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(Neb.)-Chadron Festival Of Quilts Taking Place This Weekend  [Listen](#)

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/20/2012 06:21 PM

(CHADRON)-The 18th annual Chadron Festival of Quilts is taking place this weekend at Assumption Arena. Festival of Quilts committee member Janice McCallum said quilters from around the region and surrounding states have brought some of their finest quilts to showcase. "There are 252 registered quilts, and then we have the Honor Burns trunk show, the Nancy Halvorson trunk show, and the vendors probably each have half a dozen in their booths, so there are over 300 quilts here," says McCallum. "This year's theme is 'Embellish with Relish,' and so quilts are embellished with rhinestones, beads...there's one that's embellished with a fishing pole. It's pretty neat."

McCallum said there are a variety of quilts for people to view, including a Thimbleberries trunk show by renowned quilter Lynette Jensen, Paint Chip challenge quilts, appliqué and heirloom quilts, and a raffle quilt. McCallum says the raffle quilt is helping to fund the festival. "Putting on a quilt show is not cheap, so we raffle off a quilt every year to help offset costs," she says. "The raffle quilt has been appraised by Jan Sears, the American Quilter Society Certified Appraiser. Whoever wins that, will get that appraisal to know the exact monetary value of that quilt."

Visitors to the festival on Friday and Saturday have the opportunity to vote for their favorite quilt in each of 13 different categories. On Sunday, the winners will be awarded ribbons.

McCallum says the show is definitely not just for quilters. "Not everyone who comes through is a quilter," she says. "You know, this is just a beautiful art show. There's a lot of very creative, original work. Even if you are following a pattern, the choices in fabrics make it personal and unique to you. I would say only half probably of the people who come through here are really avid quilters."

In addition to the quilts, the festival boasts a variety of demonstrations and vendors. McCallum says there is more to see and do than one might think. "This is my third year being involved in the show," she says. "And it never fails, that I will look through all of these quilts, and then when we are taking them down Sunday, I always notice something for the first time. There's just so many incredible details in these quilts."

McCallum says there are community resources available for novice quilters or those interested in how to get started. "You know when I first started quilting, I said to myself, 'This is just straight seams, how hard could it be?' And my first quilt was terrible! My seams didn't line up or anything. There really are a lot of techniques that you can do to make yourself more accurate. So, I would really recommend a class from a quilt store and/or join your local quilt guild," says McCallum.

The Festival of Quilts is open Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00-4:00 p.m. The \$4 admission covers entry for the entire weekend. For a schedule of events, visit chadronfestivalofquilts.com.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail roxie@chadrad.com.)

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