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**Topic** Vet Quilts and Collaboration  
with We Honor Veterans and  
the Coastal Quilters Guild

# Wrapped in red, white and blue

## Local organizations team up to honor veterans with patriotic quilts

BRETT LEIGH DICKS, NEWS-PRESS correspondent

November 10, 2015 12:16 AM

<http://www.newspress.com/Top/Article/article.jsp?Section=LIFE&ID=567371240805892142>

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With the chill of winter finally descending upon Santa Barbara County and Veterans Day fast approaching, the Coastal Quilters Guild of Santa Barbara and Goleta's recent quilt-making workshop was particularly timely.

There were quilts adorned with American flags, symbols representing the various

branches of the military, and hearts made from stars and stripes. The beneficiaries of the quilts will be local veterans in Visiting Nurse's hospice care program. As more quilts were added to the pile, the members were well on their way to their goal of 75 by Veterans Day on Wednesday.



Participants in the Coastal Quilters Guild of Santa Barbara and Goleta's recent veterans quilt workshop included, from left, Arlene Stepputat, Diana Iler (seated), Nellie Mendoza, Mary Ringer, Carol Barringer, Ilona Varner, Bonnie Epperson (seated), Linda Boynton de Sepulveda, Linda Kriss and Barbara MacCallum. Below, all the quilts are patriotically themed.  
BRETT LEIGH DICKS / NEWS-PRESS

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"We've made quilts for children with cancer, low-income seniors ... this year, we're making quilts for Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care to give to their veterans?"

Last year, the guild made a series of non-themed quilts for Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care patients; among them were a handful made from red, white and blue material. They caught the eye of Arlene Stepputat, Visiting Nurse's manager of volunteer services, who directed those quilts toward veterans in the nonprofit's care.

Visiting Nurse is a community partner of the We Honor Veterans program, a collaboration between various national hospices and palliative care organizations and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that supports veterans near the end of life. As part of the program, Visiting Nurse conducts local pinning ceremonies to recognize and celebrate the contributions made by veterans in their care.

"I was there when the quilts were handed over last year," Ms. Barringer said. "I'm a former marine and Arlene had found out about my service and came up to me and did an impromptu pinning ceremony. She got down on her knee and thanked me for my service. That really did something in my heart.?"

A commuter programmer at Marine Corps headquarters in Arlington, Va., during the Vietnam War, Ms. Barringer was so touched by Ms. Stepputat's dedication to the veterans within the hospice care program that she started making a red, white and blue quilt for the organization.

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A team of quilters has been working on the veterans project since June, cutting, pinning, sewing and adding binding to quilts of various sizes.

On a recent Saturday morning, about 10 guild members gathered at Visiting Nurse for the last of three day-long quilting workshops. The quilters spent the entire day pinning fabric and hunched over sewing machines, adding to the impressive pile of completed quilts.

The quilts range in size from 40 inches by 40 inches to around 60 inches by 85 inches, which is large enough to cover a twin-size bed. One of the first quilts was given to the husband of a guild member who reported back that the quilt, which was 45 inches by 60 inches, was the perfect size because it covered him in bed and wasn't too wide for use in his wheelchair.

Ms. Barringer said there is no template for the design of the quilts.

"Designs and patterns come from everywhere: books, magazines, published patterns," she said. "I have a 3-inch binder full of them that can be altered to suit the maker's preference or the materials available.?"

While the guild has staged workshops specifically dedicated to crafting the veterans quilts, members have also been working on quilts at home. It is an intricate process where even the simplest of designs can take more than a week to complete. But every stitch is appreciated.

Homer Smith, a longtime Visiting Nurse volunteer, was a recent recipient of a pinning ceremony and quilt. Born in Akron, Ohio, Mr. Smith graduated with honors from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963. He earned a bachelor's degree in marine engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering and upon graduation was stationed on a ship home ported in Yokosuka, Japan. He then joined the Civil Engineer Corps, which took he and his wife, Jean, to the Philippines, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Puerto Rico, Guam, Spain and Italy before retiring from service in 1990.

In 1999, the couple moved to Santa Barbara, where Mr. Smith worked as the principal engineer for the city of Santa Barbara, served as commodore of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club and volunteered in Visiting Nurse's Vets 2 Vets program, where he was paired with hospice patients who also served the country.

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Mr. Smith passed away on Oct. 11 at the age of 74. As Mrs. Smith recently sat on a couch in the couple's Riviera home with a quilt adorned in a matrix of American flags sprawled behind her, she took time to share with the News-Press what it means to her.

"It's very special because it's not only very beautiful and has the flag, but it's trimmed with blue and gold, which are the colors of the Naval Academy," Mrs. Smith, 72, said with a smile. "I'll wrap myself up in it this winter. Everyone's coming for Thanksgiving and the memorial service, so I'm sure the grandkids will wrap themselves up in it too.

"The quilt means a lot to us. The service was a big part of Homer's life and the quilt will be a great way to help the grandchildren understand what it means to be a veteran.?"

FYI

The Coastal Quilters Guild of Santa Barbara and Goleta is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating its members about the history and preservation of the art of quilt making. Yearly membership is \$35. For more information, visit [www.coastalquilters.org](http://www.coastalquilters.org).

email: [life@newspress.com](mailto:life@newspress.com)



Jean Smith displays a patriotically themed quilt that was recently given to her late veteran husband, Homer. At left, the quilts range in size from 40 inches by 40 inches to around 60 inches by 85 inches.



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By BRETT LEIGH DICKS  
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Barbara MacCallum sews together squares of red, white and blue patterns that will be incorporated into a quilt.

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Please see **QUILTS** on **A7**

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## Thanking veterans for their service

SANTA BARBARA NEWS PRESS



**■ QUILTS**  
*Continued from Page A6*

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*email: life@newspress.com*

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BRETT LEIGH DICKS / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

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**NATION & WORLD / A4**  
**LEADERS MEET**  
Obama, Netanyahu minimize disagreements, look to heal strained relations



**LIFE / A6**  
**HONORING VETS**  
Local organizations join forces to make quilts for area veterans

**WEATHER**  
Mostly sunny  
Coast: 67-85  
Inland: 65-86  
COMPLETE FORECAST A8

**SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS**

OUR 160TH YEAR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015 75¢

**New report suggests millions more needed for jail operations**

**Budget discrepancy result of minimal versus full staffing**

**By SARA BUSH**  
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT  
The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office may have underestimated the projected budget required to operate jail facilities according to a new report released Friday.  
According to the study by independent contractor Carter Goble Associates, 363 staff members would be needed to operate the facility. However, the Sheriff's Office has

proposed a slightly lower number — 263 staff members.  
And while the CGL report estimates it would cost \$69.68 million per year to run the main jail and Sheriff's Transition and Reentry (S.T.A.R.) Complex, the Sheriff's Office has projected it would take just \$67.90 million.  
Sheriff's officials defended the numbers. "The consultant's cost estimate for the proposed North Branch Jail and the S.T.A.R.

Complex is very close to the estimates provided by Sheriff's Office staff," Sheriff's Public Information Officer Kelly Hoover wrote in an email to the News-Press. "The cost differential is due primarily to the consultant's recommendation for 20 additional positions at the current main jail facility."  
While the differences may be slight, it comes at a time when the department is already over budget.  
In the county's most recent budget

snapshot, which will be discussed during today's Board of Supervisor's meeting, the Sheriff's Office is one of just two county departments that failed to stay within its projected budget for the first quarter of the fiscal year.  
The county staff report shows the Sheriff's Office is currently \$65,000 over its budget, a figure that may in-

crease along with the cost of water. The Goleta Water District recently imposed a drought surcharge that could cost the Sheriff more than \$100,000.  
The Sheriff's Department's total operating budget for fiscal year 2015-16 is \$124,447,500.  
County officials said they are not surprised by the numbers. "The last analysis of total jail operating costs,

including the North Branch Jail facilities, was presented in May 2015, which indicated that the cost of all facilities was higher than the original funding plan, so it's not surprising that the costs are higher than the original funding plan."  
"We have known this for some time," wrote County Budget Director  
Please see **JAIL** on **A8**

**Court rules against Obama immigration plan**

**By KEVIN MCGILL**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NEW ORLEANS — President Barack Obama's plan to protect from deportation an estimated 5 million people living in the United States illegally suffered another setback Monday in a ruling from a New Orleans-based federal appeals court.  
In a 2-1 decision, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Texas-based federal judge's injunction blocking the administration's immigration initiative.  
Republicans had criticized the plan as an illegal executive overreach when Mr. Obama announced it last November. Twenty-six states challenged the plan in court.  
The administration argued that the executive branch was within its rights in deciding to defer deportation of selected groups of immigrants, including children who were brought to the U.S. illegally.  
Texas Gov. Greg Abbott praised the ruling.  
"President Obama should abandon his lawless executive amnesty program and start enforcing the law today," Mr. Abbott said in a news release.  
The ruling further dims prospects of implementation of the executive action before Mr. Obama leaves office in 2017. Appeals over the injunction could take months and, depending on how the case unfolds, it could go back to the Texas federal court for more proceedings.  
The administration could ask for a rehearing to get the full 5th Circuit to see **OBAMA** on **A8**

**Former AHC basketball players plead not guilty**



Ali Abdul Mohammed, left, and Lavell Calvin White are accused of fatally shooting Terence Brandon, 23, in late December.

**Charges against pair include murder, robbery, burglary**

**By PAUL GONZALEZ**  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER  
Two former Allan Hancock College basketball players accused of fatally shooting a student pleaded not guilty Monday to murder charges.  
Ali Abdul Mohammed, 19, and Lavell Calvin White, 22, appeared at the Santa Barbara County Superior Court in Santa Maria where Judge Rogelio Flores set a tentative trial date of July 12, 2016, with a trial confirmation hearing scheduled for July 5, 2016.  
According to Deputy District Attorney Timothy Couello the trial is expected to last six to eight weeks. Bail was set at \$1.5 million for Mr. White and \$2 million for Mr. Mohammed.  
Please see **COURT** on **A8**

**Winemaker enters plea to 58 felonies**

**Bail hearing for Christian Garvin set for today in Santa Barbara**

**By SCOTT STEELETON**  
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR  
A well-known Santa Barbara County winemaker faces 58 felony counts and associated special allegations in connection with an embezzlement scheme that authorities say spanned seven years and cost his business partners more than \$1.6 million.  
Dressed in County Jail blue and sitting inside a glass-walled holding cell in Dept. 8 of Santa Barbara County Superior Court, Christian Lucas Garvin, 41, entered not guilty pleas up and down the felony complaint, including the 13 special allegations.  
Count 1 accuses the UCSB graduate of grand theft by embezzlement while "an agent, servant and employee" of Orevana Winery — of which he had a 10 percent ownership stake — in the Funk Zone, the victims being his Los Angeles business partners Barry Goldfarb and Joy Koyama.  
Two special allegations tied to this count involve excessive loss. Under the Economic Crime Act of 1992, intentionally taking any property, including money, in the commission of a felony subjects the defendant to increases in any prison sentence as follows: one year for a taking or loss in excess of \$65,000, two for taking more than \$200,000, three for a loss exceeding \$1.3 million, and four for a taking in excess of \$5.2 million.  
The complaint also lists 51 counts of money laundering, in which the Solvang resident is accused of mov-



Christian Garvin

ing money intended for the business through financial institutions and into accounts that he used for his personal gain. Some of those transactions are specified to be for more than \$5,000, while others have a special allegation with embezzlement accusing him of laundering amounts totaling \$50,000.  
Authorities say Mr. Garvin opened bank accounts in a name similar to that of Orevana, funneling through them business funds for his own personal use.  
He came to the attention of law enforcement in 2012 after his partner grew suspicious about bookkeeping irregularities. He was arrested Nov. 5 in Buellton.  
The complaint filed by Senior Deputy District Attorney Brian Cofa also includes six counts of filing false tax returns for the years 2008-13.  
An enhancement for aggravated white-collar crime states the offenses in the 58 counts are related felonies that show a pattern of fraud and embezzlement involving the taking of more than \$50,000.  
Finally, there's a special allegation that, if found to be true, would exclude Mr. Garvin from serving any state prison sentence in the local jail.  
Mr. Garvin is being held on \$400,000 bail. But before he posts bond, he must prove the money is not from ill-gotten gains.  
A bail hearing was set for today.  
email: [steeflet@newspress.com](mailto:steeflet@newspress.com)

**Navy launches second test missile off Southern California coast**

**By WJ HENNEN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
The U.S. Navy said it launched a second and final missile in a planned exercise Monday afternoon from a submarine off the Southern California coast.  
The second test launch of the Trident II (D5) missile from a ballistic submarine in the Pacific Ocean took place Monday afternoon, the Navy said. The blast-off took place to far less fanfare than Saturday night's launch, which provided residents from San Francisco to Mexico to take to social media, posting photos of an eerie-looking bluish-green plume smeared above the Pacific.  
"Speculations were wide-ranging, including rumors of an underwater

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alien UFO visit. In fact, the streak was generated from the Trident missile's rocket motor.  
The Navy later confirmed a ballistic submarine launched an unarmed Trident II (D5) missile in a test flight, but would not define the window of time available for conducting additional launches, nor would it disclose where the exercise was actually taking place.  
"It's important that we test these missiles for our national security," said John M. Daniels, spokesman for the secretive Strategic Systems Programs office, which oversees the Navy's nuclear-tipped missile arsenal.  
The Navy is considering posting additional photos and possibly video of the missile launch after the current exercises are completed, Mr. Daniels said, but it has yet to decide.  
The Navy's fleet of ballistic submarines can each carry 24 Trident missiles, each tipped with 14 independently targetable thermonuclear warheads.  
The Navy annually tests the Tridents on the West Coast and on the East Coast, near Florida.  
The \$31 million missile, built by Lockheed Martin Corp. in Sunnyvale, has had more than 150 successful launches since its first test in 1989. It is capable of hitting a target 4,000 nautical miles away.  
The test Saturday featured the launch of a missile outfitted with a dummy warhead toward the Kwajalein Atoll, a missile test site that's

part of the Marshall Islands in the western Pacific.  
While the risk of nuclear confrontation between the United States and Russia declined after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, it has never gone away.  
The U.S. military's nuclear weapons strategy rests on a triad of delivery systems — bombers, submarines and land-based missiles — developed early in the Cold War to deliver warheads anywhere in the world.  
The Pentagon recently embarked on a \$550-million program for modernizing each aging leg of the U.S. nuclear triad over the next decade.  
The submarine missile test came late Saturday after Defense Secretary Ashton Carter addressed a defense forum at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley about the U.S. "adapting our operational posture and contingency plans" to deter Russia's "aggression."  
"We do not seek a cold, let alone a hot, war with Russia," he said to the forum. "We do not seek to make Russia an enemy. But make no mistake: the United States will defend our interests, our allies, and the principle of international order, and the positive future it affords us all."