

BRIEFLY
Sanders defends call to raise taxes to fund health care

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Bernie Sanders defended his call for raising Americans' taxes in exchange for lower health care costs, as he opened a candidate forum Monday night that served as a platform for Democratic presidential hopefuls to make a closing argument to voters one week before the Iowa caucuses.

"Yes, we will raise taxes," said Sanders, an admission rarely heard in presidential campaigns. "We may raise taxes, but we are going to eliminate private health insurance premiums for individuals and businesses."

Sanders would replace the nation's existing employer-based system of insurance with one in which the government becomes a "single payer," providing coverage to all. It would eliminate co-pays and deductibles, and Sanders argues, bring health care spending under control.

A self-described democratic socialist, Sanders cast his governing philosophy Monday as one reflecting that "the right for economic security should exist." But he sidestepped a question about whether his policies would mean an era of big government.

Snow response in DC, NYC comes down to money, manpower

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's capital and its largest city both got walloped by the same near-record blizzard this weekend. But while Washington struggled to recover, New York City was mostly up and running on Monday.

In the District of Columbia, schools and government offices, monuments and memorials and museums were all shut down on Monday. The Metro had an extremely reduced schedule, providing free rides as a goodwill gesture. Digging out remained such a huge challenge that Mayor Muriel Bowser sought federal disaster aid.

In New York, the subway and schools were open, just a day and a half after the last flakes fell, and leaders praised themselves for getting this one right.

Expert: Escaped California inmates must have had inside help

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Three California inmates who sawed through a metal grate, crawled through plumbing tunnels and shimmed to freedom down a rope made from bed linens likely had help to pull off the daring plan and also benefited from the complacency of jail staff, security experts said Monday.

The inmates vanished early Friday in a jail break eerily similar to the escape of two inmates from an upstate New York prison last summer. Those men also cut through a portion of wall hidden under a bunk bed and used piping and tunnels inside the facility to reach the outside.

The California inmates, including one who is charged with murder, were still at large Monday. Jail officials did not realize they were missing until roughly 16 hours after they were last seen because an evening headcount was delayed by an assault on a guard.

A major question for investigators will be how the men were able to plan and execute their flight with such precision, said Kevin Tamez, a managing partner for MPM Group, a Philadelphia-based firm that consults on prison security, management and infrastructure.

It's likely someone slipped them blueprints or told them how the bowels of the jail were laid out, he said.

NEWTON: Celebration of life with military honors will be held Wednesday

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out of cellphone minutes she used to call Terpening because she knew they were probably together.

"This may sound strange to you, but I'm not angry with Allan because he has a long road to go," she said.

White said the fact that he would have to live with the guilt of whatever happened that night, and the loss of his best friend, seemed enough punishment to her and she didn't think her son would want his friend to go to prison.

Newton was one of those people who "never knew a stranger," she said. She said he took great pride in his skill as a mechanic, and

there were people in town who wouldn't let anyone but him touch their motorcycle.

"He was good at what he did, and he was proud of that," she said.

Newton was born in southern California and spent time there as a child before moving to Hermiston in time to play football for Hermiston High School. After graduation he joined the Navy and spent a few years stationed in Norfolk, Virginia.

"He was a good-looking guy in that uniform," White remembered.

He had four children, who White said adored him. She said he had been separated from his wife Terina Newton for the last

four years but they were still on amicable terms with each other and had never filed for divorce. In 2009 the couple agreed to be interviewed by the *East Oregonian* about their journey together in overcoming a history of drug abuse and domestic violence.

"Dave was a good guy, he really was," White said. "He had his faults but he was a good guy."

In 2014 Newton was in the news again after driving Daniel Dechand, then 25, to the hospital after Dechand was shot in the chest by Timothy Kelly in Newton's vehicle. A grand jury later ruled the incident was self-defense.

White said she knew Newton did his best to try to

save Dechand, but he never wanted to talk about what happened that day.

Newton was the spitting image of his late grandfather, she said, and had the same strong sense of humor.

"I miss his laugh. He had a very hearty laugh," she said.

She said the family, especially Newton's children, have had a difficult time in the days since Newton was rushed to the hospital by his daughter Shavon Newton, who White said was present when her father was injured. White said her son Jeff picked her up that night and they rushed to the hospital in Spokane at 4 a.m. Based on the extent of brain damage he had suffered the family

made the decision to take him off of life support on Thursday evening, and he died late Friday night.

A celebration of life with military honors will be held for Newton on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. at Burns Mortuary chapel in Hermiston. A gathering for family and friends will follow at 1365 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

White said Newton did not have life insurance, and friends of the family have created a GoFundMe account at www.gofundme.com/cykhz66 to help cover cremation expenses.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.



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