Defense: Dems seek to overturn vote

Trump lawyers portray president as undermined ahead of reelection bid

Eric Tucker, Lisa Mascaro and Zeke Miller ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s lawyers plunged into their im- peachment trial defense Saturday by accusing Democrats of striving to over- turn the 2016 election, and arguing that investigations of Trump’s dealings with Ukraine have not been a fact-finding mission but a politically motivated ef- fort to drive him from the White House. “They’re here to perpetuate the most massive interference in an election in American history,” White House Coun- sel Pat Cipollone told senators. “And we can’t allow that to happen.” The Trump legal team’s arguments in the rare Saturday session were aimed at rebutting allegations that the presi- dent abused his power when he asked Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and then obstructed Con- gress as it tried to investigate. The law- yers are fighting what they call a preen- derous defense asserting an expan- sive view of presidential powers and portraying Trump as hoisted by polit- ical opponents determined to ensure

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Every impeachment trial to date has included witnesses. Page 2A

Report: Recording captures Trump’s call to envoy to Ukraine. Page 10A

Redistricting plan could give voters leverage in courtroom

Patrick Marley Milwaukee Journal Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MADISON - Gov. Tony Evers’ plan for a nonpartisan redistricting plan won praise in the short term but may give him leverage in an inevitable lawsuit over Wisconsin’s legislative and congressional districts.

During Wednesday’s State of the State address, the Democratic govern- or announced he would form a com- mission that would hold hearings across the state and use what it learned to draw election maps without concern for partisan advantage. It’s part of his long running effort to shift the politics from redistricting.

Republicans who firmly control the Legislature said they would reject any maps his commission develops and questioned how fair his maps would be. It’s clear he won’t get his way with the maps.

Nonetheless, his idea could have a big influence on the process — and the eventual maps that are adopted.

States have to draw new maps every 10 years to account for changes in pop- ulation. In 2011, Republicans con- trolled all of state government and were able to put in place maps that gave them big advantages at the polls.

When new maps are drawn next year, Republicans will likely hold the Legislature, but they won’t have the governor’s office. If Evers and Repub- licans can’t agree on new maps, it will be up to the courts to decide what the new maps will be.

And that’s where Evers’ process could go astray.

Republicans drew the 2011 maps in secret, in a secure room in the offices of law firm Michael Best & Friedrich. The maps used specialized software to fine-tune the maps to maximize their electoral edge. Republican lawmakers had to sign secrecy agreements to get a peek at what their own districts would look like.

A panel of federal judges found their method disgusting.

“What could have — indeed should have — been accomplished publicly instead took place in private, in an all but shameless attempt to foist the redistricting process from public

Quince Mountain and Blair Braverman at the start of Iditarod 2019. COURTESY ANTONIA MURPHY

Meet mushers and writers Blair Braverman and Quince Mountain.

WISCONSIN’S MOST FASCINATING COUPLE

Keith Ullig milwaukee journal sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MOUNTAIN - He was the first transgender person to appear on the TV reality survival show “Naked and Afraid.”

She is the author of the 2016 memoir “Welcome to the Goddamn Ice Cube: Chasing Fear and Finding Home in the Great White North,” a groundbreaking book that gained critical ac- claim for laying bare the sexism, violence and methods disgusting.

He once worked as a cowboy but is now in training for the Iditarod, the world’s most fam- ous sled dog race. And he’s allergic to dogs.

She writes an advice column and was re- cently named-dropped in a clue to a USA TO- DAy crossword puzzle.

They are Quince Mountain and Blair Bra- verman. And even though there’s no metric to measure the most interesting married couple