



# RIO DELL - SCOTIA NEWS

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## Have a safe and happy July 4!

### GIFT SHOP, GAMING CENTER TO OPEN

A new business is expected to open this month at 210 Wildwood, combining a visitor's center and gift shop with a gaming center. Aundrea Vaughn and her partner Glen Harbour are the owners of the business, EmeraldZ Humboldt County Gift Shop and Games, a labor of love they are proud to say they are pulling off with their own money, fulfilling a goal to provide a place for area youth and others to meet, and for people to be able to purchase unique gift items and to learn about local places and things to do.

Vaughn has worked in retail, especially inventory, for many years and is eager to bring her skills and experience to a business that lets her be close to home. "I was working at three different places, volunteering at three more places," she says, and looks forward to the chance to focus her efforts on a business that will benefit her family.

Vaughn was working at Element 7 until it closed last month but already had her own business plans in the works. "We looked at an online auction business in Fortuna," she said of ideas she and Harbour considered, but wanted to keep the focus on Rio Dell and helping the community. A member of the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department, she manages the color run that will be held as part of Wildwood Days for the third time this year. Harbour is retired from Cal Fire.

The pair show off their inventory, being unpacked by family members - "We have four generations here," Vaughn smiles at the helpers. A pervasive theme is the Humboldt County focus, with Bigfoot and banana slugs among the gift items to be found. A wall-sized mural is being completed by Josiah B of Rio Dell, depicting Bigfoot among the redwoods. This is his first mural, a combination of brush and spray paint, which Vaughn and Harbour are excited to have as part of their venture. **continued on page 2**



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Deadline for August newsletter is July 18th.

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

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## Wildwood Days grand marshal named

Rio Dell City Councilmember Julie Woodall will be grand marshal of this year's Wildwood Days parade, which will be held Sat., Aug. 2 at noon. Woodall, 75, and her husband, Virgil, have lived in Rio Dell for 45 years and have four children and one grandchild.

Woodall has been on the city council for 27 of those years. "I'm surprised I had the nerve to run," she says of her initial bid for elected office, but something she can no longer remember prompted her to step up and get involved. She has served as mayor for two terms.

Woodall is known throughout town for her care of the flowers that adorn Wildwood Avenue. It's her fifth year tending the displays, traveling through town with a drum of water in the back of her white Dodge Ram pickup truck. She was inspired by a display she saw years ago in Vernal, Utah, where floral displays lined the road for what seemed like two miles, as she drove through town.

Starting with a few pots, she has increased the number to 40. Most people pay for the pots, flowers and soil used in the displays around their property, while she donates the time and work that go into their care.



Woodall in Vernal, Utah



cont. from pg 1

Vaughn says the business is "a souvenir style store for tourists and locals to buy the perfect gift. We will have retro candy, comedy style gifts, clothing, toys, and much more. The game room has a wide variety of board games and some tables and chairs for the community to use for free while we are open. We just purchased a coin-operated arcade machine on which one can play any of more than 1600 games." Proceeds will fund the purchase of additional games. A free PacMan console offers several choices of games.

The couple is planning to open July 1 pending some work the landlord may need to complete on the building. Hours to start are tentatively 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. One can follow them on Facebook for more.

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## CHAMBER MEETING IS AT A NEW TIME JOIN US IF YOU CAN!

The Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce is moving its July meeting to Monday, July 7 at 6 p.m. at the Community Resource Center, 406 Wildwood. This is in part due to the July 4 weekend, which necessitates a change in meeting time, but also provides a chance to see if this is a better time for community people interested in chamber activities, to attend. Please come, share ideas about activities you would like to see and ways you would like to get involved in the community!

One plan that has long been on hold due to a lack of people-power is extending the posting of flags on federal holidays, into Scotia. Some are up but more could be added, if we had a work weekend to dig some holes and pour some concrete.



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The fire department is upgrading the bocce court in advance of Wildwood Days.

Element 7, one of two Rio Dell dispensaries, closed in June and is for sale.



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