



Allen Isley



Jimmy Collins



Larry Bacon



Clarence Norton

**PHOTOS
BY
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QUILTS

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educational opportunities by sponsoring speakers, and teacher and volunteers quilt-making skills for community projects.

The process of constructing the quilts for veterans begins with the selection of a pattern, usually undertaken at a regular guild meeting.

“Someone presents a block and we ask people to take a copy of the pattern and do it up mostly in red, white and blue.”

Once the individual blocks are sewn together, they are given to Hope McLaughlin of Enterprise, a nonagenarian with decades of quilting experience.

McLaughlin adds a washable polyester batting — a filler material to give the quilt heft. A backing is the final step. She is paid a modest fee for her work.

The quilts are produced in a variety of sizes, the smaller ones designed more as lap quilts, Koloski said.

“The red, white and blue themes are designed to set the veteran quilts apart from everything else we do,” said Koloski.

Larger quilts are as big as 80x100-inches. Some have borders added to make them even bigger.

“These are made to be used, not hung on the wall,” Koloski added.

Finding veterans to receive quilts is more of a challenge than one might think, Koloski says.

“Most of it is by word of mouth,” she said, noting that there is little access to Veteran’s Administration records for such projects.

During a recent visit to the Chieftain, Koloski noticed an older gentleman entering through the front door wearing a veteran’s hat. She signed him up.

She has found other recipients sitting in the waiting room at the hospital or in the physical therapy clinic. Her husband, Mike, a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer, is active with the VFW and assists with the process.

One of the highlights for guild members is experiencing the reactions of the veterans during quilt presentations.

“I’ve made a special effort to take as many other members to the presentations so they can see that response,” Koloski said. “These veterans are very proud of their service and tickled pink to be acknowledged.”

The guild attempts to honor the older veterans first “before they’re gone,” Koloski said. The recent awards ceremony included three members of the Roberts family who are Vietnam-era veterans.

“Every time we make a presentation, we get more names,” Koloski said.

Additional names are always welcome.



Everett Roberts



Pete Sawin



Susan Roberts



John Roberts



Art Cannon

CLINIC

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the fact that Center for Wellness is the closest location for the services offered in a 128-mile round trip.

Wilson said the biggest challenge he discovered in the local fundraising process was a lack of profile.

The center, a nonprofit that works closely with Wallowa County government, is a full-service commu-

nity-based program focusing on the mental health and life enrichment needs of the people of Wallowa County. The center is the primary provider of mental health and developmental disability services in the county.

The new integrated health services building would bring the bulk of the center’s services under one roof and make access to other health and wellness-related services easier.

Leadership on the center’s board has begun considering how to tell its

story to the community effectively.

Wilson has been working capital campaigns primarily for nonprofits for 15 years. He began his career in publishing and has held a variety of political offices.

He served on the Vancouver City Council and was executive director of the largest residential non-profit program for adults with developmental disabilities in southwest Washington. He’s also a former radio talk show host.

Wilson worked with Elgin Health

District to raise more than a million dollars to build an 8,000 square-foot health and wellness clinic in Elgin. Groundbreaking on that project was in June 2016.

Wilson is schedule to give a preliminary report on his findings to the Center for Wellness board of directors and others involved in the clinic project Nov. 13.

The two-year process for constructing the building began with a groundbreaking at the site across the parking lot from Winding

Waters in August.

Dealing with the property’s high water table will take roughly a year. The property, formerly owned by Wallowa Memorial Hospital, has been excavated to allow it to percolate.

No part of the design has been finalized and no construction permits have been pulled.

The plans also include a teaching kitchen for Wallowa Memorial Hospital’s Complete Health Improvement Program and space for staff from Building Healthy Families.