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# THE SARATOGIAN

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**SARATOGA SPRINGS**

## FUN FILLED WEEKEND



LAUREN HALLIGAN - MEDIANEWS GROUP

Attendees enjoy a dance session on Sunday morning at the 33rd annual Flurry Festival in Saratoga Springs.

### Thousands attend 33rd annual Flurry Festival this past weekend

By Lauren Halligan

lhalligan@digitalfirstmedia.com reporter

**SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.** » The 33rd annual Flurry Festival brought thousands to the Spa City for a weekend filled with music and dance.

This year's Flurry Festival, held Friday through Sunday at the Saratoga Springs City Center, which serves as the festival's headquarters each year.

Throughout all aspects of this multifaceted festival, Flanders and her fellow organizers aim to create a community-focused atmosphere while celebrating international music and culture.

"The last couple of days have just been jam-packed. Every venue has been completely packed," Flanders said on Sunday at the Saratoga Springs City Center, which serves as the festival's headquarters each year.

Though a final count is yet to be determined, the festival's administrative director Tamara Flanders estimated that the 2020 festival attracted more than 5,000 attendees.

"We like to create an environment where everyone feels welcome," she said. "So there's all ages, all religions, all genders, all identities - and everyone's just hanging out together, having a really good time."



LAUREN HALLIGAN - MEDIANEWS GROUP

Live music is performed for a dance session at the 33rd annual Flurry Festival on Sunday in Saratoga Springs.

Among the weekend's activities were dance sessions in styles such as Tahitian, French, Balkan, African, Indian, German, Irish, Scottish, English, Cajun, zydeco, Cuban and Native American - along with lots of contra and swing dancing. "We have it all," Flanders said.

For the first time this year, the Flurry Festival kicked off on Friday afternoon

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FLURRY » PAGE 5

**RELIGION**

### At a Catholic seminary, hope for church beyond scandals

By Matt Sedensky

AP National Writer

**WYNNWOOD, PA.** » The seminarians walk along a hallway lined with photos of classes of priests who came before them. Some are pious alumni who have become their teachers and mentors; others climbed the Catholic hierarchy to be revered as bishops and cardinals.

But there are others: Raymond Leneweaver, Class of 1962, subject of at least 14 victims' reports of abuse, who even made match-

ing T-shirts for those he raped and molested. And Edward Avery, Class of 1970, who pleaded guilty to molesting a 10-year-old altar boy in a church sacristy. And Francis Trauger, Class of 1972, who admitted to molesting a boy in a seminary shower, according to grand jurors.

The 156 young men who call St. Charles Borromeo Seminary home are deeply aware of both the sacred and the profane. They appear unflinchingly optimistic, reverent and committed, yet they

CHURCH » PAGE 5



WONG MAYE - ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seminararian Daniel Rice, left, sits with classmates during a lesson on the Gospel of Luke at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnwood, Pa., on Wednesday.

**ELECTION 2020**

## Democrats to test strength among minority voters

By Bill Barrow and Tom Foreman Jr.

Associated Press

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** » For I.S. Leevy Johnson, the Democrats' search for a challenger to take on President Donald Trump is personal.

"There is what I call an 'ABT mood' in the black community: Anybody but Trump," said the 77-year-old who was the first black graduate of the University of South Carolina's law school. "It has people of color very motivated and excited about voting this time because they know how his administration has adversely affected them."

Now, as the election calendar turns to Nevada and South Carolina, states with substantial minority populations, that "anybody" moves closer to being identified. But the next stage in the nominating fight will test candidates such as Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Their success thus far has come in front of overwhelmingly white electorates in Iowa and New Hampshire.

It's also a potential last comeback opportunity for former Vice President Joe Biden. He finished poorly in those first two contests but argues he has durable support among the minority voters who will soon make their choices.

Nevada's caucuses are this coming Saturday and will feature a growing population of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Yet no single place in the early going is as important as South Carolina. Up to two-thirds of voters in the Feb. 29 primary could be African American. Biden, more than any other candidate, must show he can win their allegiance.

One candidate who will not be tested in Nevada or South Carolina is Mike Bloomberg, the former New York mayor and billionaire owner of a financial services and media empire. Bloomberg has spent heavily from his personal fortune in states with sizable minority populations that will vote in the March 3 primaries. The Super Tuesday contests are the first where his name will appear on the ballot.

It adds up to a muddled field that lacks clarity even after Iowa and New Hampshire had their turns. Moderates have splintered their votes and created space for Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, to take on the mantle of a front-runner without having reached 30% in either of the first two voting states.

That intensifies the spotlight as minority voters in Nevada and South Carolina in trying to clarify the party's search for "anybody" to match against Trump.

"The system is garbage," said Jason Johnson, a professor at Morgan State University and a high-profile African American political commentator. He argued that the primary calendar should immediately subject candidates not just to racial and ethnic diversity but also regional and ideological differences, and the full city-to-farm spectrum. "I'm not sure this process actually can identify the strongest candidate to defeat Donald Trump," he said.

Jason Johnson said he doesn't blame the candidates because they are merely reacting to a process "that harms everybody." But I.S. Leevy Johnson, the South Carolina businessman and lawyer, said it too easily makes key constituents

DEMS » PAGE 2



GERALD HERBERT - ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden, takes photos with supporters after speaking at a campaign event in Columbia, S.C., Tuesday.

**COMMUNITY**

### Today's snapshot of what is going on locally

Turn to the Community Page today and every day for upcoming area activities and a look at local history. PAGE A4



**OPINION**

### Columnists share their thoughts

Find out what people have to say about local and national issues. PAGE A7

**OBITUARIES**

### Remembering family and friends

A roundup of notices and services. Look for additional obituaries on this newspaper's website. PAGE A5

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