

HOUSE:

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when they started the walls, which they completed this week.

Jaime-Garcia said building houses in the United States is a little different than what his family did in Mexico.

In Mexico, Jaime-Garcia said his family didn't use the tools that are commonplace in the United States. There were no nail guns, electric saws or air compressors. Rather, Jaime-Garcia said the only tools his and other families used were a hammer, nails and a handsaw.

"It was hard back in Mexico," he said. "That's just how it was. It was all they had."

The group of students, who are supervised by alternative education instructor Shawn Franks, are using equipment, including electric table saws to hammers



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Umatilla High School senior Cody Boggs uses a level to see if the surface of their tiny house, a STEM Academy afterschool class project, is uniform.

and levels, which were purchased with 21st Century Learning Center grant funds. Jaime-Garcia said he is fortunate to be working with such equipment.

Eventually, Jaime-Garcia said he would like to use his experience through the high school construction project to get a construction job and one day build his own home

in the mountains.

"Once I build my real house, it's going to be at least twice as big," he said.

Additionally, Jaime-Garcia said he is happy to be par-

ticipating in the home-building project.

"I'm excited to see how the whole building (process) is done," he said.

Josh Ego, the STEM Academy after-school coordinator, said the idea for the construction of a tiny house actually came from Umatilla Superintendent Heidi Sipe.

"We both happened to watch the same documentary on tiny houses at the (same) time, as it is a growing trend, especially here in Oregon," he said. "She just thought, 'Why couldn't our kids build one of those?'"

Ego said the district has a budget of about \$20,000 for the project, and when it is built, the house will be sold, and the money will be used to fund the next tiny house project.

Ego said the project is a great way to teach students skills they can use after high school.

"We are teaching the kids construction skills, all forms, including plumbing and electrical, budgeting skills, problem-solving skills and interpersonal skills as they work with vendors to get pricing quotes on materials," he said. "Before they could start to build, they had to figure out what it would cost them in materials. Basically, they are doing the job of a contractor and all that entails, just tiny."

The house will have many features in a normal home: a kitchen, bathroom, living room, lofted sleeping quarters and possibly a fire place. The house will have water and sewage hook-ups similar to those in a recreational vehicle.

Ego said the district always welcomes construction professionals who are willing to help guide the students in the construction process. He said, to get involved, people can contact him at egoj@umatillasd.org.

ESCAPE:

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occurrence, the Department of Corrections reviews each incident.

"The department has a solid history of successful community work crews," she said. "On average, DOC has approximately 300 inmates out on work crews daily statewide, and we experience very few incidents. If a walk-away does occur, we work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement to ensure the inmate is apprehended and taken back to custody quickly."

Iles said, depending on labor demand, between one and three 10-man work crews supervised by one correctional officer usually leave TRCI to perform various projects.

She said TRCI work crews operate within the cities of Stanfield and Umatilla and at local school districts, the Umatilla County Fairgrounds, West Extension Irrigation District and Finley Butte — the site near Boardman from which inmate Steven Fox walked away Feb. 25 before being apprehended about 24 hours later near South First Street and East McKinney Avenue outside of Hermiston.

Iles said Fox, 49, had no prior incidents while housed in the minimum security facility at TRCI, and he has since been returned and is now housed in the medium security facility.

She said only certain inmates with less than 48

months left on their sentences qualify to work on crews outside the institution.

"Two Rivers Correctional Institution is committed to ensuring the safety of the public and providing skilled supervision of inmate work crews in the community," Iles said. "Inmates are screened and must meet specific eligibility criteria to be assigned to a work crew. Criteria include clear conduct, program compliance and an established work history with DOC. Inmates who are convicted of certain crimes, such as sex crimes, are prohibited from working on outside crews."

Iles said, in Oregon, no inmates walked away in fiscal year 2014, with two in fiscal year 2013 and three in fiscal year 2012, and most were returned to custody the same day, with the longest escape lasting 10 days.

"We also conduct a review any time we experience a walk-away," she said. "Typically, what we find is that the individual has simply made a poor decision to walk away. Sometimes it's because of things happening at home."

Fox entered DOC custody Dec. 7, 2010, for one count of first-degree burglary, one count of unlawful use of a vehicle and one count of second-degree robbery from Multnomah County and one count of first-degree burglary from Umatilla County. Before his escape attempt, the earliest he could have been released from prison was Aug. 12, 2016.

has done its best to leave no rock unturned in planning for the transition.

"There will be nothing that will pose any great risk or concern," he said. "Our ultimate goal is that parents and family see an equal or better service level for what we will be offering. We also commend the ESD for the years of services they have given us."

To find a replacement for Wilson's position as Rocky Heights Elementary School principal, the district will also hold a meet and greet session with the three finalists selected from a pool of applicants. The meet and greet will take place from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Rocky Heights library.

People are asked to remain for the entire session in order to meet all the candidates and provide feedback to the selection committee through anonymous comment cards.

The finalists for the position include Jerad Farley, an instructional coach for the Othello School District, Michelle Jensen, who currently serves as the coordinator of the Hermiston Online! program and academic support, and Stacie Roberts, who currently serves as the assistant principal of Armand Larive Middle School. For a more comprehensive account of each candidate's background, visit the Hermiston School District website at hermiston.k12.or.us.



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Samsung GALAXY S5

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