

Frontiersman

Growing with Alaska's Mat-Su Valley since 1947

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Spinners turn wool into art

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As the air begins to crackle with autumn crispness, and the icy snow moves down the mountains, Alaskans are bringing out their wool socks and hats. But none are warmer than those that were made by loved ones. Threaded among the homespun fibers of sweaters and mittens are bits of love and clumps of time that warm not only fingers and toes, but also hearts.

"The yarn is alive — it has your spirit, your creativity in it," Lynnette Carrier said. "You can't buy this kind of yarn."

She said each string of yarn has a great deal of time and love in it.

"I keep the yarn. It's special, so I use it for the

kids," she said.

Carrier is one of more than 50 members of the Valley Fiber Arts Guild, a non-profit organization formed in 1983.

"To me these are the wise women of the community," Carrier said of her fellow guild members. "They're into ecology, creativity ... and they're making these beautiful things."

The guild organizes spinning retreats, fashion and art shows, study groups and demonstrations. In recognition of National Fiber Arts Week, the first week of October, the guild is featuring presentations throughout the Valley including at Vagabond Blues Espresso in Palmer.

At the Alaska State Fair, the guild sponsors a

See SPINNERS, Page A10

