

# The Daily Independent

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Food • Crafter's Corner • Giveaways

The Daily Independent

## HOME & LEISURE SHOW

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# Introducing the DI's 2018 Home and Leisure Show

The Daily Independent presents its 2018 Home and Leisure Show on March 3 and 4 at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds and Events Center, 520 S. Richmond Road in Ridgecrest.

The show features more than 49 vendors from businesses and individuals from throughout the Indian Wells Valley and surrounding areas.

The event is co-sponsored by the Daily Independent, So-Cal Solar, Bernie's Landscaping,

Bobby Wayne's RV and Qlite 92.7 FM.

Vendors with displays will include construction and home improvement companies, interior design businesses, home furnishing providers, solar, pest control and those selling doors and windows, insulation, flooring, heating and air-conditioning, landscaping and home decor as well as television, phone, internet and utility providers.

The event includes Crafter's Corner, which

features small home-based businesses and craft booths.

The current list of vendors scheduled to attend include: Bernie's Landscaping, Bobby Wayne's RV, So-Cal Solar, Qlite 92.7 FM, Sierra Fence, Ridgecrest Animal Shelter, Taste of Towns', Ashley Furniture Store, Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union, Sharper Edge Hawaii, Kevin Chambers Farmers Insurance, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Pacific Tile and Granite, the

Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert, Gentry Air Conditioning Inc., All American Windows, Mediacom,

Michael's Certified Air, Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, Lapham Construction, Schroeder's Kettle Corn, Waste Management, P&K Photobooth Moments, Kern Valley Search and Rescue, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Mouseprints, Eastern Sierra Custom Picture Framing, Lifetime Exte-

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The Home and Leisure Show will go from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 4.

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Odd Addresses	Wed, Fri, Sun		
ALL Addresses	In March, transition from the anytime hours schedule to the 8pm to 8am schedule above		
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- Bobbywaynesrv.com located in Lancaster
- I15rv.com located in Hesperia
- Beaumonttrvs.com located in Beaumont
- Bluestarrvs.com located in Yucca Valley

With sales comes service. Our new facility is called Bobby Waynes West Coast Service Center. In addition to parts, ac-



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Be sure to visit Bobby Wayne's RV at the Home and Leisure Show, presented by the Daily Independent at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds and Event Center, 520 S. Richmond Road, in Ridgecrest March 3 and March 4.❖



People perusue the selection of Bobby Wayne RVs on display at the 2017 Daily Independent Home and Leisure Show.

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*See you at the Home Show!*



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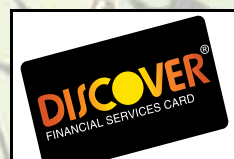
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# Bernie's Landscaping

Bernie's Landscaping specializes in designing outdoor living spaces that are efficient and low-maintenance to help customers better manage and regulate their water usage. Bernie Mondragon, the owner of Bernie's Landscaping, is leaving behind traditional greenery in favor of more modern and environmentally responsible designs.

As a new customer of Bernie's Landscaping, Bernie and his team will coordinate with you to discuss your vision for your new yard, and ways to effectively xeriscape and maintain the space. Bernie's Landscaping enjoys helping homeowners with all phases of landscape design. If you don't quite know what you want, their wide range of experience can offer suggestions that are both aesthetically pleasing and functional.

Popular options include decorative rocks which also act as a barrier to prevent weed growth, or synthetic turf to replace a traditional lawn.

Synthetic turf can be neatly shaped and bordered by uniform bricks, or colorful desert gravel and offers a host of benefits that homeowners can enjoy for many years. Often native plants along with rock arrangements are incorporated into the design to reduce or eliminate the need for water while adding color and depth to the xeriscape design.

While last year was one of California's wettest on record, the current snowpack is just 27% of the average. Diligent stewardship of our water remains critical. The demand for water will continue to grow in California, therefore, water conservation must be a way of life. Through careful management of irrigation schedules, homeowners can greatly reduce the amount of water that their landscape uses. Bernie's Landscaping offers a yard maintenance service to make these changes effortless for their clients. The benefits of having a licensed contractor maintain your yard are immediate and save water, time, and money. Bernie's Landscaping can help maintain irrigation systems and suggest preventive repairs to avoid costly water leaks. They also provide guidance on how to program irrigation timers based on yard design, weather, and time of year. Their expertise in lawn maintenance can help a yard survive our harsh heat and limited watering schedule by maintaining higher mowing heights and mowing after irrigation days.

A common misconception is that once a yard has been xeriscaped it requires no maintenance. The amount of maintenance that your yard will require depends on the design of your xeriscape. Bernie's Landscaping can create designs with smaller turf areas and plants adapted to Ridgecrest's unique climate. When a homeowner opts for a xeriscape design they will enjoy a yard with fewer problems, such as disease and pests, and benefit from lower demands for water and fertilizer. While every yard will require some watering, pest control, feeding, and weeding, a yard planted with drought-tolerant plants will have lower maintenance needs.

Bernie's Landscaping has been in business for eleven years and has evolved from a yard maintenance company to a full service residential and commercial landscape design and construction company. Bernie will have a booth at the Annual Home and Leisure Show at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds on March 3rd and 4th. Homeowners are encouraged to stop by and share their ideas for a new yard. Bernie's Landscaping has a wide range of experience from synthetic turf to stamped concrete and pavers; they are ready to make the design process easy and enjoyable.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERNIE'S LANDSCAPING

An example of xeriscaping done by Bernie's Landscaping.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERNIE'S LANDSCAPING

An example of a retaining wall and landscaping done by Bernie's Landscaping.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERNIE'S LANDSCAPING

An example of lawn design done by Bernie's Landscaping.

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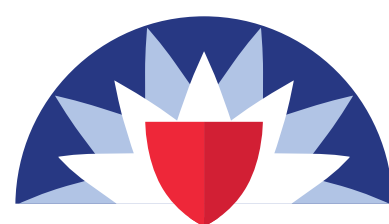
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So-Cal Solar specializes in providing solar electric systems to residential and commercial customers. So-Cal Solar is one of California's top leaders in resolving the world's energy crisis. So-Cal Solar provides customers with a full-service solution from first assessing the cus-



tomers energy usage, then educating a customer about their past, present and future energy needs, and finally creating a custom design solar home electric system ready for installation.

So-Cal Solar is based in Lancaster. For more information, visit the company at <http://www.socalsolarinc.com> or call 877-852-6301 or 661-266-8600.

Be sure to visit So-Cal Solar at the Home and Leisure Show, presented by the Daily Independent at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds and Event Center, 520 S. Richmond Road.

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# Curb appeal: Improving it adds the most resale value to a home

**BY JIM WEIKER**  
More Content Now

Americans are expected to spend a record \$34.0 billion on remodeling this year.

Oh, but where to spend all that money?

If you're planning to live in your home for decades to come, spend it where you'll enjoy it. But if you're thinking of selling, there's a different answer.

Homeowners are most likely to get their money back on very visible, relatively inexpensive improvements, according to two recent studies that seek to measure return on investment for home projects.

One of the reports, called the Cost Vs. Value study, concluded that adding a new steel front door and a new garage door may actually add more in sales price than what they cost. Adding stone veneer to an exterior comes close, returning an estimated 97 percent of its cost.

"Curb appeal" projects — changes to doors, windows and siding — by and large generated higher returns on investment

than work done inside the home," the report stated. "Meanwhile, projects that called for replacing something, like a door or window, scored higher among real estate pros than did remodels."

Similar conclusions were reached by the other report, published by the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The study, called the Remodeling Impact Report, found that homeowners get the most bang for their buck with new roofs, new wood floors, refinished wood floors and (again) a new garage door.

Both studies compare builders' estimated costs of projects to real-estate agents' estimates on how much the projects would add to the price of a house.

While spending money on more routine improvements yields the best returns, lavish discretionary projects don't fare as well.

The lowest return on investment come from a new patio and an "upscale" bathroom or master suite addition, according to the Cost Vs. Value Report. The Realtors' report came up with a similar



**Homeowners are most likely to get their money back on very visible, relatively inexpensive improvements, according to two recent studies that seek to measure return on investment for home projects.**

lineup: A new master suite, a new bathroom and a remodeled bathroom yielded the lowest returns.

In fact, as the Realtors' study finds, agents almost never recommend big home-improvement projects. Only 2 percent of agents, for example, recommended finishing an attic or basement before selling a house, according to the report.

Instead, agents say homeowners are better off

showing the house they have in its best light instead of trying to make it a new house.

"The thing that gets the most bang for your buck is to declutter everything," said Jill Rudler, a Keller Williams Excel agent in Westerville.

"Take 50 percent of what you have and remove it. The second thing is to paint. It's inexpensive and will give a nice clean, fresh look to the weariest of

houses. And replace any worn floor covering. The last you do is a deep cleaning."

If a piece of the house is broken or so dated that it's a clear distraction, homeowners might also consider replacing that.

In fact, the most common reason homeowners replace a garage door is because it doesn't work anymore, not to add to the sales price, said Amber Cramer, who owns Central

Ohio Garage Doors with her husband.

"People who are selling the home may replace it, but if they put in a new door, it may not be a nice door, but just a simple one that works," she said. "If they're planning on staying, they're more likely to install an upscale door."

Homeowners who don't care about return on investment can enjoy remodeling simply to make their home more livable and pleasant. The Realtors' study found that 75 percent of homeowners said they wanted to spend more time in their home after remodeling.

When asked to rate the "joy" remodeling projects gave them on a scale of 1 to 10, homeowners gave the 20 projects an average score of 9.6.

"Realtors understand which remodeling projects and home upgrades will bring the most value to homeowners," said William E. Brown, the 2017 president of the National Association of Realtors. "Realtors also understand that many of these projects are undertaken solely to get more enjoyment from spending time at home."

## Leaking window causes and repairs

**BY LAURA FIRSZT**  
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When's the best time to spot a leaking window? In the middle of a rainstorm, of course. When's the worst time to fix a leaking window? Ditto. Don't panic, though. Get out your phone and take a picture of the mess instead. That way, if you need to call a pro to take of your problem, you'll have clear evidence as to the location and severity of the leak.

And, as an informed consumer, do your homework by checking out these leaking window causes and cures.

Weep holes are openings built into the bottom of your metal or vinyl window frames, which are designed to drain off precipitation that collects in the window tracks. If your window is leaking because these holes have clogged up, breathe a sigh of relief. Clearing clogged weep holes is the simplest, lowest-cost fix for window leaks. Remove fallen leaves, twigs, insect corpses and other objects that may be blocking these openings. Then clean the holes out with a cotton swab or bit of wire (the slow way) or a spritz of compressed air (the shortcut). Clear weep holes are able to do their job

properly and won't let the tracks overflow in heavy rain.

2. Look at your window seal. The glass of your window should be solidly sealed to a rubber or vinyl gasket within the frame. If the pane has loosened over the years, renew the seal, using transparent silicone caulk.

3. Check your window frame. If the frame is the cause of your leaking window, there are several possible repair scenarios, as follows:

— Best-case scenario: You'll find a gap in the caulk sealing the frame to the exterior wall, which is letting in drafts and possibly water

as well. Apply some new, good-quality caulk for an easy and inexpensive repair. (TIPS: For proper adhesion, be sure to thoroughly remove any old flaking caulk and clean the window frame before you start. And take care you seal the top of the window — where precipitation can puddle — as well as the bottom and sides.)

— Not-so-bad-case scenario: It could be that the existing weatherstripping has worn out. Take down the operable part of the window (the portion that slides horizontally or vertically when you open it) first. Then remove the old weatherstripping, along with any traces of leftover adhesive, and replace it with a new

peel-and-stick version (available at most hardware and home stores).

— Worst-case scenario: You may discover that your wooden window frames have rotted and you will need to hire a pro to replace them. Or you might find that the frames were incorrectly installed in the first place; actually not such a bad scenario if they are still under warranty and if the original installer is still in business and if he's prepared to honor the warranty.

4. Consider other possible sources of leakage. Sometimes, water that appears to be the result of a leaking window is really coming from another source altogether. Make sure that the

source of the leak is not actually your home's roof, exterior walls, or upstairs bathroom.

5. Minimize water damage. If heavy rain makes window repair impossible for the time being (or if you're waiting for a pro to arrive and fix the problem), meanwhile you can at least minimize water damage, which, unchecked, may lead to mold and rot. Place a rolled up towel or large rag in the area of the leak — to absorb that darn water — and change it regularly for a dry one. If at all possible, move carpeting, furniture, and other vulnerable possessions away from the window area.

— Laura Firszt writes for networkx.com.

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