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Expect clashing views of Trump conduct

IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS | Two parties prepare to make their case on Ukraine affair

By TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA, RACHAEL BADE AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The House will begin the public phase of its impeachment inquiry Wednesday with a televised hearing in which Democrats and Republicans plan to offer competing narratives of whether President Donald Trump

inappropriately pressured Ukraine to investigate his political rivals.

With separate practice sessions and in opposing memos, the two parties signaled Tuesday how they planned to present radically different interpretations of Trump's actions and whether they were impeachable.

Democrats expressed confidence

that Wednesday's hearing would begin a serious and somber process of publicly exposing Trump's misconduct, narrated by career diplomats who were alarmed by the president's push to have Ukraine investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, as well as a debunked theory concerning the 2016 election, in exchange for military aid and a White House visit coveted by Ukraine's new leader.

"It's time for these witnesses to

Catch the hearings live

The hearings will be livestreamed on seattletimes.com; PBS will carry the hearings live, as will C-SPAN3, C-span.org and C-SPAN Radio.

go before the American people and lay out what they saw in this extortion scheme," said Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif., a member of the House Intelligence Committee, which will be host to the public proceedings.

In mock hearings at the Capitol, Republicans prepared to defend Trump while painting the impeachment probe as a thinly veiled show trial designed to take down a president who did nothing wrong.

"We're just making sure we're prepared and ready to go for the hearing tomorrow," said House

See > **INQUIRY, A9**

WHAT ELSE TO know as inquiry goes public > A8

MLS CUP

SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC ★★ CHAMPIONSHIP PARADE

A WIN FOR THE AGES



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Hoisting blue-and-green scarves, thousands of fans cheer the Seattle Sounders' MLS Cup win during a victory parade in downtown Seattle on Tuesday. The celebration wound from Fourth Avenue to Seattle Center. > SEE STORY ON B1.

One Seattle Children's surgical patient ill from mold

By RYAN BLETHEN
Seattle Times staff reporter

A surgical patient at Seattle Children's hospital contracted an infection from a fungus that was found in three operating rooms, the hospital confirmed Tuesday.

Tests at Seattle Children's found *Aspergillus* mold in three of the 14 operating rooms and two procedural areas at the hospital's Seattle campus, adding a new chapter in an ongoing struggle with fungal infections at the region's noted pediatric hospital.

Closure this week of the contaminated rooms comes about four months after all the hospital's operating rooms were found to harbor *Aspergillus* and were closed for more than a month. It's not clear how long the rooms will be closed due to the latest tests.

Testing for *Aspergillus* in the operating rooms and affiliated areas has been happening at least once a week since July 4, when they were reopened following the earlier infections. That testing will continue, Children's spokeswoman Kathryn Mueller said in an email.

Three other patients were sickened by the fungus earlier this year at Seattle Children's, after three patients who were infected in 2018. One of those patients died this past spring.

Children's is monitoring a second patient who might also have contracted aspergillosis, the disease caused by the mold. Patients are typically infected when dust is stirred up during renovation or construction at a hospital, or through contaminated biomedical devices.

Hospital officials are monitoring other patients considered at high risk of infection, Mueller said, although she did not say how many patients are being watched or how many people might have been exposed.

About 3,000 patients and their families were notified when the operating rooms were shut down in May.

See > **MOLD, A7**

Plotting future of gifted-student program requires grasp of its half-century-long past

By DAHLIA BAZZAZ
Seattle Times staff reporter

The parents and students huddled behind the microphone, irritated or encouraged by the district's proposal to blend gifted and general-education students at Washington Middle School.

Tensions ran high at last week's Seattle School Board meeting because it came shortly after the district proposed to do the same with its entire highly selective gifted program. Neither plan moved ahead.

"Going back to the failed model of expecting teachers to just do more and differentiate across several grade levels in every classroom and every school is not a



plan," parent Kathleen Lendvay told the board.

Washington Middle is a microcosm of the feverish debate over addressing racial segregation in what's known as the Highly Capable Cohort (HCC).

As district officials focus on what they call educational justice for black students, they point to a mismatch between overall demographics and the students who get to be called "highly capable": while last fall, 14.2% of SPS students were black, just 1.7% of students in HCC

were. The rest were predominantly white and Asian. So the district proposed phasing it out and delegating that programming to neighborhood schools.

HCC, which offers coursework up to two years above grade level in math and reading, is the main way that Seattle delivers accelerated instruction. Access is concentrated in a network of select schools, where about 5,000 gifted students learn together, separate from the rest of the school.

While state law requires districts to identify and serve gifted students, it does not require the specialized cohort model.

In trying to phase it out, district officials pointed to the system's

history. The presentation they've used to make their case to the public and board members shows a timeline starting in the 1980s and mentions two programs, one of which encouraged white families to participate in school desegregation. The disproportionality has existed since that time, they say.

But that version of events is incomplete. The timeline goes back further: According to district archives, Seattle's first iterations of gifted education actually arrived in the 1960s. Those earlier efforts championed IQ tests to answer the question districts from Northshore to New York have asked: Who are the exceptional kids?

A national movement

For as long as society has measured intelligence, its members have argued over how to do it.

The first government entity to

See > **HISTORY, A10**



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