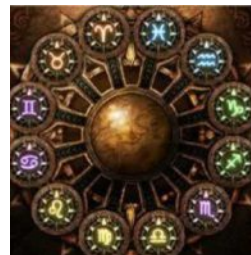




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# THE RECORD



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## TROY

# SCRABBLE FUNDRAISER



LAUREN HALLIGAN - MEDIANEWS GROUP

Team Troy Girls plays Scrabble during the 2020 Scrabble Challenge.

### Annual Scrabble Challenge benefits Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County

By Lauren Halligan  
[lhalligan@digitalfirstmedia.com](mailto:lhalligan@digitalfirstmedia.com)  
reporter

**TROY, N.Y.** » Local word-lovers gathered to play games for a good cause on Sunday at the Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County's sixth annual Scrabble Challenge.

The event, held Sunday afternoon at St. Michael's Church Hall in Troy, drew one of the largest turnouts in the event's history, including a mix of both returning and new participants.

Instead of playing traditional Scrabble, the challenge featured different rules for team play.

"Each game has its own rules, just to make it more fun," said Caitlin Stein-Miner, president of the organization's board of directors.

At the end of the three-game tournament, three prize winners were named as Scrabble Challenge champions.

Team George 'n' Jill was hoping to come out in first place this year. George and Jill Nagy, of Troy, compete in the



LAUREN HALLIGAN - MEDIANEWS GROUP

Event emcee Joe Malone speaks at the beginning of the 2020 Scrabble Challenge.

Scrabble Challenge each February and have earned second place in the past.

"This may be our year," Jill Nagy said before the competition began.

More important than winning, "We like to play Scrabble and support the Literacy Volunteers," Jill Nagy added.

The Nagys have been playing Scrabble together at home for more than 50 years.

"About once a month," Jill Nagy

said. "It's good because we're very closely matched."

Jean Howard, of Brunswick, who was part of team Scrabadubdubs, said she liked being part of the Scrabble Challenge every winter and tries to invite new players each time. "It's a good community event," she said.

The Scrabble Challenge was founded in 2015 as a new type of fundraiser

**SCRABBLE » 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

Seminarian 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 constitu-

**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**

## CLASSIFIEDS

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