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Gold River Messenger

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 4 *Serving Gold River and Sacramento County*

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Rec and Park Receives Award for Cordova Community Pool



From the left, Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD) Board Members; Director Rick Sloan, Vice-Chairperson Inez Reyes, Chairperson Terri Leimbach, General Manager Patrick Larkin, Director Brian Danzl, Secretary Michael Yearwood and Park Planning & Development Manager Laura Taylor with the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM) Outstanding Project Award. Photo provided by CRPD

**By Shelby Golden,
Cordova Recreation & Park District**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Cordova Recreation & Park District (District) is honored to be the recipient of the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM) Outstanding Project Award for the Cordova Community Pool. The District was presented with the award on March 10, 2022.

The new complex brings back an integral piece of community recreation and exercise. With two distinct pools, residents will find something for everyone: whether it is lap swimming, swim and safety classes, aquatic fitness, swim clubs or just cooling off during the hot Rancho Cordova summers. Swimming is one of the best exercises because

it engages the whole body. Water-based exercise reduces impact on joints and provides steady resistance, making it ideal for people with joint-related issues. Having access to water-play is great for mental health as well. It improves mood in adults and the play feature is great for brain and motor skill development in small children. The Cordova Community Pool expands the aquatic capabilities in the community and is the only public pool in Rancho Cordova that accommodates swim teams and lap swimming.

As a part of improving the health and wellbeing of the community, the District created inclusive guidelines and signage. Swim Attire Guidelines encourage patrons to wear attire designed for water activities including, but not limited to, swimsuits, athletic shorts and dry-fit clothing.

For safety reasons, the guidelines advise that patrons should not wear clothing that is excessively heavy or made of absorbent material. Additionally, the locker rooms at the Cordova Community Pool have signs that promote an inclusive environment. At the entrance and throughout each locker room, signs are displayed which feature the text "CRPD supports a person's right to use the locker facility consistent with their gender identity". In developing and implementing these guidelines and signs, the District has created and will continue to foster a positive culture where community members can feel welcome and enjoy activities at the Cordova Community Pool.

The District looks forward to being able to offer additional

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Microbusiness Grant Program to Make Big Local Impact

**By Allison Harris,
Sacramento County**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County encourages microbusinesses in the county that have been adversely affected by the pandemic to apply to receive relief grants of \$2,500. The new Microbusiness Grant Program is funded by the State of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) and administered by Sacramento County. These new micro-business grants do not need to be repaid, and the application period will be open April 1-29, 2022.

Often operating as solopreneurs, freelancers and small business owners, a microbusiness typically receives less than \$50,000 in revenue annually and has fewer than five full-time employees. Examples of microbusinesses include hair and make-up stylists, interior design professionals, graphic designers, caterers, photographers and event planners. To be eligible, applicants also need to have experienced a 10 percent or greater reduction in revenue in the 2019 to 2020 tax years. A complete list of grant eligibility requirements is available on the Sac4Micro website.

"Sacramento County has more than 52,000 business establishments," said Troy Givans, Director of Sacramento County Office of Economic Development. "Of those businesses, the microbusiness sector makes up approximately 67 percent countywide. The pandemic has been especially hard on our small business community, in particular, our minority-owned businesses. The County is excited to partner with CalOSBA to offer another resource to help the microbusinesses access funding to recover."

Additionally, Sacramento County is partnering with the California Capital Financial Development Corporation, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Metro Chamber and the Slavic Chamber of Commerce to provide in-language assistance and expand the program's reach into underserved communities.

For more information about Sacramento County's Microbusiness Grant Program, please visit www.sac4micro.org, or for more information about the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program, please visit www.carelieffgrant.com. ★

The Mimosa House Opens

**Story and photos
by Margaret Snider**

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) - Family-owned restaurant The Mimosa House has added Gold River to their previous five locations with a ribbon cutting on March 23. "I started as a dishwasher back at least 10 years ago, at the first one over in Folsom," said Devin Dedier, chief operations officer of the business. "Then after that, we did El Dorado Hills and Roseville, and then after that Rancho Cordova, East Sacramento, and now we're in Gold River." The family also owns Stick House, an Asian fusion restaurant in El Dorado Hills Town Center.

Every Sunday, Devin said, the family would go out to family brunch, and the five kids would always bug their father, Louis



Left to right: Devin Dedier, Jordyn Dedier, and their dad Louis Dedier stand in front of their new Mimosa House location in Gold River. "We're a very large family in Sacramento," Louis said.

Dedier, to start a restaurant. "It's any kid's dream to come into a restaurant where you can eat all the food that you want," Devin said. "So we pestered him enough to where he was

finally, 'Okay, I'll invest in a restaurant.'"

The Mimosa House menu is very large, around seven pages of just breakfast items. "We all fought over what items to put on

the menu," Devin said. "We couldn't really decide on just a one-page menu, so we decided, 'Let's just do everything that we like.' From there it took on a life

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Ukraine: A Cause Worth Fighting For

Story and photos by Elise Spleiss

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - It was the day that changed their lives forever, February 24, 2022. Friends and relatives in Ukraine started calling. Facebook was full of reports of bombings. It was unreal.

The Ukrainian community in the Sacramento region is a close-knit group from all walks of life who work well with all people in their lives. It is estimated to be over 100,000 Ukrainians in the greater Sacramento region, many who came for their religious freedom.

Therefore, when the attack by Russia on their homeland began, it was a smooth transition, turning their attention from their everyday lives, to working together strategizing plans to get help as soon as possible to their families in the Ukraine. In the words of community leader Vlad Skots, "America/Ukraine we are one family we help each other,

businesses and others in the community were reaching out to see how they could come alongside their friends and co-workers who now needed their help.

The Ukrainian American (UA) House in Rancho Cordova is a "nonprofit focused on promoting business relations between Ukraine and the United States." It is now in the forefront of working to get aid to their family and friends.

According to their website, "On February 26, a citywide interfaith prayer service for Ukraine was held at the Spring of Life Baptist Church, a Ukrainian church in Orangevale together with the UA House. It was opened by senior pastor of the church, Vadim Dashkevich. Together with pastors, priests, government officials, public officials, public figures and the Mayor of Sacramento, we prayed to our Lord for Ukraine." As Vlad said, "We rely on God for many things, but for others we must rely on ourselves. We



At Bethany Slavic Missionary Church from left to right: Pastor Viktor, Church Administrator, Youth pastor Pastor Zachary and his son Jeremiah; Pastor Oleg with his wife Lyudmila and daughter Anna; Pastor Vitaliy with his wife Natalya, and guest speaker Dr. Leo Frank, professor of Bible theology.

immigrated here and have successfully found the "American Dream" to be a reality is the Skots family. Stephan Skots, owner of USKO Ukrainian Realty in Sacramento, the oldest of 10 brothers, was the first to arrive. He came in 1997 at the age of 20 to escape Communism. He now has five daughters, the last three girls were born in the U.S. He employs 25 agents. He offers his office for regular fellowship breakfasts meetings for Ukrainian community leaders to continue keep up with the status of the war and their people's needs.

Four of his brothers from ages 19 to 24 followed him. Their parents, had connections in the U.S. and wanted them to come here for a good education. Stephan learned English at Adult School and opened a business. He brought his brothers here, sponsored and took care of them. He sent them to school and they worked together. The five remaining brothers are still in Ukraine with their parents.

Vlad Skots is Chairman and Co-founder of Ukrainian American House in Rancho Cordova and CEO of USKO Express, Inc, a national trucking

company founded in 2006.

Vlad grew up in a very small village in western Ukraine, the seventh of 10 brothers, no sisters. He came here in 2001, knowing no English. He attended school during the day, worked as a janitor, in construction and a truck driver. As a truck driver, driving through all 48 states in America and marveling at their beauty, he fell in love with the transportation business and started his own company." He now has 100 employees.

He appreciated that he, "as a simple guy who grew up in a small village and came here with only a high school diploma, without money, parents or language could build and operate a successful business."

Two other organizations have been instrumental in bringing the Ukraine community together to help spearhead this daunting task.

Branch Manager Mikhail Tkach, Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in Citrus Heights, is helping with fundraising. They provide money grams and money transfers free of charge to credit union members.

Bethany Slavic Missionary

Church in Sacramento is a mainstay of the Ukrainian community. With a congregation of over 1,000, the church and its pastor lead the Ukrainian community. All requests for help go through the team at the church.

According to Vlad Skot, the three things needed most are: 1) Prayer! "We pray about it all. God can help us the most"; 2) Funds to purchase medical supplies and for defense items which can be purchased locally; 3) "Contact your legislatures, raise your voice, they have a moral imperative to help Ukraine more than they are now". He sees more help from the public and businesses than the government.

Many have commented that from 1989 to today - before this war - a new generation has grown up in Ukraine. Their country is different than their parents' and grandparents', more developed, more open, with freedom of religion, freedom of politics, no fear of persecution. Only God knows how this will end.

One hundred percent of donations to info@uahouse.com. go directly to the needs of Ukraine. Or go to uahouse.org and click on the donate button. ★



Vlad Skots is Chairman and Co-founder of Ukrainian American House in Rancho Cordova, located at 11290 Point E Dr Ste 215, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742.

this is everyone's problem." must do everything we can for ourselves." One of the families who

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Shelter Seeks Kitten Fosters & Donations



Can you help a kitten today? Photo courtesy Pixabay

From Sac County Media

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Animal shelters around the country are gearing up for what is known as “kitten season,” when cats begin to give birth to countless kitten litters. Typically beginning in late spring and continuing throughout summer, kitten season stretches the already-thin resources animal shelters and rescues have when the influx of unwanted kittens and cats crowd shelter and kennel space.

The Bradshaw Shelter’s Foster Care Program helps save lives and space during this hectic season.

“Foster care providers are critical to our efforts to save lives,” said Foster/Rescue Coordinator, Violet Pina. “Fosters provide a

safe, loving, temporary place to live where the animals can thrive until they are ready to be adopted to their forever homes. Kitten season is one of our busiest times of the year so we need all of the help we can get.”

Residents interested in becoming fosters should submit a foster application to FosterRescueProgram@sacounty.net. The shelter provides all food, bedding, supplies, toys and more at no cost to the foster. Fostering is a great way to help alleviate the impact of kitten season at your local shelter and can provide temporary companionship for those still working from home.

However, working outside of the home doesn’t need to be an impediment to becoming a foster; most

animals in foster care do not require constant monitoring. Typically, animals who need fostering are kittens and puppies less than two months old.

As far as space for fostering, a bathroom, laundry room or spare bedroom is typically appropriate. The time commitment for fostering can be anywhere from one to six weeks, depending on the animal’s size at the time of fostering. Additional foster needs include caring for sick or injured animals, nursing mothers and litters, giving animals a break from the shelter, and more.

For more information about fostering, including fostering FAQs, visit the Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter website. To learn more about what to do if you find a kitten or litter of kittens, visit the feral cat information webpage.

Donations of essential kitten season supplies are also needed, including: Kitten formula and kitten food (most needed); Small litter pans; Heating pads; Small nursing bottles; Small pet carriers.

Donations are accepted at 3839 Bradshaw Road, Tuesday through Sunday, between 12 and 5 p.m. ★

Mimosa House Opens



Chief operations officer Devin Dedier wields the scissors in Gold River at the March 23 ribbon cutting for the family’s sixth location of The Mimosa House. “We want it to feel like when you come into our restaurant you know us because we’re neighbors,” Devin said.

Continued from page 1

of its own.” The restaurant started with just a few flavors of mimosas. “Then we fought over it again because all of us like different things,” Devin said. “Now we have pretty close to 100 different Mimosa flavors.”

Louis, the owner and CEO, said, “The idea behind the menu was, you could come here every week and never have the same item again all year.” In addition to the large menu, they have a new special every week. “Special doesn’t mean it’s cheap, special doesn’t mean it’s discounted,” Louis said. “Special means it’s special.” A breakfast sandwich they call the Mary Lou came from a woman in El Dorado Hills. “It did what she wanted, we put it on special, it sold at the beginning, so we named it after her. It’s all community based.”

The family was talking originally about expanding outside of the Sacramento area. “We’re trying to find that fine line between expanding too much and keeping everything local, family friendly,” Devin said. “We want it to feel like when you come into our restaurant you know us because we’re neighbors. And we don’t want to miss out on that feeling once we start expanding to other cities. That’s probably why we kept everything so local because we’re really trying to showcase that we really are local.”

As time went on, it was the tradition of the kids of the family to work in the restaurants and decide for themselves if they would continue to be part of the



Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce president/CEO Diann Rogers presents Certificate of Congratulations to The Mimosa House owner Louis Dedier at the ribbon cutting for the new Gold River location.

restaurant industry. “My father still is owning, as CEO, and then my mother is senior vice president, my older sister is compliance officer, myself as operations officer, my little sister, she’s going to be taking a little break because she’s pregnant, she’s going to be due in July, that’s super exciting, and then my youngest sister is just now going to college at Folsom Lake College.”

Louis has one brother and four sisters, his wife, Stephanie, has two sisters and two brothers. “We’re a very large family in Sacramento.” ★

Rec and Park Receives Award

Continued from page 1

programs, including adaptive programs, for community members to enjoy.

To learn more about the Cordova Community Pool, visit <https://crpd.com/about/crpd-awards-recognition/>.

Cordova Recreation & Park District is one of the largest independent special districts in

Northern California serving over 128,000 residents and four school districts in the greater Sacramento area. CRPD provides over 42 parks and recreational facilities, a full-service 18-Hole course at Cordova Golf Course, as well as youth & adult sports, camps, enrichment classes, educational programs and special events for the community. ★

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'It was the Cool Place to Be'

By Paul Scholl

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- One of Sacramento's best has chosen retirement. Phil Cowan, morning radio host of AM1380, aired his last show on April 1, 2022, between 6:00 and 9:00 am.

A retirement dinner event was held Tuesday evening, March 22, at The Ridge Golf Course in Auburn. Of course, it was a sold out event. The event was produced by AM1380 The Answer and its sister stations in Sacramento; 103.9 The Fish, 105.7 The Word, and Money 105.5.

Attendance included Scott Jones Sacramento County Sheriff; Doug LaMalfa, Congressman; Ted Gaines, Board of Equalization; Sue Frost, Sacramento County Supervisor; Suzanne Jones, Placer County Supervisor; Katy Grimes, editor of California Globe, along with their spouses and many other dignitaries, all of whom wanted to show their appreciation for Phil at his retirement event.

Mindi Russell, former CHP chaplain, graced the meal and gathering with an uplifting blessing.

Special guest, Larry Elder, radio talk show host and former candidate for governor, and Cowan presented a short program on the current events of national and state politics. It was the kind of segment the morning listeners loved to hear every morning on Phil's show.

Especially pleasing for Phil were the many call-in listeners to the program that made their trek to the event to show their love for the man that filled their mornings with entertainment, humor, a daily education on the ever-changing landscape of politics, and the many topics that were the pillars of the host's life journey. His discussions on music, classic cars and firearms were great entertainment all by themselves. He had never met many of the regular



Phil being presented with a retirement gift from the AM1380 Staff. All photos by Borelfoto.com



Paul Robins giving tribute to his long-time friend.



Phil's #1 Retirement Plan, spending time with his amazing wife Kathy.



Larry Elder and Phil Cowan.

callers, having only known them from their call-in voices over the years. It was as if they had just gathered at a big family reunion for the very first time.

One caller recently stated, "The reason your show is so great Phil is that it is a show for the people and by the people."

First and foremost to Phil is

his family. He spoke often on his show of his children, grand-children, and his ever-amazing wife, Kathy, professing in front of all his fans "Nothing would have

been possible without her".

Phil Cowan and Paul Robins co-hosted a daily radio show together for many years. A sweet addition to the program was Paul's send-off message to Phil, along with a few short stories about their friendship, and their famous Harley ride together from Sacramento to New York years ago.

Phil is a local legend, not just for the radio show, but for what he brought to the good people of the Sacramento Region through his life's body of work. He has been a true friend and supporter to so many it is impossible to describe it all here. Phil will be truly missed. May his retirement be long and joyous and fruitful.★

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A Return to the Stage

SCSO to Debut in Renovated Concert Space

Story by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra (SCSO) are celebrating their 26th year performing in the Sacramento Region with a debut concert in the newly renovated SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center (1301 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814) on Saturday, May 14 at 8 PM.

The SCSO will partner with guest chorus Schola Cantorum of Sacred Heart Church in Sacramento to perform the dramatic and romantic Requiem by Giuseppe Verdi, which is billed as a work of virtuosic brilliance. Verdi wrote the work in Latin, and the performers will sing it in Latin with the English translation printed in the programs and projected above the stage. "It's a powerful and operatic work that demands large choral forces," said SCSO President and CEO Jim McCormick. So, SCSO Music Director Donald Kendrick will conduct 175 chorus singers, four accomplished soloists, and 52 orchestra members – for a total force of 232 performers on stage.

The artists are eager to finally perform in the renovated concert venue after the forced hiatus due to COVID-19. During the shutdown, the SCSO members were planning their comeback, raising more than \$120,000 to pay for new choral risers. McCormick said the investment was "a legacy for the future," showcasing the courage and dedication of the SCSO to put in that work without any indication of when they'd be back on the stage. "It says something



The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra (SCSO) will return to the stage on May 14 for their first performance since 2019, debuting in the newly renovated SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. Photo of past performances by Ronald B. Johnson

about our resilience," said McCormick.

And now, with the upcoming performance on those new risers, McCormick said it feels like SCSO is "rising again." The risers will wrap around the orchestra, which McCormick said will create an incredible "balance of sound." With the sopranos behind the violins, the tenors and altos behind the brass and woodwind instruments, and the basses singing behind the cellos, the complementary tones will blend together seamlessly on the stage. And a new Constellation Sound System will amplify all the performers with a natural, high-quality sound. McCormick said these new features will "raise the quality and level of professionalism."

The concert will be dedicated to the people of Ukraine and all oppressed people, and it will open with a performance of the Ukrainian National Anthem.

McCormick said that "music is so healing" and Requiem is often referred to as "the Mass for humanity," expressing great sadness but also great hope, so the performance is fitting "at a time of war when people are in need of solace."

The SCSO recorded a performance of Verdi's Requiem 11 years ago at the Mondovi Center in Davis, CA, and those CDs will be available for sale for \$10 each, with proceeds going to Ukrainian relief. Additional donations for Ukraine will also be accepted.

The performance will also honor the memory of Sacramento's celebrated restaurateur Biba Caggiano, who passed away in August 2019. "She put Sacramento on the map when it comes to food," said McCormick. "She was fiercely Italian, and no one was more Italian than Giuseppe Verdi," so the SCSO felt the Requiem

they held Zoom meetings to practice, it couldn't replicate the joy of singing together in one space. McCormick said this community of singers have dearly missed "the journey" of regular rehearsals and performances, and they are excited for their return to the stage.

After the concert, a reception will be held in the lobby so attendees can meet the talented orchestra members and singers – including distinguished soloists Jennifer Forni, Soprano; Linda Baird, Mezzo Soprano; Robert Breault, Tenor; and Timothy Jones, Baritone who are flying in from across the country for this performance. SCSO Music Director

Donald Kendrick, who has been conducting for more than 30 years, said, "We're very excited to bring this piece of music, the best thing [Verdi] ever wrote in his life, to the newly refurbished theater, debuting the new risers, and employing the new sound system. ... This performance promises to be one the most significant things we have done in a long time."

Kendrick said it will be an "unbelievable, unforgettable evening."

Through its performances, the SCSO seeks to transform our communities through the power of music, believing that the performance and appreciation of live music are vital to the well-being of society. Music elevates our experiences; it evokes the deepest mysteries of life and inspires all who hear it. And live music in particular creates a sense of shared experience that cannot be replicated: "That's what great music does; it provides a platform to bring people together," said McCormick, "it's a coming together of a community."

Tickets are on sale now. For more info, visit <https://sacramentochooral.org>. ★



SCSO will perform Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem, with a full force of chorus singers, orchestra members, and accomplished soloists. Photos of past performances by Ronald B. Johnson



performance would be an ideal time to honor her legacy.

McCormick said the concert will be a significant moment for the audience, coming back to experience live orchestral and choral music after the lengthy shutdown, and also very therapeutic for the performers, who haven't been able to sing together in person for the last two years. Although



Paperless Billing Now Offered by Revenue Recovery

By Ken Casparis, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Finance's Revenue Recovery Division, which provides billing and collection services for the County, has a great new tool to help customers manage their payments and pay their bills online!

This tool, Revenue Recovery Online, makes managing payments a breeze! With Revenue Recovery Online you can:

Sign up for paperless & receive statements via email; View previous statements, correspondence and payment history; Set up payment reminders; Pay Online; and, Set up auto pay, so you never miss a due date

This new paperless billing option will help Revenue Recovery customers avoid potential postal delays while also offering a greener alternative to mailed paper bills.

Effective Oct. 1, 2021, the United States Postal Service revised its service standards for certain first-class mail items that increase the delivery time from 1-3 days to 5 days. This new standard may delay customers' receipt of mail from us and our receipt of mail from them (including payments).

Revenue Recovery sends out close to 100,000 customer statements every month. It is estimated that the standard 45-foot pine tree can produce roughly 10,000 sheets of paper, so every year, Revenue Recovery uses roughly 120 greenhouse gas absorbing pine trees worth of paper, excluding envelopes and other correspondence.

To avoid delays in receiving your Revenue Recovery statement or other time sensitive correspondence from us, and to help us go green, sign up today for Revenue Recovery Online today. We will email you and let you know when your statement is available to view online. It's simple and secure! ★

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Publisher,
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We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

SMUD First to Receive J.D. Power's Electric Utility Sustainability Designation

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In recognition of SMUD's customer service and vision for a carbon-free power supply by 2030, J.D. Power, a global leader in consumer insights and analytics, presented SMUD with its first-ever Power Certified Sustainability Leader designation.

Wednesday's announcement of the exclusive J.D. Power designation speaks to SMUD's track record of deep customer engagement, broad public awareness and strong advocacy surrounding energy programs and goals outlined in the 2030 Zero Carbon Plan, which will eliminate carbon emissions from the region's power supply by the end of the decade.

"We're proud to be leading the way toward a carbon-free economy and are honored with this J.D. Power certification," said SMUD CEO and General Manager Paul Lau. "Our goals are to achieve ambitious sustainability results, while partnering with our customers to do the same. Through SMUD's comprehensive Zero Carbon Plan, SMUD can continue to be a national and global leader for sustainability and carbon-free energy solutions that inspire change."

To qualify for the J.D. Power Certified Sustainability Leader program, electric utilities must rank among the top performers in the Sustainability Index and in thorough surveys of the utility's customers. SMUD also successfully completed a rigorous Operational

Performance Assessment (OPA). The OPA assesses performance against recommended sustainability best practices that are grouped into four categories: management and leadership, resilience and adaptability, climate change mitigation and customer engagement and advocacy.

Over the next eight years, SMUD will continue to transform where the region's power comes from. The 2030 Zero Carbon Plan is a wide-ranging blueprint toward a clean energy future that will retool or retire thermal plants, significantly increase the amount of renewable energy sources and battery storage, adopt new technologies that invite the community at-large to directly participate in carbon-reducing activities and expand partnerships and grant opportunities to offset costs and keep rates low.

This year, SMUD launched its first utility-scale battery storage facility in South Sacramento. With a capacity of four megawatts of electricity and eight megawatt hours of storage, it is enough clean renewable energy to power 800 homes. SMUD is on course to install up to 1,100 megawatts of new local short-duration battery storage by 2030.

SMUD will also invest \$25 million to incentivize solar plus storage adoption with customer perks ranging between \$500 and \$2,500.

SMUD will achieve zero carbon in an inclusive and equitable manner through incentives, low-income programs and other community-first partnerships. ★

Property Tax Levies Increase 6% Statewide

By Peter Kim, BOE Chief Communications Officer

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Today, the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) released its fiscal year (fy) 2020-21 annual Report, which reported that the total net statewide county-assessed property value was \$7.1 trillion, resulting in \$79.9 billion of local property tax levies.

Those property tax levies contributed \$43 billion to schools and \$36.9 billion to local government. This is an additional \$4.5 billion, or a 6% increase, in property tax levies from FY 2019-20 of \$75.4 billion.

"The increase in property tax levies to almost \$80 billion is a clear reflection of California's vibrant real estate market," said Chair Malia M. Cohen. "As we transition away from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am heartened that these additional property tax

revenues will provide significant funding for our schools and critical local government services."

The BOE is constitutionally and statutorily responsible for the oversight of California's property tax system. The FY 2020-21 Annual Report includes state- and county-assessed property values, aggregate qualifying property tax exemptions, and other statewide property tax data. New in this Annual Report are the highlights of BOE's accomplishments in fulfilling its statewide role in the implementation of Proposition 19, The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act. In November 2020, California voters approved Proposition 19, which made significant changes to certain property tax laws.

Past annual reports and additional information

can be found on the BOE website.

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is the only elected tax board in the country, and it is comprised of four Equalization District Members and the State Controller. Since 1879, the BOE's constitutional and statutory duties include the oversight of the 58 County Assessors to ensure assessment practices are uniform and consistent statewide. In addition, the BOE directly assesses the property of regulated railroads and certain public utilities, collects the Private Railroad Car Tax, and is responsible for the Alcoholic Beverage Tax and Tax on Insurers. BOE's critical role in property tax administration by promoting fair and equitable assessments protects the tax dollars that schools, local communities, and the State of California depend on every day. ★

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Synagogue read
 - One in King's sematary
 - Cabinet div.
 - Brind down
 - Aloha State's welcome
 - Soup server
 - Bikini ____, Marshall Islands
 - Final, abbr.
 - Donor's loss
 - *Vonn and Miller Olympic sport
 - *Ovechkin and Gretzky sport
 - Alternative to trade
 - Secret disclosure
 - Computer-generated imagery, acr.
 - Wise Men
 - Remnant of the past
 - Egg-layers
 - Urban dwelling
 - Printer contents
 - Volcano in Sicily
 - Poetic although
 - Paella pot
 - Dictation taker
 - Like April 1st target
 - Locker room supply
 - Dirty or sleazy
 - Fuddy-duddies, for short
 - Stir fry pan
 - Bread portion
 - Mad King George's number
 - *Pelé and Ronaldo sport
 - *Sampras and Williams sport
 - Luau greeting
 - "____ my party, and I'll cry if I want to..."
 - Sack fabric
 - Cheat or trick
 - Davy Jones' Locker locale
 - Bert's buddy
 - Coral barrier
 - Poetic "ever"
 - "The defense ____"
- DOWN**
- Oolong, e.g.
 - Crumbs
 - *#25 Down piece
 - Off-the-cuff
 - Mylar filling
 - Socket insert
 - Adult elver
 - Tax of one tenth
 - Like Darth Vader's side
 - Drop-off spot
 - Eugene O'Neill's piece
 - One less than jack
 - Hair holder
 - African antelope
 - Boat propeller
 - Depart from the ground (2 words)
 - *Fischer and Kasparov sport
 - Reach a goal (2 words)
 - Private
 - *Palmer and Nicklaus sport
 - Dirty money
 - Wife's dad, e.g.
 - Large violin family member
 - *Bolt and Owens sport
 - *A trap in #29 down
 - Biblical pronoun
 - Blast from the past
 - Tin Man's prop
 - Bambi's mom
 - Sewing machine brand
 - Do like phoenix
 - Accustom
 - Like gin in fiz
 - Do like goo
 - Kitchen head
 - Russian autocrat
 - Overnight lodgings
 - Hissy fit
 - What acronym and acrylic have in common
 - *#29 Down prop
 - Oui in English

CROSSWORD

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'FOOLS' GOLD'

April Fool's Gold

By David Dickstein, Gold River Resident

The longest-running April Fool's joke being played on Gold River has to be the constant "going out of business" sales at 12178 Tributary Point Drive. Either that or the parade of furniture store owners who lease the retail space have the worst luck or business sense.

You probably don't know the place based on the address, but you've passed it countless times. It's that store across the street of Cobble Oaks Apartments and adjacent to Hawthorn Suites. For now, it's home to Furniture Outlet California. The store you probably never visited is supposedly going bye-bye on April 10. If that date holds, the total number of failed furniture stores there will rise to at least five.

Be it American Furniture Galleries, Jon's Furniture, Jon's Home Furnishers or Rent-A-Center Furniture, I remember each having a going out of business sale, legit or not. One sale that fell in a gray area involved the closing of a sister store on Watt Avenue, not the one here. How sneaky was that? The demise-telling black and yellow signs plastered around were misleading to all but Superman who had the X-ray eyes required to read the fine print that said, "Not the Gold River location." The deceit was compounded by the fact that the "Gold River" store wasn't even in Gold River.

No business on Tributary Point Drive is - they're in Rancho Cordova, and any business on this turkey- and homeless-infested street that claims to be in Gold River is making an April fool's joke 365 days a year.

Speaking of seasonal shenanigans, here's some that I thought about doing on the first day of this month. I won't say which I actually did for fear of violating the Gold River CC&R that limits the amount of fun homeowners are allowed to



Love turkeys, but not their tar-like droppings left on my sidewalk. Photo by David Dickstein

have. More on that next month. So, here's what I may or may not have done on April 1.

- Taped notices on the abandoned Applebee's that say, "Coming soon: Hooters."
- Changed Gold River's trash collection day from Wednesdays to Mondays. Ha ha. Like that would ever happen.
- Anonymously donated \$1 million to the Gold River Discovery Center.
- After 9 p.m., when everyone in Gold River was asleep, caused mass hysteria the next morning by painting one garage door in a brown village pink.
- Started a rumor that Gold Station and The Classics are now official villages of the Gold River Community Association and monthly dues of \$284 begin in May.
- Showed up at the fire station on Coloma with a camera crew and told the fire

fighters they've been selected for a sexy 2023 wall calendar.

- Asked for a sample of dog food at Pet Club, then immediately opened the pouch and took a small bite. Looked disgusted and complained that this stuff tastes like dog food.
- Set up a toll booth on the American River Bike Trail, charging only cyclists wearing stupid racing attire.
- Got Rancho Cordova Mayor Donald Terry to announce that Gold River has been annexed by Rancho Cordova.
- Added another two stories to our house without approval from the GRCA Architectural Committee.
- Went streaking along Gold Country Boulevard in gym clothes. So, in other words, I had a run.
- Named the lone peahen that hangs with the turkeys Pricilla.

• Moved the homeless camps on both sides of Gold River to the street where Gov. Newsom lives.

• Thought about lighting state-approved fireworks in front of the homes of board members who feel the need to override Sacramento County laws based on false narratives and the need to wield selfish power to the detriment of a community that already lacks opportunities to socialize.

• At the In-N-Out drive-thru ordered a Big Mac "animal style," then went across the street to McDonald's for a Double-Double Happy Meal.

• Tossed a Baby Ruth chocolate bar in the main pool at the Gold River Sports Club. If you don't know why, watch "Caddyshack."

• Shooed away the wild turkeys from my village into your village.

• Put up "Neighborhood Garage Sale" signs at the entrance of every village, giving every rules committee chairperson a heart attack.

• Edited Gold River's Wikipedia page. It now reads that our community got its name in 1849 when a prospector wizzed in the American River.

• Bought a take-and-bake pizza at Papa Murphy's, then went to Blaze and asked them to bake it.

• Started a rumor that slaphappy Will Smith has been named the new general manager of our local supermarket, making him the Fresh Prince of Bel Air.

• To appease societal movement toward gender-neutral names, bought new monument signs for Mother Lode Village. Welcome to Parent Lode Village, everybody!

David Dickstein is a Gold River resident, award-winning writer and principal at the PR firm Prose & Comms Inc. He can be reached at daviddickstein1@gmail.com. ★

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CHM PLU 361

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10 Lb Bag
Limit 2 Bags Per Family
Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon
Effective 4/6/22 - 4/12/22
\$2.19
CHM PLU 365

BONUS COUPON
WHISKAS TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS
•All Varieties 3 Oz.
Limit 2 Pkgs With Coupon
Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon
Effective 4/6/22 - 4/12/22
\$1.49
CHM PLU 569