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close the door and to do a handstand by walking her back legs up a wall.

Some of the expert tricks were actually part of Jazzie's agility training, which O'Bleness began working on simultaneously. Jazzie attained the highest agility rating, master, and she now competes at various agility contests in the Pacific Northwest. O'Bleness said the dogs must navigate courses with tunnels, bridges, teeter totters, and poles to

weave through, and the handlers only have eight minutes to memorize the course before leading the dogs through it.

"Every course is different," she said. "The dog never sees how the course is until you actually do it. It's challenging, very challenging, and fun. It's quite addicting. The more I've trained, the more I've wanted to train."

O'Bleness started training dogs for agility in 2010 and soon after began training other people to work with their dogs. Through her business Smarty Dog, she offers Canine Good Citizen, trick and

agility trainings in Hermiston and the Tri-Cities. O'Bleness said working with the owners helps them build relationships with their dogs, which is important for the training process.

"I just enjoy helping people out with their dogs," she said. "Dogs are easier to train than people."

O'Bleness said she has more than 20 current students and welcomes others. The classes cost \$65 for a one-hour class once a week for eight weeks.

"I find there's more rewards than just money," she

said. "I try to make it affordable, so anybody can take the classes and improve their dog's behavior."

O'Bleness said it is important to reward positive behavior and ignore negative behavior when training dogs, and she always has plenty of treats.

"Don't work without treats," she said. "It's like with people. We don't work for free. There's got to be something in it for the dog."

For more information about Smarty Dog training, contact O'Bleness, 541-571-4027, paty.obleness@gmail.com.

Dog training tips

Dog trainer Patty O'Bleness, Hermiston, recommends people spend time and have fun with their dogs. She said it is important to walk dogs and teaching them tricks can help build a stronger relationship between the dog and owner.

When training, O'Bleness said people should follow a few simple steps:

- Reward good behavior.
- Ignore bad behavior.
- Teach your dog to come when called.
- Don't punish a dog that comes when called, even after a previous negative behavior.
- Anticipate and prevent negative incidents, such as a dog that jumps on people when they enter a residence.
- Always have plenty of treats.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Leg Weaving Step 1: Patty O'Bleness said to train a dog to weave between your legs, begin with treats in both hands and the dog in front of you.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Leg Weaving Step 2: Spread your legs, and present a treat behind one of them until the dog goes through your legs. Lead the dog around the leg before giving the treat.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Leg Weaving Step 3: Offer a treat behind your other leg with your other hand until the dog goes through your legs again and repeat the process.

BIDDING:

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ble like this house in Hermiston," Smith said.

The reason, Smith said, is because the city does not have many similarly sized houses — 2,050 square feet — with the same amenities and special features as the student-built home.

"It was kind of hard for the appraiser to give us any upward limit because we don't have this in Hermiston," Smith said.

Local Realtor Natalie Turner, who was touring the house with her husband and son Monday on the way to her daughter's softball game, said she was impressed with what she saw.

"Quality-wise, it's great. It has everything that people are looking for," she said, adding prospective buyers want an open floor plan, energy efficiency, three bedrooms and an office, which can be turned into a fourth bedroom.

Despite the interest of the people touring the house

Monday, how many people are willing to pay the minimum reserve price remains to be seen.

People can submit bids, which can be found on the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilder Program website, www.columbiabasinstudenthomes.org, to the school district through June 19, at which time Smith will notify the top bidder. He said, in the event two people submit the same top bid, the district will draw lots to determine the winner.

"Many people, from the

comments I've heard so far, are interested in submitting bids," he said.

Smith said people who tracked the building process approached him about submitting bids even before the home was complete, and Monday's open house generated more interest.

"I guess we'll see their level of interest by the measure of their bids," he said.

People who want to conduct another inspection of the house prior to submitting a bid should call Berger at 541-720-7826.

Comments on student-built home


People touring the student-built home Monday had only positive things to say during Monday's open house.

Sandy Debano, Hermiston: "I like the woodwork. I like the trim. I like mostly everything."

Melody Journot, Umatilla: "It's beautiful. They (the students) did an amazing job on this. It'll go for a lot. It's a beautiful home."

Melody Sanchez, Hermiston: "The kids did a great job. You can tell they took a lot of pride in what they were doing here."

Karen Sherman, Hermiston School Board: "I think it's amazing. They've done a great job here. I think it's way beyond what we envisioned."



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