

Nevada unemployment rate drops to lowest in six years

CARSON CITY—Nevada's unemployment rate dropped five-tenths of a percentage point in May to 6.2 percent, the lowest jobless rate since April 1980.

State Employment Security Department officials said Tuesday the unemployment rate now stands far below the national 7.3 percent average. The jobless rate in Washoe County is just 5.2 percent, while the Clark County rate is 6.6 percent. The unemployment rate in Carson City and only 4.4 percent in Douglas County.

"The continued drop in the Nevada unemployment rate reflects the state's improved business climate," said Stan Jones, director of the state Employment Security Department.

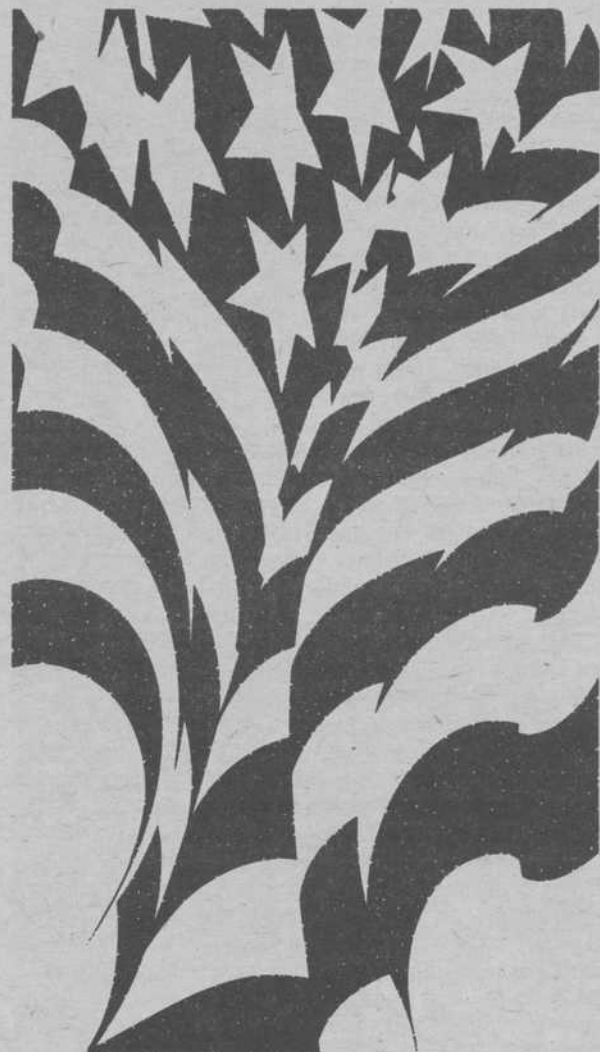
Jones said he was particularly pleased by the

Las Vegas jobless decline. Last May the unemployment rate in Clark County was 9 percent.

Throughout the state, however, major declines were reported in the unemployment rolls.

Lander County now has the state's highest unemployment rate at 8.4 percent, down 2.1 percentage points in the last year.

Even White Pine County, notorious for its fallen



July 4 Hints

Commissioner Jolene B. Rose, offers the following tips to help use fireworks more safely:

Do not allow younger children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Remember fireworks are not toys. The "sparkler" considered by many as a "safe" firework burns at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing.

If you permit older children to use fireworks, be sure they use them under close adult supervision.

Before using any fireworks, read and follow all warning instructions printed on the label.

Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from houses and flammable materials (gasoline cans, etc.)

Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for dousing fireworks that don't go off.

Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them in water and throw away.

Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.

Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Check instructions for special storage directions.

Parents should supervise the use of mail-order "make your own" fireworks kits, some kit contents can produce dangerous, explosive devices.

Suspect flees on bike

A man carrying a double-barrel shotgun and wearing a plastic bag over his head robbed a Nevada National Bank branch on Monday, then made his getaway on a bicycle.

A suspect identified as James Anderson, 38, of Las Vegas, was arrested by Metropolitan Police near Fremont Street and Maryland Parkway after a ground and aerial search.

Police said a man carrying a shotgun and wearing a bag over his head entered the bank, 2850 E. Charleston Blvd., shortly after 2 p.m. He then walked behind the counter and took \$1,600 in cash.

Lt. Paul Conner said police recovered the shotgun stock at the bank but are looking for the rest of the weapon.

Part of the money was found in a plastic bag next to an old bicycle allegedly stolen by the robber during his getaway. The bicycle was recovered at Fremont and Maryland.

Conner said money also was found in a hole in the wall at the side of the Travelers Motel, 1100 E. Fremont St.

Overflowing Mailbox Is An Invitation To Burglars

An overflowing mailbox is, at best, a way to damage or destroy mail and, at worst, an invitation to burglars. Postmaster Joseph A. Ryan warned southern Nevada residents.

"Before you pack up and leave for vacation, contact us and ask us to hold your mail, or arrange with us to have your mail forwarded for a specified time, then held again while you're enroute home."

Travelers, he said, can arrange for first-class mail to follow them for up to 18

months, 60 days for second-class publications and 12 months for third- and fourth-class items. Except for fourth-class parcels, there is no charge for forwarding.

The postmaster said such arrangements can be accomplished by filling out a change of address order, Form 3575, which includes beginning and ending dates. The form is available at the post office.

The alternative may be letting mail overflow from a receptacle, possibly to be damaged by vandals.

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Carson City's jobless rate has dropped to 6.3 percent from 9.6 percent in the past year. Reno's rate has declined by 1.5 percentage points in the last 12 months. Douglas County's rate has dropped 1.6 percentage points. It now has the lowest unemployment rate of any county in the state.

enconomy, has seen its unemployment rate drop to 7.7 percent, 8.8 percent in the past year. At the same time, more than 600 new jobs have been added in the county.

Jones said the lower rates are caused by a combination of factors, in particular,

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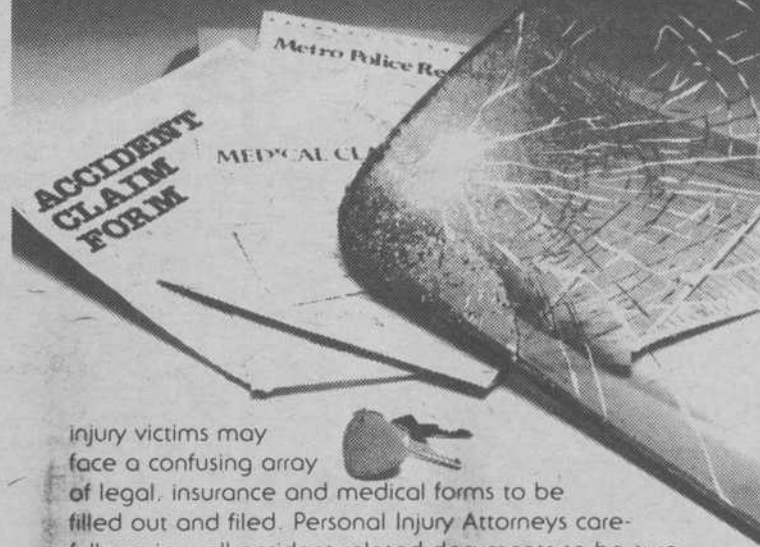
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