

World News Roundup



The Capitol and the Capitol Christmas Tree are seen in Washington, early Monday as the House Judiciary Committee convenes to consider the investigative findings in the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. If the Judiciary Committee approves articles by Friday, that would set up a final impeachment vote in the days before Christmas. (AP)

Politics

Biden looks to rural Iowa

Warren to woo Nevada union amid concerns on healthcare

LAS VEGAS, Dec 9, (RTRS): Democratic presidential contender Elizabeth Warren will likely have to defend her Medicare for All healthcare proposal on Monday, when she faces members of an influential union at a labor-sponsored town hall in Las Vegas.

Warren is the first of three leading candidates seeking the Democratic Party's nomination to run against Republican President Donald Trump in 2020 to appear this week at town halls hosted by the 60,000-member Culinary Workers Local 226.

Her participation on Monday night, to be followed by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders on Tuesday and former Vice President Joe Biden on Wednesday, shows the significance of labor's support to candidates vying for the party's nomination just two months before the early-voting state of Nevada picks its choice.

Unions are so crucial to Democrats' electoral success in Nevada that early voting for the state's February nominating caucuses will take place in union halls.



Warren

Allied

All three of the candidates are allied with labor, but touchy questions remain for Warren and Sanders on their healthcare proposals. Both have said their plans would lead to the elimination of private healthcare, although Warren just days before her last trip to Nevada made a point of saying healthcare clinics funded under union contracts would be allowed to continue to operate under her plan. Like many unions, the Culinary Workers have not yet endorsed a candidate among the 15 still vying for the party's nomination.

Its leaders have made clear to Sanders and Warren that preserving union healthcare is key to their members, said a source familiar with union leaders' thinking, who requested anonymity in order to speak frankly.

"One of the reasons they're in a union is that it provides them with healthcare," said Donna West, Democratic Party chairwoman in Clark County, where Las Vegas is located. "They are listening intently to these candidates and asking them about their plans for healthcare and how it would impact their members."

Biden, who is leading in polls in Nevada and nationally, has promised to preserve union healthcare and is not considering eliminating private plans in his

proposal to expand the Affordable Care Act passed under former President Barack Obama.

But Biden, who served as Obama's vice president, may face tough questions on immigration stemming from that administration's high deportation numbers.

Culinary Workers, the state's largest union, is heavily comprised of immigrants who work in casinos, hotels and bars.

Finished

As Joe Biden on Saturday finished an eight-day bus tour through the crucial early nominating state of Iowa, one realization loomed large: His biggest challenge to clinching the Democratic presidential nomination may be coming from Pete Buttigieg, a Midwest mayor less than half his age.

Leading in national polls among Democrats but trailing in Iowa, where progressive Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders have won over more liberal, urban and younger Iowans with their fight-the-power messages, Biden, 77, is targeting the state's older, moderate and rural voters.

But Buttigieg, 37, is making inroads with those same people, interviews with Iowa Democrats and polling data showed. He has carved out a lead in Iowa, with Sanders, Warren and Biden jockeying for second place, according to recent statewide polls.

In his most aggressive campaigning yet in the Midwestern state, Biden, the former vice president, traveled from small town to small town over the past week with a pitch that the United States needs to return to old-fashioned values. "You were raised to treat people with respect. You were raised to get up if an older person came along and offer the seat. We're kind of losing all that," he told a 150-strong crowd in Storm Lake, many of them elderly.

Retired teacher Marilyn Schmitt, 68, who came out to see Biden, also heard similar values expressed by Buttigieg, the openly gay mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who swung by her town five days earlier.

Schmitt said Biden had "given us a lot to think about" but that she was not ready to decide between the two in the race for the party's nomination to take on Republican President Donald Trump in next year's election.

Biden's campaign believes a strong showing in Iowa - which will hold the first-in-the-nation nominating caucus and can have an outsized role in helping pick presidential nominees - will buoy his candidacy until more diverse states, such as South Carolina, vote. Biden dominates in polling among African-Americans, who make up a quarter of Democratic primary voters nationwide.

America

Tsarnaev appeals death: This city's deepest wound - the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings that killed three and injured hundreds more - will be re-examined Thursday when lawyers for bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev seek to have his death sentence lifted because the jury pool was too traumatized to render a fair verdict.

The then-19-year-old Tsarnaev and his 26-year-old brother Tamerlan sparked five days of panic in Boston that began April 15, 2013, when they detonated a pair of homemade pressure cooker bombs at the race's packed finish line. The pair eluded capture for days, punctuated by a gunbattle with police in Watertown that killed Tamerlan and led to a daylong lockdown of Boston and most of its suburbs while heavily armed officers and troops conducted a house-to-house search for Dzhokhar.

Tsarnaev's defense team, in briefs filed with the 1st US Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, argued that the unprecedented shelter-in-place order biased the pool of potential jurors, including one actual juror who joined the unanimous vote for the death penalty.

The manhunt for the younger Tsarnaev, now 26, left an indelible mark on the city. Armored vehicles and thousands of National Guard troops cast a dragnet across the Boston suburb of Watertown. Just before a resident found a wounded Tsarnaev hiding in a boat parked in his backyard, a broadcast of a Boston police scanner channel attracted nearly 265,000 listeners.

"Even if a juror honestly believes before trial that he or she can objectively hear the evidence, when a community has been aroused to a fever pitch, the prospective juror may come to fear returning to neighbors with anything other than a guilty verdict and a death sentence," Tsarnaev's defense team wrote in a legal brief. (RTRS)

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Booker slams rules: Fighting to be in the next Democratic presidential debate, Cory Booker concluded a nearly 800-mile, 12-county tour of Iowa on Sunday by criticizing the Democratic party for allowing "elites" and "money" to control who gets on stage and urging voters to offer his name when polling their call.

"Iowa never lets elites decide," he told a crowd at his campaign office in Cedar Rapids on Sunday. "Let's let Iowa have another comeback story."

Just six candidates are qualified for the Dec 9 debate, and Booker is not one of them. He's met the threshold of donors required to qualify but he has yet to hit the polling qualifications - either 4% support in at least four polls or 6% support in two early-state polls. The deadline is Thursday, and he's yet to hit the mark on a single poll.

Booker said such measurements benefit candidates who can afford to air television ads and do not reflect the feelings of Iowa voters. Over his four-day trip, Booker frequently received standing ovations at events ranging from town halls to forums with Teamsters union members and farmers. He brought several voters close



Booker

to tears, shared corny jokes and gleefully posed for photos with voters, sometimes alongside his girlfriend, actress Rosario Dawson. "I'm a little upset with the (Democratic National Committee) right now because they seem to be trying to make the decisions for you," he told a Sunday afternoon crowd gathered in a Dubuque bar. (AP)

Formal charges loom

Panel to weigh impeachment evidence

WASHINGTON, Dec 9, (RTRS): A US congressional panel leading the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump will debate the evidence against him on Monday, with Democratic lawmakers poised to move forward with possible formal charges of abuse of power and obstruction of

Congress this week.

The Democratic-led House of Representatives Judiciary Committee will formally review evidence from impeachment investigators at an all-day hearing scheduled to begin at 9 am (1400 GMT), a key step before determining charges, known as articles of

impeachment, that the full House is likely to vote on before Christmas.

The committee could vote to send them to the House floor later this week, Democratic Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler said on Sunday, as lawmakers sharpened their focus on charges of wrongdoing in Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

Unimoni launches online money transfer service in Kuwait



Unimoni Exchange WLL (Unimoni Kuwait), a renowned financial solutions provider and a Finabl company, yesterday announced the launch of its online money transfer service as part of its digital offering in Kuwait. With the introduction of the new online service, customers can now send money using the Unimoni Kuwait mobile app or website at competitive exchange rates, seamlessly and securely from anywhere, anytime.

Unimoni Kuwait's mobile app, available on iOS and Android, comes with a user-friendly interface that includes features such as real-time transaction tracking, rate alert through email and SMS, voice command and secure login options using One Time Passwords (DTP), fingerprint or face recognition. Registered customers of Unimoni Kuwait can directly log in to the mobile app (Unimoni Kuwait) or website (kw.unimoni.com) and send money straight away. New customers have to complete a simple one-time registration process, at any of the conveniently-located Unimoni Kuwait branches before using the online money transfer service.

Commenting on the launch, Pradeep Kumar, Group Chief Executive Officer of Unimoni, said, "Technology continues to seep into human lives to the

extent that it adds convenience and provides greater control to individuals. As a group, we are focused on empowering people all over the world to fulfill their aspirations by providing them with cutting-edge financial products and services, delivered through omni-channel touchpoints. The launch of our online service in Kuwait is a significant milestone, one that enables us to elevate our customers' money transfer experience to new heights through technology."

Vivek Nair, Country Head of Unimoni Kuwait, said, "Technology-enabled services are making strong inroads into Kuwait, engaging more people through intuitive user experiences. Our new online money transfer service seeks to meet the evolving needs of customers, who prefer to have access to financial services anytime and from anywhere, as part of an enhanced user experience. We are grateful to the Central Bank of Kuwait and our well-wishers for their continued support in our endeavour to bring a wide portfolio of products to the market."

Unimoni Kuwait operates through 12 retail outlets in the country and offers a range of money transfer and foreign Currency exchange solutions for retail and corporate customers.

