

# Flora School Education Center

80974 College Lane • Flora, Oregon 97828-5076

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:        Vanessa Thew Thompson, Phone: 541.828.7010, Fax: 541.828.7911 (call -7010 first), Email: [floraschool@tds.net](mailto:floraschool@tds.net)

Photos:         Quilting photo, lunch photo and blacksmith photo attached

### Creativity: Sew a Little, Hammer a Bit

Flora, Oregon—        “Quilts of Valor: Sewing Bee for Our Vets” will take its third tour of duty at the Flora School Education Center, Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7, 9am to 4pm both days. During that same time frame, blacksmiths will gather for “Safety & Beauty Combined: The Blacksmith Way.”

**Hammer-In**        The blacksmiths will be hammering out safety covers for the windows behind the stage. Backstage is a very close area, and the windows are almost down to the floor, so safety is a concern. Currently the windows are covered with chain-link fence, but when there are blacksmiths wanting to have a “hammer-in,” why not use their ability.

Blacksmiths with at least one year experience are welcome to join the project. The metal workings will cover three windows and will showcase the craftsmanship of the blacksmiths. Blacksmiths are encouraged to bring their equipment to use, but there is some available to share at the school. Nathan Thompson, blacksmith from Pomeroy WA and president of the Blue Mtn Blacksmith Guild (BMBG), planned the hammer-in as a work session for the BMBG, but other than members are welcome.

**Sewing Bee**        Bob Eldred, veteran and quilter from the Portland area and representing Quilts of Valor, will lead the charge to make quilt blocks and eventually a quilt for veterans. Beginners wanting to learn to sew, as well as experienced quilters, are encouraged to participate; no matter the experience, anyone can join the process. “If I can sew a quilt, anyone can,” Bob insisted at the School Days gathering in June.

Participants are encouraged to bring red, white and blue 100% cotton fabrics (washed or not), sewing equipment and accessories. Block kits will be available to sew too. The Flora School Education Center does have machines to use.

During the sewing bee, the long arm equipment at the school will be setup for participants to “play with the long arm,” making placemats as they do so.

Dutch oven lunch on Sunday, provided by Dan Thompson, is in the works, but the menu has yet to gel. Dan says, “It will be something other than chicken, plus a dessert and a side dish or two.” The meal will cost \$10 as a fundraiser for the FSEC. Saturday’s lunch will be provided, planning is still in the works. Potluck evening Saturday and breakfast provided for Saturday and Sunday mornings are all part of the fixings for the sewing bee and the hammer-in.

For more information on sewing machines or anything else concerning the FSEC, contact Vanessa Thew Thompson, FSEC president, at 541.828.7010 or [floraschool@tds.net](mailto:floraschool@tds.net). Nathan Thompson, 509.876.7812 (text or call), may be contacted in regards to the hammer-in. Maureen or Bob Eldred will answer questions concerning the sewing bee or Quilts of Valor, 503.646.5970 9am to 9pm.

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