

Sting Events Identify Unlicensed Contractors

Combining efforts and resources to combat unlicensed contractors, investigators from the Nevada State Contractors Board and California Contractors State License Board conducted a joint “Border Blitz” sting near Lake Tahoe. The Nevada sting in Zephyr Cove on May 17 cited 6 alleged unlicensed individuals; California’s undercover operation in South Lake Tahoe on May 16 nabbed 10 suspects, including seven who live in Nevada.

“These joint sting operations demonstrate Nevada’s and California’s shared commitment to protecting homeowners from unlicensed individuals,” NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein said.

Suspects were cited for advertising without a license, a violation of Nevada Revised Statute 624.720 or – if they delivered a written estimate during the encounter at the sting house – for violating NRS 624.700, contracting without a license. In Nevada, licenses are required for any work that exceeds \$1000 in labor and material, requires a building permit, or changes the aesthetic appeal or structural and mechanical components of a building or property grounds.

Four unlicensed workers came to the Zephyr Cove home to offer painting services. Rigoberto Gonzalez (\$16,900) and Javier Tinoco (\$9,875) both of Incline Village, presented bids well in excess of Nevada’s \$1,000 threshold. They were ticketed for contracting without a license. Elmer Vazquez of Sparks, doing business as KAJ Painting, did not offer a bid at the sting house, but later submitted a text offer of \$14,715. He was cited for contracting without a license and illegal advertising. Steven Rose of Carson City did not offer a bid



and was cited for advertising without a license.

Gershon BenChaim did not appear at the sting house, but later provided a bid for a garage door. He was cited for contracting without a license and illegal advertising.

Carson City’s Alberto Ruiz, who was scheduled to visit Nevada’s sting house on Thursday, instead appeared at California’s sting on Wednesday, where he received citations from both states.

Those cited must appear in court to answer the charges.

In California, projects valued at \$500 or more must be conducted by companies or people with state-issued licenses. Unlicensed individuals can advertise for jobs for less than \$500, but must note in the advertisement that they are not licensed. All seven Nevada suspects caught in the California sting were ticketed for contracting without a license and at least one other offense.

Volunteering brings health benefits

NewsUSA - There are two things that older adults have in spades these days: time and knowledge. And both make them the perfect match for volunteering.

By giving back as little as two hours a week, or about 96 hours a year, older adults are discovering how to keep their lives active and healthy. Research shows that seniors who volunteer can combat depression, stave off chronic pain, and boost brain power. In short, volunteering can promote longevity. Still need another reason to get out and volunteer? With the number of volunteers age 65 and older expected to double in a few years, chances are you'll reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

"Volunteering gave me a reason to get up in the morning and stimulated my brain as I learned about topics and issues that were completely unfamiliar to me," says one volunteer.

To help educate older adults about the benefits of volunteering, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) launched a public education campaign to raise awareness of the issue and to prompt older adults to take action. The centerpiece of the campaign is a publication, "Doing Good Is



Good for You: Volunteer!"

This brochure provides you with a Self-Assessment Checklist that can help you evaluate the range of issues and activities that you may find most interesting in a volunteer setting.

For example, are you interested in animals, politics, or art? Do you enjoy activities such as gardening, tutoring, or counseling? The Checklist gives you dozens of options.

One prospective volunteer who completed a checklist of his interests was a lifelong musician. He checked "arts and culture" as a favorite and said

he loved teaching others. When the local volunteer coordinator signed him up, she had no idea that his instrument of choice was a ukulele. Two years later, his lessons have become so popular, he's teaching in two senior centers to packed classes.

The point is, there's a volunteer opportunity for everyone, and it can be found with the simple click of a mouse.

For more information on volunteering, and to download your free copy of the brochure and other resources, visit www.n4a.org and find the "Volunteer Resource Center" under n4a Initiatives.

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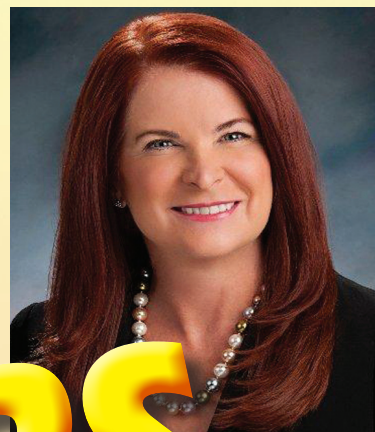
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Board steps up outreach efforts

The Contractors Board continues to utilize electronic and new media in its efforts to publicize its services and advocate for both property owners and construction industry professionals.

Four new videos populate the NSCB YouTube page. They deal with identifying construction-related scams, preparing for southern Nevada's monsoon season, hiring contractors after a fire or other disaster and filling out the new contractor application form. Additional videos in the works include contracting for a new backyard pool and a testimonials about the Residential Recovery Fund. Future content will address specific portions of the application that are prone

to mistakes and incomplete information as well as tips to best help expedite the application process.

Additionally, the Board updated its contractor and consumer resource pages to provide more visual representation of the Board's brochures, videos, and related information of importance in an effort to make the content more accessible and appealing to the end-user.

Representatives from the Board's Public Information Office made several appearances on local radio and television programs during the quarter to promote hiring only licensed contractors. They also met with editors of BizNevada and Las Vegas

Woman, and programming managers from Univision to discuss existing programs and how NSCB can become involved in future feature articles and video segments, as well as be featured in other print, online, and television media that reach often underserved communities of construction customers and contractors.

The Board's next focus areas will be continued production of informational videos for both consumers and contractors, enhancing the Board's website by streamlining information, and better utilizing social media platforms to engage with and better inform the public of Board initiatives and opportunities.

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