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Inside the head-tax battle, Amazon's number was focus

WEEKEND WRANGLING
Getting to yes required hours of talking — and compromise

By DANIEL BEEKMAN
Seattle Times staff reporter

As high-pressure negotiations over Seattle's new head tax played out last weekend, one number loomed large on a white board in Mayor Jenny Durkan's office: Amazon's number.

Wrestling with Councilmember M. Lorena González over the size of the tax, the mayor insisted on a tax no larger than \$250 per employee, per year because that was the most Amazon representatives had told her they would accept, González recalled.

The company had paused planning on an office tower over the prospect of a \$500-per-employee tax, and Durkan was determined to get the project and its union construction jobs back on track. "There was a white board,"

González said, describing a three-hour meeting Saturday afternoon in Durkan's office on the seventh floor of City Hall. "There was a council option and a mayor's option, and the mayor's option was consistently \$250."

Durkan told a similar story, though her office stressed she pushed Amazon up to that number from zero and spoke to many other businesses about the tax.

"I believed that common ground was not only possible but necessary for us as a city," the mayor said.

However it was arrived at, the prominence of the figure illustrates the enormous weight the city's largest employer carried in the weekend deliberations — even without a representative in the room.

González was pushing for more money to fund low-income housing and homeless programs. She and four colleagues had proposed a tax of \$500 but had been blocked by the remainder of the council and the threat of a Durkan veto.

See > **HEAD TAX, A5**

Trump Jr. not fazed by Russia meeting

SENATE PANEL RELEASES TRANSCRIPTS

President's son had hoped for damaging Clinton info

By ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK AND CHAD DAY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Questioned intently by a Senate committee, President Donald Trump's son struck a firmly unapologetic tone, deflected many queries and said he didn't think there was anything wrong with meeting a Russian lawyer at Trump Tower in hopes of election-season dirt on Hillary Clinton, according to transcripts released Wednesday.

Asked if he was troubled by the idea that the meeting in June 2016 was part of a Russian government effort to help his father in the presidential race, Donald Trump Jr. said he didn't give it much thought.

"I don't know that it alarmed me, but I like I said, I don't know and I don't know that I was all that focused on it at the time," Trump Jr. told the Senate Judiciary Committee in the closed-door interview last year.

The committee released more than 1,800 pages of transcripts of interviews with Trump Jr. and others who attended the New York meeting at which they expected to receive compromising information about Trump's Democratic opponent. The panel also released more than 700 pages of exhibits including numerous emails, heavily redacted phone logs and court depositions.

The Trump Tower meeting is a key point of interest in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible election collusion.

See > **PROBE, A4**



SOFTWARE DEVELOPER IS THE MOST COMMON JOB IN SEATTLE

By GENE BALK / FYI GUY
Seattle Times columnist

There's a new top job in town.

Software developer is now the most common occupation in the Seattle area. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 60,000 employed in that field here. Retail salesperson, the former No. 1 job in Seattle (and still the most common job in the U.S.), fell by the wayside in 2016.

Another remarkable thing about software developers in Seattle: Four out of five of them are men.

That statistic may be striking, but it probably doesn't come as much of a surprise. The gender gap in tech, and the reasons behind it, are well-publicized and even controversial. Researchers have studied it, and the media have scrutinized it.

But the gap is hardly unique to tech. I looked at the gender breakdown of our metro area's top 25 jobs. What's remarkable is how few of these occupations come close to parity between the sexes. In 21 of these 25 jobs, either men or women make up more than 60 percent of those employed.

A female carpenter in Seattle is something of a unicorn. The occupation is the most heavily skewed of any in this area, at nearly 99 percent male. General maintenance and repair workers come next, at about 95 percent male.

When it comes to the third most-skewed occupation in Seattle — secretary and administrative assistant — the scales are tipped the other way. The occupation is 94 percent female.

The job that comes closest to gender parity is management consultant. This occupation is not among the top 25 in many places, but it is in the Seattle metro — we have 16,000 of them — and about 55 percent are male. If you're not familiar with this occupation, management consultants are hired by companies to help them improve efficiency and streamline operations. In other words, when these folks start showing up around the office, it's probably a good time to get your résumé up to date.

Management consultant is also one of the best-paid occupations among the 25, with a median pay of about

See > **FYI GUY, A6**

A sweet gig



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Gavin Stephenson, executive chef at The Sanctuary event space in Seattle, is also a beekeeper. Here, he checks a frame from one of four hives that were moved to the roof of the Sanctuary (formerly First United Methodist Church) on Wednesday. Thousands of honey bees and four queens took flight with help from a crane to their new spot. Stephenson will use the honey from these urban hives in recipes at the event space. The bees are expected to produce about 50 pounds of honey per hive.

ON THE WEB For more photos of the urban hives, go to st.news/bees

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Seattle International Film Festival starts today; here's our guide to what to see in Week 1: st.news/SIFF

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