

East Dubuque mayor resigns **3A**

Raptors, wolves a hit at county fairs **3A**

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High 75° Low 57° Partly cloudy, **8B**

**FRIDAY**

July 27, 2018 • Dubuque, Iowa • \$1



President Donald Trump, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and Ivanka Trump participate in a roundtable discussion on workforce development Thursday at Northeast

Iowa Community College in Peosta, Iowa. Trump and his team toured an NICC manufacturing lab prior to the roundtable. **JESSICA REILLY • Telegraph Herald**

# TRUMP TALKS BUSINESS

## President discusses ag trade, job training in Peosta

BY BEN JACOBSON  
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PEOSTA, Iowa — President Donald Trump offered high praise to state officials and business leaders, as well as his own administration, during his first trip to Dubuque County since his historic 2016 election victory.

Trump and several VIPs — his daughter and senior adviser Ivanka Trump, Gov. Kim Reynolds, Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg and U.S. Rep. Rod Blum among them — discussed jobs, un-



**Rod Blum**

employment and workforce training during a roundtable discussion Thursday at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta.

“There’s no place doing better than Iowa,” said Trump, whose victory in Dubuque County marked the first time a Republican presidential candidate carried the area since Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. “There’s no place for better leadership.”

The president, seated before

an invite-only crowd of about 250 people, touched on a wide range of issues, including the state of international trade, the success of GOP-backed tax cuts, his support for the ethanol industry and the need for health care reform.

He even tossed hats adorned with “Make Our Farmers Great Again” — a play on his signature slogan — into the crowd after praising a pending trade deal with the European Union.

“We just opened Europe up to you farmers,” Trump said. “You’re not going to be too angry with Trump.”

### TOUR

After arriving at NICC, Trump toured the school’s industrial technology building. While members of Trump’s White House press corps joined the president, local media were not granted access.

NICC President Liang Chee Wee joined Trump and his team on the tour. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase the role that community colleges play in

workforce development, Wee said.

“I think (Trump) was very impressed with the education and the programming we provided ... and the skills that we have imparted and the application of the knowledge,” Wee said after the panel discussion.

Several students had an opportunity to interact with the president and his team.

“I think he really connected with our faculty and students about how

See **TRUMP, PAGE 2A**

## Protesters gather on NICC campus

BY JEFF MONTGOMERY  
jeff.montgomery@thmedia.com

Daniele Halfhill felt like it was her duty to stand among the protesters during President Donald Trump’s visit to Dubuque County on Thursday.

Halfhill teaches fourth grade at Fulton Elementary School in Dubuque and believes the president’s conduct over the past 18 months has set a bad example for her students.

“We try to teach our kids respect, loyalty and responsibility,” said the Dubuque resident. “My students see the president on the news, and he is not demonstrating that kind of character. When you have young students questioning the behavior of the president, I think that is pretty profound.”

Halfhill was among more

than 300 people who gathered on the west side of the Northeast Iowa Community College campus to protest Trump’s visit to the area. More than 100 additional protesters lined up along NICC Drive.

Many of those gathered grew agitated briefly after Trump’s motorcade to NICC took an alternate route and bypassed the crowd. Protesters spilled onto NICC Drive and appeared poised to march across campus, but law enforcement successfully cleared the street within minutes.

Peosta Police Chief Jim Riley confirmed no arrests were made.

See **PROTESTERS, PAGE 5A**



**Daniele Halfhill**



**DAVE KETTERING • Telegraph Herald**

Allison Simpson (left), her sister Madison Simpson (middle) and Jacklyn Sindahl and her daughter, Daya, demonstrate outside NICC.



**JESSICA REILLY • Telegraph Herald**

Supporters wait for the arrival of President Donald Trump at Dubuque Regional Airport.

## Supporters praise president’s policies

BY ALLIE HINGA AND BENNET GOLDSTEIN  
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The silence at Dubuque Regional Airport was broken when President Donald Trump stepped off of Air Force One on Thursday.

A crowd of about 150 people, many wearing red “Make America Great Again” hats and holding up signs, erupted in cheers and applause as the president disembarked from the plane.

“USA! USA!” they chanted.

Trump landed at the airport en route to a roundtable at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta, which was focused on workforce development.

Before the main event, however, he was greeted at the airport by the throng of supporters, many of whom



**more online, inside**  
More photos, video of Trump’s visit, **TelegraphHerald.com** AP fact check, **2A**  
A look at recent presidential visits to the tri-state area, **5A**

had been waiting two-plus hours to see him. Those in attendance were invited to the event.

“I think he deserves our gratitude,” said Mareda Ann Pierce, a Monticello, Iowa, farmer. “It’s not an easy time

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**Report: China, Russia, Iran boost spying on U.S. 7A**



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almanac

Today is Friday, July 27, the 208th day of 2018. There are 157 days left in the year.

ON THIS DATE:

- In 1789, President George Washington signed a measure establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the Department of State.
- In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finished laying out the first successful underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe
- In 1909, during the first official test of the U.S. Army's first airplane, Orville Wright flew himself and a passenger, Lt. Frank Lahm, above Fort Myer, Va., for one hour and 12 minutes.
- In 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

The Associated Press

lotteries

IOWA

THURSDAY EARLY

**Pick 3-Midday:** 2-4-5  
**Pick 4-Midday:** 7-7-3-3

WEDNESDAY EVENING

**Pick 3-Evening:** 3-6-1  
**Pick 4-Evening:** 6-2-9-1  
**Lotto America:** 6-8-13-20-35  
**Star Ball:** 4 **Bonus:** 2  
**Jackpot:** \$5.38 million

ILLINOIS

THURSDAY EARLY

**Pick 3-Midday:** 1-0-8  
**Pick 4-Midday:** 5-5-0-9  
**Lucky Day Lotto-Midday:** 6-7-11-23-25

WEDNESDAY EVENING

**Pick 3-Evening:** 1-9-4  
**Pick 4-Evening:** 5-2-0-6  
**Lucky Day Lotto-Evening:** 5-13-17-20-41

WISCONSIN

THURSDAY EARLY

**Daily Pick 3:** 9-8-2  
**Daily Pick 4:** 8-3-2-4

WEDNESDAY EVENING

**5 Card Cash**  
2C-3C-5C-4H-2S  
**Badger 5:** 3-9-11-13-30  
**Supercash:** 9-12-17-19-31-33  
**Doubler:** N  
**Megabucks:**  
5-7-15-25-40-42

POWERBALL

2-18-41-44-64  
**Powerball:** 26 **Powerplay:** 2  
**Jackpot:** \$147 million

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people, etc

Paul McCartney returns to Liverpool's Cavern Club cellar bar

LONDON — Paul McCartney has returned to the famous Liverpool club credited with being the birthplace of the Beatles.

The 76-year-old played an exclusive performance Thursday at the Cavern Club — the cellar bar where the Fab Four played in their early years.

Some 270 fans packed into a sweltering room to watch McCartney after lining up for free tickets at the Echo Arena box office after

the gig was announced. "Liverpool. Cavern," McCartney said as he opened the show. "Those are words that go together well."

McCartney played the guitar and the keyboard in a performance which lasted almost two hours. He played Beatles classics including "Love Me Do," "I Saw Her Standing There" and "Get Back," as well as songs from his new album "Egypt Station."

The Associated Press

happy birthday

- TV producer Norman Lear, 96 • actress-director Betty Thomas, 71 • Comedian Bill Engvall, 61 • rock singer Juliana Hatfield, 51 • comedian Maya Rudolph, 46 • former MLB All-Star Alex Rodriguez, 43 • actress Taylor Schilling, 34 • singer Cheyenne Kimball, 28 • golfer Jordan Spieth, 25

AP: Trump skews claims on GDP growth

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is prematurely claiming he proved naysayers wrong in boosting U.S. economic growth.

Speaking Thursday in Iowa, Trump claimed victory in advance of Friday's government release of quarterly gross domestic product data, saying "nobody thought we were going to be this good" and that when he became president, "those numbers were bad."

In fact, the skepticism from economists has centered more on whether strong GDP growth would be sustainable after a few quarters.

That question has yet to be answered; it's not unusual for the economy to surge forward temporarily.

A look at the claims:

**TRUMP, on GDP figures:** "On Friday, numbers come out and I don't know what they are, but there are predictions from 3.8 to 5.3. ... Nobody thought we were going to be this good. ... When I took over those numbers were bad, and they were heading in the wrong direction, because of regulation. Really the taxes were too high... jobs were, forget it." — remarks at workforce event in Peosta, Iowa.

**THE FACTS:** Economists

do expect a strong number for growth in the April-June quarter, but it is likely to be a temporary bounce. And the U.S. economy wasn't doing nearly as bad before Trump took office as he suggests.

Few economists doubted that growth could accelerate after the Trump administration's tax cuts were passed last year, and Congress approved a big increase in government spending earlier this year.

But the skepticism Trump describes centers on whether the second quarter's outside growth can be sustained. The economy faces two significant structural drags: an aging population, which means fewer

people are working and more are retired, and weak productivity growth, which means that those who are working aren't increasing their output as quickly as in the past.

Trump's tax cuts can stimulate faster growth by putting more money in people's pockets, but most economists expect the effect will be temporary, as those two trends act like gravity and pull the economy's longer-term growth lower.

**TRUMP:** "The Canadians have a totally closed market ... they have a 375 percent tax on dairy products, other than that it's wonderful to deal. And we have a very big deficit with

Canada, a trade deficit." — remarks in Peosta, Iowa.

**THE FACTS:** No, it's not totally closed. Because of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Canada's market is almost totally open to the United States. Each country has a few products that are still largely protected, such as dairy in Canada and sugar in the United States.

Trump also repeated his claim that the U.S. has a trade deficit with Canada, but that is true only in goods. When services are included, such as insurance, tourism, and engineering, the U.S. had a \$2.8 billion surplus with Canada last year.

TRUMP: President touts 'Pledge to American Workers'

Continued from page 1A

the type of training really impacts lives and community," Wee said.

The students presented Trump with a pair of gifts, both made inside the industrial technology building.

One was manufactured by students in the computer numerical control program — one of the school's most in-demand fields — and represented the state's 15 community colleges. The other was a 3-D printed model of the White House.

WORKFORCE

After entering to the sounds of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA," Trump took a seat at the head position of a table, flanked by Reynolds and Georgia Van Gundy, executive director of the Iowa Business Council.

Before launching into the panel discussion, Trump discussed trade and how new developments could prove a boon for the agriculture industry. He promised a new relationship with the EU would lead to "no tariffs" and "free trade," and assured the crowd of the Europeans' appetite for soybeans.

"Basically, we opened up Europe," Trump said. "That's going to be a great thing for Europe and a great thing for us."

Still, Trump made no apologies for upending longstanding trade relationships such as NAFTA, the 1994 free trade agreement among the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The existing international trade infrastructure was "the worst ever made by any country in history," the president said.

Trump then pivoted to the main topic of workforce development — specifically employers' investment in American workers.

Trump touted the dozens of business leaders who have signed a "Pledge to American Workers," promising to offer training and education for employee advancement. That list includes several local companies, such as Flexsteel Industries, Inc., Mi-T-M Corp., Decker Precision Machining, A.Y. McDonald and Theisen's Home-Farm-Auto.

He praised Ivanka Trump, who spearheaded efforts to revamp the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The overhaul to the \$1.1 billion program — which recently passed through both chambers of the U.S. Legislature and is awaiting Trump's signature — provides funding for job training and programs, typ-



EVAN VUCCI • The Associated Press

President Donald Trump participates in a tour of an advanced manufacturing lab Thursday with Ivanka Trump, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and Northeast Iowa Community College President Liang Chee Wee in Peosta, Iowa.



EILEEN MESLAR • Telegraph Herald

U.S. Rep. Rod Blum, R-Iowa, greets supporters at Dubuque Regional Airport on Thursday.

ically for workers who aren't pursuing a traditional four-year college education.

"It's very, very exciting and an enormous piece of legislation," Ivanka Trump said.

OTHER PANELISTS

Trump's fellow panelists took turns sharing their thoughts.

Blum touched on the critical need for workers at a time when unemployment is historically low.

"We have more job openings than we do workers to fill them for the first time in our history," Blum said.

Matt Giese, a project manager at Giese Sheet Metal, said workforce struggles are a constant challenge.

"They're great guys," Giese said of his workers. "I just want more of them."

REACTION

Dubuque County Supervisor Jay Wickham was among the 250 invited to view Trump's panel up close and personal. The sharp turnout from business leaders — officials from John Deere

business. Still, he would gladly expand his workforce if he could find the employees.

"We could hire 10 people tomorrow, and we'd probably hire 20 within 30 days," Ertl said.

Cottingham & Butler Chairman John Butler said it is a good market for job-seekers.

"I think business, in general, is considerably better than it has been," he said. "I would be very pleased and impressed that the (unemployment) rate is so low as it is."

After Trump's departure, Blum said economic growth under the Trump administration is "amazing" and that workforce development efforts are a "piece of the puzzle." However, he also pointed to the importance of immigration reform and changes to welfare policy requiring recipients to work, if



John Butler

"We have more job openings than we do workers to fill them for the first time in our history."

U.S. REP. ROD BLUM, R-IOWA

able, as necessary steps.

Trump used the panel to attack Iowa Rep. Abby Finkenauer, calling her "Absent Abby," and saying, "Who is Absent Abby?" The Democrat is engaged in a competitive race that has garnered national attention for Iowa's First District seat held by fellow Dubuquer Blum.

Blum later said the impact that Trump's visit could have on the Nov. 6 election hasn't crossed his mind.

"I don't think about the election," Blum said. "I'm just doing the job that voters ... hired me to do."

Finkenauer used Twitter — Trump's preferred method of public discourse — to respond to the president.

"Hi! The name's Abby Finkenauer, for the record, but I'm sure you'll know it by Election Night," she wrote.

Reached via email after the event, Finkenauer accused Blum of squandering his captive audience with the president.

"It's disappointing that Congressman Blum apparently spent his time on Air Force One talking political nicknames instead of telling the president how awful his Twitter trade war is for our farmers," Finkenauer wrote. "This administration is hurting Iowa families, but instead of standing up for us, Rod Blum is rolling over and telling the president what a good job he's doing."

Telegraph Herald reporters Allie Hinga and Bennet Goldstein contributed.

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