



RIO DELL - SCOTIA NEWS

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dog groomers open shop

Cammie Butt opened her dog grooming business, Furology Educated Grooming LLC, last month at 99 Wildwood in Rio Dell. It was a soft opening as she was painting walls and grooming stations were being set up between clients. But everything one sees is intentional from the name – which speaks to the staff's emphasis on being trained and certified – to the quiet motif of paint and décor, meant to be soothing to the dogs.

Heated towels and filtered bath water are among the touches dogs will experience. "We're going the extra mile, we don't want to be basic," Butt says. She talks about the importance of staff being trained in canine CPR in the event an older dog has a health problem. She will accept large dogs which many groomers do not, and plans include "Pet Parent" workshops to help owners understand the needs of their pets. "Groomers are often first responders" when it comes to identifying health and other problems with animals, she says, because many people only get to the veterinarian once a year but come to the groomer more regularly.

Butt grew up in Rio Dell and was grooming dogs as a child alongside her mom, Sanna Sterling, who learned the skill at a school in Portland and worked in several locations over the years. Butt has worked at several pet salons around the county as well.

She will be assisted by Amber Langford, a multi-generational Humboldt native, who was similarly trimming her own dog's hair as a child and became a dog bather at Petco, going on to training that included an apprenticeship and led to her becoming a certified grooming stylist in 2008. A third member of the team is Sariah Buckley, who has been grooming for a couple years.

Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays by appointment. Call 707.783.3019. Plans include a senior day and referral discount.

Get in the holiday spirit!

Start the season right with the lighting of the tree Sat., Dec. 6 at the Community Resource Center, 406 Wildwood from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Santa's arriving on the fire truck parade, and there will be refreshments and more, offering fun for the family and a chance to connect with friends and neighbors.

Got your decorations up? Show 'em off! Sign up for the annual holiday home & business decorating contest by Dec. 13 here:

<https://forms.gle/IMNspyUsfJ9eCsLh7>.

There's cash prizes to be won! Whether you're competing or not, get the addresses of participants from the site by

Dec. 15 and go check out the contestants. Vote for your favorites by Dec. 24.



Membership renewals are now due for 2026

Chamber memberships and renewals for ads running in this publication are coming due for 2026.

Newsletter ads are still \$120 a year for small ads, \$240 a year for large ones. You'll be getting an email billing, or you can send in your check now to P.O. Box 95, Rio Dell, CA 95562. Want to make changes to the size or copy?

Want to start an ad? Have questions? Email rdschamber@gmail.com or call 707.506.5081.

Membership prices are also the same, from \$35 for Individual/Retired to \$100 for Large Business (11 or more employees), or you can support the chamber at higher levels. Watch your email for renewal notices or renew at the annual meeting/tree lighting event Dec. 6.

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Deadline for January newsletter is December 10th.

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

 **Providence**
Medical Group

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Candle biz started as a class project

His business' Facebook page shows rows of candles, each ensconced in a Mason jar, some jars encased in intriguing textures such as leather or wrapped in sisal. Scents range from last year's favorites, like Cozy Cabin Christmas and Crème Brûlée, to new offerings including Christmas Wreath, Whiskey Kisses, Havana Honey Barrel, Holiday Haze, and a scent for which an online poll was seeking a name, described as conjuring thoughts of "a dimly lit room, rich leather armchairs, the aroma of fine cigars, dry gin, and hints of vanilla and labdanum."

Devin Harris of Rio Dell is the young man behind ZOH Co Candles, a home-based business named for the initials of his three pets and spawned last year as a class project at Redwood Prep, the Fortuna charter school he attended (he is now a freshman at Fortuna High). Students in that class had to pick a product they would make and market, working out the details of where the start-up money would come from and other logistics. Most chose to make candy or baked goods. "How about candles?" asked Harris' mom, Rhonda, picking the idea from a list of suggestions the teacher had provided. Family cat Zoe and Yorkies Oliver and Harley provided the initials that formed the name. The school held an arts and crafts fair where the young entrepreneur sold his goods and netted over \$400. That helped with the decision to continue the business after graduation, something none of the other students seem to have done.

The production process starts with ordering the ingredients, which involves some research to get the best quality and price. Items include the soy wax that comes as a shredded solid that must be melted in a double-boiler to 180 degrees; a variety of scents (examples Butterscotch Bourbon and Sweet Tobacco) that are combined to create new blends; the wicks and Mason jars, and colorings, a new touch this year as last year's production line involved all white candles.

The wicks must be attached to the bottoms of the jars to hold them in place during the pouring; the melted soy wax needs to be cooled somewhat before the scents and coloring are added, and the batch must cure for a couple weeks after being poured.

"We get ideas from all over," Rhonda Harris notes, including from older son Garrett, 24, about the need for more male-nuanced options. She came up with the scent reminiscent of leather armchairs, cigars and gin, from visits with her dad to Myrtlewood Liquors and John's Fine Cigars in Eureka. She's quick to note this is her son's business but enjoys popping in with creative ideas about labeling and presentation. A scheduler for Providence, she works from home making appointments for seven doctors in two counties but enjoys writing and marketing.

This year both 8- and 16-ounce candles will be available at a series of craft fairs including the Fortuna Senior Center, the Stocking Stuffer fair at the Gene Lucas Center, and pop-up opportunities that present themselves including Fortuna's downtown open house last month, as well as at Fortuna Farmhouse, 1122 Main Street. The home-based business can also be reached through the Facebook page and payment methods include Cash App, Zelle and Venmo. Pricing is being finalized but a discount is being considered for people supplying a replacement Mason jar.



Holidays

Dec. 14 - Hanukkah begins at sundown

Dec. 21 - Winter Solstice

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Dec. 26 - Kwanzaa begins

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

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Rio Dell woman makes roses from redwood

Monica (Warden) Phillips discovered a new talent last winter, when she started making roses out of redwood. She works at the Ancient Redwoods Gift Shop in Redcrest, owned by chamber members Dean and Susan Lewis, and redwood roses were among the items offered for sale there, but the man who made them stopped doing so, and Phillips set about learning how to fill the gap. She tried several approaches, she said, and had four dozen produced by the time the gift shop and adjacent campground, located at the Immortal Tree on the Avenue of the Giants, reopened for the season this spring. She has been selling them for \$12 each.

Phillips gets the redwood from area beaches, which she notes are regularly littered with logs. Husband Jon shaves off thin sheets of wood as she needs them and she cuts and shapes the flowers, gluing the petals together.

Some are scented, and some are painted in various colors and combinations, for instance acrylic paint mixed with stain to allow the wood look to show through. Each aspect of fabrication has been a learning process. Phillips started making leaves for the stems from redwood as well but found they broke off easily when being handled by shoppers, so she discovered and switched to artificial leaves.

"I make them in my living room," Phillips says of the flowers, since the garage is either too hot or too cold. It takes about a day to make a single flower. Everything must be put away for safekeeping when the grandchildren come for the weekend. "They are pretty, it's an achievement," she says of the project, and "it's something I set my mind to do." She's open to selling at other locations but needs to build up inventory. Someone wanting a redwood floral gift in the meantime can message her on Facebook.



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Meet a Bronze chamber member



Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), a Bronze-level member of the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce, is Humboldt County's local electricity provider. RCEA was created to serve as a local leader in the effort to advance secure, sustainable, and affordable energy resources in Humboldt County. Founded as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in 2003, RCEA's mission is to lead, coordinate, and integrate regional efforts to create a cleaner, greener energy future for our community. In 2017, RCEA became a Community Choice energy provider, taking on the responsibility of purchasing and delivering cleaner renewable electricity for customers, directly empowering local control over energy choices.

RCEA's work goes beyond just providing electricity—it is focused on developing a long-term sustainable energy strategy, ensuring our region has access to energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy programs. RCEA's goal is to enhance the affordability and reliability of energy in Humboldt County while supporting local businesses and residents with innovative solutions.

RCEA offers no-cost energy use assessments for both home and business, and financing programs for approved upgrades that both homeowners and businesses may do, such as installing solar power, electric vehicle charging, or energy-efficient lighting, heating, or refrigeration systems.

Residential customers can receive a free kit worth \$100 of energy-efficient tools such as weatherstripping and LED bulbs. There are rebates for qualifying appliance purchases. Thinking about induction cooking – which is a faster, safer, and more energy-efficient way to prepare meals – but not sure if it is right for you? You can request a free cook-top to try out before making the switch in the comfort of your own home.

RCEA created the state's first 100% renewable micro-grid of its kind at the Redwood Coast airport, helping to ensure energy resilience for the airport and Coast Guard, among others, and serving as a model to others in the state.

Have questions about the RCEA line item on your PG&E bill? Heads up, it's not an extra charge! RCEA encourages customers to reach out by calling 707.269.1700 or emailing info@redwoodenergy.org. Check out the website to learn more! Redwoodenergy.org.

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