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PRIDE



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Thousands marched under sunny skies down 4th Avenue at Seattle Pride 2012, Sunday, June 24. Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire was a parade Grand Marshall, and Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn marched with a 300-strong group of marriage equality activists agitating to defend the state's new law from a ballot-measure challenge in November.

Health Care Workers

New Seattle resolution mandates training, better conditions

This week Seattle became the first city in the country to pass a City Council resolution that addresses our country's care crisis and supports both the people who need care and the workers who provide the care.

Over 100 caregivers, seniors and community members packed City Hall on Monday afternoon to show their support for the Caring Across Generations Resolution.

"As a caregiver myself and a baby boomer, I am a perfect example," said Sylvia Liang, caregiver and SEIU 775 NW member.

"When I need care someday, I want my caregiver to make a living wage, with access to quality health benefits, and to have a bright future ahead of them."

Fourteen other cities are engaging in similar local efforts and will be using the organizing efforts that took place in Seattle as a model to move their campaigns forward.

Councilmember Nick Licata was credited by organizers for taking a leadership role in sponsoring and passing the new resolution.

"This is an issue that goes to the heart of what our democracy is about, creating a society where everyone has the opportunity to strive for happiness and a stable life," he said.

Licata recently "walked a day in a caregiver's shoes," which he said built his understanding of the challenges and struggles that caregivers and clients face on a daily basis.

And that struggle is huge. Seattle is witnessing both a demographic shift and jobs crisis. Every 8 seconds, a person in this country turns 65. Twelve million people, including the elderly and the disabled, require support from a care worker.

However, there are currently only 3 million care workers, creating a critical gap in our nation's ability to care for its citizens. And those who do work in the care industry face harsh conditions and limited protections under the law.

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Next Governor Faces Shortfall

Budget realities may test Inslee and McKenna on their campaigns

By Mike Baker
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington's next governor is projected to start the job with a growing budget. That extra revenue may not be enough to fulfill the state's education funding obligations.

A forecast released this past week said state revenue will grow by about 3.5 percent per year for the two-year cycle beginning in July 2013. But many of those gains will be con-

sumed by other growth in state government, such as the resumption of cost-of-living adjustments for teachers, medical care cost increases and general growth in reliance on state services.

Gov. Chris Gregoire's budget director estimated that political leaders will face a relatively flat budget, maybe a \$100 million surplus to a \$100 million shortfall.

Those are challenging forecasts for the state's top gubernatorial candidates, who have both

claimed that the state can immediately begin providing much more money toward the state's education system without raising taxes. Democratic Rep. Ross Hunter said the obligations, triggered by a state Supreme Court ruling, would be about \$1 billion in the next budget cycle and higher in future years.

Gregoire has said revenue needs to be considered, and Democratic Sen. Ed Murray, a top budget writer, said he doesn't see \$1 billion that can be cut

from the budget and put into education. State government staffing levels, for example, already shrunk by 7.2 percent between 2009 and 2011.

"We have a structural problem in how we fund state services," Murray said, emphasizing that new revenue has to be part of the discussion.

It's not part of the discussion in the governor's race. Democratic candidate Jay Inslee said the state can fulfill education funding obligations by growing

Sadness, Anxiety Plague Military Kids

New program provides them with mental health services at school

By Debbie Cafazzo
The Tacoma News Tribune

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. (AP) — Kids can build an imaginary world inside Raquel Shoch's office at an elementary school on Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The clinical social worker keeps a tabletop sandbox filled with plastic soldiers and other miniature toys.

"Play is their world," Shoch explains. "It allows them to bring their guard down, to emote through play."

Many of the military kids Shoch sees at Carter Lake Elementary School have a lot of emotions bubbling beneath the surface.

Feelings of sadness and anxiety - feelings all kids experience - can be amplified for children whose parents have gone away on multiple military deployments, experts say.

And life does not suddenly return to normal after a homecoming celebration. When soldiers return from tours of duty, it can disrupt household routines and family relationships that changed while they were gone.

For the past two school years, kids at Carter Lake and five other schools at JBLM have taken advantage of a program called

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