

Wu: Loss of federal surplus was a tragedy

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Power charge market rates was called "unconscionable" by a citizen, Wu responded that "Every member of the Northwest delegation will throw ourselves on the track to prevent this!" He also noted that a larger problem would be losing access to U.S. Treasury loans and having to finance improvements through commercial loans.

One of the tragedies of our time, Wu said, was the loss of a federal surplus created during the Clinton administration. "Never doubt that elections make a difference," he said.

He pointed out that the federal COPS program, which placed many officers on the street, is slated for a 96 percent cut in Bush's budget—in spite of a major increase in meth-related crimes.

Cuts in education funding are being discussed at levels from 38 to 58 percent and will

affect all levels, from preschool through college.

Only half of the federal budget is available for Congress to make adjustments, Wu explained, as the remaining half is entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare. Since the military budget uses about half of the remainder, and the President wants to increase it, only about one-quarter of the entire federal budget is available for adjustments.

Thousands of jobs could be created, Wu said, if the administration would release money from the Highway Trust Fund, but it won't because that helps make the deficit look smaller.

Wu said that he voted against the war in Iraq because he felt that the country needed to finish work in Afghanistan and pursue the 9/11 terrorists. Noting that Congress supported the war after being told that Iraq had weapons of mass de-

struction, he asked where the WMDs were now. Answering his own question, he said emphatically, they are in Korea and the U.S. is unable to address this problem because of our commitment in Iraq.

Wu said he supported the Medicare drug bill, even though he agreed that it was not a good bill, because he felt it was an opportunity to start making changes. "Did I kiss a pig with lipstick? (in voting for the bill) Yes, because I think we can improve it." He supports reimportation of prescription drugs.

Wu's biggest applause at the high school came in his response to a question, that the "CIM and CAM are unnecessary innovations and a frigging waste of time." However, he told students, schools need more seat time and a lot more homework. Compared to other industrial countries, he said, the U.S. has about two-thirds less classroom time. "This



Rep. David Wu was relaxed and thoughtful while answering questions for a nearly full house in the Scout Cabin.

world will go to the smart and the hardworking," he said, and China and Europe are poised to take advantage of this situation. He urged students to make difficult decisions and pursue academic excellence, instead of hanging out with

friends or watching TV.

When Wu's staff attempted to move him along to his next appointment, the congressman said of the high school crowd, "I don't know if I have ever been with a crowd this large that was this engaged."

Community Calendar

MARCH							APRIL 2005							MAY 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-0188
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Home Extension Club	3rd Thursday	10:30 a.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	6:30 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	4th Saturday	10:30 a.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 503-429-5201
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	3rd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Schlegel Hall
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Women's Aglow	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.