

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Quake recovery efforts continue

Help creeps closer on the horizon for those seeking assistance returning to normal after their homes and lives were shaken beyond recognition in the quakes of Dec. 20 and Jan. 1. Nick Bown-Crawford, executive director of the economic development non-profit, Humboldt Made, and angel of the immediate post-quake era who organized hot meals for weeks utilizing food trucks and the format that drives the international aid group, World Central Kitchen, has been named the interim leader of the newly-formed Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG).

The LTRG is taking over from the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), representing a step in the transition to actual, large-scale boots on the ground repairs. It held its first meeting March 9 which drew 35 representatives of organizations participating in the recovery effort to the Zoom call. Bown-Crawford polled those participating about the official name and mission statement for this group, and showed examples of a website in development (which will also be translated into Spanish when it is completed and goes live), and discussed the need for new committees to be developed that would handle the various aspects of work going forward.

While those living in motels and otherwise stressed and uncertain about their futures as a result of the quakes may be impatient for more, Bown-Crawford said that it will “take a village” and that he is hoping for a national audience to respond to the calls for donations and other goods and services that will be sent out by organizing correctly and casting a large net in communications.

He is looking for people to come forward to serve on these committees. In addition to an executive committee he proposed a disaster case management committee for the one-on-one work that will be involved with quake survivors who need help planning the construction and other efforts; a construction committee, which will oversee the actual work of repairing and rebuilding homes; a finance committee to address the handling of funds to underwrite the work being done; and a communications committee to keep information flowing to the media and others. Those are in addition to the existing unmet needs committee, which seeks to help with projects more immediate in nature.

Examples of properly naming and scoping out the future role of the organization include what it will be funded to offer. Being prepared for future disasters is important for those traumatized by the most recent ones, he says, so allowing that concept into the mission statement permits donors to fund efforts to help survivors get ready for future events. (For more on disaster preparation measures being taken and those you can take, see the story, page 3).

Amy Nilsen, Humboldt County coordinator for the recovery effort, announced at the meeting that there were 15 households still currently staying in motels; 85 houses that had been deemed unsafe (red tagged) and 241 that were yellow-tagged and still needed repair. Nineteen homes of the initial 346 damaged in the quakes have been repaired and re-inspected and are considered completed.

She shared additional information including Rio Dell demographics that affect recovery efforts: residents are split between home owners (52 percent) and renters (48 percent) and the household income of 70 percent of the community is below \$50,000/year.

Habitat for Humanity and Hope Crisis Action Network are two organizations that have signed on to play major roles in the actual re-construction of damaged homes or the building of new ones. In its news release, Habitat for Humanity’s Yuba/Sutter County chapter announced that “through its Disaster Risk Reduction and Response program, it will provide management and oversight services related to home rebuilding and rehabilitation for low to very low-income homeowners and residents who have been displaced, or whose homes have sustained significant damage, as a result of the recent earthquakes.”

“Through our experience with disaster relief, the one thing we have learned is that every disaster is unique,” said Joseph Hale, Habitat for Humanity Yuba/Sutter CEO. “However, what is similar are the struggles families face with being displaced. Our goal at Habitat is to not forget the compassion that goes along with this work as we coordinate with the Office of Emergency Services (OES), the County of Humboldt, and the City of Rio Dell in serving those in need by creating a fast-moving, streamlined process.



Patron Kitchen owner Geraldo Gonzales shows \$1,000 check he received from the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce to help with quake repairs. It was one of five such checks presented to area businesses, made possible by an anonymous donation .



Kiwanis slates second annual bingo bash

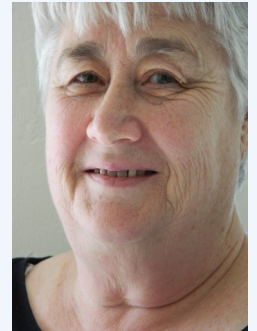
The Rio Dell-Scotia Kiwanis is planning its second annual Bingo Bash on Friday, April 14 at the River Lodge in Fortuna. It all starts with a social hour and custom nacho dinner with dessert at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m.

Advance tickets, which cover admission, a bingo card for 10 games, a free beverage and dinner, are \$40 each, or \$50 at the door. Tickets are available at Palco Pharmacy in Scotia, and Green's Pharmacy in Fortuna.

Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase including a "Lucky Sunrise." There will be auction prizes that include a cord of firewood, local gift cards, cookies and more.

Scotia Band honors band manager, completes move to Swiss Hall

Scotia Band has named chamber board member Sharon Holt as the first recipient of its Henry Bender Artistic Guardian Award. Bender was a charter member of Scotia Band in 1935 who dedicated 58 years to the vision of the organization. "In addition to his musical contribution as a talented woodwind player, he was instrumental in maintaining the unseen business management of the band. Henry volunteered in the capacity of band manager from 1935 to 1985, and then also served as a member of the board of directors, band secretary, librarian, and historian," the award announcement explained.



SHARON HOLT

The award was established to recognize similar unheard and unseen volunteers in Humboldt County non-profit arts organizations who give selflessly of their time, energy, and talents to handle details necessary to keep art alive in our community.

Holt was honored for her years of managing many aspects of the band's operation which the award announcement notes have included "taking over the roles of librarian, historian, band manager and board chair, helping to get the heavy music boxes and equipment to the performances, measuring band members for new uniforms, putting together and creating music for our small groups, and generally being the 'go to' person for the band. With all of that she also manages to find time to play her flute!"

For those wanting more information on the Henry Bender Artistic Guardian Award, go to http://scotiaband2.org/Scotia_Band_Henry_Bender_Award.html

In other news, the band has completed the transfer of ownership for Swiss Hall at 5403 Tomkins Hill Road in Loleta. Reportedly built as a school in the 1880s it was bought and converted into a meeting hall in 1956 as the home of the Humboldt Swiss Club. The band practices at the hall on Monday nights at 7 p.m., which the public is invited to attend.

From the library – kids' stuff resumes

The Rio Dell library is resuming children's story time on Saturday mornings, at 10:30 a.m. This is before the library officially opens at 11. A seasonal or story-related craft project will be offered about once a month as well.

Also coming back after being paused during Covid is the Pat Smith Memorial Play Collection, a rotating series of 21 children's activities that are moved around the library system in rotation, which children can use in the library during its open hours.

Smith, active in the Eureka library, left funds to finance the collection of toys, upon her death.



April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

Getting ready for the next disaster

While the focus for many is on clearing up the mess caused in the most recent quakes, the potential remains of more disasters to come in future weeks, months or years, given the history of floods and earthquakes, landslides and more, in the region. Rio Dell City Manager Kyle Knopp told 50 people on a Zoom call addressing local recovery needs that “getting this right” will help not only the local community going forward but also the county, by having a blueprint to respond to needs that arise in a disaster.

To that end, a grant has been requested to fund a regional “resilience center” that would be located on the Volunteer Fire Department land in Rio Dell. If received, the \$8 million in funds would come from the state Department of Food and Agriculture and serve the broader southern Humboldt County. Nick Angeloff, chamber president, learned of the availability of the grant and applied for it with the support of the fire department, community resource center and others.

On another scale is personal resilience, and to that end area residents have posted their disaster preparation and survival tips and solutions on the various Facebook Neighborhood Watch pages. Suggestions include using baby-safe latches that keep one’s cabinet doors shut so things don’t fall out and break, and museum putty, which will hold items on shelves and protect against breakage as well. Both can be purchased at a hardware store.



Googling “disaster preparation tips” can provide lists of additional considerations from organizations like the Red Cross (redcross.org) and ready.gov, a website maintained by the Department of Homeland Security. Ideas include having a personalized ‘go’ bag of things like needed medicines, a couple changes of clothes, and a spare pair of eyeglasses to grab when one needs to evacuate; having hard-soled shoes by the bed to walk across broken glass and other objects resulting from a disaster, to escape a home in the night, and ways to contact family out of the area and provide for pets. While the memory is fresh of the challenges faced in recent quakes, it might be a good idea to spend a few minutes to learn how to avoid future harm to one’s prized keepsakes, and to lessen the clean-up required.

A more long-term and costly commitment is strengthening homes and infrastructure against disasters, and here techniques such as brace and bolt foundation bindings are recommended for many types of homes common in the area. The cost of a couple thousand dollars is prohibitive to many but cheap compared to the expense faced when homes fall off the foundation. Grants of various types and amounts can be sought to help finance the procedure, depending on the house type and age and income level of the owners. Check earthquakebracebolt.com for more about the program, developed by the state earthquake authority and the governor’s office of emergency services (Cal OES). Applications for funding open October 18 of this year. Home owners can sign up on the site to be reminded when the application period opens this fall.

Once grants have been distributed, homeowners can choose to do the work themselves. If they need to contract with a firm to complete the installation, they need to select one on the site’s directory of qualified installers. There are five listed for Humboldt County, one in Fortuna and four in Eureka, Arcata and McKinleyville. Additional installers are being sought and can qualify by taking free, online training in the procedure through a program offered by FEMA. Some counties have firms doing this work exclusively, media write-ups have noted, so contractors and construction firms wanting to add this tool to their kit of services can probably find additional business.



Backup, Backup, Backup!

By Billy Joe Long, PSA Computer Services



Reliable backups are the backbone of your “Disaster Recovery Plan” and “Business Continuity Plan.” Catastrophe can hit any business, no matter how small or big you are, and catastrophes can come in many forms such as fire, hardware failure or “ransomware.” The more data lost, the the greater the impact on your business. Part of getting your business back up and running after a disaster is being able to restore operations to where they were before the problem occurred. Businesses which have learned the value of backups employ the 3-2-1-0 backup rule. Let’s take a quick look at each one of these rules.

Rule 3: Maintain at least three copies of your data and applications. That’s the one copy you’re using and two backups. This way, if one of your backups is unavailable for any reason, you can still recover what you need in a reasonable amount of time.

Rule 2: Store your backups on at least two different types of media. One reason for this is each type of media has its own vulnerabilities, and you don’t want both of your backups susceptible to the same problem. By utilizing different media, you can reduce your exposure to the same incident preventing access to both of your backups.

Rule 1: Keep one of the backups in a different location. Consider a catastrophe at your business, such as a break-in, fire or natural disaster. If all of your backups are at the same location, they will all be affected. This can result in total data loss for your business.

Rule 0: Verify your recovery plan has zero errors. It is not uncommon for businesses to implement a backup plan but fail to verify it is performing as expected. Regular testing is critical to ensuring you can recover your business data and applications in the event of a disaster.

It doesn’t matter if you are a business or home computer user, if you have anything on your computer that matters to you, it is your responsibility to make sure you have a backup plan in place. In my 20+ years of experience in the IT industry I have seen brand new hard drives fail within 90 days of purchase. I have seen years of family pictures

vanish by accidental deletion and I have seen “un-tested” backups fail to restore important business files – files which everybody “thought” were being backed up.


If you are unsure of your "backup" status, give PSA Computer Services a call at (707) 506-6802.

HWMA is Extending the Free Tire Recycling Program until 2023!

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.

Call or email us for details:

268-8680 or programs@hwma.net

 Humboldt Waste Management Authority
1059 W. Hawthorne St., Eureka, CA 95501
www.hwma.net

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

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