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staff, and the outstanding work that they have done for our community and for us. I know of several incidences where his staff has helped people. They helped my nephew with his Social Security problems. He was disabled, and his money was held up as a result of a bureaucratic blunder. David Wu's office cut through the red tape and managed to get him immediate relief.

A soldier in my son's unit in Kuwait needed to get home. His wife had been attacked. The Red Cross checked out the situation and told the Army that this soldier should be sent home to see his wife. The Army refused to release him. David Wu's office stepped in and helped him to return.

David's office helped us to secure and expedite a grant from the Corps of Engineers to save Fox Creek in Rainier.

His office helped our Columbia 9-1-1 get a \$1,400,000 Homeland Security grant to upgrade and enhance their emergency communication system.

These are just a few incidences that I have personally witnessed. We need someone like David Wu with a capable and caring staff. People who are willing to go to bat for local people like you and me, and not be beholden to corporate or foreign interests.

Politics may be getting dirtier and dirtier, but David Wu has remained steadfast in his concern

and support of people here in Columbia County. Please vote for someone who we know we can depend on, please vote for Wu.

**Bill Eagle  
St. Helens**

### **Working people hurt by Bush policies**

To the Editor:

Is George Bush doing a good job? Not for people who work for a living.

The September new jobs report has come in more than 50,000 short of expectations. The number crunchers also revised August figures downward by 16,000 jobs. More than a third of the jobs created in September were jobs with the federal and local governments. Most of the other jobs were in the service industry at much lower pay and fewer benefits than the lost jobs they were replacing.

In September, *Barron's* reports, "Even though the population grew by 264,000, the labor force shrank by 221,000. Over the past year, it has expanded less than half as rapidly as has the population and a mere one-third of the rate it enjoyed from 1990-2000."

The Congressional Budget Office said that the deficit for the year ending Sept. 30, 2004, would set a new record of \$422 billion. Bankruptcies nationwide reached a 12-month record of 1.65 million. U.S. home mortgage foreclosures hit

the highest level in 30 years.

Bush has a track record that he tries to run from; with attacks on his challenger, John Kerry, and with flag-waving hot air and promises of prosperity just around the corner, if we just let him keep on doing four more years of the same.

But he can't hide from his responsibility for a declining standard of living for working people and multiplying body bags for our sons and daughters.

We simply can't afford four more years with this President.

**Paul Dinu  
Scappoose**

### **Bush policies put cart before the horse**

To the Editor:

I am one of those persons that listened to all three of the debates in order to be more informed. Particularly on health-care since I am now paying one hundred percent of my own premiums.

Bush made a startling remark in the last debate on this issue, but on reflection I see that it mirrors the last four years of his administration. He had the following to say. "It's like if you looked at the—it's the equivalent of the buggy and horse days, compared to other industries here in America."

He has said two things here. One he's put the buggy before

the horse. When you think about it this is exactly what he did in Iraq. Invaded before we could establish that Iraq even had WMDs.

Secondly, his administration "compared to other industries here in America" is abominable. If American industry ran their companies like the White House we would be a third world country by now. Every business would be \$422 billion in debt, incompetence, cronyism and graft would be rewarded and liberties would be suppressed.

If this is what the American people feel makes a good leader then so be it. But I, for one, will be voting for someone who has a higher IQ than myself not one who's IQ is lower than mine.

**Eloise Bates  
Scappoose**

### **Rural doctors already get premium help**

To the Editor:

Supporters of Constitutional Amendment 35 claim it is needed to help rural doctors. But I just found out that the Oregon Legislature passed a law last year providing funds to pay up to 80 percent of their malpractice insurance. This is an Oregon solution developed by a Republican legislature and signed into law by a Democratic governor. Why do we need to amend the Constitution and pass Amendment 35 if rural doctors are already getting help? Let's give our Oregon solution a chance to work. Vote no on Constitutional Amendment 35.

**Melissa Vedenoja  
Astoria**

### **Voting is duty to both God and country**

To the Editor:

I would like to say a few words about the upcoming election and the critical role each of us will play in its turnout and ultimately in the fate of our nation.

Our country is at a crossroads. Our future and the future of our children, grandchildren, etc., is at stake. Do we wish to allow gay marriages to be deemed lawfully acceptable? Let's wake up! If this is allowed, our families and our nation will

hurt grievously for it. This election will also decide if we will continue to bring to justice the terrorists who caused 9-11, or whether they will be allowed to gain control of our world and continue to terrorize it.

We need to hear your voice! It is your duty to be involved in the workings of your nation. America was founded upon a government which was run "...by the people, for the people." It is no wonder with such a lack of responsibility and involvement, which is prevalent in our country, that the government has many corrupt individuals within (and without) its bounds who are gaining such control. Are we really a free nation anymore? Or are we allowing ourselves to be bound by the agendas of a few self-seeking individuals? Freedom without boundaries to protect it is not freedom at all.

Our country cannot continue to reject God and our responsibility and expect to prosper. We were strong...until we began to reject God, and His absolute morals (The Ten Commandments). You must uphold what is right, and by voting responsibly. If you don't then you are in part responsible for the dysfunction of our country.

When you cast your vote this November, consider what will count 10, 20, and even 50 years from now. Your great-grandchildren will then be bearing the good or bad consequences of our present choices. We all desperately need your input! Results from our recent primary election show that only 24 percent of Oregonians voted. Were you one of those who did their duty to our country by voting or were you one of the 76 percent who said and did nothing? Now more than ever is the time to stand up for what is right. Don't shirk your duty to God, family, posterity, and your nation. America needs you and your voice. Do you care enough to make a difference for our country and help get it back to where it should be? God has indeed blessed America, but it is high time we blessed Him! So, America...Bless God.

Thank you for your willingness to hear me. Now let's act (VOTE!).

**Michelle Huntington  
Birkenfeld**



**Please Remember to Vote**

**Betsy Johnson  
State Representative**