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July - August 2026

OREGON - WASHINGTON - IDAHO

COMPLIMENTARY

Your Complimentary Guide to Oregon, Washington & Idaho Specialty Shopping & Events!

America the Beautiful!



Celebrating America's 250th Birthday!

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Publisher of this Country Register!

Editor's Notes

Life, Liberty & The Pursuit of Happiness

The nation has been bustling in celebration of our 250th anniversary. And what a great thing to celebrate. 250 years of freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It hasn't always been smooth. We've had our scars for sure. But, overall what a blessed place to call home. I, as an entrepreneur, am profoundly grateful to the people who created and built this country. It is because of their pioneering efforts (along with many others that followed them) that I am sitting here today writing this article in my paper and building my own business.

I think a lot of times we get to these milestones and we ask ourselves...What am I grateful for over the passed X number of years? And, one thing that pops directly to my mind is the freedom to create a life I dreamed up and the ability to obtain it. That is what it is all about right?

I grew up in the heart of the Oregon Trail, and it was never lost on me that those people would venture out and brave amazing trials and dangers just for that dream. That dream of creating something of your very own. That same spark and that same tenacity to build was how we became a country. I feel that dream today still, 250 years later. What a legacy that is!

To those of you in the later part of your lifetime still thinking about their dreams. Take the chance. "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis.

To those generations below me. Set goals, dream, build tenacity for hard things. It is worth the ride and the destination. Keep planting seeds of pioneer mentality. Keep fueling that legacy from 1776 of grit and innovation.

God bless America and the next 250 years.

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Kelsey Ruzicka

Publisher of
The Country Register
of Oregon, Washington
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SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Use the Country Register as a Travel Guide on your next adventure!

Index on page 20 by Name & Community
Help you find & explore a new shop!



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Available across the U.S.A. & Canada

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The Country Register of Oregon, Washington & Idaho

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The Country Register of Washington, Oregon & Idaho
July/August 2026 • Issue 4

The Country Register began in Arizona, in the fall of 1988, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows, and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has spread to many other areas, all of which are listed below. Look for the paper in your travels.

The Country Register is a United States and Canadian network of independently owned and published specialty newspapers for the consumer who enjoys outstanding shopping, events, day & overnight excursions and specialty classes.

The Country Register of Washington, Oregon & Idaho is published every two months.
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SEE OUR AD INDEX ON PAGE 17
Next Deadline: Ads and articles for the
Sept/Oct 2026 issue are due August 7, 2026.



WELCOME TO OREGON STATE

Join us as we explore the state of Oregon and their shops and events. The great state has much to see and offer. And is close to many connecting Washington shops and events as well!

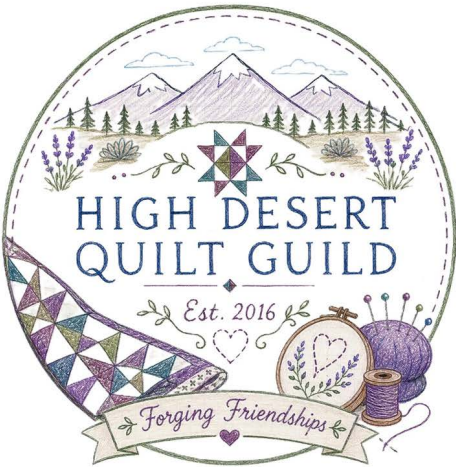
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Getting to Know Bits and Bobbins!

Meet the dynamic duo behind Bits and Bobbins! Traci Dummer and Troy Clevenger have been longtime faces in the quilting community. They bring a blend of passion, expertise, and top-tier customer service to help you on your quilting journey. Traci, a proud mother of five, has a deep love for quilting and a wealth of experience and enthusiasm that she's excited to share. Troy, a dedicated father of two, has earned a stellar reputation in the local community for his machine knowledge and exceptional customer service. Together, they're a force to be reckoned with. They are committed to providing the best of creativity, support, and a personal touch to every customer who walks through the door.

At Bits and Bobbins, the team is deeply committed to providing their customers with not just the finest selection of quilting fabrics and supplies, but also an exceptional shopping experience. They understand that quilting is more than just a hobby - it's a way to express creativity, preserve memories, and bring joy to life. That's why they focus on delivering personalized customer service, expert advice, and a welcoming environment where every quilter, whether novice or experienced, feels supported. Their passion for quilting shines through in our store, and they are dedicated to helping our customers find the perfect materials for every project, big or small.

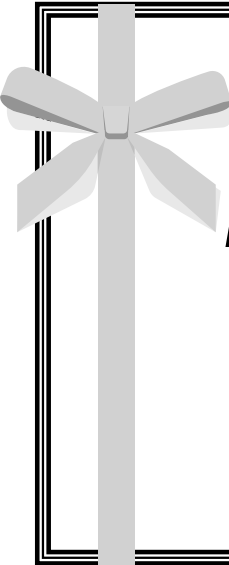
At Bits and Bobbins, your satisfaction is Traci's and Troy's priority, and they are always available to inspire, guide, and ensure your quilting journey is a rewarding one.

Bits and Bobbins is Located in Newberg, OR which is in the heart of Willamette Valley wine country. Newberg, no matter the occasion, age or the ever-changing Oregon weather, has much to offer to all those who visit. Rich in history, art, agriculture and adventure; this city should be on everyone's bucket list.





Find a new favorite shop!
SEE OUR AD INDEX ON PAGE 17



*Congratulations to the
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Patty Weightman - Forest Grove, OR*
She won a \$25 Gift Certificate to
Sharons Attic Quilt Shop
Full service shop with smiles galore!
Thank you to everyone who participated!



sharonsatticquiltshop.com
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Long Arm Quilting

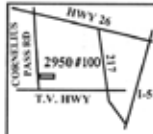
A Bright, Entertaining and Sociable Shop filled with 1,000's of Bolts of 100% Cotton Fabric, Batiks, Reproductions, Flannels, Kits & Blenders

- Wonderful samples inspired by you • Visit our website for our Online sales
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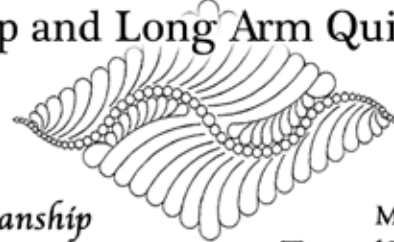
Come in and see all of our new block of the month programs!

**Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm
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Be sure to visit each shop's Facebook Pages for all Oregon Coast Fun!

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~ Prizes ~

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Saturday 10am-5pm • Sunday 10am-4pm

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Enjoy our permanent exhibits, research library, classes, fiber crafts gallery, fabrics, yarn, quilts, and more!

Hours
Tues-Sat
10 to 4

July Events

SAQA: "Somebody Told Me"

July 11th, Sat: Textile Traditions Project Classes:
Crochet 101 11:30am-1:30pm

July 12, Sun: Open House 12 pm-4 pm

August Events

August 15th, Sat: "Darn It" – 11:30 am-1:30 pm

August 22nd, Sat: "Wet Felting" - 11:30AM-1:30PM

This project is supported by a Tillamook County Cultural Coalition grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

"The mission of the Latimer Quilt & Textile Center is to preserve, promote, display, facilitate the creation of and provide education about the textile arts."

The Importance of Dreams

By Shelby Kotteman

Dreams are one of the longest standing mysteries in the universe. We can dream of things in our sleep or we can daydream of possibilities for our life. Whether night or day, I have come to believe that dreams hold a power in our lives beyond our realization. Here are two ideas why:

Some nighttime dreams are just an interesting conglomeration of things our minds are processing. However, I think we've all had a dream or two sometime that we just knew was more than a dream. One of mine came a few years ago. Whether you believe in Angels or not, I had a dream that something from Heaven told me to pray for my mother. When I asked why, I felt a reply of "Health" and it felt urgent. I asked my mother if she had been to the doctor lately. She showed me a spot where her dermatologist had frozen a mole off her arm with liquid nitrogen. I asked her to have it checked again. She knew I had dreams and feelings, so she went without question. The doctor who checked it scheduled emergency surgery to remove melanoma that had spread so deeply that it was within a hair's distance from her lymphatic system. I might still have my mom today because she and I trusted a dream.

As for daydreams, I have a theory that I would love for you to put to the test: When we daydream with a sense of appreciation and joy in our hearts, without any expectation, that dream goes out into the universe and it comes to us in extraordinary ways. Even small things apply. For instance, I thought to myself a couple of times, 'Wouldn't it be nice to have some soft pink peonies in my yard?' I even looked at them in the store, but with some big expenses that had come up, I just couldn't justify buying flowers. A week later, I was out for a walk and stumbled upon a large paper bag marked Free peonies. What are the chances of that? Peonies! I looked up and said, "Thank You."

Starting today, I invite you to trust your dreams: your sleeping dreams and your daydreams, big and small. Follow your instincts. Imagine the possibilities with gratefulness and joy. Allow your mind to wander and your heart to listen. You just might notice that your dreams aren't so fantastical after all. You might find that some dreams are truly whispers from your soul.

Shelby Kottemann is an author, teacher, and empathic reiki therapist. She created Loves Nature LLC to help others create heart-centered lives. You can reach her at contact@inlovesnature.com. Visit her website at www.inlovesnature.com.

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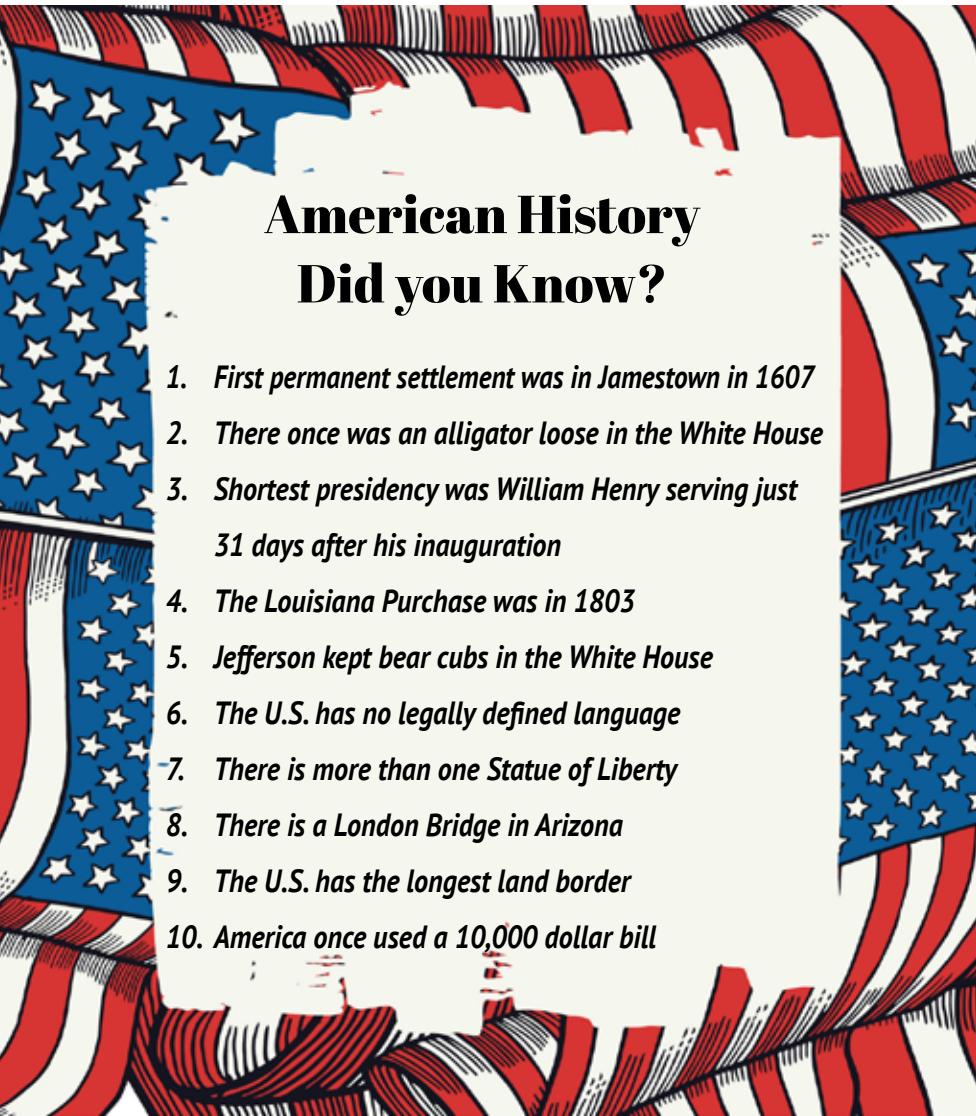


Mary Kay



Coke A Cola





American History

Did you Know?

1. First permanent settlement was in Jamestown in 1607
2. There once was an alligator loose in the White House
3. Shortest presidency was William Henry serving just 31 days after his inauguration
4. The Louisiana Purchase was in 1803
5. Jefferson kept bear cubs in the White House
6. The U.S. has no legally defined language
7. There is more than one Statue of Liberty
8. There is a London Bridge in Arizona
9. The U.S. has the longest land border
10. America once used a 10,000 dollar bill

Watermelon Summer Berry Salad

Ingredients

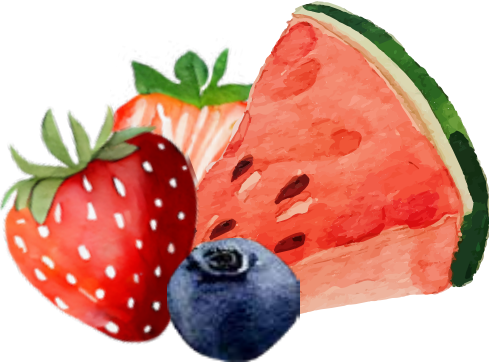
- Watermelon
- Cherries
- Strawberries
- Blueberries
- Lime Juice
- Lime Zest
- Honey
- Poppyseeds

Directions

Prepare the fruit. Cut your watermelon into 1 inch cubes and add it to a large bowl. Then cut your strawberries in half (or quarters) and pit and cut your cherries in half and add them to the bowl with your watermelon. Then add your blueberries and lime zest.

Make the “dressing.” Next, whisk your dressing ingredients together until the honey dissolves.

Toss & serve! Pour your desired amount of dressing over the fruit and toss the salad until it’s completely coated. Then serve immediately or let it chill in the fridge for 10-20 minutes before serving.





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Weeding the Summer Garden.

By Kerri Habben Bosman

I weeded our garden this summer morning before the swelter of the day snuck in. I worked beneath a nicely overcast sky, surrounded by a quiet breeze with the slightest hint of rain in it. I migrated from garden bed to garden bed, welcoming each arriving thought as I listened to the world breathe.

I talked to the tomatoes and smiled at the watermelon. I checked the cucumber plants, happy to see that more were growing after yesterday's harvest. I shook my head at the plethora of mint, swiping my hand across it to bring forth its aroma. I pondered the tiny purple flowers on the thyme. I transplanted seven pepper plants to a better spot, silently apologizing as I uprooted them. I secured them gently but firmly into their new place and watered them right away with a promise to come back soon.

My husband, Wayne, says it is an act of faith to plant a garden. Each winter as our seedlings sit in the front window, we eagerly await each new stage of their development. We plant dormant seeds with prayerful hopes, hoping that our care, their environment and uncontrolled circumstance will support their growth into the best plant they can be. We rejoice from the first tendrils to the last vegetable or flower when autumn is coming upon us. We clear out for the last months of the year and wait to start all over again.

Much of our summer garden began on a winter's day in January when I brought out all the seeds we'd saved from last year. Zinnias, marigolds, peppers and tomatoes. The beans, carrots, sugar snap peas we had to buy. And of course, I bought plants. Except for spoiling grandchildren, we are frugal. With Scottish and German backgrounds between us, we cannot escape it. However, putting me in a plant nursery in late April with a credit card is possibly more dangerous than sending a shopaholic to the mall. Thankfully, I have a lot of willpower, but often something beautiful and new to me simply jumps into my cart.

We bought our cucumber plants from our 16 year-old grandson, Hunter. He grew them in his high school horticulture class and then they had a plant sale. Cucumbers don't always grow well here at the coast. Because he planted the seeds and nurtured them, we especially wanted them to bear fruit. Even if it were just one cucumber, his efforts would be a success. We are grateful to be enjoying many a cucumber salad.

And, like I said at the beginning of this article, I plucked out the ever-tenacious "Pflanzeichwill-nichtus." (This is my very own botanical name for a weed. It is a combination of German and Latin, meaning "plant that I do not want). Along the way, I made mental notes as to how the plants I do want are growing, deadheading as I go. I find a bit of irony in weeding, as I meticulously cull a concentrated area, I am also focusing on the entire garden. I feel the surrounding beauty and the grace of being alive. This creates a precious cohesion, an acceptance of all that is and all that is not.

Our garden of life these last few years has been partially fertilized by loss and sorrow. They churned up the soil of who we are and these emotions are still breaking down into nutrients that will somehow serve us. Yet, through it all, we resettled our roots, trusting the journey in this strange soil, and we were given enough water and enough light to grow into a new season.

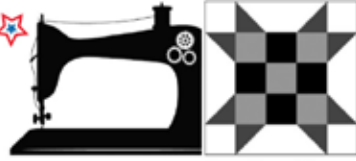
Now, I must go to check the transplanted peppers, smile at the cucumber plants and pause gratefully at the tender, tiny flowers of thyme.



Top 10 4th of July BBQ Foods

- Hot Dogs & Buns
- Hamburgers
- Baby Back Ribs
- Yellow corn
- Potato Salad
- Watermelon
- Bratwurst & Sausages
- Baked Beans
- Chips and Dip
- Coleslaw





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4th of July Mix

Ingredients

- Cheerios
- Rice Chex
- Wheat Chex
- Corn Chex
- Pretzen Sticks
- M&Ms
- White Chocolate

Directions

- In a large bowl combine the Cheerios, Chex, Pretzels and m&m's. Mix them up a bit, making sure that everything is evenly distributed.
- Meanwhile, over a double boiler, melt the white chocolate according to the directions on the package.
- Once the chocolate has melted and is a smooth consistency, drizzle the chocolate over the cereal mix and combine with a wooden spoon or hands. Make sure all the cereal is covered in chocolate. If you need to melt the extra white chocolate to cover all the mix then go right ahead!
- Once the entire batch has been combined, lay it out to dry on a large sheet of parchment or wax paper. Let dry for 1 hour so the chocolate is cooled and hard. Break it up into medium pieces and store in an airtight container in the fridge or freezer.





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Facts about Americas Beginnings

1. Independence was established on July 2nd.
1. Two of the founders of America, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on the same day, July 4th, just 50 years apart.
2. The constitution was inspired of the Iroquois confederacy.
3. The U.S. had young leaders, Thomas Jefferson was 33 when he wrote the declaration, and George Washington was 43 when he took command in the army.
4. The revolutionary war was a global war.
5. The liberty belle cracks.
6. Before Washington there were many people who acted as president to control the country.
7. There is a so-called curse of early presidents.
8. 10% of Americans are related to Native Americans.
9. Independence day was established in 1776.





Find a new favorite shop!

SEE OUR AD INDEX ON PAGE 17

Firecracker Fried Chicken Drumsticks

Ingredients

8 chicken drumsticks, skin removed
¼ cup hot pepper sauce
1 quart vegetable oil for frying
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons yellow cornmeal
½ teaspoon salt

Directions

1. Gather all ingredients.
2. Place chicken into a resealable plastic bag and pour in hot sauce.
3. Massage the bag to coat chicken with sauce, squeeze out excess air, and seal the bag. Marinate in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour, or up to 24 hours for spicier chicken.
4. Heat oil in a deep-fryer or large skillet to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Combine flour, cornmeal, and salt in another resealable plastic bag.
5. Add the marinated drumsticks, seal the bag, and shake to coat.
6. Fry chicken, uncovered, in the preheated deep fryer, turning occasionally, until golden brown, crispy, and the juices run clear, 25 to 30 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted near the bone should read 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).



Become Inspired

By Annice Bradley Rockwell

A Celebration of Strength

In 2026 with the approach of the height of the year, we have so much to be proud of. As our nation celebrates its 250th year, one of the best ways to proclaim our patriotic pride is through decorating. Our yards this time of year are naturally filled with the beauty of green lawns and gardens filled with color. The stands of red beebalm that attract the hardworking hummingbirds are in full bloom now. Our blue hydrangeas that are always lush and vibrant are all part of the backdrop of a spectacular and especially patriotic summer. To decorate our porches, gorgeous primitive buntings of red, white and blue expand our décor and lend historic appeal. Small bicentennial flags lined along our fence let people know we are truly celebrating our nation's proud history.



To make our enthusiasm even more evident, we might even create historical decorative vignettes that are unique and have an even stronger colonial appeal. A huge copy of The Declaration of Independence paired with a Revolutionary cloak and tricorne hat can be placed next to an inkwell with a quill and American flag. It's a way to celebrate freedom and to honor history.

Participating in the Past

Taking part in our town's 250th celebrations will no doubt be a time to remember. Whether it is a tour of the local museum's bicentennial collection curated just for this year, or an historic home tour designed with 250 in mind, the activities for this very special summer abound. Summer favorites such as the July 4th parade or the quaint shoreline town's boat parade will be received with exceptional fanfare and enthusiasm this year because this historic milestone deserves it.

Spirit of 1776

So as summer gets into full swing and festive events start to gain momentum, consider taking part and enjoying the "Spirit of 1776" fun. As people who are naturally passionate about history, colonial antiques and the legacy of our nation's past, this summer is a time to bring our absolute best.

--Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, New England Girl. NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com

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Spot the Difference

Answers:

- 1. Barn Decoration
- 2. Lantern Color
- 3. Flower Arrangement
- 4. Milk Can Label
- 5. God Bless America Sign

BONUS: The flower container at the bottom left changes from a galvanized metal tub (left) to a wooden barrel planter (right).



Stitched in Survival, Continued in Craft

By Anna Engen, Staff Writer

Walk into any local specialty shop today, and you're surrounded by vibrant fabrics, beautiful yarns, and the undeniable warmth of a creative community. In a world full of mass-produced items, our love for the handmade has become a way to slow down and express ourselves. But if you trace these traditions back to their very beginnings, you'll find a completely different story.

If you went back a century or two, a beautifully knit scarf or a hand-stitched quilt wasn't an artistic statement, it was the only thing keeping the winter chill out of a drafty home. Women didn't gather for a quilting bee just to socialize. While the community was a vital lifeline, they gathered because many hands made fast work of a winter essential. Clothing was mended, patched, and passed down until the fabric literally fell apart, only to be rescued one last time to become a square in a scrap quilt.

The same went for the kitchen. Baking a loaf of bread wasn't a trendy weekend project involving sourdough starters and digital scales. It was a daily, physically demanding chore. If you didn't bake, your family wouldn't eat. So, how did these daily chores transform into the beloved pastimes we cherish today?

As industrialization took over the decades, ready-made clothes became affordable, and sliced bread filled grocery store shelves. Suddenly, the intense pressure to produce out of our survival lifted, and, for a while, the world embraced the convenience of the modern age. But humans have a funny way of missing the things that anchor us. Once we no longer had to sew, knit, or bake to survive, we realized something profound:

we actually wanted to. Free from the burden of necessity, these tasks became an expression of joy, creativity, and love. We began choosing our colors for the beauty of the palette, not just because it was the only wool available. We started baking bread for the magic of the process and the unmatched taste of a home-cooked meal.

Today, when we pick up a pair of knitting needles, sit down at a sewing machine, or dust our counters with flour, we are doing something incredibly special. WE are reaching backward in time and keeping a flame alive. We are honoring the skill, resilience, and quiet dedication of the generations before us who did these exact same movements out of love and duty.

In a fast-paced, digital world, returning to these handmade necessities brings us back to earth. It connects us to our communities, supports our local specialty shops, and reminds us that the best things in life are still made by hand, one careful stitch and slow rise at a time.



*Find a new favorite shop!*



SEE OUR AD INDEX
ON PAGE 17

Travel the USA Bucket List

1. Visit Niagara Falls
 2. Go to the Hamptons
 3. Go to Glacier National Park
 4. Visit the Everglades
 5. Yellowstone National Park
 6. Visit Moab, Utah
 7. Go snorkeling at Key west, Florida
 8. Go to Grand Canyon National Park
 9. Go to Highlands National Park in NC
 10. Take a trip to Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee
11. Tour the White House
 12. Explore Lake Tahoe
 13. Take a trip to Yosemite National Park
 14. Travel to Zion National Park in Utah
 15. Visit Sedona, Arizona
 16. Explore Magnolia Springs, Alabama
 17. Go to the beach at Space Coast, Florida
 18. Travel to Maui, Hawaii
 19. Bike across the Golden Gate Bridge
 20. Drive the full length of Route 66
21. Go to the stop of the Empire State Building
 22. Ride Staten Island Ferry to the Statue of Liberty
 23. See Mount Rushmore
 24. Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge
 25. Experience Mardi Gras in New Orleans
 26. Go to the Kentucky Derby
 27. Go to a music festival
 28. Watch Fireworks on the 4th of July in DC
 29. Do a BBQ roadtrip through Texas
 30. Hike a stretch of the Appalachian Trail or Pacific Crest Trail



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Saturday, August 1 | 9am - 4pm



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Answers from page 20



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WELCOME TO WASHINGTON!

Join us as we explore the state of Washington and their shops and events. The great state has much to see and offer. And is close to many connecting Oregon shops and events as well!

To celebrate America's 250th Birthday, Fidalgo Island Quilters presents a

Star Spangled Quilt Show Extravaganza

July 31 - August 1 - Fri & Sat - 10am to 4pm
Anacortes Middle School - 2202 M Ave

Quilt Show - Featured Artist - Vendors
Fashion Show - August 1, Sat - 1pm
Shop our Unique Boutique for Handmade Quilts & Gifts
Admission \$10 - www.fidalgoislandquilters.com
Happy 250th Birthday, America!
Fidalgo Island Quilters, Anacortes, WA - 501(c)3 Non-Profit



GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



God makes everything BEAUTIFUL in its time.
Ecclesiastes 3:11

Summer is the time to see Nature in full bloom!

The sky is more blue, the green leaves are in their full glory!
The brightness lifts our spirits and gives us more energy.
Sunlight triggers the release of hormones in our brain.
Those hormones boost our mood and helps a person feel calm and focused.
Have you ever noticed that when you walk in nature you seem to notice the birds and other nature sounds more clearly? Slowing down to enjoy our neighbor's beautiful flowers is secretly lowering our blood pressure too.
Beauty is often only thought of as external, like a person, a landscape, a moment of grace, but it is clearly connected to the mind, heart, and spirit.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: True beauty goes beyond what we see because it shines through in our actions, and our kindness. Let that smile come into full expression the next time you "feel" a thing of Beauty!

Joy & Blessings, *Jody*

Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®.
Color files of this writing and artwork are available: www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com

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FEATURED QUILTER: RENEE MILES



AFTER HOURS EVENT WITH KRISTA MOSER
See more online!



2026 CHERRYWOOD EXHIBITION: THE ABYSS



Partially funded by a grant provided by The City of Spokane Valley.



US Breakthroughs

Ralph Lauren

Buffalo wings was created in 1964 in New York

The Great Gatsby novel written in 1925 by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Hollywood film Industry

The Internet (Developed in 1960)



NEW EXHIBIT!

April - August

Threads of Our Nation

In Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary

Contemporary and vintage quilts in red, white, and blue!

White Bluffs Quilt Museum

294 Torbett Street, Richland, WA



Covington Quilter's Quilt Show

July 24-25, 2026

10am - 4pm

Jenkins Creek Elementary School

26915 186th Ave SE, Covington

\$10 Suggested Donation

Ages 12 & under, free

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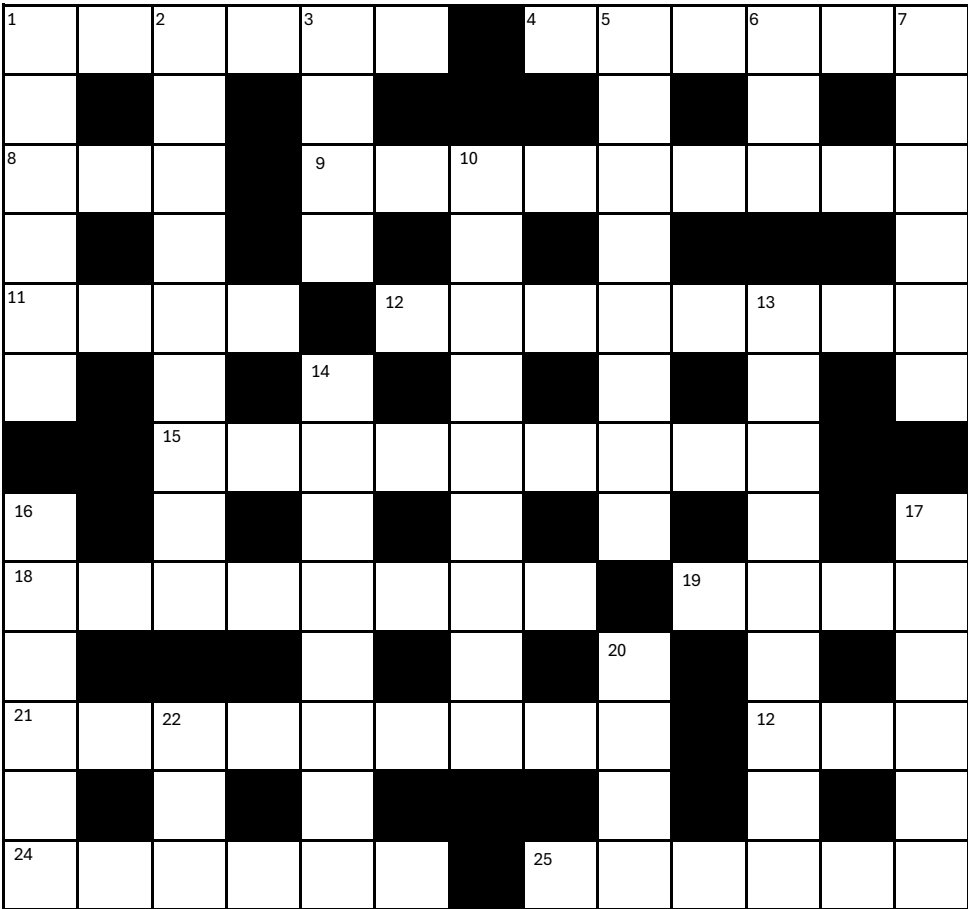


West Sound Quilt Show 2026
August 14 & 15, 2026
Fri & Sat - 10am - 4pm

Featured Artists: Trish Chipman
Marcus Whitman Middle School
1887 Madrona Dr, SE, Port Orchard, WA
For more information visit: www.westsoundquilters.org



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- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 1 Beliefs contrary to a religion

4 Desolate (6)

8 Farmyard milk producer (3)

9 Recipient (9)

11 Muslim ruler (4)

12 Exchanged (8)

15 Modify (9)

18 Five-sided polygon (8)

19 Cry noisily (4)

21 Being (9)

23 Treasure (3)

24 Tangle up (6)

25 Reliable (6)
- 1 Electronic investigator (6)

2 Edited (9)

3 Mockery (4)

5 Fail to notice (8)

6 Letter-width units (3)

7 Financial returns (6)

10 Rebuke (5,4)

13 Crusades (9)

14 Of enormous size (8)

16 Ball (6)

17 Awkward (6)

20 Get wind of (4)

22 Diseased (3)



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Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour

July 18-19, 2026, 11 am-4 pm
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Tickets \$25
Visit for more information:
MukilteoGardenandQuiltTour.org

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BARN QUILT PAINTING WORKSHOP

Crazy Quilter Retreat – July 11th

Get ready to unleash your inner artist at our July 11th Barn Quilt Painting Workshop with Danisha Miller of Giggle Girl Farm! Let your imagination run wild and create something truly unique.

After you register for the class, you will receive an email with a coloring sheet for you to preplan your color scheme. Remember to let us know which quilt pattern number you have chosen.

Everything you need to create a finished Barn Quilt is provided in class including lunch!

Bring a friend to our Barn Quilt Workshop. It's always fun to have someone to be creative with. Don't miss out on this opportunity to channel your artistic side!

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Quilt & Fiber Art Show – August 7th & 9th

The NCW Quilt Guild, with approximately 175 members, is dedicated to preserving and encouraging quilt making in North Central Washington. Visitors are warmly invited to attend the 41st annual Quilt and Fiber Art Show on August 7th-9th.

This Show will feature approximately 300 beautifully hand-crafted quilts. Several guild members are recognized as top local, regional, and national award winners. The show will be held at the Town Toyota Center in beautiful Wenatchee, Washington.



2026 Raffle Quilt "Flower Garden"

This year's event will also feature two special displays featuring quilters Jean Gustafson of Selah, Washington, and Terry Murphy of the NCW Quilt Guild. Guests can also explore a variety of vendors throughout the show. A visit to the Silent Auction "Sparkle" offers an opportunity to support the Wenatchee Community Concert Association, a non-profit organization that brings affordable live music to the Wenatchee Valley. In addition, raffle tickets are available for just \$1 each for a chance to win a beautiful hand appliqu  quilt "Flower Garden" made by Mary Rozendaal and Pat Koehler and quilted by Nancy Freese. Winners do not need to be present to claim the prize. For those interested in taking home a quilt or fiber art piece of their own, the popular Artisan Market offers wonderful handmade creations from guild members, including everything from earrings to quilts.

Guests are encouraged to vote for their top three favorite quilts or fiber art pieces. Awards will be presented near the end of the show for first, second, and third place, along with several honorable mentions. In addition, judges will present Best of Show and three Judges' Choice Awards.

Wenatchee offers beautiful scenery, including orchards set against rolling hills along the Columbia River. Visitors will also find lovely restaurants and shopping nearby, as well as food available at the site. Parking is free. Admission is \$10 per person, or \$8 per person for groups of five or more. Because the venue can feel cool even on warm days, bringing a shirt or sweater is recommended. The NCW Quilt Guild looks forward to welcoming guests to this special event.



Quilt & Fiber Art Show

Wenatchee, WA

August 7 & 8, 2026

NEW DATES!

Friday & Saturday, 9am-5pm
Town Toyota Center, 1300 Walla Walla Avenue

SPONSORED BY: North Central Washington Quilt Guild
Fabric Vendors - Demonstrations - Artisan Market - Door Prizes
Admissions: \$10 - Free Parking

More information at www.ncwquilt.org

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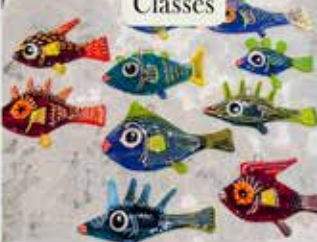
SECRET GARDEN, AN ART EXHIBITION

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July 2026

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Classes



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PORT ORCHARD, WA



Log Cabin Museum

The Inner Critic

by Shelby Kottemann



When you have a creative spirit, that never goes away. It follows you everywhere you go. Creativity and art are expressed not just through quilting and sewing but through the way we dress, how we express our thoughts in words, in the way we live our lives.

Children express their creativity best. With no filter and no abandon, they create and share with the world. I remember in my little girl days, I used to sit and draw for hours. Time disappeared, and I got lost in the moment. I learned the piano with curiosity and openness.

Then, in my teen years, a not-so-friendly voice came along. Suddenly, my second time practicing a song should have been perfect and those drawings had glaring flaws. That voice robbed my joy for creating and replaced it with pressure.

Though I'm ashamed to admit it, I don't create as much these days. In a way, it's because I'm afraid of myself. Isn't that a funny concept? Well, I'm looking to change this, and it starts with a beginner's mind and the expectation that I will make mistakes. I'm practicing the act of telling myself, "I'm learning." or "I'm practicing." Along with it comes trusting myself that, if I can't fix a problem, I can turn any flaw into something even more beautiful. I'm creative after all.

Putting this all to practice, I recently made a needle book. I fell a half-inch short on my outer piece of fabric- no room for the seam! Well, I used pinking shears on that edge and hand stitched embroidery across the line where the seam would have been, turning a mistake into an opportunity for beauty and detail. My project turned out even better for it. I'm learning that, in all the pressure I was applying to myself over little things, I was missing out on so many opportunities to be the creative spirit that I am and allow my wings to soar. I'm doing much more of that now! If you've ever felt some of these same things, fly with me.

Shelby Kottemann is an author, teacher, and empathic reiki therapist. She created Loves Nature LLC to help others create heart-centered lives. You can reach her at contact@inlovesnature.com. Visit her website at www.inlovesnature.com.





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Walla Walla Quilt Festival

September 18-19, 2026

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Walla Walla Quilt Festival and the nation's 250 birthday, this year's festival theme is Americana. The theme will be showcased in quilts entered in the small quilt challenge category. There is also a block challenge. Quilters utilize in a substantial way a fabric chosen by the festival committee to create a 12.5 inch square unfinished block. The winner receives all the entered blocks. This year's fabric is from the Bloomology collection, Mosaic Primary by Monica Forsberg.



2026 National featured quilters are Jenny and Helen of Sew Kind of Wonderful. They had this to say about their quilting passion, "We love combining curved and angled piecing with straight line piecing to give variety and beauty to every project. We developed our curved and angled templates to make cutting unique shapes fast, easy, and consistent. We always use an easy piecing technique that makes sewing with the bias quick and easy, and the square-up step ensures blocks are consistent for piecing at the next step."

This year's local featured quilter Jessica Rennaker describes her quilting journey this way, "When I was 30, I could not thread a sewing machine and now I cannot imagine going without one. Every time I walk into a fabric store, I hear the song lyric "I want it all" by Queen playing in my head and inspiration hits. Making quilts is my meditation, artistic outlet, community connection, and my gift of time to others."



The Walla Walla festival was first held in 1999 after local businesswomen hit upon the idea while brainstorming ways to encourage tourism to the area. Since then, the wine industry has grown substantially. Wine aficionados now visit from all over the world. Visitors interested in the history of the Walla Walla Valley may want to stop at the Whitman Mission historic site or the Fort Walla Walla Museum.

From the Valley to the Nation

Fort Walla Walla Museum is excited to be opening a new special exhibit on July 4th, celebrating America's 250th anniversary! The new exhibit, From the Valley to the Nation, highlights the valley's many contributions and impact on the nation throughout its history. Themes that visitors can explore include agricultural impact, influential people from the region, presidential visits, innovations that came from the Walla Walla community, military contributions, important surveys and trails, and artifacts of national treasure from the museum's collection.

Learning about history is an opportunity to reflect on where we've come from, prompts curiosity on how to incorporate history in the context of the present day, and provides lessons and guidance for the future. Museums across the country have created new exhibits in celebration of America's 250th anniversary and Fort Walla Walla Museum is excited to join the celebration and profile our own region's influence and connection to our nation's history!

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Walla Walla Valley Quilt Festival

– 25th Annual Quilt Show –

September 18-19, 2026
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
\$10 Admission (valid both days)

Exhibition of Exceptional Quilts - Vendor Marketplace
Silent Auction - Demonstrations Provided Hourly

2026 Challenge Theme: **Americana**
Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd

National Featured Quilter:
Sew Kind of Wonderful
Helen Robinson and Jenny Pedigo

Local Featured Quilter:
Jessica Rennaker

Walla Walla Fairgrounds
wallawallaquiltfestival.org

NEW EXHIBIT OPENING JULY



FROM THE VALLEY TO THE NATION

Walla Walla's connection to the History of America



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Robin's Nest DIY Blog

Noodle Watermelon

I think this project says, "Sumer is Here!"

YOU WILL NEED:

You will need a red and a green pool noodle, cable ties (extra-long-24inches), clear packing tape, a knife (retractable blade), white paint and brush, white cotton cord, scissors, green ribbon, straight pins, and glue.



STEP ONE

Bend the red noodle at about 8 inches and cut it straight across. Tape it to hold it with the clear packing tape. Take the rest of the noodle and wrap it around the first and cut it so they are all straight and tape them to hold together for now.



STEP TWO

Push the zip tie through the middle two noodles and tie it off, do this to the next red layer also. The last outside layer is the green noodle. Wrap it around and push the cable tie through all of the noodle layers. I had to tie two cable ties together for this layer. I then removed the clear tape.



STEP THREE

Cut two cords to fit between the green and red layer. You can glue these in place or use straight pins to tack them in (I had trouble getting the glue to stick). CAUTION- hot glue will melt the noodle.



STEP FOUR

I dry brushed some white acrylic paint on the red noodle along the white cord.



STEP FIVE

Next, I used double stick tape to put the green ribbon on the green noodle layer. I cut the strips at about 6.5 inches or just measure it around and cut.



STEP SIX

I used a paint pen to draw "seeds" on the red noodle and pinned on a green bow.



STEP SEVEN

Tie a ribbon on the back cable ties to hang your watermelon!

REALLY CUTE!



FINISHED!