

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Wildwood Days Schedule Inside



Local cookie biz serves national clientele

Cookies are My Canvas, which opened in a storefront adjacent to the Rio Dell post office (see February, 2019 issue of this publication, archived here: riodellscotiachamber.org/newsletter-aroundtown/), then closed during Covid, has just completed its first year as a re-engineered business, serving a nation-wide customer base, now called GratitudeGiftCompany.com. Original business partners Stormi Davis and Kimber Timmerman have been joined by Sherry Ann Scrima, a San Diego realtor, and her husband Kirk, who works in mortgage lending.



The new partnership was launched after Kirk Scrima saw a gift basket that Davis and Timmerman put together for a local lender he knew, and contacted them. He thought it would be a great idea to take that product line to the next level. Realtors and mortgage lenders often present their clients with gifts at certain points in their relationship, for instance when the loan is approved or the house closes or the buyer moves in, and a business that creates and sends these gifts saves work in the busy lives of the real estate marketing and loan professionals.

Davis and Timmerman, meanwhile, were considering options that included selling the business after dealing with the changes that came about during and after Covid, and had contacted an appraiser to see how much it was worth. “Kirk talked us out of it,” they say.

“The first year we opened here (as Cookies are My Canvas), we drew no pay, investing everything in the business,” Davis said. “We did it again, last year,” and together with the investment of their new partners, the Scrimas, have a polished website, GratitudeGiftCompany.com; a chest-freezer-sized piece of equipment that transfers designs from a computer and engraves them in wooden cutting boards (one of the gift items in the product line); and stacks of specially-designed, sophisticated-looking boxes for shipping cookies (that list the ingredients on the bottom) and cutting boards, along with enclosed notes that are designed and printed off the computer with the message, name and business logo of the realtor or mortgage loan officer who is sending the package. (Continued on Page 4.)

How to be involved in Dolly Parton’s book give-away locally

You have the chance to contribute to, and/or have your family benefit from, an early childhood literacy program sponsored by singer-songwriter Dolly Parton that sends a free book each month to children under five years of age. The Bridgeville Community Center is serving as the affiliate non-profit to receive funds donated by the public on behalf of recipient families in Humboldt County and the communities of Mad River and Ruth in Trinity County. More than 600 children have been signed up locally, representing 10 percent of the children in the target age range in the area the program serves.

Parton was inspired to begin this program nearly 30 years ago because her own father was unable to read. With the help of community partners such as the Bridgeville Community Center locally, the program sends over a million age-appropriate books to young children in the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and the Republic of Ireland every month from the time a child is enrolled until the month he or she turns five. She gave away the 200th million book last month. (Continued on Page 4.)

WILDWOOD DAYS 2023 SCHEDULE

Thursday August 3 Downtown Rio Dell

Rio Dell/Scotia Bridge closed for BBQ Cook Off 10am
Hill Honey and the Wildcats 3pm
Wild West Reenactment 4:30pm
Elderberry Rust String Band 5pm
BBQ Cookoff Winners announced, downtown 5:30pm
Fire Muster sign up downtown 6pm
Fire Muster starts 6:30pm
Mingo's Karaoke 8:30pm

Friday August 4 Downtown Rio Dell

Ernie Cannady Cruise & BBQ @ DJ's Burger Bar 5:30 - 9pm
Fire Truck Rides @ Cedar St. & Sequoia Ave. 6 - 7pm
Dennis Wendt Women's Softball Tourney @ Rio Dell Firemen's Ball Field 6pm
Kids Night: Penny Scramble, Soap Box Derby, Bouncers, Shaved Ice, Cotton Candy,
Face Painting @ Shotz's Coffee parking lot 6 - 8pm
4th Annual Street Dance with Under the Influence @ DJ's Burger Bar 9 - 11pm

Saturday August 5 Rio Dell Firemen's Park *

Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast @ Rio Dell School 8 - 11am
Bocce Tourney 9am
Dennis Wendt Women's Softball Tourney 9am
Vendors & Craft Fair 10am
Book Sale @ Library 10am
Corn Hole Tournament @ Rio Dell School Gym 12pm
Parade -Theme: Back in the Saddle Again 12pm

Music Festival in the Park:

The Riving 12-12:45
The Melange 1-2:10
Sound Doctrine Band 2:30-3:15
Layla Dias 3:30-4
Knights of the Van Dozen 4:20-5:20
Triple Tones 5:40-7:40
Under the Influence 8-11

Texas Holdem Tourney 7pm
Tri-Tip BBQ 7pm
Fireworks @ Rio Dell School Field 9:45pm

Sunday August 6 Rio Dell Firemen's Park *

Dennis Wendt Women's Softball Tourney 9am
Car Show & Shine 9am in front of City Hall
Duck Race @ Rio Dell Fire Hall 9am
Vendors & Craft Fair 10am Book Sale @ Library 10am
Scotia Band & Firemen's Bar-B-Que 12pm
Live Firemen's Auction 1pm

*Except as noted

Notes and News

Join in the fun at the community garden

Join your friends, and make new ones, Fridays at the Rio Dell Community Garden at 100 Butcher Street Rio Dell (adjacent to the First Baptist Church).

The volunteer-run garden has been a source of enjoyment for many local gardeners—expert and novice alike—for years, Community Resource Center coordinator Sarah Rebak says, noting one example of the collaboration and education happening there is Debra Loyd.

“Last year she decided to rent a gardening bed to grow her own crops and learn about horticulture—her three-year-old joins on watering and weeding days. Other volunteers bring their children to the garden as well, providing a source of entertainment and education for all involved. The sense of camaraderie extends beyond these outdoor playdates; there is a collaborative aspect to the garden wherein volunteers will tend to others’ plants if needed, teach newcomers gardening skills, and partner with local organizations to donate food (such as Meals On Wheels last year),” Rebak says.

The Community Resource Center has begun more organized efforts to collaborate with the Community Garden. For questions on how you can get involved, or to sign up, call the Community Resource Center at (707) 764-5239.

“Thank you!” to the Community Resource Center

The senior exercise group thanks the Community Resource Center for providing a place to exercise twice each week. Join them Mon. and Fri., 11:30 to 12:30, at 406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell.

Local archaeologist back from a dig

Nick Angeloff, chamber president and member of the Rio Dell planning commission, spent a month earlier this summer on a dig in Macedonia, a country bordering Greece. The work is connected with his role at Cal Poly Humboldt. He is scheduled to return this fall, and annually for the next decade. The story of how he was first brought into the project was related a year ago in this newsletter. “We were in the home town of Eurydice I, Alexander the Great’s grandmother,” he reported upon returning from this trip, uncovering things including coins dating to 323 B.C.

Scotia sports succulent garden



A new succulent garden was developed recently by members of the Community Services District board. The garden stands where the steam-powered logging equipment formerly was housed.

Join the chamber monthly board meeting

Join in at noon on the first Friday of the month to be part of the discussion about how to make our communities even better. You can ask questions, make suggestions and be among the first to know new plans. August 4 will be the next monthly meeting. Call in at 605.313.4802 and use access code 860467 or come to 440 Wildwood, two doors north of the chamber office at noon to participate.

(Local cookie biz serves national clientele Continued from Page One)

“I come here about one day each week and produce 1200 cookies,” Davis says. They are later decorated and frozen prior to shipping. Timmerman designs the image engraved in the black walnut cutting boards, which vary according to client, with decorative elements including the address of the new home the buyer purchased. The engraver does nine boards at a time, each with potentially a different message, and Timmerman completes about 70 boards per week. Sherry Ann Scrima manages the bookkeeping and billing from her home in San Diego. Boxes of cookies are taken next door to the post office to ship, and cutting boards are sent by UPS. The four partners meet weekly on Zoom.

Clients come from throughout the nation – “New Jersey, Florida, Missouri, . . .” Timmerman ticks off on her fingers. Realtors and lenders have learned of the business through a conference where Kirk Scrima spoke, and a podcast he does for real estate and loan firms. The business has done so well Davis said they may add an employee.

Anyone can purchase a gift basket on the website for any reason, Gratitudegiftcompany.com, Timmerman notes.

(How to be involved in Dolly Parton’s book give-away locally. Continued from Page One)

To receive a book each month in their homes, children must be signed up by a parent or guardian. Go to imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/CAHUMBOLDT/ to register online or contact the Bridgeville Community Center at 707.777.1775 to sign up on paper.



Donations to expand the reach of the program locally can be made by check to the Bridgeville Community Center, PO Box 3, Bridgeville, 95526 or online by going to the web page BridgevilleCommunityCenter.org, then clicking on Dolly’s Books in the tab at the top. That goes to a page listing many ways to participate, including dropping off money at any branch of Redwood Capital Bank.

Danielle Holway is executive director of the Bridgeville Community Center and says she got involved when a community member told her about the program. Rather than just serving the immediate area, Holway felt a wider reach would help more children and also open more funding opportunities. In addition to many individual donations, organizations like the McLean Foundation and a local chapter of Soroptimist International have contributed. A recently-passed bill in the California state senate gives a 50% match to any donation to the program, meaning a donation of \$13.50 gives a child a free book per month for a year.



Rio Dell-Scotia News

Is free of charge, published monthly by the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce and the Rio Dell Community Resource Center. Funded by local businesses and the St. Joseph Health System. 650 copies distributed in Rio Dell, Scotia, and Fortuna. **Deadline for September newsletter copy is August 11.**

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



Copyright 2023