

Craftsman loves working in stone and brick

By Jim Cornelius *EDITOR IN CHIEF*

If a project involves masonry work — fireplaces, interior and exterior stone or brick work, perhaps a barbecue or a paved walk — Cesar Alvarez will not only get the job done, he'll revel in it.

The lead craftsman for Lara's Construction & Cleaning absolutely loves stonework. And he loves pleasing his clients.

"When you're done and the house looks different and they're happy, that makes me happy," Cesar said.

Jonathan Hicks, a Sisters resident and real estate professional, is one of the happy ones. He had Lara's Construction & Cleaning build a fireplace in his home and lay pavers outside.

"Ruth and Cesar have been a pleasure to work with through multiple projects," Hicks reported. "They offer the highest quality craftsmanship with reasonable price points. I regularly recommend their services to friends and clients."

Cesar came to his passion for masonry on a winding path. Fifteen years ago, he was working in the restaurant business in Chino, California. A friend who lived in Oregon urged him to

move here and join him in the construction industry. Cesar and his wife Ruth talked about it — but there was a concern: Cesar had no construction experience. As Ruth put it, he knew "absolutely nothing" about construction.

They decided to take the plunge anyway, and they moved to Oregon in 2005, where Cesar went to work and Ruth worked in residential cleaning. And it turned out that it was the right move.

Almost immediately, Cesar discovered that he had a knack for masonry — and he loved the craft.

There is a certain satisfaction in laboring in such an elemental medium, and there is an almost endless variety to the work.

"There's nothing the same, there's always something different," Ruth said.

Over the years, Cesar gained a wide range of experience and a mastery of the craft he loves. A couple of years ago, they decided to start their own company, and Lara's Construction & Cleaning was born. Part of the motivation was a desire to work directly with clients to realize their visions for their home.

Cesar remains the hands and the passion behind the work, even



PHOTO PROVIDED

when he has others working with him on the job.

"Cesar is always there," Ruth said. "He's always making sure the job is good."

Reliability, craftsmanship and

a fair price are the hallmarks of Lara's Construction & Cleaning's work. That commitment, along with a pure love for the work, leaves everybody happy and satisfied.

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