

O P I N I O N

Editorial...

A national emergency

Republicans, especially those who style themselves Constitutional Conservatives, should stand up in full-throated opposition to President Trump's declaration of a national emergency in order to secure funding for a border wall.

Regardless of one's position on border security, this declaration is the wrong course. It abrogates the provisions of Article One of the U.S. Constitution, which explicitly gives power of the purse to Congress. It further empowers an executive branch that has far exceeded the powers envisioned for it by the Founders. It's especially egregious given that Trump himself says, "I didn't need to do this, but I'd rather do it much faster."

If he "didn't need to do this," it's not an emergency and the declaration is illegitimate.

When President Obama proclaimed that "We're not just going to be waiting for legislation. I've got a pen and I've got a phone...

and I can use that pen to sign executive orders and take executive actions and administrative actions," Constitutional Conservatives rightly raised a hue and cry about executive overreach.

They can now demonstrate that they are loyal to principle rather than merely loyal to power by taking the same stand against Trump's declaration. Some, to their credit, already have.

If principle isn't enough to appeal to them, perhaps they should contemplate the prospect of, oh, say, a President Kamala Harris citing the Trump precedent to declare "national emergencies" over healthcare, climate change, shootings or any other issue she deems fit.

Making an outcry won't mean much then, will it?



Jim Cornelius, Editor in Chief

Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.

To the Editor:

I want to thank the Sisters Chamber of Commerce and its members for the unexpected honor of being chosen and awarded the Presidents Award. When I heard my name announced at the Chamber Dinner & Awards, I was speechless and humbled by such an honor.

I also want to thank the Sisters community for allowing me to capture so many wonderful and exciting moments in their daily lives. I am so lucky to be surrounded by so many wonderful people and organizations that make up the greater Sisters community and be allowed to capture so many awesome moments.

I especially want to thank my beautiful wife, Marlene, for the amazing encouragement and support that I am given. I also want to thank our local newspaper for their

encouragement, acknowledgement and support. God bless all those that live here and those whose lives I have touched.

Go Outlaws!
Jerry Baldock
Outlaws Photography

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To the Editor:

Pete Rathbun has been a familiar face at Sisters Folk Festival for more than 10 years. Amidst organizational changes that are currently underway, Pete has decided step down at the Folk Festival and accept an offer in a new industry.

Sisters Folk Festival is very thankful to

See **LETTERS** on page 23



Jonah Goldberg

Donald Trump can't win in 2020 but the Democrats can lose, and they seem determined to give it their best shot.

Just going by the numbers, barring a compelling independent candidacy of someone likely to siphon votes from the Democratic column, it seems impossible for Trump to get re-elected.

Of course, it's not impossible, because we never get to the future as the crow flies. In the heat of an election, many Trump-skeptical Republicans and Republican-leaning voters will come home. But if that happens, it almost surely won't happen because Trump moderated his behavior.

If the president could pivot to a more "presidential" persona he would have done it already. When British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was confronted with calls to turn away from her market-liberating reforms, she famously declared, "The lady's not for turning." Trump, while a very different kind of leader, could give a speech declaring, "The man is not for pivoting."

So, the only variable in the binary presidential election lies on the left side of the ledger. If the Democrats present a face that is scarier than the reality show of the previous four years, many Americans could vote against the Democrats rather than for the Republicans.

That process is already starting. Erick Erickson, a prominent "Never Trump" conservative in 2016 and a Trump critic since then, announced on Monday that he will be voting for Trump in 2020.

Democrats would be wise to pay attention. Erickson hasn't suddenly fallen in love with Trump; he's grown decisively horrified by the Democrats. And I can't blame him. Just last week, Democrats unveiled the Green New Deal, a wild-eyed fantasy of an agenda that would cost trillions, destroy whole industries and serve as a Trojan horse for socialism.

Not long before that, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) cavalierly admitted that "Medicare for all" would wipe out the insurance policies of more than a 100

million Americans. She has done some backpedaling since, but other leading Democrats remain committed, including Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, who recently said eliminating private insurance was an "urgent goal."

The scandals unraveling the Democratic Party in Virginia have obscured the fact that the controversy started because someone was appalled by Gov. Ralph Northam's defense of legislation that seemed to support the right to terminate the life of delivered babies.

There's ample room to criticize the way Trump has handled immigration and shoved all his chips into the center of the table for his wall, but some of the Democrats' rhetoric about immigration — the need to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement, for example — hasn't made them appear like a reasonable alternative.

A host of other story lines, largely ignored or downplayed by the mainstream media, have caught the attention of conservatives nonetheless, from increasingly open hostility to Catholic judicial nominees to greater tolerance for anti-Semitic rhetoric.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) seems to grasp that it's in her party's interest not to go overboard in response to Trump, but collectively it's as if the Democrats think the savvy political response to the radicalism they see in Trumpism is an alternatively radical agenda. The problem is that Trump's actual agenda (so far) hasn't been as radical as the disorientating nature of his norm-defying personal conduct and obvious contempt for institutional safeguards has led many liberals to believe.

In many respects the parties are mirroring each other, as the incentive structure on both sides is geared toward the extremes. Politics is no longer about capturing the center where most voters gravitate, but revving up the ranks of the most passionate. Faced with that reality, enough Americans may hold their noses and vote against the devil they don't know.

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Snow Showers 35/21	Partly Cloudy 33/12	AM Clouds/PM Sun 38/26	Snow Showers 36/26	Snow Showers 36/25	Snow Showers 36/24

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