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How green do you want to be?

Elliott a North Idaho leader in protecting the environment

By **SUZANNE JACOBSON**
 Staff writer

Before energy efficiency became a fad, before high heating and cooling prices

became astounding, Art Elliott, of Coeur d'Alene's Shelter Associates, adhered to efficiency principles.

"It just made sense to impact the environment as little as possible," Elliott said. "American people are finally realizing they need to respect the environment more."

An investment's return

includes lower energy costs, and a healthier world for future generations. Society benefits, too, Elliott said. Just as he collaborates with architects, customers, and carpenters, a home's systems must cooperate with each other, not compete. Cooperation consumes less energy.

A walk through the more

energy efficient homes doesn't reveal surface anomalies, Elliott said.

"We believe that less is more, that the house needs to be designed to accommodate specific families and their lifestyles," he said.

He enjoys helping families build homes that they'll live in, grow old in, and raise chil-

dren in. Those are the customers more likely to invest in their future, Elliott said.

"The question is how green do you want to be," Elliott said. "The word green has a lot of different connotations."

Building codes are always

see ELLIOTT, page 5

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ELLIOTT

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changing. Some make sense and others don't. Shelter's standards regarding energy efficiency are often more stringent than industry standards.

Radon detectors, for instance, Shelter always installs although they're not required. Gutters, not always required, are standard on all Shelter homes. An air sealing system, not industry required, is also Shelter standard. The seal increases efficiency by keeping air inside rooms instead of flowing into walls.

While these improvements admittedly add expense, lower energy bills recoup costs long-term. And longer-term, customers enjoy ensuring the world remains livable for their children and grandchildren.

Humans consume.

Whether we eat, drink, drive, or even sit at home, we extract energy from the earth.

If this planet is to remain habitable, we must adapt and become the most efficient creatures we can be, Elliott said.

Outfitting even affordable housing units with energy efficient features is possible, though Elliott said finagling is necessary. Even in today's mortgage market, he said companies recognize that customers can afford a slightly higher mortgage payment if energy bills cost less.

A photo of six of his grandchildren sits above Elliott's office desk. His dog, Moon's Shine, named after the yellow lab's mother, Moon, hangs out in Elliott's office during the day. Moon's Shine was sick Friday; she scoured milk chocolate and suffered the consequences. That's a life, and Shelter helps clients



Art Elliott, president of Shelter Associates in Coeur d'Alene, sits behind his desk.

SUZANNE JACOBSON/Press

build spaces to live that life.

Elliott said he doesn't think of himself as an artist, but his office is decorated with paintings. An art book with quirky sayings like "Good art won't match your sofa," sits on his table. "They use my name," Elliott said when asked about it. "Good art breaks the rules. That's a good one."

CALENDAR

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one roof. Play business bingo and enjoy .50 menu items. Information: (208) 773-5016 or megan@postfallschamber.com

Apr. 30

Reverse Job Fair at the Kimball Office, 1881 W. Seltice Way, Post Falls, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visit with local high school students, review resumes and share your knowledge. Information: Anne Hagman (208) 619-4027

MAY

May 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24

In To The Woods. Prices: \$16/Adults, \$13/Seniors, Students, Military and \$10 for Children under 12. Times are: 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday & Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sundays. For additional information please see our Web site at www/lakecity-playhouse.org or our Box Office at (208) 667-1323

May 9

Spring Open Golf

Tournament at the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course. Information: Toni Saylor (208) 415-0112

May 13

Coeur d'Alene Chambers "Upbeat Breakfast" at the Coeur d'Alene Inn and Conference Center. Trade tables open at 7 a.m. and the breakfast program begins

at 7:20 a.m. \$10 at the door. Information: Toni Saylor (208) 415-0112

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