



Keeping up with quilts

Follow the Quilt Block Trail

It starts in Cascade Locks, though creators hope it will expand throughout the Gorge

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

Quilting is an indoor activity, except when it comes to the new Bridge of the Gods Quilt Block Trail.

The trail started in January with the installation of six boards, painted with traditional quilting patterns, or blocks.

There are now 32 quilt blocks on the trail, located on the outsides of homes and other locations, visible from the street.

The blocks are displayed mostly in Cascade Locks, with one each in Hood River and Home Prairie, and more to come including the Parkdale and Hood River libraries. By fall, the list will grow to 39 including those on order.

A "Choose A Book" block, designed for Cascade Locks Library, is in place in front of Cascade Locks City Hall, where the library is currently located. It's No. 3 on the tour.

The Quilt Block Trail is the brainchild of longtime resident Anne Holmstrom, a member of the Bridge of the Gods Quilting Group, which started meeting 10 years ago, gathering to learn to make the classic "Log Cabin" block, with the help of co-founder Darla Davis.

You can see an example of Log Cabin on Wheeler Street in Cascade Locks, No. 23 on the map.

Holmstrom's Forest Lane home (stop No. 20) features Friendship Star and Mariner's Compass.

Guides are available at Cascade Locks hotels, ETC in Hood River (where a quilt block was installed this spring), local chambers of commerce offices, Lorang Art Gallery in Cascade Locks, and at State Parks kiosks in the Gorge.

"My ultimate goal is to have someone or a group take it on in Hood River, White Salmon, or other communities," Holmstrom said. "Our goal is to create a trail from Cascade Locks to Goldendale, the range of the Columbia Gorge Quilters Guild."

To order a quilt, call Marva Janik at 541-374-8701. Blocks are either 2x2 feet or 4x4, and the cost is from \$50 to \$150, depending on the size, design and/or color.

There are two installation styles: hanging on the side of the home or building or on a stake for placement close to the house but visible from the street. Participants agree to keep the quilt block hanging for five years.

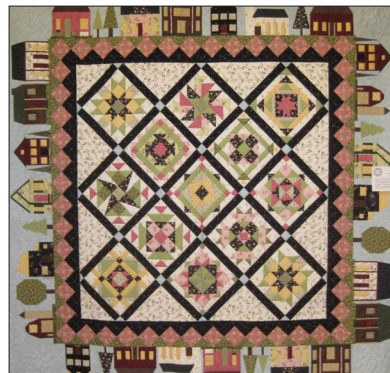


Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea and submitted photos

LOOK AND TOUCH – but only with gloves, provided at the Quilt Show. First Place quilts from 2012 show include Pieced Quilt: "Party Town" by Anne Marie Martin., top right, and Applique Quilt: "Oregon Roots" by Carolyn McDaniel, far left. At right, Bridge of the Gods Quilt, up for drawing (details on page B2.) Inset: Mary Lou Weidman's "I'm a Grandma!"

This weekend's Quilt Show boasts 100 quilts, more classes

The Columbia River Gorge Quilters' Guild Quilt Show will return Aug. 15-17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to the Hood River Middle School, 1602 May St. Daily admission is \$6.

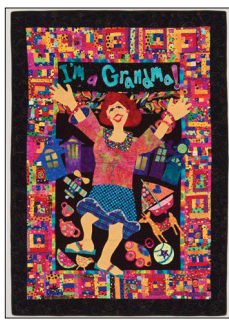
More than 100 quilts will be on display, representing traditional and contemporary work from local quilt makers in Washington and

Oregon. Professionally accredited judges will evaluate the quilts in five categories, and first, second and third place in each category will be awarded cash prizes.

Show attendees will be able to vote for their favorite quilts, and the quilt with the most votes will receive the highly prized "Viewer's Choice Award."

Gayle Jacobson, who co-founded the Guild seven years ago with Marbe Cook, said that new this year is a fourth day of classes, and many participants are expected to come a day early to attend. Oregon artist Hilde Moran, who currently has an exhibit at The Gallery

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Enter the drawing for annual Harvest Quilt

Every summer and fall in Hood River County a traveling quilt shows up at key places around the Gorge.

It's the Harvest Quilt, a long-standing Hood River tradition.

Quilters from around the region contribute the 30 quilt blocks of their own design, which is turned into an artistic quilt celebrating the Gorge. The palette of colors is provided at ETC Quilting each January, and quilters collect them and create blocks depicting Gorge scenes, using the palette for continuity. Quilters submit their entries and at Blossom Festival in April the blocks are displayed, and the public votes on the top 30. Those are pieced by Elaine Kirby and quilted by Janine Scott, and at changing locations the quilt is displayed and tickets are sold. The drawing will be during the Hood River Harvest Festival, hence the name.

The Harvest Quilt will be on display at the Quilt Show at Hood River Middle School. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Proceeds go to Hood River Soroptimist scholarship fund.

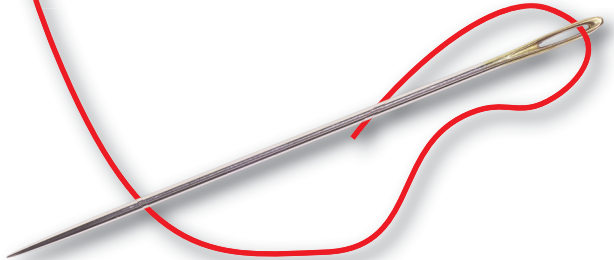
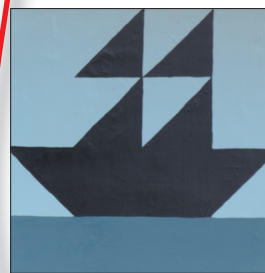
Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

HARVEST QUILT awaits ticket buyers at the quilt show this weekend; it will remain on display until Harvest Festival in Hood River on Oct. 18-20.



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

QUILT TRAIL blocks include Choose A Book, Sailboat, and Mariner's Compass and (on sign) Friendship Star. At top: sunflower and Gardener's Prize.



CASCADE Observations

By PEGGY DILLS KELTER

Strangers among us

When Little Red Riding Hood set off to her grandmother's house, her mother reminded her to beware of strangers lurking in the woods, strangers, she believed, set on harming her child.

Did Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman's moms warn them of the same on that tragic night? Did Trayvon fear that a wolf pursued him in the darkness? Did George Zimmerman think he saw a wolf, when really all he saw was a teenage boy holding a bag of candy? We'll never know. What we do know is that whatever happened that horrible night was caused by an intense fear of strangers.



I've been thinking a lot about "stranger danger" lately. One need only open the newspaper and read about monsters like Ariel Castro, the man who held three innocent young women captive for a decade, to become paranoid of strangers. Everyone from the grocery clerk to the mail carrier may be a menace intent on harming us. Suspicion trumps trust.

But sometimes necessity trumps suspicion, and trusting strangers becomes essential.

The Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes is a magnificent paved bike path that extends 73 miles from Plummer, Idaho, to Mullan, Idaho. Cyclists and hikers travel along Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Coeur d'Alene River on a path that's mostly flat and beautifully maintained. At both ends the trail is wooded and a bit steeper, but never daunting. That is, unless you get a flat tire.

This summer, such a fate befell a member of our biking party, but we were unfazed, pulling out our pump, bike patch kit and tools. The task became daunting when our pump and the tire's stem refused to cooperate. Miles from our rented home and miles from any roads or bike repair shops, things began to look grim.

We needed a different plan. Leaving our friends behind, my husband and I set off on our tandem, hoping to find someone who would let us borrow a tire pump. That's when we came upon Steve, a bear of a man riding solo up the trail. We asked him if he had a tire pump. He rather gruffly answered affirmatively. He rode on to where our stranded friends waited, got off his bike, and immediately set to work helping us.

As we worked, we chatted. Steve the gruff stranger soon became Steve our best friend. He told us of his recent hip replacement. We marveled at his ability to cycle so soon after such serious surgery. We shared stories about our occupations and exchanged business cards.

With the tire fixed, we thanked him profusely as he headed west and we headed east.

Our base camp along the trail was a lovely home outside of Harrison, Idaho. Herewith, lesson No. 2 in trusting strangers. VRBO, an acronym for Vacation Rentals by Owner, is an Internet-based service in which people advertise their homes for rent, and renters seek places to stay while vacationing.

The whole enterprise is based on trust. Does the house really look like the photographs? When I hand my credit card number over via phone or computer, can I be assured I'm being charged accurately? Will there even be a house when I get there? From the owner's point of view, will the renters be deadbeats intent on destroying their home? Will they abide by all the rules the owner sets? To our great good fortune, all of our VRBO experiences have been happy ones.

When we returned home from vacation, our next Netflix selection was waiting with our accumulated mail. Serendipitously, the theme of the documentary "Craigslist Joe" is trusting strangers. Here's how it is described in Netflix's catalog:

"Setting out to explore whether America still has a sense of community where people help each other through hard times, 29-year-old Joseph Garner spends a month depending on the goodness of Craigslist posters for his survival."

Garner traveled around the country with a laptop computer, a cellphone and a backpack. No money, no hotel reservations, no transportation. He relied completely on the kindness and generosity of strangers. Some of those strangers were indeed strange, but none were out to harm him. It's a quirky, thought-provoking look at what it really means to surrender everything to trust.

Joni Doke Spade was relying on the kindness and generosity of strangers when liver disease left her in dire need of a new liver. Sadly, she died at age 52 before she received that life-saving gift from a stranger.

At her memorial in Hood River, Joni's mom urged us all to sign up to be organ donors; had there been more donor volunteers, Joni would have been visiting with her friends and family rather than being memorialized by them.

Joni was a teacher with an effervescent, caring demeanor. She found her calling working with needy kids. On the first day of school we teachers are strangers to our students. By the second day, we enter into an intimate bond with them. We learn about their academic strengths and weaknesses, their passions, and if they let us, we learn about the challenges faced by their families.

For many of my students' families, those challenges are directly linked to immigration policies. These families are not strangers to me, and their yearning to live legally in the United States is not criminal, but commendable. The Statue of Liberty has this poem printed on her base. The words should remind us that we are a nation made up of strangers from countries throughout the world. May we learn to see each other as friends ready to help our nation, rather than wolves ready to harm it.

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Week Two: Harry Potter trivia test

How's your Harry Potter knowledge?

Starting in last Wednesday's paper, Hood River News is publishing sets of Harry Potter trivia questions, in association with the Hood River Library. Try the Beginning, Intermediate, or Extreme, or all three. The final set will appear on April 21.

This should help get all you Muggles and Wizards ready for the third-annual Harry Potter Trivia Challenge at the library on Aug. 23.

The Trivia Challenge is free and open to anyone ages 9-18, and goes from 4:30-6 p.m. Costumes are encouraged, prizes will be awarded, and refreshments served.

(Answers at the bottom of the page. Professor McGonnigal says, "No peeking!")



File photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

BONUS QUESTION: Harry Potter midnight release party, Waucoma Bookstore, 12:05 a.m. — in what year? Which eagerly awaited J.K. Rowling book had just hit the shelves?

Set 2

Beginner:

1. What is the name of Ron's pet rat?
2. What is the spell for turning your wand into a

light?

Intermediate:

1. What is the name of Aunt Marge's dog?
2. What is the shape of Snape's patronus?

Extreme:

1. What two creature did Hagrid bred into the Blast Ended Skrewt?
2. What is the address of the Order of the Phoenix?

QUILTS

Continued from Page B1

301 in Hood River, will teach how to make fabric bowls. Popular Portland-area instructor Ann Shaw will, whom Jacobson says does "really interesting things with bits of fabric," will help students create collages of vegetables in one class, and roosters in another. Artist Nancy Shepard will show how to sew on metal and incorporate the pieces into quilts.

The event's featured artist is internationally acclaimed lecturer and teacher Mary Lou Weidman from Spokane. Weidman has traveled the world sharing her colorful, folk-style story quilts. She began quilting with her grandmother in grade school, but painting with her artist/musician father became her first love. For a time, they shared a studio where they painted and sold their work, but years later, after experimenting with many mediums to express herself, Weidman traded it all for fabric and thread in the early 1970s.

Weidman, whom Jacobson describes as having a "really quirky sense of quilting," has written five books on quilting and penned many booklets, owns a pattern company, and has been designing fabric for 14 years. She will share both her quilts and her stories about quilters and quilting in a special brown bag lunch lecture from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Aug. 17 at noon. Admission is \$15.

The show will also include a merchants mall, with more than 20 booths selling the latest fabric, patterns, books, tools and accessories to inspire new and experienced quilters.

Jacobson says that 151 quilts have been entered, the largest number ever. "We have a much larger percentage of those quilts being judged this year, so the quality is going to be higher," she said. "We're expecting our attendance to be higher, also."

For more information on the upcoming quilt show, visit gorgequiltersguild.org.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

LORANG ART GALLERY owner Debora Lorang admires the Bridge of the Gods Quilters creation that is up for drawing at her shop.

Cascade Locks' Lorang Gallery promotes local quilting culture

A good place to start on the Bridge of the Gods Quilt Block Trail (story above) might be Lorang Art Gallery, on WaNaPa Street near the Marine Park entrance.

Owner Debora Lorang has set aside a prominent section of the gallery to the art of quilting as practiced by her friends in the Bridge of the Gods Quilting Group. You can pick up a copy of the Quilt Block Trail map.

Visitors can purchase Quilt Trail boards for display at their home or business, or admire fabric blocks and whole quilts made by the Bridge of the Gods group. Several of the fabric quilts

are for sale, with proceeds going to help the Bridge of the Gods group in its ongoing charity projects, which include creating quilts and other warming objects for the elderly and newborn children in need.

Also on display is a quilt

that is up for drawing this fall; tickets are \$5 each, with proceeds supporting the group's projects.

The quilt, an assembly of varied blocks made by members in 2006-07, measures 100-by-100 inches.



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