

STATE OF THE UNION

# Trump puts Twitter aside as he prepares for big speech

By JULIE PACE  
Associated Press



Jim Lo Scalzo

President Donald Trump addresses a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in February 2017, as Vice President Mike Pence and House Speaker Paul Ryan applaud.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will herald a robust economy and push for bipartisan congressional action on immigration in Tuesday's State of the Union address, as he seeks to rally a deeply divided nation and boost his own sagging standing with Americans.

The speech marks the ceremonial kickoff of Trump's second year in office and is traditionally a president's biggest platform to speak to the nation. However, Trump has redefined presidential communications with his high-octane, filter-free Twitter account and there's no guarantee that the carefully crafted speech will resonate beyond his next tweet.

Trump was quiet Tuesday on Twitter, and the White House sought to focus attention on his big speech to Congress and millions of Americans watching at home.

White House officials are hopeful the president can use the prime-time address to take

credit for a soaring economy. Though the trajectory of lower unemployment and higher growth began under his predecessor, Trump argues that the tax overhaul he signed into law late last year has boosted business confidence and will lead companies to reinvest in the United States.

Considering the strength of the economy, Trump will step before lawmakers Tues-

day night in a remarkably weak position. His approval rating has hovered in the 30s for much of his presidency and at the close of 2017, just 3 in 10 Americans said the United States was heading in the right direction, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. In the same survey, 67 percent of Americans said the country was more divided

because of Trump.

It's unlikely Trump will be able to rely on a robust legislative agenda to reverse those numbers in 2018. Congress has struggled with the basic function of funding the government, prompting a brief government shutdown earlier this month that was resolved only with a short-term fix that pushed the spending deadline to Feb. 8.

Against the backdrop of the spending fight, Republicans and Democrats are also wrestling with the future of some 700,000 young immigrants living in the United States illegally. Trump has vowed to protect the so-called Dreamers from deportation, but is also calling for changes to legal immigration that are controversial with both parties.

"We're going to get something done, we hope bipartisan," Trump told reporters Monday, before giving his speech a practice run-through in the White House map room. "The Republicans really don't have the votes to get it done in any other way. So it has to be bipartisan."

# Oil spill: Wildlife has not been affected

Continued from Page 1A

"That does explain why we're seeing product in the water," Madjeska said. "It probably shifted once the river was able to make contact and come in through those holes and then exit with the tide."

The exact amount of oil discharged is still unknown, but the Coast Guard considers the spill minor. Wildlife has not been affected.

Tide cycles of up to 9 feet, inclement weather, crumbling concrete surrounding the tank and the risk of disrupting the containment boom have presented challenges for crews hoping to excavate the tank. A crane barge was placed in the area Friday before work began Monday.

Madjeska said crews hope to fully access the tank by the end of the week. Crews will then be able to determine how heavy it is and how, if possible, to lift it from the pier — oil and all.

Oil from the tank was likely used for boilers at the Union Fishermen's Cooperative, which was located at the pier and closed down more than 70 years ago, Madjeska said. Since then, the pier has

had a handful of owners, and knowledge of the tank likely was lost somewhere in the turnover.

"Did people know years ago that this tank was there? Possibly. Maybe not," hotel spokeswoman Donna Quinn said. "We wish it had been disclosed, but it wasn't. We don't know who knew or who didn't know."

Quinn said the hotel is researching options for how to pay for the cleanup and equipment, which Madjeska estimates will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The sheen has prompted questions about other piers in Astoria. Companies that moved out of the town, which once hosted a booming cannery industry, left behind dilapidated docks.

"This generated some excellent conversation among stakeholders and partners about canneries in general, but at this time there is no information of additional tanks," Madjeska said.

Large environmental and economic ramifications appear to have been avoided in this spill. "But I would say it's a big event in a small city," Coast Guard Capt. William Timmons said.

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Proposal packets are available at <http://ci.warrenton.or.us/> or at the City of Warrenton City Hall, P.O. Box 250, 225 S Main Ave., Warrenton, OR 97146. The Statement of Qualifications is due February 13, 2018 at 2:00p.m. via email.

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