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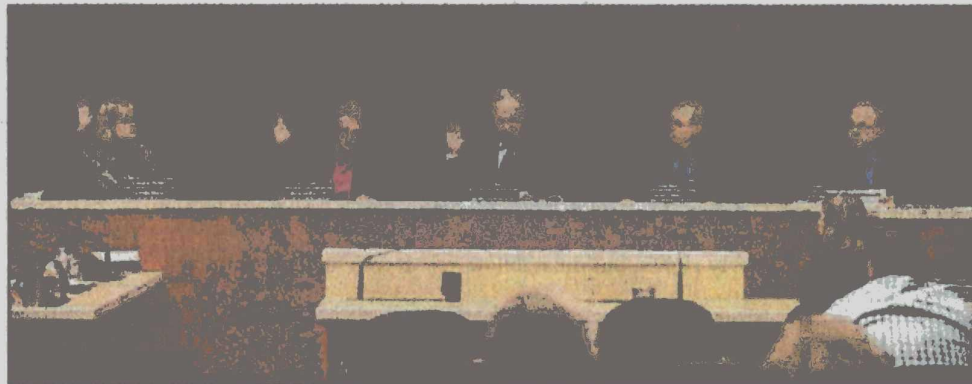


SPORTS, B1
At Prairie, Grace Prom is a Falcon who flies under the radar



LIFE/NEIGHBORS, D1
Food pantry in La Center High School celebrates first year

Alt. 4 is no more

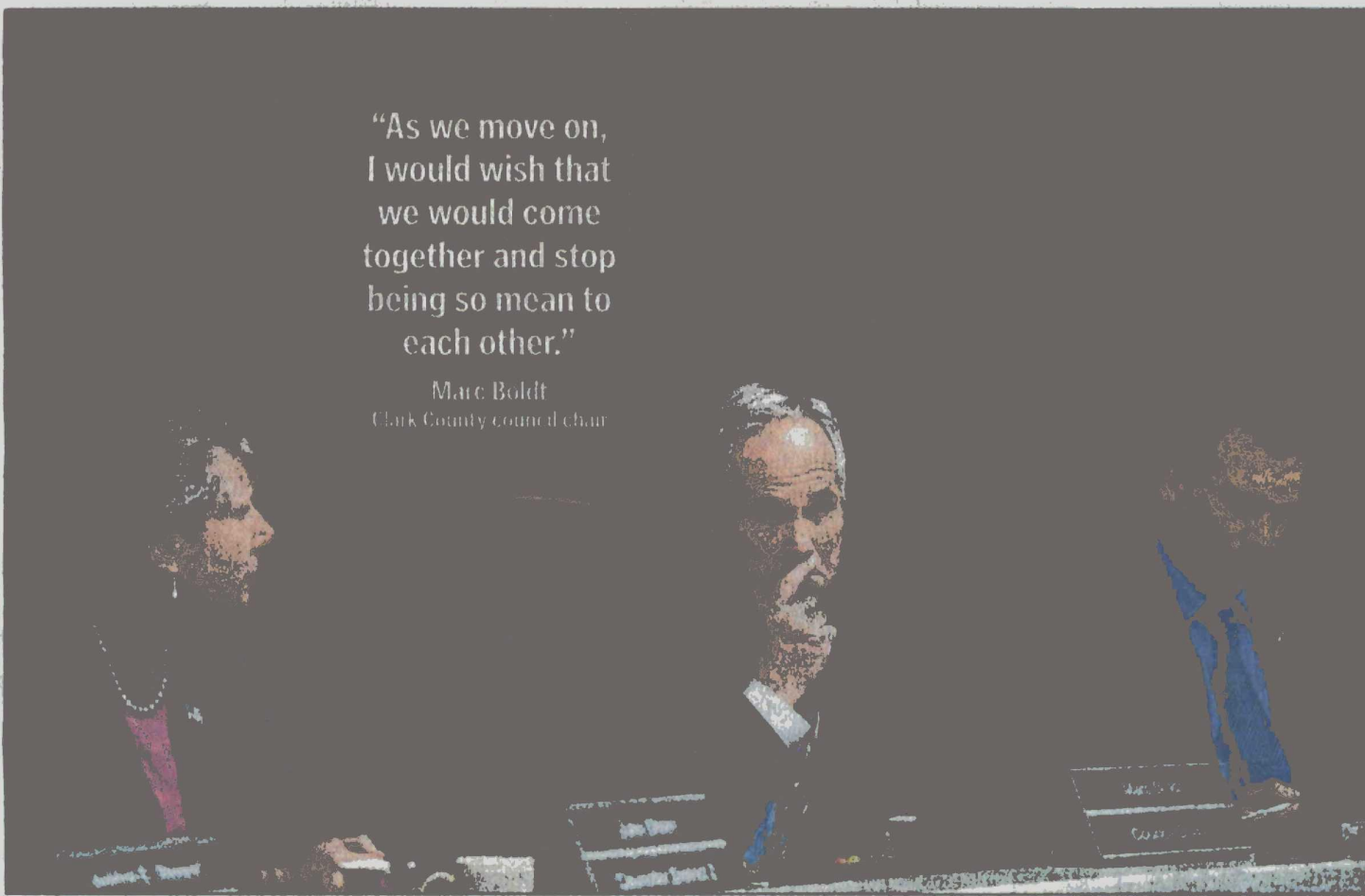


From left, Councilors Jeanne Stewart, Julie Olson and Marc Boldt vote against a component of Alternative 4 during a Clark County council meeting Tuesday. Councilors David Madore and Tom Mielke voted in favor of the proposal.

Clark County council votes to scrap David Madore's controversial land-use proposal at emotional meeting

"As we move on, I would wish that we would come together and stop being so mean to each other."

Marc Boldt
Clark County council chair



Photos by NATALIE BEHRING/The Columbian

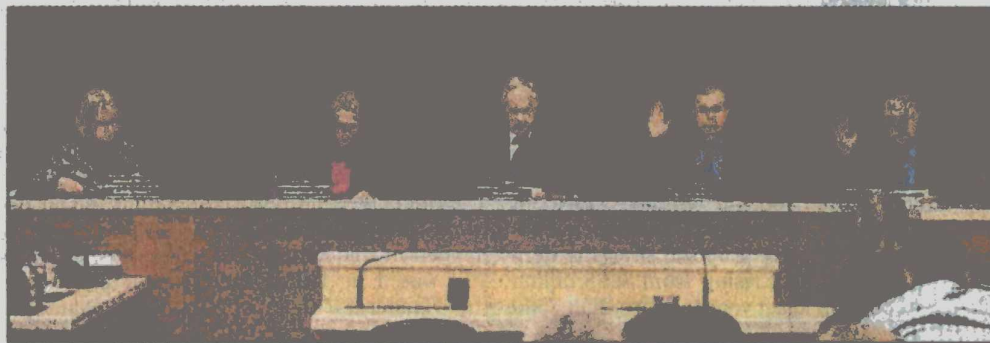
Marc Boldt, flanked by Councilors Julie Olson and David Madore, begins crying as he talks about Madore's treatment of county staff at the Clark County council meeting Tuesday. Three of the five councilors voted to eliminate Madore's controversial Alternative 4.

By KAITLIN GILLESPIE
Columbian staff writer

At nearly 1 a.m. Tuesday morning, just hours before the Clark County council would vote to dismantle his land-use proposal, Councilor David Madore took to Facebook.

In a 450-word diatribe on his Facebook page, the Republican councilor accused county planning staff of having an "anti-rural growth agenda," of using "covert software" and of manipulating records to "grossly inflate" the number of developable lots in rural Clark County for the county's 20-year growth plan.

When the Republican councilor revisited the accusations during the council's four-hour hearing Tuesday, it was clear that Community Planning Director Oliver Orjiako had had



From right, Councilors Tom Mielke and David Madore vote in support of a component of Alternative 4 during a Clark County council meeting Tuesday.

enough. "Do not, sir, falsely accuse planning staff of denial or covertly presenting information," the normally soft-spoken planner retorted, speaking over Madore's attempts to interrupt. "I have worked here for over 20 years. I have been honest. I have very, very talented staff. No one has ever misled any

commissioners." The interaction was a brief snapshot of more than a year's worth of drama between Madore and county staff over the preferred alternative to the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update, which will spell out how Clark County's cities and unincorporated areas accommodate future population

growth and employment. That drama ultimately ended when the council threw out all components of Madore's Alternative 4 by a series of votes, each time with Chair Marc Boldt, no party preference, and Republican Councilors Jeanne Stewart and Julie Olson in the

COUNCIL, Page A2

Social Security key in election

Poll: Jobs also a priority for majority of Americans

By NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Here's something that Democrats, Republicans and independents agree on. When it comes to the economy, they all want to protect Social Security and lower unemployment.

That's where their similarities end.

Beyond the top two issues, Americans' lists of top economic concerns for the next president are more fractured, according to a poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Democrats attach far more importance than do Republicans to narrowing the gap between rich and poor, reducing poverty and increasing wages to keep up with the cost of living.

Republicans place far more importance than

POLL, Page A2



Inside

Donald Trump wins Nevada caucuses. Page A4

Jeb Bush's donors in N.W. on sidelines

Camas' Nierenberg says he's 'perplexed' about GOP choices

By JEFF MAPES
OPB

Jeb Bush's major Northwest donors say they aren't sure what they're going to do in the presidential race after watching their \$2.5



On the Web

VIDEO with this story at

www.columbian.com

Council

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majority. Madore and Republican Councilor Tom Mielke unsuccessfully cast votes in favor of Alternative 4, which would have permitted subdivision of rural, forest and agriculture lots beyond what is currently allowed.

The board instead created a preferred alternative made up of proposals developed by the county's planning staff. The council did, however, approve components of staff-created Alternative 2 that also allow for smaller agriculture, forest and rural lots in unincorporated Clark County, despite the Planning Commission twice rejecting those proposals.

Though Alternative 2 does not allow for as much subdivision as Alternative 4, the draft environmental impact statement still indi-

cates those proposals could have significant impact on natural resources in unincorporated Clark County.

But the specifics of the zoning proposal have become secondary to more than a year's worth of politicking and debate, sometimes emotional, over the future of rural lands. Tuesday was not the first time Madore criticized county staff over the plan and accused them of having an agenda against rural landowners.

The tension between Madore and county staff even drove Boldt to begin crying.

"As we move on, I would wish that we would come together and stop being so mean to each other," he said, choking through tears.

Boldt later said he was reacting to Madore's "constant beating" of Orjiako, as well as Deputy Prosecutors Chris Cook and Chris Horne and other staff members.

"I've known enough planners and I have my differences, but I would never, ever even think about saying the things that David Madore has said about (county staff)," Boldt said later.

Stewart and Olson also made impassioned testimony against Alternative 4. Stewart, who voted against the proposal in the preferred alternative last year, said Clark County must comply with state law, and if it wants to help rural landowners, must work to change that law.

"If we believe those state laws impede healthy, logical and progressive growth in this county, then we need to get our lobbyists working on those," she said.

Olson echoed Stewart, criticizing the argument that being for or against Alternative 4 somehow equated to being for or against private property rights. The councilors can still support private property rights, but must follow



NATALIE BEHRING/The Columbian

Red and Pauline Warren, supporters of Councilor David Madore's Alternative 4, listen as the Clark County council debates its preferred alternative to the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update on Tuesday.

The group's executive secretary, Carol Levanen, who called the meeting a "kangaroo court," and the group's president, Susan Rasmussen, said they'll continue to testify on the matter until the plan is submitted to the state. They said they might seek legal counsel to challenge the council's growth plan.

"It's flat-out discrimination against a segment of society," Rasmussen said.

Even with the preferred alternative selected, the county still has several major steps to go through — including the capital facilities plan and final environmental review of the proposal — before the growth plan is submitted to the state. The county's deadline to complete the plan is April 30 in order to comply with the state's June 30 deadline.

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growth management laws. "To couch it in, we're for or against private property rights, it's just not reasonable," Olson said.

Even prior to the official vote, Madore told Alternative 4 supporters not to let the proposal die without fighting.

"If you defend your pri-

ivate property rights, if you do not accept them being taken away from you, defend them," Madore urged the crowd. "Because I believe you will win again."

And Alternative 4's biggest proponents, members of Clark County Citizens United, indicated that they plan to do just that.

Poll

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Democrats on shrinking the federal deficit, reducing government regulation and reforming welfare.

So while Americans of all stripes consistently put the economy at or near the top of their most important issues, they sometimes have very different concerns when they do so.

Philadelphian James Leake, living on disability at age 50, worries about another economic "blowout" and zeroes in on income inequality as a key problem.

"The corporations are taking more and more and more, and I'm like, 'Don't you ... realize the bubble is soon going to burst?'" said Leake, a Democrat.

But Edward Vasquez, an engineer from Odessa, Texas, thinks income inequality isn't even real.

"It's a perceived problem," said Vasquez, who calls himself an "anti-establishment" Republican. "Even people that would call themselves poor, they don't understand how rich they are. Americans are spoiled brats."

From such opposite perspectives, though, Leake and Vasquez both say protecting Social Security is an extremely important item for the next president's to-do list.

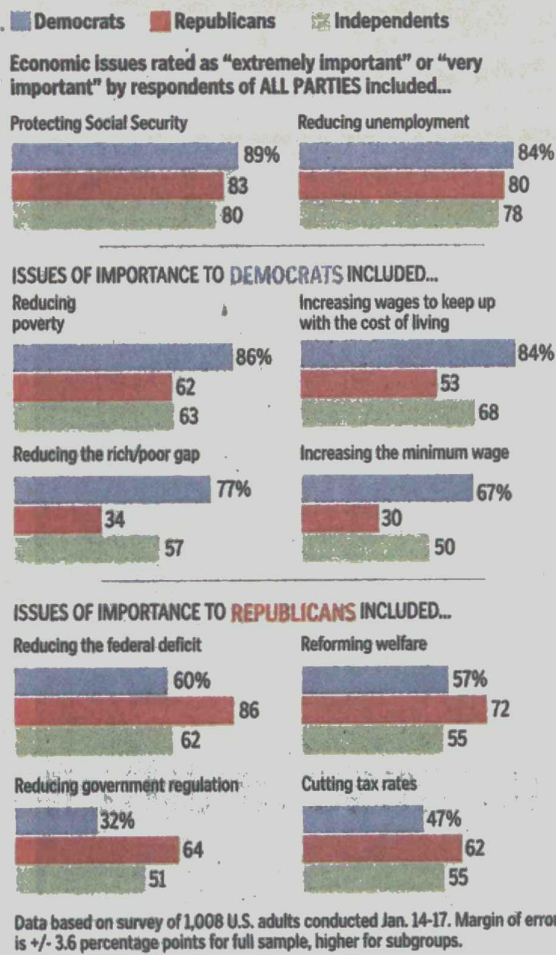
"The way people do things in Washington, they may take it away," said Leake.

"By the time I retire, it's going to be a broken promise," said 44-year-old Vasquez. "There's not enough workers paying into the system."

Overall, the AP-NORC poll found 85 percent of Americans think protecting the future of Social Security is extremely or very important for the next

Unity, discord on economic concerns

Asked about the top economic priorities for the next president, respondents agreed on some issues but fell along partisan lines on several others, an AP-NORC poll shows.



SOURCE: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

president, and 81 percent said the same for reducing unemployment.

There's a reason for their concerns about Social Security: The retirement and disability program has enough money to pay full benefits until 2034, after which it will have only enough money to pay about 75 percent of benefits, going by current projections. Over the next 75 years, Social Security is projected to pay out \$159 trillion more in benefits than it will collect in taxes, according to agency data.

The employment outlook

is considerably brighter right now: The economy created 151,000 jobs in January, pushing the jobless rate down to an eight-year low of 4.9 percent.

Looking at the poll results by party, Republicans were most likely to single out reducing the federal deficit as an item that is extremely important or very important for the next president, with 86 percent highlighting that concern. The red ink outlook: President Barack Obama's latest budget proposal sees the deficit rising from \$438 billion last year to more than \$500

billion for the 2017 budget year that starts Oct. 1. Deficits over the coming decade would total \$6 trillion.

Among Democrats, protecting Social Security was a top concern for 89 percent, reducing poverty was highlighted by 86 percent and reducing unemployment was singled out by 84 percent.

The poverty rate held steady in 2013 and 2014 at 14.8 percent. It had dropped from 15 percent in 2012, the first drop since 2006.

Even where there's common ground on top issues, there's no unanimity among Americans about who's best equipped to tackle the problems.

Count Randy Werner, a retired factory worker in Manitowoc, Wis., among those worried about Social Security's future. Among his concerns: He thinks too many people are drawing disability benefits from the system, some of them "more than capable of working." A Democrat who says he's moving toward being an independent, Werner likes some of what he hears from Republican businessman Donald Trump but isn't sure who he'll vote for.

Heather Kinnaman, a 50-year-old disabled veteran from Albuquerque, N.M., is equally worried about Social Security but leaning toward supporting Hillary Clinton.

Kinnaman is not confident any of the candidates can do well with the economy but sees Clinton as "the lesser of the evils to me."

Vasquez, for his part, is debating among "four good ones" to tackle the country's economic problems and everything else, saying he's looking at Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Ben Carson and John Kasich.

Trump, he said, "is the worst thing that could ever happen in this country but still would be better than the Democrats."

Donors

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the strongest challenger to billionaire businessman Donald Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, two candidates who are anathema to much of the Republican establishment.

But Bush's major Northwest fundraisers decided in a conference call Monday morning that they would remain neutral, at least until after the Super Tuesday primaries on March 1 in a dozen states.

"I'm perplexed about the right thing to do," said David Nierenberg, a Camas investor who said he was not inspired by the alternatives.



David Nierenberg Investor lives in Camas

Bush, whose father and brother both served as president, was once seen as the favorite to win his party's nomination. But he was quickly eclipsed as Trump shot up in the polls and repeatedly ridiculed Bush as "low energy" and attacked George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq and his failure to stop the 9/11 attacks.

Nierenberg, Portland hotel magnate Gordon Sondland, Seattle-based venture capitalist Stephen Babson and Portland fundraiser Tiffany Grabenhorst put together a series of fundraisers for Bush in Portland and Seattle in April and September 2015. The events and other fundraising activities by the group produced about \$2.5 million for Bush's campaign fund and for his associated super PAC.

No other presidential candidate came close in Oregon and Washington, a region of the country often

ignored by Republicans because of its political dominance by Democrats. But the Northwest does have a large number of well-heeled Republicans, often with a moderate bent, who have been a rich source of campaign money for the Bush family and for Mitt Romney in his 2012 race for president.

Nierenberg, a longtime Romney friend and business associate, also often donates to Democrats. He said he couldn't vote for Cruz and that it would be "a long putt" to vote for Trump. He said he was also concerned about Rubio's support for banning abortion without exception and for his lack of executive experience. Rubio has said he would support any bill limiting abortion but would also back prohibiting abortion even in cases of rape or incest.

"I might vote for Hillary [Clinton] as the least-bad choice," Nierenberg said. "Make no mistake about it, Hillary is a pretty bad choice."

Monica Wehby, a Portland pediatric neurosurgeon who ran for U.S. Senate in 2014 and who backed Bush, said Bush had a lot of difficulties to overcome.

"There was a lot of Bush family fatigue and we're really seeing a lot of this anti-establishment anger," said Wehby, adding that she is now leaning toward Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who is running as a more centrist figure.

Shawn Lindsay, a former state representative from Hillsboro who chairs Rubio's campaign in Oregon, said his candidate hasn't so far picked up any major Bush donors from the Northwest. He said Rubio officials are "being very diplomatic" about approaching Bush supporters disappointed by the Florida governor's flame-out after contests in just three states.

Teacher

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said Selby is on unpaid leave from the district until the case is resolved. Nuzzo said she could not speak as to whether Selby has had past

but school officials found no evidence that Selby gave the student a higher grade.

The Columbian reported that Selby admitted he re-

checked himself into Lifeline Connections, which provides medically assisted detoxification and substance-abuse treatment. Court records

Lottery

Correction