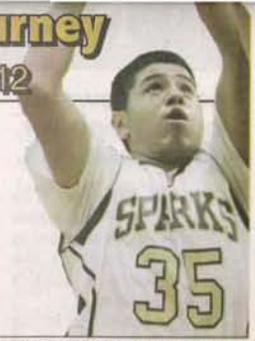




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RHA RANKS SECOND NATIONALLY IN HOME STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Local housing authority gobbling up foreclosed homes

By Tribune Staff

RENO — The consortium led by the Housing Authority of the City of Reno (RHA) has expended more than 74 percent of its \$21 million Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) grant funds, the second highest expenditure rate in the nation, according to information released by Mercedes Márquez, the federal Housing and Urban Development's assistant secretary for community planning and development.

The consortium is made up of the Housing Authority of the City of Reno, the City of Reno as the lead agency for the Washoe County HOME Consortium, the Nevada Rural Housing Authority, Consumer Credit Counseling Affiliates and Charles Schwab Bank. Each member of the consortium has assisted in the successful implementation of NSP2.

The NSP2 grant was awarded in February 2010 and grantees were required to have spent at least 50 percent of their grant funds within two years. RHA staff have been working hard to not only achieve but sur-

pass that deadline. David Morton, RHA's executive director, was excited by the news.

"I knew we were doing well," he said. "But I did not know we were ranked second out of the 56 grantees across the country."

Prior to the NSP2 award, Reno, Sparks and Washoe County had requested that RHA administer and purchase foreclosed properties under NSP1, the Good Neighbor Program, and the Oliver Montello EDI grant. The NSP2 application was submitted after major progress in purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed single-family homes that had already been made under each of these programs.

At the two-year mark, RHA has purchased 111 foreclosed properties with NSP2 funds, 75 of which have either been rented or sold. RHA is using a significant number of local contractors to assist in the rehabilitation of these homes.

In addition to the properties purchased using NSP2 funds, RHA has also purchased 10 houses using the \$1 million RHA pledged to assist the NSP2 efforts in the target areas.

NSP2 regulations also require that program income be spent as it comes in, before more grant funds

can be drawn down. RHA has spent \$562,354.08 in program income. Once the grant funds have all been expended, remaining program income will be used to continue the goals of NSP2, though the properties may

be purchased outside the target areas at that point.

Sixty-one properties have been purchased for rental to families with incomes under 50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). Of the 61 properties

purchased, 28 are in Sun Valley, 16 are in Sparks, 14 are in Stead and three are in northeast Reno.

Of the 61 properties purchased to date, 60 have been rented. The last property is under rehabilitation

and should be completed by April.

Thirty properties have been purchased using NSP2 funds to be sold directly to households with

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Tribune File Photo
The Reno Housing Authority ranks second nationally in the amount of money it has spent to purchase foreclosed homes for low-income families.

family of a Washington state man who was killed in September's crash at the Reno Air Races is filing a wrongful death suit.

It's the latest in a string of similar lawsuits filed after the crash that killed 11 people and injured 70.

The Reno Gazette-Journal reports that the lawsuit filed by the family of Gregory Morcum accuses Reno Air Racing Association Inc. of holding an unsafe event. Morcum was a spectator at the race.

Association officials say they haven't been served with the complaint and can't comment.

Among others, the lawsuit also targets the estate of the pilot whose P-15

the race again this year.

NV court says man's \$3M estate goes to the state

CARSON CITY (AP) — The Nevada Supreme Court says the \$3 million estate of a man who disinherited his family reverts to the state.

In a unanimous opinion Thursday, justices reversed a lower court judge in Clark County who awarded the estate of William Melton to his daughter, Vicki Palm. Melton disinherited Palm decades ago.

Melton signed a formal will in 1975, leaving most of

In 1995, he sent a letter to Kelleher leaving her his entire estate and disavowing his relatives. Kelleher died in 2002. Melton died four years later.

Justices said Melton's disinheritance was enforceable, and under Nevada law, his assets go to the state for education.

Las Vegas woman nominated to federal judge post

LAS VEGAS (AP) — President Barack Obama has nominated a Las Vegas judge to serve on the U.S.

law firm of Hale, Lane, Peek, Dennison & Howard before becoming a judge.

If confirmed, she will replace U.S. District Judge Philip Pro. He took office in 1987.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada nominated Cadish. He says she is a highly respected legal mind who has demonstrated fairness.

Calif. senator calls Nevada Tahoe law inflammatory

CARSON CITY (AP) — A leader in the California Senate has some strong

complain that votes needed on the 14-member governing board to approve regulations and projects within the Tahoe basin are stymied by a pro-environmental bias from California.

Among other things, SB271 passed last year calls for Nevada's withdrawal from the agency by 2015 unless the voting scheme is changed.

In a letter Wednesday to Nevada lawmakers, Steinberg says Lake Tahoe shouldn't become a "political hostage" to special interest groups.

Both states have named delegations to meet and discuss the issues.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Long Beach, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

The Long Beach police official said the shooter killed one person, wounded another with a shot to the stomach, and then was killed. It was not immediately clear if the shooter died from a self-inflicted wound.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the case.

It was not clear what motivated the shooting at the Glenn M. Anderson Federal Building in downtown Long Beach.

RHA

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between 50 percent and 120 percent AMI. Of these properties, 19 are in Sun Valley, seven are in Stead and four are in Sparks.

Ten of these properties have already been sold and the remaining properties are undergoing rehabilitation. RHA plans to purchase many more properties to be sold over the next year, though the exact number will depend on how fast the rehabilitation and resale of the properties proceeds.

Each of these properties is sold for the lesser of a current appraisal or the amount spent on purchase and rehabilitation by RHA. There is also a \$15,000 forgivable, interest-free loan and up to \$5,000 in grants to assist with closing costs attached to each property.

RHA's effectiveness in managing scattered-site, single-family rental programs was recognized in 2011. HUD contracted with Enterprise Community Partners to create a training video and used RHA as the featured agency.

SAFETY

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afraid to carry out an attack inside this country.

U.S. officials long have worried that Iran would use Hezbollah to carry attacks into the United States. After a decade of investigations, the FBI has identified Hezbollah sympathizers and financiers, but current and former counterterrorism officials said there has been no clear evidence of an operational Hezbollah cell on U.S. soil. The U.S. considers Lebanon-based

Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

"Their potential threat is greater than any other group out there," said Andrew Arena, the FBI's special agent in charge in Detroit. Hezbollah isn't just a terrorism group, he said. "You've got to look at them militarily. You've got to look at them as an intelligence threat. They're more sophisticated because they've been doing it a lot longer."

Arena said conventional wisdom has been that Hezbollah does too well raising money in the U.S., and therefore attacking the U.S.

would not be wise. But, Arena said, the question is what's Hezbollah's line in the sand, what would cause the terror group or Iran to unleash them to attack the U.S.

Terror financing and criminal enterprise cases with Hezbollah links have occurred in North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Michigan and California. Federal officials have said Hezbollah is operating in Central America and in recent years has become a player in the global cocaine trade. Worries of the militant group infiltrating Mexico

have long persisted.

In Los Angeles, law enforcement has always been concerned about people with Hezbollah ties involved in selling counterfeit goods, Downing said. And while the Hezbollah operatives have yet to turn their focus toward attacking the U.S.

Iran has been blamed for violent acts in the U.S. before. In 1980, for instance, an American convert to Islam gunned down an Iranian critic of Iran's religious leaders in Bethesda, Md.