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KARTS:

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year, and he and his students have stuck to a basic plan allowing them to complete the project in one or two semesters. They started on one go-kart last year as a class. This year, the students paired up into groups of four and five and began their own go-kart projects.

McMichael said students Cody Boggs and Chris Humphrey were essential to the program's success. Humphrey was the first to finish his go-kart, which, at its highest speed, runs 32 mph.

Both Boggs and Humphrey said, without the go-kart program, they would have no opportunity to gain experience in the mechanics or metals fields.

"I am interested in all trades," Boggs said.

Humphrey agreed. "This is just something we're good at and something we like doing," he said.

Stephen Morris, a junior at UHS, said the go-kart class is preparing him for his future career as a diesel and track mechanic in the United States Navy.

Morris said he has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, but when he works on engines and in the metal shop, that doesn't bother him.

"When I'm working on an engine, I don't have to worry about that," he said. "It holds my focus. Taking in every bolt, piston rings, crank shaft ... it fulfills me."

Morris said working on go-karts, or engines in general, is like a puzzle he has to solve, which is what he enjoys most.

"It is extremely exciting because, like working on a car, you think you got an issue fixed, and then something else comes up where you have to figure out the next problem," he said. "Once you get everything together, it makes you feel fulfilled because you accomplished something."

UHS senior Trevor Hodge said he has found his true calling in life through the metals program



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

The metal shop class is important to many students at Umatilla High School, including a number of girls. Pictured from left, junior Kimberly Garcia, sophomore Melissa Claustro and sophomore Brenda Campos weld a rack together that will hold some of the high school's shop tools.

at school.

"It was after I did it here that I really started thinking about wanting to do (welding)," he said. "I was in woods (shop), and I really liked it. Then I got into welding."

Hodge said he now wants to go to school to become a machinist after he graduates, and the go-kart program has better prepared him for that.

"It helped me learn a lot of welds," he said.

Hodge said what he likes most about welding is it fits perfectly with his personality and skill set.

"It is just kind of relaxing," he said. "You get into the zone."

Since completing some of the go-karts, the students have test driven their vehicles on the asphalt driveway behind the school. Wednesday, the students used a go-kart to drag the school's softball field so athletes and coaches wouldn't have to

do it by hand.

"It's been fun," Morris said.

McMichael said the students will sell four go-karts for \$350 a piece to help raise money for the program. That wouldn't completely cover the costs of the program next year, but it is a start.

"If we want to continue doing something like this, it is very expensive," McMichael said. "I would like to continue doing these projects."

McMichael said each go-kart requires about \$650 worth of parts, which is a huge cost burden for the district. He said he was fortunate the district funded the program this year, but more funds will be needed for the program to continue in future years.

People can contact McMichael about the go-kart program or purchasing the cars at mcMichaelj@umatillasd.org.



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

From left, Umatilla High School student Chris Humphrey works to fix the chain on a go kart built by students as classmate Cody Boggs sits in the driver's seat and classmate Stephen Morris watches.

BUDGET:

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the park," according to the resolution authorizing the transaction in the agenda.

City Manager Byron Smith said most of the other expenditures not covered by grants will come from the city's regular surplus or savings.

The budget includes \$35,000 for a skate park, \$45,000 for Oxbow Trail, \$45,000 for the Sunset Park expansion and \$55,000 for the pool slide. Many smaller expendi-

tures are also in the budget, but the largest budgeted items not covered by grants are \$600,000 for Hermiston Energy Services and \$250,000 for the Utility Fund to establish reserves for future expenditures related to rate stabilization.

The council will also vote on an ordinance amending authorizing police officers to ban people from parks for 30 days if they misuse city equipment. Council members will also vote on ordinances to annex into the city 20 acres of land near

the airport for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center and a .16-acre residential lot on Northeast Second Street near East Theater Lane.

In a work session before the meeting at 6 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College will present information about its May 19 bond measure.

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