

Flora School shares pioneer skills — in cyberspace

Go! staff

FLORA — The Flora School Education Center's mission to share pioneer skills and recover lost arts hasn't diminished despite not being able to host in-person classes, demonstrations and celebrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While it might seem incongruous to learn pioneer skills via 21st century technology, the Flora School is offering classes online, bringing together the best of the present and of the best of the past.

The next two in the online series will focus on fiber arts. This fall, there will be a weaving class and a sewing class, both taught by Vanessa Thew Thompson from Flora's North End Crossing Barn & Bed, a pioneer bed and breakfast and vacation home



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rental (learn more at www.northendcrossing.com).

WEAVING: THE 3 RS — RECYCLING, REUSING, REPURPOSING

Saturday, Sept. 18

As the title implies, participants will learn to weave after making a loom out of used items

(picture frames, sticks, dowels, 2x4s, plastic lids and containers, etc.) and gathering what they have to make yarn (such as clothing, T-shirts, Mother Nature's gatherings, an unraveled sweater, leftover yarn). Some looms, depending on which one you make, become part of the finished project, while other looms you can use over and over again.

This online workshop will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If more time is needed, Thew Thompson will arrange another online gathering to finish projects. The class is designed for high school age and older.

SEWING: FRENCH BURRITO PILLOWCASE

Saturday, Oct. 9

In this sewing class, Thew Thompson will help participants get to know their sewing machines (electric, treadle or crank) while making a "French burrito" pillowcase.

Sewing this simple pillowcase, although a bit more involved than the pioneers might have done, is an easy way to learn your machine (electric, treadle or crank), how to measure and how to sew a straight line. Thew Thompson will show examples of optional embellishments such as adding patchwork

or lace to the pillowcase, which the participants can do after the class.

The workshop is open to adults and children, from sixth grade and up — basically, anyone who can thread their machine and sew a bit (or who has an adult to help). The class runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact Thew Thompson at 541-828-7010 or northendcrossing@tds.net for more details on either class. To sign up, email fsec.education@gmail.com. Students will receive information on how to access the virtual class as well as what materials are needed.

Class fees are by donation after taking the class.

For more information on the Flora School Education Center, classes, volunteering, teaching, work parties and events, go to www.floraschool.org or the center's social media, email floraschool@tds.net or call 541-828-7010.