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September - October 2026

NEBRASKA

COMPLIMENTARY

Your Complimentary Guide to Nebraska

Specialty Shopping & Events!

*Sew Many Pumpkins,
So Little
Time!*

Gather.
Create.
Give Thanks.



What's Inside?



- Cup of Tea with Lydia - Page 4
- Golden Autumn's Gifts - Page 5
- Sweet Charcuterie Board - Page 6
- Acts of Community Kindness - Page 6
- Sewing Centre of Lincoln - Page 7
- Applejack Festival - Page 7
- Celebrating Family Through Quilts - Page 8
- Threads Across Nebraska - Page 8
- National Sewing Machine Month - Page 9
- Iowa Quilt Museum - Page 9
- Friends of the International Quilt Museum - Page 10
- Savory Fall Charcuterie Board - Page 10
- Kissed Quilts - Page 10
- NIFS Shop Hop - Page 11
- Robin's Nest DIY Blog - Page 12
- Harvesting More Than Crops - Page 13
- Nebraska Pumpkin Patch Guide - Page 13
- Forgotten Fall Traditions - Page 13
- Jacquelynne Steves Pattern - Page 14
- Become Inspired - Page 14
- Hosting a Cozy Gathering - Page 15
- Crossword Puzzle - Page 15
- Susan Branch - Page 15
- Nebraska's Junk Jaunt - Page 16
- Book & Fabric Giveaway Winner - Page 17
- **Ad Directory by Name & Community - Page 18**
- Fall Foods You're Guaranteed to Flock Towards - Page 19
- Nebraska Fall Festival Guide - Page 19
- What Does Fall Smell Like to you? - Page 19



Editor's Notes

Fall is just a beloved time of the year. We love the mesmerizing leaves, the cozy evenings around the fire, smells of apple crisp and pumpkin spice, crisp air as the season beckons change, the vibrant colors that fall lets us relish in before winter sets in.

It is a magical time I adore, as do many of us. It is a season of change. It helps us reflect on the bounty of the year, and prepare for the quiet reflection season ahead.

But, I think one of my favorite aspects of autumn is gathering. We often gather frequently in this season for all kinds of fun reasons. In the Midwest and upper Northwest we surge in gatherings during the fall season before winter weather makes it hard to travel.

Football games, soccer games, craft fairs, fall festivals, pumpkin patches, backyard BBQs, chili cook-offs, fall leaf roadtrips, harvest markets and more. There are so many reasons to gather and enjoy all the bounty the season has to offer.

Those of us who create, fall is such an inspired time is it not? So many amazing craft ideas for your table, mantel, or porch. The fun of actually carving pumpkins, creating wreaths out of fall foliage, putting together a great centerpiece with dried florals, gourds and acorns, or creating a pumpkin out of anything but an actual pumpkin. Maybe starting a new quilt or finishing one just in time for cold weather. It is a season for the makers that is for sure.

For all of those treasures we find in the season, may we give thanks. Thanks for the bounty the year has bestowed, the lessons, the laughs, the tears and all the in between. Thanks for the fabric we found at that one cute store that was just right, or the old vase at that cute antique store that just finished the set on my mantel, or that endless memories we made with loved ones at the fall festival. For it all we give thanks.

May the season find you gathering, creating and giving thanks.
-Kelsey

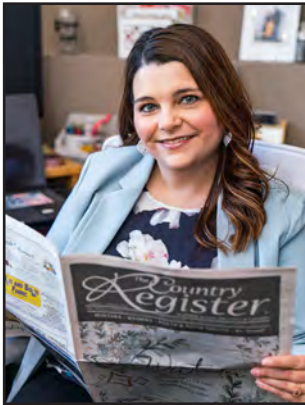
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Travel Guide
on your next adventure!

Index on page 18 by
Name & Community Help you find
& explore a new shop!





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SEE OUR AD INDEX ON PAGE 18

**Next Deadline: Ads and articles for the
November/December issue are October 7, 2026.**

Any Day Is Grandparents Day!

By Lydia E. Harris

Fall usually means back to school, back to work, and back to scheduled routines. It's also back to Grandparents Day—which is celebrated on the second Sunday of September each year. This year it falls on September 13. But my husband and I don't need an official holiday to celebrate with our grandkids. We enjoy time with them as often as we can.

When our grandkids arrive at our home, I often ask them, "What day is it today?"

Their usual reply is, "Funday!" Any day with them is fun for all of us.

Recently, when they arrived, they answered, "Workday!" That's because Anna, 12, and Owen, 16, along with their mom, had offered to help us with housecleaning and yardwork.

"We can still have fun," I said, as I began to sing Whistle while you work.

Work they did—and with a good attitude! After they vacuumed and washed the floors, cleaned the bathrooms and dusted furniture, our home almost shone "like the top of the Chrysler building," as Miss Hannigan says in Annie. The yard looked better, too.

Of course, it wasn't all work. We took time for tea and treats, enjoying the sunshine on our deck while sipping their favorite peach herbal tea.

"These cookies taste good," Anna said when she took a bite of the chocolate chip cookies I'd baked the previous day.

I also served oatmeal cake, gluten-free chips and fresh strawberries, which they love eating dipped into sour cream and brown sugar. They think it almost tastes like dipping them into caramel sauce.

Their help that day was a win-win situation. They were planning to attend an out-of-state church camp in a month so I wrote out a check to help cover some of the cost.

"That's a lot of money," Anna said when they started to leave.

"Thanks for helping us," I said and smiled. "Do you know what else you were doing?" They waited for my reply. "You were laying up treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20).

They drove away smiling and I smiled as well when I stepped inside our clean home and I knew God was smiling, too.

Any day is Grandparents Day. And any occasion can turn into a tea party with fun memories that linger and bless others and ourselves.



Lydia E. Harris enjoys serving tea to family and friends. Her books for grandparents are: Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting, In the Kitchen with Grandma, and GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids. All are available at amazon.com or can be ordered through local bookstores.



FROM LYDIA'S COOKBOOK

-In the Kitchen with Grandma:

Popcorn Cake

(Fun to make with grandkids)

- Gather with Grandma
- 3 1/2 quarts (14 cups) popped popcorn
 - 1/2 cup butter (one stick), melted
 - 1 10-oz package miniature marshmallows
 - 20 unwrapped caramels, cut in half
 - 2 cups favorite small candies, such as candy corn, M&M'S®, gumdrops, or a mixture of candy
 - 1 cup lightly salted or honey roasted peanuts or mixed nuts (optional)

- Make with Grandma
1. Lightly grease an angel food cake pan with butter or nonstick cooking spray.
 2. Measure the popcorn into a large container that holds at least five quarts. Mix in nuts and candy, except the chocolate candy. Measure the chocolate candy into a separate bowl to add later, otherwise the chocolate will melt and turn the cake brown.
 3. In a large saucepan or microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter and caramels together until the caramels are soft, stirring with a wooden spoon. Add the marshmallows and melt them completely.
 4. When melted, pour the marshmallow mixture over the popcorn mixture. Mix the cake with a wooden spoon.
 5. After the mixture cools slightly, stir in M&M'S or other chocolate candy.
 6. Press the popcorn mixture into the cake pan using wax paper or fingers greased with butter. Press down until the cake is compact.
 7. Refrigerate the cake for an hour or until firm.
 8. Remove the cake from the pan and place it on a plate. Serve at room temperature. Slice with a serrated knife.
 9. To keep the cake fresh, wrap it tightly with plastic wrap or foil or place it in an airtight container. This cake is best eaten in a few days. Wrap and refrigerate the uneaten cake to prevent it from becoming sticky.

Serves 12 to 16

Tip: For popcorn—use plain popcorn, kettle corn or lightly salted and buttered popcorn. You can buy it already popped if you prefer. (A package of 5.5 ounces of popped popcorn will give you 14 cups.)

See cookbook for variations.

Golden Autumn's Gifts

By Barbara Kalkis

Autumn. At last! I will miss you Summer, but there's such relief with Autumn's arrival. Finally, I can accept the fact that the five pounds I promised to shed in May will spend the holidays stuck to my hips. That thought frees me to shred my stack of sure-fire weight-loss tips. Also out: the food journal logging diet victories and confessions of eating ice cream swimming in chocolate sauce, walnuts and whipped cream.

It's also time to say goodbye to every summer salad and chilled soup under the sun which looks scrumptious in magazines and easy-breezy to prepare. One famous chef claimed that she just served salads to guests. Easy-Peasy and everyone loved them. Really? Only if I buy ingredients in a bag and dump them all in a salad bowl. Otherwise, I must cook and chill the pasta, corn, rice or potatoes, and spend hours slicing, dicing and adding all the other ingredients to make the dinner look effortless, healthy, and – bonus! - slimming. I tried that advice, but two hours later I was still hungry and needed a snack – like ice cream. I enjoyed the forbidden snack by reassuring myself that ice cream provides bone-strengthening healthy calcium, which I noted in my food journal.

In Autumn you can stow your trendy charcuterie boards. Like chilled salads and soups, they, too, are wearisome. You can pile them high with cheeses, meats and veggies that require hours of slicing; add condiments spooned out of jars and placed into cuter containers, deli sausages, salamis and cheeses that must be decorated with olives (black AND green), cherry tomatoes, pickled onions and, oh, don't forget the cracker and bread assortment. By the time I finished with my one-time only charcuterie board, I had loaded three boards and a dozen bowls and was wondering why I just hadn't popped a chicken in the oven with vegetables and called the meal "done."

Now at last, it's Autumn. My favorite season. Wait. I said that about Spring when I shook off my winter doldrums; Summer when the fresh market vegetables were really fresh and flower bouquets were from the garden. Days stretched from early sunrises to late sunsets sparkling with firefly dances and starry skies. Now, before the chill of Winter, Autumn arrives in brilliant color. Out of the closet come the comfy clothes that fit like the summer shorts didn't. In the kitchen, the microwave goes silent. Heavy pans for cooking "serious food" are pulled out of their summer storage in the oven. It's the season to cook. Best of all, it's time for comfort foods like cookies, pies, and cakes.

Autumn is the perfect time for everything from meat to vegetables to cookies and every kind of dessert. We can practice old recipes and try new ones before the holiday season. Magazines, organizations, and even companies enthusiastically support cooking. Wisconsin Energy's Cookie Book has been published continuously since 1928. Pennsylvania cookbooks feature apple crisp, snickerdoodles and Gobs (or whoopie pies). Some states have an official state cookie, pie or desert, while provinces promote iconic foods associated with a region. Think about the popular foods where you live. The foods routinely featured and ordered in a café or restaurant are part of a region's cultural signature. For me, there's nothing better than sitting down with a glass of ice-cold milk, a cookie – or 6! – fresh from the oven and watching the sunset. The warmth of something baked in an oven touches the heart in a way that a tossed salad or cold salami never can.

©Barbara Kalkis, 2026. Barbara divides her time between writing, teaching and consulting. She is a terrible cook but appreciates those home chefs who have perfected the art. Reach her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.





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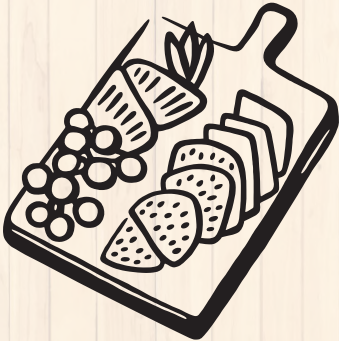
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Sweet Charcuterie Board for Fall



- Apple Pie Salted Caramels
- Peach Twists
- Pumpkin Spice Brownie Bites
- Pumpkin Spice Yogurt Pretzels
- Mallowcream Mix
- Orange Vanilla Natural Taffy
- Mini Peanut Butter Cups
- Pistachios in the shell
- Peanut Butter Pretzel Nuggets
- Sprouts Chocolate Rolled Wafers
- Sprouts Pumpkin Snaps
- 2-3 fresh mini pumpkins (as garnish)

Acts of Community Kindness

1. Clean up a park
2. Rake someones leaves
3. Fill a little free library
4. Check on neighbors
5. Cook a meal for someone
6. Donate to animal centers
7. Volunteer for a group in your community
8. Compliment someone when you walk past them
9. Buy the person behind you in line a coffee
10. Leave a basket of essentials on someone's doorstep

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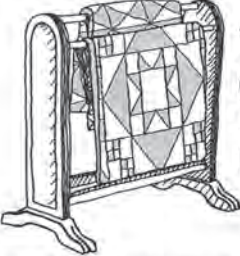
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Sewing Centre of Lincoln Celebrating One Year Anniversary

The Sewing Centre of Lincoln is nearing its one-year anniversary and so much has changed in that time. There is new inventory nearly every day and probably the biggest change since opening is the addition of fabulous fabric!

There are nearly 1,000 bolts in addition to lots of fat quarters and kits. Oodles of notions, rulers, threads, patterns and so many other quilting goodies await you. And if there is something special you need that is not in stock, they are happy to help you find it and take special orders. They are also busy working to get online shopping up and ready for business.

Those in the market for a sewing machine or serger will want to stop by to check out the latest and greatest that Bernina has to offer. Bernina has just unveiled their newest machines, and the staff love to let you give them a test drive. One of our new favorites are the 580 and 495 special editions in partnership with Liberty of London fabrics. Both machines have beautiful floral designs inspired by Liberty's gorgeous fabrics and feature special designs and embroidery files.



Classes and education are another much loved aspect of the Sewing Centre of Lincoln. There are many quilt classes, BOM opportunities, block swaps, clubs, and garment class offerings. Whether you are a very experienced quilter or sewist or a mere newbie, there is likely a class for you! There are also opportunities to set up private classes if you are a student who works better in a one-on-one setting or you have a special project that you need more guidance with. The store partners with 4-H in the summer to help their students prep their projects at fair time. Additionally, beginning sewing classes are offered in conjunction with Southeast Community College Continuing Education.

SEWING CENTRE OF LINCOLN

We're celebrating our 1-year anniversary all month long in September with demos, fun surprises, and in-store sales!

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Applejack Festival | Sept 18-20

Visitors to Nebraska City's Applejack Festival will once again have the opportunity to enjoy one of the area's most popular displays of quilting and needlework artistry.



The Heritage Needlework Guild's 2026 Quilt and Needlework Show will feature approximately 200 member-made quilts and needlework creations. The show will be held in the lower level of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 315 South 16th Street, Nebraska City.

A special exhibit this year will spotlight Featured Quilters Linda, Delta, and Donna, three sisters who affectionately call themselves "Two Budts and a Hug." The name comes from the sisters' married surnames and reflects both their family ties and their shared passion for quilting. For more than two decades, they have challenged one another with creative quilting projects, many of which will be displayed in this year's featured exhibit.

The show opens at 4 p.m. on Friday, September 18, and continues through 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 20.

Visitors can also browse a selection of handcrafted potholders made by Guild members. These practical and colorful creations make thoughtful gifts for birthdays, weddings, holidays, and other special occasions.

Admission is \$5 at the door, with proceeds supporting the Guild's community service projects. Whether you're an experienced quilter or simply appreciate handmade artistry, the Heritage Guild's Quilt and Needlework Show offers something for everyone."

HERITAGE NEEDLEWORK GUILD

Quilt & Needlework Show

2026

"Heritage Square" Raffle quilt!

Handicapped accessible and lots of parking!

Who

Admire quilts made by our **featured quilters** and members - "Two Budts & a Hug", Delta Budt, Donna Budt and Linda Hug. Three sisters who have been challenging each other for 21 years!
Plus many other member-made quilts.

When

Friday, September 18	4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday, September 19	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, September 20	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
315 S 16th Street, Nebraska City, NE

Admission

\$5 at the door to support our community service projects. *Thank you!*

Come and enjoy a close up look at **over 150 quilts and needleworks** made by the Heritage Needlework Guild. This show appeals to quilters, makers, and craftsmanship admirers alike.

Submit your votes

for favorite bed quilt, lap quilt, baby quilt, wall hanging, needlework, and more!

Enter to win a member-made raffle quilt and themed baskets, and more!

Celebrating Family Through Quilts

The Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation is proud to present Celebrating the "Family" Quilt Show, a special exhibit featuring quilts that honor family, history, tradition, and community. Running through November 15, 2026, the exhibit showcases the artistry and storytelling that have long been woven into the fabric of Nebraska life.

The beautiful prairie mansion home of Nebraska Hall of Fame author Bess Streeter Aldrich provides the background for the 107 quilts on display. The majority of the quilt contributors include quilters from ten quilt guilds from across the state of Nebraska.

The Celebrating the "Family" Quilt Show also honors the importance of family in the writings of Bess Streeter Aldrich, particularly her beloved novel *The Cutters*, while recognizing America's 250th birthday. Through colorful fabrics, intricate patterns, and meaningful symbolism, these quilts preserve stories much like Mrs. Aldrich preserved the stories of pioneer families through her writing.

The exhibit is open for fall hours through October on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be special hours on September 13 (1 to 6 p.m.) when Elmwood celebrates its 140th birthday. On the 13th at 1 p.m., the Aldrich Foundation will dedicate its new garden mural and have a performance by our Bess Streeter Aldrich character actress. These events are free, while admission to the quilt show is only \$5. Visitors are invited to experience this remarkable quilt collection and celebrate the artistry, history, and family traditions stitched into every quilt.

"Celebrating the Family" Quilt Show
Honoring the Family & Our Nation's 250th Birthday
Open Until Nov. 15
Wed., Thurs., Sat., & Sun. 1-4 p.m.



Bess Streeter Aldrich House
204 East F Street
Elmwood, NE

107 Quilts Provided by Nebraska Guilds
Admission Cost: \$5

Publicity Funded in Part by Cass County Tourism, visitchasscounty.com



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After hours call for appointment
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Thank you for supporting our local quilt shop!

21st Annual
Threads Across Nebraska

October 9 & 10, 2026
Friday, 9 am-6 pm & Saturday 9 am – 4 pm

Buffalo County Fairgrounds Expo Building
3807 Avenue N, Kearney, NE

Quilts from Across Nebraska
250-350 unique quilts created by quilters from across Nebraska will provide a colorful show

2026 Featured Quilter – Terri Uden
Merchant Mall – Classes - Raffle Quilts
Quilts of Valor – Door Prizes by Vendors

A special display of quilts featuring past and present NE Extension
Admission is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children, ages 4 to 12.
Children under four are admitted free. Parking is free.

Hosted by Nebraska State Quilt Guild
For more information: nsqg.org or Julie Ochsner - 402-469-0940
743 West 2nd Street, Hasting NE, getyourstitchon@calicocottagenebraska.com

Threads Across Nebraska 2026 - October 9th & 10th

The Nebraska State Quilt Guild invites quilt lovers to the 21st Annual Threads Across Nebraska (NSQG), October 9-10, 2026, at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds in Kearney. This statewide celebration will feature 25-30 quilt guilds and 150-200 quilts, including miniatures, wall hangings, bed quilts, traditional pieces, modern designs, and art quilts created by makers of all skill levels.

Show hours are Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 4-12, and free for children under 4. Parking is free, and concessions will be available onsite.

Visitors can shop the Merchants Mall for fabrics, patterns, books, sewing notions, hand-dyed and painted textiles, antique quilts, and more. Longarm quilting machine demonstrations and test opportunities will also be offered. Hourly door prizes, provided by vendors, add to the fun.

Pop-up classes and workshops will help participants build skills and explore new techniques. Special exhibits include a Quilts of Valor® display honoring veterans and sharing its mission, along with a commemorative America 250 quilt exhibit. Class schedules and details will be available at nsqg.org and on the Nebraska State Quilt Guild Facebook page. The 2026 featured quilter is Terri Uden, whose love of sewing began in 4-H and grew into a lifelong commitment to quilting, teaching, and community service. With experience in vocational home economics and Nebraska's 4-H program, Terri has encouraged generations of makers. Since 2019, she has served as Nebraska State Fair Quilt Superintendent. Four generations of her family have exhibited quilts together at the Nebraska State Fair. For more information, visit <http://nsqg.org>, follow NSQG on Facebook, or contact Julie Ochsner at 402-469-0940 or julie.ochsner@unl.edu. Come experience the creativity, craftsmanship, and community of quilting at Threads Across Nebraska 2026.

Find the Right Machine and the Support to Use It National Sewing Machine Month

National Sewing Month is a good time to discover what the right machine can make possible and to find a local team that will help you enjoy it long after you bring it home.

Shopping for a sewing, embroidery or longarm machine can feel overwhelming. There are many brands, features and price points to compare. It can be difficult to know which features will support the projects you want to make and which ones you may never use.

At Fabric Bash, the conversation begins with you! Sit down and sew on the machines, compare options and ask questions without pressure. The team takes time to learn what you enjoy making, where you would like to grow and what fits your budget. The goal is not simply to sell you a machine. It is to help you choose one that feels right for the way you sew.

As a family-owned quilt shop, Fabric Bash understands that personal support matters. Buying a machine should not leave you searching for answers on your own. After you take it home, the team remains available with machine guidance, hands-on education and classes that help you build confidence with the features you purchased. Whether you are threading your first machine, learning embroidery or preparing to finish your own quilts on a longarm, you have a local resource ready to help. Fabric Bash also provides maintenance and repair services to keep your machine working properly.

September is National Sewing Month and is a chance to begin something new, return to a hobby you have missed or find a machine that makes your time at the sewing table more enjoyable. Learn more at fabricbash.com.



41st Exhibit at the Iowa Quilt Museum

In May 2016, the Iowa Quilt Museum first welcomed visitors through its doors with a breath-taking inaugural exhibit, "Three Centuries of Red + White Quilts." In the decade since, this historic space has showcased dozens of unique textile narratives within its spacious, high-ceilinged gallery.

This summer marks a historic milestone. On July 7, the museum officially opened its 41st exhibit: a spectacular 10th Anniversary Retrospective. The exhibition brings together 34 masterful works representing some of the finest artists and collectors whose artistry has graced the gallery walls over the last ten years.

The celebration features an incredible lineup of legendary names in the quilting world, including:

- Alice Beasley, Barbara Yates Beasley, Cassandra Beaver, and Sandra Bruce
- Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry, Deb Cashatt, Hollis Chatelain, and Joe Cunningham
- Kaffe Fassett / Liza Prior Lucy, Tara Faughnan, and Victoria Findlay Wolfe
- Marianne Fons, Bonnie Hunter, Tony Jacobson, and Mary Kerr
- Susan Lapham, Niraja Lorenz, Judy Martin, and Ben Millett
- Diane Murtha, Paula Nadelstern, Sarah Nishiura, Heidi Parkes, and Katie Pasquini
- Janet Pittman, Liz Porter, Irene Roderick, and Sujata Shah
- Steph Skardal, Ricky Tims, Erick Wolfmeyer, and Verushka Zarate

In addition to these celebrated artists, two of the country's most highly regarded quilt collectors - Roderick Kiracofe and Julie Silber, both of California - are generously loaning treasured, historic pieces from their private collections specifically for this anniversary event. Whether you are an avid stitcher or simply appreciate the beauty of a handcrafted legacy, this retrospective is a must-see summer destination. The museum is located at 68 E. Court Avenue on the south side of the beautiful Winterset town square, directly across the street from the historic 1876 Madison County Courthouse.

The gallery welcomes visitors Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission details, current ticket prices, and group tour information can be found online at iowaquiltmuseum.org.



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IOWA QUILT Museum



July 7 - October 18, 2026

Retrospective

Iowa Quilt Museum 10 Year Anniversary

Join us for a special retrospective exhibit at the Iowa Quilt Museum, featuring highlights from the 40 exhibits since our oping in 2016. This show includes work by 32 artists and 2 collectors, along with a quilt honoring Local hand quilter Velma VanScoy. You'll also see quilts by Kaffe Fassett, Victoria Findlay Wolfe, Bonnie Hunter, Veruschka Zarate, and so many more. You won't want to miss it!

October 20, 2026 - January 17, 2027

Erick Wolfmeyer

25 Years in Iowa

Since moving to Iowa in 2001 to master the art of quilting, Erick has created a remarkable body of work. Don't miss this curated selection of his quilts showcasing his journey

Be sure to stop at our quilted barn during the Madison County Covered Bridge Festival
October 10 & 11



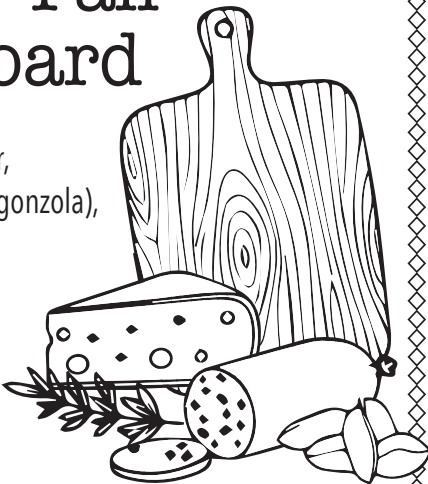
SCAN ME

Celebrating Every Stitch:
Traditional to Contemporary
and Beyond

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www.iowaquiltmuseum.org

Share Your Stash Sale
November 7

Perfect Savory Fall Charcuterie Board

- 
- Cow's milk cheeses:** 1 or 2 of aged cheddar, Gouda, Brie, most blue cheeses (such as Gorgonzola), Gruyère
- Goat's milk cheeses:** 1 or 2 of fresh chèvre, Bucheron, Humboldt Fog
- Sheep's milk cheeses:** 1 or 2 of Manchego, Pecorino, Parmigiano-Reggiano, Roquefort
- Assorted charcuterie meats:** 1 to 3 of prosciutto di Parma, salami, andouille, bresaola, Coppa, spicy Soppressata, and so on
- Fresh seasonal fruits:** 1 to 3 of crisp apples, grapes, ripe pears, dried apricots, dried cranberries
- Assorted nuts:** 1 generous handful pecans, walnuts, or almonds
- Sweet condiments:** 1 or 2 of small bowls of honey, chutney, fig jam, apple butter, pumpkin butter, fruit preserves.
- Decorative garnishes:** 1 to 3 mini pumpkins (washed), a few generous springs of very fresh rosemary, sage, or thyme.
- Assorted crackers, crisps, hard pretzels, or slices of fresh bread.**

Friends of the International Quilt Museum Snippets

Save the Date! The 12th Annual Art Market will be held at the International Quilt Museum November 14 and 15, 2026. New artists and perennial favorites will participate in this fun and important Museum fundraiser. At Art Market you will find work by regional painters, jewelry makers, glass artists, ceramicists and fiber artists. This is the perfect pre-holiday opportunity to find items for the home and gift giving.

We are currently accepting items to be sold at the Friends Table during Art Market. Donations could include high-quality fabric, textile art, vintage aprons or tablecloths, knitted or crocheted items or handmade items such as purses/bags, table runners, placemats, etc. If you have questions or donations, please contact: Carolyn Kitterer, ckitterer@gmail.com, 308-224-5208 or Georgia Jones, Gjones2@unl.edu, 402-440-6229.

ART MARKET is held in the second-floor reception hall of the International Quilt Museum at 1523 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE. Visitors to Art Market will have free access to the galleries and the Museum gift shop during the event. information about the artists and their work will be posted on the Friends FaceBook (<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofiqscm>) and Instagram pages.

The 2026-27 Board of the Friends of the International Quilt Museum are: Ann Seacrest (Lincoln NE), President; Deb Dahab (Lincoln, NE), President-Elect; Connie Soucie (Lincoln, NE), Advisor; Jan Sears (Waverly, NE), Secretary; Leslie Levy, Ex-Officio; Debby Ebke (Daykin, NE); Georgia Jones (Lincoln, NE); Carolyn Kitterer (Lincoln, NE); Jan Rice (Brighton, CO); Dean Settle (Lincoln, NE); Denise Stahl (Lawrence, KS); Sherry Taylor (Lincoln, NE); Wilma Von Seggern (Minden, NE) and Denise Waibel-Rycek (Kearney, NE).

Showing at the International Quilt Museum through the end of 2026 is "Material Nation: 250 Years of American Quilts." This is a major exhibition tracing the history of quilting in the United States from the nation's founding to the present. If you are unable to come to the Museum, be sure to visit the virtual exhibit at <https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibition/material-nation-250-years-american-quilts>.

KISSED QUILTS

Design Ideas Sometimes Need to Percolate for...20 Years? by Marlene Oddie

When presented with the new fabric collection from Frond Studios - Bells of Ireland distributed by Northcott, I immediately remembered a block design that I developed over 20 years ago. I fortunately found it in an old file cabinet and worked on creating it in Electric Quilt 8 to start playing with it on a larger scale – an entire quilt.

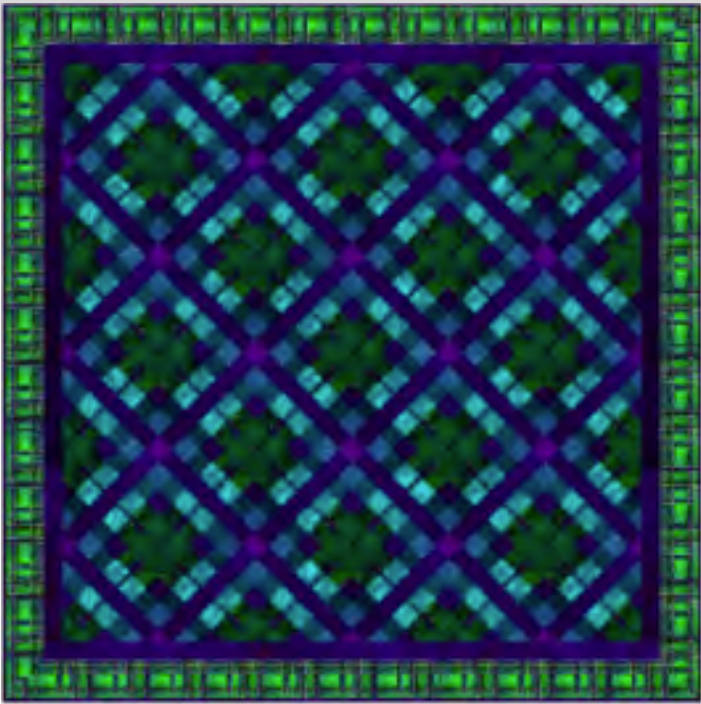
This collection has a beautiful canvas panel for bag making and a couple of different large print running yardage SKUs, but I chose to focus on the more color saturated SKUs combined in a way to make this beautiful Tartan–fussy cutting the printed tartan for the border.

This On Point Plaid pattern and the Bells of Ireland collection of fabrics are shipping to your local quilt shop now. If you need patterns, templates, fabrics and/or kits–please ask!

The possibilities for this pattern are endless. Find your favorite plaid color combination, a family tartan, one that works with your personal aesthetic or dream up your own.

I've written the pattern in such a way that you are making strata sets and then cutting and reassembling the entire block and the pieced setting triangles. The key is to get your color placement of the block correct so that with the sashings, cornerstones and the blocks it makes a continuous plaid.

Marlene Oddie, of Grand Coulee, WA, is an engineer by training, a project manager by profession, and a quilter by passion. At her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts, she quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus and especially enjoys designing quilts and helping create meaningful keepsakes. Fabrics, patterns, kits, and templates are available at kissedquilts.com. Follow Marlene's adventures on Facebook and Instagram.



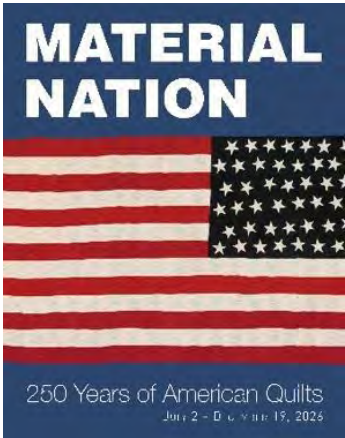


**12th Annual
Art Market**

Friday, Nov 13, 2026
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 14, 2026
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Pottery & Ceramics | Stained Glass
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Woven Baskets | Textiles
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September 1st - 30th



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Creative Notions - West Point	Stitch and Chatter - Benkelman
Fabric Bash - LaVista	Sew What Needle Arts &
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Robin's Nest DIY Blog

Owl Pumpkin

Well here comes Fall. I have to say that pumpkins are one of my favorite things!
Here is a very fun project that would be great for kids!

YOU WILL NEED:

You will need a foam pumpkin, (white works best for this project) mine is about 8-10 inches, some floral pieces (you will need to be specific on what you pick). Leaves for feet and wings, feathery pieces for the top, cone-shaped pieces for the horns, sunflowers for the eyes and small pinecone for the nose. You will also need wire cutters, scissors (not pictured), hot glue gun and glue.



STEP ONE

Place the sunflowers as eyes on the pumpkin. I put them close together and they were wire stems so I could just push them into the pumpkin.



STEP TWO

I cut off some of the leaves on the sunflower to put around the eyes. Hot glue them on.



STEP THREE

Then place the feathery pieces above the eyes on each side. Also place the cone-shaped stems to the inside of the feathery ones. These were wired stems also so you can just push them in.



STEP FOUR

Glue leaves on the side of the pumpkin for "Wings". One on each side at about the same height.



STEP FIVE

Glue on the pinecone "beak" right between and under the sunflower eyes. My pinecone is artificial but you can use a real one if you have it.



STEP SIX

Glue on two leaves to the bottom of the pumpkin as feet. I used longer, narrower leaves.



I think this might win a pumpkin decorating contest! Maybe!!
So many Pumpkins....So little time!

FINISHED!



Harvesting More Than Crops: The Traditions That Bring Us Together

By Anna Engen, Staff Writer

Every season has its own rhythm, but autumn seems to invite us to pause. As the rush of summer begins to settle, the air turns crisp, and the trees trade their green leaves for shades of gold and crimson. It's a season that encourages us to gather with family, reconnect with friends, and appreciate the simple moments that often become our most treasured memories.

Long before smartphones and packed schedules, families marked the changing seasons by working side by side. Harvest required many hands, whether it meant bringing in corn, digging potatoes, picking apples, or preserving vegetables for winter. Children learned by helping, neighbors pitched in when extra hands were needed, and meals around the table became celebrations of shared effort.

While our traditions may look different than they did decades ago, the heart behind them remains the same. Instead of gathering in the fields, we gather at pumpkin patches, craft fairs, farmers markets, church festivals, school fundraisers, and family reunions. We decorate our porches with flowers and pumpkins, fill our kitchens with the scent of homemade goods, and eagerly anticipate those favorite comfort foods that somehow taste even better once the weather cools. .

For many, autumn is when treasured traditions quietly return. Maybe it's making apple



butter every October, carving pumpkins with grandchildren, hosting an annual chili supper, or spending an afternoon walking through crunchy leaves with loved ones. These moments may seem small, but over time they become the stories that define our families.

Traditions have a remarkable way of connecting generations. A quilt stitched by a grandmother becomes an heirloom. A handwritten pie recipe becomes a family treasure. A child's first experience helping can vegetables may one day become a memory they pass on to their own children. Not every tradition has to be elaborate or decades old to leave a lasting impression. Sometimes the simplest moments become the ones we treasure the most, like the favorite family recipe made together each fall, an afternoon spent decorating the porch, or an evening gathered around the table sharing stories and laughter. These traditions remind us to slow down, savor the season, and enjoy the people we love most.

As another autumn arrives, take time to embrace the traditions that make this season special, whether you're continuing a cherished family custom or starting a brand-new one. The pumpkins will eventually be packed away, the leaves will fall, and the season will change once again. But the memories created while baking, gathering, laughing, and simply being together will remain long after autumn has passed. Those are the moments that become family traditions, passed from one generation to the next.



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Forgotten Fall Traditions

1. Corn Husking
2. Cider pressing
3. Community Supper
4. Turnip and Beet Lanterns
5. Making Apple Butter Outdoors
6. Community Cider Pressing
7. Neighborhood Hayrides
8. Harvest Homecomings
9. Raking Giant Leaf Piles
10. Bobbing for Apples

Fall in Your Hometown!



Take a fall snapshot of your hometown and post on our Facebook page in the comments of the post discussing the photo contest.

We will pick 2-4 snapshots to showcase in the next issue!

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Become Inspired

By Annice Bradley Rockwell



Bringing in the Harvest

As the daylight hours slowly begin to shorten, we begin to shift our thinking toward preparing for the season to come. Our vegetable gardens are likely producing plenty at this point in the year, so taking our gathering baskets out to the raised beds is a country task that brings great reward. Our beans can be harvested to accompany a wonderful homemade meal, or they can be strung by hand and hung over the hearth to dry as a handmade garland to be enjoyed all year. Our heirloom tomatoes can be harvested right off the vine to make a perfect summer sandwich with some toasted homemade bread, creamy mayonnaise and salt and pepper. The abundance of our yield can also be canned to line our buttery shelves with the blessings of our harvest to be enjoyed all year long.

Our herb gardens can also be a huge source of happiness as we plan a morning out in the sun clipping and binding bundles of fragrant herbs to be hung inside to dry. They can be used for enhancing our fall meals or to brighten one of our country displays. Even an afternoon spent clipping wild blooms such as the bright mustard tansy, yellow goldenrod or the purple Joe Pye weed can provide us with plenty of natural elements to enjoy in the beautiful season of fall.

The Warmth of Home

The spectacular sunlight of September is truly a special gift. Although more fleeting than the sultry sun of summer, the beautiful days of early fall are to be enjoyed. Paired with the daytime beauty are evenings characterized by a crisp coolness. Nights come more quickly now, so our home's ambiance stands out as being even more welcoming and warm. Taking time to create warmth in our decorating is time well-spent. Early lighting such as a punched tin hanging lantern or a mirrored sconce casts an inviting glow to warm the corner of a colonial keeping room. An antique floor lamp with a deep red-checked shade can enliven a favorite reading spot for a cool fall evening. And candles such as Pumpkin Butter or Colonial Apple Butter can be used as part of a harvest centerpiece where both its subtle flicker and captivating scent enhance the mood of the room. Gorgeous large wooden trays or boxes in early surface like red or mustard can be enjoyed as a focal point for fall. Filled with part of our abundant harvest, it becomes a striking natural element that takes center stage.

Simple Country Joys

Planning a day to surround yourself with the full blessings of fall is a way to connect with friends and make memories to cherish. Wrapping a schedule around a festive fall event can be rewarding and fun. Fall festivals that include local farms and creative artisans can be enjoyed alongside a trip to our favorite antiques shops that might be hosting an outdoor show filled with great antiques, unique food trucks and decorative elements fresh-from-market to enhance our home displays.

This fall, savor the transition to those cooler, spectacular autumn days. Harvest the bounty of your gardening efforts and delight in the simple country joy of creating an ambiance that truly welcomes you home.

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





Hosting a Cozy Gathering ~ Easy ideas for backyard bonfires, chili suppers, and football parties.

By Anna Engen, Staff Writer

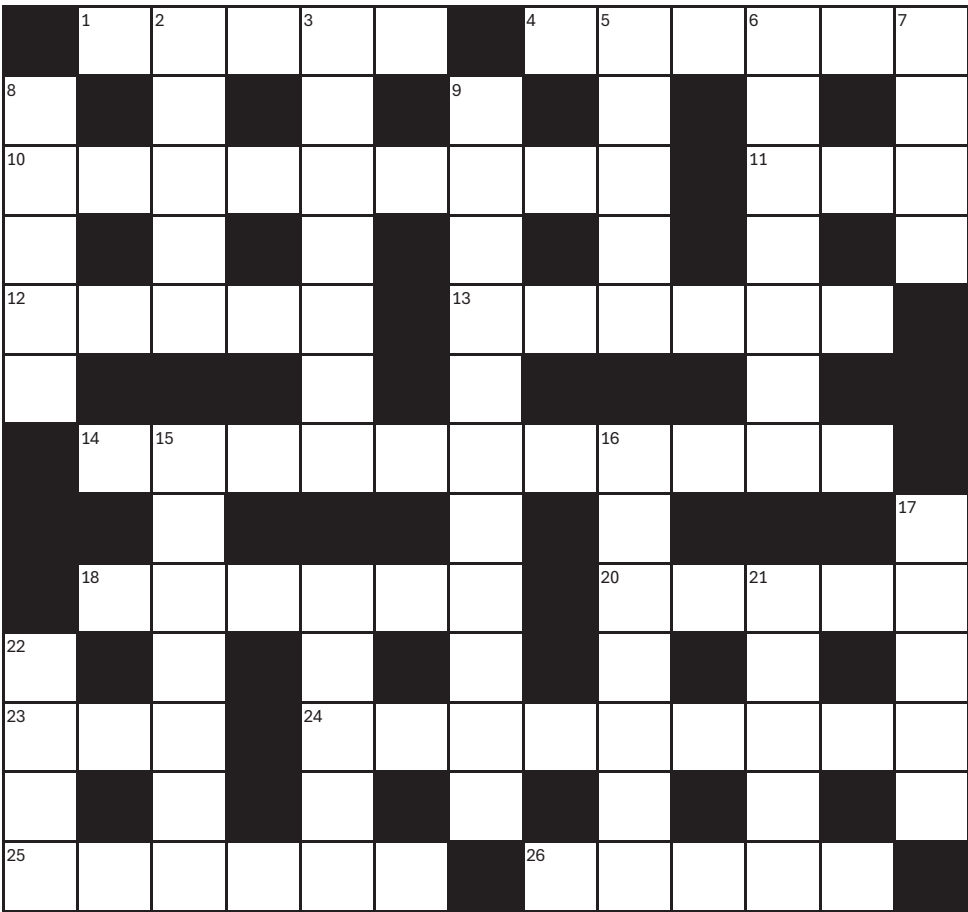
As the weather cools and the days grow shorter, there's no better excuse to gather the people you love. Hosting a fall get-together doesn't have to mean weeks of planning or a picture-perfect setup. Sometimes the coziest gatherings are the simplest ones.

A backyard bonfire is a classic way to welcome the season. Arrange a few chairs around the fire, set out soft blankets for chilly evenings, and let guests roast marshmallows while sharing stories under the stars. Add a table with warm drinks, simple snacks, and all the fixings for s'mores, and you've created a cozy atmosphere everyone will enjoy. While you wait for the fire to produce the perfect s'more-roasting coals, set up a game of cornhole or giant Jenga to keep the fun going.

A pumpkin decorating party is another fun way to celebrate the season. Set out pumpkins of all shapes and sizes along with paint, ribbon, twine, stencils, and other craft supplies. People of all ages can let their creativity shine while enjoying warm cider and homemade treats. Unlike carving, decorated pumpkins last longer, making them a festive keepsake throughout the fall season.

Nothing brings people together quite like a pot of homemade chili. Invite family and friends to bring their favorite toppings: shredded cheese, sour cream, green onions, crackers, or cornbread, and turn dinner into a fun, build-your-own meal. A simple dessert like cookies, brownies, or pumpkin bars is all you need to finish the evening on a sweet note.

The best part about hosting a fall gathering isn't having the fanciest decorations or an elaborate menu. It's creating a welcoming space where laughter comes easily, stories are shared, and everyone feels at home. Whether you're gathered around a crackling bonfire or decorating pumpkins at the kitchen table, it's the time spent together that makes the season memorable. So light the fire, pour a mug of cider, and enjoy the simple moments. because those are often the ones we remember long after autumn has passed.



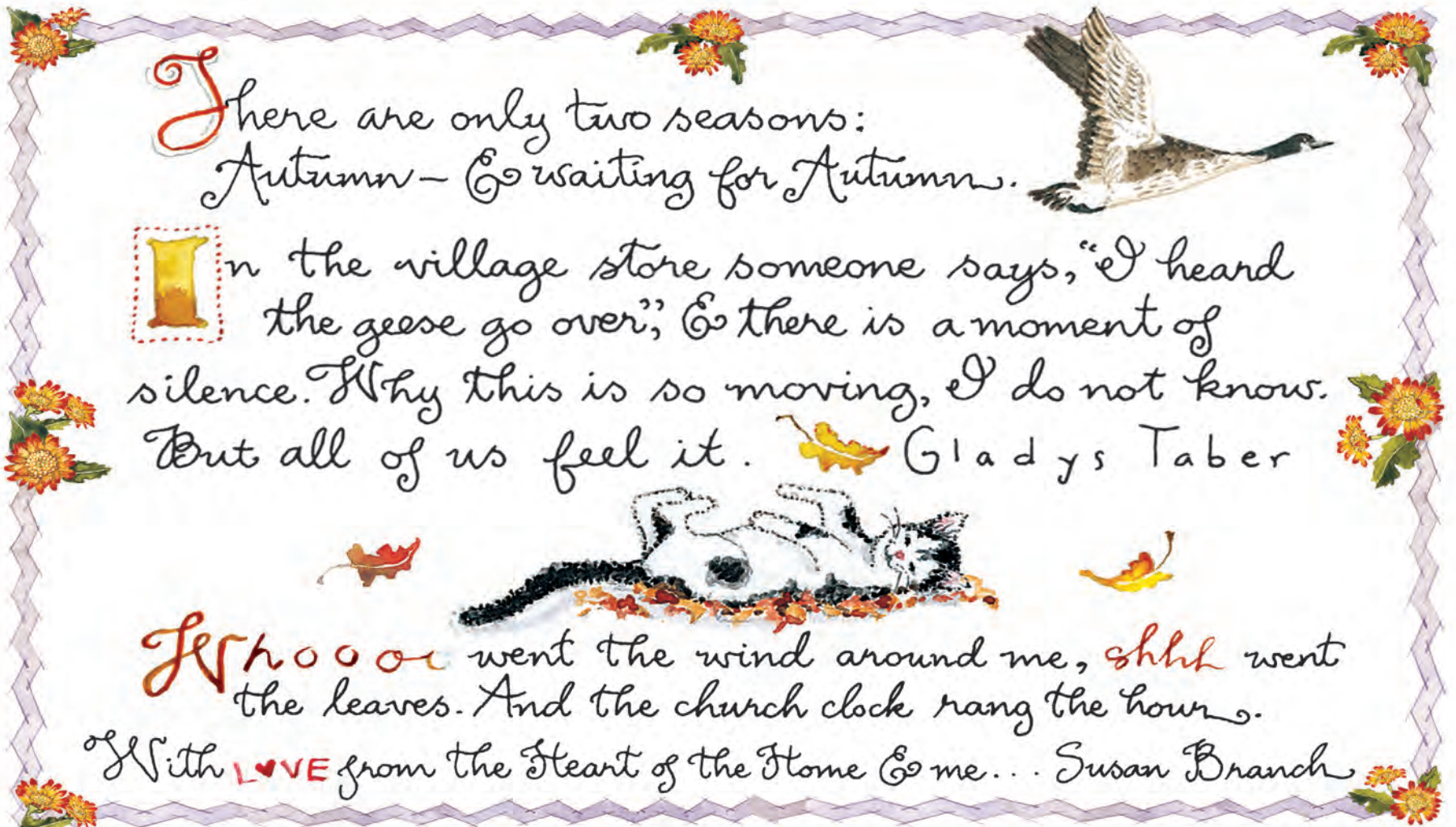
Answers on page 19

ACROSS

- 1 Follow, as in advice (3,2)
- 4 Text format settings (6)
- 10 Certain subatomic particles
- 11 Gunk (3)
- 12 Frenzy (5)
- 13 Carnival (6)
- 14 Combining (11)
- 18 Act as a substitute (4,2)
- 20 Summoned via a PA system (5)
- 23 Beverley, to her friends (3)
- 24 Forces (9)
- 25 Ridiculous (6)
- 26 Secret supply (5)

DOWN

- 2 Unsoiled (5)
- 3 Appalling act (7)
- 5 Experience (5)
- 6 Become less dark (7)
- 7 'Scram!'(4)
- 8 Appears (5)
- 9 Formal meetings (11)
- 15 Indigenous inhabitants (7)
- 16 Laid out, as a book (7)
- 17 One who composes elaborate poetry
- 19 Daily news journal (5)
- 21 Young women (5)
- 22 Swedish pop phenomenon (4)



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Garage Sale regulars call themselves "Junkers" and a "Jaunt" is a sprint or short run. Thus, you could say it is 'running for the junk'.

Nebraska's JUNK JAUNT® is approximately 350 miles of garage sales, collectibles, antiques, vintage, gastric delights and just plain fun.

It began in 2004 with about 75 vendors and 1,000 shoppers. In 2011 and 2012, license plate surveys and guest books told us that 20,000 people attended from 34 states (including Hawaii), several Canadian provinces and even a few foreign visitors. Some shoppers have been to every JUNK JAUNT®, for others it is their very first one.

The JUNK JAUNT® Shopper Guide is a "must-have" for finding those hidden treasures and gastric delights while conserving time and gasoline. The Guide is the listing of all vendors who have registered their sales. For the last several years, we have had over 550 registered vendors in 35 JUNK JAUNT® area towns, for a total of 135+ pages in the Shopper Guide. Printing is scheduled for late August with pre-orders being filled in EARLY September, or as quickly as they are printed.

We find that people are inventive in their reasons for shopping. Some use the JUNK JAUNT® as a mother & daughter weekend, Father & Son, Sisters' outings, or fun excursions during a Family Reunion. Some use it as a celebration for having "maintained weight loss", while other groups had a contest to see who could get the best buy of the day or who had made the ugliest purchase of the day. One Canadian wife requested that her 40th Wedding Anniversary gift be a trip to Nebraska for the JUNK JAUNT®.

This is the basic shape of "THE JUNK JAUNT® Loop". The "Loop" begins with Hwy 11 at Wood River NE (near Interstate Hwy 80), going north to Burwell where it connects with Hwy 91.
(Junk Jaunt Continued on page 17)

(Junk Jaunt Continued) From Burwell, it goes west on Hwy 91 to Dunning NE, connecting with Hwy 2. The final leg of "the Loop" then follows Hwy 2 in a southerly direction from Halsey to Grand Island and Interstate 80). In addition, most of the towns on the west and east sides of this loop are participating as well as towns inside this loop.

With over 40 communities in the JUNK JAUNT® area, you will find many comfortable places to "Drop After You Shop." To pre-order your JUNK JAUNT® Shopper Guide, learn more about the sponsored lodging and everything you need to know to have the most fun during your travels, visit the website: www.junkjaunt.com.



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Monday, October 5 from 10:30-3pm
Monday, October 26 from 10:30-3pm

**To view event calendar or register,
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Bess Streeter House & Museum • Elmwood, NE 8	Blair, NE • ACME Fabric & Quilt Co11
Calico Cottage • Hastings, NE 5	Cedar Creek, NE • Retreat at the Creek.....20
The Calico House • Lincoln, NE 5	Columbus, NE • Sew What Needle Arts and Quilting.....6
Celtic Quilter • Omaha, NE..... 20	Cozad, NE • Prairie Point Junction 5
Creative Notions • West Point, NE 13	Elmwood, NE • Bess Streeter House & Museum8
Fabric Bash • La Vista, NE 9	Grand Island, NE • Quality Sew & Vac.....20
Friends of International Quilt Museum • Lincoln, NE11	Grand Island, NE • Railroad Towne Antique Mall16
Heritage Needlework Guild • Nebraska City, NE 7	Hastings, NE • Calico Cottage 5
I Bee Quiltin • Norfolk, NE 11	Hebron, NE • Sew Bee It8
Iowa Quilt Museum • Winterset, IA..... 9	Hemingford, NE • Pat’s Creative 5
Mangelsen’s • Omaha, NE17	Holdrege, NE • Sewing with Dani Jo, LLC17
Nebraska Country Quilter • Murray, NE..... 5	La Vista, NE • Fabric Bash 9
Nebraska Independent Fabric Shops - NIFS • NE11	Lawrence, NE • Sweet Pea Designs17
Nebraska Junk Jaunt • NE16	Lincoln, NE • Friends of International Quilt Museum.....11
Nicole Creamer Insurance Services • Omaha, NE 11	Lincoln, NE • Sewing Center of Lincoln 7
Pat’s Creative • Hemingford, NE 5	Lincoln, NE • Timeless Treasures on “O” Street16
Prairie Point Junction • Cozad, NE..... 5	Lincoln, NE • The Calico House 5
Quality Sew & Vac • Grand Island, NE.....20	Lincoln, NE • Valhalla Bee Farm.....20
Quilt Stitches • Beatrice, NE.....17	Murray, NE • Nebraska Country Quilter 5
Railroad Towne Antique Mall • Grand Island, NE16	Nebraska City, NE • Heritage Needlework Guild 7
Retreat at the Creek • Cedar Creek, NE.....20	Norfolk, NE • I Bee Quiltin.....11
Sew Bee It • Hebron, NE..... 8	North Platte, NE • The Quilt Rack 6
Sew What Needle Arts and Quilting • Columbus, NE..... 6	Omaha, NE • Bernina Sewing Center.....20
Sewing Center of Lincoln • Lincoln, NE 7	Omaha, NE • Celtic Quilter.....20
Sewing with Dani Jo, LLC • Holdrege, NE17	Omaha, NE • Mangelsen’s.....17
Simons Says Antiques • Wahoo, NE.....16	Omaha, NE • Nicole Creamer Insurance Services11
Stitch & Chatter • Benkelman, NE..... 13	Wahoo, NE • Simons Says Antiques16
Sweet Pea Designs • Lawrence, NE17	Wakefield, NE • The Quilt Shop20
The Quilt Basket • York, NE20	West Point, NE • Creative Notions 13
The Quilt Rack • North Platte, NE 6	York, NE • The Quilt Basket20
The Quilt Shop • Wakefield, NE.....20	NE • Nebraska Independent Fabric Shops - NIFS.....11
Timeless Treasures on “O” Street • Lincoln, NE16	NE • Nebraska Junk Jaunt16
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Fall Foods You're Guaranteed to Flock Towards

By: Laura Taylor

As we start to move into Fall and cooler weather, it's the perfect time to get outside into fresh air. One of the best ways to explore the outdoors while staying out of the hot sun is finding a nice spot in the shade of a tall tree. But honestly, what good is sitting outside for hours if you don't have a sandwich, a drink and something beautiful to look at.



Now what if I told you that the "beautiful" something isn't a typical scenic view or your tablet screen, but rather something rare and exciting and that the snack and drink you bring along could be prepared in less than 30 minutes?

Birds will have their most fiery and colorful backdrop this season, highlighting their feathers and even making them easier to spot. Bird watching can be done from the comfort of a lawn chair in the cool Fall foliage or even from your own backyard if you're lucky, leaving only a relaxing breeze and sounds of nature to enjoy.

As for something to keep you from having to go back and forth for lunch, here are four recipes I promise you'll flock towards this Fall. They feature some of my favorite sandwich and drink classics that are always best when enjoying outdoors.

Visit www.spiceworldinc.com for more recipes and tips!

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Rotisserie chicken
Dried cranberries
Chopped pecans
Mayo
1 tsp Spice World Minced Garlic
½ tsp Spice World Minced Ginger
Mix everything together and chill.
Serve on croissants or brioche buns.

Transfusion

1.5 oz vodka
2 oz white grape juice
1 oz cranberry juice
½ oz fresh lemon juice
2 oz ginger beer
¼ tsp Spice World Minced Ginger
Method
Shake vodka, juices, lemon, and ginger with ice.
Strain into a tall glass over fresh ice.
Top with ginger beer.

Turkey-Apple with a garlic mayo

Sourdough or multigrain bread
Sliced turkey
Sharp cheddar
Thin apple slices
1 tbsp Spice World Minced Garlic
2 tbsp mayo
Handful of arugula
Mix minced garlic into mayo.

Cranberry Ginger Mule

2 oz vodka
1 oz cranberry juice
½ oz lime juice
¼ tsp Spice World Minced Ginger
Ginger beer

Nebraska Fall Festival Guide



NIFS Charms Across Nebraska Shop Hop across
Nebraska and Kansas on Sept 1-30

Valas- Pumpkin Patch & Apple Orchard, Gretna NE, Sept 4-Nov 1

Polish Fest 2026 in Ashton, NE on Sept 6

Old Trusty Antique & Collectors Show in Clay Center, NE on Sept. 12-13

Apple Jack Festival, Nebraska City, NE, Sept 18-20 & Sept 26-27

Heritage Needlework Guild in Nebraska City, NE on Sept 18-20
(Part of the Applejack Festival)

Oktoberfest, Norfolk NE, Sept 18-19

Nebraska Junk Jaunt throughout Central NE on September 25-27

Sidney Oktoberfest in Sidney, NE on Oct 2-4

Mid-Plains Fiber Fair in York, NE on Oct 3-4 (date pending)

Threads Across Nebraska in Kearney, NE on Oct 9-10

Junkstock Festival, Waterloo NE, Oct 2-4 & Oct 9-11

Harvest Moon Festival, Chadron NE, Oct 3

2026 Autumn Festival, an Arts & Crafts Affair, Ralston NE, Nov 5-8

What does Fall smell like to you?

1. Leaves and Turkey - Boy Age 7
2. Pumpkins and Candy - Girl Age 4
3. Football - Girl Age 5
4. Honey - Boy Age 4
5. Smells like it is about to snow - Girl Age 5
6. Fresh because there is no pollen - Girl Age 7
7. Trees and leaves and stuff like that - Girl Age 6



Answers from puzzle on page 15

	A	C	T	O	N		S	T	Y	L	E	S
S		L		U		C		A		I		H
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	S		G	O	O
E		A		R		N		T		H		O
M	A	N	I	A		F	I	E	S	T	A	
S				G		E				E		
	I	N	T	E	G	R	A	T	I	N	G	
		A				E		Y				O
	S	T	E	P	I	N		P	A	G	E	D
A		I		A		C		E		I		I
B	E	V		P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	S
B		E		E		S		E		L		T
A	B	S	U	R	D		S	T	A	S	H	



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