

**And the winner is...**



PHOTO BY TERESA MAHNKEN

The winner of the 2017 Furry Friends Foundation quilt (designed, appliquéd and quilted by Valerie Fercho-Tillery, far right) was Joni McCreery. Holding the quilt are Joni's grandchildren Shyanne Janis (with Blackie) and Jason Hanshaw (with Sadie Mae). Proud winner Joni is holding Jewell.

**BLACKSMITH:**  
Ancient craft carries sense of magic

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He couldn't imagine that anyone would be interested.

He couldn't have been more wrong.

In January 2016, Nathan shot some video about a large, 70-year-old power hammer Wadsworth uses to smash iron.

"He uploaded it, and it got a few thousand views, and that was intriguing," Wadsworth said.

But that was only the beginning. After a few other videos, including one about a forge he designed and built, the two collaborated on a video in July 2016 about a blacksmith's anvil. Over the weekend after it was posted, it received 100,000 views.

Wadsworth has several anvils, but one of them is his favorite among a shop full of blacksmith's tools. It's a 448-pound anvil manufactured by Hay Budden Manufacturing Co. in Brooklyn, New York, in 1909.

The anvil's been well used over its 100-plus years, but it remains in top condition. Wadsworth can take a metal object, softened by heat from either his 2,400-degree propane forge or his 3,600-degree coal forge, set it on the anvil and start hammering until it takes the shape he has in mind.

It's magic, he said, and it connects him to all of history. Every fastener, kitchen implement, printing press part, even the bits in the horses' mouth, they were all hammered out on an anvil, he said.

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