

# Visit Okanogan Country **Vacationland**

Your FREE premier visitors guide to Okanogan & Ferry counties



# Welcome to Okanogan Country

Embark on a journey of discovery in Okanogan Country, nestled in the heart of north-central Washington. Here, you'll find sprawling landscapes adorned with breathtaking vistas, warm hospitality from our friendly locals, and boundless opportunities for exploration with your loved ones.

Spanning from the majestic, snow-capped peaks of the North Cascades to the picturesque, undulating wheat fields of the northern Columbia Basin, and from the lush orchards of the lower Okanogan to the arid beauty of south-central British Columbia and the verdant peaks of Ferry County, Okanogan Country offers a diverse tapestry of natural wonders.

Engage with our industrious and welcoming community, where time seems to slow down as you leisurely browse through well-stocked stores and savor the abundance of our region's scenic beauty and recreational offerings. Indulge your senses with the flavors of our fine fruits, wines, and succulent beef, cultivated with care from our fertile lands.

We extend a warm invitation to visitors from near and far to experience the magic of Okanogan Country. Join us and discover why our residents cherish this land, and we're confident that you'll find just as much joy in exploring our region as we do. Welcome to Okanogan Country—where every moment is an adventure waiting to unfold.

## Quick References

**Okanogan County**  
okanogancounty.org  
(county government)

**Ferry County**  
www.ferrycounty.com  
(county government)

**Border crossings**  
U.S. Customs Service:  
509-476-2955  
www.cbp.gov or  
www.travel.state.gov

**Colville Confederated Tribes**  
www.colvilletribes.com

**News and information**  
www.omakchronicle.com

**Mountain passes**  
www.wsdot.wa.gov

## Hospitals

**Coulee Medical Center**  
411 Fortuyn Road  
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

**Ferry County Memorial Hospital**  
36 N. Klondike Road  
Republic, WA 99166

**Lake Chelan Community Hospital**  
503 E. Highland Ave.  
Chelan, WA 98816

**Mid-Valley Hospital**  
810 Jasmine St.  
Omak, WA 98841

**North Valley Hospital**  
126 N. Whitcomb Ave.  
Tonasket, WA 98855

**Three Rivers Hospital**  
507 Hospital Way,  
Brewster, WA 98812

## Emergencies: 911

This Chronicle staff strives to be accurate, however, all information in this publication is subject to change without notice.

Some events, sites and recreation opportunities may be closed or change without notice. Be sure to call before planning your destination.

THE OMAK-OKANOGAN COUNTY  
**CHRONICLE**  
PO BOX 553, OMAK, WA 98841

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Owned and Operated by  
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Teresa Myers, publisher, advertising manager  
Julie Bock layout and design

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# HISTORICAL OKANOGAN COUNTY

Okanogan County's natives were called the Okanogans, Methows, Nespelems and San Poils. They have since been joined on the Colville Indian Reservation by bands of Nez Perce, Wenatchi, Lakes, Colville, Chelan, Palus, Moses-Columbia and Entiat Indians.

Early non-natives came to the county seeking furs and, eventually gold and silver. Some highlights:

**July 3, 1811:** David Thompson and other fur traders from British-owned Northwest Company drift into the area. They are said to be the first white men to arrive in the Okanogan.

**Late summer, 1811:** John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company builds its first inland post on the south bank of the Okanogan River near confluence with the Columbia. Fort Okanogan was the first establishment to fly the American flag in what is now Washington state.

**1821:** Fort Okanogan becomes property of the Hudson's Bay Company.

**1821-1846:** Furs gathered from all over sprawling New Caledonia — most of northwestern Canada — come down the Okanogan River

to the fort and are transferred to boats for passage to Vancouver.

**1838:** Hudson's Bay Company relocates Fort Okanogan about a mile away on the shores of the Columbia.

**1853:** Area that's now Okanogan County becomes part of Clark County under original formation of Washington Territory.

**1854:** Area that's now Okanogan County becomes part of Walla Walla County.

**1857-58:** Prospectors turn into a wild-eyed stampede headed for the Cariboo gold fields of British Columbia.

**1858:** Hiram F. "Okanogan" Smith settles near the foot of Lake Osoyoos as Okanogan County's first permanent white resident and plants the county's first fruit orchards. Some of his apple and pear trees still bear fruit.

**1860:** The fur trade dwindles; Fort Okanogan is abandoned.

**1860s:** Ben Snipes and others push great herds of cattle nearly 800 miles from the Yakima country to Cariboo mining camps. Prospectors dip gold pans in the Similkameen River.

**1863:** Okanogan County area becomes part of Stevens County.

**April 2, 1872:** Presidential executive order creates the Colville Indian Reservation. Four months later the northern boundary is moved south to its present location.

**1886:** Reservation land west of the Okanogan River opens to entry. Cascade foothills explode with activity as miners and homesteaders pour in.

**1888:** Okanogan becomes a county, with the county seat temporarily in Ruby.

**1889:** County seat moves to Conconully.

**1892:** North half of Colville Indian Reservation becomes public domain.

**1893:** Price of silver collapses; boom towns fade.

**1890s:** Sternwheel riverboats ply the Columbia River to Brewster and, in high water, the Okanogan River as far as Riverside.

**1900s:** Fledgling irrigation districts form, expanding orcharding into the county's largest economic force by the 1970s. Lumber and cattle raising grow in importance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# HISTORICAL CONTINUED

**1915:** County seat moves to Okanogan.

**1916:** South half of the Colville Indian Reservation opens to settlement.

**1938:** U.S. government approves Colville Confederated Tribes' constitution and by-laws; Colville Business Council established.

**1988:** County celebrates its centennial.

**1989:** State celebrates its centennial.

**1992, post-election:** Okanogan County gains national prominence as the nation's "bellwether" county — the one with the longest string of correctly going for the presidential winner. Streak extends back to 1904 and Theodore Roosevelt's victory.

**1996:** Okanogan County loses national "bellwether" distinction by going for Republican Bob Dole instead of presidential winner Bill Clinton, a Democrat.

**1997:** Colville Indian Reservation celebrates 125th anniversary.

**2001:** Four firefighters are killed in the Thirtymile Fire in the Methow Valley – Tom L. Craven, 30; Karen L. Fitz Patrick, 18; Devin A. Weaver, 21, and Jessica L. Johnson, 19.

**2014:** Carlton Complex fire burns across 256,108 acres to become the largest wildfire in state history. Homes, barns, outbuildings, and fences destroyed; electrical, fiber optics and telephone lines damaged or destroyed; livestock and wildlife killed; rangeland, orchards, timber, crops destroyed or damaged; two deaths attributed to the fire, one a heart attack and the other from injuries suffered in a fall. Subsequent flooding and mudslides damage roads, property, and homes.

**2015:** Okanogan Complex, Tunk Block and North Star fires burn across a combined 522,920 acres. Damage is similar to that of the Carlton Complex fire a year earlier, though mudslide damage is less. Three U.S. Forest Service firefighters - Tom Zbyszewski, 20, Andrew Zajac, 26, and Richard Wheeler, 31 - die while fighting the fires near Twisp on Aug. 19. Four other firefighters are injured.

**2020:** The Cold Springs, Pearl Hill, and Inchelium Complex fires, all of which start Labor Day weekend, account for 433,000 acres of land charred — 189,923 of them in Cold Springs, 223,730 in Pearl Hill and the rest in the Inchelium Complex.



Leave no trace in your smoke.



Check with your local fire district before lighting a fire.

[ecology.wa.gov/outdoorburning](http://ecology.wa.gov/outdoorburning)



# Winthrop



Whether you're a historian, outdoor enthusiast or just enjoy getting close to nature, Winthrop holds many charms.

The town is known for its American Old West design of all buildings in town. The design dates back to a 1972 decision and is upheld by town ordinance.

The first white settlers arrived as trappers in the 1800s, some staying permanently after 1883 when dreams of gold mining brought more. Winthrop's founders came at that time.

In 1891, Guy Waring built the two oldest buildings, both of which still stand. One was his home, known as The Castle — now the Shafer Museum — and the other the original Duck Brand Saloon, now town hall. An 1893 fire took out the rest of the town.

Winthrop's board sidewalks lead visitors to gold panning activities, museums, parks, glass-blowing demonstrations, Old West photo studios, putt-putt golf, the oldest legal saloon in Washington and more.

Aside from the aesthetics of the town itself, Winthrop is picturesque in its proximity to the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**Incorporated: 1924**

**Elevation: 1,765 feet**

**Population: 472**

**Location: In the Methow Valley at the foot of the Cascade Mountains on state Highway 20.**

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North Cascades, surrounded by forests and wilderness.

Visitors can enjoy cross-country skiing, rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, river rafting, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, golfing, sight-seeing, and ice skating and snowshoeing in winter.

The area also has multiple lodges and resorts where all these activities and more can be found, including a little rest from adventures.

For those who like to sleep in the

### Methow

On state Highway 153 north of Pateros. Features a post office. Amenities: River rafting, tree fruit, hiking, winter recreation.

### Carlton

On state Highway 153 between Pateros and Twisp. Features a general store, RV park, cabin rental. Amenities: Fishing, skiing, rafting, hiking, other outdoor activities

great outdoors, Winthrop also has multiple campgrounds. Want a wilder ride? Rafting trips and other outdoor adventures await. Maybe you'd like to join the Ride to Rendezvous on horseback and wagons for a few days, passing through the Methow Valley forests and wilderness like the old-time '49ers did.

Businesses also offer horseback riding lessons and rentals. Visitors can get a bird's eye view of the scenery in a hot air balloon; the annual Winthrop Balloon Roundup is in early March.

Winthrop also is a great jumping-off

point for hang gliders and parasailers.

Multiple scenic drives will also take your breath away on the Chewuch Road to Falls Creek Falls, state Highway 20 up to the North Cascades or nearby Hart's Pass, the highest point in the state to which you can drive.

Winthrop is known for a few of its events, too, such '49er Days, Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival, Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival and Christmas at the End of the Road.

For schedules and other events, see [winthropwashington.com](http://winthropwashington.com).

### Mazama

On state Highway 20 northwest of Winthrop. Mazama's business district is centered at the intersection of Lost River Road and country road 9140. Mazama offers a general store, an adventure supply store, a gas station, a cafe, and restaurant. Amenities: Back-country and cross country skiing, winter recreation.



↔ 2024 ↔  
**METHOW VALLEY  
 RODEOS**

**MEMORIAL WEEKEND**  
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup>

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND**  
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# Twisp



Twisp is the place to be for those who love the arts and beautiful scenery.

Its origins date from two short-lived gold booms in 1858 and 1880. Now, 900-plus permanent residents provide the commercial center of the Methow Valley population of more than 4,000.

Tourists triple the population several times a year, especially in the summer, as folks flock to the beauty of the valley on the east slopes of the Cascade Mountain range.

You can fly -in at the Twisp Airport, just a mile out of the city. Many community events are planned each year and the airport is continually being upgraded with the support of local volunteers.

Once in the valley, you can enjoy time on some trails, such as the Twisp River Trail or Blackpine Lake Trail. Or, if you hit Twisp in the summer, relax in the Wagner Memorial Pool in the Twisp Park.

To get closer to nature, plan an adventure with Washington Outfitters and Guides Association on one of its horse-back, sleigh, wagon, hiking, rafting or

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

**Incorporated: 1924**  
**Elevation: 1,765 feet**  
**Population: 472**  
**Location: In the Methow Valley at the foot of the Cascade Mountains on state Highway 20.**

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fishing trips throughout the year.

The Methow Wilderness School can teach wildlife tracking, wilderness survival and other trainings either by private class, workshop or seminar out in the great outdoors of the Methow Valley.

Winter activities include cross country skiing, snowmobiling and downhill skiing and snowboarding at nearby Loup Loup Ski Bowl.

If your idea of getting close to nature is sampling local foods, visit the Methow Valley Farmers Market in season and get all sorts of fruits, vegetables, jams and more.

The business district offers restaurants, hardware, general merchandise, gasoline and other amenities.

There are several motels, inns, campgrounds and other lodging facilities.

For the art enthusiast, beautiful works can be admired at Confluence



Gallery on North Glover Street, where professionals and students show various forms of artwork. The center also offers classes and special events for those wanting to try their hand at a new art form. Schedules are available at [www.confluencegallery.com](http://www.confluencegallery.com).

Several more artists have opened shops and host exhibits at TwispWorks.

The on-campus Methow Valley

Interpretive Center features an interpretive garden, a tribal encampment and educational lectures year-round on the geographical and cultural history of the area. To catch the latest live theater, hit the Methow Valley Theater or Merc Playhouse, both featuring live performances throughout the year.

Twisp hosts a Fourth of July celebration and Christmas events.

**Interact with Natural and Cultural History!**

At the Methow Valley Interpretive Center, visitors are invited to use all their senses to learn about the past and present by interacting with the clues and objects of the people and events that shape this amazing place.

Visit the NW Plateau Pithouse, the Native Gardens, the exhibits and more!




Admission is by donation.  
Open to the public April-Oct.  
Located on the TwispWorks campus, corner of Glover Street and Fifth Avenue, Twisp, WA

Find us on Facebook, YouTube and [www.methowvalleyinterpretivecenter.com](http://www.methowvalleyinterpretivecenter.com)



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# Pateros



Nestled along the shores of the Columbia and Methow, the quaint town of Pateros invites travelers to experience a unique blend of natural splendor, outdoor adventure, and genuine small-town hospitality.

Whether you're seeking a peaceful retreat or an active getaway, Pateros has something for everyone.

Pateros is home to the annual Apple Pie Jamboree, which celebrates its 73rd anniversary this July. It features a parade, personal watercraft races, vendors, plenty of homemade pie and other activities. The annual Ray Stanley Memorial Bass Tournament is the same weekend. It's a popular draw not only for anglers, but also for spectators

hoping to catch a glimpse of the largest prize-winning fish.

Anglers know Pateros — the Columbia and Methow rivers, which meet at the south edge of town, are home to varied species of fish.

Both rivers are open for some kind of fishing year-round. The Okanogan River, with more good fishing, is only a short drive or boat ride away. There are two public boat launches in Pateros, accessible in all water conditions, along with three public docks for people who'd rather stay on shore.

There's plenty of open water for canoeing and kayaking, skiing and personal watercraft, too.

Nearby Alta Lake offers boating, swimming, a state park and an 18-hole golf course.

Lake Pateros – the Columbia River backed up by Wells Dam – is the site of personal watercraft races in July and, in late August, the Pateros Hydro Classic.

Private companies offer trail rides during the summer, and the Pateros area has plenty of public property with off-road potential for motorbikes and four-wheelers. Pateros is well known to bird watchers, and watchable wildlife abounds in the hills around town.

Bargain hunters get their own weekends each year with all-town yard sales

**Elevation: 812 feet**  
**Population: 714**  
**Incorporated: 1913**  
**Location: On U.S. Highway 97 at the junction with state Highway 153.**

during the summer months.

Camping enthusiasts will find plenty of room at Alta Lake. There are several motels in and around town for those wanting a soft bed and other creature comforts.

Downtown Pateros boasts restaurants and a specialty bakery, along with businesses that offer a lot for anglers — including plenty of free advice.

As downtowns go, Pateros' is relatively new, about 60 years old, because the town was relocated during the construction of Wells Dam in the early 1960s. Pateros started as Ives Landing, named for the man who purchased the land and laid out the original townsite in the late 1890s. He sold out – at the insistence of his wife – and the town was renamed by a Spanish-American War veteran, who remembered a town he'd encountered on his tour of duty in the Philippines.

The town's history is the subject of a museum that opened several years ago.



# Brewster



The Columbia, Methow and Okanogan rivers, and Lake Rufus Woods (behind Chief Joseph Dam), are an angler's dream.

Brewster offers a public boat launch and dock in Columbia Cove Park where anglers can drop a line for salmon, steelhead, trout, sturgeon and small-mouth bass.

The annual Brewster King Salmon Derby is the first weekend in August; participants can win both prizes and money.

People who want to take a boat or personal watercraft out for a spin will find plenty of open water on the Columbia, Okanogan and Methow rivers.

Columbia Cove Park offers a beach for swimming and splashing, a play-

ground, picnic areas, a basketball court and a soccer pitch. The municipal pool has a waterslide and diving boards, and next door is the Columbia Cove Recreation Center.

Brewster also offers a city RV park. The hills around town provide plenty of opportunities for a nice afternoon walk, and experienced bird watchers know that Brewster is a prime spot to observe feathered friends, from eagles to quail.

The back roads are good for long or short afternoon drives, and there are opportunities on public lands for four-wheeling, motorbikes and horse-back riding.

Three golf courses – Gamble Sands, Alta Lake and Lake Woods – are within a few miles of town. Visitors can stroll in

**Elevation: 820 feet**  
**Population: 2,357**  
**Incorporated: 1910**  
**Location: On U.S. Highway 97 near the confluence of the Okanogan and Columbia rivers, about seven miles north of Pateros and 26 miles south of Okanogan**

Brewster's retro downtown and pick up a snack in one of the downtown eateries.

Dining fare ranges from Mexican to burgers and other choices. Shoppers will find a variety of stores. The Fourth



of July brings a parade and other events, plus one of the biggest fireworks shows in the area.

Brewster owes its name to a decision made by U.S. Post Office worker who, in the 1890s, changed the spelling from Bruster. Originally the town followed the steamboat landing. The old three-story Gamble Hotel was moved from one Main Street to another with a horse team and logs, and legend has it the hotel owner kept the fire in the kitchen stove burning the whole time.

The city became a crucial part of Washington's apple industry. Tours of some local apple processing facilities may be available by appointment.

Nearby is Fort Okanogan Park and Interpretive Center, site of one of the first non-Indian settlements in Washington. The fort was established in 1811 by David Stuart of the Pacific Fur Co. and later purchased by the Hudson's Bay Co.



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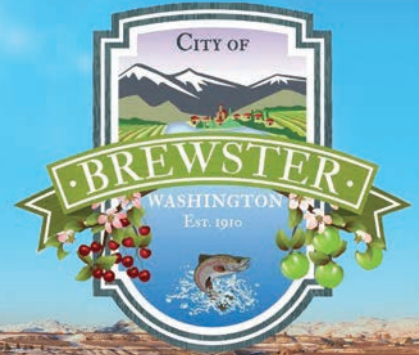
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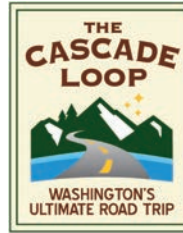
[www.brewsterclinic.org](http://www.brewsterclinic.org)

# BREWSTER WASHINGTON



## FISHING - WATER SPORTS RV PARK - DINING LODGING SHOPPING - HISTORY - CULTURE

The City of Brewster offers family friendly events, natural beauty and many different ways to have fun. We're just off Hwy. 97, easy on, easy off. We invite you to join us!



**Brewster Chamber of Commerce**  
109 Bridge St., Brewster, WA 98812  
509-593-0771

### 2024 BREWSTER EVENTS

#### MAY

May 11-12 - Mothers Day Event

#### JUNE

June 9 - Circus

#### JULY

July 4 - July Parade and Vendors at The Park

#### AUGUST

Aug. 2-4 - King Salmon Derby

Aug. (TBD) - Jamaica Day

#### LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Aug. 31 - Sept. - Boys and Girls Club Car Show

#### SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7 - 8 - Brewster Thunder Fest Hydroplane Races

Sept. 14 - Mexico's

Independence Day Event

Sept. 11 - 9/11 Remembrance Salute

#### OCTOBER

Oct. 31 - Halloween

#### NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 - Dia de Los Muertos Event

Nov. 30 - Tree Lighting Ceremony/ Shop Small Business, Best of the Best Awards.

#### DECEMBER

Dec. (TBD) -Posadas Event



Ad paid for by Okanogan County LTAC funds

# Bridgeport



Nestled beside the mighty Columbia, Bridgeport sits just downstream from Chief Joseph Dam.

The dam, one of the largest hydro-power projects in the world, has a visitor center detailing some of the history of the project and the surrounding area, and how the hydropower system works.

Bridgeport boasts great fishing and boating on Lake Rufus Woods, hiking around the dam, golfing at Lake Woods Golf Course and camping at Bridgeport State Park. Some of the hiking trails are paved.

A Colville tribal fish hatchery is just downstream from the dam, and a visitor's area and playground can be found nearby.

Anglers know Bridgeport for Lake Rufus Woods and its trout fishing and the Columbia River downstream for salmon, steelhead, trout and various sport fish populations. Nearby is the Okanogan River.

Water skiers, paddlers and personal watercraft also can be seen on the waters, and wildlife watchers will find eagles, otters, beavers, badgers, quail and other fowl.

There's a boat launch and places to fish from the shore above the dam and a boat launch below the dam at Bridgeport Marina Park, which is a popular spot for RV users as well. Horseback,

motorbike and ATV riding opportunities also exist.

For those who like their water in a pool, Bridgeport offers a pool in Berryman Park, which also is a nice place for a picnic and has lots of swings and slides. There's also an exhibit of military equipment, including a helicopter.

Downtown Bridgeport offers cafes, grocery stores, a public library, a laundry and a couple of places that are happy to provide plenty of free fishing advice. Foster Creek Avenue is lined with animals carved from tree trunks.

The annual community celebration, Bridgeport Daze, is held each spring. There's a parade, music, a basketball tournament and a market square in Fireman Park.

In the summer months, you can find the freshest locally grown produce and other goods at the farmers market.

Bridgeport marked its centennial of incorporation as a town in 2010, although the community is older than that. It was platted in the 1890s, and its backers originally named it Westfield.

**Elevation: 835 feet**  
**Population: 2,613**  
**Incorporated: 1910**  
**Location: On state Highway 17, 13 miles southeast of Brewster.**

The townsite was purchased by a group of investors from Bridgeport, Conn., and the new name stuck even after the investors moved on.

Bridgeport was the last stop on the steamboat run; the old flour mill down by the river is a reminder of the days when wheat and apples were loaded from the bluff.

Apples, cherries, wheat and cattle play a big part in the town's economy.



# Okanogan



Okanogan, the seat of Okanogan County government, offers a range of shopping and amenities in a picturesque setting of historic brick buildings surrounded by sage and tree-covered mountains.

The city is a gateway to the Colville Indian Reservation, Loup Loup Ski Bowl off state Highway 20 west of town, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and various outdoor activities including fishing, cross country skiing, hiking, bicycling and snowmobiling.

The Okanogan Gun Club maintains a shooting range southwest of town off B&O Road.

The city allows off-road vehicles

in town, and connects to designated county roads.

The Okanogan County Historical Society Museum, Okanogan Fire Hall Museum and Wilson Research Center (history and genealogy) are at the north end of the park, which also features a farmers' market May through October.

Residents and visitors alike can take a dip in the city's summer-only pool in Alma Park, 601 S. First Ave. There's also a picnic shelter, basketball court, playground equipment and a small skate park.

Across Salmon Creek, but still part of the park, are a boat ramp and river observation deck at the foot of Tye Street.

**Incorporated: 1907**  
**Elevation: 835 feet**  
**Population: 2,560**  
**Location: At the junction of state Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 97, straddling the Okanogan River.**

Central Valley Sports Complex on Rodeo Trail offers baseball, softball and soccer fields, a children's climbing toy and a paved fitness trail. Public fishing and a nature trail are on the city island off South First Avenue.

Okanogan Days, the first Saturday in June, includes a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**



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<p><b>Saturday Market</b>                  May-October                  9 a.m. to 1 p.m.                  Okanogan Legion Park                  509-826-0457</p>	<p><b>Tuesday Market</b>                  June-October                  3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.                  Omak East Side Park                  509-826-0457</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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Okanogan!



## We Invite You to Eat · Shop · Stay Awhile!

### EVENTS:

**APRIL 27, 2024** - Food Truck Festival

**JUNE 1, 2024** - Okanogan Days

**OCTOBER 5, 2024** - Harvest Festival

**DECEMBER 4, 2024** - Farm Lights Festival and  
Lighted Tractor Parade



Explore Okanogan County  
Historical Museum and  
Fire Hall Museum Complex

Take a self-guided City Arts  
Walking Tour. Learn about  
the murals of renowned  
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Central Valley Sports Complex  
Soccer, Softball, Baseball,  
and Flag Football



Enjoy the bounty of the Okanogan Valley  
Farmers Market. Every Saturday,  
May-October in Legion Park.



Cool off in the Okanogan City Pool  
and enjoy a picnic in Alma City Park.



## Camping, RV Dump and Boat Launch nearby to Parks

City Hall: 509-422-3600 • [www.okanogancity.com](http://www.okanogancity.com)

(Visitor Information Center) • [okanoganhhistory.org](http://okanoganhhistory.org)

Okanogan Chamber of Commerce • <https://okchamber.com>

Museum: 509-422-4272

City Hall / Sports Complex 509-422-3600

100% funded by the City of Okanogan Hotel/Motel Tax Fund

parade, street fair, live music and more. The event usually coincides with Okanogan High School graduation.

October brings Harvest Fest, a celebration of the area's bounty. The Farm Lights Festival and Lighted Tractor Parade celebration kicks off the holiday season right after Thanksgiving.

Okanogan High School's field is home to the Bulldogs.

The Okanogan County Fairgrounds are northeast of town on Rodeo Trail Road. The county fair is the weekend after Labor Day and features animals, exhibits, horse racing and a country music concert.

Other events are scheduled at the fairgrounds, which allows camping.

The city offers shopping, restaurants and bars, medical and dental clinics, motels, Washington State Patrol and Okanogan County Sheriff's Office.



## Malott

Malott, a small unincorporated community, sits on the western bank of the Okanogan River between Brewster and Okanogan.

The community took its name from L.C. Malott, who first settled in the area in 1886. The town was established in 1890 and platted in 1909.

The community once served as a stopover point and featured a hotel. A majority of the town was destroyed in 1938 following a dam burst on Loop Loop Creek.

Today the community offers a small business district and nearby fishing and outdoors opportunities.

# OKANOGAN BUSINESS LISTINGS

## EXCAVATING CONTRACTOR

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*Always the weekend after Labor Day!*

September 5th – 8th 2024

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In the Rodeo Arena

Live Entertainment All Weekend!

**Saturday @ 1 p.m.**  
Wild Horse Races • Barrel Racing  
Calf Roping • Horse Racing • Indian Relay

**Sunday @ 1 p.m.**  
Horse Racing • Indian Relay  
Kid Races & Events

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1410 2nd Ave., Okanogan • 509-422-4272

office@okanoganhistory.org

# Omak



Omak, the economic center of Okanogan Country, is a small town chock full of amenities.

The city is home to the Omak Stampede and World-Famous Suicide Race, but rodeo isn't the only event in town.

Omak offers a Halloween/Harvest Festival in late October and a Twilight Christmas Parade in early December.

Omak's parks are many and varied. East Side Park, the largest, not only is home to the Omak Stampede, but also offers a full-service RV park, baseball and softball fields, swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, a skate park, playground equipment and walking trail to downtown along the dike.

Civic League Park offers a bandshell, picnic area and playground equipment,

with the Omak Public Library next door. A farmers market runs from June through October in Civic League Park.

There are several smaller neighborhood parks. The Omak Performing Arts Center, owned by the Omak School District, hosts dozens of school, community and professional music, dance and dramatic productions.

Visitors will find three main commercial areas in Omak: The south end, specializing in automotive needs; historic downtown, with a variety of shops, and the north end shopping area.

Omak straddles the Okanogan River, with the eastern portion on the 1.4 million-acre Colville Indian Reservation.

Besides commerce, Omak's economy relies on tree fruit, forest products and cattle.

**Incorporated: 1911**  
**Elevation: 835 feet**  
**Population: 4,778**  
**Location: At the junction of state Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 97, straddling the Okanogan River.**

Wineries press local grapes to produce top-quality wines. You'll find plenty to do.

You can try a leisurely float along the Okanogan River, or put your boat or personal watercraft into the warm waters of nearby Omak Lake.

Opportunities abound for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, bird watching, hiking, biking and stargazing — the sky's the limit.

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*Celebrating 90 Years of the Omak Stampede!*

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10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

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Tours Available for more information: 509-429-1659  
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410 E. 2nd St., Omak

# OMAK BUSINESS LISTINGS

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• Closet • Coffee We are not  
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## CHURCH

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Church, 425 W. 2nd Ave.,  
Omak, Wash., 509-826-  
1770. All are welcome.  
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 10:45  
a.m. Prayer and Bible study;  
11 a.m. to Noon Worship.  
[www.omakadventist.org](http://www.omakadventist.org).

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Omak Chamber of Commerce: • [omakchamber@gmail.com](mailto:omakchamber@gmail.com)  
City of Omak/RV Park info: • 509-826-1170 [www.omakcity.com](http://www.omakcity.com)

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## Omak Visitor Information Center

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Located at Omak Eastside Park  
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[www.omakvisitorcenter.org](http://www.omakvisitorcenter.org)  
[omacvic@northcascades.net](mailto:omacvic@northcascades.net)

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You can even find one-of-a-kind activities such as the World-Famous Suicide Race in conjunction with the Omak Stampede rodeo.

Along with rodeos, you can take in accompanying activities that include Western dances, parades, powwows, carnivals, chicken chasing, mutton busting, greased pig chase, fun runs and so much more.




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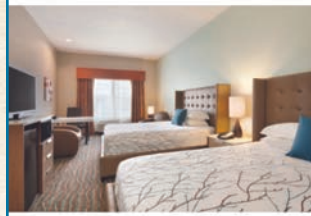
All creatures great and small,  
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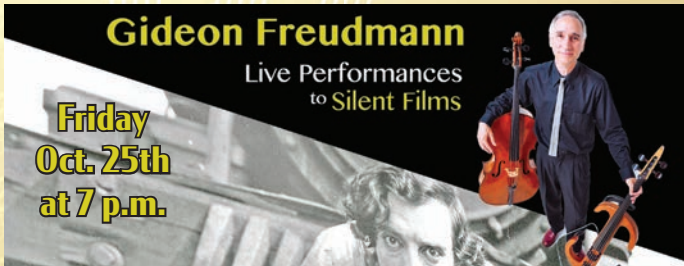


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# Conconully

Not many small towns can boast the amount of recreational opportunities tiny Conconully has to offer.

With a population of 208, Conconully features an abundance of outdoor activities and festivals, ranging from snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicle riding to fly fishing, sled dog races, food festivals and even an outhouse race.

Tucked into a mountain valley and surrounded by parks and lakes, the hamlet is home to many types of wildlife. Deer wander through town. Bird-watchers can get their fill by keeping an eye on the skies.

Conconully State Park borders Conconully Reservoir (the lower lake) and offers camping sites, picnicking and playground equipment, a boat launch and plenty of room to run. Conconully Lake (or Salmon Lake, the upper lake) also has a boat launch, restrooms and a

fishing dock.

Conconully offers several resorts and boats and motors can be rented at various local businesses.

The area, surrounded by national and state forests with two wildlife management areas nearby, is ideal for hunters and anglers.

Lodging and RV sites are abundant, offering early breakfasts, trail lunches, snacks, fuel, supplies, fishing supplies and other items to make the visitor's experience more enjoyable.

Both lakes are stocked annually by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the town and chamber of commerce pitching in to purchase larger fish.

Each year also features a trout derby for families shortly after fishing season opens in April.

For nature enthusiasts, the area offers trails, such as the Mutton Creek Trail, good for all ages, just a mile north of town on County Road No. 2361. Peacock Meadows Sno-Park is a jumping-off point for hiking and winter sports, including snowmobiling.

Conconully allows snowmobiles and ATVs on designated streets.

The Independence Day Celebration brings the Old West back to life with a parade, children's games, firefighters' competitions, antique car show and more.

Each January, the snow-covered

**Incorporated: 1908**  
**Elevation: 2,300 feet.**  
**Population: 208**  
**Location: 15 miles northwest of Omak on Conconully Highway.**

streets are turned into the Outhouse Race course, in a competition that will celebrate its 44th running in 2025. The event attracts competitors and spectators from throughout the Northwest, surrounding states and Canada.

Other activities a vintage snowmobile weekend, Stew and Brew, arts and crafts shows and more.

Originally known as Salmon City, Conconully began as a boom town in the 1800s as miners sought silver and gold in the surrounding hills. Their efforts gave way to farming and ranching.

In 1887, the town became part of Washington Territory. In 1889, its central location within Okanogan County made it the county seat, a designation that lasted until 1914. Japanese photographer Frank S. Matsura arrived in Conconully in 1903 and chronicled the area with hundreds of pictures. He moved on to Okanogan in 1907.

Conconully's Matsura Park now takes a look at his vision and genius. The Conconully Museum, operated by the Conconully Area Historical Association, is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day at 217 N. Lottie Ave.



# OKANOGAN COUNTRY HUNTING & FISHING



Whether your quarry is mule deer, turkey, bear, goose, eastern brook trout or largemouth bass, you'll find them all – plus many more beasts, fish, and fowl – in Okanogan Country.

The area is a mecca for hunters and anglers seeking sport and a little something for the dinner table.

You'll find a season for some sort of critter nearly any time of year, although spring is the prime time for fishing and fall is the main hunting time.

Whether you choose modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader, hunting tags can be purchased for game ranging from upland birds, wild turkey, and waterfowl to black bear, deer, moose, elk, cougar, bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**



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**Paid in part through Okanogan County Lodging Tax funds**



# OKANOGAN COUNTRY HUNTING & FISHING

Information on where to go for what is available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/locations/prospects>. Information specific to region 2 (Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Adams counties) is at 509-754-4624. For information on Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Lincoln counties, call is 509-892-1001.

Washington state hunting licenses can be purchased online at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses> or from a variety of private vendors.

State and federal lands are available for hunting and fishing, but folks should check with landowners for permission before entering private property. Be sure to check regulations to see which areas are open and for what species.

The Colville Indian Reservation, which encompasses more than 1.4 million acres within Ferry and Okanogan counties, boasts great fishing and hunting for both tribal members and non-tribal folks.

For information on hunting and fishing on tribal lands, visit <https://www.cct-fnw.com/>. Anglers should check the website or call the tribe or state for regulations for boundary waters, including Lake Rufus Woods, Lake Roosevelt, the Okanogan River, Crawfish Lake, and Washburn Island Pond.

Dozens of Okanogan Country lakes offer boat-launching facilities. Many private vendors also offer fish-cleaning stations.



# Riverside



Photo by Melodi Buchholz

Riverside celebrated its centennial of incorporation in 2014 and is rolling along on its second 100 years.

The city has a population of fewer than 300 people, but it has a lot of history and is a quiet, pleasant place to visit.

It includes a general store, gas station, city park, public fishing, a Western store, RV park, Grange Hall, two restaurants, pawn shop and other amenities.

Some historic buildings still stand, such as the old schoolhouse. The 1912 school bell stands in a park.

In the early 1900s, Riverside was booming, reaching a population of 350 and making neighboring Omak and Tonasket look small. Its success was largely due to its place as the head of riverboat navigation on the Okanogan River because of waterfalls upstream. It hosted the first county fair in 1905. Those days of the early 1900s came with their share of troubles.

Riverside's new \$3,000 drawbridge collapsed in 1905. The town lost its bid to be county seat in 1908, and two fires leveled much of the business district in 1916. The railroad came through in 1914, spelling the end for riverboats; Riverside settled into a quiet existence from its former boom days.

Riverside serves as a jumping-off point to hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, ATV, hiking, wildlife watching and other recreation opportunities, and is just north of the Colville Indian Reservation.

Several miles outside town, explorers can visit nature in the state's Scotch Creek Wildlife Area to the northwest and, to the east, in Tunk Valley. The Okanogan National Forest is nearby.

A bit farther up Tunk Creek Road, Crawfish Lake boasts a campground and many privately owned cabins for fishing and otherwise enjoying the woods. Half the lake is bordered by U.S. Forest Service land and the other by the Colville Indian Reservation.

**Incorporated: 1913**  
**Elevation: 853 feet**  
**Population: 273**  
**Location: 8 miles north of Omak**  
**on U.S. Highway 97 and 14**  
**miles south of Tonasket.**





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# Tonasket



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Tonasket is situated in the land for all seasons, halfway between Omak and the Canadian border on U.S. Highway 97.

It's a jumping-off point for many recreational activities: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, horseback riding, boating, bicycling, skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and many others.

The Many Lakes Area lies to the west and several lakes, including Bonaparte, are to the east. Many campgrounds are nearby.

In town is the Armed Forces Legacy park, built by volunteers, and several parks that offer soccer and baseball fields, a skate and BMX bike park, riverside salmon viewing platform, picnicking and more.

A children's splash park and out-

doors sports complex is located in Chief Tonasket Park.

The Kiwanis Club offers an annual Ground Hog dinner in February on the first Saturday after Groundhog Day. It features sausage made fresh from an old German recipe.

The Tonasket Junior Rodeo is in April, with the Founders' Day rodeo at the end of May. It's accompanied by a downtown parade and street fair.

Other activities include a fly-in, car show, farmers market, demolition derby and a late summer garlic festival.

The Okanogan Family Faire, a barter event and harvest celebration is in the fall.

Capping the year is Winterfest in December.

Sitzmark Ski Area, 20 miles north-

**Incorporated: 1926  
Elevation: 900 feet  
Population: 1,020  
Location: On U.S.  
Highway 97 at the  
junction of U.S.  
Highway 97 and state  
Highway 20.**

east of Tonasket in Havillah, offers skiing and snowboarding. The city is named for Chief Tonasket of the Okanogans, who became grand chief of the American Okanogan Indians after the establishment of the U.S.-Canadian border in 1846.

Tonasket is in an agricultural and forestry area, home of major fruit storage and processing facilities and the Tonasket Ranger District of the Colville National Forest.

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# TONASKET BUSINESS LISTINGS

## PHARMACY

**Whitestone Pharmacy** 316 S. Whitcomb Ave., Tonasket, WA 98855, 509-486-9120. info@whitestonepharmacy.org. www.whitestonepharmacy.org. Your locally owned and operated pharmacy. Most insurances accepted. Vaccinations available, delivery and mail out services available. Friendly, fast service.



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Father's Day Fly-In - June  
Summer Festival/Garlic Festival - August  
Demolition Derby - Labor Day Weekend  
Okanogan Family Faire - May & October  
Farmers Market - Every Thursday - May - October

Chamber RV Park

PRCA Rodeo

Reservations 509-486-1090

Veterans Legacy Park

Bonaparte Lake Resort

Tonasket City Park

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2024

Okanogan Country Vacationland

27



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# Oroville



Oroville is located in a high desert area, with agriculture and recreation fueling the area's economy.

Numerous streams, lakes and proximity to the Cascade Mountains make the area a favorite for swimming, boating, waterskiing, hiking, hunting, fishing, bicycling, skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and wildlife viewing.

There is a growing trail system and the Osoyoos Lake Veterans Memorial Park offers a beach, camping and RV spaces.

Nearby wineries produce unique local wines. The area also produces grapes, and a variety of tree fruit, from apples and pears to apricots.

The Depot Museum, 1210 Ironwood St., features displays depicting area history. It also serves as the city's visitor information center.

Oroville celebrates an annual May Festival, complete with old-fashioned May Pole dance.

Watercraft racing can be found on Lake Osoyoos and Fourth of July fireworks are an annual occurrence.

Along with hiking, boating, fishing and other outdoor recreational activities, Oroville features a nine-hole golf course on Loomis-Oroville Road three miles west of town.

The Similkameen Trail, part of the Pacific Northwest Trail, follows the old railroad bed from town to Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River. An eastward leg of the regional trail can be accessed at Whistler Canyon just south of town.

The city's general aviation airport is named for a World War II Women's Airforce Service pilot Dorothy F. Scott. It's also a port of entry for international air travelers.

The Oroville-Osoyoos, B.C., border station is Okanogan Country's only 24-hour crossing.

East of Oroville in Molson, visitors can tour the old ghost town and the red

**Incorporated: 1908**  
**Elevation: 912 feet**  
**Population: 1,675**  
**Location: On U.S. Highway 97 at the confluence of the Similkameen and Okanogan rivers and adjacent to the Canadian border**

brick schoolhouse museum. The town hosts an ice fishing festival each January.

Also east of town is Chesaw, a once boom town, that now hosts a popular Fourth of July Rodeo. West of town is Palmer Lake, home to varied wildlife and fish.

Oroville was first settled by miners in the late 1850s. The settlement was first known as "rag town," but renamed Oro, Spanish for gold, in 1892. It was named Oroville in 1909.

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# CHESAW 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY RODEO



## OROVILLE BUSINESS LISTINGS

### PHARMACIES

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### RV PARK

**Stateside 97 RV Park - Off Hwy. 97, North of the Country Store, PO Box 1797, Oroville, WA 98844. 509-476-9797.** Close to shopping and Veteran's Park at Lake Osoyoos. All sites have full-hookups, clean restrooms, guest laundry, dump station, on-site host. [www.statesideRVpark.com](http://www.statesideRVpark.com).

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# Chesaw

Nestled in among the rolling hills in the Okanogan Highlights sits Chesaw, east of Oroville.

Named after Chee Saw, a Chinese settler who arrived in the mid 1890s, Chesaw got its start during the 1896 mining rush to the old North Half of the Colville Indian Reservation.

By 1904 its business district

bustled with stores, hotels, at least three saloons, a stage office, assay office, butcher shop, Myers Creek News, a meat-packing plant, school, fraternal orders, other shops and telephone service.

Chesaw is now a small unincorporated area with a tavern and store. It is also home to one of Okanogan County's wildest, woolliest events, the Chesaw Fourth of July Rodeo held annual on July 4.



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## CHESAW BUSINESS LISTINGS

### STORE

**Chesaw Highland Store - 2047 Chesaw Rd., Chesaw, Wash. 509-485-2999.** Groceries, beer, wine, meat, dairy, gas, oil, fishing supplies.

### TAVERN

**Chesaw Tavern - 2045 Chesaw Rd., Chesaw, Wash. 509-485-2174.** Local Bison burger, brats, burgers, fish & chips, cold beer.



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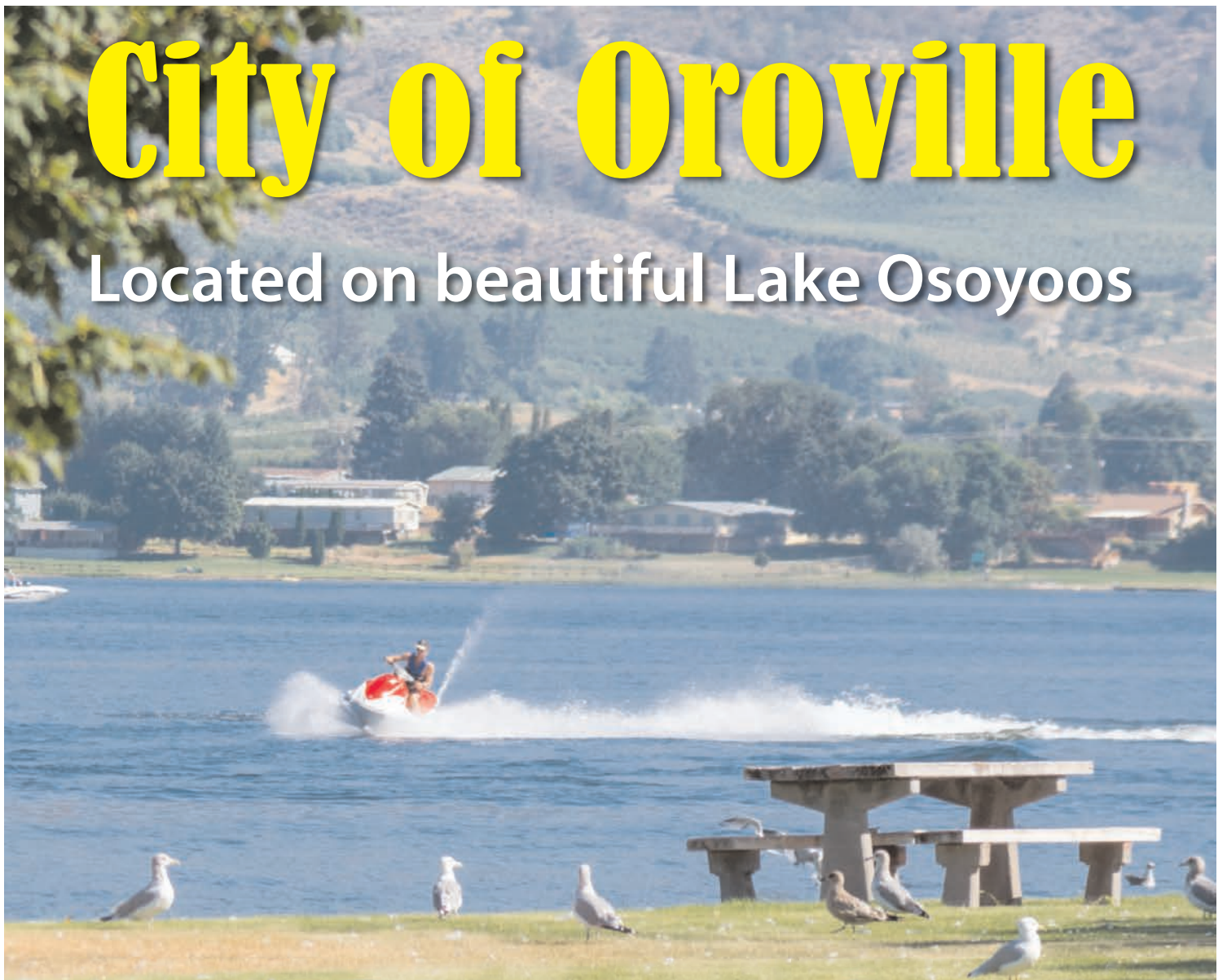
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# Molson

As one enters the present-day community of Molson, a small green sign reading "Population 35" greets tourists. But in the late 1800s, there were more than 300 people who called the community home.

Located at the intersection of Ninemile and Molson roads east of Oroville, Molson was a goldrush boom town in the late 1890s.

In 1898, the town, a product of the government's decision to open the Colville Indian Reservation's old North Half to settlement, was financed initially by John W. Molson of the Canadian brewing family. Promoter George B. Meacham had an option on the nearby Poland China gold mine, and persuaded Molson to buy into a townsite.

The town grew, but by February 1901, Meacham had departed for the Texas oil fields.

Meacham apparently never registered title to the land on which he founded the town, so John H. McDonald, a local man, seized the opportunity and registered the townsite in his name instead.

According to local historians, the Molson Post Office apparently was stolen when the postmaster went to lunch, and the bank was built on skids and moved from one lot to the other until it ended up in New Molson.

The town of New Molson then sprang up to the north. For two decades, the two rival towns existed side by side.

Folks continued to squabble and a third town, central Molson, was platted in 1916.

After a court battle, part of the original townsite was declared valid, but by then it was a ghost town. Central Molson and New Molson became the present community of Molson.

Today, Old Molson is the site of a museum operated by volunteers of the Okanogan County Historical Society. Visitors can go inside a variety of



buildings, including the original bank building, two homestead cabins, newspaper and assay offices, and view farm machinery outside.

Molson Schoolhouse Museum, the three-story brick structure built between Old and New Molson, also houses a historical society-operated museum. The building houses three floors of artifacts and a souvenir shop with light refreshments.

Old Molson can be viewed from April through November; Molson School Museum is open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

## Nighthawk

Nighthawk is a small unincorporated community west of Oroville along the Similkameen River. The once booming mine town is now a ghost town with a handful of residents who reside in the area.

Just north of Nighthawk is the Nighthawk-Chopaka International Border

Crossing, a 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Canada/US border port of entry. Nighthawk is located along the former Great Northern Railroad.

The Nighthawk hotel, original schoolhouse, mining office and old mill are all still standing on private property.

Heading from Oroville, you will also pass by Enloe Dam, a picturesque de-commissioned dam which is on the National Register of Historic Places.



## Loomis

Loomis is located on Loomis-Oroville Road northwest of Tonasket.

It features small business district and offers fishing opportunities at Chopaka, Palmer and other lakes.

Loomis, originally called "Loomiston," was once a mining town.

One of the first settlers was J.A. Loomis, who built the first store in the community,

In 1886, the Colville Indian Reservation was opened, and hundreds of residents flocked to Loomis. By 1891 the influx had turned Loomis into a boom town. Its three-block-long main street was lined with buildings, including a total of eight saloons and two dance halls, according to historians.

By 1893, the silver market declined and left the community struggling. In 1898, when interest in mining was revived, and by 1899 its population was more than 500. The market again declined, and many packed up their bags and left.

Today, Loomis is a farming and ranching community, complete with churches, a gas station and post office.

Farther down the road is Whites-tone, a well-developed area with public access

About 12 miles north of Loomis is the ghost town of Nighthawk, established in 1899.

## Wauconda

Wauconda an unincorporated community about 23 miles east of Tonasket off state Highway 20.

In 1896 three brothers from Illinois set out to seek their fortune in eastern Washington during the gold rush.

The siblings, referred to as "the Hedge brothers" in historical documents, landed east of Tonasket in what was to become Wauconda.

Their discovery of a wide ledge of



quartz carrying free gold in the spring of 1896 touched off a headlong rush to the area as prospectors envisioned another Eureka Camp.

A town was started in 1898 and called Wauconda after the Hedges' hometown in Illinois.

By 1898, a road was built from Republic to Wauconda and on through the mountain by Cougar Creek to Old Toroda and Bodie, both of which were also mining towns.

In 1899 the road was completed to Chesaw by way of Pontiac Ridge.

The town of Wauconda eventually grew with the gold rush, reaching 335 people in 1900. By 1902, the gold ore was found to be unprofitable and the mine closed. People started moving out.

The area is home to the Wauconda Community Hall, which was built in 1917. Around 1,500 people attended the first celebration at the hall. Several events are still held annual at the hall.

## Havillah

Havillah is a small unincorporated community located northeast of Tonasket.

The community features the historic Immanuel Lutheran Church, community operated Sitzmark Ski Hill and Highlands cross country skiing.



# Ferry County offers rugged scenery, varied activities



Filled with beautiful, rugged scenery, Ferry County features a wide array of activities for visitors.

Nestled in the Kettle Range between Lake Roosevelt and the Canadian border, the county offers opportunities ranging from historic sites and museums to non-motorized and motorized recreation, fossil hunting, fishing, musical events and shopping.

For those interested in driving through Mother Nature's splendor, the Sherman Pass Scenic Byway on Highway 20 between Republic and Kettle Falls offers beautiful vistas with little traffic.

For those pedaling their way across the county, the route through Curlew, between state highways 21 and 395 across Boulder Pass, offers views of nature with a less drastic climb than state Highway 20.

Republic, the county seat and the county's only incorporated city, has an

early 1900s look and a heritage based in the mining and logging industries.

Originally named Eureka Gulch, Republic has a population of about 1,000. Noted for its fossils, natural beauty and recreational possibilities, it is nestled in a valley between Wauconda and Sherman passes at the intersection of highways 20 and 21.

Republic is surrounded by national forest lands and within short driving distance of numerous lakes and campgrounds. Hunting, fishing, bird watching, bicycling, hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, boating, motorized recreational sports and fossil digging bring people to the area.

The Stonerose Interpretive Center and Eocene Fossil Site in Republic offers a view of the area during the Eocene Era and a Boot Hill fossil site where visitors can dig for their own fossils.

Resorts and a state park offer recre-

ational opportunities on Curlew Lake.

The Ferry County Fairgrounds features a restored antique carousel and a good, old-fashioned county fair each year during Labor Day weekend.

For motorized recreation enthusiasts, there are roads set aside for off-road vehicles in the Colville National Forest and an off-road recreation park south of Republic near Eagle Track Raceway.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 36**

## REPUBLIC BUSINESS LISTING

### REAL ESTATE

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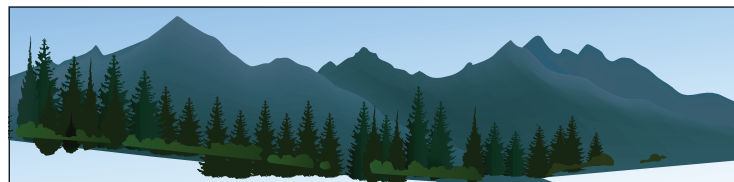


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The raceway offers dirt track car races on alternating weekends through the summer and a snowmobile race in the winter.

The history of Republic and the surrounding area can be explored at the Ferry County Historical Society, which features a collection of historical photos and exhibits that depict area history and also the Kaufman Cabin - the oldest surviving structure in Republic.

Murals at various places around town and buildings with historical signs make a walking tour of the city a history lesson in itself.

Curlew offers an antique car and truck museum. The historic Ansoorge Hotel and the restored, one-lane Curlew bridge are on the National Register of

### Historic Places

There are many opportunities for hiking in the area. The most popular advanced trail is Kettle Crest Trail No. 13 North, which runs from the top of Sherman Pass on Highway 20 to the Boulder-Deer Creek Summit.

The 30-mile route features grassy meadows, wildflowers and breathtaking views of the Curlew, Kettle and Columbia drainages.

Hiking and bicycling can be enjoyable in and around the county, too. The Ferry County Rail Trail, a non-motorized trail that runs 25 miles from Republic to Danville, was built on an abandoned railway bed. Camping spots can be found along the trail.

For those who wish to stay closer to

town, the 3.5-mile-long Golden Tiger Trail, also set up on an old railway bed, features both an ATV and bike path.

Camping areas abound and the area's lakes, streams and rivers lure anglers searching for rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout, largemouth bass, tiger muskies and kokanee.

Winter provides a vast array of recreational possibilities with 65 miles of groomed trails in the Empire Lake-Kelly Mountain area, 27 miles of trails in the Hall Creek area and 71 miles in the Swan Lake area plus many miles of ungroomed forest roads.

For those wanting to bring home a little piece of Ferry County, numerous shops and galleries offer the work of local artisans.

## FERRY COUNTY HOLDS A RICH HISTORY

Ferry County is rich in a history inextricably connected to its present. Highlights of the journey include:

**1807:** First trading post is established on the Columbia River.

**1811:** David Thompson, a fur trader, explorer and surveyor, writes about the area now included in Ferry County during his trip down the Columbia River to the sea.

**1840s:** Canada and the United States establish the international boundary at its present location. The Army establishes a military post at Pinkney City, which became the county seat of Stevens County and included present-day Stevens, Ferry and Spokane counties.

**1853:** President Millard Fillmore signs a bill creating the Washington Territory, which includes today's state of Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana.

**1857:** A large tract of land, mostly mountainous and including all of modern Ferry County, is set aside and called the Colville Indian Reservation.

**1865:** First fur traders come to the Colville Indian Reservation from the Hudson's Bay Company.

**1872:** Colville Indian Reservation is created by executive order of President U.S. Grant. Less than a month later, another executive order reduces the size of the reservation and moves it to the west side of the Columbia River.

**1883:** Gen. William T. Sherman makes an inspection tour — probably over Deer Creek Boulder Pass instead of Sherman Pass, which is named for him.

**1885:** Chief Joseph and his people are moved to the Colville Indian Reservation.

**1890s:** The gold rush brings many prospectors and settlers into the area.

**1892:** North half of the Colville Indian Reservation is purchased by the United States for \$1.5 million.

**1893-94:** First government surveyors establish range and township boundaries.

**1894:** Ranald MacDonald, the first man to teach English language in Japan, dies and is buried in northern Ferry County.

**1896:** The north half of the Colville Indian Reservation opens for mining claims. First claim is staked on Eureka Creek just north of present Republic.

### Visit Republic's Museums!

**Whitaker-Fletcher House & Kauffman Cabin**  
15 N. Kean St. across from the Republic City Park  
Open Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend  
Friday - Monday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**J.W. & Elizabeth Slagle House Museum**  
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Republic's oldest National Registry Property open to the public  
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Built in the early 1900's and now as it was in 1941!

**Both are Free Admission!**

**1897:** The town of Nelson is designated the first post office on the Colville Reservation. Its name is later changed to Danville. Also that year, Patrick H. Walsh erects the first sawmill in Ferry County,

**1898:** Republic's first streets and lots are platted and in two months the population increases by 2,000. A franchise is granted for building the area's first railroad.

**1899:** Ferry County separates from Stevens County and is named for Elisha P. Ferry, Washington's first governor. Later that year half the Eureka's businesses are destroyed by fire.

**1900:** The Gold Rush peaks and Eureka changes its name to Republic for one of its largest mines. The North Half of the Colville Indian Reservation, now Ferry County, is opened to homesteaders by presidential proclamation. Restrictions on logging are lifted and many small sawmills appear. Two rival railroad companies construct lines in a race to reach the Republic's gold fields. The local line was known

as the "Hot Air Line" because of its shaky financing and premature, exaggerated publicity.

**1903:** The Ansoorge Hotel is built next to the Great Northern Railway in Curlew.

**1904:** Chief Joseph dies in Nespelem, Okanogan County.

**1907:** Colville National Forest is established by President Theodore Roosevelt.

**1908:** The Curlew bridge, built by William Oliver, opens. Two prior bridges were destroyed by floods.

**1919:** The "Hot Air Line" railroad goes bankrupt and closes. Small towns along the route sink into obscurity.

**1933:** Construction of Grand Coulee Dam begins. While constructing the dam and filling Lake Roosevelt reservoir provides jobs, electricity and irrigation projects, it also floods hundreds of archaeological sites and forces Keller and Inchelium to move to higher ground.

**1964:** Curlew Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center is built on the

site of an old Air Force radar base.

**1997:** Colville Confederated Tribes celebrate the 125th anniversary of the reservation's creation.

**1998:** Flood waters wash out state and county roads in late May. Later that year, Knob Hill Mine at the head of Eureka Gulch closes after operating continuously since 1902.

**2003:** One of the area's largest employers, Vaagen Brothers Lumber, closes in the spring then catches fire in November.

**2004:** Kinross Gold Corp. announces plans to purchase and operate the Crown Jewel gold mining project at Buckhorn Mountain in Okanogan County. Gold is to be milled in Ferry County.

**2007:** The Kettle Falls International Railroad removes train tracks between Torboy and Danville, ending rail service in the county. The roadbed later is turned into a hiking, biking and winter sports trail.



## ANSORGE HOTEL MUSEUM



*The only old hotel still standing in Ferry County. Constructed in 1906 the ground floor has a lobby, dining room, kitchen and large billiard or game room. Upstairs is Nine bedrooms, one bathroom, and a sitting room. Most of the original furniture is on display.*

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Lynn Lindgren 509-779-4823  
13 River St. Curlew, WA**

**Courtesy of Kettle River History Club**

# Coulee Area



The Grand Coulee Dam area lets you experience the wonders of nature, coupled with manmade wonders.

Grand Coulee Dam, one of the largest concrete structures in the world, attracts viewers and tourists each year with tours, history, the Laser Light Show and fireworks displays. The dam is 550 feet tall, from the 500-foot polished granite base to the 30-foot wide crest that supports a paved two-lane road.

Because of security concerns, the road is closed except for occasional special events. Including the Third Powerhouse, Grand Coulee Dam is almost one mile long. There is enough concrete in the dam to build a four-lane highway the 3,000 miles from Los Angeles to New York City.

Construction began in 1933 as a Depression relief project. Eight years later, the dam was complete, leaving behind a monumental sand pile still visible today. It is the largest producer of hydroelectric energy in the U.S.

The dam also irrigates more than 500,000 acres of farms through Lake Roosevelt, its reservoir, and a subsidiary system of reservoirs and canals.

The dam's visitor center overlooks the downstream dam wall. It is open year-round just off state Highway 155. Tours take place in summer.

Laser Light Shows run from May through September after dark. Catch some great vistas from Crown Point, about two miles west of Coulee Dam off state Highway 174. A state Discover Pass is required to park there.

The area is known for geological

wonders; prehistoric floods carved out the coulee, showing its layers of basalt rock.

A walking tour of Coulee Dam shows historic buildings from the dam's construction era. For the angler, hunter, swimmer, boater, camper and picnic lover, visit one of the many lakes and campsites spread throughout the area.

Lake Roosevelt itself, kept back by the dam, has many boat docks, fishing spots, campsites and more.

Spring Canyon, about two miles east of Grand Coulee on state Highway 174, features a grassy park, sandy beaches, designated swimming space, playground equipment, restrooms, barbecue pits and more. The lake is stocked with kokanee (landlocked salmon), walleye, silvers, rainbow trout, lake whitefish, white sturgeon and yellow perch.

With more than two dozen boat ramps, the lake stretches 152 miles up the Columbia River from the dam to the Canadian border. It is the largest manmade body of water in Washington.

Banks Lake, south of the dam area and with the centerpiece of Steamboat Rock, is about one mile wide and 30 miles long.

Near Steamboat Rock State Park is Northrup Canyon, a beautiful shelter for flora and fauna. At the top of the canyon is a five-acre, stream-fed lake stocked with trout and reachable by a walking trail. From mid-November through mid-March, the area is home to many bald eagles.

Downstream from the dam is Lake Rufus Woods, the pool formed by Chief Joseph Dam. It stretches 40 miles, with a boat launch on the east side. The area also boasts many hiking trails.

## GRAND COULEE BUSINESS LISTING

### QUILT SHOP

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### COULEE DAM

**Incorporated: 1959**  
**Elevation: 1,140**  
**Population: 1,211**  
**Location: On the**  
**Columbia River near**  
**the junction of state**  
**highways 155 and 174.**

### ELMER CITY

**Incorporated: 1947**  
**Elevation: 1,200**  
**Population: 248**  
**Location: Two miles**  
**north of Grand Coulee**  
**Dam on state Highway**  
**155.**

### GRAND COULEE

**Incorporated: 1935**  
**Elevation: 1,702**  
**Population: 972**  
**Location: On the**  
**Columbia River at**  
**the junction of state**  
**highways 155 and 174.**

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