

United

The American people, on Nov. 8, elected a new president because they were unhappy with the direction America was heading. To most, that was very exciting, because, the president's plans included more jobs, personal and business tax relief, security, affordable health insurance, balanced budgets, debt reduction and continued constitutional freedoms. Don't you believe we are all in for some wonderful and exciting times ahead?

But there are those who were not so happy about this election, for whatever reason. A few still want to see the president-elect fail. If you don't believe that, just turn on the TV or read the newspaper. Are we that different in what we stand for and believe, in that we can be so easily persuaded by the media, or others?

Throughout President-elect Trump's campaign, his policies were exactly what the voters wanted for this nation. Most Americans, I believe, want the same things out of life, "a government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." To keep our freedoms and securities this is the only solution, and President Trump's campaign was all about the American people.

Don't you believe we live in the best country in the world? Let us enjoy and reap the benefits of this great nation together. Let us complement and lift each other up with positive attitudes, gestures and gratitude every day. Let us restore our nation with the values and honor that made this nation great. Remember, our forefathers, who began this great nation, were not all men of the same faith. But they understood what those values meant, and honored those values above all else, and were united. Together they accomplished an enormous task. There is no better time than now to learn from their example.

Let's continue to build on it together and keep it that way. This nation has been too good to you and me to let division and unrest happen. Let us stand and work together. God, bless America.

RAY GARDNER
Warrenton

Welcome, Walmart

It is a pleasure to see Walmart survived the numerous unneeded hurdles that they had to go through. They succeeded, and passed the biased opposition of the RiverKeepers, conservationists, tree huggers, etc.

In this modern age, more competition in business helps all of the shoppers. In the minds of my neighbors, friends and I, the smaller busi-



ets and killings, they invade, remove the rocket caches, blow the million-dollar Iranian funded tunnels and return home, after much expense and loss of life.

On the other hand, the "occupied" West Bank goes about its day to day business with no need for invasions.

Until Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran loudly recognize Israel's right to exist, quit teaching their children to hate Jews and start prosecuting their own terrorists, there will be no peace.

This isn't about Jewish houses being built in the "Jewish Quarter" — this is blaming Israel, just as Hitler did.

WAYNE MAYO
Scappoose

nesses in our area that are friendly, treating customers correctly and running their stores right will all survive.

First of all, if you have a problem in your mind with Walmart, you don't have to patronize them.

The Warrenton area has been growing in a very good fashion since the 1970s, and this will be a very good asset to our community. Furthermore, this will really help out on eliminating some of the heavy traffic on U.S. Highway 30 that occurs at the present time, from all of the people on the North Coast who travel to Longview, Washington, to shop.

KEN CROW
Warrenton

Smoke and mirrors

It's a familiar story in Clatsop County: A private corporation wants to use public land for its own gain. It promises immediate financial gain, jobs and a boost to the economy. It ignores the complex damage and destruction it would inflict.

It provides inaccurate, incomplete and misleading information to the public and government about its proposal. It responds to opponents with personal attacks and to supporters with illusory promises. It falsely denies that taxpayers would pay the costs and bear the losses.

This was the county's experience with Oregon LNG. Our county commissioners saw through the smoke and mirrors in 2013, when they denied the company's proposed pipeline. They provided the leadership that acknowl-

edged the major flaws in the company's proposal, and the public's widespread opposition to it.

I urge the current county commissioners to provide similar leadership now, and opt out of the Linn County lawsuit. Under the guise of advocating for financially strained counties, timber companies are counting on gaining unlimited access to our public forests for their own gain, with the bill ultimately paid by Oregon taxpayers.

Our healthy forests provide us with clean air, clean water, fertile soils and an ongoing essential life cycle that benefits every Clatsop County resident and the planet.

Clearcutting and monoculture tree farms — the basis of the timber companies' scheme — provide profits for the companies, and leave us nothing but sterile soil, toxic water and air and a vastly depleted future. Oregon LNG believed we were rural hicks it could easily fool. Is that what these timber companies believe, too?

I urge our county commissioners to continue working for the long-term vitality of Clatsop County, and all Oregon counties, by opting out of the Linn County lawsuit.

Laurie Caplan
Astoria

Meddling politicians

Democrat angst about Donald Trump's election has reached a mindless crescendo. Although the WikiLeaks organization said some time ago it didn't get the infamous Democratic National Committee (DNC) Podesta emails from Russia, establishment pol-

iticians in Washington still blamed Russia for meddling in the election.

To see how hypocritical those politicians are, just Google "American interference with foreign elections." Amazingly, you'll get 19.2 million results. And do Democrats remember President Obama's direct meddling to defeat Prime Minister Netanyahu in Israel's 2015 election? Even the left-leaning Huffington Post wrote in July that "meddling in foreign politics is a great American pastime."

Computer hacking of one kind or another seems to be normal spying activity these days for most modern world governments. But the establishment's frenzy about Russian hacking and the election is focused in the wrong place.

Russians reportedly tried to hack the Republican National Committee (RNC) too, but Republicans had very strong security, while the DNC had practically none. If Democrats don't want WikiLeaks

or somebody else to expose the truth behind their operations, they need to focus more on computer security. That'd be much better for Democrats and the country.

President Obama's recent political retribution against Russia for election meddling is pointless, and reminds me of an exasperated parent saying to a child, "Donald! Don't do as I do! Do as I say!"

DONALD HASKELL
Astoria

Is Kerry serious?

Secretary of State John Kerry said, "But we cannot in good conscience do nothing, and say nothing, when we see the hope of peace slipping away." ("U.S. Escalates Tension with Israel," *The Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 29)

Can Secretary Kerry be serious? Rockets, tunnels and terror have been regular fare coming from Gaza since its independence was granted, under pressure, in 2005. When Israel has had enough rock-



COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL Your partner in Health & Wellness

What are your goals this year?

Get Fit

- Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab **503-338-4052**
- A Matter of Balance class **503-338-7564**
- Strong Women, Strong Bones class **503-338-7564**
- Tai Chi **503-338-7564**

Manage Pain

- Physical Therapy Services **503-338-7555**
- Chronic Pain Management class **503-338-7564**

Eat Healthier

- Diabetes Education **503-338-4012**
- Living Well with Diabetes class **503-338-7564**
- Healthy Eating for Successful Living class **503-338-7564**

Quit Tobacco

- Tobacco Cessation **503-338-7564**

Help Others

- Volunteer **503-325-4321**
- Donate **503-325-3208**

Make the Call!

2111 Exchange Street, Astoria, Oregon • 503-325-4321
www.columbiamemorial.org

Weddings
the Columbia-Pacific Region's Bridal Guide

Inside our award-winning guide

- Local Vendors
- Local Wedding Stories
- Top Trends
- Expert Tips
- Planning Essentials
- Much More

Weddings is inserted into The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer with extra copies available all year long. Plus, copies will be at the "Shores Style" Wedding Faire January 28, 2017 at The Loft in Astoria.

e-version of Guide is online at 4 websites for an entire year

Deadline
January 11, 2017

Inserts
January 25, 2017

If you are interested in participating in this year's Bridal Planner and would like more information, contact your advertising sales representative at:
Oregon - 503-325-3211 • Washington - 800-643-3703