

# Blitz home slowdown



Photo for The Union by John Hart

Chip Gauthier, owner of VA Gauthier Construction, and his "Lego House," constructed using Insulating Concrete Form for a Habitat for Humanity project.

## Contractor remains committed to Habitat project, despite delays

BY RYAN GALLAGHER

Staff Writer

A building project originally slated to be completed in a span of seven days has stretched on for more than two months.

Since March, Chip Gauthier, owner of VA Gauthier Construction, has been volunteering six to seven days a week in order to finish a Habitat For Humanity project.

The project was part of the "Blitz Build," hosted by Nevada County Habitat for Humanity, which provides affordable housing for local families through volunteer work.

Every year, Habitat For Humanity builds more than 200 houses throughout the United States, all in one week, during the Blitz Build.

### HOW TO HELP

If you're interested in donating services, materials or funds to the project, visit [www.NCHabitat.org](http://www.NCHabitat.org) and look under Blitz Build for more information.

Overall, Habitat for Humanity builds roughly 2,000 homes annually nationwide, according to Nevada County Habitat For Humanity Executive Director Debbie Arakel Sheppard.

Local builders and Habitat affiliates work closely to organize all aspects of building for the Blitz. This includes securing subcontractors and suppliers, fundraising and seeking donations of materials, according to the website.

Months before the project, Gauthier said he called Habitat for Humanity and was interested in vol-

unteering. He was informed that no one had stepped up to be the general contractor for one of the houses off Whiting street.

"I said I would only be interested if we could build an energy-efficient home," said Gauthier.

Habitat for Humanity was open to the idea, provided that he could get enough support to offset the costs, Gauthier said.

At that point, Gauthier said he went to the community seeking subcontractors and suppliers to help with plumbing, electrical, framing and painting.

"The response was quite good," said Gauthier. "We got a lot of donations from local companies wanting to take part."

Months before the project started, his team wanted to use the

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