

# Packard Looms and Weaves Her Passion For Wool

For approximately 45 years, wool has been a big part of Phyllis Packard's life.

It's a part that she shares with the public at LumoStudios & Gallery in Vermillion, where she sells everything from un-spun wool to knitted hats and other products she's made herself, along with a variety of imported wools and other items.

She began working with fibers at New York's Syracuse University. At the time, her primary interest was silversmithing, but she took weaving as an elective.

"I found it was fascinating to me. I gave it almost equal time to the silversmithing," she said. "I think the real push, or what took me full-time into weaving was, after graduating I had realized how expensive it was to be a silversmith."

She's never looked back.

"I really have been a weaver ever since then," she said.

Packard's wool-related activities were given a boost when she had the opportunity to purchase the contents of an entire weaving studio for \$300 – including yarn, looms and all the other necessary equipment.

"There was a woman that was moving from a large home to a small apartment and decided it was time to change, and wanted it to go to somebody that would use it," she said. "So, there I had an entire weaving studio, and I was a full-time weaver. It made my choice for me."

In 1968, Packard came to Clay County and taught courses in fiber arts throughout the area, including at the University of South



Travis Gulbrandson/Vermillion Plain Talk  
Phyllis Packard spins wool into yarn at LumoStudios & Gallery in Vermillion. Packard has been working with fibers since the mid-1960s.

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