

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

Gateway Real Estate



John Shady
REALTOR®
01885176

10142 Commercial Ave
Penn Valley CA 95946
Phone: 530 632-7896
Fax: 530-432-9054
johnshady@yahoo.com
www.nevadacountyhomes4sale.com

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Summer Energy Savers

Smart Settings

One of the most commonly asked questions during the summer is how high to set the thermostat. You can cut your air conditioning costs by 5% to 7% for each degree you raise your thermostat setting.

If the outside temperature goes up, don't lower your air, raise it! As long as your thermostat is set at 15 degrees less than the outside temperature, you will be comfortable. Experts suggest that most people should be comfortable with a setting of 78 to 82 degrees.

If you'll be away from home for 4 hours or more, set the thermostat to 82 degrees or turn off the system. If you'll be away for fewer than 4 hours, it's less expensive to just leave the system on.

Fill the Cracks

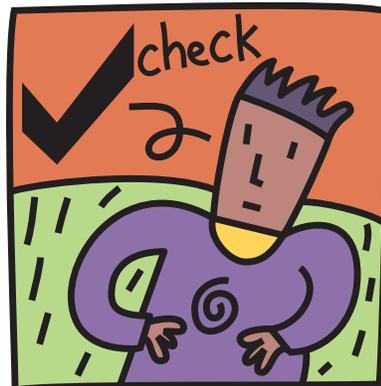
Cool air is lost through cracks in your home even when you cannot see the holes. Start by walking around the exterior of your home and look for gaps and openings that could be caulked. For example, water spigots, dryer vents, window casings, swamp cooler vents, around storm doors

AUGUST HOME WARRANTY TIP: *Keep your pools/spas/hot tubs working properly this summer. Remember to maintain a proper water level and chemical balance, and clean your basket strainers regularly.*

or thresholds—all would be a good place for silicone caulking. You can also use spray-in foam that will expand and fill the void in hard to reach places. Don't forget to seal off doorways like attic crawlspace entries and garage door openings.

Water Heater Temperature

120 degrees is an acceptable water temperature that should still provide ample hot water for most homes.



Lawn and Garden Safety Tips

As the weather becomes warmer and days are longer, we spend as much time as we can outdoors enjoying our backyards. Many of us tackle do-it-yourself projects and others are happy just being outside. But, to be safe, it is important to remember the following safety tips when doing outside jobs, especially if you have children:

Keep children inside the house or well away from the area you are mowing.

1. Before you mow, check the area for broken sticks, stones, toys and anything else that could shoot out from under the mower or damage the blade.
2. Wear goggles and hearing protection.
3. Never reach under the mower unless it is turned off and the blade has completely stopped turning.
4. If you run out of gas, stop and let the engine cool down before you add more. Gasoline vapors can easily catch on fire.
5. Read the labels of things you use for your lawn and garden. If you see the words "Caution," "Warning," "Danger," "Poison," or "Keep Out of Reach of Children," these products can be dangerous for children. Store them in a place with a lock.
6. When using a chain saw, make certain it is equipped with an anti-kickback chain that is well sharpened.
7. Pick up all garden tools such as rakes, spades, forks, pruning clippers, files and metal plant stakes when not in use.



www.homesafetycouncil.org/SafetyGuide/sg_topten_w001.asp

August Calendar

National Simplify Your Life Week

National Safety Month

National Panini Month

National Simplify Your Life Week (August 1–7)

I do believe in simplicity. It is astonishing as well as sad, how many trivial affairs even the wisest thinks he must attend to in a day; how singular an affair he thinks he must omit. When the mathematician would solve a difficult problem, he first frees the equation of all encumbrances, and reduces it to its simplest terms. So simplify the problem of life, distinguish the necessary and the real. Probe the earth to see where your main roots run.
—Henry David Thoreau



Celebrate National Panini Month with this Turkey Pesto favorite!

TURKEY PESTO PANINI

Ingredients

2 tablespoons mayonnaise
4 teaspoons basil pesto
8 slices sourdough bread
8 oz sliced cooked turkey breast
2 oz thinly sliced provolone cheese
8 slices tomato
Cooking spray

Preparation

Combine mayonnaise and pesto, stirring well. Spread 1 TB mayonnaise mixture on each of 4 bread slices; top each slice with turkey, cheese, and 2 tomato slices. Top with remaining bread slices.

Preheat grill pan or large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium heat. Add sandwiches to pan; top with another heavy skillet. Cook 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown.

(Serves 4)

<http://www.myrecipes.com/recipe/turkey-cheese-panini>



Repair, Replace, Relax with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with “peace of mind” when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home’s major systems and appliances. FNHW prides itself on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners’ problems and needs.

If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent. These materials contain information and articles obtained from third parties. FNHW does not endorse the recommendations of any third party nor guarantee the information provided is complete or correct.

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