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February 18, 2011

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Media Release

Elko Combined Narcotics Unit Arrests Spring Creek Woman for Prescription Fraud

Elko, Nevada, February 18, 2011 - After a month long investigation, detectives with the Elko Combined Narcotics Unit (ECNU) arrested Francesca Newman, also known as Francesca Cousineau or Kessa Cousineau, for obtaining prescription medications by fraud.

Detectives learned that Francesca Newman had been seeing several different doctors in the Elko area and receiving multiple prescriptions for Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, and Alprazolam, from those doctors. Mrs. Newman was having prescriptions filled by several local pharmacies, receiving over 1500 tablets in recent months.

Nevada law requires patients disclose current prescriptions to physicians prior to treatment. Mrs. Newman was seeing several medical professionals and failed to disclose her medications as required by law. The investigation did not reveal any evidence of improper action by the medical professionals involved.

Francesca Newman, a 26 year old woman from Spring Creek, who is unemployed, was arrested for the following offense; NRS 453.391 – unlawfully obtaining of a controlled substance or prescription (4 Counts) Her bail was set by the Elko County Sheriff's Office at \$20,000.

The ECNU is comprised of members of the Carlin Police Department, Elko Police Department, the Elko County Sheriff's Office and the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety – Investigation Division.

