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SPORTS > C1

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BUSINESS > A10

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017



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Trump pours more fuel on intel fire before briefing

BACKS ASSANGE THAT DNC EMAILS NOT FROM RUSSIA

Spy agency, CIA may face overhaul

By JULIE PACE and EILEEN SULLIVAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday escalated his public challenge to the U.S. intelligence agencies he will soon oversee, appearing to

embrace WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's contention that Russia did not provide his group with the hacked Democratic emails that roiled the 2016 election.

Trump's defiance has increased the pressure on intelligence officials to provide

decisive evidence of Russian election interference. A full report was ordered by President Obama last month, and Obama will receive the report and be briefed on it Thursday, according to a White House official who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity. High-level intelligence officials also are heading to New York to brief Trump on the classified findings Friday.

The Obama administration also plans to make an unclassified version public
See > TRUMP, A14

Flu kills 8 in county as season ramps up

HOSPITALS HIT HARD

This season's strain can be more severe; it's not too late for immunization

By BOB YOUNG
Seattle Times staff reporter

King County has seen eight flu-related deaths in what is now a moderate-to-severe flu season, according to public-health officials.

Local hospitals are being hit hard as flu-related visits to hospital emergency rooms have jumped in recent weeks, said Dr. Jeff Duchin, health officer for Public Health - Seattle & King County, at a Wednesday news conference.

Duchin said 5 percent of recent emergency-room visits across the county are related to the flu. The pre-season baseline, he said, is 2 percent. "It's a pretty vigorous flu season happening here."

The eight people who died were between 63 and 94 years old, Duchin said. Most flu-related deaths occur in people 65 and older, according to state data.

Statewide, 2014-15 was the worst flu season in the last five years, with 157 laboratory-confirmed deaths associated with the flu.

This season's flu, the H3N2 strain, is known for more severe illness and deaths and is the one that struck in 2014-15, said Paul Throne, a state Department of Health spokesman.

"I think we could easily see many more deaths. It's early still," Throne said of the flu season. "It's coming on quickly, earlier and stronger than it has for the last couple years."

Snohomish County has reported four flu-related deaths. Three of those were people at least 80 years old. The other was in her 50s, according to Snohomish Health District.

In the last week of December, Snohomish County had its highest number of hospitalizations for flu
See > FLU, A8

Offbeat malaria tests reach vaccine milestone

SEATTLE LAB | None of the volunteers injected with malaria-infected mosquitos got sick, but a commercial vaccine based on this method isn't likely for years.



LOGAN RIELY / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Dr. Sebastian Milolajczak, scientist for malaria research at the Center for Infectious Disease Research in South Lake Union, demonstrates with noninfected mosquitoes how volunteers were bitten.

By SANDI DOUGHTON
Seattle Times science reporter

Getting bit by malaria-infected mosquitoes may seem like an odd way to protect yourself against the disease, but Seattle researchers have demonstrated that the unconventional strategy can work.

In an experimental trial, 10 local volunteers bared their forearms to the bloodsucking insects — and no one got sick, scientists reported Wednesday in the journal Science Translational Medicine. After the bites, the volunteers' bodies produced antibodies that could be potent enough to confer immunity to future infections.

"We are very excited," said team leader Stefan Kappe, of the Center for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR) in the South Lake Union neighborhood. "It's really a milestone in the development of a vaccine."

It took Kappe and his group more than a decade to reach that milestone. It may be another 10 years before they have a commercial vaccine based on an approach long considered intriguing — but highly impractical.

"This is an important first step, but there are several pretty large challenges still on the horizon before this could be considered a product that's going to help those who need it most," said Ashley Birkett, director of the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, which was not involved in the project.

Malaria, which kills more than 400,000 people every year, is caused by a parasite transmitted to humans via mosquito bites. Kappe set out to create a weakened form of the parasite, which would stimulate immunity but pose no risk of infection, and use it as the basis for a vaccine.

See > VACCINE, A8

"This is an important first step, but there are several pretty large challenges still on the horizon before this could be considered a product that's going to help those who need it most."

ASHLEY BIRKETT
Director of the PATH
Malaria Vaccine
Initiative

Al Sugiyama, 67, empowered Seattle's Asian-American community

OBITUARY |

By PAIGE CORNWELL
Seattle Times staff reporter

Alan Sugiyama, a prominent Seattle activist who founded the Center for Career Alternatives and served as the first Asian-American member of the Seattle School Board, died Monday. He was 67.

Mr. Sugiyama was diagnosed with cancer two years ago, said longtime friend Frank Irigon, who first met Sugiyama in the early 1970s and co-founded a monthly pan-Asian newspaper, the Asian Family Affair, with him. He was hospitalized in November during a family vacation in Hawaii, where he learned that the cancer had spread to his brain.

"We really do believe he didn't want to go, that there were more battles to do and that he needed to be a part of," Irigon said. "But he was in so much pain. He was just in so much pain."

Mr. Sugiyama's activism spanned more than five decades, starting when he graduated from Garfield High School at the height of the Civil Rights era. He co-founded the Oriental Student Union at Seattle Central Community College and organized demonstrations calling for Asians to be hired for higher-level positions there and for the college to offer Asian-American studies classes. He was a leader in the Asian Student Coalition at the University of Washington, where he transferred in 1971.

Around that time, Irigon left a note saying he planned to protest near the future site of the



BETTY UDESEN / THE SEATTLE TIME, 1995

Al Sugiyama was the first Asian-American member of the Seattle School Board.

Kingdome, which they thought would have a negative effect on the Chinatown International
See > OBITUARY, A9

Fund For The Needy



ERIKA SCHULTZ / SEATTLE TIMES

YES 'ended up being awesome'

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> NW THURSDAY, B1

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