

GAUTHIER:

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Internet to get people involved, but putting a website together took longer than expected.

“We had to put a list up for people to see what materials and manpower we needed and create rules and regulations. That took another two and a half months,” said Gauthier.

Once things finally came together, it seemed like they were too far behind, he said, and the commitments Gauthier had with local professionals for the Blitz week were limited.

It was also shown that the cost was more than expected, but they decided to go ahead.

“I closed my business down the last week in March to prepare,” said Gauthier.

When the time came to start the Blitz on June 4, a rain-storm came through.

“The first two days of rain made work difficult,” said Gauthier. “The concrete form (ICF) needs to be dry when we put it down to adhere it to the concrete. We had to use a blow-torch to heat the concrete.”

Those two days slowed progress, but work continued. However, they weren’t moving forward with actually putting everything together in the house. And due to the delays, Gauthier

lost his skilled laborers because the time they could dedicate had expired.

“When those skilled people left, it was only me with a bunch of unskilled volunteers,” said Gauthier.

He said he was hoping work would only last until the first of July with small details. But he’s still working on the project to this day.

remains committed to stay with that until it’s finished.

“It is an amazing home. All of our homes are energy efficient. We’re committed to that, but this is off the chart and takes energy efficiency to another level. It’s exciting and fun to introduce new technology to some of the experienced tradespeople.”

Sheppard said when the

Concrete Form, interlocking modular units that are dry-stacked — without mortar — and filled with concrete.

The house also uses a geothermal heat pump, a central heating and/or cooling system that uses the earth as a source of heating/cooling.

No natural gas runs to the house; it’s all electric, so solar panels on the roof will offset the energy cost of everything that’s electric.

And it has one of the purest air filtration systems around, Gauthier said.

“Nobody has put this type of energy-efficient equipment together in one house,” he said.

“We’re past the point of needing more manpower but still need donations,” said Gauthier. “We have local contractors who are committed to the different phases of the building — plumbing electrical, painting, but none for drywall.”

If you’re interested in donating services, materials or funds to the project, visit www.NC.Habitat.org and look under Blitz Build for information.

Ryan Gallagher is a University of Nevada student working as an intern with The Union.

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— ARAKEL SHEPPARD

“I’ve made a commitment to finishing,” said Gauthier. “And because of the uniqueness of the house, it’s not like I could have left it for someone else to finish.”

Gauthier thinks it will be another four to five weeks until the house is finished.

“It’s still been a very accelerated build,” said Arakel Sheppard.

“Although it didn’t happen in one week, we don’t consider it a failure in any way. It was generous of Chip to step up in the first place, and even with the challenges (the project has) faced, he

home is completed, its uniqueness will be contained to its energy-efficient interior, as opposed to its current colorful “Lego” look, when exterior siding is installed.

“I expect this to be the most airtight and energy-efficient house built in the history of Habitat for Humanity,” said Gauthier. “And we’ll have a test report to prove that.”

The formwork used on the project is called Insulating