

OPINION

The opinions expressed on this page are solely those of the authors and do not represent the views of The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle

OUR VIEW

Support local merchants

SLOWLY, BUT SURELY, BLACK Friday ads are beginning to crop up.

As we all start combing through them trying to figure out what new gadget we'll pick up for a steal, or how many sets of 5 million thread count sheets we'll fight strangers for, let's not forget the stores on our main streets.

Over the next month, shopping carts will be piled high with trends of the season (assuming shipping ports can keep store shelves filled), while mom and pop shops struggle to keep their lights on.

This can be a very tough time of the year for hometown businesses — especially given the employment crisis, vaccine mandates and ongoing pandemic.

Our neighbors could use the business, as a large portion of our purchases likely go to Amazon and other big-box (and online) stores these days.

This week we include our Hometown Holidays section, which features advertisements from a handful of local merchants showcasing some of their products and services.

Going though it, one can quickly see that local businesses have some unique items that you can easily place in holiday stockings or fill out the Christmas tree's skirt.

Our local economy could use the extra funds and it could mean even more than you think to people who may even live next door.

When we shop local it helps to support the community. A local purchase means a pair of shoes or new backpack to your friend's child — not a corporation CEO's third vacation home.

Experts have said for years that money spent locally stays in the community, and often turns over multiple times as business owners bring on additional staff, expand inventory and/or support local events, groups and charities.

Local merchants are also more likely to stand behind your purchase and the products they sell, should you encounter a problem.

Customer service is the name of the game and you can't get the same service when you dial a call center halfway across the globe.

Speaking of local merchants, Nov. 24 we will be honoring your picks for The Chronicle's Reader's Choice Awards. Most of the categories focus on local businesses in our area. While it may not have specific gift ideas, it may alert you to a business that you may not have heard of before.

A strong community needs a strong economy.

CORRECTIONS

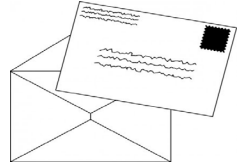
The Chronicle staff strives to be accurate. If errors occur we want to correct them promptly. If you believe a correction is warranted, please call 509-826-1110 or 800-572-3446 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- An incorrect attribution was made in the Nov. 3 issue of The Chronicle. A quote in the "Financing for projects to be finalized" story should have been attributed to Brewster Fire Chief Bill Vallance.

- Updated incident reports have highlighted an incorrect address from a story titled "Winds blow tree onto apartment residents" from Aug. 25. The address for the apartment complex was should have said Omak Park Apartments, 122 N. Juniper St.

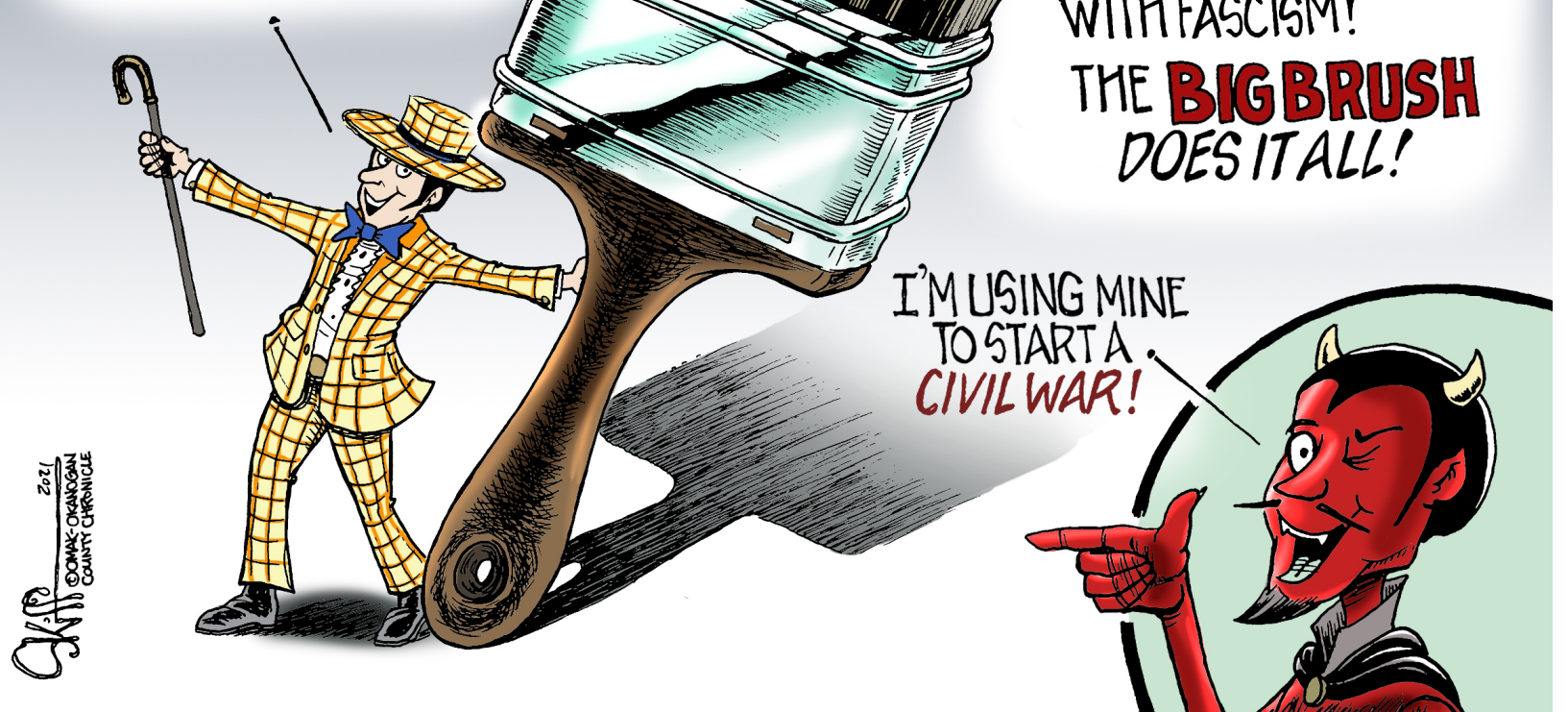
Write a letter to the editor

Letters may be submitted online at www.omakchronicle.com



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
MAY I INTRODUCE THE
BIG BRUSH!

WITH THE BIG BRUSH, YOU
NO LONGER NEED TO WASTE
TIME THINKING ABOUT
OTHER POINTS OF VIEW!



DISLIKE LIBERALS?
PAINT THEM **ALL** AS EVIL
SOCIALISTS!

CONSERVATIVES
ARE YOUR BANE?
WITH A MERE FLICK
OF THE WRIST, EACH +
EVERY ONE OF 'EM DRIPS
WITH FASCISM!

THE **BIG BRUSH**
DOES IT ALL!

I'M USING MINE
TO START A
CIVIL WAR!

FROM OUR READERS

Comprehensive plan deadline looms

As you read this letter, there may be only a week until the deadline of noon on Nov. 29, for written public comments on the draft Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan.

Fortunately, this revision supports our county's need to form "More Completely Planned Areas" to address varying values and landscapes in different areas of the county. Citizen Advisory Committees would lead these efforts.

If you're interested in how land is used in your area of the county, write a letter to the Okanogan County Planning Department regarding the following situation:

The draft prevents county commissioners from appointing anyone not owning land to serve on an advisory committee, although commissioners and county planning commission members are merely required to "reside" within their areas.

Should we revert to the days of the "landed gentry?" Consider who would be excluded from such advisory committees:

- Retirees, having lived in their area of the county all their lives but having passed their land off to offspring. Their input regarding the local land and people would be lost.
- Young people born and raised in a certain area of the county returning with new skills but without the accumulated wealth required to own land.
- Handicapped individuals needing dwellings that don't demand the strength and mobility of a landowner.
- Working people, unable to find affordable property near workplaces, thus needing to rent.

Why not require advisory committee members to simply "reside" in areas they represent, as other officials are? Let's not lose cherished and historic values of our communities by preferring instead landowners who may have never lived there.

Isabelle Spohn
Twisp

Inslee's mandates have negative impacts

I am writing to you as a former state of Washington employee.

My religious exemption was denied and my livelihood taken from me by dear leader Inslee. What does this do to this community?

Unfortunately, to find comparable paying work I will have to move from this valley — likely out of state to free states like Florida, Texas or Tennessee. Okanogan County loses tax revenue.

I am the only commodity inspector (approve export fruit) in the north Okanogan Valley. Now, instead of same day service for exports to Canada

small growers may have to wait days for service from the understaffed office in Brewster. Small businesses lose service level and money. I am also licensed to officiate five varsity high school sports.

If you don't know, sports officials are becoming extremely hard to find thanks to the scamdem. Now, you will need to find five new officials when one new official in any sport is cause for celebration. So, when your child's sporting event is moved, canceled, postponed - remember to thank dear leader Inslee for being your savior.

I will miss this people in this valley. You are God-fearing, honest people, that took me in, accepted me into your community and for that, I am grateful. I love you all, and respect you with all that I am. Continue to resist, patriots. I will not comply. God's blessings to you all!

John Marshall
Oroville

Thank you for the music, inspiration

The obituary of Barbara Champion in last week's edition of The Chronicle brought back fond memories.

In the spring of 1978, Jim Riggs at Wenatchee Valley College in Omak began an orchestra called the Okanogan Valley Orchestra, later OVOC.

Barbara, playing viola, and her husband, Wright, playing Cello, were founding members of the group. After I joined in the fall of 1978, a small number of string players would gather in their home on Grape Avenue in Omak for practice sessions. It was there I returned to playing the violin after many years of absence.

Barbara and Wright were gracious hosts, the sessions friendly and spirited. I will always thank them for opening their home to us and getting me back to playing the violin.

Jim Kalberer
Omak

Why is loving my country looked down on?

I would love to know why being a white nationalist and loving the United States is looked down on these days, while being a member of Antifa and Black Lives Matter and trying to destroy our wonderful country is hailed as something great?

Also, as a side bar, Bernie and the so-called squad would all be in jail if this was 1955. Think about it. Where is Joe McCarthy when we need him? A proud American.

Tom Gibson
Conconully

Concerned about auto insurance rates

Attention seniors of Omak and

Washington state.

The state insurance commissioner is about to make permanent a change that has already raised your auto insurance rates.

The commissioner has issued an emergency ruling banning the use of credit scores in calculating insurance rates. The net effect of this is the insurance companies are going to make the people with good credit pay for the people with bad credit.

This places an unfair burden on seniors with good credit but living on a fixed income. My insurance company has already notified me my policy for liability only, one person, will increase by \$25 per six-month premium because of this rule change.

This rule change has not been voted on in the Legislature. There is a hearing on Nov. 23. I urge all seniors and anyone else reading this to contact the commissioner at his website. From there you can message him and file a complaint about this rule change banning the use of credit scores.

If this change becomes permanent it will amount to a massive redistribution of wealth from responsible retired seniors with good credit to the deadbeats with bad credit.

Typical idiot politician, borrow from Peter to pay Paul because Paul need more free stuff.

The hearing is Nov. 23. Please, please take the time to go to the website for the Office Of The Insurance Commissioner and file a complaint, before it's too late.

Jon Collins
Riverside

Photo brought back fond memories

The Veterans Day photo from 1954 brought back so many memories for me. I was in the sixth grade. Smitty, the band director, asked me to join the Omak band that year. I am the little girl with a clarinet. I was so small that there wasn't a band uniform small enough for me. Somehow with belts and pins I was able to find a fit.

The band was one of my fondest memories of my schooling in Omak as I continued being a member for the following six years.

It is my hope that Omak continues to support their schools. My success in life can be attributed to growing up in a wonderful place and having an education that enable my success in life.

Dr. Kathy Fridell Wright
Olalla

God can heal whatever ails you

It's a miracle. It seems like just when life seems to be flowing along smoothly, something can happen that changes your life forever.

My wife found a lump on her breast, and soon after visited her doctor.

The diagnostic mammogram found something suspicious, so a lumpectomy was performed.

The lab report found cancer. This

lump was the first blessing, as her type of cancer isn't detected through a regular mammogram.

We believe in God, and we are both members of the Pacific Bible Church in Ilwaco. We asked for prayers for my wife, and many prayers were said.

We attended church on the next Sunday, and during the service Pastor Frank asked anyone if they needed healing. The procedure is described in James 5:13-15. It is written that if this procedure is performed according to the instructions that the sick person will be healed.

We had no doubt, and a calmness surrounded us when normally a person would be pretty worried.

Cancer was found in surrounding breast tissue, so a mastectomy was performed. The lab reported that out of 12 lymph nodes that were removed, eight of them contained cancer. Our faith held. We didn't know when she would be healed, but we had no doubt that she would be healed.

A CT scan was done to see the extent of metastasis. This is when we found that the miracle had happened. Zero cancer was found. God healed my wife, and he can heal you too. The times are trying right now, but God is alive and still in the healing business. May God heal whatever ails you.

Don Meuchel
Ocean Park

Thank you for voting for me

A heartfelt "Thank you" to all who helped me with the campaign process for North Valley Hospital Commissioner.

They say it takes a village and members of this village included Ann and Cheryl, Barb and Steve, Brooke, Charlie and Helen, Cheryl, Chuck, Dani, Dave, David, Dena Mae, Dick and Bev, Don and Jean, Eli, Francie, Jane, Jean, John and Connie, Judy, Karen, Karmen, Kelli, Linda, Mariann and family, Paige, Patti, Patty, Paul, Salley, Sarah, Shannon's, Steve/Miquel and, of course, those who voted for me. I will always serve to the best of my ability.

I also appreciate Brock Hires and The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle for developing topics/questions for the candidates and publishing those responses. I thought they were pertinent and appropriate. I especially liked the request for one nice comment about your opponent. Being nice can leave everyone in a better place.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Vicki Lewis, RN MSN
Tonasket

Letters to the editor policy: The Chronicle encourages readers to write letters to the editor for a free and wide-ranging discussion of public issues. If possible, every letter is published, although publication does not imply agreement nor endorsement by The Chronicle. Letters may be mailed to The Editor, Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, P.O. Box 553, Omak, WA 98841; e-mailed to news@omakchronicle.com; or submitted online at www.omakchronicle.com. All letters must be signed by the writer and include a daytime phone number. Writers are encouraged to keep their letters as short as possible. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for length; maximum length is 300 words. The editor also will correct grammar and spelling. Poetry and anonymous letters will not be published. Also excluded are letters that are libelous or in poor taste, or that maliciously attack a person or business.