

CHAMBER

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As you make your plans and start your shopping lists, remember to look local this holiday season. There are so many little small business gems in the Grande Ronde Valley — the treasures you find here are unlike what you'll find anywhere else. Plus, the hunt, the exploration is half the fun.

Explore the valley for unique finds — grab a coffee and treat from Brother Bear Cafe, Le Bebe Cakes or the Liberty Cafe (or, something from all three — I'm not judging), then head to the Union Merc for some one-of-a-kind finds before traveling to the north end of the valley to All 4 You Salon & More in Elgin. Definitely grab lunch at the Summerville Tavern before stopping by Kauffman's Market in Island City for delicate and charming home decor. Or, look for a fun Sasquatch knickknack or world-famous sausage from the

Imbler Market, or browse the plethora of goodies from disc golf and birder supplies to craft beer at the Bobolink. You could fill many days discovering what we have locally.

One of the Chamber's Ambassadors said it best: Why wait for two days (or more) for it to be delivered when you can have it now? Explore new local businesses or revisit the familiar places you shopped at when you were a kid — that doesn't mean their displays aren't a treasure trove of new adventures this season. So, get out there, stir up some childhood nostalgia (even if it's just for the dopamine) and hang a few strands of twinkly lights. Who knows, maybe you'll end up a winner of the chamber's annual county-wide Holiday Decorating Competition.

Suzannah Moore-Hemann is the executive director of the Union County Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Information Center.

GAME

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bones in a big pan. The water in it is then boiled steadily until all the fat and flesh comes away.

The process of cleaning bones with dermestid beetles is known as skeletonization. Larvae of the beetles is placed on the bones and they clean the bones of flesh.

"Beetles give bones a museum quality finish. People with trophy animals want that," she said.

The beetle cleaning option will not be available until after January.

"We will be easing into it. We need time to build a beetle colony," Steevens said.

Steevens is operating her new business with the help of her daughter, Christine Benitez, who will be the store manager.

People who want to visit Catherine Creek Hides now by appointment can make arrangements to do so by contacting Steevens or Benitez by phone at 541-910-3683, via email at catherinecreekhides@gmail.com or through Facebook or Instagram.

Catherine Creek Hides will conduct its grand opening in January at a date that will be announced later.



Dick Mason/The Observer
Michelle Steevens displays a cow skull and goat hide on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, at Catherine Creek Hides, her new business in Union.

WORKFORCE

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workers," Gail Krumenauer, state employment economist and author of the report, told the Business Tribune. "We're already in a situation, with an unemployment rate at 4.4%, that is really low by historical standards. Employers are currently having widespread

difficulty finding all the workers that they'd like to hire or need to hire."

Many of these aging workers do plan to retire within the next decade — retiring their skill sets and knowledge, as well — and business owners will need to replace them somehow.

"Even though we should see some of that current (hiring) difficulty get alleviated in the coming months,

in the longer term with more workers hoping to retire in the coming years, that's going to create a different but ongoing source of difficulty for them to have enough available workforce," Krumenauer said.

The report said the aging workforce trend can be expected to accelerate in the near future. It also found the pace of retirements will

quicken in industries that have higher shares of aged workers. In Oregon, the health care industry has the most aged workers, the report found — and rural counties have even more aged workers.

However, employers in Portland metro counties will find larger groups of young workers to recruit from when replacing retirees in general, the report said.

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Volunteering is so rewarding and a great way to contribute to your community. If you would like to volunteer a little, a lot, or once in awhile, go to www.gohospice.com and fill out a volunteer application. If you need assistance contact: Lori at 541.524.7688

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TWO BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION
Publication Days: **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday**

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AT THE FOLLOWING BAKER CITY LOCATIONS

- Baker City Herald
- Dollar Tree
- Black's Distributing
- Ryder Bros
- VFW
- Baker Elk's Lodge
- Main Event
- Lefty's Tap House
- Baker City Fire Dept.
- Haines Sell-Rite
- Idle Hour
- Salvation Army

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

AL-ANON
Keep Coming Back Family Group
Mondays, 7 pm
at NKWest, 1208 Adams, La Grande, OR

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Monday, Thursday, & Friday at 8pm. Episcopal Church 2177 First St. Baker City

Drug Problem? We can help!
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Phone: 541-805-2229
www.neo-na.org

T.O.P.S.
Meets every Tuesday Morning 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.
LDS Church in Island City.
Fragrance Free Group

DO YOU HAVE....HURTS, HABITS and/or HANG UPS?
12 Step Biblical Support
Harvest Church
3720 Birch St. Baker City
Thurs., 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Classifieds get results.

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

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Calvary Baptist Church
Third & Broadway
Baker City, OR
EVERY THURSDAY
6:15 - 8:00 PM

AL-ANON Attitude of Gratitude.
Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30pm.
Faith Lutheran Church.
12th & Gekeler, La Grande
Please wear a mask & practice social distancing
541-786-2051

LA GRANDE NOW HAS A GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS MEETING!
Every Friday Night @5pm, 2107 Gekeler Ln, LG, Church of Christ basement. For more info please call 971-219-8411

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Goin' Straight Group Meetings:
Mon., Tues. Thurs. & Fri.
Start at 8 PM
Episcopal Church Basement
2177 1st Street, Baker City

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HOROSCOPES by Stella Wilder

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021
YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder
Born today, you know that it's not enough to start something, but it's everything to finish -- and that's what you are likely to dedicate your entire life to: Finishing anything that you start, so long as it does not exceed the boundaries of the physically possible. You may be blessed with an early professional start and a quick rise up the ladder of success -- but it's likely to be a double-edged sword, that kind of success, because you will have to sacrifice much.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- An impossible situation isn't all that impossible, as you can prove if you're given the chance. Ask for what you deserve!
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- There's no excuse for unprofessional behavior today, whether it be yours or someone else's. Toe the line, and insist others do the same!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- It's time for you to raise the stakes, though you needn't risk everything in your pursuit of what you want. Take a measured risk.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Those who are afraid of you don't know you -- and those who know you are never afraid of what you may do or say. Today that could change.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You might appear to be somewhat out of control today, but nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, everything is intentional right now.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- You may be called upon to answer for another today when those in charge realize what's been going on. Difficulties are compounded a bit.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You know what's what, and you know who's who, but that doesn't mean you'll always put two and two together correctly at this time.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You are working toward a particular goal for all the wrong reasons; today you can change things around so your motives are true.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Routine is just that, and you're after something more -- but take care that you don't try to break a certain mold without imagining the result.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You'll get the right reactions today if you do the right things -- but it'll take more thought than expected. You approach a crossroads.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- You can put on a brave front and avoid having anyone know just how deeply you are feeling certain things today -- but what's the good in that?
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- It's a very good idea to share what you're doing with others today. The feedback you receive helps you avoid a costly error in planning.

Someone's drinking a problem?
AL-ANON Meetings are available by phone
Info for Baker City Meetings
Call: 541-239-7323

BAKER COUNTY AA MEETINGS BAKER CITY

MONDAYS
Survivor's Group
12 - 1:00 pm
Baker Presbyterian Church
1995 4th St.
(4th & Court, Side Door)

WEDNESDAYS
Survivor's Group
12:05 pm
Baker Presbyterian Church
1995 4th St.
(4th & Court, Side Door)

THURSDAYS
Survivor's Group
12:00 pm
Baker Presbyterian Church
1995 4th St.
(4th & Court, Side Door)

FRIDAYS
Been There Done That
5:30 pm
Grove Apartments
Community Room
2970 Walnut Street

SATURDAYS
As Bill Sees It Group
10:00 am 2970 Walnut
(Corner of "D" & Grove St.)
Grove Apts. Community Rm

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