

## Board addresses solar concerns

The Nevada State Contractors Board is working to inform solar contractors and consumers of pertinent regulations and issues. Using a series of outreach presentations to contractors and homeowners interested in solar construction, the Board reaches out to solar industry groups to inform contractors and vendors of noticed violations within the industry.

This proactive approach to prevent further compliance issues from being reported to the Board also afford the Board an opportunity to initiate two-way dialogue with the industry and seek collaborative solutions to combating unlicensed activities occurring from out-of-state businesses.

The outreach effort's other important focus is to engage homeowners and provide them cautionary tips when considering solar for their home to ensure they maintain the pro-



tections offered by a licensed contractor.

In partnership with NV Energy and various industry groups, the Board was present to answer questions from homeowners and share with them the warning signs of un-

scrupulous contractors.

The Board cautions homeowners to be aware of three particular areas of concern:

- 3rd party financing -**
- See SOLAR, page 4**

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# Senior victim receives restitution

## *Unlicensed contractor sentenced for felony*

Justice was served on May 4, when Elko District Court sentenced Michael Scott Hoover of Hoover & Sons Handyman to 40 months in Nevada State Prison after Hoover pleaded “no contest” to a felony charge of Diversion of Funds. Hoover’s sentence was later suspended and he was placed on five years probation and ordered to pay restitution of \$2,500 to his victim, a senior citizen.

The charges stem from a 2013 investigation conducted by the Nevada State Contractors Board in which Hoover was alleged to be contracting without a license and diverting funds for his own personal use.

“We understand that many unlicensed contractors target and prey on older victims,” said NSCB Executive Officer, Margi Grein. “We are pleased to work with the Elko District Court on



**MICHAEL SCOTT HOOVER**

this case to bring restitution to the victim and fulfill our mission to protect the health and safety of the public.”

Hoover was hired in 2012 by an elderly man to stucco the walls of his building. Hoover misled the victim to think he was licensed by including a

fictitious contractor’s license number on his business card.

Hoover was given \$2,500 by the victim to begin the project, and later received an additional \$2,500 to purchase materials he stated were required to complete the job. Shortly thereafter, the victim was notified by the City of Wells his project had been shut down because Hoover, as an unlicensed contractor, could not obtain the necessary permits and did not obtain a Wells business license. The victim contacted Hoover for a refund. Hoover refused and never returned to the site.

The Nevada State Contractors Board encourages anyone with information on suspected unlicensed contracting activities to contact the NSCB Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838.

## 29 cited in major NSCB sting operations

An April Nevada State Contractors Board Las Vegas sting netted 17 people for alleged violations including advertising construction services without a license and contracting without a license. Two Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers assisted in the operations, though no arrests were made. Board investigators targeted suspected unlicensed contrac-

tors they found through social media, bulletin board, etc.

Also during the month, 12 alleged violators were cited in Nevada at the NSCB/California State Licensing Board’s annual “Border Blitz” near Lake Tahoe. California authorities cited five more on that side of the state line. Board investigators from both states posed as homeowners and contacted unlicensed

contractors, inviting them to visit the sting location for painting and plumbing work.

Nevada law stipulates that all construction projects valued at \$1,000 or more must be performed by licensed contractors. In addition, all electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and heating work – regardless of value – must be performed by licensed contractors.

# Follow these tips to manage stress

As boomers retire from their jobs at unprecedented rates in the U.S., you'd think they'd be spending their free time with friends, lingering over the morning newspaper and coffee or taking January vacations in a warm place. But many seniors are finding themselves in a predicament that few anticipate in retirement: parenting for a second time. Census reports indicate that 2.7 million grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren. Their added duties may be fulfilling, but they may be stressful, too.

In fact, many things can trigger stress among retired adults — paying bills on a fixed income, failing health, caring for ill parents or spouses, or even grandparenting. Excessive stress can lead to serious health problems.

“When stressed, the body releases substances such as cortisol and adrenaline that affect every organ and can cause muscle tension, insulin secretion and increased heart rate,” said Arthur Hayward, M.D., a geriatrician and the clinical lead physician for elder care with Kaiser Permanente’s Care Management Institute.

“You can’t avoid stress, but managing it can help preserve your health and well-being,” Dr. Hayward added. He recommends identifying and understanding the cause of your stress and find-



*Low-impact exercise is a key component in relieving stress for seniors*

ing ways to relieve it, such as these eight tips:

1. Pace yourself. Don't take on too much. Be aware of your limitations.
2. Set realistic goals and expectations, and don't be afraid to ask for help.
3. Plan time for yourself. Recharge your batteries.
4. Exercise and eat a balanced diet. Get plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
5. Try relaxation techniques such as meditation or yoga.
6. Get enough sleep. If you have problems sleeping, talk to your doctor. Drinking caffeinated beverages and alcohol can affect your ability to get a good night's sleep.
7. Talk with a loved one or write in a journal.
8. Stay positive. Positive thoughts can make a difference, such as “I am hopeful” or “Things will be better.”

For more information, go to [kp.org/healthy-aging](http://kp.org/healthy-aging). For questions or advice about a specific condition, talk to your physician.

[Article provided courtesy of NewsUSA](#)

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While not an unusual or unethical practice, NSCB cautions homeowners to be diligent in reading through the final contract language before signing, as some cases investigated by NSCB have noticed a bait and switch tactic. In these instances, homeowners are often verbally told their interest rate would be 'X' only to find out that the interest rate in the actual contract was significantly higher or had language that ballooned the payment after the first few months.

**Out of State Companies**

- Only companies with Nevada contractor's licenses are allowed to install solar equipment. Out of state contractors have been known to hire unlicensed sales representatives solicit solar projects, who then contract for the work to be installed.

**Product Sustainability**

- Nevada's nearly year-round sunshine makes it ideal for solar, however, because the technology is still relatively new, it is uncertain how Nevada's

***Solar installer faces charges of improper license, poor work***

In less than a month, NSCB investigators received nine criminal complaints against a contractor who was allegedly contracting for and installing photovoltaic systems on residential properties.

The problem? Not only was the contractor not appropriately licensed for the scope of work being performed, but most of the projects were abandoned after the contractor received payment for the installation.

It is estimated the con-

tractor received more than \$228,000 in this fashion. Shortly thereafter, Board investigators received an additional three complaints against the licensee's active C-2 license, alleging poor workmanship, money owing issues and violations of industry regulations.

Because of the ongoing danger the contractor was creating to the public's health, safety, and welfare, the Board summarily suspended the license, and the matter and has been

harsh wind and heat will impact the solar panels over long periods of time. Adding to this is the unknown longevity of many businesses who became established during the boom. Will their business stay in operation to fulfill the multi-year warranties afforded to homeowners? If not, what options will home-

owners have when their products fail or need maintenance?

These cautionary discussions are intended to help homeowners have thoughtful and informed conversations with their contractors as they consider purchasing solar for their homes.

**Contact The Contractors Board!**

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