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Scholars back impeachment

Although trio of law professors say conduct fit 'high crimes' standard, 4th calls case 'slipshod'

BY LISA MASCARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three leading legal scholars testified Wednesday that President Donald Trump's attempts to have Ukraine investigate Democratic rivals are grounds for impeachment, bolstering the Democrats' case as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made sure they're prepared for that momentous next step.

Meeting behind closed doors ahead of an initial Judiciary Committee hearing to consider potential articles of impeachment, Pelosi asked House Democrats a simple question: "Are you ready?"

The answer was a resounding yes.

At Wednesday's session, three legal experts called by Democrats said impeachment was merited.

Noah Feldman, a Harvard Law School professor, said he consid-

ered it clear that the president's conduct met the definition of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Said Michael Gerhardt, a University of North Carolina law professor, "If what we're talking about is not impeachable then nothing is impeachable."

Pamela Karlan, a Stanford Law School professor and former Obama administration Justice Department official, drew criticism for mentioning Trump's teenage son, Barron, in a play on words, violating an unwritten but firm Washington rule against dragging first family's children into politics. Karlan

later apologized.

The only Republican witness, Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University, dissented from the other legal experts. He said the Democrats were bringing a "slipshod impeachment" case against the president, but he didn't excuse Trump's behavior.

"It is not wrong because President Trump is right," Turley said. "A case for impeachment could be made, but it cannot be made on this record."

Though no date has been set, the Democrats are charging

Please turn to **TRUMP, A6**

Pastor accused prior to arrest

3 women complained about Fulwider years before rape charges

BY GRACE TOOHEY

During the same period police say Rev. Bryan Fulwider was repeatedly raping a girl he met through his church in Winter Park, three women came forward to report inappropriate "sexualized behavior" by the pastor, show records obtained by the Orlando Sentinel.



Fulwider

"He used his status as a church pastor to engage in a situation with me that I would not, under normal circumstances, have gone along with," one of the two young women wrote in her complaint, in which she called Fulwider's behavior "highly inappropriate for a pastor, especially a married pastor over twice my age."

The women submitted complaints in 2008 to the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, which investigated the allegations and found that Fulwider had acted in a way "unbefitting a

Please turn to **PASTOR, A13**

Help for families in Osceola sought

County officials call on rebooted homeless commission for aid

BY KATE SANTICH

The rebooted Central Florida Commission on Homelessness met for the first time Wednesday amid calls from Osceola County representatives to do more for the hundreds of families living in rent-by-the-week motel rooms there.

A new \$5.25 million grant from the charitable foundation of billionaire Jeff Bezos, announced last week, can't be used directly for those families, unless their rent is being paid by a nonprofit or church — or unless they're kicked out.

"That's the largest issue we have — the working poor living on that [U.S. Route] 192 corridor in those hotels," said Kissimmee Mayor Jose Alvarez. "We're not doing anything [for them]. Somehow we have to find a better road map to help."

Just this week, the Kissimmee Utility Authority shut off power to one of the aging hotels along the corridor, the Lake Cecile Inn, leaving up to 40 families living there without heat or lights, and water is scheduled to be cut off Thursday. The hotel is closing for renovations and had served notice to the residents in early November.

"I don't know what's going to happen," said Orlando attorney Jeremy Hogan, who filed for an emergency injunction against the hotel's owners as well as the power and water companies. "I was hoping to get the people there a little more time. But right now all I can

Please turn to **FAMILIES, A16**



JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Track Shack's Jon and Betsy Hughes have steadily grown a store that once made little money. It's now the leading local retailer of running shoes and gear and the premier race organizer in Central Florida.

'We really didn't have a plan to do anything else'

How married couple Jon and Betsy Hughes built Track Shack's brand

BY STEPHEN RUIZ

In the Track Shack's early years, co-owners Jon and Betsy Hughes often wondered whether their small business would survive.

No customers bought anything on some days, leaving Betsy to purchase something — just so she would have a transaction report to write. They did their laundry at a laundromat, because they could not afford a washer and dryer.

When Betsy shopped for groceries near their home, she hesitated when writing a check, thinking about whether the couple had enough funds to cover the amount.

"Money was just always on our mind, because we had expenses," Betsy said. "But we were in-

credibly frugal, and we still are. I drive a Honda, and we're not fancy people.

"But because we were so careful, it paid off eventually."

Walk into the Track Shack's only location on North Mills Avenue in Orlando, and you're likely to encounter Jon's or Betsy's smiling face — or both. They're a tag team, bolstered by a strong support staff, and what they have built is so much more than a shoe-selling operation.

Jon, 61, was one of the original partners when the store opened in 1977, and he and Betsy, 58, became the sole owners shortly after they married in 1983. They practiced patience as they set about building a business, brand and running community. Seven years later, they incorporated a separate

Please turn to **SHACK, A18**



Time to visit Laborland

Nearly 50 years since the opening of Walt Disney World, Orlando is the most visited city in the U.S. with millions of tourists flocking here every year. But when the gates close at Disney, Universal and SeaWorld, the area's crucial tourism workers return to the reality of their lives. Some struggle to feed children and pay for medical bills. Others take hours-long bus commutes or go home to families crammed into tiny apartments. The Orlando Sentinel examines issues facing hospitality workers in "Laborland" — an extensive four-part series. Read Part 1 in print on Sunday or today online at OrlandoSentinel.com/laborland

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

NATO leaders downplay divide

NATO leaders insisted they would respond as one in the event of an attack on any of the 29 member countries. **A3**

White House changes food stamp rule

Benefits will be lost by roughly 688,000 SNAP recipients under tightened work requirements. **A3**

Israeli PM praises US sanctions

Netanyahu spoke alongside the U.S. secretary of state, saying financial pressure is creating problems in Iran. **A8**

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SHACK

Continued from Page A1

events company to organize and promote races annually throughout Central Florida. As part of that endeavor, they time events nationally.

In 1994, the Track Shack Youth Foundation was established to promote health and fitness in area schools and through community athletic programs. Since 2001, the first year that tax records are available online, the foundation has donated more than \$5.1 million, including \$127,707 in 2018.

"We're looking at probably 30-40 or maybe even more applications on a quarterly basis," said John Calpey, a former president of the foundation's board of trustees. "It's becoming significant, and [they're] coming from all over Central Florida. We can't fund everything, but we certainly try to do what we can if it fits our mission."

Orlando city commissioner Patty Sheehan represents the district that includes Track Shack. She has known Jon and Betsy since she ran for Lyman High School in Longwood.

"They've become a whole part of the running culture," Sheehan said. "It's just not people who sell shoes. They help not-for-profit charities with their first races. They'll go in with their foundation, and they'll go resurface a track. I know they did that over at Howard Middle School."

The Track Shack Youth Foundation has supported the Central Florida Gliders, the area's oldest youth running program, for years. The grants help the Gliders buy equipment, rent facilities and send aspiring runners to national competitions, as well as assist needy families.

Without those donations, the Gliders would be limited in the services they provide, coach Craig Wise said.

"It would be very difficult," Wise said.

Whether serious or casual, runners in Central Florida usually have passed through the Track Shack.

"It wasn't us," Jon said. "It's with all our team. This



Jon Hughes, second from left, is shown with, from left, Donnie Cook, Terry Smith and Marty Gilmore in the Track Shack's original location in 1978.



Track Shack has been in three locations in Orlando, including one on Mills Avenue from 1979-96.

running society, ... they'll say you really changed my life. They're sincere, and how can that not get to you? Whatever their hill or demon was, they've become a better person for it."

Said Betsy: "It's sort of embarrassing. There's not a day that goes by that we don't have that interaction with someone, and it's like you never take it for granted."

Fixtures at the finish line, Jon and Betsy have seen normal men and women cry after finishing races.

They watched when Sarah Sellers, a former nursing student fresh off an overnight hospital shift, placed second in the 2015 OUC Orlando Half Marathon without any sleep. Three years later, she finished as the runner-up in the Boston Marathon.

Jon once drove to Winter

Haven to present a new pair of track spikes to future Olympian Keith Brantly right before he wore them to lap the field in a race. They saw three-time Olympian Jenny Simpson (née Barringer) progress from a young girl winning local races into perhaps the area's most accomplished runner ever.

"They're just very, 'Let's do things with high quality. Let's do it with integrity,'" said Brantly, who ran the marathon at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. "This industry is probably littered with a lot of people who do exactly the opposite, and they never put money before quality."

Mark Hendelson has known the Hugheses for more than 35 years.

"Any day that they're putting on an event, they cheer every bit as loud for

the back-of-the-pack runners like me as they do for the person crossing that finish line [first]," Hendelson said.

The fourth of six children, Betsy Hughes' family moved from Virginia to Central Florida in 1969 when the Navy reassigned her father here. She and Jon, whose family of four came down from Rhode Island a few years earlier, lived about a half-mile apart.

They met when Betsy ran for Winter Park High School's girls cross country team and Jon attended what is now Seminole State College in Sanford. Jon would join the Wildcats for runs and informal coaching. They started dating after Betsy graduated.

While in college, Jon began working full time at the Track Shack.

"I don't know how far in the future he thought it would go," said Marty Gilmore, who was Jon's

roommate when both ran at Appalachian State. "It was just one of those 'in-the-moment' opportunities, and it just evolved from there."

Once Jon and Betsy took over Track Shack, they started small. The first year, they held four races as a means to bring in business.

"Betsy and I and four or five basically friends, people who just loved running like we did, [volunteered and] helped us put races on," Jon said.

Said Betsy: "Oh, yeah, because we couldn't afford to pay anybody."

Said Jon: "Betsy was like one day, 'We really should buy them breakfast.' I'm like, 'What?' [She said,] 'We have to give them something.'"

It was a different time.

The running boom had not happened, certainly not in Central Florida. The running community here was in its infancy, not quite ready to walk, much less run. The Tangerine Bowl Road Race, a precursor to the OUC Orlando Half Marathon, had not become the event it is today. The Walt Disney World Marathon, which debuted in 1994, had yet to be conceived.

Jon and Betsy stuck it out.

"We really didn't have a plan to do anything else," Betsy said. "It was like, 'Well, it's not doing great, but we're just going to keep doing it, keep trudging through.'"

When they took over Track Shack, Jon said they had no true business plan.

"We did a lot by the seat of our pants," Jon said. "We learned a lot."

After a friend told them they had to spend money if they wanted to improve Track Shack's bottom line, Jon and Betsy's perspective changed. They put on more

races, and that led to developing training programs for runners of all ability levels.

That two-pronged attack got more people out the door, onto neighborhood streets — and consequently into Track Shack.

Jon said Track Shack currently operates more than 20 races in Central Florida, including the various runDisney weekends centered around the Disney World Marathon, Star Wars Rival Run Half Marathon, Disney Princess Half Marathon and Disney Wine & Dine Half Marathon.

"They exude an entrepreneurial spirit about what they do, which is one of the reasons I love working with them," said Dave Shelbourne, an executive at New Balance. "I just get excited when I meet and work with people like that. They're all about running and giving back to the community."

That has not changed.

Other things have. Jon and Betsy's son, Chris, now helps manage the store.

They no longer are the young couple that sold their car to take out a loan on the Track Shack shortly after buying it.

The business that once struggled to bring in customers has developed a loyal following.

A store that began with volunteers helping out with races has grown to about 45 employees between its retail and event operations.

Jon referred to Track Shack as "our first baby."

Their baby is all grown up.

"If you think you know it all, you might as well shut down, because you're not going to last long," Jon said.

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