

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Scotia Inn sold

The Scotia Inn has been sold to the operators of the Humboldt Bay Social Club on Samoa and is scheduled to re-open in June as the Scotia Lodge. Amy Cirincione O'Connor, co-owner with husband Jon O'Connor, says, "Our goal is to help reintroduce this beautiful building and part of Humboldt history to the community. We want it to once again be used as a place for lodging, dining, gathering, and special events. We've been overwhelmed by the positive response to our purchase and especially by the memories people are sharing with us – working there, attending proms, and hosting weddings."

She wants the new name to "reflect the warmth of the accommodations and the setting among the redwoods. The building has gone through several name changes and renovations, and we are proud to be carrying on that tradition. Given the size of the building and the scope of our plans, we will be renovating for quite a while, but we want to welcome people back as soon as possible."

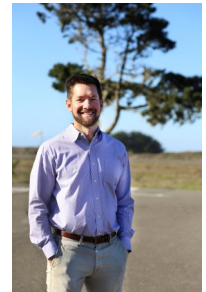
Noting that she and her husband have loved the building for a long time, Cirincione O'Connor adds that like Samoa, the home of their other business, Scotia is a unique community, once a company town for the logging industry. "We think the Peninsula is an incredible place- a rich community of surfers, artists, fisherman, mill workers, and families. The dunes, trails, beaches, and forests are spectacular and so easy to access." But she found many people rarely visit the Peninsula even though it's a short drive from Eureka and Arcata. She looks forward to helping Scotia to also be appreciated and visited more and to again be seen as a stopover for travelers.

The couple began renovating vacation properties in Samoa in 2011, Cirincione O'Connor says, and last year joined forces with architect Aaron Sweat to create "the overarching brand and business model of Humboldt Social with an emphasis on beautiful design and quality guest experiences."

"Aaron has practiced architecture nationally and internationally with award-winning firms like Lake/Flato and Nelsen Partners. Our goal is for guests and customers to experience meals, events and stays in tasteful, socially-conscious and stylish surroundings," she notes, adding, "The Scotia Inn is architecturally spectacular, and we specialize in re-imagining properties with rich histories. The woodwork alone is a powerful example of the pride and craftsmanship that went into the original building. The years have taken their toll, and we are looking forward to taking care of her and restoring her. Future guests can expect to see lots of familiar furniture and pieces from the original Scotia Inn, layered in with some timeless mid-century and Scandinavian pieces."



Owners Jon
O'Connor and wife
Amy Cirincione
O'Connor



Architect Aaron
Sweat

Looking for a job in the hospitality industry? The new owners will start hiring in early April for front desk, housekeeping, and food and beverage positions. Watch for more information from them.

One year later, how are we doing?

Ed. Note: Just over a year ago we began a journey few have experienced before, as individuals, business owners, employees, clients and customers, parents and children, began to wrestle with how to move forward and stay safe in a global pandemic. Following are stories of how some local people are managing today. Want to share yours? Email rdschamber@gmail.com or call 707.506.5081 to be interviewed.

Liberty Tabernacle Church

While some types of businesses have been able to provide online, delivery, curbside or drive-through transactions, churches nationally have sought when possible to provide the in-person contact many people crave, particularly in the isolation of the pandemic. Liberty Tabernacle is offering in-person as well as online services, with attention to safety for those attending the church, located at 982 Townsend Street, Rio Dell. (Continued on Pg. 3)

With vaccinations comes the renewed hope that life will soon be back to some type of normal. As I was writing this column, I realized it was one year ago today that I started working from home. No one thought that it would last this long! Remember when we were just going to shelter in place for two weeks to flatten the curve!? We were all so optimistic, and one year later we are still trying to flatten that curve. This past year has wrought hardships, but it has also brought many lessons and the opportunity for personal growth.

If you are looking for a way to nurture your personal growth, our local Kiwanis club is a great place to give back while also receiving many rewards from the work that we do. With the world beginning to slowly open like a spring flower, the Rio Dell/Scotia club is looking to get back to in-person meetings. This makes it much easier to be involved and to feel a part of the team. We are already planning some events for the summer. We will still be adhering to all safety protocols until further notice, but we feel that there are some events that can be held safely, masks on and socially distanced. It's time to have some fun!

Help us make that fun happen by becoming a member. If you have been thinking of becoming involved, do it now. We would love to have you. Inquiries can be made through the Rio Dell/Scotia Kiwanis Club Facebook page or email riodell.scotiakiwanis@gmail.com.

Sign up now to be notified when you can get your Covid vaccination!

Humboldt County residents interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine can fill out the Vaccine Interest Form for Individuals online at <https://humboldt.gov/2872/Vaccine-Info>? Once you have submitted the form, Public Health or a local healthcare provider will notify you when the vaccine is available for the phase and tier in which you are categorized, as outlined by the California Department of Public Health.

A valid email address is required to register and be notified of vaccine availability. If you don't have email, check humboldt.gov/vaccineinfo regularly to learn when vaccine becomes available for your tier, as determined by your age and job status. Announcements about vaccine availability also will continue to be made through local media outlets. If you don't have access to email or the internet, please call the COVID-19 Community Information Line at 707-441-5000 for assistance.

Filling out the COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form for Individuals does not book an appointment for vaccination.

Second dispensary opening delayed in Rio Dell

The February newsletter announced the anticipated opening of Element 7, a second dispensary to be at the site of the former Green Bean restaurant on Wildwood, but as anyone who has done renovations knows, things aren't always on time. Kevin Caldwell, city community development director and building inspector, told the Rio Dell City Council March 2 in response to a council member's inquiry, that some work including painting and landscaping remained to be done at that time.

The city's first dispensary, Proper Wellness, opened just over a year ago, in March 2020, a year after its first location, in Eureka, had its grand opening.

Get involved in the plan to honor local service men and women

The chamber is seeking to create a set of banners honoring local military veterans and current service people from our communities, whether living or deceased, to hang on city light poles along Wildwood. The format is similar to the ones in Fortuna or near the boardwalk in Eureka, honoring service members from those communities.

The chamber will work with those interested in having their image, or that of a loved one who has served in the armed forces, put on a banner. Supply a photo of that man or woman, preferably the official one taken in uniform, and that person's name and branch of service. If no official photo is available, another one can be used, or a new sitting arranged, to obtain the quality of image needed.

If you would like to participate and/or to sponsor a banner (prices are being finalized but approximately \$200 each) contact the chamber by phone (707.506.5081) or email rdschamber@gmail.com.



(Liberty Tabernacle Church. Continued from Page 1). Co-pastors Reverends Dennis and Jeanie Daisy sanitize the sanctuary and restrooms before and after every service, do temperature checks, have hand-sanitizing stations and can offer social distancing. Masks are encouraged.



Rev. Dennis and
Jeanie Daisy
Pastoral Team



Liberty
Tabernacle
Church



Liberty
Tabernacle
Church Inside
View

The church has been modernized with a recent remodel and adjacent land purchased with plans for growth, Rev. Dennis Daisy says of the congregation he and his wife have pastored for a decade. They offer Wednesday night Bible studies now, and Sunday evening services at 5 p.m. built around Redwood Adult Teen Challenge, for those with “life controlling issues,” he explains. Some other ministries are on hold during the pandemic.

For Easter Sunday, the morning service has been moved back to 10 a.m. whereas it is usually at 10:30. For those coming to the service, there will be a light breakfast at 9 a.m. For families with younger children, there will be an Easter egg hunt following the service.

“We can also be found live on Facebook at [libertytabernacleriodel](https://www.facebook.com/libertytabernacleriodel),” he says, adding, “We have a loving church family who care about people and our community. Our mandate is simple: to see people saved, healed, set free, disciplined, equipped, empowered, and serving.”

Action Realty

Realtor Susan Pryor of Scotia has seen a lot of changes in the real estate business during the pandemic. “At first we were considered a non-essential business, and so were closed for about three months,” she recalls. After the real estate industry was reclassified as essential, protocols were put in place so people felt safe having strangers come into their homes, and so buyers were protected going into the homes of strangers.

“It was required that people have gloves and wear booties inside and use sanitized wipes,” she says. Only two people at a time were allowed into a house accompanied by an agent. The agent was the only one who was to open doors and needed to wipe down everything that was touched. People sign forms informing them of the rules and health concerns involved.

This put a damper on showing homes, she thinks, especially for older people who want to downsize but are worried about the risk of opening their homes to others. She notes there are very few homes on the market. “They go really fast if priced right.” A low inventory typically drives up prices, but while that may have been the case for a while, she no longer sees the trend.

Much today can be done electronically, which reduces contact, Pryor adds. For instance, while people used to go to the title company to close escrow, now the title company sends out a notary. This makes things more time-consuming and costly, she adds, as one needs to schedule the notary and pay for that person’s travel time as well as services.

Pryor, who lives in Scotia and has her office in Fortuna, also serves on the recently consolidated fire department serving Rio Dell, Scotia, Shively and Redcrest; on the chamber of commerce board of directors; and on the Scotia Community Services board. She looks forward to helping buyers and sellers navigate the current market and encourages people to contact her at 845-2967 or 725-1820 or by email at susanactionrealty@sbcglobal.net.



Love is in the Air By Little Al Hooten

As the cold of winter lifts,
As the flowers open up and smile,
As young hearts find love,
All is right with the world.
The stars twinkle as the moon looks down and sees all,
He smiles for love makes the world go around.



New sculpture adorns Wildwood

Artist Dan McCauley installed his seventh sculpture in Rio Dell last month as a continuation of a collaborative plan to display art along Wildwood Avenue. The placement is between the Dollar General and Kreations. McCauley worked with and received support from the City of Rio Dell, Chamber of Commerce and Eagle Prairie Arts District to realize his vision. The sculpture depicts a buffalo and continues the wild animal theme of his other displays.



The art program was made possible by generous donations from Pacific Gas & Electric, The Headwaters Fund, McLean Foundation and Root 101 Nursery, notes city manager Kyle Knopp. Sculptures are displayed over a five-year period and will be replaced as interested buyers purchase the artwork from McCauley.

More of his work can be seen at danscustommetals.com.

Go Green in April

By Jennifer Weiss, Project Coordinator, Natural Resources Services Division, Redwood Community Action Agency.

Ed Note: This is a monthly feature produced in coordination with the Safe Paths to Schools effort which included extensive road improvements around Rio Dell's main corridor, to increase awareness of and safety for alternate methods of transportation. The Redwood Community Action Agency's Natural Resources Services Division was contracted to conduct this educational component.



With Daylight Savings time behind us, the days are staying lighter later and temperatures are warming up, providing more opportunities to spend time outdoors. Walking and bicycling are great ways to appreciate the outdoors, spend time with family and get to know your neighborhood. Both also have important health benefits including improved fitness, weight control, and greater feelings of wellbeing.

Over the years, working with children to develop their pedestrian and bicycle safety skills has taught me that while many young people think bicycling is a fun activity, they tend to care a lot about the health of our planet and the environmental consequences of our actions is one of the greatest factors encouraging youth to walk and bike to school today. Young people understand that replacing car trips with active transportation will help the planet because the act of walking or bicycling releases zero carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the environment. But understandably, walking or biking everywhere isn't possible. When infrastructure such as sidewalks or bike lanes are missing from a community it prevents residents from being able to walk or bike safely to get to where they need to go. It also restricts exercise and recreational opportunities. Fortunately, community investments in Rio Dell have created better connectivity through town by building safe, convenient routes for walking and bicycling. The time is right to utilize these resources while enjoying the natural beauty of Rio Dell.

Active transportation can also help you save green – money! According to the Automobile Association of America (AAA), average annual car ownership costs for vehicles driven 15,000 miles per year are over \$8,000 and that does not even include the cost of purchasing a vehicle or vehicle payments. Let's not forget that research shows the psychological benefits of walking, bicycling or otherwise being active outdoors leads to feelings of increased energy while reducing anxiety, fatigue and other negative emotions. This has been a tough year and there is no doubt we could all benefit from improved health outcomes, be they physical or emotional. Studies have also revealed that students who walk or bicycle to school perform better in school.

This month, as you celebrate Earth Day with your family and loved ones, please consider all the ways you can go green that are good for your health, your wallet and the environment.

Exercise with your friends via Zoom

The exercise group that was meeting at the Chamber of Commerce office on Wildwood prior to Covid is still exercising on Zoom. You can meet with them online Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11 a.m. via Zoom meeting number 785 092 5856 according to leader Susan Nessen.

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