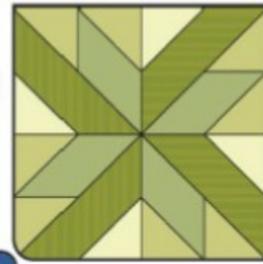


SCRAP CHAT



October

The Newsletter of The Bed-warmer Quilt & Sew

2017

Sew New

Latest Shop Updates

The **NEW CREATIVE ICON** will be arriving in the shop this week. Come by and see this phenomenal sewing and embroidery machine. You will fall in love with creativity!!

Block of the Month
Oct 10, Tuesday
9:30 am-1:00 pm

Double Wedding Ring
Oct 14, Saturday
10:00 am-4:00 pm

Bee Happy Sew Along
Oct 19, Thursday
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Block of the Month
Oct 21, Saturday
9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Shellie's Stash



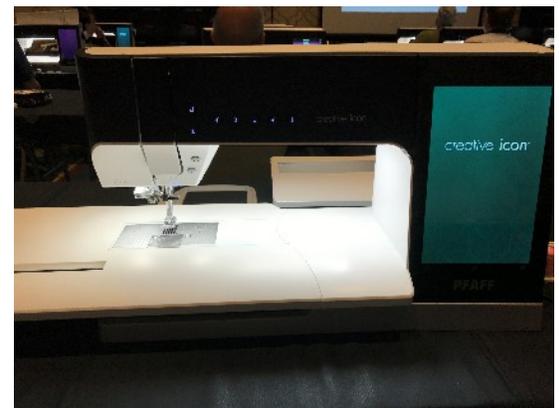
I love seeing what people can do when they get together and get creative. I have taught more classes than I can count and there is never a shortage of new ideas, new patterns, new ways and new technology to teach. I love to learn and I love to teach. When I was in college and doing my medical rotations, one of my mentors used to say the best way to learn was to “see one, do one, teach one.” He was right. When you watch, you see the technique of whatever it is you are learning. When you do, you are creating muscle memory within your brain and body. When you teach, you are bringing all those things together as you stimulate your memory to recall what you have learned.

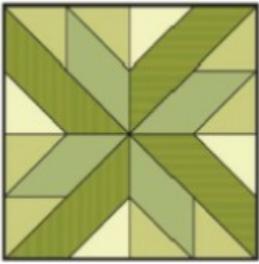
I love watching the kids that have come to our kids’ camps. As they come back they help each other and they are using this very technique. I taught them, they did it themselves, and then, they helped each other. I was like a proud mama when my customer said that as she was getting ready to come to a class her 10 yr old daughter cleaned out the bobbin area and changed the needle on her machine so she was ready.

I’ve watched as many of you have learned a new technique and then step by step helped

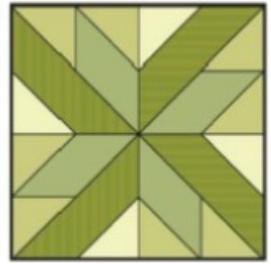
someone else to do the same thing. We all learn from each other all the time. It is one of the great parts about quilting and sewing. Always something else to learn!

I have just attended 4 days of Pfaff convention and I have learned A LOT!! There are so many new techniques and really fun things with the launch of the new Creative Icon. I can’t wait to teach them. I wish there were more hours in the day so that I could have done more classes and made more samples. The Icon will be in our shop hopefully this week and I can’t wait for all of you to see what it can do.





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Social Circle

I loved teaching at the Quilt Arkansas Retreat. I taught the Cleopatra's Fan and it was a blast!! It was so fun to see all the different color combinations that the ladies chose and to see how, even with the same pattern, the fabrics brought such different personalities to the quilts. I am excited to see the finished quilts come in. We will be running this class in the shop in November. It is super fun and pretty easy, even though it looks complicated and you can tell your friends it is complicated!

Hehe-- that is always my favorite part- looks complicated but really isn't.



Snippets

Did you know that threads are not all wound onto the spool in the same way? It's true! I have taught this to some of y'all but I thought I'd share it with all y'all.

Some threads are **straight**-wound and some threads are **cross**-wound onto the spool. Why is this important to know? Well, I'm glad you asked. Depending on the way it is wound onto the spool makes a difference how it needs to come off the spool. If it is **straight**-wound the spool wants the thread to be pulled straight off the side of the spool. If it is **cross**-wound the spool wants the thread to be pulled off the end of the spool. The **straight**-wound want to stand up and have the thread pulled horizontally off the side and they don't do as well with thread towers. The **cross**-wound is best if the spool lays down to come off the end. If you have a thread tower holder, the cross-wound will stand up and the thread is pulled straight up off the end.

Extra hint: If you have metallic thread, try to use a stand set away from the machine a bit so that it gives the thread more time to relax and uncurl before going thru the machine tensions.

By paying attention to the wind and orientating the thread accordingly, the thread doesn't twist coming off and is less likely to break. And, Viola', fewer thread breaks make happier sewists.

Spotlight

Customer Focus

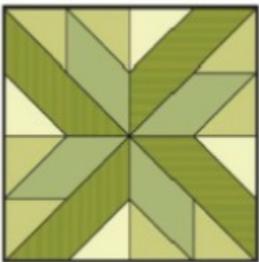
Aliex Bowden Blake

Zoey and Sadie, were my first and second grandchildren).

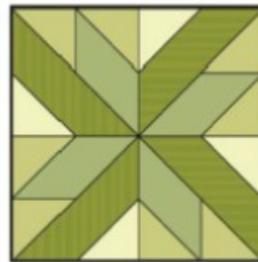
Aliex Bowden Blake was born and grew up in Vernal, Utah. She is the fourth of 5 kids with 3 older brothers and 1 younger sister. She attended Brigham Young University and received her associates in general studies and her Pharmacy Tech license. She met Dallas Blake (my son) because they lived in the same apartment building at BYU. Dallas originally met Aliex's sister Julie Ann and after the two of them became friends, Julie Ann told him he would really get along well with her sister Aliex. And he did. Three and a half years later, Aliex and Dallas were married. They have been married 7 years and have 3 adorable and fun loving little girls. (Their oldest two,

Aliex worked for Intermountain Health Care in Utah County for 9 years in the out patient pharmacy. She quit in May 2016 when her hubby, Dallas, moved to Arkansas to start a new job and she stayed behind in Utah to sell their house. Since she suddenly was a single parent with a preschooler, a toddler and an infant, it made working outside the home impossible. After 5 months they were able to sell their house and Aliex and the girls could move to Arkansas to be reunited again. In Nov. they bought their house in Cabot, AR and they love it.

While in Jr. High, Aliex took her first sewing/home ec class. Then in high school she started quilting. Her very first quilt was a full size quilt. She is mostly self-taught in quilting and loves making quilts for her girls and friends. She loves



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bright fabrics and pink is always a plus. She also makes many of the samples for the shop. Aliex goes with me to Market and helps choose the fabrics for the shop. It was extra special when we went to the Spring Market in Utah and Aliex was able to take the baby because she was nursing. Riley was only 4 months old and was the hit of the market because she is truly, Riley

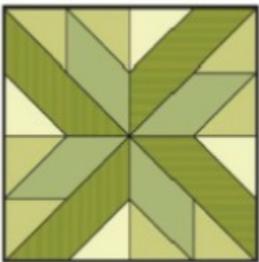
Blake! Riley Blake Designs loved her! Riley Blake Designs is actually named for the founder's 2 children, Riley and Blake, and they thought it was awesome that there is actually a real Riley Blake.

Aliex also enjoys playing with the kids and the family, trying different foods, coloring and painting, target shooting,

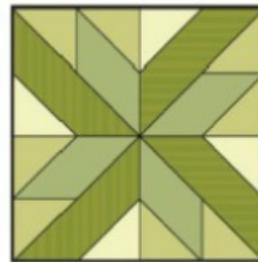
going on adventures, and LOVES baking!! She makes the most amazing cupcakes.

Aliex is often at the shop with her family, I hope you get the chance to meet her and you will love her as much as we do.





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Story Corner

David's Quilt

Part 1 of 3

Written by Darren Blake

With only twenty seconds left in the basketball game, David White inbounded the ball at the far end of the court to his point guard teammate, Terek Johnson. Trailing by a single point to Maumelle High School, this was the closest Bryant High School's team had come all season to a loss, and it was all going to come down to the final shot of the game. As the team's shooting guard, it was up to him to take the final pass from Terek and make the shot from outside the key. Maumelle's defender was playing him very tight, so David knew he'd have to use one of his teammates to screen off the opposing player. The clock was running, and David could feel the time slipping past as the home crowd began to count down the final seconds: seven, six, five...

Bryant's big center was perfectly positioned to screen the defender working on David and at just the right time, Terek passed him the ball. In a single motion, David jumped and released the ball, the high arcing shot in perfect line with the basket. With a satisfying *swish*, the scoreboard changed to show Bryant's team now holding a one point lead with two

seconds on the clock. After a quick timeout by Maumelle, the opposition team struggled to throw up a desperate attempt shot to win the game, but the ball fell short of the basket. Bryant had maintained their unbeaten basketball record of twenty wins, zero losses.

Amid the turmoil and jubilation of the win, as the fans rushed from the bleachers to the basketball floor to glory in the victory with their team, David looked up into the stands where he knew his dad was seated. James White was still where he had been the whole game, but this time he was looking at his son and giving him an exuberant fist pump. There would be time for them to celebrate together a little later. For now, James wanted his son to enjoy the triumph in the midst of his fellow students and teammates.

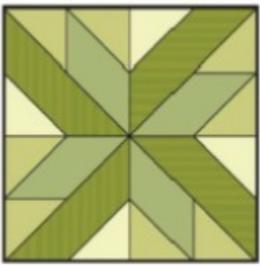
Bryant High School's basketball team had garnered quite a bit of media attention through the last several games because of their unbeaten record and because the odds looked good that they would win at the state tournament. As a senior on this year's team, the season was particularly important to David White, since this was his last chance at

a state championship. Amid the dispersing crowd, James White joined his son on the court floor just as a local sports reporter approached with a cameraman in tow. After a few questions about the win and what it meant for David and his team, the reporter turned his attention to James. "Mr. White, I understand the quilt you're holding has become quite a story around Bryant High School. I wondered if you wouldn't mind sharing some of the details with our viewers."

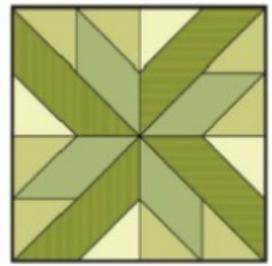
James White glanced down at the folded quilt he held under his arm. "What would you like to know?"

The reporter stepped a little closer and held the microphone near James' face. "I've heard that quilt was made by David's mother and that you bring it to the games and set it on the bleacher beside you in her absence. Is that right?"

James sighed slightly. He had shared this story countless times since David had begun playing on the varsity basketball team. Now that David was a bona-fide star, he was asked even



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more frequently now, and it had gotten to the point where it was almost a rehearsed monologue. Still, one had to be a good sport when one's son was the focus. "Yes sir. David was just a tot when his mother left, and she had just finished work on this quilt. As a youngster, he always held it close when he missed her, and we've just sort of adopted it as her place-saver at his games. So instead of using it as a cushion for myself, I place it next to me on the bleacher so that when David looks to the stands, he can see me and the place where his mom would be if she could be here."

"Is it possible she might show up one day?" the reporter asked.

James always hated that question. "Well sir, you just never know, do you?" In reality, James had no expectation that Brandy White would ever make an appearance. He had no idea where she was or even if she was still alive. It was true she had left James and David when David was about five years old. What he didn't disclose to the reporter (or anyone else) were the conditions under which his wife had left home. Since the time David was born, Brandy had become ever more erratic, sometimes staying out all night without warning, and sometimes staying in bed the whole day while her toddler fended for himself. At times, James came home to find his wife in a trance watching the

television, or in bed, or even absent, with David wandering the house in a messy diaper. She had taken up a number of hobbies in the first five years of David's life, with the hobby of quilting being her last before her disappearance. It had been something of a relief when James realized Brandy was gone for good. At least he could make plans concerning the care of his son on a consistent basis. James had become mother and father for his precious son, and he had withstood the temptation to be his son's "friend" rather than a parent. As a result, James felt that David had become a responsible and high-achieving young adult about whom he could feel justifiable pride.

The pride James felt for David only grew as they made the drive home together. David talked about his teammates as though they were his brothers. He talked about school, the classes that were his favorites, and even where he hoped to be in a year or two. As the pair pulled into the driveway, David even expressed the hope that a couple of his friends would make better decisions in life and escape the difficulty they were making for themselves. It had been a good night for them both.

The next game was with Conway, and David was particularly glad it was another home game. The Wampus Cats were always a fiercely

competitive team, especially when it came to playing the Bryant Hornets. Even when Conway was having a difficult year, they always seemed to find a way to play David's team tough.

On the night of the game, David felt particularly good about his abilities, and he poured in the points, eclipsing his average point total of twenty-one by midway through the second half. With only about three minutes remaining in the game, David made his third three-point shot in a row, bringing his total points to thirty-five. In the stands, James stood along with the rest of the crowd and cheered his son and team as they concluded their twenty-first win for the season. Having made it past this foe, the championship really looked like it was within the grasp of this very special team, and David was a huge part of the success. After the final buzzer signaling the end of the game, David looked up to the bleachers to make eye contact with his dad. It was part of their regular routine and allowed them to share a private moment together. James' heart was still beating quickly in response to the final exciting minutes of the game when he looked over to his right to collect the quilt that had become such a fixture in the Bryant bleachers. If James' heart had been beating quickly before, it now surged to a whole new pace. The bleacher beside his seat was empty. The quilt was missing.

Read Part 2 in Next Month's Newsletter

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