

In the DAWG HAUS

CHS STUDENTS WORK TO STORM-PROOF HOMES AS PART OF FEMA-SPONSORED PROJECT



Tom Mauldin, a senior at Coventry High, reinforces the frame of a structure he and a pair of carpentry program classmates constructed.

Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times

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COVENTRY— Three students from Coventry's Regional Career and Technical Center's carpentry program were chosen to construct a DAWG Haus, which will be used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a demonstration piece in various communities.

DAWG Haus, stands for Disaster Avoidance With Good Home Attenuating Unionization System. This model is used by FEMA to demonstrate ways to build or rebuild a home with "safer and stronger techniques" to withstand high winds.

Deanna Frazier, Public Information Officer for FEMA, explained that the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) contacted various schools

throughout the state to participate in the project and construct the DAWG Haus; Scott Leavitt's carpentry class was chosen.

From his class, Leavitt explained that he picked three seniors to work on the project: Eddy Bailey, Mark Kucal and Tom Mauldin.

"These three students are competing in the SkillsUSA carpentry competition in March

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Students build model for FEMA

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so I figured this would be good experience and practice for them," he said.

Frazier explained that FEMA has a joint field office in Warwick, which sends mitigation personnel out into the communities to help people "build better and build stronger for the next time around."

She said the mitigation personnel try and look for schools and communities that may be interested in the different techniques that may prevent damage from future storms and hurricanes.

"We try to get students involved because they are the future builders and we're trying to bring these DAWG Hauses into the communities to use them as demonstration materials at different events," she said.

Eddy Bailey explained that they received the dimensions and requirements for the DAWG Haus a few weeks back. After drawing a model on the black board, he said they got to work and completed 90 percent of the structure in one class.

One of the techniques displayed included strengthening of the walls, ceiling and roof



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Kucal receives a certificate from State Hazard Mitigation Officer Armand Randolph in appreciation for his participation in the project.

rafters with metal strips. This type of construction transfers the burden of high winds from the roof to the foundation of the building, preventing dam-

age to the roof.

On Thursday afternoon the three students were putting the finishing touches on the model, including securing the

frame with extra nails and putting shingles on the roof, before it would be taken by FEMA to present at their booth at the Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show Feb. 21 through the 24 at the RI Convention Center.

Once the structure has been displayed, Frazier said it will be donated to a community in Rhode Island impacted by Hurricane Sandy for demonstration purposes. She said she was not sure which community would receive it yet.

Although the three students are enrolled in the carpentry program, they have other plans for when they graduate.

Eddy said he would be starting a career in construction, Mark will be enrolling in the Marines and Tom said he was not sure yet what his plans would be, but each of them said they truly enjoyed the class.

"It's fun and it's a good thing to know," said Mark. "You're doing something yourself and if you want to build a shed or a dog house you know how."

Each student, plus Leavitt and the Director of the career center Lori Ferguson, received a certificate of appreciation for their work and involvement from FEMA.