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Clark County Board of Councilors
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

For the Public Record

Dear Councilors,

The newspapers continue to report a housing shortage. The opening of a new casino is causing massive back-ups on the I-5 Interstate. It took the casino, to make major improvements to the La Center I-5 interchange, in just a few years. But, many years passed by, before the much needed I-5 improvement at the Battle Ground exit and SR 502 came to fruition. The GMA planning of 1994 stopped the ability for La Center to expand to the freeway with commercial development, as it zoned the land into large lot zoning. Instead of the highway commercial zoning of the past, stagnation was all that was left. Now, much of the land has been lost to a single entity that pays little in taxes. But, this county was bound and determined to force large lot zoning on landowners, while they disregarded what the community really wanted and needed.

GMA planning has done nothing to enhance Clark County and our communities. These Comprehensive Plans have never met the goals and objectives of the citizens. They are simply plans that reflect the urban concepts of planners, and have never reflected reality. Such planning is useless and troublesome, when it does not reflect what a community wants and needs. Right now, the people need single family housing.

There were many areas in other states, who breezed through the recent recession, because they answered the call of their communities. But, here in Clark County, many surveyors, home builders, construction companies, and other businesses had to shutter their doors, because business was so poor, due to the bad economy. Clark County was a county with one of the highest rates of unemployment in the country. If the Comprehensive Plan had been more reasonable and flexible, our economy would have fared much better. But, the councilors continue to go down that path of resistance. The same old planning scheme continues to drive the county economy, as it stutters and stagnates.

It's time for innovative planning. It's time for open dialogue. It is time for economic change. And it's time to represent all of the citizens in Clark County and create an environment they all can embrace.

Sincerely,



Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. P.O. Box 2188 Battle Ground, Washington 98604 E-Mail cccuinc@yahoo.com



CHRIS GOTSHALL/SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment
The newborn orca calf floats on the water's surface Wednesday at SeaWorld San Antonio.

S BORN D PARK

The newborn orca calf was sired by Kyuquot at the San Antonio park by natural means. It brings SeaWorld's orca population in the U.S. to 23. All the orcas are expected to remain on display and available for researchers for years to come in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio.

SeaWorld has said it will introduce new "natural orca encounters" in place of theatrical shows. This summer, the San Diego park will unveil a new, educational attraction in a revamped pool, and new orca attractions eventually will follow in San Antonio and Orlando.

Dold said veterinarians at the San Antonio park told him the calf was born normally — tail first — after about an hour and a half of smooth labor.

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CENSUS STUDIES MILLENNIALS

Young workers' income lower than in 1975

Women see gains, men face declines

By MAX EHRENFREUND
The Washington Post

The United States has enjoyed extraordinary economic progress over the past four decades, but average incomes for today's young workers are lower than they were in 1975.

Over the past four decades, young American workers saw their average incomes decline by 5.5 percent after adjusting for inflation, according to new figures published Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau. In 1975, workers ages 25 to 34 had a median personal income of \$37,000 in modern dollar terms. In 2016, that number was down to \$35,000.

Earnings have declined despite the fact that today's young people are better educated than 40 years ago. Thirty-seven percent of young people had a bachelor's degree last year, compared to 22.8 percent in 1975.

Experts say a more unequal economy presents fewer opportunities for younger workers. Young people today must compete with a well-educated labor force, while young people in the past often had an advantage over older workers who were less qualified.

In another sense, the decline represents progress, because it is partly a result of striking gains among young women.

Young women have joined the workforce in high numbers, but because they still earn less than young men, their entrance has driven down the average for young workers in general. In 1975, just under half of women ages 25 to 34 were working, and only 18.4 percent had at least a bachelor's degree. In 2016, about 70 percent of women between those ages were employed, and 40 percent had at least a bachelor's degree.

The typical income for a young woman in the labor force increased 28.5 percent since 1975, from \$23,000 to \$29,000 in 2015 dollars.

Meanwhile, young men's earnings have declined. For a man in the labor force age 25 to 34, the typical income declined from \$46,000 in 1975 to \$40,000 last year.

Young men are also more educated — 34 percent now have a bachelor's degree, compared with 27.4 percent of their counterparts 40 years ago. Last year, roughly 5 in 6 were working and two-thirds had full-time, year-round jobs, figures that have changed little since 1975.

Typical weekly earnings for workers ages 25 to 34 in this category have declined 4 percent between 1979 and last year after adjusting for inflation, according to Arloc Sherman, a researcher at the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.