

Impeachment: 51 votes needed to approve rules, call witnesses

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charges with a tally reflecting the nation's split.

The House impeached Trump last month alleging he abused his presidential power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, using military aid to the country as leverage. Trump was also charged with obstructing Congress' ensuing probe.

"This is what an impeachment is about," Pelosi said before the vote. "The president violated his oath of office, undermined our national security, jeopardized the integrity of our elections."

Trump's political campaign dismissed the House effort as "just a failed attempt to politically damage President Trump leading up to his re-election."

The top Republican in the House, Kevin McCarthy of California, said Americans will look back on this "sad saga" that tried to remove the president from office with the "weakest case."

The president's team expects acquittal with a Senate trial lasting no more than two weeks, according to senior administration officials unauthorized to discuss the matter and granted anonymity.

That's far shorter than the last presidential impeachment trial, of Bill Clinton, in 1999, or the first one, of Andrew Johnson, in 1868.

As McConnell sets the rules for the trial, Trump has given mixed messages about whether he prefers lengthy or swift proceeding, and senators are under pressure with the emerging new evidence to call more witnesses for testimony.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California speaks as the House of Representatives debates the impeachment managers resolution at the Capitol in Washington on Wednesday.

The seven-member prosecution team was led by the chairmen of the House impeachment proceedings, Reps. Adam Schiff of the Intelligence Committee and Jerry Nadler of the Judiciary Committee, two of Pelosi's top lieutenants.

"President Trump gravely abused the power of his office," Nadler said. "He did all this for his personal political gain."

Ahead of Wednesday's session, Schiff released new records from Lev Parnas, an associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, about the Ukraine strategy, including an exchange with another man about surveilling later-fired Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch.

Schiff said the new evidence should bring more pressure on McConnell, who is reluctant to allow witnesses to testify and prefers swift acquittal. The White House has instructed officials not to comply with House subpoenas for testimony and documents.

"The challenge is to get a fair trial," Schiff said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It shouldn't be a challenge — if the senators are really going to live up to their oath to be impartial, they'll want a fair trial. That's obviously not where Mitch McConnell is coming from."

The managers are a diverse group with legal, law enforcement and military experience, including Hakeem Jef-

fries of New York, Sylvia Garcia of Texas, Val Demings of Florida, Jason Crow of Colorado and Zoe Lofgren of California.

Two are freshmen lawmakers — Crow a former Army Ranger who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Garcia a former judge in Houston. Demings is the former police chief of Orlando and Jeffries is a lawyer and member of party leadership. Lofgren has the rare credential of having worked on the congressional staff investigation of then-President Richard Nixon's impeachment — he resigned before the full House voted on the charges — and then being an elected lawmaker during Bill Clinton's.

For the roll call, all but

one Democrat, Rep. Colin Peterson of Minnesota, voted to transmit the articles. All Republicans voted against. One former Republican-turned-independent, Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, joined Democrats.

McConnell faces competing interests from his party for more witnesses, from centrists who are siding with Democrats on the need to hear testimony and conservatives mounting Trump's defense.

Senate Republicans signaled they would reject the idea of simply voting to dismiss the articles of impeachment against Trump, as Trump himself has suggested. McConnell agreed he does not have the votes to do

that.

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is leading an effort among some Republicans, including Mitt Romney of Utah, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, to consider Senate witnesses. She told reporters she was satisfied the rules will allow votes on that.

Romney said he wants to hear from John Bolton, the former national security adviser at the White House, who others have said raised alarms about the alternative foreign policy toward Ukraine being run by Giuliani.

Those or any four senators could force an outcome. Republicans control the chamber, 53-47, and are all but certain to acquit Trump. But it takes just 51 votes during the trial to approve rules or call witnesses. It also would take only 51 senators to vote to dismiss the charges against Trump.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and other Republicans want to subpoena Biden and his son, Hunter, who served on the board of a gas company in Ukraine, Burisma, while his father was vice president.

McConnell prefers to model Trump's trial partly on the process used for Clinton's impeachment trial in 1999, which considered witnesses later.

McConnell is hesitant to call new witnesses who would prolong the trial and put vulnerable senators who are up for re-election in 2020 in a bind with tough choices. At the same time, he wants to give those same senators ample room to show voters they are listening.



Tracey Bosen, co-proprietor of the Pendleton House bed-and-breakfast, takes 10 pint bottles of 1913 whiskey from where they were found by a workman in the attic under a pile of old roofing tiles.



A workman discovered a cache of 1913 whiskey in the attic under a pile of vintage terra cotta roofing tiles while prepping for insulation work.

Whiskey: 1920s high school prom was once held in the basement

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found out about Harp's discovery when the workman hurried noisily down the house's ornate staircase.

"I heard John quickly stomping downstairs," Bosen said.

They trekked back to the attic where they stared at the cache of bottles. No way, Bosen thought, not again. He grinned and called his partner.

"He said, 'You better come home — we found more whiskey,'" said Michel, who at first thought Bosen was joking.

The pair peered at the bottles. The label said the whiskey was "bottled in bond," which refers to the Bottle-In-Bond Act of 1897, in effect the country's first consumer protection law. The law required that whiskey must be the product of a single distillery, aged in a federally bonded warehouse for four years and bottled at 100 proof.

These bottles weren't in as pristine a condition as the first cache of bottles. A few bore cracks. One contained only sediment.

Since buying the house at 311 N. Main in 2014, Bosen and Michel have found other clues about past occupants. When they tore out the dumbwaiter, they found a large stack of stogie butts.

Lowell Rogers, the house's original owner with his wife Minnie, was reportedly a cigar smoker.

"There were a bunch of

"THESE ARE TREASURES THAT BELONG TO THE HOUSE"

— Tracey Bosen

stogie butts on top of the dumbwaiter box," Bosen said. "He had stuck them through a knothole and they had landed there."

The men have heard plenty of stories of a still in the house and how Mr. Rogers may have moonlighted from his day job as founder and owner of the Rogers cannery.

"A gentleman came to the house and said that as a kid he and his father would come here during Prohibition," Bosen said. "As a kid, he didn't know what was going on. As they would shake hands and part, Mr. Rogers handed his father a brown paper bag with something shaped like a bottle inside."

Bosen and Michel, who are partners in business and in life, fell in love with the 7,000-square-foot house when it belonged to last owner and friend Mar- ijo Baird. The home boasts ornate ceilings, thick walls, four garages, a chandelier in a bathroom and a four-person elevator installed in 1947 for the Rogers' daughter Gwendolyn, who had polio.

One year in the 1920s, the high school held the prom in the basement. Many of the

rooms remain a pale pink, Mrs. Rogers' favorite color. After a trip to Italy in 1922, Mrs. Rogers had the brick home covered in stucco and painted in pinkish hues.

The couple, whose wealth came from a pea growing and canning operation, often held parties at the home.

"I have this image of this house as a party place, but not in a negative way," Bosen said. "People came here to be entertained. They were gracious and very generous."

The couple was also known for its philanthropic giving, Michel said.

Ernest and Carolyn Rostock, who bought the house in 1988 for \$110,000, transformed the home into a bed-and-breakfast.

Bosen and Michel aren't yet sure what they will do with their growing collection of Prohibition-era whiskey. When they remodel the third story into a guest suite, they may call it the Whiskey Room. Both men love a good glass of whiskey, so they are considering uncorking one or more of the bottles, but then again, maybe not.

"These are treasures that belong to the house," Bosen said. "I don't even care about finding gold coins or stock certificates. This is just perfect."

If they do open any of the whiskey, Michel said, the uncorking would likely take place on July 4, the day Lowell Rogers died in 1954.

Deer: 'Mule deer are still susceptible, but not nearly to the same degree'

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disease was found, a disease spread by biting gnats that breed in pools of stagnant water — sometimes as small as a hoof print.

Rimbach said he believes the late summer and early fall weather contributed to the spread of the disease.

"My opinion is it was a perfect storm for biting midge production," Rim-

bach said. "Starting with archery season, we had a lot of moisture and warm temperatures and there were puddles everywhere."

The outbreak seemed to be somewhat limited to Umatilla County, but Rimbach said wildlife managers in Southeastern Washington also reported seeing fewer white-tailed deer this fall.

Mule deer, Rimbach

said, are not nearly as susceptible to hemorrhagic diseases and have not been affected by the outbreak, which he said could be due to a genetic disposition.

"Mule deer are still susceptible, but not nearly to the same degree," he said.

Not all deer infected with the virus die, Rimbach said, but will be sick for a while, compromising their health as winter approaches.

White-tailed deer numbers are on the rise in Eastern Oregon, but the die-off has the state wildlife department determining whether to reduce the number of deer tags or cancel hunts in the Walla Walla, Mount Emily and Ukiah hunting units. The state agency reported it will inform hunters of any changes by April 15 so they have time to change their controlled hunt application

choices before the May 15 deadline.

"It's unfortunate, but the only thing we can do is manage our hunters," Rimbach said.

If Rimbach does decide to cancel some of the tags in the Walla Walla, Mt. Emily and Ukiah hunting units, he said it won't affect buck deer rifle hunting.

Meat from game with EHD is consumable and

the disease is not transmissible to humans, according to the wildlife department, but experts recommend thoroughly cooking any meat from animals from an infected area. Well-cooked venison, Rimbach said, would be just fine.

"I would eat it," he said.

La Grande Observer Editor Phil Wright contributed to this report.