

Building houses, building confidence

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Forest Grove students unveil 2016 Viking House on Andy Avenue



NEWS-TIMES PHOTO: STEPHANIE HAUGEN - The kitchen in the newest Viking House was put together with the help of other FGHS students. The island countertop and cabinetry, for example, was built by teacher Amulfo Martinezs Woods 2 and 3 classes.

Four years ago, Forest Grove High School's Viking House swept all the awards for the 2012 Street of Affordable Homes show — a first in the show's history.

This year, the FGHS students who collectively poured 4,545 hours into building the newest Viking House at 1051 Andy Ave. are hoping for a repeat.

Featuring a contemporary-rustic theme, the 2016 Viking House has several modern amenities balanced by the look of a classic farmhouse — complete with a massive barn door in the kitchen.

“It was a real challenge getting that door in there,” said FGHS senior and Viking House builder Matthew Johnson, who with 15 other Advanced Construction students spent the school year helping to build the one-story,

single-family, three-bedroom, two-bath home, which is listed for sale at \$475,000.

Offering tours during open houses Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, Johnson and his compatriots showed off heated bathroom floors, quartz countertops and a built-in surround sound system as a few examples of this Viking House's special features.

“We wanted students to have pride in delivering a great product,” said Chris Higginbotham, FGHS woodworking teacher and Viking House project leader. “They're not just building houses. They're building confidence, too. Nobody wants to buy a house we meant well on. We have to meet all the industry standards.”

To help the students build upon that pride — and meet all the construction requirements — Higginbotham pulled support from local businesses, residents and other FGHS teachers to assist with landscaping, woodwork and cabinetry.

“I get a lot of help,” he said. “People like being involved with the students.”

This barn door adds a rustic flair to the kitchen.

The third instructor for the program since 1974, Higginbotham has built 18 of the 41 total Viking Houses during his 21-year career at FGHS. Joining him this year was former Viking House student Arnulfo Martinez (2000



and 2001).

After graduating, Martinez went into the construction industry for several years before returning to FGHS, where he was hired to teach Woods 2 and 3. He used that class time to build all the cabinets in the new house “to get other kids involved who aren’t on the team,” Higginbotham said. “I get so much help from skilled folks in the industry ... but [Arnulfo] has given the program a boost.”

The 2016 Northwest Show of Homes event will be held in Forest Grove July 7 to 31.

For more information on the event, visit nwshowofhomes.com. And to learn more about the FGHS

Viking House program, visit fghsvikinghouse.com.



NEWS-TIMES PHOTO: STEPHANIE HAUGEN - The newest Viking House is easily illuminated with natural light via five skylights and several large windows around the home.

NEWS-TIMES PHOTO: STEPHANIE HAUGEN - The newest Viking House features all kinds of little nooks.



NEWS-TIMES PHOTOS: TRAVIS LOOSE - The 2016 Viking House project class stands between current project leader, FGHS Woods teacher Chris Higginbotham (far left), and the projects originator, former FGHS teacher Birt Hansen (far right).



VIKING HOUSE

THE VIKING HOUSE CREW SPENT 3,678 MAN HOURS OF ALLOTTED IN CLASS TIME AND 867 MAN HOURS OF OUT OF CLASS TIME, TO COMPLETE THIS YEARS HOME!

INDIVIDUAL HOURS CONTRIBUTED **2015-2016**

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| TIANA RUDOLF - 345 | 291 - DIEGO RUIZ-DIAZ |
| JORGE ANDRADE - 324 | 277 - TAYLOR JENSEN |
| ALEX FUNK - 315 | 273 - RAFAEL DUYCK |
| NICHOLAS HARTMANN - 305 | 269 - REBECA ESTRADA |
| MATTHEW JOHNSON - 304 | 245 - LYNDI STONE |
| ETHAN JEWETT - 298 | 242 - SHANE CASE |
| SKY MORA-LOPEZ - 297 | 239 - NICANOR CORNEJO |
| BRENDAN DOOLITTLE - 295 | 229 - ALEX VANDERKIN |

Viking House Staff: Chris Higginbotham, Jane Knowlton, Curtis Ludwick, Arnulfo Martinez www.fghsvikinghouse.com

NEWS-TIMES PHOTOS: TRAVIS LOOSE - Unlike other classes, students cant simply sign up for the Viking House project. Instead, they must apply as if it were a job. Were looking for students who show reliability, work ethic and character, Higginbotham said. It takes a lot of Saturdays and holidays. The mininum requirement for single student contribution was 10 hours, and the lowest contributor still had more than 200 hours.

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