



Attacks Chipping Away At Gingrich's Support

MANCHESTER, Iowa (AP) — More than \$1 million in negative advertising — much of it bankrolled by Mitt Romney's allies — has eroded Newt Gingrich's standing in Iowa and thrown the Republican presidential race here wide open two weeks before the first votes.

The former House speaker's Iowa slide mirrors his newfound troubles nationally, and it has boosted Romney's confidence while fueling talk that libertarian-leaning Texas Rep. Ron Paul could pull off a win in the leadoff caucus state on Jan. 3.

"It's very disappointing to see so many of my friends who are running put out such negative junk," Gingrich said Monday as he arrived in Davenport, poking at his opponents even as he insisted he was running an upbeat campaign. "I really wish they would have the courage to be positive."

Despite his chiding, attacks against him are all but certain to continue. For one, the Restore Our Future political action committee, made up of former Romney staffers from his failed 2008 bid, plans to spend \$1.4 million more over the next two weeks, including on a new ad beginning Tuesday that's expected to be aimed at Gingrich. That would bring to roughly \$3 million the amount spent by the group against Gingrich.

Aides for several campaigns competing against Gingrich as well as outside independent groups aligned with the candidates say their internal polls find that he has fallen over the last week from the top slot in Iowa. And a national Gallup poll released Monday found Gingrich's support plummeting: He had the backing of 26 percent of Republican voters nationally, down from 37 percent on Dec. 8. Romney's support was largely unchanged at 24 percent.



Gingrich

Iraqi Authorities Seek Arrest Of Sunni VP

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Shiite-led government issued an arrest warrant Monday for the Sunni vice president, accusing him of running a hit squad that assassinated government and security officials — extraordinary charges a day after the last U.S. troops left the country.

The vice president, Tariq al-Hashemi, left Baghdad on Sunday for the semiautonomous Iraqi region of Kurdistan, presumably hoping that Kurdish authorities would not turn him in. Investigative judges banned him the same day from traveling outside of Iraq.

The move against the country's highest-ranking Sunni official marked a sharp escalation in sectarian tensions, raising fears of a resurgence of large-scale bloodshed. Although many Iraqis welcomed the American withdrawal, ending the nine-year U.S. war, there are also considerable fears here that violence will worsen.

"Iraq is slipping into its worst nightmares now, and Iraqi people will pay a high price because of the struggle among political blocs after the pullout of U.S. troops," said Baghdad-based political analyst Kadhum al-Muqdadi, a Shiite.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the Obama administration had expressed its concerns to all of the parties involved regarding the issuing of the warrant.

AT&T To Drop Takeover Bid For T-Mobile

LOS ANGELES (AP) — AT&T Inc. said Monday that it is ending its \$39 billion bid to buy T-Mobile USA after facing fierce government objections.

The cellphone giant said that the actions of the government to block the deal do not change the challenges of the wireless phone industry, which it says requires more airwaves, known as spectrum, to expand.

The deal would have solved that problem for a time, and without it, "customers will be harmed and needed investment will be stifled," AT&T said in a statement.

It called on the government to quickly approve its purchase of unused spectrum from Qualcomm Inc. and come up with legislation to meet the nation's long-term needs.

AT&T, the nation's second-largest wireless carrier behind Verizon Wireless, faces paying Deutsche Telekom \$3 billion in cash and may have to enter into a roaming agreement with Deutsche Telekom, while transferring it the rights to spectrum it doesn't need for the rollout of its planned, next-generation "4G" network.

FDA Issues Warning About S.F. Sperm Donor

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A man from the San Francisco Bay area has fathered 14 children in the last five years through free sperm donations to childless couples he meets on the Internet — and is now in trouble with the federal government.

Trent Arsenault of Fremont says he donates sperm out of a sense of service to help people who want to have children but can't afford conventional sperm banks. The 36-year-old minister's son has four more children on the way.

"I always had known through people praying at church that there's fertility issues," Arsenault told The Associated Press on Monday. "I thought it would just be a neat way of service to help the community."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent Arsenault a cease-and-desist letter late last year telling him he must stop because he does not follow the agency's requirements for getting tested for sexually transmitted diseases within seven days before giving sperm. The FDA did not immediately respond to questions about what kind of punishment he faces.

Arsenault gets tested regularly, but following the FDA's rules would make it impossible to keep offering his sperm for free, he said.

Source: Paterno Out Of Hospital, Improving

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Joe Paterno has been released from the hospital and has shown improvement after being treated for lung cancer, a person close to the former Penn State coach's family said Monday.

ESPN, citing an anonymous source, first reported Paterno's release.

Paterno's tumor was showing substantial reduction following radiation and chemotherapy, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity Monday to The Associated Press due to the family's desire for privacy. He was released Sunday.

Paterno, who turns 85 on Wednesday, was admitted last week after breaking his pelvis again in a fall at home. Doctors kept him hospitalized to make it easier to administer cancer treatments while he recovered from the fracture.

He initially injured his pelvis and right shoulder in August after getting blindsided accidentally by a receiver during preseason practice. The injuries kept Paterno in the press box most of the season before trustees fired him Nov. 9 in the aftermath of child sex abuse charges against retired assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

North Korea Mourns Kim Jong Il; Son Is 'Successor'

BY RAFAEL WOBER

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Koreans marched by the thousands Monday to their capital's landmarks to mourn Kim Jong Il, many crying uncontrollably and flailing their arms in grief over the death of their "Dear Leader."

North Korean state media proclaimed his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, a "Great Successor," while a vigilant world watched for any signs of a turbulent transition to the untested leader in an unpredictable nation known to be pursuing nuclear weapons.

South Korea's military went on high alert in the face of the North's 1.2 million-strong armed forces following news of Kim's death after 17 years in power. North Korea said Kim died of a heart attack on Saturday while carrying out official duties on a train trip. President Barack Obama agreed by phone with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak to closely monitor developments.

On the streets of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, people wailed in grief, some kneeling on the ground or bowing repeatedly. Children and adults laid flowers at key memorials.

A tearful Kim Yong Ho said Kim Jong Il had made people's lives happier. "That is what he was doing when he died: working, traveling on a train," he said.

Other North Koreans walked past a giant painting of Kim Jong Il and his late father, national founder Kim Il Sung, standing together on Mount Paektu, Kim Jong Il's official birthplace. Wreaths were neatly placed below the painting.

"How could the heavens be so cruel? Please come back, general. We cannot believe you're gone," Hong Son Ok shouted, her body shaking wildly during an interview with North Korea's official television.

A foreigner who teaches at a university in Pyongyang told The Associated Press that students told about Kim's death looked very

serious but didn't show any outward emotion.

"There was a blanket of silence," said the teacher, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of worries about his security. "People were going about their business. Lots of people were lining up to lay flowers at official portraits. People looked a little stunned and very serious, but composed and respectful."

"He passed away too suddenly to our profound regret," said a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "The heart of Kim Jong Il stopped beating, but his noble and august name and benevolent image will always be remembered by our army and people."

He was 69, according to official records, though some reports indicate he was 70.

North Korean state media fell short of calling Kim Jong Un the country's next leader, but gave clear indications that Kim Jong Il's third son, who is believed to be in his late 20s, would succeed his father.

The North said in a dispatch that the people and the military "have pledged to uphold the leadership of comrade Kim Jong Un" and called him a "Great Successor" of the country's revolutionary philosophy of *juche*, or self reliance.

The death could set back efforts by the United States and others to get Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions, because the untested successor may seek to avoid any perceived weakness as he moves to consolidate control.

"The situation could become extremely volatile. What the North Korean military does in the next 24-48 hours will be decisive," said Bill Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who has made several high-profile visits to North Korea.

The death comes at a sensitive time for North Korea as it prepares for next year's 100th anniversary of the birth of Kim Il Sung. The preparations include massive construction projects throughout the

Clinton Urges Stable N. Korea Transition



Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration called for a peaceful and stable leadership transition in North Korea on Tuesday, after the death of the reclusive nation's leader Kim Jong Il.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States is still looking for better relations with the North Korean people despite the "evolving situation" there and on the rest of the Korean peninsula. She did not mention if or how Kim's death or the "evolving situation" on the peninsula would affect the U.S. approach to his country.

However, U.S. officials have said Kim's passing and assumption of power of his son, Kim Jong Un, will likely delay anticipated developments on resuming nuclear disarmament talks with the North and supplying the nation with food aid.

"We both share a common interest in a peaceful and stable transition in North Korea as well as ensuring regional peace and stability," Clinton told reporters at the State Department after a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro GEMBA. "We reiterate our hope for improved relations with the people of North Korea and remain deeply concerned about their well-being."

McCain: Kim In 'Warm Corner In Hell'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John McCain says the world is better off now that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has died, and predicted the dictator would join the likes of Adolf Hitler "in a warm corner in hell."

McCain's political colleagues, including GOP presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, have joined the prominent and outspoken senator in saying bluntly that Kim will not be missed after decades of oppression and threatening the world with his nuclear program.

But McCain, the top-ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee who was tortured as a prisoner during the Vietnam war, didn't pull any punches. He said, "I can only express satisfaction that the Dear Leader is joining the likes of Gadhafi, Bin Laden, Hitler, and Stalin in a warm corner of hell."

city as part of Kim Jong Il's unfulfilled promise to bring prosperity to his people.

Seoul and Washington will worry that Kim Jong Un "may feel it necessary in the future to precipitate a crisis to prove his mettle to other senior leaders," said Bruce Klingner, an Asia analyst at The Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington.

North Korea conducted at least one short-range missile test Monday, a South Korean official said. South Korea's military sees the firing as part of a scheduled routine drill, instead of a provocation, said

the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of a policy that bans commenting on intelligence matters.

However, Konstantin Makienko of the Moscow-based Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies said the test "undoubtedly is connected to the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il."

"Its goal is to show the world that ... the armed forces of this country now are completely battle-ready and will react to any development," he told the Russian news agency RIA-Novosti.

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Tranquility Massage Therapy Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Tranquility Massage Therapy, LLC located at 110 Capital St., Ste B102. Marcia LaBounty, LMT (owner) is open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9-5 and Wednesday 11-7. They are located in the old Gurney building. She provides Deep Tissue, Swedish Massage Reflexology, Sinus Massage, Ear Candling and paraffin wax. Give them a call at (605)260-2250 or email her at masslady1@yahoo.com

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