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Nevada State Contractors'
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One of many duplexes being built
Elko Experiencing Significant Growth

By Tom Martin, City Editor
 Elko Daily Free Press

Elko County is experiencing some significant growth in the primary population centers of the City of Elko, Spring Creek, West Wendover on the Utah line and Jackpot on the Idaho border.

The City of Elko and Elko County are issuing more building permits than the same time last year, according to officials and recent statistics.

"Right now we're on the upswing," said Elko County Building Inspector Thomas Ingersoll, adding that he often

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Construction Equipment Theft Costing Contractors Plenty

From August 2004 to April 2006, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Heavy Equipment/Construction Theft Unit received nearly 3,000 reports of construction theft in Clark County. The most common piece of heavy equipment stolen was the Bobcat skid steer, followed closely by tractors, backhoes and landscape loaders. These numbers also reflect the growing theft of wood, lumber, copper tubing and kitchen appliances that are stolen while residential and commercial properties are under construction.



According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, close to \$1 billion a year is lost nationwide due to the theft of heavy construction equipment and tools. And, recent reports received by the Insurance

Services Office Inc. show that heavy-equipment thefts have been increasing steadily by 20 percent since 1996.

Reasons thieves steal heavy construction equipment varies, but usually fall into three categories: 30 percent are "theft for order," where highly organized criminal groups take equipment for shipment overseas; 30 percent is by the "opportunistic thief,"

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NSCB, SNARSCA Mission Cool Off Program Brings Relief To Needy S. Nevada Homeowners

The weather in Southern Nevada reached scorching highs this summer. But thanks to some caring air conditioning contractors, a few very needy people were able to stay cool.

Mission Cool Off, a co-partnership sponsored by the Nevada State Contractors Board and the Southern Nevada Air



Conditioning Refrigeration Service Contractors Association, came to the rescue of some Nevada residents with special needs to repair

or replace their air conditioning units. The Southern Nevada program, in its first year of operation, selected three families out of the 100 applicants to

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Employees of Right Now Air remove Gloria Jones' old air conditioner, left, and install a more efficient new unit

Mission Cool Off ...

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receive cooling assistance from SNARSCA volunteers.

Gloria Jones received a new air conditioner. She said when she applied, she didn't think she had a chance. "I read about the program in the newspaper. I figured, I didn't have the money to get a new AC, so I might as well try because you don't get anything unless you ask."

Jones, who suffers from diabetes and other ailments, said it got pretty hot in her home. "I had to take showers and use cold rags just to keep cool. No one can live without air. I don't know how our forefathers did it."

Before she got a new air conditioner, Jones' electric bill hit \$333 dollars a month. Mark Harrison, President of SNARSCA, said she will save at least 30 percent on future power bills. "A 12-year air conditioning unit has replaced an 8-year that was operating at about 6," he said.

As Blair and Dee Iversen of Iversen Crane Service lifted the dilapidated unit off Jones' roof, you could see years' worth of mold and wear on the unit. Jones, with tears in her eyes, looked on and said, "Thank God. Thank you. Thank everyone."

US Air Conditioning Distributors Inc. donated Jones' air conditioner. Tony Doyle, Branch Manager, said he became involved with the program after receiving a call from SNARSCA.

"After they asked me for help, I said absolutely! I like to dedicate time to these types of things." Doyle was one of many SNARSCA member volunteers who



Larry Smith, left, Vice President of Right Now Air; Gloria Jones; and Mark Harrison, President of SNARSCA.



Gladys Morrison with her son, Andrew, and daughter, Candi

dedicated time and equipment to the program.

Larry Smith, a 20-plus year member of SNARSCA and owner of Right Now Air, installed Jones' new air conditioner. Smith said his company always gives back

to the community. "We do things for Boys & Girls Town and shelters. It's just our normal thing."

Gladys Morrison was the second person who benefited from Mission Cool Off.

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Mission Cool Off ...

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Morrison's son, Andrew, and daughter, Candi, submitted an application for their parents. Unfortunately, their father was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and placed in a convalescent home. Morrison was sad and disappointed that her husband of 44 years will never be home to enjoy their new swamp cooler.

"If he knew what was going on, he would be as appreciative as everyone else is right now," a saddened Morrison said.

Morrison found out she was selected for the program on her 84th birthday. "This was a lovely birthday present. I couldn't have had a better one," she said with a broad smile. She recalled how the temperature in her house reached 94 degrees at times, and she and her husband had to sleep in front of the window at night.

"Now I get to go to bed and wear my nightgown again," Morrison said.

Jack Farley of Las Vegas was the third individual selected in the Mission Cool Off



Tony Doyle, left, of US Air Conditioning Distributors Inc. and Blair Iverson

program. He had major repairs done on his air conditioner, also at no cost, by SNARSCA volunteers.

The following SNARSCA member companies either donated equipment or their time for the Mission Cool Off program: US Air Conditioning Distributors, Inc.; Right Now Air-Conditioning; Rebel Refrigeration; Iverson Crane; M.S.I

(Material Supply, Inc); Chazell Air Conditioning; Universal Refrigeration, Inc.; Sahara Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.; Hi-Lo Air; and Southwest Air Conditioning Service, Inc..

Construction Theft...

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Unit at: (702) 229-3573. A contractor can also go to the Nevada Department of Agriculture website at: www.agcrime.net Click on the "Sign Up For OAN" and then the "Nevada Resident" button, which will take you to an application to fill out and submit electronically for a free personal OAN number.

Contractors are encouraged to either stamp or engrave these CIN or OAN numbers on all their equipment. This way when a piece of machinery is stolen, it can be located through the National Crime Information Center database when a police report is filed.

For more information on ways to protect yourself from construction theft, contact: the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, (702) 229-3573; Reno Police Community Affairs Office, (775) 334-2178 or Reno Police Auto Theft, (775) 334-2140; or the Nevada Department of Agriculture, (775) 738-8076.

Help Combat Unlicensed Contractors

The Nevada State Contractors Board has started a new program to actively target unlicensed contractors who are soliciting business in residential communities throughout the state.

These Homeowners Beware! door hangers are available, free of charge, to any licensed contractors willing to go around neighborhoods to hang them.

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