

QUILTS

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"It is fun getting together to work," said Maudean Brown. "Some don't sew but help in other ways."

Gloria Kulis of John Day said she's learned a lot about binding.

"It's a team effort," she said.

Mary Lou Drury has been quilting with her daughter Janice Dickens. Both are Mt. Vernon residents.

"I've enjoyed celebrating the folks who have served our country for our freedom," Drury said.

Both Drury and Hinton have used their long-arm quilting machines to finish off many of the projects.

As she quilts, Hinton said she keeps the veterans in mind.

"I think about what it would be like to be away from my family, for the families to have their loved ones gone for birthdays and holidays," she said. "I've shed a few tears thinking about it."

She plans to give one of her quilts to Mt. Vernon resident and Navy veteran Kenneth Delano.

Delano served as lieutenant commander in submarine service (1960-1981) as a weapons officer and in weapons systems procurement during the Cold War.

Hinton said the quilts for the program have to be made to a high standard, with quality prewashed fabric.

"They are heirloom quality," Ricker said.

Karen added, "They deserve the best."

"We're going to continue," Brown said. "We won't have



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter **Mary Lou Drury of Mt. Vernon and Gloria Kulis of John Day join other Grant County Piecemakers Guild members in sewing Quilts of Valor for local veterans.**

enough quilts for all the veterans, but the goal is for many more veterans to receive quilts."

Veterans who would like to be added to the list for a

quilt, or family members who know of a veteran, can contact Hinton.

She said Grant County Veteran Service Officer Katee Hoffman has been helpful in getting the word out about the project to veterans.

"We want to thank the veterans for their sacrifice," Hinton said.

The guild will hold a taco feed at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at the John Day Elks Lodge 1824 where at least 25 veterans will be awarded a quilt.

The cost is \$6 a person. All veterans and a guest may eat for free, as well as children 3 and under. Proceeds will help purchase supplies to make more Quilts of Valor.

Tickets may be purchased at The Shiny Thimble: 100 E. Main St., Mt. Vernon; Veteran Service Office, 530 E. Main

St., Suite. 5, John Day; and The Squeeze Inn, 423 W. Main St., John Day.

Hinton asks people who plan to buy a ticket at the door to call her to RSVP, so they can plan on how much food to prepare. Volunteers to help at the dinner are needed.

To RSVP or volunteer, call Hinton at 541-932-4111 or 541-620-0120.

Crazy Quilters

In Monument, Judy Harris has headed up a group called the Crazy Quilters — and they have been quilting "like crazy" since March for their local veterans.

Cheryl Ringering of Hamilton first introduced the others to Quilts of Valor in the spring.

"It blossomed from there," Harris said.

The eight ladies in the

group have submitted papers to join the program.

Army Air Cavalry veteran Bruce Kramer, who served during the Vietnam War; and Cheltz Cox, who served as a Seabee, the U.S. Navy construction battalion, in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait from 2006-2014, are just two out of 38 veterans who will receive a quilt.

Harris said they completed a total of 47 quilts. Monument has a population of 125.

A Veterans Day luncheon will be held at noon on Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Monument Senior Center. The meal of ham and all the trimmings is free.

"What an honor to be able to give these quilts to these veterans," Harris said. "They deserve this and much more."

For more information, call Harris at 541-934-2244.

GERMANY

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truck for the 520th Transportation Battalion, but an officer saw that he had typing experience from high school and assigned him to battalion headquarters.

He was given secret clearance status and ran the mail room, which included a jeep, a weapons carrier truck and a deuce and a half truck to pick up mail in the city. The large base at Kaiserslautern was home to several battalions, including artillery and tank battalions.

U.S. soldiers in West Germany faced dire circumstances if the Soviet Union invaded. They knew the resulting war could quickly escalate from conventional weapons to chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons as the outnumbered NATO forces faced superior communist numbers.

Base life

Mooney shared a barracks room with seven other soldiers. Winters were pretty cold, but the barracks were in good shape, he said. Officers and NCOs with families typically resided off base. The base PX and commissary sold food and other items.

Mooney said he ate military food in the mess hall, which wasn't always the

best. He recalled drinking powdered milk on occasion because the German civilians hired for KP duty were stealing the real milk.

The German economy had recovered from the devastation of World War II and was booming by the early 1960s. He recalled older Germans who had lived through the war being "stand-offish," and Germans in smaller rural towns were more friendly than city residents.

"There were places U.S. soldiers just didn't go," he said.

Mooney injured his tail bone after slipping on ice and spent a month in the hospital. When he got out, he was reassigned as a battalion motor pool clerk, performing spot checks to ensure truck drivers regularly inspected their vehicles.

It was in that capacity that Mooney had the opportunity to travel with supply convoys through communist East Germany to Berlin. The city was surrounded by Soviet-controlled East Germany and had been supplied in 1948-1949 by a DC3 aircraft during the Berlin Airlift. East German troops continued to harass NATO troops as they delivered supplies to Berlin, Mooney said.

Soldier tourist

During his time in Europe, Mooney

traveled to Holland, Spain, Austria and France, but not Paris. He bought a new Volkswagen Bug for \$995 from a second lieutenant who had owned it only a month.

"His wife refused to ride in it," he said.

Mooney recalled sightseeing in Europe with two friends from Los Angeles and a "whiskey runner" from Virginia. The soldiers traded their cigarette ration coupons for gasoline coupons to keep their cars fueled.

Granted three-day passes, the soldiers drove through beautiful farm country and visited spectacular castles, he said. One thing that stood out was seeing young children picking up beer for their fathers. The older teenagers, he recalled, partied hard and generally didn't like U.S. soldiers.

Mooney later shipped his Volkswagen back to the U.S. on a troop ship and gave it to his mother.

Returning home

As the Cold War heated up, President John Kennedy extended the tours of duty for overseas troops, and Mooney's time in Germany went from six months to 30. In October 1962, he boarded a troop ship in Bremerhaven and began the 10-day trip back to the U.S.

CHARGES

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with the Oregon State Police and FBI.

Vogt had been charged in Grant County with first-degree rape, first-degree kidnapping and first-degree sexual abuse, along with a misdemeanor charge of pointing a firearm at the girl.

In the information filed Oct. 30 by Carpenter, the crimes were alleged to have taken place between Oct. 21-29. Carpenter accused Vogt of confining the girl in a place where she couldn't be found "with the purpose of furthering the commission of or an attempt to commit the crime of first-degree rape and unlawful sexual penetration."

Palmer said his office and the Ada County Sheriff's Office would be working with federal prosecutors and the FBI for potential charges of interstate sex trafficking of a minor child.

"While the case is pending in Idaho, an ongoing investigation by the FBI may result in Vogt's case being transferred to federal court," Carpenter said.