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STATE OF THE UNION WHAT TO WATCH

## SALES PITCH

### How Trump will use his State of the Union address to sell skeptical midterm voters on his plans



President Donald Trump dances after speaking at a rally at Coosa Steel Corporation in Rome, Ga., on Feb. 19. PHOTOS BY MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Josh Boak and Michelle L. Price  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday is likely to be a test run of the message Republicans will give to voters in November's elections for control of the House and the Senate.

The president and his party appear vulnerable, with polls showing much of America distrusts how Trump has managed the government in his first year back in office. In addition, the Supreme Court last week struck down one of the chief levers of his economic and foreign policy by ruling he lacked the power to impose many of his sweeping tariffs.

Though Trump is expected to focus on domestic issues, his intensifying threats about launching military strikes on Iran over its nuclear program cast a shadow over the address.

Here are a few things to watch as Trump tries to make his case:

#### ECONOMY AND IMMIGRATION ARE NO LONGER STRENGTHS FOR TRUMP

Trump swept back into the White House on promises to bring down prices and restore order to immigration in America. But on both issues, public sentiment has turned against him.



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters aboard Air Force One shortly before takeoff on Feb. 19 at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Only 39% of U.S. adults approve of his economic leadership and just 38% support him on immigration, according to the latest Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey. Those low numbers show the country is still fretting about the costs of groceries, housing and utilities, a problem compounded by Trump's whipsawing use of tariffs. They also show how the public was disturbed by videos of

violent clashes with protesters, including two U.S. citizens killed by federal agents.

Since his party passed a massive tax cut bill last year, Trump has yet to unveil major new policy ideas on the economy. In recent speeches, he has largely offered the public reruns about his tax cuts, plans to reduce mortgage rates and

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8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## Democratic Campaign Committee invests in Cognetti

### Added to committee's Red to Blue program

By Robert Tomkavage  
RTOMKAVAGE@SCRANTONTIMES.COM

Scranton Mayor Paige Gebhardt Cognetti received a boost in her bid to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan in Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee added Cognetti to the first round of its Red to Blue program, the committee announced Monday. Eli Cousin, press secretary for the DCCC, declined to disclose the amount of money Cognetti received from the committee.

The Red to Blue program provides candidates with organizational and fundraising support. The DCCC provides strategic guidance, staff resources and candidate training through the program.

"Paige Cognetti fights political corruption wherever she sees it, because she believes that our government should work for the people," DCCC Chair Suzan DelBene said in a news release. "She'll be an independent voice in Congress that will lower costs for working people and put NEPA first."

The National Republican Congressional

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LUZERNE COUNTY

## Council agenda: \$1M contract to design plans for closed bridge

By Michael P. Buffer  
MBUFFER@CITIZENSVOICE.COM

Luzerne County Council plans to vote Tuesday to authorize a \$1 million contract to get design options to rehabilitate or replace the closed Nanticoke/West Nanticoke Bridge.

Tuesday's agenda also includes votes to establish a new county division for community planning and economic development and to adopt a new public comment policy to stop reading submitted comments at meetings. The work session agenda includes a presentation on the state of the county from County Manager Romilda Crocamo.

The proposed bridge contract is with Modjeski and Masters Inc. PennDOT

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## Police are finding suspects based on online searches as courts weigh privacy concerns

By Mark Scolforo  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRISBURG — Criminal investigators hoping to develop suspects in difficult cases have been asking Google to reveal who searched for specific information online, seeking "reverse keyword" warrants that critics warn threaten the privacy of innocent people.

Unlike traditional search warrants that target a known

suspect or location, keyword warrants work backward by identifying internet addresses where searches were made in a certain window of time for particular terms, such as a street address where a crime occurred or a phrase like "pipe bomb."

Police have used the method to investigate a series of bombings in Texas, the assassination of a Brazilian politician and a fatal arson in Colorado.

It's not a wild guess by investigators to conclude that people are using Google searches in all manner of crimes, as the company's search engine has become the main gateway to the internet and users' daily lives increasingly leave online traces. The potential value to investigators of the data Google collects is obvious in cases with no suspect, such as the search for Nancy Guthrie's kidnapper. The legal tension between

the need to solve crimes quickly and the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment protections against overly broad searches was at the heart of a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision that upheld the use of a reverse keyword warrant in a rape investigation.

Privacy advocates see it as giving police "unfettered

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John Edward Kurtz, a former prison guard, is taken by state troopers to be arraigned in Milton, Pa., on Dec. 18, 2017. KEVIN MERTZ/STANDARD JOURNAL VIA AP

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