

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Shopping local more important than ever

THE NAME OF THE “MOM and pop” store down the street is likely printed across the back of local youngsters’ baseball jerseys and on the side of the soccer field and the scoreboard at the football field.

That small business also likely has written numerous checks to help pay for trips across the country for high schoolers and spaghetti fundraisers for local families in need. It’s also likely that the same business gives annually to the local food pantry and the animal shelter.

It’s local businesses that the community comes to first. Now is our chance to give back, and it’s imperative that we do.

This year, many small businesses have taken a hit. They’ve been shut down. They’ve had to modify their operations. They’ve had to get creative and change up the way they do business.

Before you press that “place order” button for your holiday shopping, think about whether you can purchase that item or service in town.

There are so many reasons to buy local. One of the most notable is that money spent locally stays local. According to Civic Economics, a private research firm, and the American Independent Business Alliance, “48 percent of each purchase at local independent businesses is recirculated locally, compared to less than 14 percent of purchases at chain stores.”

Simply put, spending locally generates more local wealth. Not to mention jobs.

Studies have also shown that locally owned businesses give three times as much as corporate chains. We all know that. We see it every day.

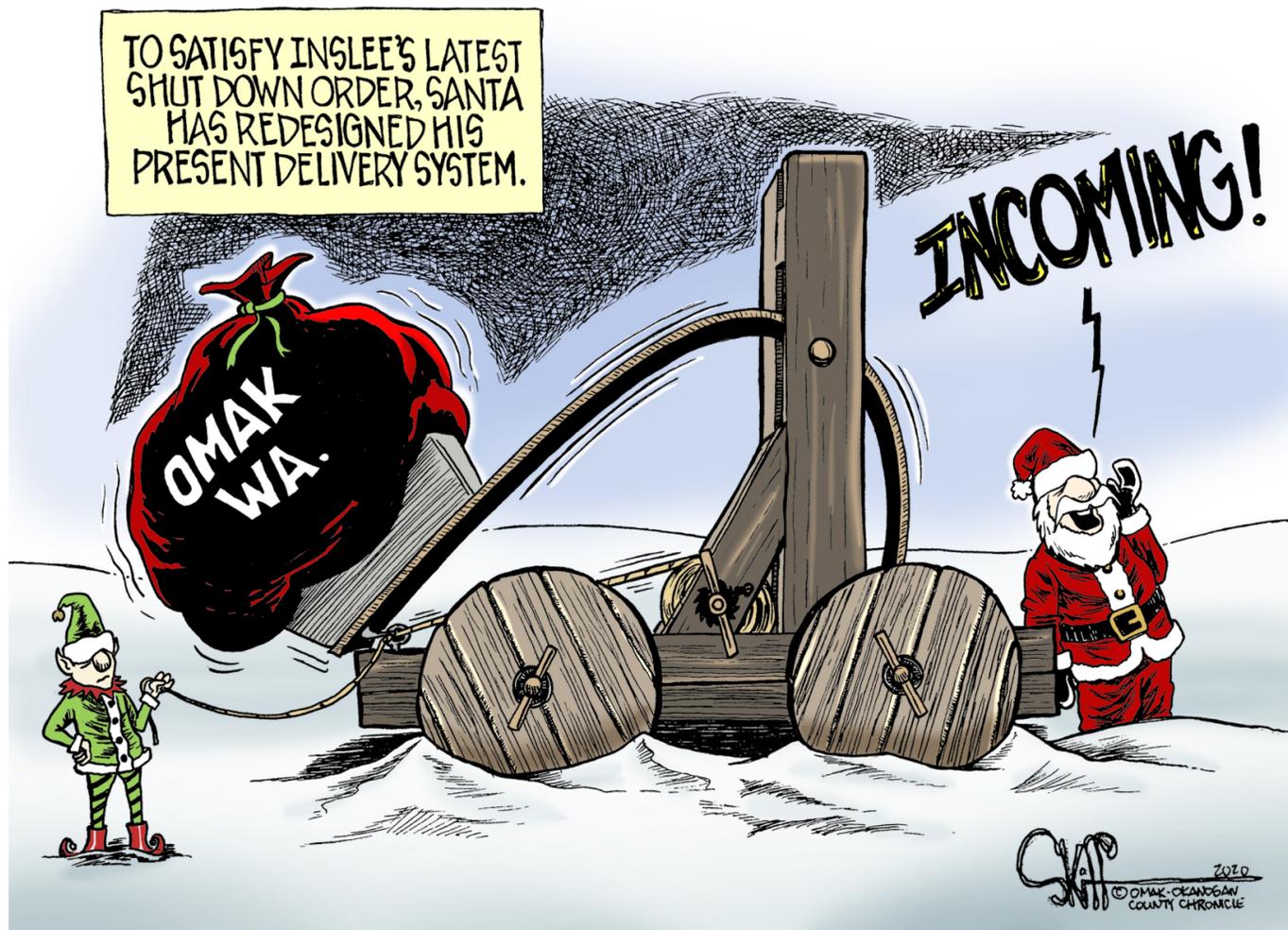
We know this year is different, and we understand if you don’t feel comfortable going into stores to shop. Many local businesses offer online shopping, curbside delivery or a personal shopper. Check with them first before you jump online. Doing so could be one of the most important things you do this holiday season because without small businesses, our community becomes an empty store front.

Our local businesses help shape the character of our community, and shopping local helps transform our community into a destination.

And shopping local helps keep those funds flowing for the next time we come calling.

CORRECTIONS

The Chronicle staff strives to be accurate. If errors occur we want to correct them promptly. If you believe a correction is warranted, please call 509-826-1110 or 800-572-3446 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



FROM OUR READERS

Connect the dots

A recent letter repeats a media talking point that “dozens of affidavits ... make no conclusive allegations of wrongdoing.”

In fact, there were hundreds of affidavits at the time the letter was published, and probably thousands by now.

Affidavits are evidence, but rarely conclusive. Conclusions are formed by examining the evidence and applying critical thinking skills to connect the dots.

Normally, the media would help with this, but now they are bent on suppressing any evidence unfavorable to their candidate.

Here is an example of connecting the dots. With Donald Trump in the lead, Republican observers in Atlanta were sent home when poll workers claimed that a water main broke, and they would be unable to continue counting.

This is evidenced by affidavits and contemporaneous media reports. Shortly after clearing the room, a few poll workers stayed behind, retrieved an estimated 24,000 ballots hidden under a table, and resumed counting. There is video evidence of this activity, but no evidence of a water main break.

Shortly after these votes were counted, the networks received a data feed with 23,000 ballots for Joe Biden, and almost none for Trump.

Nothing like this was seen when observers were present.

The data feed Edison Research provides to the networks from the ballot

counters is evidence. While no single piece of evidence is conclusive, it is hard to conceive of a rational explanation for this series of events other than fraud.

With similar activity occurring in Philadelphia, Detroit, and other locations, the reported tally swung to Biden. If our critical thinking skills are so poor as to accept this tally, maybe we deserve a crooked politician as president.

David Niessner
Tonasket

Cartoon made me upset

I just now received the Dec. 9, issue of The Chronicle in the mail.

When I got to the editorial page, I did a double take. I saw a cartoon depicting Washington’s Republican “Reps” as being stupid for not recognizing creepy Joe Biden’s “win.”

Off to the left (quite appropriately) was an editorial that seemed to urge social media platforms to double down on censorship.

Now, I am asking you an important question. I think that your readers deserve a clear answer: “What in the ‘H’ are you?” Some kind of a Democrat?

By Dec. 9 it was readily apparent to all but the blind and those who refused to look that the election “win” for creepy Joe, a thoroughly corrupt, pathologically dishonest, touchy-feely, tyrannical and traitorous Democrat scoundrel was based entirely on massive and systemic election fraud.

Your misbegotten cartoon seems to convey that we all should just accept the blatant fraud and move on.

Accept an obviously and blatantly fraudulent sham of an election? Accept leftist fascist tyranny? Accept

treason? Accept massive and blatant corruption?

Accept destruction of my country and everything that it was ever meant to stand for? Just move on? Hell no.

Mark Holt
Renton

(EDITOR’S NOTE: As published underneath the cartoon last week, election results won’t be finalized until Congress counts electoral votes Jan. 6, 2021. Last week’s editorial had nothing to do with censorship, but rather to hold social media companies to the same standards and ethics as other traditional forms of media.)

Shame on them

I like watching the news and it bothers me to have seen Newhouse and Cathy Morris McRodgers were two of the 106 that had signed with Texas to agree with Trump and his followers that they wanted to overthrow the election.

I will never vote for them again as I did in the past. Makes me wonder if they lie like he does.

Shame on them.

Beverly Harlow
Okanogan

Keep opinion to yourself

If your family member or loved one is employed by Okanogan County, I would be seriously concerned because of:

- The attitude of county commissioner Jim DeTro, chairman of the board of commissioners and Board of Health.

- Recent positive COVID-19 tests of 11 inmates and four staff members, along with 23 exposures at the county jail (not to mention 16 recently confirmed COVID-related deaths at North Valley Extended Care).

On Dec. 7, at 2:20 p.m., the county planning department supervisor expressed her employees’ distress due to a recent unidentified positive test in the building. Other concerns included people inside the building walking around visiting while at least one employee has a compromised immune system. She came to the commissioners for guidance but received little support from the chairman.

When Commissioner Chris Branch recommended abiding by COVID rules also in the commissioners’ meeting room, DeTro’s response was, “You’re not gonna get me to turn into an Inglee, I’ll tell you that.”

When Branch stated he was just doing a reality check, DeTro responded, “Well, one reality check is that a little over 1 million people died of COVID worldwide, but 8 million people starve to death each year, and nobody says nothing.”

Branch’s suggestion went unaddressed by the other commissioners, who changed the subject.

My message to Jim DeTro is this: You are obviously unaware of the non-profit organizations fighting tragic hunger worldwide and in the USA. You were also not elected to solve

problems of world hunger, but you did sign the oath to “diligently and impartially perform the duties of county commissioner.”

If you can’t leave your personal politics and uninformed opinion out of public health issues, you should resign.

For videos of commissioners’ meetings, including mask wearing and social distancing see via websites of Okanogan County or Okanogan County Watch.

Isabelle Spohn
Twisp

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The Chronicle reached out to DeTro for comment. When he responds, his response will be published on this page.)

Trump still holds sway

This past week both eastern Washington members of the House of Representatives joined with 104 other members to support the challenge brought forth by the state of Texas attorney general.

This litigation has the support of 16 other states’ attorneys general. The issue is the 2020 presidential election result.

Texas is taking the lead in suing other states (Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan and Georgia) over the results in their state elections.

Texas, a U.S. state, is suing other states over the validity of their elections, in particular, how they ran their elections. This is unprecedented to have states interfere with how other states run their elections.

This is a function of the U.S. Congress. Period.

Disputes over this election have morphed into the ridiculous and plausible. The ridiculous challenges are easy enough to see and their outright dismissals are expected. Danger lies in plausible outcomes.

How many votes did Biden win by in Georgia (despite three counts), less than 20,000? How many votes did he win by in Arizona, less than 25,000?

These vote totals are not large differences, when compared to the vote total in each state; they are fractions of a single percent.

Yet, the slim margin of victory can’t be negated. To jump to the conclusion that the election had something wrong, because something might have gone wrong is a paranoid jump in thinking.

Every election has mistakes, and mistakes do not equal fraud or rigged elections. One state’s mistakes do not empower other states to interfere.

Let the Constitution work.

Our representatives joined with 104 of their colleagues, but missing are several key Republican leadership members (McCarthy of California). Our representatives are joining in with elected representatives whose own elections could be invalidated by their actions as they

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