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PACIFIC NW MAGAZINE



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The Seattle Times Sunday

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Chaos, trash and tears

INSIDE SEATTLE'S FLAWED HOMELESS SWEEPS



BETTINA HANSEN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Homeless campers relocate their belongings across South Jackson Street as maintenance workers from the state Department of Transportation clear encampments under Interstate 5 in Seattle. After the sweep, the campers moved their tents back under the freeway overhang.

TIMES WATCHDOG | Cleaning up camps is a key part of Seattle's strategy to address its homeless crisis. But disorganized efforts undermine the city's goals.

By MIKE BAKER
Seattle Times staff reporter

ONE MORNING THIS SPRING, UNDER INTERSTATE 5 ALONG JACKSON STREET, residents of a homeless camp emerged from tents and shelters built from broken branches to find state crews and a dump truck arriving on scene.

The day before, workers had handed out green trash bags, telling the dwellers that cleaning the Seattle site could save them from eviction. The bags sat filled to capacity, but the state crews had returned for a broader mission: to clear out all belongings and people.

The miscommunication left those living in the camp — some cursing, some crying — in a scramble to move personal items across the street before a mini excavator could scoop everything into a truck headed for the dump. The city has emphasized the importance of having outreach workers involved in the camp sweeps connect



BETTINA HANSEN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Hypodermic syringes are seen in a small homeless camp in the parking lot on Seventh Avenue between James and Cherry streets. State Department of Corrections workers disposed of them.

the ousted residents to a variety of services. But no outreach workers arrived to help that day.

In observing more than a dozen sweeps that took place across Seattle over the past

five months, The Seattle Times witnessed a series of disorganized attempts that undermined the city's goal of maintaining a humane and productive cleanup process.

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Microsoft temps gain first contract

RARE FOR TECH WORKERS

Greater benefits, but union loses provision on firm as joint employer

By MATT DAY
Seattle Times technology reporter

A group of temporary workers at Microsoft has signed its first union contract with their employer, a rare feat in a technology industry typically unfriendly to organized labor.

But the deal, sealed after almost two years of contentious talks, comes at a cost.

This month more than a third of the union's 33 members, employed by Lionbridge Technologies in Bellevue, were laid off or agreed to leave voluntarily amid the threat of deeper cuts. Union members say they were told the reduced head count is the result of less work coming from Microsoft, the team's only client.

For Philippe Boucher, the 66-year-old French immigrant who spearheaded the creation of the independent Temporary Workers of America (TWA), the union drive is evidence that in

See > MICROSOFT, A6

For critics of Kremlin, speaking out is often deadly

By ANDREW E. KRAMER
The New York Times

MOSCOW — From a certain perspective, certainly the Kremlin's, Vladimir Kara-Murza's behavior in Washington could be seen as treasonous, a brazen betrayal of his homeland.

In a series of public meetings on Capitol Hill, Kara-Murza, a leader in the Russian opposition, urged U.S. lawmakers to expand economic sanctions against the Russian government under a law known as the Magnitsky Act. That would hasten political change in Russia, he argued.

Back in Moscow a month later, in May 2015, the changes Kara-Murza detected were going on in his own body.

Midway through a meeting with fellow dissidents, beads of sweat inexplicably dotted his

See > KREMLIN, A4

Many nations crave just one Olympic medal

By DAVID SEGAL
The New York Times

RIO DE JANEIRO — The last hope for Cameroon to win a 2016 Olympic medal arrived in the wrestling arena Thursday night in the stern and determined form of Annabel Laure Ali, 31, who would vie for a bronze in the women's freestyle competition. Gladiatorial rock music blasted from loud-

speakers as Ali walked to the mat a few feet behind her opponent, Ekaterina Bukina of Russia.

It had been a tough Olympics for the Central African nation of 22 million.

The media in Cameroon belittled the performance as "Operation Zero Medals." By 5 p.m. Thursday, only Ali could save the country from an Olympic shutout.

"I win, I lose," she had said in an interview about pressure a few hours earlier. "I don't want to regret after."

For all their egalitarian aspirations, embodied by the parade in the opening ceremony, the Olympics are a highly lopsided affair. Through Friday, the five most victorious countries had claimed nearly 40 percent of all the

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RIO 2016

Gold No. 6: U.S. women's basketball crushes Spain > c6

U.S. picks up gold in men's 1,500, first since 1908 > c7

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