



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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CALL WAS 'INAPPROPRIATE'

AIDES' TESTIMONY GIVES FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF TRUMP'S INTERACTION

All eyes turn to Sondland in impeachment probe

BY AARON C. DAVIS AND RACHAEL BADE
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Only a handful of subordinates to a U.S. president have ever found themselves in the unenviable position of deciding whether to publicly implicate the commander in chief in impeachment proceedings — John Dean, Monica Lewinsky and others whose names are seared into American history.

No one, however, has faced quite the dilemma now confronting Gordon Sondland.

The evidence gathered to date points to Sondland as the witness who, more than any other, could tie President Donald Trump directly to the effort to persuade Ukraine to launch investigations that might benefit him politically.

On Wednesday, with cameras rolling, the millionaire Republican donor-turned-ambassador could solidify the case against Trump, though doing so would require that he revise his previous testimony or acknowledge significant omissions.

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Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, the European affairs director at the National Security Council, testified on Tuesday, 'I was concerned by the (Trump-Zelinskiy) call. What I heard was inappropriate.'

Jennifer Williams, Vice President Mike Pence's special adviser on Europe and Russia, said she was 'surprised' by Trump's tweet about her, which suggested she was among a group of 'Never Trumpers.'



Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, testifies next. He could tie Trump directly to the effort to persuade Ukraine to launch investigations that might benefit him politically.

4 witnesses face intense questioning in hearings

BY SARAH D. WIRE, MOLLY O'TOOLE AND DEL QUENTIN WILBER
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — White House aides who listened in on President Donald Trump's controversial call with Ukraine's president testified publicly for the first time Tuesday, bringing the impeachment inquiry directly into the White House and providing damaging new details about Trump's efforts to press a foreign leader to investigate his political rivals while he held up crucial military aid.

The firsthand testimony countered days of complaints from Trump and his allies that previous testimony in the House Intelligence Committee was based on secondhand accounts. Instead, the public heard from several officials or staffers who were on the call, or attended White House meetings, at the root of the inquiry.

The third day of hearings in the Democratic-led inquiry dragged on for more than 11 hours as lawmakers from both sides peppered four witnesses

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KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM DAY 3 OF HEARINGS > A7

Spring launch envisioned for Cure Violence



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St. Louis police investigate the scene of a homicide in the 5300 block of Ridge Avenue in St. Louis on Tuesday. City leaders are counting on the Cure Violence program to reduce the city's murder rate. For more on the deadly shooting that took place near a day care center, turn to **page A6**.

City aims to identify a local group to run crime reduction program

RIGHT • Eric Harris, left, a volunteer with Better Family Life, talks to Edward Gray on Monday outside Gray's Wells-Goodfellow home on Wabada Avenue. The organization often canvasses high-violence neighborhoods seeking to help residents in need of basic services.



CHRISTIAN GOODEN, CGOODEN@POST-DISPATCH.COM

BY RACHEL RICE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Leaders here are betting on a national violence prevention model to stem the tide of murders in the city. They hope to launch the program, called Cure Violence, as soon as March in three troubled city neighborhoods.

But the city won't run the program itself, and neither will Cure Violence. Instead, leaders are looking to contract with local entities such as Washington University's Institute of Public Health, or a nonprofit organization like the Urban League or Better Family Life.

A city committee is evaluating proposals,

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New freeholder nominees from Krewson could face pushback

BY MARK SCHLINKMANN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Mayor Lyda Krewson, hoping to end an impasse over who will represent the city on the regional Board of Freeholders, on Tuesday submitted names of four new nominees, but again faced potential opposition from aldermen who complained the choices were not fully representative.

Although the substitute names were recommended to Krewson by the chairman of an aldermanic committee that has held up action on her initial nine-person slate for a month, the panel on Tuesday opted for further delay.

Krewson's new picks are former Alderman Antonio French, a local newspaper publisher; Dwinderlin Evans, the 4th Ward Democratic committeewoman; JoAnn Williams, a retired official with the Carpenters Union; and Jon-Pierre Mitchom, director of equity and inclusion at St. Louis Priory School.

Some Intergovernmental Affairs Committee members complained at a meeting Tuesday that they hadn't been involved in behind-the-scenes maneuvering

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Booming Grove adds two big residential projects • A4

Outside investigation clears Trakas of wrongdoing • A4

Blues snap 3-game losing streak against Tampa • B1

Three different ways to cook your turkey • LET'S EAT

Schmitt backs legislation to remove police residency requirement

BY KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY — With St. Louis leaders unable to agree, Missouri's Republican-led Legislature could step in and remove the residency requirement for police officers in St. Louis.

Attorney General Eric Schmitt said Tuesday he is backing a plan

that would lift the requirement in an attempt to boost efforts to recruit and retain officers.

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department reports it is down 124 officers this year.

"This requirement has and is keeping good, qualified candidates from applying to serve our communities and to fight crime.

Put simply: more officers means more brave, dedicated individuals patrolling St. Louis streets and keeping residents safe," Schmitt, a Republican who is seeking a full, four-year term in 2020, said at a news conference.

The residency issue has vexed local officials for years.

In September, the Board of Al-

dermen rejected putting repeal of the residency rule for police and most other city employees before voters next year, dealing a political setback to Mayor Lyda Krewson.

The mayor has made scrapping the residency rule — especially

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