



BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Covered Bridge Forge

Hand-forged knives by Jeff Calavan

For more than 20 years, **Jeff Calavan** has been forging knives by hand. Since 2022, he's been doing so under the name **Covered Bridge Forge**, right here in the McKenzie River Valley.

Each knife is hand-forged from high-carbon steel, creating a long-lasting edge that's easy to sharpen and built to be used for a lifetime. Jeff crafts chef and paring knives, cleavers, mushroom harvesting knives, and hunting and camping blades, along with custom orders and local knife sharpening. Distinctive hammer marks are intentionally left on each blade, giving every piece a rustic, forged-by-hand character inspired by old homestead craftsmanship.

Jeff works from his home studio overlooking the river, spending hours forging, grinding, heat-treating, and finishing each knife by hand. Ergonomic handles and custom leather sheaths complete many of his pieces, while fly fishing behind the house often weaves into the rhythm of his days.



Jeff Calavan at the forge

Jeff and his wife JoAnn have called the McKenzie River home for 30 years. That deep connection to the community shapes how he does business, especially the joy he finds in handing a finished knife directly to its owner and hearing how it performs in real kitchens, camps, and workshops.

In addition to bladesmithing, Jeff has been crafting Native American-style wooden flutes for more than 40 years, with instruments sold worldwide and featured on film soundtracks.

Jeff joined the VMCC Business Membership Program in 2025 to deepen local connections and continue contributing to the community he loves.

Special thanks to Jeff Calavan for sharing his craft and being our first featured VMCC Business Member Spotlight!



Japanese style chef knife



Kitchen knife set

*All photos provided courtesy of Covered Bridge Forge.
See and learn more at coveredbridgeforge.com*

Vida McKenzie Community Center • Rooted in Community, Growing Together