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Larry Fisher. QUAD-CITY TIMES
Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba gives his State of the City address to the Davenport Rotary on Monday at the Outing Club.

Davenport is ‘growing stronger,’ Gluba says

Mayor: Success the result of hard work of a lot of people

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Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba declared the city as “strong and growing stronger” in an address to the Davenport Rotary Club Monday that touted initiatives to boost the tax base, strengthen finances and provide good public services.

During the speech, he thanked Rotarians for the gift of a gazebo constructed in River Heritage Park built for \$100,000 in recognition of the group’s 100th anniversary.

Gluba reported that in 2013, 59 businesses either opened or expanded in Davenport, creating 1,054 new jobs and retaining 4,199 other jobs. The city has a balanced budget and increased fund balance headed into fiscal year 2015.

“This success is due to the hard work of a lot of people,” Gluba said

of the city. “I just can’t say enough about the quality, dedication and professionalism of our City Council and our workforce.”

While praising the completion of the \$43 million westside diversion tunnel, the mayor was pleased to promote the upcoming \$61 million renovation of the Putnam and Parker buildings downtown into apartments, office space and hotel and the start of construction of a \$110 million land-based casino.

Construction of a transload rail facility at the Eastern Iowa Industrial Center is expected to start this year, too.

He also spoke of a reinvestment district project that is part of a \$250 million commercial and residential development near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 74. The city is seeking \$17.5 million in state money for the \$71.5 million first phase of the project that includes a 200-room hotel, performance theater, waterpark and retail space.

— ADDRESS | A2

Mayor declares ‘All-out assault’ on potholes

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Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba loudly declared “an all-out assault on potholes” that has been quietly underway for a few weeks.

During his State of the City address Monday to the Davenport Rotary Club, Gluba said the city must go after potholes aggressively after an unusually harsh winter left streets severely damaged.

“We are declaring war on potholes,” he said. “It’s going to be a little like a military crusade.”

Public Works Director Mike Clarke said his department stepped up the pothole repair effort a few weeks ago as the weather changed. Workers filled

— POTHoles | A2

Timeline reveals new uncertainty about plane

China offers use of satellites to locate missing Flight 370

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Officials revealed a new timeline Monday suggesting the final voice transmission from the cockpit of the missing Malaysian plane may have occurred before any of its communications systems were disabled, adding more uncertainty about who aboard might have been to blame.

The search for Flight 370, which vanished early March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board, has now been expanded deep into the northern and southern hemispheres. Australian vessels scoured the southern Indian Ocean and China offered 21 of its satellites to help Malaysia in the unprecedented hunt.

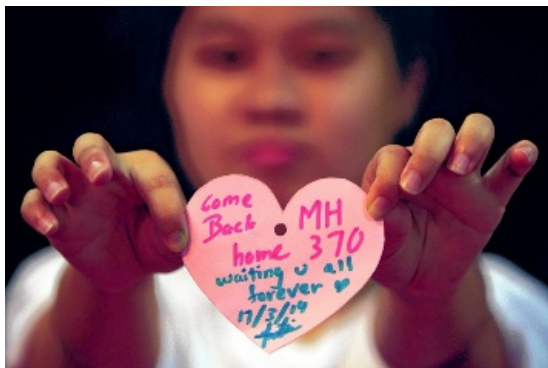
With no wreckage found in one of the most puzzling aviation mysteries of all time, relatives of those on the Boeing 777 have been left in an agonizing limbo.

Investigators say the plane was deliberately diverted during its overnight flight and flew off-course for hours. They haven’t ruled out hijacking, sabotage, or pilot suicide, and they are checking the backgrounds of the 227 passengers and 12 crew members, as well as the ground crew, to see if links to terrorists, personal problems or psychological issues could be factors.

Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said finding the plane was still the main focus, and he did not rule out that it might be discovered intact.

“The fact that there was no distress signal, no ransom notes, no parties claiming responsibility,

— PLANE | A3



A woman holds a paper message Monday for passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane.

Man convicted of kidnapping, rape

29-year-old faces life without parole

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A Scott County jury took just more than an hour Monday afternoon to convict a man of kidnapping and raping a woman last summer in Davenport.

Nathan Ronnau, 29, of Davenport will spend the rest of his life in prison after being found guilty of first-degree kidnapping for an incident that occurred July 2, 2013.

“This was a particularly brutal and potentially deadly sexual assault,” Scott County Attorney Mike Walton said. “A quick response and thorough investigation by the Davenport Police Department resulted in very solid evidence.”

Surveillance video outside a Davenport bar last summer caught a man’s shadow and window reflection darting after a woman seconds after she appeared with two men.

Prosecutors said Ronnau appeared in the video sitting with the woman in the video. They add the reflection and shadow were his.

Walton said Ronnau assaulted the victim, a 32-year-old mother of three from Davenport, and choked her until she passed out before dragging her

across the 1800 block of Iowa Street and raping her behind a bush.

“She thought she was going to die,” Walton said at his closing argument before the case was handed to jurors.

The victim, who woke up while she was being raped, pleaded for her attacker to stop by calling out the names of her children, Walton said.

Ronnau was convicted of first-degree kidnapping, first-degree sexual assault and willful injury. First-degree kidnapping is punishable by life in prison without parole in Iowa.

Defense attorney Derek Jones said the victim was inconsistent about details of the attack, such as the color of the suspect’s hair and what he wore.

For instance, the victim initially told police her attacker had blonde hair and wore blue shorts, Jones said. In the courtroom, Ronnau’s hair was dark. His jail mug shot taken last July also shows him with dark hair cut very thin.

His attorney added he wore blue jeans that night, not shorts.

The surveillance video taken behind Jack’s Locust Street Tap about 2:50 a.m. shows Ronnau wearing pants.

— KIDNAP | A3



Ronnau

Poll finds Iowans strongly support medical marijuana

Majority of every party, gender, age group support legalizing it

James Q. Lynch
Times Bureau

CEDAR RAPIDS — Iowans overwhelmingly support allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana for medical use, according to poll results released Monday.

By an 87 percent to 17 percent majority — with the support of 68 percent or more of every party, gender and age group — Iowans support legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes, the Quinnipiac University Poll found.

That level of support is comparable to other states, according to Peter Brown, assistant director of the poll.

“Iowans overwhelmingly think marijuana should be legal for medical purposes, but most voters oppose legalizing personal recreational use,” Brown said. On the other hand, “Opposition to personal marijuana is higher in Iowa than in any state we’ve surveyed so far on this subject.”

Despite that level of support, efforts in

the Iowa Legislature to legalize medicinal marijuana have failed to gain broad support this year.

Both Republican and Democratic legislative leaders say there is more interest and discussion about medicinal marijuana, but more education and research is needed before the issue can be considered further.

Among those leery of medicinal marijuana is Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican seeking a sixth term.

Although he sympathizes with families who say medicinal marijuana would offer them relief from a variety of conditions, Branstad said officials must keep in mind the “unintended consequences” that could lead to abusing the system.

“I think we have to be careful about drafting our laws just for a few people that have a particular problem or ailment,” Branstad said.

By a 55 percent to 41 percent margin, Quinnipiac found Iowans oppose allowing marijuana for personal use. Democrats support personal marijuana use 54 percent to 44 percent, and voters 18 to 29 years old support it 62 percent to 35 percent. Quinnipiac found all other groups are opposed to legalizing recreational use, with men opposed 51 percent to 45 percent and women opposed 59 percent to 37 percent.

— MARIJUANA | A3