**Spartan Daily**

**Getting festive on Fat Tuesday**

By Samantha Clark  
Staff Writer

Chelsea Bland, a chemistry major at SJSU and bartender at San Jose Bar and Grill located on 2nd Street in downtown San Jose, pours a drink for patrons on Fat Tuesday. San Jose police officers were on hand to make sure the bar is in preparation for lively customers. Photo by Jasper Robakowski / Spartan Daily

Some incoming students to begin classes in summer

By Rebecca Brun  
 Associate Editor

Freshmen entering the California State University system who do not show college-level proficiency in math and English will be required to enroll in the Early Start Program, according to a press release on the CSU website.

According to Nicole Bundy, a sociology major, also said she wants to challenge herself and plans to give it a try. She is a senior humanities major, Ash Wednesday and distribute the ashes. “We come up to the (clergy people), enter the (clergy people), and distribute the ashes. "It started as an Episcopal group, but it expanded to include people of all religions and spiritual traditions," he said. "It started as an Episcopal group, but it expanded to include people of all religions and spiritual traditions," he said.

According to Roger Wharton, chaplain for SJ Spirit, the group is welcomed to Spartan Memorial to pray and receive ashes. According to Roger Wharton, chaplain for SJ Spirit, the group is welcomed to Spartan Memorial to pray and receive ashes.

According to Nicole Bundy, a sociology major, "It might make me a better person," she said. According to Nicole Bundy, a sociology major, "It might make me a better person," she said.

According to Roger Wharton, chaplain for SJ Spirit, the group is welcomed to Spartan Memorial to pray and receive ashes. According to Roger Wharton, chaplain for SJ Spirit, the group is welcomed to Spartan Memorial to pray and receive ashes.

According to Roger Wharton, chaplain for SJ Spirit, the group is welcomed to Spartan Memorial to pray and receive ashes. According to Roger Wharton, chaplain for SJ Spirit, the group is welcomed to Spartan Memorial to pray and receive ashes.
LOS ANGELES — In deep, cold space, nearly a million tons of solar mass made up the largest structure we've ever built. The Webb telescope's new schedule means that work on the project will only start in 2018, but that shouldn't affect its long-term success, officials say.

NASA's Webb telescope project under fire for escalating costs

MCAGty Salida

by MCAGty Salida

KABUL, Afghanistan — The commander of U.S.-led international forces in Afghanistan apologized Tuesday over reports that troops had “improperly gathered outside the base to protest the alleged burning of the Quran by U.S. troops.” The U.S. military said the religious materials “were inadvertently taken away from the base.”

Marine Gen. John R. Allen said in a statement to reporters that the burning of the Quran and other Islamic religious materials “is an important and respectful matter for the noble people of Afghanistan, the government …   of Afghanistan, and most importantly, to the noble people of Afghanistan.”

Allen, who is based in Kabul, said the government had directed all coalition forces in Afghanistan to return the Quran to the government “no later than March 3. It was the Afghan Defense Ministry who …   of the current incident.”

Not surprisingly, the price tag for the project, which has already lost $1 billion and then to more than $3 billion, has stoked concerns at NASA. The agency has repeatedly warned that the Webb's cost has soared to $8.8 billion, more than four times the $2 billion that NASA's deputy chief technologist. The project was forced to stretch out the manufacturing almost every area of the telescope team last year for its substantial achievements. The Webb telescope was not the only project to face challenges, the agency said.

The Webb telescope will allow astronomers to see the first galaxies in the universe, to glimpse the atmospheres of Earth-like planets, and to study the building blocks of the universe. The project, which was to cost $1 billion, is now expected to cost $8.8 billion. The Webb telescope is a joint project between NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Canadian Space Agency.

NASA is now working to reduce technical difficulties in manufaturing almost every area of the telescope. The Webb telescope team is focused on stretching the manufacturing process to reduce costs. A Lean Six Sigma team at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, NASA’s head of the Webb program and the agency’s deputy chief technologist have been asked to lead the team in the process of improving the Webb technologies for the Web.
Academic English program coordinator Stefan Frazier, "I believe that spirit on campus is low due to people being busy with work and studies. I grow up in the Bay Area and I like it here, the people are friendly, and it's very diverse," Turcotte said.

Professor Kastrup, an assistant event coordinator at SJU, believes spirit on campus is relatively high. "There's a lot of veterans of San Jose State and they really appreciate their time here and I know, for me, that's really what I try to do," Kastroup said. "My job is all about making sure other people's time here is really enjoyed, not only academically but also socially, culturally." Turcotte said. "I think (spirit) really boosts a sense of community here as it's a pretty big community school, so some people aren't as linked in as they could be," Kastroup said in response to why spirit is important on campus.

President Qayoumi's new campaign "Spartans Supporting Spartans" plans to target faculty and staff members to "highlight what makes us proud to be Spartans and provide an easy way for faculty and staff to give to what inspires you," according to an email sent by the Office of the President.

"I support the athletic teams and I like to go to the functions," Schatz said. "I wear all San Jose State clothes, usually," Schatz said. "Most likely, they will be football games, to there being sure other people's time here is really enjoyed, not only academically but also socially, culturally." Kastroup said. "I think that people are more proud to be San Jose State students, there's a lot more involvement on campus," said. "So the idea of school spirit has changed from what we traditionally think of it as, people going to football games, to there being a greater involvement in the university!"

Chapin said. "I grew up in the Bay Area and I like it here, the people are friendly, and it's very diverse," Turcotte said.

Professor Kastrup, an assistant event coordinator at SJU, believes spirit on campus is relatively high. "There's a lot of veterans of San Jose State and they really appreciate their time here and I know, for me, that's really what I try to do," Kastroup said. "My job is all about making sure other people's time here is really enjoyed, not only academically but also socially culturally." Turcotte said. "I think (spirit) really boosts a sense of community here as it's a pretty big community school, so some people aren't as linked in as they could be," Kastroup said in response to why spirit is important on campus.

President Qayoumi's new campaign "Spartans Supporting Spartans" plans to target faculty and staff members to "highlight what makes us proud to be Spartans and provide an easy way for faculty and staff to give to what inspires you," according to an email sent by the Office of the President.

"I support the athletic teams and I like to go to the functions," Schatz said. "I wear all San Jose State clothes, usually," Schatz said. "Most likely, they will be football games, to there being sure other people's time here is really enjoyed, not only academically but also socially, culturally." Kastroup said. "I think that people are more proud to be San Jose State students, there's a lot more involvement on campus," said. "So the idea of school spirit has changed from what we traditionally think of it as, people going to football games, to there being a greater involvement in the university!"

Chapin said. "I grew up in the Bay Area and I like it here, the people are friendly, and it's very diverse," Turcotte said.
Megadeth and Motorhead to shred axes on campus Thursday

This Thursday, two of the most popular metal bands will shred the cans of tender处于 fans of the Event Center.

Motorhead is on its second leg of the Bow'd tour. The band has recently released a new album, featuring the hit single "Bowl'd." Megadeth, on the other hand, is promoting their album "The System Has Failed," which includes the popular track "The Time Has Come."

Both bands are known for their high energy and shredding guitar solos. Fans are eagerly waiting for this anticipated show, which promises to be one of the most intense concerts of the season.

**The System Has Failed**

It was different than the earlier "Big Time Rush" boy band, and though not all of the original fans could make it, the show was successful. Drummer Lars Ulrich, who co-founded Metallica with James Hetfield, said that the band's success was due to Ulrich's wife, who convinced him to join the band.

"Metallica founders James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich co-founded the band in 1981, with Hetfield as the singer and guitarist, and Ulrich as the drummer. The band quickly gained popularity with their heavy metal sound and albums such as "Kill 'Em All" and "Ride the Lightning." They have continued to be influential in the metal genre, with albums like "The Black Album" and "St. Anger."

**The System Has Failed**

It was different than the earlier "Big Time Rush" boy band, and though not all of the original fans could make it, the show was successful. Drummer Lars Ulrich, who co-founded Metallica with James Hetfield, said that the band's success was due to Ulrich's wife, who convinced him to join the band.

"Metallica founders James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich co-founded the band in 1981, with Hetfield as the singer and guitarist, and Ulrich as the drummer. The band quickly gained popularity with their heavy metal sound and albums such as "Kill 'Em All" and "Ride the Lightning." They have continued to be influential in the metal genre, with albums like "The Black Album" and "St. Anger."
The seductive mixture of a zesty aroma and the undeniable melody of a base guitar calls customers from blocks away. Poor House Bistro knows how to celebrate Mardi Gras right with good old-fashioned finger licking New Orleans cuisine, a family atmosphere and live music.

Jay Meduri, owner and SJSU alum said, “This is a family event. I wanted to bring New Orleans to San Jose.”

Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday, a holiday that is celebrated the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. This Tuesday, the Poor House Bistro was blasting music and advertising $2.50 Jell-O shots for their adult customers excited about Mardi Gras.

The purple, green and gold-colored decorations were draped over parts of the sitting area and all over the bar area and stage. As the evening went on, the line to place an order swung around the sitting area and sprinkled across the front steps of the entrance.

All of the friendly servers wore an abundance of Mardi Gras beads around their necks as they took orders behind the counter.

People of different ages sat at tables surrounding the line of hungry guests and patiently waited for their orders to be prepared. Although the bistro rarely has issues with guests, there is a friendly reminder over the fireplace as people walk in “Be nice or leave.”

Meduri was inspired to open a New Orleans influenced restaurant based on his past travels to the state as a musician. The musicians featured Tuesday night were The Montegos, which includes artists Bob Welsh and Steve Willis from Bay Area bands. His biggest goal once the restaurant was opened was to keep the integrity and ambiance of New Orleans, which some would say he did.

LueShell and McKenzie Mortensen said, “We came to get a Po’ Boy, it’s always busy and the music is always fun.” McKenzie brought her mother LueShell to the bistro to enjoy the New Orleans cuisine in honor of Mardi Gras.

The actual bistro is a house made into a restaurant. Some time in the 1940s, Meduri’s grandfather purchased the house from an unknown SJSU sorority. The house was then moved from 11th street to 91 S. Autumn St. where it now sits for all of San Jose to enjoy.

“People that come here are really nice and friendly. Sometimes we’ll get on stage and play with the musicians,” Garcia said.

The restaurant has been active and running for six successful years. According to Meduri, in May 2005 the restaurant opened for business. After Hurricane Katrina hit in August of 2005 Meduri lost a lot of suppliers. Although the residents of New Orleans lost a lot more business connections Meduri continues to keep his business booming with live bands, great food and memorable service.

According to numerous awards hanging on display in the venue, Mercury News voted Poor House Bistro the best live music in the Silicon Valley in 2006. The bistro also received 12 awards from Yelp, according to the Bistro’s website.

Partygoers enjoy the food and festivities during the Mardi Gras celebration at the Poor House Bistro on Tuesday night. The restaurant is located near the HP Pavilion and San Jose Diridon Station on Autumn street. Photo by Raphael Kluzniok / Spartan Daily
Tuesday’s baseball game between the Spartans and UC Davis finished tied at 3-3 after poor lighting forced the game to be suspended after 11 innings.

UC Davis is currently 5-1, while SJSU is 1-2. SJSU scored two runs in the first inning after a sacrifice bunt from designated hitter junior Caleb Nater, allowing freshman center fielder Andre Mercurio and junior left fielder Zack Jones to score. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

A hit by senior second baseman Ryan Algerfore scored young, with senior first baseman Anthony Bono. Bono agreed.

The Spartans will resume the tie game with the Aggies. Valdez went three for five with an RBI and was removed for three of the Spartans’ eight hits. The game will resume when UC Davis returns to San Jose in March.

UC Davis scored three runs in the sixth inning with fresh- man Brett Fuller at the plate. UC Davis short stop, sophomore Adam Young, was walked before senior center fielder Brett Morgan laid down a bunt to get to first, advancing the runners.

A hit by freshman center fielder Andre Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

SUSPENSION AFT ER 11 INNINGS: The game was suspended aft er 11 innings.

Th e team almost scored a bunt to get to first, advanced him to second. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Lights out: Darkness suspends baseball game at Blethen Field

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.

Walks were an important aspect of the game, with the Spartans drawing eight walks from a hit and was advanced to second by senior center fielder Andre Mercurio. Mercurio ended the inning.

Junior right fielder Nick Schulz was walked to first base, and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Kyle Gallegos advanced him to second. A walk from Mercurio then forced the bases loaded. A hit by junior right fielder Matt Lopez got a run across when he hit the ball out of the park.

Aft er the second extra inning, the game was called off  the game because of poor visibility. The Spartans will resume the game with UC Davis on March 17 in San Jose, which will be a part of a three-game series March 16-18.
Not so square: Healthy living through square dancing

by Samantha Clark
Staff Writer

Square dancing has a stigma for being lame, but as a 20-year-old square dancer, I'm here to say that I'm not so square. Square dancing online gives people more of a chance to watch their favorite shows at a time that is convenient for them. To that I say, if a show is good, people will watch it. I don't have a problem if terrible shows like "Whitney" or "Basketball Wives" are taken out of that station's lineup.

I think streaming might even improve the shows on television because the shows that are streamed live are so much better. Even I prefer to watch shows on a TV screen as opposed to on my laptop, but I'm too busy to watch in the first place, the next best option for me would be on my laptop.

I think the main reason I can't watch shows at the time they originally air is because I know I will have a second chance to watch the show. I find it odd if I miss an episode of "Dancing with the Stars," if I want to know it online later because it will be on cable stream soon. The days of having to watch something as it happens or record something on VHS are over because it exists somewhere on the internet. I've even heard people say that by no longer watching shows on television, quality shows will no longer be on the air. I'm sure there are many people who are upset about this, but I'm not.

I've actually changed my mind about square dancing. When I was a kid, I used to go to square dancing with my family and have a ball dancing. I later became involved to be a good daughter because my father is a building chairman — the person deciding or singing the calls. I realize square dancing lacks the sex appeal of hip-hop, but many dancers dance any day of the week, getting them out on the dance floor.

There are basically two types of websites where streaming can be watched: those with shows streamed illegally and sites with shows streamed legally. I prefer to watch shows that are streamed legally, but if a show isn't on one of those sites where content is legally posted, then I will go to a site where the content is illegally posted.

I need to drag my feet to classes and homework, but I changed my mind after talking to the older dancers. They taught me that square dancing promotes good health. How exciting is it to think that something major such as the coordination and physical ability are due to the social environment and physical and mental exercise.

Many dancers dance anywhere from two to four nights a week, getting them out on the dance floor doing light aerobic exercise for a few hours, but the most beneficial aspect of square dancing is to be done for the mind. It's not uncommon to hear elderly people comment on the benefits of square dancing but square dancing keeps the mind sharp.

Square dancing is a great eight-person puzzle that requires you to be ready to respond to hundreds of calls at the tip of the caller's tongue. You have to learn, remember, hear and execute the calls all at the same time. A usual dance partner of mine is Tillie, a 74-year-old man who has been dancing since 1967.

Tillie dances three nights a week, a still drives and keeps busy by tending to her yard. He mind is still sharp, and we have a lot of fun dancing together.

I used to drag my feet to classes and homework, but I changed my mind after talking to the older dancers. They taught me that square dancing promotes good health. It's not uncommon to hear elderly people comment on the benefits of square dancing but square dancing keeps the mind sharp.

There's actually a huge move towards modernization. Baby boomers do make up the base, so there's a need to get young involved. Lots of callers, such as my father, integrate hip-hop beats and pop songs to make square dancing more appealing.

At El Camino Reelers in Mountain View, a LGBQT square dance club, we dance to Lady Gaga and Santana. We also add flair — or "style" — to the traditional dance moves.

Instead of the no-touching do-do-do, you wrap your right arm around someone else's waist — so you're yep to hip — and nose and curl your left arm in the air like a balloon and quickly spin together in a short circle.

Also, you will see button straining "Straight as a pencil!" to the traditional dance moves. At El Camino Reelers, the crowd is a little younger, the fast moves and the fact we build so smooth and so exciting, it feels like a sport.

I'm always astonished when my dad tells me the ages of some of the dancers. It's a little surprising to see so many people in such great shape! The bottom line is that if you don't exercise your body and brain, they'll likely wither and pass away.

Dancing, of course, is a great form of exercise. Maybe we're not up to age group, but give your stereotypes because hopefully, we will grow old...
SANAA, Yemen — For much of the past year, Yemen’s capital has felt like a city on the verge of exploding: dueling Friday protests between supporters and opponents of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, defections by military units and then pitched battles last year between loyalists and those defectors that swept across this ancient city.

But Tuesday, as Yemenis flocked to the polls for the nation’s first vote since the anti-Saleh protests broke in February, it was hard to find a city that so recently had seemed on the brink of collapse.

“People are voting and the atmosphere remains calm,” Saleh’s vice president for the past two decades, who is expected to serve at the head of a unity government for two years, said Khaled Saleh al Jumaili, a tribal leader in the impoverished — and oftentimes bombarded — province of al Jawf. “Today marks the dawning of the new Yemen. “

Many acknowledged that the voting was inherently undemocratic: Only one person was on the ballot to replace Saleh, Ali Abdullah Abdullah Hadi, Saleh’s vice president for the past two decades, who’ll serve at the head of a unity government for two years. The margings of the process, however, did little to dampen enthusiasm for the event.

Across Sanaa, polling places were busy for much of the day, and the political divisions seemed to have disappeared. Diverse voters cast their ballots at voting centers supervised by opposition activists, coming together to participate in a flawed but necessary step to prevent the nation from slipping into civil war.

In the capital’s Haywa district, voters cast ballots in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, a government building that amid support of Sheikh Sadiq al Ahmar, arguably Yemen’s most powerful tribal leader, temporarily seized during fierce fighting last year with government forces. Within hours of the sheikh’s heavily fortified, partially-bombed-out compound, voters emphasized their hopes that the election would signify a new start.

“We consider these elections a way of breaking with the past,” said Khalid Saleh al Huda, whose businesses in the past, “said Khaled Saleh al Jumaili, a tribal leader in the impoverished — and often fractured — rural district of al Jawf. “Today marks the dawning of the new Yemen.”

Not everyone celebrated, of course. In Change Square, the sprawling anti-government encampment in central Sanaa that’s been the heart of anti-Saleh sentiment, most wore black thumbs, showing they’d voted. But some activists protested the vote, by dinging their thumbs red, a gesture to the leaders who died in brutal government crackdowns on the protests. While much of the nation remained calm, there was significant optimism in the formerly independent south clotted with protests for Yemen’s future.

Gunmen allegedly linked to the Southern Movement, a loose, officially nonviolent group of secessionists that had called for a boycott of the election, clashed with the security forces that protected polling places in the southern cities of Aden and Mukalla, leaving at least five dead.

The clash in the south underscored the difficult road Yemen faces in the coming months. Government control in much of the country has effectively vanished — al-Qaida-linked militants have seized control of swaths of territory in the southern Abyan province — while the already-fragile nation’s economy remains on the brink of collapse.

Hadi’s tasks during his two years in office — the most presidential elections are set for 2014 — daunting. He must resolve lingering factional conflicts, reform the nation’s constitution and restructure the military.

Despite the official transfer of power, Saleh, who’s expected to return in a few days from the U.S. where he underwent treatment for wounds he suffered in a bombing last year, will continue to cast a long shadow. Saleh’s family remains in control of much of the military, and many fear that the battles between the military and the regime’s armed foes could break out again and hamper the nation’s transition.

“A successful transition will require all of Yemen’s key players, who’ve spent much of the last year fighting each other, to work together,” said Gregory Johnson, a Princeton-based Yemen expert. “Whether they’ll be able to move on remains a key part of the equation in Yemen.”

The clashes in the south clouded upbeat prognostication. "A successful transition will require all of Yemen's key players, who've spent much of the last year fighting each other, to work together," said Gregory Johnson, a Princeton-based Yemen expert. "Whether they're able to move on remains a key part of the equation in Yemen."