duration of the storm.

Thanks for your patience and stay safe.

>> CRIME

Teen charged with murder of stepfather

Body discovered after victim reported overdue for work

By Natalie Allison Janicello
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GRAHAM — When the 36-year-old city of Burlington laboratory employee hadn't showed up for work in a couple days, a colleague called authorities Thursday morning.

Once dispatched to his home, Alamance County deputies located the man's teenage stepson and two others inside the residence — as well



Goswick

as a partially covered body lying on the concrete floor of the detached garage.

Joseph Wayne Cook Goswick, 17, of Brier Lane, Graham, has been charged with the first-degree murder of his stepfather, whose name is being withheld until the victim's next of kin can be notified.

Goswick is being held without bond in the Alamance County jail.

At 9:31 a.m., Alamance County Central Communications received a phone call from a man "who identified himself as a co-worker of the victim," said Kirk Puckett, spokesman

for the Sheriff's Office.

Two deputies were dispatched to the Brier Lane residence to check on the man, who was overdue for work.

Puckett said that once at the residence, the deputies "encountered three people inside" and inquired about the whereabouts of the man who had not shown up to work. One of those people, Joseph Goswick, identified himself as the man's stepson.

Of the man's whereabouts, deputies were told "he's not here," Puckett said.

Deputies asked to take a look inside the residence and were granted permission.

See **CHARGED MURDER** / Page A2



An Alamance County Sheriff's Office investigator uses a metal detector at the scene of a homicide at 1921 Brier Lane in Graham on Thursday.

Sam Roberts / Times-News

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