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FLINT New rancor, tough talk in Dem debate

By Nancy Benac and Catherine Lucey
The Associated Press

FLINT, MICH. » Ratcheting up the rancor, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled aggressively in a Democratic presidential debate Sunday night over trade, Wall Street influence and more, with Clinton accusing him of turning his back on the auto industry and Sanders countering that Clinton's friends on Wall Street had "destroyed this economy."

It was a marked change in tone for the two Democrats, signaling Sanders' increasingly difficult effort to slow the party's front-runner. Both candidates frequently interrupted one another and accused each other of misrepresenting their records.

"Let's have some facts instead of some rhetoric for a change," Clinton snapped at Sanders at one point.

"Let me tell my story, you tell yours," Sanders shot back at another. "Your story is voting for every disastrous trade amendment and voting for corporate America."

More than once, Sanders chafed at Clinton's interruptions, saying, "Excuse me, I'm talking" or "Let me finish, please."

Their disagreements were clear, but still the debate's tone was nothing like that of the Republican debate in Detroit just three days earlier, a four-way faceoff that was marked by

a steady stream of personal attacks, insults and even sexual innuendo. The Democrats' faceoff, in comparison, was a more civil if heated affair.

Clinton said that while she and Sanders have their differences on policy, "compare the substance of this debate with what you saw on the Republican stage last week."

Sanders chimed in, "We are, if elected president, going to invest a lot of money into mental health and when you watch these Republican debates you know why."

Both had a good laugh at that.

Each made a case for being the best candidate to defeat GOP front-runner Donald Trump in a November matchup.

Clinton said she's gotten more votes than Trump in the primaries, and predicted that his "bigotry, his bullying, his bluster are not going to wear well on the American people."

Sanders declared: "I would love to run against Donald Trump," adding that polls show "Sanders vs. Trump does a lot better than Clinton vs. Trump."

Sanders, who argued with considerably more edge than in past debates, pounced early when Clinton spoke about a need to keep jobs from shifting overseas.

"I am very glad that Secretary Clinton has discovered religion on this issue," he said, then went on

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EASTPOINTE BILL CLINTON MAKES A SURPRISE VISIT



DAVE ANGELL — FOR THE MACOMB DAILY

Former President Bill Clinton stands between state Rep. Sarah Roberts, D-St. Clair Shores, and Democratic Senator Gary Peters on Sunday at Milestone Grill in Eastpointe. It was a last-minute event held hours before Sunday's debate between Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-Vermont.

He says Hillary Clinton is the 'best choice' to be America's next president

By Mitch Hotts
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Bill Clinton made a surprise appearance at an Eastpointe tavern on Sunday, telling a crowd of 200 political insiders that his wife -- Hillary Clinton -- is the "best choice" to be America's next president.

Speaking in a raspy voice, Clinton's appearance at Milestone Grill on Nine Mile Road came only hours before his wife took on Bernie Sanders later that night in a debate in Flint as they compete to become the Democratic Party's nominee.

He spoke for about 20 minutes about jobs, the economy, clean energy, the auto industry, education and his wife's role in this year's presidential election before pos-

ing for photos with the appreciative crowd.

"Too many people saw a pretty picture was painted and they cannot find themselves in the picture," Clinton said. "Why? Because on average it takes 10 full years to get over a financial crash like this. We got the jobs back, but not the wages...Hillary is running so everyone can find themselves in that picture and we can all rise together."

The room was filled with Democrats from the federal, state and local level, including Warren City Councilman Robert Boccimino.

"If we ever got rid of term limits, he would still be the president," Boccimino said.

Bill Clinton, who occupied the White House from 1993 to 2001, took a shot at the Republican Party

and front runner Donald Trump's vow to build a wall between the United States and Mexico. He said Americans "don't need to build walls, we need to build ladders instead, ladders of opportunity" along with getting rid of "barriers to opportunities."

Clinton, 69, who seems to relish his standing as an elder statesman, went on criticize Hillary Clinton's Democratic challenger by offering a way to get rid of college tuition debt by converting the debt into something similar to a 20-year mortgage, that could be paid off in money and community service.

"I believe she has the right ideas to grow the economy," Clinton said, adding his wife was the "best choice" of either party seeking the

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ROSEVILLE Macomb Mall plans to demolish movie theater

By Mitch Hotts
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A section of Roseville's Macomb Mall that formerly housed Silver Cinemas will be demolished this spring, according to city officials.

There is no word yet for what will replace the 50-year-old theater as the shopping center's owners are still working on future plans for the 50,000-square-foot space.

"All of the conversations we've had with the mall owners in recent months tells us they are taking it down," Glenn Sexton, direc-

tor of the city's building department, said Friday.

Mall operators in the past have said they were considering another movie chain, a food court or retailer to fill the space once occupied by an eight-screen, discount theater.

Lormax Stern, the Bloomfield Hills company that owns the mall, did not respond to repeated telephone and email messages about the future of the theater.

"We were told they plan to leave the property vacant until another tenant is located," Sexton said.

No demolition permits

MALL » PAGE 5

MACOMB COUNTY Longtime deputy treasurer out

Moffitt was board-backed finalist to succeed Wahby

By Mitch Hotts
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Macomb County Deputy Treasurer Jerome Moffitt has resigned from office, two months after the death of his boss, former longtime Treasurer Ted Wahby.

Moffitt submitted his resignation in late February. He had been employed with the county for 20 years.

"No, I am no longer with the treasurer's office, I decided to step down," Moffitt told The Macomb Daily. He declined further comment.

Moffitt served as deputy treasurer for 20 years under Wahby, who had held the same position with Candice Miller before voters elevated her from county treasurer to Michigan Secretary of State in 1994.

When Wahby died in December, the majority of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners endorsed Moffitt for county treasurer.

However, former state Rep. Derek Miller was appointed on a 2-1 vote by the county Treasurer Appointment Committee. The panel was made up of county Clerk Carmella

Sabaugh, Senior Probate Judge Kathryn George and Prosecutor Eric Smith. George and Smith voted for Miller while Sabaugh cast her ballot for Moffitt.

Miller, the son of former state Sen. Art Miller and grandson of longtime Macomb County Clerk Edna Miller, said Moffitt submitted his resignation and he accepted it.

"Jerry did a lot of good things in the administration with Ted Wahby," Miller said. "I wish him the best of luck. I offered to help him in any way possible, such as providing referrals and a good word."

Miller has appointed Jeremy Fisher, a bankruptcy attorney from

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Moffitt

ENTERTAINMENT
Movie reviews: 'Whiskey Tango Foxtrot' and more
Tina Fey can't save 'Whiskey Tango Foxtrot.'



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Manning and Broncos could be headed for split
Denver may cut the legendary QB if he doesn't retire.

SPORTS
Analyzing the weekend sports scene online
Check out what columnist Pat Caputo had to say about the weekend sports action.

READER COMMENTS
Donald Trump rolls into Warren
"These aren't debates, it's arguing and name calling. Never anything of substance!"