

DANVILLE

Burglary crew stole \$1.65M-plus from one affluent community

Fur coats, jewelry and cash some of the items swiped in spree

By Nate Gartrell
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DANVILLE » The first burglary happened Nov. 3, 2016, when a group of bandits snuck into a house in the 4200 block of Silver Meadow Court, in Blackhawk, and made off with \$180,000 in jewelry.

The last one happened 12 months later, when the bandits entered a home at nearby Cypress Court around 1 p.m. and took an unknown amount of jewels.

There were 16 burglaries in total. Sometimes the perpetrators stashed the stolen goods or safes in the home's garbage bin and rolled it to a getaway car. Other times, they acquired a golf cart and drove it through a country club that bordered the burglarized home to blend in with their surroundings.

Every time, they got away with it, and they still haven't been caught.

The burglary spree, which has not been previ-

ously reported on, targeted homes in the section of Contra Costa County with the highest property values: Blackhawk and Danville, where the median home price is well above \$1 million and nearly everyone has at least a burglar alarm, if not home security cameras.

Police are investigating the case; detectives have reviewed security footage, interviewed numerous witnesses and even tried to pinpoint the burglars through GPS. So far, no one has been charged, police said.

The same three people were seen on video in at least five of the burglaries, and police suspect all 16 are related. They typically entered the house through a back sliding glass door, often using a rug or outdoor furniture cushion to muffle the sound of breaking glass. The burglars then would head for the bedrooms, targeting jewelry boxes, safes and clothing drawers for stashes of cash and other valuables, police said.

Most of the burglaries occurred on properties next to the Blackhawk Country

Club. The lowest take was \$10,000 from one home. The highest single caper amounted to a \$500,000 loss, according to court records.

In one June 2017 burglary in the 5400 block of Blackhawk Drive, \$215,000 in purses and fur coats were stolen. In another burglary two months later, in the 4500 block of Kingswood Drive, the thieves made off with \$500,000 in jewelry, bonds and gold bars stolen from an unlocked safe.

In November 2017, the burglars hit five homes, grabbing a whopping \$265,000 in cash from one residence, \$22,000 in jewelry from another and \$13,000, as well as a handgun, from a third. In two others, packages were taken, along with an unspecified amount of jewelry.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office says anyone with tips on the burglary spree can call the agency's investigation division at 925-313-2621, email tips@so.cccounty.us or call 866-846-3592 to leave an anonymous voice message.

Contact Nate Gartrell at 925-779-7174.

MARTINEZ

You can say 'I boo' with a Halloween 'scare-emony'



CONTRA COSTA CLERK-RECORDER

A Contra Costa County deputy commissioner in a Day of the Dead costume officiates at a past Halloween wedding in the County Clerk-Recorder's Office in Martinez.

By Judith Prieve
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MARTINEZ » Why have a mere courthouse wedding ceremony when you could make it really memorable by saying "I Boo!" with a "scare-emony" instead?

The Contra Costa County clerk-recorder is offering couples the opportunity to get in the spirit of things with a dream ceremony featuring costumed staff members in one of its offices on Halloween.

Do you want to get married by a zombie, a bucket of popcorn, Beetlejuice, Little Red Riding Hood or Rosie the Riveter? The list

of characters will not be available until Halloween, but past costumes have included a witch, a pirate, the Little Mermaid and more.

Deputy commissioners in classic robes also will be on hand to perform ceremonies.

"We try to offer special venues to give our couples an experience they'll never forget," Clerk-Recorder Joe Canciamilla said. "It's going to be a wickedly good time."

There's a long tradition of couples coming to the Clerk-Recorder's Office in Martinez to get married by someone in costume. Guests often arrive in costume as well, spokesman

Paul Bugarino said.

Starting in 2013, the office has given customers the option to have costumed officiants on Halloween. Once there, the couple are given a list of costumed characters to choose from to perform the ceremony.

The office will be decorated in a Halloween theme and have some other tricks and treats for visitors as well, according to staffers.

Ceremonies will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To make an appointment or for more information, go to contracostacore.us.

Contact Judith Prieve at 925-779-7178.

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Caltrans PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE INITIAL STUDY WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION



WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?
Caltrans proposes to construct the Interstate 580 (I-580) Safety Lighting and Power Supply Installation Project to improve existing roadway conditions and enhance traffic safety on the Altamont Pass in Alameda County. This will be accomplished by installing lighting for 4.7 miles along eastbound I-580, from West Grant Line Road Undercrossing to North Flynn Road Overcrossing near the City of Livermore. The project will also install new power poles and electrical vaults on the southern side of the same expanse of I-580 to provide power for the lighting.

WHY THIS AD?
Caltrans has studied the impacts that the proposed project may have on the environment and has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The Initial Study (IS) with proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Categorical Exclusion (CE) is the environmental document that explains why the proposed project will, with mitigation, have less than significant impacts on the environment. This public notice is to inform you of the preparation of the IS-MND/CE, that it is available for review, **the time period for public comment is from October 14, 2019 to November 14, 2019**, and that a public meeting is available by request.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE?
The environmental document, maps, project information, and supporting technical studies are available for review weekdays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the California Department of Transportation District 4 Office, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612. The environmental document is also available to download at <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs>. Additionally, the environmental document will be made available at the following location in the vicinity of the proposed project:

LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1188 South Livermore Ave
Livermore, CA 94550

WHERE YOU COME IN?
You are invited to review the environmental document for the proposed project. Please send your written comments to:

CALTRANS, DISTRICT 4
ATTN: Sabrina Dunn, Environmental Planner
P.O. Box 23660, Office of Environmental Analysis, MS-8B
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Hard copies or compact disks of the environmental document are available by writing to the above mailing address; electronic copies are online at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs>.

The comment period begins on **October 14, 2019** and closes on **November 14, 2019**.

CONTACT
For more information about the environmental document or if you have comments, questions, or concerns regarding the proposed project, please contact Sabrina Dunn at (510) 286-6170 or Sabrina.Dunn@dot.ca.gov. Individuals who require documents in alternative formats are requested to contact the **District 4 Public Affairs Office** at (510) 286-6445. TDD Users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at (800) 735-2929 or Voice Line at (800) 735-2922.

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