

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

Here are a few warnings as we head into the holiday season.

Last weekend the city's code enforcement officer issued citations to five people who were selling heating and air conditioning equipment door-to-door in the city of De Queen.

It was determined that the sales people were working for a company located in Dallas, Texas. None of the five had an Arkansas license to sell or install heating and air equipment in Arkansas.

The merchandise was offered for sale with no payments for the first six months. However, you might buy the same equipment for less locally. One such installation did not pass inspection.

The code enforcement office has advised anyone who is approached by someone selling heat and air equipment to ask for proof of an Arkansas HVAC license.

Last weekend, the De Queen Police Department found several drivers using international drivers licenses. According to the Federal Trade Commission web site, an international driver's license is a real document but it is not a legal alternative to a state-issued license. Anyone stopped by a law enforcement officer who presents an IDL could be arrested.

The police department is investigating several reports of mail scams in which people are notified they have won lotteries they didn't enter. They often receive checks which they are asked to cash and return the money to the sender for a handling fee to receive a bigger prize. When the check is found to be worthless, the victim will have to repay the money which has been mailed to the bogus contest company.

Area residents are warned to be on the lookout for these and other schemes during the holiday season ahead.