House Dems make case for conviction

Trump denies impeachment allegations

By Eric Tucker AND MARY CLARE JALONICK The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump endangered the lives of all members of Congress when he aimed a mob of supporters "like a loaded cannon" at the U.S. Capitol, House Democrats said Tuesday in making their most detailed case yet for why the former president should be convicted and permanently barred from office.

Trump denied the allegations through his lawyers and called the trial unconstitutional.

The dueling filings offer the first public glimpse of the arguments that will be presented to the Senate beginning next week. The impeachment trial represents a remarkable reckoning with the violence in the Capitol last month, which the senators witnessed firsthand, and with Trump's presidency overall.

Held in the very chamber where the insurrectionists stood on Jan. 6, it will pit Democratic demands for a final measure of accountability against the desire of many Republicans to turn the page and move on.

The impeachment trial, Trump's second, begins in earnest Tuesday.

The Democratic legal brief forcefully linked Trump's baseless efforts to overturn the results of the presidential election to the deadly riot at the Capitol, saying he bears "unmistakable" blame for actions that threatened the underpinnings of American democracy. It argued that he must be found guilty on a charge of inciting the

siege. And it used evocative language to conjure the day's chaos, when "terrified members were trapped in the chamber" and called loved ones "for fear they would not survive."

"His conduct endangered the life of every single member of Congress, jeopardized the peaceful transition of power and line of succession, and compromised our national security," the Democratic managers of the impeachment case wrote. "This is precisely the sort of constitutional offense that warrants disqualification from federal office.'

The Democrats' filing made it clear their plan to associate Trump's words with the resulting violence, tracing his efforts to subvert democracy to when he first said last summer that he would not accept the election results, and then through the November contest and his many failed attempts to challenge the results in court.

When those efforts failed, the Democrats wrote, "he turned to improper and abusive means of staying in power," specifically by launching a pressure campaign aimed at state election officials, the Justice Department and Congress.

"The only honorable path at that point was for President Trump to accept the results and concede his electoral defeat. Instead, he summoned a mob to Washington, exhorted them into a frenzy, and aimed them like a loaded cannon down Pennsylvania Avenue," the Democrats wrote in their 77page brief.

The Democrats cited his unsuccessful efforts to sway Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and former Attorney General William Barr. Trump then became "fixated" on Jan. 6, the managers wrote.

They note that many of his supporters, including the Proud Boys — Trump told them to "stand back and stand by" at a September debate — already were primed for violence.

Trump's lawyers, David Schoen and Bruce Castor, denied that he had incited the riot by disputing the election results or by exhorting his followers to "fight like hell." They said he was permitted by the First Amendment to challenge his loss to Democrat Joe Biden as "suspect" and that, in any event, the trial was unconstitutional now that Trump has left the White House.

Lawyers for Trump contested the Democratic characterization of Trump's remarks and his role in the riot. denving that he incited it or that he ever endangered national security. When he told his followers to fight like hell, they said, he was talking about "election security in general."

Trump, they said, was not attempting to interfere with the counting of electoral votes, only encouraging members of Congress to engage in the customary process of challenging vote submissions "under a process written into Congressional rules," as had been done in years past.

"The actions by the House make clear that in their opinion the 45th President does not enjoy the protections of liberty upon which



this great Nation was founded, where free speech, and indeed, free political speech form the backbone of all American liberties," the defense lawyers wrote in a 14page brief.

Trump's legal team also laid out a challenge to the constitutionality of the trial now that Trump has left office. Though that claim might not be resolved any time soon in the courts, it might nonetheless resonate politically.

Republicans have signaled that acquittal is likely, with many saying they think Congress should move on and questioning the constitutionality of an impeachment trial — Trump's second now that he has left office. In a test vote in the Senate last week, 45 Republicans, including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, voted in favor of an effort to dismiss the trial over those constitutional concerns.



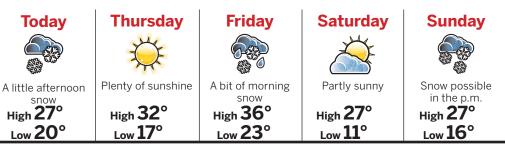
ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Donald Trump boards Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington on Jan. 20 - it was the day he left office as president - en route to his Florida resort.

specifies that disqualification from office can be a punishment for an impeachment conviction, and Democrats made it clear that they see that as a worthwhile objective in this case.

Still, the Constitution been tried after departing the White House, Democrats say there is precedent, pointing to an 1876 impeachment of a secretary of war who resigned his office in a lastditch attempt to avoid an impeachment trial. The Senate

Though no president has held it anyway.



ALMANAC

Pittsfield through 3 p.m. yesterday.

Temperatures	
High	31°
Low	
Normal high	30°
Normal low	13°
Last year high	34°
Last year low	
Record high	54° (1973)
Record low	15° (1961)
Precipitation	
24 hours ending 3 p.m	0.18"
Month to date	
Normal month to date	0.16"
Year to date	1.96"
Last year to date	1.29"
Normal year to date	3.08"
Snowfall	
24 hours ending 3 p.m	7.3"
Month to date	
Normal month to date	0.9"
Season to date	40.6"
Normal season to date	
HEATING DEGREE DAVS	

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

Season to date (normal)

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day. Yesterday 35

> . 77 (88) 3701 (4307)

> > 3829

AccuWeather P	lan your weekend Get the NEW app
E	d anna a la ta a na mar stal a al la s

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021 **REGIONAL CITIES**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thursday Hi/Lo/W
City Amherst Boston Falmouth New Bedford Northampton Provincetown Springfield Albany, NY Lake George, NY Saratoga Springs Troy, NY Bennington, VT Brattleboro, VT Rutland, VT Hartford, CT New Canaan, CT		
Concord, NH Portsmouth, NH	32/25/sn 36/28/c	36/10/s 38/18/pc

NATIONAL FORECAST

<u>City</u>	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thursday Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	62/37/c	50/25/pc
Atlanta	48/30/s	56/48/c
Boise	43/27/sh	44/34/c
Charleston, SC	52/29/s	56/44/pc
Charleston, WV	34/15/s	47/37/c
Chicago	34/27/pc	37/13/i
Cleveland	29/17/pc	37/30/c
Dallas	68/58/pc	70/36/c
Denver	62/25/pc	38/21/pc
Detroit	33/17/s	34/26/sn
Fairbanks	-13/-19/sn	-17/-28/c
Greensboro	47/25/s	49/39/pc
Honolulu	74/63/r	76/63/pc
Houston	69/61/pc	77/50/c
Las Vegas	67/45/c	58/39/s
Los Angeles	66/48/pc	69/48/s
Memphis	52/42/pc	61/32/sh
Miami	68/46/s	71/57/s
Minneapolis	33/30/c	33/4/sn
Myrtle Beach	49/30/s	50/45/pc
New Orleans	62/49/s	72/59/pc
New York City	35/27/c	38/32/s
Orlando	59/35/s	68/44/pc
Philadelphia	35/25/pc	40/29/pc
Phoenix	77/53/c	70/45/pc
Pittsburgh	31/13/c	36/33/pc
Providence	34/28/sf	40/25/s
St. Louis	45/37/pc	48/24/r
San Diego	64/52/c	64/48/s
San Francisco	55/44/c	57/43/s
Seattle	48/40/c	47/44/r
Tampa	59/42/s	66/50/s
Washington, DC	40/27/pc	44/37/pc
Wichita	56/43/pc	44/24/pc

JOIN OUR TEAM! Classified Advertising Sales Specialist

The Berkshire Eagle is currently looking for a Classified Advertising Sales Representative to work within our team. This position is based in our Pittsfield, MA office.

We are willing to train the right individual. Seeking a selfstarter with telephone sales experience. Basic computer skills are required. This is a full time position Monday-Friday. We offer a competitive base with commission opportunities.

Our full-time benefits package offers health, dental, vision, life insurance, 401k, vacation and sick time. To apply, please complete the on-line application at berkshireeagle.com/apply and attach your resume and cover letter

The Berkshire Eagle

berkshireeagle.com/apply New England Newspapers is an EOE

Last year season to date SKYWATCH SOURCE: PATRICK ROWAN Insert text here. Max is FOUR lines.

Month to date (normal)

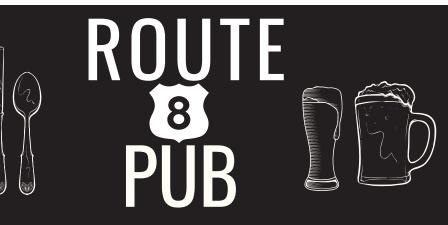
Venus sets	4:02 p.m.
Mars sets	12:51 a.m.
Jupiter sets	4:44 p.m.
Saturn sets	4·18 p.m

SUN SETTINGS, MOON PHASES

Sunrise Sunset	7:05 a.m. 5:10 p.m.		10:2	none 6 a.m.
Hours of sunligh			lacksquare	0
10111., 0511111.	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 19	Feb 27
SKI REPOR	т			
Resort	Snow Base	New Snow		
Berkshire East	10-40	2	31	4
Blue Hill Ski	22-22	0	5	3
Bousquet Ski .	12-24	0	9	3
Catamount Ski	i 17-30	14	26	5
Jiminy Peak	24-60	12	45	5
Nashoba Valley	/ 14-14	0	0	0
Otis Ridge	6-12	0	6	0
Ski Butternut .	18-34	0	22	6

Source: OnTheSnow.com

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice



3235 Main Street, Becket MA 413-623-6026

We serve a wide variety of entrees, sandwiches, pizzas and more

Newly expanded Pizza Menu includes your favorite classics as well as exciting alternatives like our Greek Pizza, our famous Margherita Pizza and a cult classic Spinach and Pesto Pizza. And of course you can create your own pizza by selecting from our extensive toppings list.

> And nothing beats our homemade desserts. Beer, wine and mixed drinks available.

> > www.route8pub.com



GRAND **OPENING**

FEB. 8TH

Canna Corner

Open everyday 10am-7pm 413-770-4283

Located in the Route 8 Pub & **Becket Liquor Store Plaza** 3235 Main St., Becket, MA

ence of this drug. This product has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA and there may be associated health risks. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast feeding may pose potential harms. It is against the law to dri r the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product nt effects of Edibles may be delayed by two hours or more. In case of accidental inge