

**OUR VIEW**

# Police should notify residents of specific threats they may face

There's a familiar saying that knowledge is power, and it applies to crime prevention, too. Law-abiding people want lawbreakers caught as quickly as possible, but they also deserve to know if they face specific or unusual threats in their neighborhoods. The recent case of sexual assaults at the Pointe North Apartments in Beaumont seems like a situation where that information should have been provided.

Police Chief James Singletary said residents of the complex were not alerted because that could have made it harder to find the person committing the assaults.

"It was a decision we made," Singletary said. "On something like that you don't want to panic the people. We felt it was the best decision to wait. We didn't want people to think there was a serial killer when there wasn't. We caught him."

That concern is understandable, and sometimes that method can lead to the criminal being arrested sooner. But every case is different, and that approach must be balanced against a desire to give people the information they need to protect themselves from serious crimes.

We're not talking about a general threat, like the possibility of a burglary happening when residents are away from their homes. That can happen to anyone, at any time.

But these sexual assaults were not that random. Prosecu-

tors say that over the course of two months last summer, a Beaumont man broke into the homes of three women and sexually assaulted them at gunpoint. The first and the last attacks occurred in the same public housing complex, the Pointe North Apartments. The suspect apparently lived at the complex without properly registering.

One of the assault victims has filed a lawsuit against the complex, saying that she was not notified of the attacks and that there were unsafe conditions at the apartments.

Officials with the Beaumont Housing Authority, which runs the complex, said police never notified them of the attacks.

Had that happened, however, the Housing Authority would have reacted. "If we would've been made aware of it, we would've sent notices out to the residents," a spokesman said.

That's just basic communication, the kind that should occur regularly between the managers of a large apartment complex and its residents. It helps residents protect themselves from crime, and it makes them more aware of suspicious activity at their complex. In turn, that kind of awareness can lead to a call to police that apprehends a suspect sooner rather than later.

Again, every case is different. But people generally benefit from more information, not less. In cases like this, law enforcement officials should err on the side of disclosure.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# Readers criticize, defend president's performance

**Here are the real hoaxes**

- My president is right; hoax, yes!
- Pick your hoax: Mexico will pay for the wall. Hoax!
- I did not pay off the porn star. Hoax!
- Trade wars are easy to win. Hoax!
- Canada is a security threat. Hoax!
- The tax reform law will pay for itself. Hoax!
- Tariffs are paid for by China. Hoax!
- No quid pro quo. Hoax!
- No executive orders like Obama. Hoax!
- Ukraine interfered in the election. Hoax
- My family will not benefit from the tax reform. Hoax!
- More comprehensive, cheaper health care. Hoax!
- Drain the swamp. Hoax!
- Ah, three years in, America does the Hoaxie Pokey!

Dr. John Nelson, Beaumont

**Cruz, GOP should step up**

I voted for Ted Cruz in the presidential primary of 2016 and I am totally amazed by the behavior of our lawless president and frankly Ted Cruz who is now his defender.

Although I do not agree with

many social issue backed by the left, I do respect how they have presented an undeniable and overwhelming case against the president's lawlessness.

There should at least be a fair hearing of the evidence and witnesses in the Senate.

Andrew Crow, Houston

**17 errors must matter**

What would be the reaction of the Beaumont Enterprise if one morning their offices were raided by law enforcement, computers and file cabinets removed, you found out your employees phones had been tapped, based on a search warrant application that had 17 mistakes/errors/omissions? How many front pages would that headline make?

Does anyone think your Last Will and Testament would hold up in court if it had 17 mistakes/errors/omissions?

Do you think your home loan application, car loan application, credit card application, college entrance application, job application or any other legal document you can name would be valid if it had 17 mistakes/errors/omissions?

But Democrats and the left-wing biased media seem to think it is perfectly OK to impeach a president of the United States using a FISA warrant application that had 17 errors/mistakes/omissions as fuel for the fire.

And if I hear "we need to show that no-one is above the law" one more time I will surely vomit.

Your actions speak louder than your words.

You should be declaring that no one is above the law except illegal immigrants and the mayors and city council members of sanctuary cities.

They should be charged with aiding/abetting/harboring federal criminals.

Thad Singleton, Orange



# Trial tiff doubles D.C. drama

You gotta hand it to Congress. Who else could combine a constitutional crisis, pre-election gamesmanship and a civics lesson into one package?

The drama unfolding in our nation's capital is reminiscent of some of great philosophical battles that have played out in those marble halls for more than two centuries — and a feud in the junior high cafeteria about who sits at which table.

What is truly interesting about this showdown is that it pits two absolute masters of their domain and procedure — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

On the other hand, they're arguing about something fairly simple — the ground rules for the Senate trial that could remove President Donald Trump from office. Spoiler alert: No Republicans will vote to dump Trump, so he's sticking around.

Your basic options here are a quick trial or a longer one; this is not brain surgery.

Most Republicans want a quick trial so they can dismiss it as an annoyance and get back to confirming judges and running for re-election. Most Democrats want a longer trial so they can raise every objection



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they can think of to Trump's presidency and have fodder for their re-election campaigns.

It gets complicated, though, as things do in Washington. Too short of a trial makes Republicans look like they were afraid of some deep, dark secret leaking out about the Trump presidency. They would also be accused of disrespecting the rule of law and our republic's legacy, though those haven't exactly been deal-breakers in the Trump presidency.

But the GOP doesn't want a drawn-out affair that would require testimony from witnesses like John Bolton, Mike Pompeo or that mother of all loose cannons, Rudy Giuliani. By the same token, Democrats don't want to see Hunter Biden try to answer how he qualified for a \$50,000 per month salary from the Ukrainian gas compa-

ny Burisma.

So the obvious compromise is a trial of one week, in which a few witnesses are called, a few documents are blown up to poster size and both parties have plenty of chances for speechifying. Republicans can then claim they did their duty, sort of. Democrats won't like it, but they will get one more chance on a national stage to remind voters that holding up military aid in exchange for political dirt is not exactly what the founders had in mind.

The real verdict comes in November, when voters either return Trump for a second term or hand over the Oval Office keys to his Democratic challenger. A slim majority of Americans dislike Trump intensely, but he may be able to get another win in the Electoral College anyway. If he faces one of the more radical Democratic candidates, he'll probably get that. But he can clearly be beaten. The name of his opponent will matter far more than the length of the impeachment trial, so don't get too fixated on that segment of the soap opera.

Thomas Taschinger is the editorial page editor of The Beaumont Enterprise. Follow him on Twitter at @PoliticalTom

# Always master your Finan-Sense

We live in interesting times. People think nothing of spending \$5 for a cup of coffee with added fluffy cream. Purses that cost hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, contain very little cash. Artificial nails cost \$8-30 and have to be "filled" every three weeks. For millennials ages 25-34, the average debt is \$42,000 and most is not student loans. The average debt of the American household is \$137,063.

Natalie Pace, author of The ABC's of Money, says, "A debt problem is, at its core, a budgeting problem." If you are living paycheck to paycheck a budget will make a huge difference in your future.

All the wise people I know have financial sense. They understand how to manage money. They understand how to add and subtract. You cannot subtract more than you add to your bank account. Spending more money than you have is not acceptable. Money is simple. It is a commodity of our exchange we receive for our time, our skill. So why do so many have so little financial sense?

A budget and a realistic attitude about money is essential. Real success comes when you are totally aware of how much you spend. Kumiko Love, The Budget Mom says, "I'm a huge believer that you cannot create a realistic budget that will work for you until you know your realistic spending." She should know. Even as a single mother she paid off \$77,000 in student loans in three years.

When I was a single mom and every dollar was stretched to the max, I used various methods and learned how to



**Gail Showalter**  
 Guest column

make do with the money that came in. I became aware that my children learned about money from me. All children develop their financial sense at home.

Children learn young about the value of money and how to budget even on their allowances. Of course they learn best by your example. I interviewed a friend for my book, "Living Learning Loving." Her example speaks to this issue.

One of the most important lessons that a lack of money can help us learn is the difference between needing or wanting something. A young mother with two daughters who had been single for seven years at the time-shared this key lesson with me, "You must keep your focus." She said she repeatedly taught her girls the difference between needing and wanting.

She didn't just bark, "You don't need that," she sat down with them and explained the difference between wanting and needing. She was a wise woman, because she knew that sometimes it's easier to show your children the difference between needing and wanting than just explaining it to them. Even though she struggled to make ends meet, she found the time and the giving spirit to do community service and shared

that experience with her girls by having them participate with her.

It became a family tradition during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, to volunteer their time feeding the homeless or delivering meal packages to the shut-ins as their way of giving back for the times people had helped them. Her children could see with their own eyes what real need was, so when the topic of, "I need a new \_\_\_" came up at their home, all she had to say was, "Is it a need or a want?" and the girls knew what she was talking about. By learning to focus, they understood the difference between a need and a want.

The younger a person learns to plan for the future, the better their financial future will be. Your attitude about money will color not only your life but will carry over to your children. In fact their approach to money will be formed before they leave home.

Some live a fatalistic financial life. They think they will never get out of debt and do not have the discipline to live with a budget. No thought is given to planning. I hope this isn't you. I hope your future will be bright and filled with financial wisdom.

Maybe the next time you want a cappuccino, order a cup of coffee instead.

Gail Cawley Showalter, gail@gailshowalter.com, is founder of SMORE for Women and author of "Living Learning Loving." If you have a possible guest column for The Enterprise, email it to opinions@BeaumontEnterprise.com or call 838-2887 to discuss it. ... If you have something to say, speak up!

# Britain's election shows what Democrats may face in 2020

When Britain flummoxed and flabbergasted the world by voting in 2016 to leave the European Union, it seemed like a one-off: An unexpected gamble by a normally prudent country, but nothing that signified a profound shift beyond the United Kingdom and Europe.

Donald Trump's election a few months later proved otherwise. Brexit was a portent, not a fluke. The British electorate may have been incautious, but it was ahead of the trend. The desire, however misplaced or ugly, to "take back" control of a country from supercilious political elites was a global phenomenon, not a local event.

Don't think it can't happen again, in much the same way.

That's a lesson Democrats ought to draw, quickly and clearly, from the thumping victory Boris Johnson won for the Conservative Party. As recently as September, some left-wing pundits and politicians were glibly writing off Johnson as a "failed prime minister," peddling a "fantasy" of a renegotiated Brexit and facing "political disgrace" after losing his majority in Parliament.

Today, Johnson has renegotiated Brexit, the Tories have their largest majority since 1987, and Labour has suffered its worst defeat since 1935.

## Four lessons

How did he do this? In four ways, each of which has parallels with Trump:

First, Johnson was fortunate in his political foes. He ran against the most avowedly leftist frontbench the Labour Party has put forward since the early 1980s. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn proudly calls himself a "socialist." He rails against a "rigged system" that supposedly exists for the benefit of a handful of billionaires. His campaign promised free college, dramatic increases in health spending, a hike in the minimum wage, massive infrastructure spending, new taxes on the rich, and a "new green deal."

Sound familiar? It's the Warren-Sanders manifesto, only with British pound signs rather than dollar signs attached.

Second, Johnson was faithful to his base. He ran as the candidate of Brexit — not, as Theresa May had, as its reluctant and dutiful custodian, but as its persevering and happy warrior. Brexit wasn't just about unyoking the U.K. from the EU. It was also a statement of British self-belief, self-reliance and capacity for self-rule.

That meant that the moment Brexit passed, it was both morally wrong and politically dumb to try to reverse the result. The former, because it was an attempt to nullify people's votes. The latter, because it could only be accomplished by means of complex parliamentary and legalistic maneuvers to get a second referendum — carried out by the people who always claim to know what's true and right.

If impeachment — which I support as a matter of constitutional duty but fear on political grounds — winds up



**Bret Stephens**  
New York Times News Service

helping Trump get re-elected, it will be for similar reasons. That is, Democrats got so wrapped up in trying to bring the president down by legal and legislative means that they forgot to bring him down by ordinary political ones. The main job of any competent opposition is to fight the next election, not relitigate the past.

Third, Johnson was attuned to the moment. The prime minister is an ideological opportunist, not a purist. This upsets his critics on the right, who dislike some of his big-spending promises. And it confirms the view of his critics on the left, who see his political plasticity as being of a piece with his moral plasticity.

But we live in a moment when many things are fluid and bending. Voters seem comfortable with leaders whose policies defy most of the usual left-right categories, including on matters like moral character or budgetary discipline. What matters more to them is relatability, reliability and results. Does the candidate get people like me? Will he keep his political promises? And has he achieved something that directly and tangibly benefits me?

This is Trump's calling card, as it is Johnson's. Are there equivalent figures on the left in the U.S. or U.K. willing to shake free from their party's increasingly tightfitting, ideological straitjackets?

## Overheated fears

Finally, Johnson has benefited from critics whose mode of analysis is that anything and everything he does is dumb, dishonest, wretched and ruinous. Lately, they warn that he will bring about the end of the country itself. Similarly in the United States, some anti-Trump pundits have been forecasting economic decline and doom for three years straight as the economy continues to grow and unemployment plummets.

Bad things can — and, inevitably, will — happen. In the meantime, what we have is a trans-Atlantic case of boys crying wolf. Does it ever occur to the critics that, by constantly inferring or predicting the worst about either man, they make their less-than-worst moments look good, and their good ones seem positively great?

Regular readers of this column know that I have no wish to see Trump re-elected (though I am delighted by Corbyn's drubbing). If they share my wish, they should heed Britain's lesson: Like Johnson, Trump is a formidable incumbent. To oppose him with Corbynite candidates and progressive primal screams is to ensure his re-election.

# Trump deserves it, but Dems always wanted impeachment

From the moment he took office, Donald Trump's impeachment was inevitable. Democrats knew it. Republicans knew it too.

Democrats can pretend as though they were willing to give Trump a chance to prove that he could be a better president than they knew in their hearts he was incapable of being. But that would be a lie. Democrats never trusted him.

Last week, House Democrats got what they have craved for three years. They voted to impeach the 45th president of the United States.

No one was "out to get" Trump or to trap him, as Republicans insisted throughout the impeachment hearings. There was no need to. All Democrats had to do was wait. They knew it would only be a matter of time before Trump dug his own hole and buried himself deep inside it.

Democrats were never the dragons Trump needed to slay, though. His reckless impulsiveness and his deep-seated insecurities were his greatest enemies. His insatiable need to prove his legitimacy as president was the Achilles' heel that enveloped him in controversy during much of his first term in the White House.

That self-doubt over whether he really was good enough to sit in the seat of Abraham Lincoln eventually would lead to desperation. Desperation would lead to carelessness. And carelessness ultimately would lead to impeachment. There was no other option for a president so self-absorbed and obsessed with his own survival.

The majority of Americans realized that Trump was a self-indulgent fraud from the start. We knew he had traveled a corrupt and treacherous road his entire adult life, and given the chance, he would drag our nation along with him.

## Inevitable path

We heard him take the oath of office and doubted every word.

Trump would never be able to live up to such a high standard. No one so dishonorable could. Long before he became president, Trump told us who he was.

During the presidential campaign, he belittled the parents of a Muslim soldier who died in the Iraq War. We heard him on an "Access Hollywood" tape making vulgar comments about women. He used race and bigotry as campaign tools.

Trump never pretended to be anything other than a self-promoter, who had spent his entire adult life breaking rules he deemed too frivolous for someone as privileged as he. He had long lived closer to the edge than most of us would dare venture, carelessly crossing the line whenever it suited him personally and professionally.

He was a shyster, a con man and a swindler with a complete disregard for our democracy and a juvenile understanding of how government is supposed to work. He has made a mockery of our government and turned our nation into the laughing-stock of the world.



**Dahleen Glanton**  
Chicago Tribune

If someone said that he is corrupt to the core, most of us would agree. He surrounded himself with shady people, who drifted in and out of his presidential campaign hoping to fill their pockets and develop contacts who would help them achieve their personal goals at our expense.

America foolishly elected a self-proclaimed deal-closer who had filed for bankruptcy six times and has a penchant for ripping off innocent people. He founded the now defunct Trump University, which New York prosecutors accused of "swindling thousands of Americans out of millions of dollars."

Last month, a judge ruled that his tax-exempt Donald J. Trump Foundation had misused funds to subsidize his for-profit businesses, boost his 2016 campaign and pay for frivolous things like a painting of himself. Trump was ordered to pay \$2 million in damages and shut the foundation down for good.

Beyond that, Trump was a dangerous and greedy Washington neophyte, whose imbecility made him a sitting duck for political vultures like Russia, which identified him immediately as someone who might be manipulated.

## The right moment

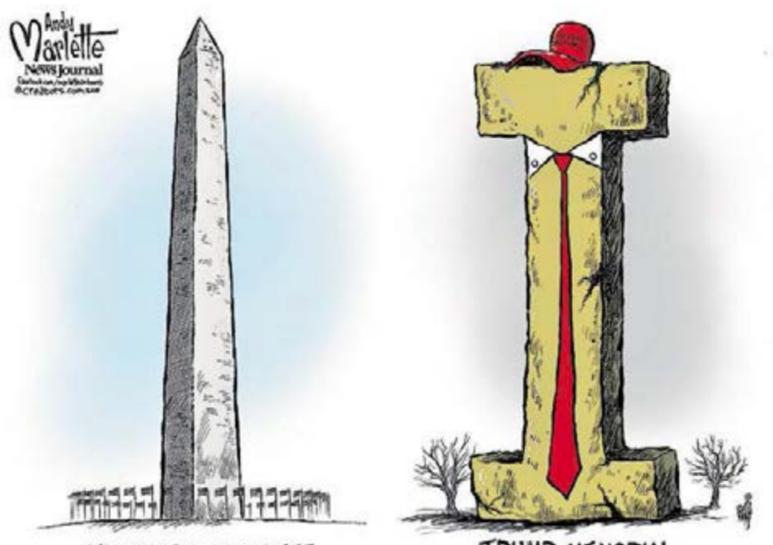
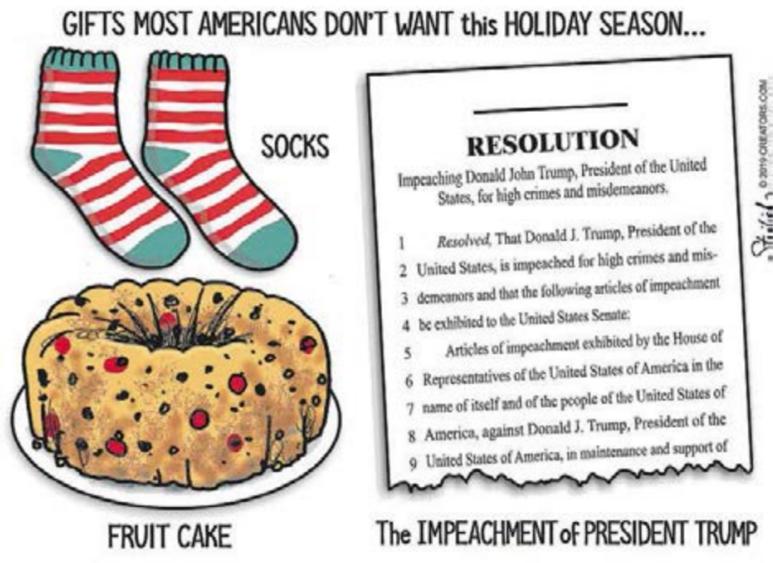
Many Americans grew impatient waiting for House Democrats to make their move. Nothing he had done thus far, however, met the standard to impeach. Speaker Nancy Pelosi remained steadfast in her resolve, knowing that Trump would eventually provide them a chance to prove how ruthless he is.

In April, he handed Democrats exactly what they wanted. He made a telephone call to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, asking him to delve into the 2020 election by investigating Trump's rival, former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden in exchange for military aid and a White House meeting.

It was a clear and concise case of abuse of power, one of the articles of impeachment approved by the House Judiciary Committee on Friday. Trump gave them additional ammunition by blocking witness testimony during the hearings and ignoring subpoenas. That was the basis of the second article of impeachment, obstruction of Congress.

Yes, Democrats have long awaited this impeachment. Republicans will see to it that Trump remains in office, but his corruption will be recorded in history. Most importantly, though, the record will show that someone at least tried to stop him.

## WILD WEEK



# Dems need to win elections, not just the arguments

*Editor's note: Leonard Pitts is on vacation and will return in early January.*

If I owned a time machine, I would have used it to send House Democrats for a ride before their impeachment vote. Setting the dials for about 1915, I would bid them to stop on 14th Street in New York City, where they might see Frances Perkins striding into the headquarters building of Tammany Hall, the notorious political machine.

What's a heroine of progressive politics doing in this den of corruption and compromise? Today's Democrats know Perkins as a name on a massive federal office building, the one that houses the Labor Department. The first woman to serve in a presidential Cabinet, Perkins was good and conscience for Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal from his first day in office to his last.

But that's far in the future for this woman in her mid-30s headed into Tammany's inner sanctum. She's here because she understands that to change the world, she must first win elections. Perkins has principles and high ideals, yes. But what makes her different from many reformers, the thing that will mark her name on that Washington edifice, is that she's come to realize that politics is more than being right on principle. Ideally, politics is winning while being right on principle.

Much of what Perkins knows about winning she learned from the machine hacks of



**David Von Drehle**  
Washington Post

Tammany. With help from the likes of Big Tim Sullivan, undisputed boss of the Bowery, and Al Smith, whose education includes "an FFM" from working at the Fulton Fish Market, Perkins has recently organized passage of a law limiting the workweek to 54 hours. This concrete result was fresh in the minds of working men when they went to the polls in 1913 and rewarded Tammany with a statewide landslide victory.

Our modern-day Democrats would see Perkins approach the desk of Charles Murphy — Silent Charlie, the brilliant enigma who seems to pull every string in New York while barely speaking a word. Arguably the most powerful boss in Tammany history, Murphy listens stonily as Perkins asks his blessing on a new round of reforms, as Perkins biographer George Martin recounted.

After a long pause, Murphy replies: "You are the young lady, aren't you, who managed to get the 54-hour bill passed?" The Boss opposed the bill, having taken many donations from factory owners. Perkins swallows hard and says yes. Another silence. At last,

Murphy says: "It is my observation that the bill made us many votes. I will tell the boys to give you all the help they can."

Perkins is starting to leave when, to her surprise, the Boss speaks a third time. Does she support women's suffrage? Squaring her shoulders, Perkins says of course.

I don't, Murphy replies. But in the event that women ever get the vote, "I hope that you remember that you would make a good Democrat." Perkins nods and leaves, and a few months later, Murphy flips and blesses the suffrage movement. His finger on the pulse of public opinion has registered another flutter. That is the only signal Murphy cares for.

After encountering the soul of their party — the cities, the working class, the spirit of progress — today's House Democrats might return to the present with fresh eyes. It was the likes of Charlie Murphy and Frances Perkins who lifted the Democrats from their post-Lincoln malaise to perch the party on the seat of 20th-century power. They did it by "making votes," as Murphy put it. Moving the public.

Impeachment doesn't appear to be making many votes. According to the nonpartisan Quinnipiac poll, self-described independents overwhelmingly oppose removing President Trump from office based on the case presented in the House. The latest Post/ABC News poll paints a less disastrous picture for the party but still shows



UNRAVELING

that the autumn of impeachment left persuadable voters unmoved.

Two generations of Democrats have fought many of their biggest battles in courtrooms: abortion, affirmative action, marriage equality. They've come to act as if winning an argument is sufficient to win an election. They've forgotten how potent a landslide can be.

When I've written before about the importance of influencing public opinion before taking the leap to impeachment, I've encountered a lot of anger from righteous Democrats. I'm told the problem isn't unpersuaded moderates; it is the recalcitrant Republicans of

the Senate. No amount of persuasion can reach them.

Maybe Charlie Murphy, with his carefully selected words and impeccable Democratic credentials, could explain what I cannot: that senators are senators because they are able to count votes. They live and die by their networks of support, which vibrate like a spider's web at the slightest tremors and feints of public opinion. You move senators by moving the public first.

Walking into Tammany Hall, Frances Perkins wasn't just wearing the armor of righteousness. She was more powerful than that, armored in votes.

# Doomed impeachment will only help Republicans

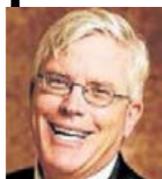
After every ground-shaker for 30 years, Californians have been warned about "foreshocks" — earthquakes that portend larger jolts a day or three later. But though my family and I rode through some significant temblors, any foreshocks were hard to feel.

Until last summer. The July 2019 "Ridgecrest" quakes came back to back. The first was a significant tremor, hitting 6.4 at 10:33 a.m. on the Fourth of July. A smaller jolt at 5.4 rolled through at just after 4 a.m. the next day. But the shocker came six hours later: a 7.1 at 10:18 a.m. on July 5. The unicorn had been sighted.

And so it is in our politics. We can now clearly see that Britain's "Leave" Vote of June 23, 2016 — a narrow vote in favor of Brexit with 72% of the eligible electorate casting ballots was a "foreshock." The massive vote for the Tories and Prime Minister Boris Johnson, while certainly about "Let's Get Brexit Done," was the main quake, a roundhouse to the jaw of elites and an expression of disgust with Remainers and the media, to say nothing of Labour and its "maybe/maybe not Brexit" leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The tectonic plates in the U.K have been grinding against each other for three years, building up tension. With that vote, the energy was released.

Johnson and his chief campaign strategist, Dominic Cummings, shrewdly sensed the mood gathering strength after



**Hugh Hewitt**  
Washington Post

the Brits first voted to leave in 2016. The Remainer elite had ever since defied a free people, a people that remember, if only through Churchill's recordings, that their free choice in 1939 and 1940 was to stand against a fascist machinery of death.

The descendants of the Home Guard and Gen. Montgomery grew angrier and angrier because they had not endured the 20th century only to be told by their betters that they were stupid. When Johnson rounded on some hecklers and called them "lefty toffers," he captured the mood of the average voter. Inelegantly put: "Screw you, I work in this country, and I vote again for Leave and far more. Tear it down and rebuild it, Boris. We don't need the E.U.; we can make it on our own just fine."

We in America are on the cusp of realizing that the 2016 presidential election was a foreshock, not the main quake. What's coming in November 2020 is the 7.1 ... or greater. Impeachment is going to be the obvious driver of this election, but it is merely the visible expression of the invisible con-



tempt coastal elites, the Democratic Party and media power centers feel for ordinary citizens. All of the elements that drove the Brits to equip Johnson with a huge mandate are now lining up to propel President Donald Trump to a bigger victory than his first.

The impeachment push by the oddball cast of Democratic Javerts is seen as a mania by tens of millions (and the number is growing) of Trump supporters, reflected in the release of three different investigative reports even as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer makes

demands untethered to any reasonable position taken in the Nixon and Clinton impeachments. The Democrats' whole prosecutorial apparatus creaks toward collapse.

Voters notice breakdowns. They feel the desperation. They resent the elitism. They see through the risible attempt to "fairly report" the proceedings. Fourth-string intellectuals get promoted to first-tier television prominence without any evidence of having read two books, much less having taken deep dives into history and law. The Democrats who are the

"face" of impeachment are oblivious to how they appear.

As Democrats dance on the edge of the cliff of impeachment, the geological forces just keep loading. The usual suspects — "The Resistance," ratings-driven cable catering to the extremes, #NeverTrumpers (both the genuine and the opportunistic) — all the tribes of Manhattan-Beltway-Bay Area malcontents are certain, just so certain, that they are going to force Trump out or at least to some sort of humiliation. It hasn't happened. It won't. But 7.1 will.

# Trump has a problem with noble public servants

No news here, but the president of the United States is a sick human being — charitably speaking. His recent behavior at a campaign rally in Michigan on the very night of his impeachment was several notches below even his usual flair for giving offense.

His attempt at *whatever that was* — sadistically relating a telephone exchange he had in February with Democratic Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan after the death of her husband — was the verbal effluent of a twisted mind.

According to Trump's rendering, Debbie Dingell called him in desperation, beseeching him to provide official honors for her late husband Rep. John Dingell, the longest-serving congressman in U.S. history with 59 years under his belt. Debbie Dingell was elected in 2015, becoming the first non-widowed woman in Congress to succeed her husband.

By Trump's telling, he agreed to her request, and she thanked him profusely, saying how happy it would make John



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Dingell as he peered down from heaven. "That's OK. Don't worry about it," Trump said he replied to the widow, which is an odd way of saying: "It was my pleasure to honor such a great public servant. He deserved it."

However, Debbie Dingell says she never called the president. He called her, she says, to tell her he was lowering the flags, for which she expressed gratitude. To his audience, Trump said he didn't have to be so nice, and insinuated that John Dingell might be in hell, "looking up," rather than down from heaven.

Why would he make up such a mean-spirited lie? Ah, you had to ask. Revenge. Trump no

doubt expected Debbie Dingell to reward his beneficence by voting 'no' on impeachment, which didn't happen. He was angry. But Trump's is no ordinary anger. When he lashes out, he goes for the kill. He clearly wants to inflict pain and then spit on his prey's grave.

The problem for supporters involuntarily exposed to such meanness is that Trump corrals all bystanders into his madness and makes them complicit. It was apparent that many in the audience were uncomfortable with his remarks, even as some laughed or applauded. Maybe they laughed out of nervousness — or fear.

Immediate condemnation followed Trump's tale, including from another widow, Cindy McCain, whose late husband, Sen. John McCain, also was mocked by the president. It's apparent by now that Trump has a problem with men who are his superiors and, in Debbie Dingell's case, he relishes torturing their spouses. One needn't be a psychologist to sort out such odious, misogyn-

ist behavior.

For the record: John Dingell is widely considered one of the finest public servants ever elected to office. And Debbie Dingell has picked up where he left off. Two more decent people you're unlikely to meet. Debbie tweeted directly to Trump that she was hurt by his remarks, which is understandable, but, frankly, Trump isn't worthy of her thoughts much less her pain.

Trump's timing, as always, couldn't be worse as Debbie approaches her first Christmas without her husband. In an email to me, she passed along an op-ed her husband had written for the Detroit News upon the death of former President George H.W. Bush, his longtime friend from the other side of the political aisle. John Dingell's words provide a stark contrast to this president and this time.

John Dingell and Bush were both World War II veterans, among the last politicians of their kind. Wrote John Dingell: "We were from a political gen-

eration that understood delivering for the American people was more important than political wins. ... Remember the note he left President Clinton on inauguration day: 'You will be our president when you read this note. Your success now is our country's success. I will be rooting hard for you.'"

Imagine Trump writing any of that.

Ironically, Clinton, who also was impeached, became friends with the man he defeated in 1992. The two were recruited by President George W. Bush to help with the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami with a private fundraising effort. They remained close thereafter, which speaks to John Dingell's description of the senior Bush as "a public servant in the highest definitions."

"President Bush always cared about people," he wrote.

The same can be said about both Dingells, but surely not about Trump. What a shame that cruelty isn't an impeachable offense.

*We wish you a season  
filled with great joy so  
that you may bring great  
joy to others!*



# CHRISTUS<sup>®</sup> SOUTHEAST TEXAS Health System

*She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger,  
because there was no room for them in the inn. – Luke 2:7*

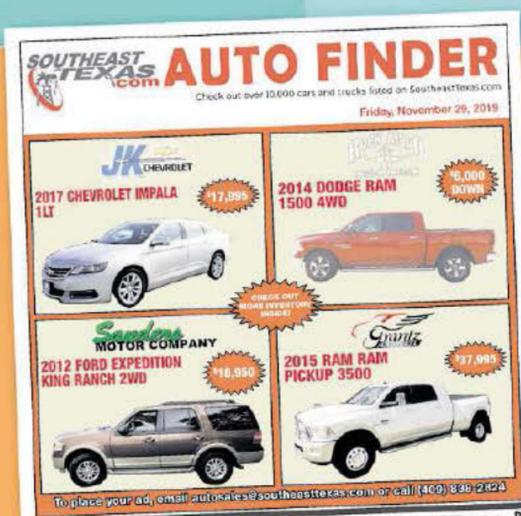
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**A few changes are coming to the Beaumont Enterprise in January 2020! We will start delivering more great content on a different schedule than before.**



**cat5**  
is printed weekly and  
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**VIP**  
is printed weekly and  
will be available in the  
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**Southeast Texas  
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