

## Veteran

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Genese said activists had come across the Bartons' case as part of a larger campaign against eviction they have waged for about a year and a half.

As the activists set up a press conference, Genese says the King County Sheriff decided in late June not to carry out the eviction.

"Two days before we had the press conference, the sheriff showed up and saw Barton and said, in good conscience I

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can't carry out the eviction today. Not in good conscience," Genese says.

"The sheriff's action was the first bit of good luck we have had in this fight."

But he said Triangle upped their pressure on the authorities by taking them to court.

It all came to a head last Thursday, Genese says, when county officials told the activists they would carry out the eviction; overnight, the activists organized a blockade.

By Friday morning, the Bartons' front yard became the scene of a tense standoff between activists, King County Sheriffs, Seattle Police and the emergency technicians driving an ambulance called — without apparent explanation to his wife or supporters — to take Byron Barton to the Veterans Administration hospital.

Seattle City Councilor Kshama Sawant visited the scene, expressed support for the couple, and witnessed the ambulance showdown.

"Sheriffs showed up, police showed up — there was one

## Gaza Protest

About 500 people gathered near Westlake Park in Seattle on Saturday, July 19, to protest the siege of Gaza. Protesters took to the streets around the world. Sunday was the deadliest day of the Israeli bombardment of the tiny region. US President Barack Obama called for an "immediate ceasefire."

point in which an ambulance was brought to take Byron away," Genese said.

"Byron obviously didn't want to leave — they were taking him against his will.

## Kids

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in child well-being, and compares states on 16 measures in four different sections: Economic well being; Education; Health; and Family and Community.

The state rated best overall for child well being was Massachusetts, followed by Vermont ranked second and Iowa at third. At the bottom of the overall rankings were Mississippi at 50th, New Mexico at 49th and Nevada 48th.

Washington ranked higher than Oregon based on its stronger economy and better results in the economy, education and family and community categories. Oregon did best in the child health section, ranking at 7th in the country. Washington also ranked high in the child health section, ranking 9th.

The rankings look at measures that research has identified as important to children's well-being and long-term chances for success. Being born into poverty, for example, is closely linked to a range of negative outcomes for children.

"We know that kids who grow up in poverty often have a low level of chronic

trauma in their lives," Pflingst says. "It doesn't have to be true, but oftentimes it is true that kids in very, very low-income or no-income families don't have adequate nutrition or adequate healthcare. Their education can suffer because of instability or

reflect the challenges families face today. Washington's tax system is the most regressive in the country, she says, meaning the poorest families pay more than their fair share. Seattle's decision to increase the minimum wage will benefit poor children, she

dren are to succeed.

"If we want people to be able to work and support their families while not living in poverty, that means we have to look at what our minimum wage laws are and need to be, and also what our tax structure is doing to protect and support our lowest income workers."

The cost of childcare in Oregon is among the highest in the nation, Hunt said. But the state employment related daycare program, which helps low-income families pay for high quality daycare can't meet the need.

"We are not able to support as many families as are eligible for the program," Hunt says. "So the program fills and other people are just out of luck. They want to stay in the workforce. They want to make a livable wage for their families. But they need help with the simple thing of paying for quality safe childcare."

### 'We know that kids who grow up in poverty often have a low level of chronic trauma in their lives'

problems at home. All of those factors create a kind of chronic stress in their lives that is very, very difficult to recover from."

Nationally, the report says children's lives have improved overall on a wide range of measures since the foundation first published the report 25 years ago. However, the recession reversed that steady progress, plunging more families into poverty, and increasing the numbers of children whose parents are unemployed.

Pflingst said government policies, many created 40 years ago, should be updated to

said. That's a start.

"Wage policy is one thing we can do," she says. "At the state level we can pass Earned Income Tax Credit, which would be a big boost to the finances of low-income working families. Right now it's not funded. We can also make sure all workers have access to paid sick leave. We could increase our subsidies for child care so that child care is affordable, and we could expand the system so everyone has access to it."

Hunt offered a similar analysis, saying Oregon's families need more support if chil-

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## Buses

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Vice Chair Joe McDermott, and Councilmembers Dave Upthegrove and Larry Gossett released this statement after Monday's Council vote:

"We all want to keep buses running. Cutting service will impact our communities — and our economy. Yet we have an obligation to live within our means; it's what voters told us to do in April.

"The legislation approved today was developed in the spirit of compromise and meets our need to better align costs with revenues by authorizing 350,000 hours of bus cuts. Despite some claims to the contrary, our economy is recovering — but slowly. The latest revenue forecast confirmed that Metro's financial situation has not vastly improved. In fact, it's slightly worse.

"This legislation is not perfect. But we

have a bus system to run, and the people of King County deserve some certainty about whether their bus will continue to serve them. It is time to move forward."

"We listened to the community and

Councilmember Rod Dembowski, chair of the Council's Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee.

Dembowski's office said the ordinance approved Monday implements only the

the County's adopted Transit Service Guidelines.

The adopted legislation also authorizes 188,000 hours of service to be cut in February 2015, but does not approve the specific routes to be eliminated or revised.

The 188,000 hours would be adjusted based upon the recommendation of an ad-hoc committee created to review the July and August economic forecasts and additional financial data from Metro Transit.

When the service reductions in February are set, the County Executive would transmit a service reduction ordinance for consideration by the County Council.

The ordinance also calls for a report from the County Executive by Sept. 30, 2014, describing revenue and expense reduction options available to avoid service reductions proposed for 2015.

### The transportation funding crisis was prompted by voters' defeat of Proposition 1 in April, which would have created a county transportation district to fund Metro and roads with a sales tax and a hike on vehicle registration costs

today's action is responsive to the concerns that have been raised. I thank my colleagues and Executive Constantine for their hard work in forging today's legislation," said

service reductions originally proposed for September of this year, with a focus on cutting bus routes that are in the bottom 25 percent of productivity in accordance with