

Burners without Borders volunteers give back to Lovelock, Gerlach areas

By Alicia Craig
The Lovelock Review-Miner

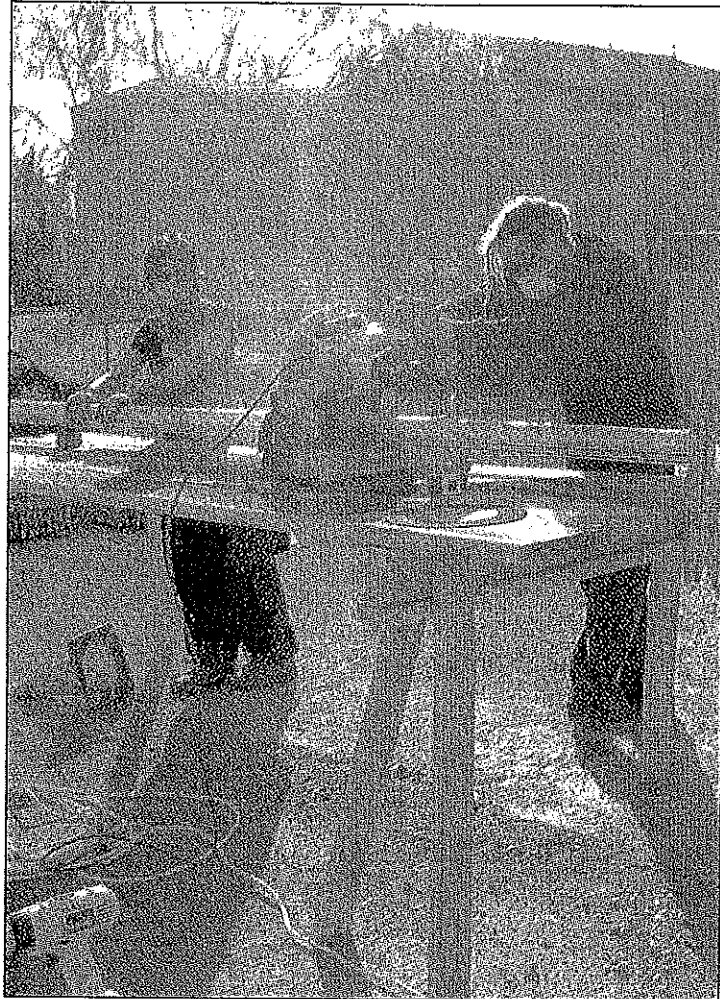
LOVELOCK — Volunteers from Burners without Borders and the Black Rock City Department of Public Works, under the direction of Matt Mynttinen, project manager of Black Rock Solar, constructed a 30 kilowatt solar array for Pershing General Hospital. It took the volunteers about two weeks to build the array that will save the hospital thousands of dollars per year.

"Burning Man may look like a big party, but there is a larger element of community and service," said 39-year-old BWB volunteer Doug Drummond. "I'm here to give back," he said. Since the end of Burning Man 2007, Drummond has been working with Burners without Borders on the Lovelock project as well as the Gerlach project. In Gerlach, volunteers are constructing a 90 kilowatt array for the local school.

Volunteer Eli Lyon describes herself as a "jack of all trades." She worked with Burners without Borders in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and has worked for the five years with the Black Rock City Department of Public Works building the infrastructure of Black Rock City. "It just feels good to help people," she said.

Matt Deluge has been working on the Gerlach solar project, but was willing to help out in Lovelock in his spare time. "While we are waiting for more supplies there, I decided to come over here and help get this one done. Then it's back to Gerlach," he said.

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Burning Man volunteers Samantha Lipscomb (left) from Connecticut and Zair Webster from Texas cut metal needed for the construction of the solar array for the Pershing General Hospital.



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Burners without Borders has been involved with many humanitarian projects. In 2006, lumber from the various theme parks at the Burning Man event was salvaged and donated to Habitat for Humanity in Reno.

It was the largest donation Reno Habitat for Humanity had ever received, totaling over \$50,000. The group was involved with relief efforts for victims of Katrina from September of 2005 until April of 2006.

Currently, some group members are working in Peru, where an earthquake has left 80,000 people homeless. For more information about Burners without Borders and the projects they are involved with, or to get involved, log onto their Web site burnerswithoutborders.org

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