

# Rio Dell-Scotia News



## Year in Review

**January 2023** – We don't need a calendar or diary to remember January, the first day of which brought the second epic earthquake in a week to the region. Recovery efforts and stories of the damage were told as far away as Los Angeles by major media outlets. Billy Joe Long's quarterly column on computer advice addressed various ways of installing a new printer.

**February** – This issue of the newsletter reported on the seating of new council member Robert Orr at the reorganizational meeting of the Rio Dell City Council; the closing of The Pizza Factory that month after 34 years under the ownership of Jim Rich, an active community supporter; and work being done at the Scotia Museum to make it ADA compliant and complete other needed upgrades. Sarah Reback was introduced as the new coordinator of the Rio Dell Community Resource Center, which opened in December in its new location and was immediately pressed into service in earthquake recovery efforts.



Robert Orr



Jim Rich



Scotia Museum



Sarah Reback

**March** – This month's newsletter addressed the efforts of the newly-formed Humboldt COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) and the Humboldt Area Foundation to address the needs arising from the earthquakes and the challenges that remained. On a lighter note the chamber tried to crowd-source information to flesh out the names on the mural at the corner of Monument and Wildwood Avenue, as it had been found that some names were entered informally and could be lost over time.

**April** – Earthquake recovery continued to occupy the headline while other stories included the move of the iconic, local Scotia Band to its new location at Swiss Hall, a historic building that the historic band now owns. The Kiwanis Club was announcing its second annual Bingo Bash; Billy Joe Long's quarterly column addressed the importance of backing up files; and in recognition of April being Earthquake Preparedness Month, tips were given to help protect oneself and belongings in the next "big" one.

**May** – This issue announced upcoming events, like the Mother's Day pancake breakfast and the hazardous waste round-up as well as a Star-Wars-themed series of activities taking place locally around sites where the movie Return of the Jedi was filmed 40 years before.

**June** – The newsletter this month announced the closing in May of Palco Pharmacy with an interview with long-time owner Marilyn Ross, and the formation of a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) for Rio Dell as well as the arrival in May of the fire department's new truck. The work of case managers and others involved in quake recovery were also highlighted.

**July** – Stories this month included activities around Wildwood Days the following month, potential local impact of a regional hiking trail being formed from Humboldt Bay to San Francisco, the launching of police bike patrols in Rio Dell, and plans to re-open the local laundromat by the owners, following some needed construction. Billy Joe Long's quarterly column addressed security software.

**August** —In addition to the Wildwood Days schedule, this issue introduced the business that the owners of Cookies are My Canvas, Stormi Davis and Kimber Timmerman, have created, supplying realtors and mortgage firms with baskets of cookies as gifts for their clients, an effort now branded as Gratitude Gift Company, and including San Diego realtor and mortgage lender duo Sherry Ann and Kirk Scrima. Dolly Parton's book program to supply children under five with a free book a month was featured, along with local archaeologist Nick Angeloff's research work in Macedonia.



**Gratitude  
Gift Co.**



**Dolly Parton  
& under 5  
Childrens  
Book program**



**Archaeologist  
Nick  
Angeloff's  
Macedonia  
Research**

**September** – Winners of all kinds were feted in this month's issue – those in Wildwood Days events, and those with a local angle who won in the Best of Humboldt competition run by the *North Coast Journal*. New Rio Dell teachers were introduced and three young men, Wyatt Steed and his cousins, brothers Carter and Caston Steed were honored by Mayor Deb Garnes during Wildwood Days for their work helping in the aftermath of the quakes.



**Wyatt Steed  
and his cousins,  
brothers Carter  
and Caston Steed**



**Color  
Run**



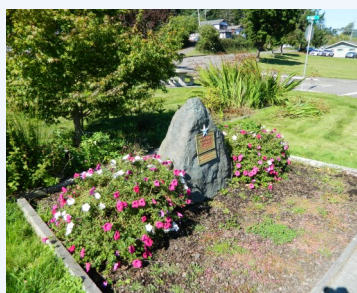
**Best of  
Theme  
Parade  
Winner**

**October** – The organization Food for People was featured in a two-part story that began with this issue. New officers on the force in Rio Dell were introduced as well as new teachers at the Scotia school district. Billy Joe Long began a three-part series on scams and scammers in his quarterly column.

**November** – Upcoming opportunities to get in the holiday spirit made the big headline this month, with the decorating of the community, the annual tree lighting, and the third annual holiday decorating competition for homes and businesses, being announced.

Other news included the long-delayed completion of the move of the former Scotia Bluffs health care center (now rebranded We Care) in the former Scotia Hospital building to its new digs in the former True Value hardware store in the Scotia shopping center.

Kim Megois, AmeriCorps staffer at the community resource center was profiled, along with Jenni Gillam who has taken over the gardening duties at Triangle Park by city hall, tended for a decade by Marlene Snell until shortly before her death, and Merlin West, whose Narrow Bridge Gallery affords local artists a free place to display their work.



**Triangle Park**



**Narrow Bridge Gallery**

**December** – Two new chamber business members were featured. Famous Amens of Fortuna – owned by Colt and Mavis Amen – creates spice blends for a variety of uses, and sells them at vendor fairs, in select shops, and online. It has won awards in just the couple's first couple years in business. Lost Coast Communications, the parent company of several radio stations, on-line news media, and the ever-popular Humboldt Paws Cause, is supplying free air time to promote local events in exchange for chamber membership. **(Photos next page)**





David  
And Mavis  
Amen



Lost Coast  
Communications  
Parent Co.

## Notes & News

### Health and Wellness Clinic to be offered in Rio Dell

SoHum Health in Garberville is scheduling appointments for a mobile clinic that visits monthly at the Rio Dell Fire Hall, 50 Center St., Rio Dell. The next visit is Jan. 9. Schedule an appointment by calling 707.923.3921. SoHum Health will see new patients from throughout the greater Eel River Valley at this location and accepts all major insurance types including Partnership and Medi-Cal.

#### Services include

- General health and wellness exams
  - Treatment for minor illnesses and respiratory concerns
  - Concerns related to diabetes, high blood pressure, and other chronic conditions
  - Screening and treatment for depression or anxiety
  - Vaccinations
  - Minor wound assessment
  - Referrals for specialists and other health services
- visit [sohumhealth.org/mobileclinic](https://sohumhealth.org/mobileclinic) or email [outreach@shchd.org](mailto:outreach@shchd.org) for more information.

### Rio Dell middle school sports new playground equipment

New playground equipment was recently installed at the Monument Middle School in Rio Dell, adjacent to the existing basketball court. “This gives students more diversity,” Superintendent Angela Johnson said, in the activities in which they can participate on recess. The new equipment includes a swing set, corn hole and outdoor ping pong stations, and a jungle gym. The work was made possible with district funds.



New Rio  
Dell Middle  
School  
Playground  
Equipment



Work continues  
On the Scotia  
Gym  
Dec. 2023.

A separate effort (see next month’s feature) is being sponsored by several Rotary Clubs within the county to replace outdated and worn equipment at the elementary school. You can help move this effort forward by attending the Fortuna Sunrise Rotary’s annual seafood boil fundraiser taking place at River Lodge in Fortuna January 25.

### Local lumber locomotive to be sold

Mary Bullwinkel reported in the *Times Standard* November 21 that the Timber Heritage Association has decided to sell the former Pacific Lumber Company Steam Locomotive No. 37 rather than restore it, as originally planned. It appears the locomotive will head to the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Sugarcreek, Ohio and the local group will instead focus on restoring another steam locomotive in its Samoa collection.

Locomotive No. 37 was purchased by Timber Heritage Association in 2003 to save it from being scrapped; it had been undergoing restoration at the Strasburg (Pennsylvania) Railroad Shop but “after four years of debate,” it was decided the work was moving too slowly and too expensively to be sustainable for the Timber Heritage Association. Moving the 102-ton locomotive back home to Samoa would cost \$110,000. Meanwhile, the Age of Steam, described as an 18-stall museum of railroad equipment, made an offer to buy.

### Chamber launches annual membership drive

The Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce has sent renewal notices to all present and former members, reminding them that membership runs for the calendar year, and it is time to renew for 2024. Dues are only \$35 for individual members and \$50 for businesses. Some may choose to join at higher levels, Bronze (\$250); Silver (\$500) and Gold (\$1,000). Payment can be made by Venmo, PayPal or check, with checks being made out to the chamber and sent to PO Box 95, Rio Dell, 95562

# Scams and Scammers (Part 2 )

**By Billy Joe Long,  
PSA Computer  
Services**



There are many types of scams and scammers you may encounter throughout your life. In the last article we talked a little bit about “Browser Hijacks” and what you can do when it happens to you. In this article we will address “Phone Scams” and in the next article we will cover email scams, better known as “phishing” emails.

In the world of scams and scammers, your personal information is the prize. Whether it’s your identity, bank account number or credit card number - they want it. The scammers' intent is to sell your stolen information for money, extort you for money or steal your money directly from your accounts.

On the phone they will sound professional, helpful, kind, and courteous. But there is nothing respectable about them. They are thieves pure and simple. For them the ends justify the means. You are simply the next revenue stream to them.

You may be thinking all of this sounds rather harsh - knowledge can be powerful. You need to know what you're up against. The solution to avoid getting scammed is going to sound rude, because you are going to need to be rude. Here is the big solution ... hang up on them! Don't engage in conversation. Once you realize that the caller is pumping you for information or attempting to get you to go to their website - hang up. The longer you stay on the line with them, the greater the risk. If they call you back repeatedly, hang up repeatedly. These people get paid when they talk you into giving something to them, and they can be very good at their jobs.

Microsoft is not going to call you about your computer or laptop. The bank is not going to call you to verify your account number or passwords and the state or federal government is not going to call you to verify your social security number. If you're unsure whether the caller is valid, simply hang up. Then look up an official number for the organization or business and call directly to inquire if they were trying to contact you. That's it. Pretty simple, right? In this article we talked about phone scams, which are very easy to deal with, once you know what you're up against. In the next article we'll discuss email scams and what you can do to protect yourself from them.

If you have questions, give PSA Computer Services a call at (707) 506-6802 or check us out on the web at <https://psa-2.com/>.

## ***Notes & News Continued from Page 3*** **Renewals due, openings exist on advertising insert**

The chamber sent out billing last month to those advertising on the insert that appears each month with this newsletter. Please watch for that and indicate if there are any changes you wish to make, as you send in your payment for the year ahead. Small ads are once again \$10 per month, or \$120 per year, and large ones are \$20/month or \$240 per year. The chamber thanks those who have supported its work in this manner, urges readers of this newsletter to support those advertisers. There are some slots available of both sizes for those wishing to advertise. Contact the chamber at [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com) or 707.506.5081 for more about advertising

## **Chamber board slates monthly meeting**

The chamber board meets each month on the first Friday, at noon. Meetings are open to the public and a great opportunity to suggest ideas, offer help, or learn about upcoming events and plans. In-person meetings are at 440 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, two doors north of the chamber and resource center. Call-in can be done at 605.313.4802, access code 860467.

### **Rio Dell-Scotia News**

Is free of charge, published monthly by the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce and the Rio Dell Community Resource Center. Funded by local businesses and the St. Joseph Health System. 650 copies distributed in Rio Dell, Scotia, and Fortuna. **Deadline for February newsletter copy is January 12.**

**Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 506-5081 to advertise.**

 **Providence**  
Medical Group  
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