

## Three arrested during NSCB stings

During undercover sting operations in late 2014, the Nevada State Contractors Board cited 20 alleged unlicensed contractors for violations of Nevada Revised Statutes 624.700 (contracting without a license) and NRS 624.720 (advertising without a license).

Local police departments assisting with the operations in Reno and Las Vegas arrested three suspects on various charges. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department arrested Kamyar “Kevin” Moradi on an NSCB gross misdemeanor warrant and Michael Lucero on a felony warrant for narcotics possession. The Reno Police Department arrested William Sanborn, a former licensed contractor, on an outstanding fraud warrant. Another alleged suspect, Timothy Penn, was cited twice for contracting without a license, after visiting both Reno sting locations, which were located two doors apart, on the same day.



“The Nevada State Contractors Board extends its appreciation to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Reno Police Department for their participation in our sting events,” stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. “Being able to partner together on public safety initiatives sends a clear message that unlicensed contracting activities are serious crimes and will not be tolerated

in our communities.”

According to Nevada law, all electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and heating work must be performed by licensed contractors. All work in other trades requires a license if the value of the project – labor and materials – totals \$1,000 or more or requires a building permit. The Board’s criminal investigators

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## Beware of unlawful practices in solar sales

At a time when the demand is high for solar and renewable energy solutions, aggressive efforts from out-of-state manufacturers to sell and install their products in Nevada homes is becoming more and more rampant.

Over the last year, NSCB investigators have seen an influx of cases in which out-of-state manufacturers of solar products will hire independent sales representatives to perform door-to-door solicitations on Nevada homeowners. Unknowing homeowners are enticed by the promises their

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## A.G. warns of fire inspection billing scam

Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt has issued a warning to businesses and consumers about a fire safety scam in which consumers receive invoices for inspections they did not request.

“Businesses know fire safety inspections are a legitimate and a necessary expense,” said Laxalt. “But, they need to take precautions to avoid becoming victims of deceptive trade practices.”

According to the Attorney General’s office, fraudsters will send business owners an invoice requesting payment for fire safety equipment inspec-

tions, tests and certifications. The invoice amounts vary, and requests payment be sent to a Las Vegas commercial mail receiving agency address and phone number. All legitimate fire inspection companies must be registered with the state. To



avoid being scammed by fraudulent fire inspectors, always ask for a State Fire Marshal license number.

Laxalt advises anyone who has not requested or received fire inspection services not to pay questionable invoices.

Anyone receiving a dubious invoice, or being contacted by suspected fraudulent fire inspectors, should contact the Nevada Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division at (775) 684-7500. Complaints may also be filed with the Attorney General’s Bureau of Consumer Protection.

# Agencies aid home modification

Self-reliance and mobility are tools everyone needs to live independently, and the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, with offices in Sparks and Elko, and Las Vegas's RAGE – Rebuilding all Goals Efficiently – are committed to ensuring older Nevadans and those with physical disabilities have access to these tools.

Working through the auspices of the state's Aging and Disability Services Division's Independent Living program Council, the agencies provide financial assistance that facilitates the integration of individuals with severe physical disabilities into the community. These services include home renovation services, such as door widening, wheelchair ramps, handrails, and other structural modifications, as well as van lifts, autism therapy and other services to improve mobility, social interaction, fitness and recreation, and life skills.

NNCIL's mission is based on its founders' belief that "each person, regardless of the severity of his or her disability, has the potential to grow, develop and share fully the joys and responsibilities of our society."

"RAGE is committed to mentoring and assisting the senior and/or disabled consumer to achieve a higher quality of life by empowering them to judge, direct, and manage the services they need," says Reggie Bennett, the organization's founder and executive director. "We counsel the consumer about being self-reliant and we facilitate their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and independence in the home and community."

RAGE hosts the "Demo Room" at its offices at 2901 El Camino Avenue in Las Vegas. The room showcases some of the home modifications or adaptations that can be funded by RAGE. Some of the items were returned after use by former clients and their families through the RAGE Client Give Back Program and the items may again be reused by other clients in need.

"The RAGE organization is very pleased that its affiliation with this program has enabled the



staff to aid hundreds of people with disabilities within our community – people who were enabled to live independently within their homes, as well as assisting them with their mobility needs either within, or outside of their residences, and back into the community," Bennett said.

"We applaud our State leaders and the staff at the Aging and Disabilities Services Division for working so diligently over the years to sustain funding for a great service program that has been a wonderful benefit to those with limited funding and resources to maintain their independence. Otherwise, many of these same people would have needed to be placed in skilled nursing homes or institutional settings because they or their family members could not afford the modifications necessary to remain at home."

Visitors are welcome. Call 702-333-1038 to schedule a time.

To contact NNCIL, call the Sparks office, located at 999 Pyramid Way, at 775-353-3599, or the Elko office, located at 331 7<sup>th</sup> Street, at 775-753-4300.

In general, to qualify for assistance through **See RAGE, page 4**

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energy bill will be immediately and drastically reduced, that they will receive federal tax breaks and that rebates available make the cost a deal too good to pass up. Too often the promised savings fail to materialize as quickly as expected.

Unwitting customers sign contracts, and the out-of-state manufacturer hires a Nevada licensed contractor to perform the installation. The licensed

contractors are jeopardizing their licenses by contracting with unlicensed contractors, and the out-of-state manufacturers are savvy in their methods to distance themselves from the transaction while ensuring they receive payment for the service.

Often, out-of-state third-party lenders finance the projects. The Contractors Board has investigated cases in which homeowners have agreed to the

plan thinking they had locked in at a low rate, only to find out the rate spikes dramatically after the first payment.

This scenario played out during the past quarter, resulting in the revocation of MRI Solar's license. This is a trend likely to increase over the next few years, and the Board will remain vigilant in an effort to protect homeowners and legitimate, licensed contractors.

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conducting stings use the interactions to encourage unlicensed contractors to obtain their contractor's licenses while also fulfilling the Board's mandate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NSCB encourages anyone who comes across unlicensed contracting activities to report the information to NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Ho-

pline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838. Details to provide the Board, when available, include the unlicensed contractor's name, address (business and/or physical location where work is being performed), phone number, vehicle description, license plate, business card and/or advertisement, contracts signed by the unlicensed individual, etc.

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the Independent Living program, applicants must be Nevada residents and have a severe disability and limitation in their ability to function independently. There must be an expectation that the services funded will improve the applicant's

functional independence. Income qualification is based on a sliding scale, so some applicants may have a co-payment on the costs.

Contact the agencies for further information.

## Contact The Contractors Board!

**RENO**

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Suite 100  
Reno, NV 89521  
775-688-1141

**HENDERSON**

2310 Corporate Circle  
Suite 200  
Henderson, NV 89074  
702-486-1100

*Unlicensed Contractor Hotline 702-486-1160 or 775-850-7838*