www.lamorindaweekly.com

Stay Home for the Holidays



Support Your Local Businesses and Merchants

Bomb Threat at Happy Valley School Diffused

... continued from page A2

After scouring the classrooms and campus again, they found nothing. There was a police presence at the heightened safety awareness at the other schools in the district, as well as district. a school psychologist who was available to talk with students, staff and questions about why the bomb squad parents.

student safety. We were absolutely confident there was nothing there," said Zinn. Although parents were understandably a bit anxious, school Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms are inwas in session the next day.

Zinn was quick to compliment

police training and preparedness, and noted the experience has definitely

The police chief responded to was not on campus in a recent online "We would never compromise Crime Bulletin: "The bomb squad does not search for devices - they deactivate devices once they are found."

> Both the FBI and the Bureau of vestigating the matter.

I'm Selling Moraga! SOLD Keith KATZMAN Moraga Resident Since 1966. Successfully selling real estate for over 29 years. 925-376-7776 • kkatzman@pacunion.com From my family to yours... May you have a warm, safe and very happy holiday season. We thank you for your continued support and confidence. Sincerely, The Katzman Family I am here for you. PACIFIC Never hesitate to call.

License #00875484

Avoid Becoming a Victim of Fraud

... continued from page A1

Because jail time is much said Kreidler. shorter for real estate fraud than for bank robbery, he suggests these ing the law enforcement arm of the types of crimes are "so simple" for those familiar with the paperwork, investigation dealing with tax evaoften starting with forging a signa-

ture on a deed. Home repair fraud is rampant and expensive, said Jane Kreidler from the Contractors State License Board. For homeowners with a home improvement project over \$500, a contractor with a valid licensed is required. Homeowners shopping for a contractor should center in India as a source of the get three bids, check references calls. and make sure the contractor's license and driver's license names theft fraud on a tax return, file an match up. Kreidler also strongly encouraged checking online to make sure the license is active and in good standing. Do not use a contractor who randomly calls, offering services.

A contract should contain specific information about the timeframe of the job and the payment to make an additional transaction, schedule; the down payment cannot be more than \$1,000 or 10 percent of the contract price, whichever is less. Never pay in away to ensure the transaction is cash. "If you have a problem with a contractor, we want to know,"

A special IRS agent representfederal agency who does financial sion and money laundering addressed the group. She said a frequent scam is someone claiming to be an IRS agent on the phone who threatens to arrest a person unless back taxes due are paid immediately. She was clear: "The actual IRS will not call you."

Investigations have led to a call

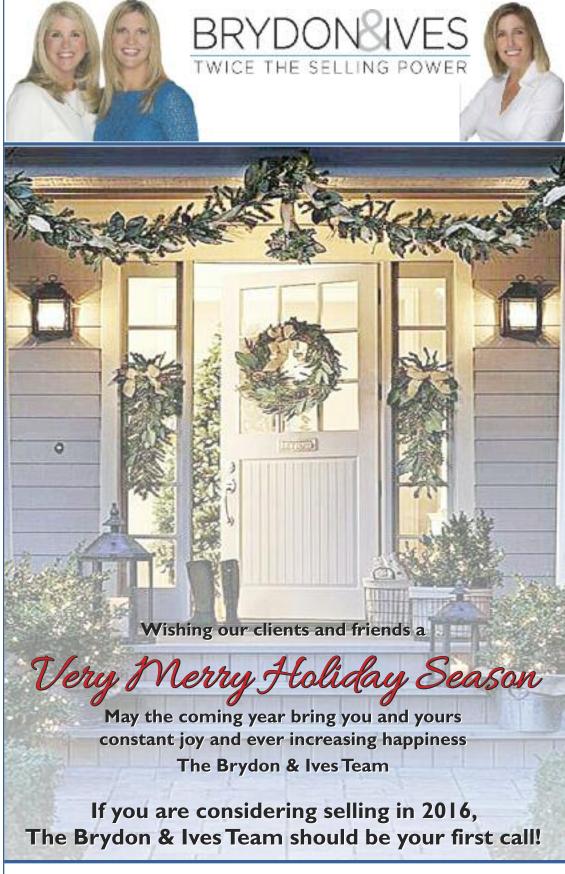
For those involved in identity online complaint at the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (www.tigta.gov).

Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen also warned that "shoulder surfing" is occurring at local bank ATMs, and if the person behind you is quick, it is possible usually a withdrawal, on your account. He recommends pausing for a few moments before walking fully complete.

Additional Tips from the Lafayette Chief of Police:

A raised red flag on a mailbox can be construed by bad guys to mean come steal the mail. Your postal carrier will understand if there is outgoing mail in the box.

- Protect your mail and packages pick up as soon as possible. Also consider getting a locked mailbox. Christensen calls Upper Happy Valley Road the "speedway of mailbox theft."
- A shredder that does a crisscross cut is best. Shred all documents with personal, financial and medical information.
- Using a thin-tipped Sharpie pen is the easiest way to deter criminals from tampering with checks, as the ink saturates into the paper.
- Do not allow a random caller who says he or she is from Microsoft to gain remote access to your computer.
- Check your credit report every year. You have the right to a free credit report every 12 months.
- Protect valuables in your car, and don't leave items in plain sight.
- Be careful discarding used computers or cell phones. Be sure to wipe the hard drive – or remove it entirely.



Lisa Brydon 925.285.8336 | CalBRE#: 01408025

Kristi Ives 925.788.8345 | Kaaren Brickman 925.351.5049 www.BrydonlvesTeam.com BrydonIvesTeam@apr.com ALAIN PINE

CalBRE#: 01367466

CalBRE#: 01932119