

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

## Happy 4th Of July

### Rio Dell seeks to enhance outdoor experience, fitness

Several efforts are in the works in the City of Rio Dell to address a variety of goals, according to Mayor Pro-temp Amanda Carter.

**Why were they pouring cement** in Triangle Park, just south of City Hall? That's to set in place two pieces of fitness equipment, received as part of a Cal Trans Clean California grant that also funded the newly installed trees along Wildwood Avenue and in the median. The two pieces of exercise equipment each have various positions that allow different types of exercises to be done, including by wheel chair users.

**The Eel River Trail** is the focus of a second Cal Trans Clean California grant, enabling the existing trail that runs through the city to be made more accessible, for instance by allowing for wheelchair use. A staffer with the Redwood Coast Action Agency, Denise Newman, is working to engage Rio Dell 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in a trail stewards program, Carter notes.

**A team is at work on a Parks Master Plan.** Youths are also involved in helping the city plan for the future. The Rio Dell City Council recently appointed an ad hoc committee to address the city's park needs. Members include Fire Commissioners Mickey Barsanti and Joe Timmerman, Rio Dell School Board President Val Barrote, and Monument Middle School 7th grade students Reed Harrington and Austin Haberstock.

Carter believes the city's parks need a new long-term vision that assesses the needs and desires of the broader community. The city, school district and fire district own the current parklands in the community, all of which need development, Carter said. A survey is being developed with the help of a statistician which will be taken to the entire community to gather feedback on current facilities and perceived additional ones. **Shown at right.** Val Barrote, Austin Haberstock, Julie Woodall, Amanda Carter, Reed Harrington, Mickey Barsanti are named to the parks ad hoc committee by Mayor Debra Gaines.



**Round 2 of the Façade Improvement Project** has opened and provides a matching grant of up to 50% of the cost of improvements done to an existing commercial building, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$15,000. Round 1, which took place in the fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23, resulted in projects including murals done in the downtown area.

Round 2, which will run in Fiscal Year 2024-25, similarly has rules about what projects and building types qualify (empty buildings do, those newer than 10 years old don't, for example). Check in at city hall for a set of guidelines and an application form.

## Save the date – Wildwood Days, Aug. 1-4

# Notes and News

## Scotia Museum holds grand opening

Scotia's newly renovated museum held a grand opening last month, celebrating the work that will better preserve the documents and artifacts stored there from mold and dampness, and that allows persons with disabilities to enjoy the facility. The museum has been closed for several years while these issues were addressed.

The plans are to have the museum open a few hours each week, with a notice on the door so visitors wanting a tour at other times can request someone from the Scotia Community Services District (CSD), which oversees the museum, to come over and open it up.

Going forward, the CSD hopes to have an expanded schedule. One hold-up is that the CSD has a policy in place that volunteers (for instance, those signing up to staff the museum) undergo a background check, and the process, which involves outside law enforcement, is backed up in the completion of these steps.

## Wildwood Days needs more barbeque contestants

That's the word from planners, who note only two teams were signed up at press time to compete in the Thursday, Aug. 1 event scheduled to take place at the south end of Wildwood, culminating in a tasting and judging late that afternoon, with winners to be announced at 5:30 p.m. A large slate of contestants completed last year. Mavis Amen, of Famous Amens seasonings, is eager to throw down a challenge to competitors, and encourages teams from clubs, churches, families and businesses to sign up.

## Wildwood Days parade committee names prize donors

The Wildwood Days parade, put on by the chamber, has received donations for prizes that will be awarded to the winners of the categories: Best vehicle entry, Best theme-related entry, Chamber's Choice and Best overall.

The Coast Central Credit Union, Tri Counties Bank, Root 101 and Gratitude Gift Company/Cookies are My Canvas will each sponsor a prize.

A favorite of last year's parade will be back, the horse-drawn equipment pulled by Clydesdale and Shire teams owned by Larry Doss whose presence in the parade is sponsored by Ming Tree Realty.

## Fortuna businesses feature Rio Dell artisans

Two businesses opened recently in Fortuna that offer a showplace and sales floor to home-based businesses, including some in Rio Dell. Makers Market on Main, at 1122 Main Street, is operated by Rusty Calkins of Fortuna, who roasts coffee in a variety of flavors that he sells under the HippyCup name. Citing his family roots, which include Rio Dell and Scotia, he says that he sells coffee to Lety's Kitchen at 128 Wildwood and has been known to bring his equipment repair and maintenance skills from his job at Humboldt Creamery to assist her in keeping her restaurant equipment running.

Among the makers whose products are on display are those of frozen candy producer Amanda Merryman, whose business, Crunchy Sweet Creations, was featured in these pages last February.

Not far away, at 726 13<sup>th</sup> Street, is The Fortuna Farmhouse Home Goods and Refillery, operated by Mavis Amen, Rio Dell-Scotia chamber member and half of Famous Amens, the seasoning line created by husband Colt. The new business features a refillery, where people can reduce waste by bringing their own containers to restock on a variety of products from teas and spices to cleaning supplies and more. In addition, space is provided for local makers to showcase their products.

Indica Cass of Rio Dell, whose business, Stuffies and Things, sells at both locations, is profiled on page 3 of this issue.



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# Fortuna's PACE program has room to grow

PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) is a service of the Humboldt Senior Resource Center (see ad in this publication) that provides a suite of medical, social, nutritional and other support services to meet the needs of seniors (55 and older) who want to remain living at home but require assistance to do so. Housed in Eureka at 1910 California Street and Fortuna on 3400 Newburg Road, adjacent to the Gene Lucas Community Center, PACE is celebrating the enrollment of 300 members, but has capacity to serve even more, according to Marketing Coordinator Jennifer Maksim.

Participants may attend a center from one to five days per week, depending on need, with a bus to provide transportation to and from the center, and to and from medical appointments.

The program is free for anyone eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal, or Medi-Cal only. Those eligible for Medi-Cal with a share of cost, or Medicare only, can join with a monthly premium. One can participate through private pay if not eligible for either program.

Nationwide, PACE is in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, overseen by a national association that seeks to expand services to larger populations (it is estimated there are 10 million adults who could benefit from the program) with 163 PACE programs serving 72,000 participants in 32 states.

Those considering enrolling themselves or a loved one can learn more by calling 707.443.9747 for more information and a tour. The California Department of Health Care Services reviews applications for eligibility based on the level of care required. Once enrolled, one can discontinue participation at any time, and receive help transitioning back to other services



## Stuffies and Things – from hobby to business

Indica Cass of Rio Dell was scrolling through Facebook in 2022 when she discovered crochet creations. “I thought it was super cool and wanted to give it a try.” She asked family members for gifts of supplies, including the book *A Crochet World of Creepy Creatures and Cryptids* by Rikki Gustafson, and started crocheting in December of that year.

“I learned how to crochet primarily off of YouTube. I just grabbed some yarn and went for it. Eventually I started purchasing patterns off Etsy and now I have some memorized to the point where I can just whip something up,” she says.

By the following April, Cass was selling her products, prompted by friends, and so Stuffies and Things was born. “I started to post my creations in different art selling pages,” she says, and as her online presence grew, she had some store owners reach out to her. She currently has an Etsy shop (named StuffiesByIndica) and is in retail locations including Six Rivers Brewery, Humboldt Hometown Store, Wildfoot Wonders in Willow Creek, Makers Market on Main and the Fortuna Farmhouse (see story, page 2). “That gave me the confidence to start doing markets around Humboldt County,” she says.

Cass, who has lived in Humboldt since age 8, says “I never really considered making this into a business until I saw the sales I was making. Luckily, I have an amazing partner who has given me loads of support so I can do what I genuinely enjoy. I currently use the income from my business to support myself when I get laid off from my seasonal job but I would love to turn crochet onto a full-time gig.”



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### Rio Dell-Scotia News

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**Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 707-506-5081 to advertise.**



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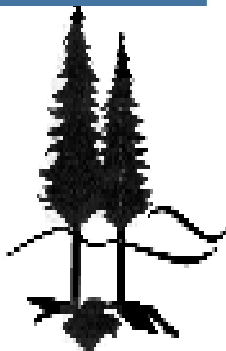
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