

# Rio Dell-Scotia News



Draft of a portion of the mural

## Be part of the big picture!

A mural is being discussed for downtown Rio Dell and you can have your likeness in it. The Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce is working with noted local muralist Julia Rose Morgan to create a depiction of area history that will cover the front and wrap around the side of the building at 99 Wildwood, housing the Rio Dell Community Resource Center. The location, a building owned by the Ambrosini Trust, was chosen because it has a surface appropriate for the project. The image will encompass more than 800 square feet, not counting the doors and windows.

The plan is for the mural to be partially funded by the City of Rio Dell's façade project that offers to reimburse up to half the cost of approved projects that improve the commercial buildings in the downtown area. To fund the balance, the chamber is inviting interested people to be "part of the big picture" – to submit a photo or jpeg of themselves and pay \$100 to have one's life-sized face included in the mural.

People of all ages are welcome to participate – the mural can be seen here and on the chamber's web site ([riodellscotiachamber.org](http://riodellscotiachamber.org)) and includes Wiyot tribal members, settlers, lumber jacks and mill workers and townspeople in scenes of bar, shop and brothel. Morgan thanks Greg Rumney of Rio Dell ("The Old Photo Guy") for access to his photo archives in developing the images in the mural.

Work is expected to begin in the next month and to take place over six weeks, according to Morgan, who has created murals in several states and in Mexico. Last December her installation was completed at St. Vincent de Paul Free Dining Facility in Eureka, showing that organization's volunteers and clients, and earlier in the year she participated in the Eureka Street Art Festival. Her work can be seen online at [juliarosemorgan.com/muralsstreet-art](http://juliarosemorgan.com/muralsstreet-art).

For more information about having your likeness as part of this big picture, contact Jim Brickley, chamber vice president, at [brickley@sonic.net](mailto:brickley@sonic.net) or go online at [riodellscotiachamber.org](http://riodellscotiachamber.org).

## Pizza Factory faces tough times

Like many businesses throughout the nation, The Pizza Factory in Rio Dell has been see-sawed by the vagaries of the Covid pandemic. "We were doing well when there was money falling from the sky," owner Jim Rich said of the stimulus programs that sent money into homes to help workers and businesses dealing with challenges posed by the waves of Covid variants.

Since the stimulus checks stopped, about Christmas of last year, it's been "a real struggle," Rich said of keeping his business afloat. Sales dropped by 75 percent compared to that earlier boon. "I've had to cut hours and lay off staff," he said, taking on that work himself, resulting in 16-hour or longer days.

In late February his daughter, Robin Connors, who lives in Minnesota, posted on the Rio Dell Neighborhood Watch page to "please pray for my dad's business, he is really struggling now." That elicited an outpouring of support across the local community, as people shared the post and offered their own support for the local business, which employs 10, and the taste and quality of the product it produces. **(Continued on Page 3)**



**KIWANIS KORNER – APRIL 2022**

By: CAROLE ARRINGTON, RIOD DELL/SCOTIA KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Rio Dell and Scotia is continuing to limp along. We are doing our best to attract new members and plan events to connect the community. This month, the club is holding a Bingo night on Wed., April 13 at the Rio Dell fire hall. The event is open to anyone, and those 18 and over can play to win cash and prizes! There is a small buy in to play but we promise that for your small fee, there will be big fun. The volunteer fire fighters will be cooking up some tasty food for sale along with beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages.

In March, the club held a See’s Candy sale which was met with success. Thank you to all who purchased candy during our sale. With your help, we can make Rio Dell and Scotia an even better place to live! As always, we are still looking for community-minded people to join the club! Our meetings are at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Scotia Lodge dining room. Come see how you can help your community and have fun doing it! All are welcome.



**Get involved! Join chamber monthly call-in meetings to share ideas**

The chamber of commerce board meets on the first Friday of the month at Noon. Meetings are always open to the public. Call to hear what is being discussed, share ideas, and see where you can help! The next meeting is April, 1 at noon - no fooling! Call 605-313-4802 and at the prompt, enter access code 860467.

**Introduction To 5G**

By: Billy Joe Long, PSA Computer Services

5G is the 5th generation mobile network. That means it is a new global wireless standard after 1G, 2G, 3G and 4G networks. 5G enables a new kind of network focused on connecting everyone and everything together.

5G is based on OFDM (orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing), a method of modulating a digital signal across several different channels to reduce interference. 5G also uses wider bandwidth technologies. 5G OFDM operates on the same mobile networking principles as 4G LTE (Long-Term Evolution). However, 5G has a theoretical peak speed of 20 Gbps, while the peak speed of 4G is only 1 Gbps.



5G promises ultra-low latency, which would improve the performance of business applications as well as other digital experiences, such as online gaming, video conferencing, and self-driving cars. The lower the latency, when sending and receiving data, the closer we get to “real-time” communications.

5G networks will also simplify mobility, with seamless open roaming capabilities between cellular and Wi-Fi access. Mobile users can stay connected as they move between outdoor wireless connections and wireless networks inside buildings without user intervention.

5G technology should improve connectivity in under-served rural areas and in cities where the demand can overwhelm today's available capacity with 4G technology. 5G is designed to deliver faster and better mobile broadband services than 4G LTE. Because of this, 5G is expected to impact every industry.

If you have questions or comments call PSA Computer Services at (707) 601-1408.

**Kiwanis, Fire Department slate dinner, bingo**

The Rio Dell-Scotia Kiwanis Club will host a dinner and bingo night at the Rio Dell fire hall on Wed., April 13. Firefighters will put on a French dip dinner with side starting at 5:30 p.m. for \$8. Bingo will start at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$5 entry fee for three cards. There will be adult beverages, kids' games and a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the volunteer fire department and the work of the Kiwanis club.



Wednesday April 13 Located at Rio Dell Fire Hall  
Dinner: 5:30 Bingo 6:30  
French dip w/side \$8  
\$5 entry w/ 3 cards Kids Games  
Adult Beverages Silent Auction

## **Pizza Factory faces Tough Times (Continued from Page1.)**

The day after the post, Rich said, the business did the highest daily sales in its 34-year history. However, that alone wasn't enough and Rich cut hours, starting March 5, to evenings only, 4 to 9 p.m., seven days per week.

In addition to not enough customers, Rich is affected by other issues. Supply chain, for one. "We get orders twice a week and each time, something is missing, sometimes several things." An example was chicken wings, unavailable for seven months. Proud of the high-quality products that go into his pizzas, Rich is discouraged by the need to settle for "sub-par substitutes."

And there's inflation. Once the wings became available, their price had gone up from \$5.10 to over \$8 per pound. License costs have gone up as well. "I haven't raised prices, which I should have, to cover these costs, but then sales would drop," he said. As a result, the profit margin has taken a hit.

Rich has been a staple of the Rio Dell business community for decades, donating generously to fund raisers and other civic efforts, and serving in leadership roles in the former Scotia Service Club and the chamber of commerce. For years he refurbished old bicycles to donate to needy families and he helped launch the local Little League together with former resident Eric Johansen. He served on the Rio Dell school board for 24 years. Rich took up the restaurant business when his health did not allow him to continue his prior career as a mechanic. "With a pacemaker, I can't work on a running engine," he said, adding that also killed his hobby as a race car driver.

"I refuse to give up, I'm not a quitter," Rich said, expressing appreciation to the Pizza Factory corporation for helping him navigate the difficult times

## **Rio Dell wins near-\$2.5 million grant**

Last month California Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the City of Rio Dell will receive a portion of the \$1.1 billion Clean California initiative focused on removing trash, transforming public spaces, and creating jobs across the state. Rio Dell is expected to receive nearly \$2,457,267, divided between two projects.

The first involves the creation of a walking and biking path along the Eel River. The paved quarter-mile pathway will run between Davis and Edwards streets, connecting the river, downtown and residential neighborhoods. It will include kiosks to inform users of subjects including the area's unique geology, fisheries, native history, logging past and the need to keep the river clean for current and future residents. For decades, the adjacent river bar has been subject to illegal dumping necessitating annual cleanup efforts organized by the community.

The second project, nicknamed Gateway 2.0, will replace failed tree plantings in the city's gateway with uniform plantings and enhanced root systems. The project will decrease water and maintenance requirements and add outdoor exercise equipment.

The project submittals came at the recommendation of the city's newly formed Beautification, Walkability and Pride Committee consisting of Mayor Debra Garnes, council member Amanda Carter and residents Ania Laniewski, Elizabeth Warren and Rey De La Cruz. The committee gathered hundreds of petition signatures from the community. The trail project also received the endorsement of Congressman Jared Huffman, Humboldt Trails Council, Bless the Beasts, St. Joseph Health, Assembly member Jim Wood and others, according to city manager Kyle Knopp, who says the trail will be an important spur to the Great Redwood Trail spearheaded by Senator Mike McGuire.

"These are truly transformative projects for Rio Dell," stated Mayor Garnes. "They incorporate environmental stewardship with the creation of pride in public spaces. I want to thank Governor Gavin Newsom who I think is paying special attention to the North Coast area and disadvantaged communities. It's really demonstrated by his actions." Two other county projects have been funded by Clean California grants, one with Hoopa Valley Tribe and the other through the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District. The three Humboldt communities among the 100 communities statewide to receive such grants, will together be receiving \$8.36 million.

"These two projects include educational benefits along with helping to create a healthier Rio Dell" stated council member Carter, a fitness trainer and former educator. "This is a major accomplishment for our city and will be a great asset for the community."



## MORE NEWS AND NOTES

### Local Realtor joins new firm

Realtor Heather Watkins, Rio Dell resident and chamber board member, announces she has joined The Hurst Group, brokered by eXp Realty of California, Inc. She notes it is the largest residential real estate brokerage by geography in North America, and one of the fastest-growing firms world-wide with more than 72,000 agents internationally.

The Hurst Group team is well known for its customer service, local knowledge, and dedication to its clients, Watkins says, adding, "I am beyond thrilled to be a part of this amazing group of individuals that will no doubt play a key role in my growth as an agent."



### Check here for Covid vaccine availability

A state-wide website (replacing the one run by Humboldt County) lets you be notified of opportunities to get the Covid shot so sign up here: [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov). [It provides a place where those needing a ride to the site for the shot can indicate that.](#)

### Free information for veterans owning businesses

The Small Business Entrepreneurship Outreach Program at Digital.com offers a free guide to U.S. veterans starting or owning a small business. It promises to offer information on "the unique competitive advantages available to veterans such as exclusive grants, training resources and mentoring." Just released this year, it can be downloaded here: <https://digital.com/veterans-business/>

### Celebrations of Faith in April

April 1 - Ramadan begins at sundown  
April 10 - Palm Sunday  
April 15 - Good Friday  
April 15 - Passover begins at sundown  
April 17 - Easter

### Holidays

April 1 - April Fool's Day  
April 22 - Earth Day  
April 27 - Administrative Professionals Day

### The HWMA Tire Recycling Program is back!

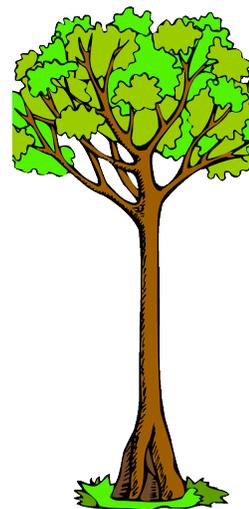
The Hawthorne Street Transfer Station in Eureka will accept up to nine auto or light truck tires per day at no extra charge. It's ok if they're on rims. No business-generated tires please. This program is only for household generated tires. The program runs until next summer. This program is funded by Cal Recycle.

Call or email us for details:: 268-8680 or [info@hwma.net](mailto:info@hwma.net)

Humboldt Waste Management Authority

1059 W. Hawthorne St., Eureka, CA 95501

[www.hwma.net](http://www.hwma.net)



### Rio Dell-Scotia News

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



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