



**GO! INSERT**  
Your guide to  
holiday bazaars



**SPORTS A6**  
Soccer earns  
league honors



**SPORTS A6**  
Badgers brace for  
semifinal tussle

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS

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## QUICK HITS

### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Patti Pickard of Keating.

## BRIEFING

### Adventist Church planning food drive

The Baker City Seventh-day Adventist Church is holding a food drive to help fill Thanksgiving baskets. The church will distribute bags around Baker City on Thursday, Nov. 17, then return on Saturday, Nov. 19, to collect donations. Anyone who doesn't receive a bag, but would like to donate, can call Valerie Tachenko, 541-377-2260, or the church, 541-523-4913.

### Free Thanksgiving meal at Calvary Baptist Church

Calvary Baptist Church will have a free Thanksgiving Day meal on Thursday, Nov. 24 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Browning Hall at the church, 2130 Fourth St. in Baker City.

The menu includes turkey with all the trimmings, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, yams, veggie trays, deviled eggs, green bean casserole, pickles, dinner rolls and desserts.

Browning Hall is also the site for the church's weekly free community dinners, each Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### Past President's dinner Friday at Eagles

The Eagles Past Presidents Club is having a dinner on Friday, Nov. 18 at 2935 H St. in Baker City. Dinner will start at 6 p.m. and continue until sold out. Tickets are \$8, and the menu includes chili with all the toppings, cornbread and desserts. Eagles members and their guests are welcome.

## WEATHER

**Today**  
39/10   
Partly sunny

**Friday**  
36/16   
Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.



Linda Peterson with her granddaughter, Grace, at a gymnastics competition in Baker City.

Contributed Photo

# Bringing Linda Home

Linda Peterson's family yearns to know what happened to the Baker City woman who went missing in March 2019

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Sarah Leffler touches the framed pencil drawing her daughter, Linda Peterson, created and remembers a time when she could look at the artwork and feel happy.

A time when she could have phoned Linda simply because she wanted to hear her voice.

A time when they might have spent an afternoon together, perhaps laughing about that drawing, which Linda made one day at Phillips Reservoir, a tableau of mountains and water and cabins.

The cabins were the inside joke, the one that mother and daughter shared.

There are five cabins, scattered about the lake shore, or at least that's the number Sarah came up with.

But Linda, she said, always



A pencil drawing by Linda Peterson.

*"I always hope that someone's going to come forward. For everyone's sake, especially my mom. She needs to know what happened before she's gone. It just eats her up. She talks about it all the time."*

— Loretta Lane, whose sister, Linda Peterson, went missing from Baker City in March 2019

claimed there was a sixth cabin.

A "secret" cabin. "She drew that in 30 minutes," Sarah says, a palpable wonder in her voice as she contemplates Linda's artistic ability.

"Linda is good," Sarah says, briefly lapsing into the present tense as she talks about the second-oldest of her six children, whose art hangs on the living room walls of

Sarah's Baker City apartment.

But mostly Sarah refers to Linda in the past tense.

So does another daughter, Linda's younger sister, Mary Lane.

For Sarah and Mary and many other relatives and friends, Linda's story, terrible though it is, remains unfinished, a book with its final chapters ripped from the binding, the pages scattered in the wind.

See Linda / A2



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Vivian Petrik of Vivian's Vivacious Varieties prepares her selections of tinctures, scents, and gifts to sell at the new mercantile on 11th Street.

## Birds on a Wire offers new option for local crafters

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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The old grocery warehouse at 2345 11th St. in Baker City has received a crafty makeover for a grand opening Friday, Nov. 18.

Birds on a Wire Mercantile is a place where crafters can sell their wares during this holiday season and year round.

Tracy Williams, who started the craft mall with her husband, Chad, has been a crafter for years. She has attended flea markets, bazaars and similar events.

Those experiences motivated Tracy to find a place where her fellow local crafters could sell their wares without worrying about pricey set up fees and travel expenses.

"I drove by this building and it wasn't even for sale and I knew I wanted it," she said.

She contacted the owners and asked if they would sell it to her, a vision in her mind, and an adventure awaiting she and her husband.

"We started on the adventure, and boy was it an adventure," Tracy said.

The former grocery warehouse is west of 10th Street on a gravel road near the railroad tracks. The Williamses had to negotiate red tape with the city and county to make the building, constructed in 1910, usable.

The warehouse was originally used for food that arrived by train and then distributed throughout Oregon and Washington.

The couple renovated the flooring, Tracy hand-stained the front area, and they installed a security system. The couple also lives in the building.

"We just worry about people breaking in," Tracy said. "With us living here, we are comfortable."

Tracy began with a few vendors but one Facebook post later, they were full with 48 vendors.

"The outpouring of people who were interested, and I still have other people that are interested coming up if we have booths that open up," she said.

Chad said possibly down the road, they may look into expanding to the upstairs area where they have another 5,000 square feet of space.

They still have a few spots for smaller displays for those who are interested.

Tracy said a goal was to make sure there was enough open space for shoppers to move around without feeling cramped.

See Birds / A5

*"We started on the adventure, and boy was it an adventure."*

— Tracy Williams, proprietor of Birds on a Wire Mercantile



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