

Trump's emergency sparks new GOP divide

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency to build his long-promised border wall ends one political problem for the White House and its allies on Capitol Hill, but launches another.

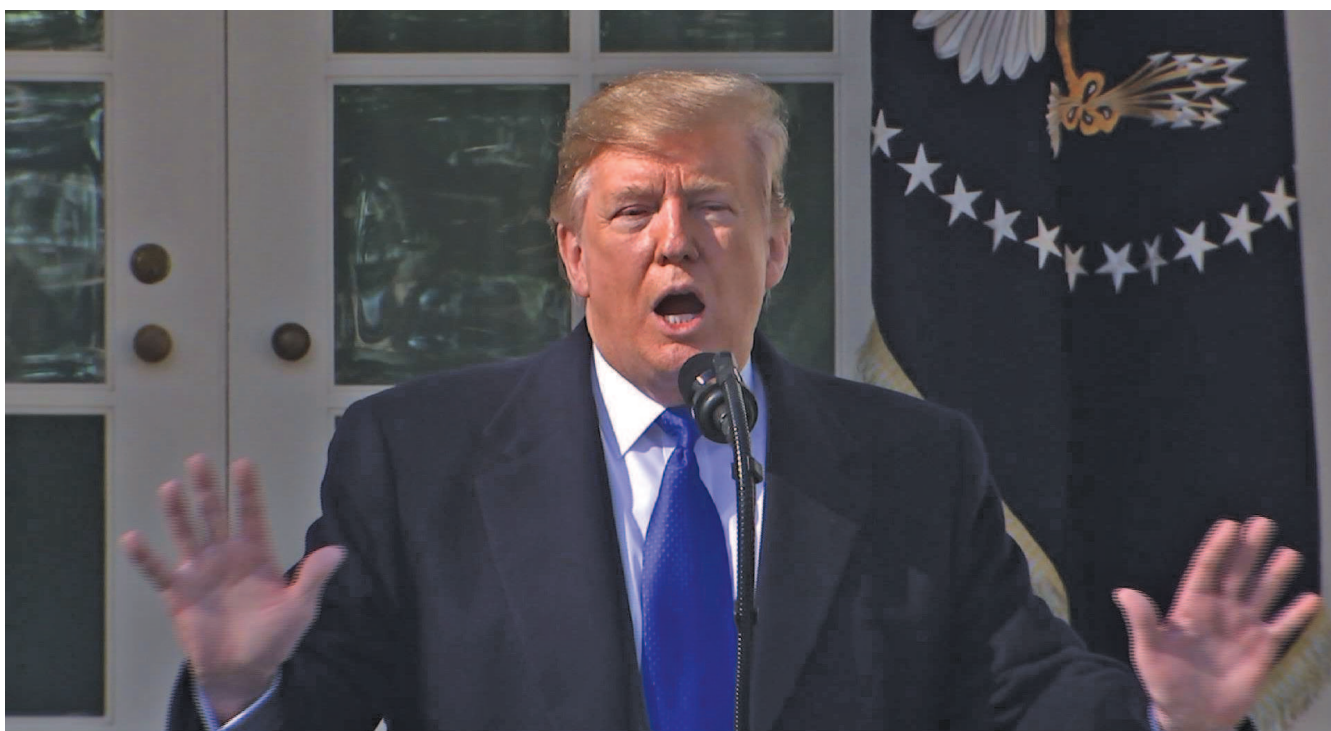
Republicans are deeply torn over Trump's decision to invoke executive power after Congress denied him money he wanted for the wall along the Southern border. Some are backing the president, while others are vehemently opposed to what they see as constitutional overreach, setting up a potential showdown that adds to the already expected legal challenges.

"I don't believe a national emergency declaration is the solution," said Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., who warned of taking the country down a "rabbit hole" with future presidents seizing unchecked executive power.

"No crisis justifies violating the Constitution," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said, "Declaring a national emergency is unnecessary, unwise and inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution."

It's an outcome Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his leadership warned Trump against. For days, they publicly urged him not to declare an emer-



Associated Press

President Donald Trump told reporters, 'I didn't need to do this, but I'd rather do it much faster.'

gency. But with Trump's signature Friday on the action, the Republican leaders are largely falling in line behind Trump.

As Democrats are quick to call for oversight and investigation, they are also almost certain to seek a vote of disapproval that will force Republicans to stand with the president — or against him.

White House senior adviser Stephen Miller said Sunday that Trump is prepared to issue the first veto of his term if Congress votes to disapprove his declaration of a national emergency.

House Judiciary Chair-

man Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., says his committee will investigate the "serious constitutional and statutory issues" raised by the declaration and will ask White House officials to appear for testimony.

Nadler said Trump's decision shows "reckless disregard for the separation of powers and your own responsibilities under our constitutional system."

The ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, said that while he supports Trump's commitment to securing the border,

"a national emergency is a serious act with deep implications, and it's disappointing that partisan politics have brought us to this point."

Congress has specific ability under the National Emergencies Act to halt the president by a simple majority vote of disapproval in both chambers. That makes the outcome uncertain, especially in the Senate where Republicans now hold a narrow 53-47 majority.

Trump would almost certainly threaten to veto such a resolution, if it passed, and Congress would then be faced with the difficult

task of mounting the votes to override.

Trump's decision creates an "important moment for constitutional democracy," said Chris Edelson, assistant professor of government at American University and author of a book on presidential power.

"Congress has the tools available to stop this if it chooses to act," Edelson said. "All eyes should be on Republicans in Congress, some of whom are clearly troubled by this action, including the precedent it could set."

Top Trump allies are

splintering. GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, once resistant to an emergency declaration, told Fox News he's all for it. "We would be idiots as Republicans not to support Donald Trump to try to build this wall anyway he can," Graham said.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., may be tougher to sway. "I, too, want stronger border security, including a wall in some areas. But how we do things matters," Paul said in a statement.

"Extraconstitutional executive actions are wrong, no matter which party does them," added Paul, who regularly criticized former President Barack Obama for what Paul and other Republicans termed executive overreach.

On and off Capitol Hill, many Republicans criticized Obama for what they saw as executive overreach, particularly on immigration issues. Some of Obama's actions, including those to shield young immigrants from deportation, continue to play out in the courts.

While some GOP voices this week urged Trump on, others encouraged restraint.

"We'll regret this," said a headline in the conservative National Review. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said Friday that Trump's decision will "create a dangerous precedent that erodes the very system of government that has served us so well for over 200 years."

Randall: 'Helping people, animals, the environment ... it's everything I like'

Continued from Page A1

Clatsop Works sent in her application and she became the program's first intern.

"It was kind of magical timing, actually," said Anna Stamper, the coordinator for Clatsop Works.

For 10 weeks, Randall attended marine education conferences, did shifts on the beach and learned about other environmental non-profits. She enjoyed identifying and talking about all of the creatures found in tidepools and on the rock.

The mission of the awareness program, which is to protect the marine reserve and educate people on why that's important, is something that appealed to her.

"Helping people, animals, the environment ... it's everything I like," she said.

By the end of summer,

she had found a new passion for environmental activism. She now works for the program as a part-time lead interpreter.

"I've always had my focus on animals, so the obvious thing you think of is 'vet,'" Randall said. "In these environmental programs, it allows you to spread out that passion over a broader area."

She's now sitting at a crossroads, deciding whether to pursue environmental activism or veterinary science. Randall plans to work both as an interpreter and as a kennel tech at Bayshore Animal Hospital in Warrenton for the immediate future to help her decide which track to pursue.

Either way, she is thankful for the experience.

"It's been an eye-opening experience for what I want to do with my life," she said.

'IT'S BEEN AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE FOR WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE.'

Ellison Randall

Measles: Hundreds who oppose ending the exemptions showed up at a public hearing

Continued from Page A1

exemption is claimed, a child is required to be vaccinated against or show proof of acquired immunity for nearly a dozen diseases — including polio, whooping cough and mumps — before they can attend school or a child care center.

Hundreds of people who oppose ending the exemptions, including environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., showed up at a public hearing on the legislation last week.

A broader measure introduced in the state Senate, which would not allow personal or philosophical exemptions to be granted for any required school vaccinations, is scheduled for a public hearing Wednesday.

Four percent of Wash-

ington secondary school students have nonmedical vaccine exemptions, the state Department of Health said. Of those, 3.7 percent of the exemptions are personal, and the rest are religious.

In Clark County — an area just north of Portland, where most of the Washington measles cases are concentrated — 6.7 percent of kindergartners had a non-medical exemption for the 2017-18 school year, health officials said.

California removed personal belief vaccine exemptions for children in both public and private schools in 2015 after a measles outbreak at Disneyland sickened 147 people and spread across the U.S. and into Canada. Vermont also abandoned its personal exemption in 2015.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Jordan Wilson prepares to cook an order in his new food truck in Astoria.

Pod: 'I just wanted to create my own business'

Continued from Page A1

"The tough part about being a chef is you're generally making someone else's business better," Wilson said. "At this point in my life, I just wanted to create my own business. I'm good at what I do, and I just wanted to be in business for myself, and cook food that I really like and that I agree with, nonstop. And I make the decisions."

Around the corner from Wilson on Duane Street, next to vegan cart Good Bowl, Riccardo Pizzuti is assembling the trailer for the Calabrese-style Pizzuti's Wood-fired Pizzeria, with a planned opening later this month.

Before slinging slices, Pizzuti was a potter and sculptor who also did dry-wall and painting to make ends meet.

"Doing that burned me out, so I just stayed with the drywall and painting, because that's where the money was at," he said.

Pizzuti, who traces his family's lineage to southern Italy, decided several years ago to parlay his family's culinary heritage with his experience in kilns, and began making wood-fired pizzas. He started out delivering to Waltz Brewing in Forest Grove before the



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Riccardo Pizzuti plans to open Pizzuti's Wood-fired Pizzeria on Duane Street this month.

owner sold him his trailer.

Inside, Pizzuti has installed a glass-melting oven that fires up to 2,600 degrees, out of which he turns out 10-, 14- and 16-inch, Neapolitan-style pizzas on thin sourdough crust with a spicy Calabrian tomato sauce. He sources meats and cheeses from Italy and incorporates local seafood for such pies as crab, shrimp and anchovies. In the warmer months, he'll grow his own basil and oregano.

Pizzuti plans to sell whole

pizzas and slices out of a heat rack in front, along with baguettes, Italian bread and the occasional dessert, with hopes of an alcohol license for beer and wine.

Astoria, where Pizzuti has friends who urged him to make the move, is his retirement plan.

"I'm getting older, so now's the time to do it," he said. "I think I've got a product that will afford me the ability to stick around."

The Art Garden at 11th and Duane streets now num-

bers five carts. Property owner Michael Bruhn said he plans to stop there. In the near future, he plans a food court, and possibly occasional live music.

Bruhn has been pleased with how quickly and organically the city's largest food cart pod has grown. He already has another three cart owners hoping to get in.

"There's not a lot of places that let trailers in," he said. "I'd like to find another place, but parking lots are in high demand."