

## Join the chamber!

Join or rejoin the Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce in 2018! Membership renewal letters will be going out soon. Membership is open to everyone

18 and over, whether or not you live or work in Rio Dell or Scotia. All that's needed is an interest in helping these communities be more successful. If you haven't been a member, or have let your membership lapse, this is a good time to consider joining. Why?

The chamber, working with other organizations in the area, strives to implement projects that people want. Each year the chamber works with the community resource center to host a tree lighting with live music, refreshments and Santa, at dusk on the first Saturday of December. This year's Christmas celebration is a key example of how personal, business, and non-profit donations together with hard work are bringing an expanded community celebration that it is hoped will grow each year and turn Rio Dell's main thoroughfare into the kind of holiday wonderland that people in other communities drive to see.

Another effort is the Sculptures on the Avenue project, where chamber members, working with other groups in the community, reignited the effort to have original art throughout the downtown area. Several members of the chamber board, gathering grant funding and collaborating with the city government and the arts district, played a key role in making this happen.

Each August, the chamber hosts a parade as part of Wildwood Days. Several times each year, its facilities at Wildwood and Columbus are used to host talks, forums and other events. Annual scholarships reward area youth at their 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. **Continued on page 3.**

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

DECEMBER  
2017

**TREE LIGHTING SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND:  
5 PM AT THE CHAMBER 406 WILDWOOD**

## DENNIS WENDT TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The town lights and tree lighting ceremony have been dedicated to Dennis Wendt honoring his contributions to our city for so many years. Mark your calendar and come launch the seasonal festivities at the tree lighting ceremony Sat., Dec. 2 at 5 p.m. The chamber will be hosting the annual event at its office, shared with the art gallery, at 406 Wildwood Ave., at the corner of Columbus and Wildwood. Meet Santa, enjoy refreshments provided by the Rio Dell Community Resource Center, and join in traditional Christmas caroling led by singers from the First Baptist Church. Enjoy the new decorations that will be festooning the median on Wildwood, some funded by grants and local businesses and others crafted by local persons. Last month's newsletter offered an advanced peek into the plans. Check opportunities listed under Notes & News on Page 2 this month to help others – there's a barrel for food donations and a Giving Tree with tags describing community children in need of a hand this year, both at the chamber, as well as at city hall.

### Whitchurch Engineering, a small-town business with big jobs



Whitchurch Engineering in Fortuna is a small, family business in its 21<sup>st</sup> year. Owners Leonard and Lisa Whitchurch are Humboldt County natives who believe in shopping locally, supporting hometown efforts and being involved in the local communities.



Leonard Whitchurch started the business in 1996, and is the principal engineer, vice president and chief financial officer. Lisa is the president and chief executive officer, meaning this is a woman-owned business. Their son Brett Whitchurch has now joined the team, which ranges in number from 24 employees to over 30 at times, having attained his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering. Dirk, the family's pet schnauzer, is on hand as the company mascot.

The list of company's services is long. Civil and structural engineering services top the list, with civil engineering referring to land development, permitting, road design, erosion control and soils reports, and structural engineering including structure design (an example would be the Fortuna fire hall) and seismic retrofits. Project examples are the North Coast Co-op, in a \$9 million project that used sustainable materials and practices to reinvent the Big Loaf Bakery building that stood on the store's present Eureka location. Three of the original walls and trusses from the bakery were able to be used in the final project.

The historic Benbow Inn has undergone a structural remodel including a five-story, 8,000 square foot building addition with an elevator and other accessibility renovations. With the Veterans Administration building in Eureka, a seismic retrofit to the former Safeway store was made possible due to innovative thinking in a situation that is not usually financially feasible, due to the building's 1960s design. **Continued on page 3.**

## Resource Center names new staff



Hannah Zivolich is the new food services program assistant at the Rio Dell Community Resource Center, working with the food-related programs, which include backpacks for kids, which supplies weekend food supplies for children facing food scarcity at home; the Food for People programs, the food pantry, and the community garden. She graduated from Humboldt State, majoring in Environmental Studies, and was part of a team that brought a community garden to campus which had been years in discussion, and in addition has worked at an organic vegetable farm in McKinleyville. Zivolich grew up in Southern California, in urban areas that included Santa Ana and Anaheim, and saw how important it was to be able to grow one's own food to take control of one's own life. "It's a big thing, it makes me happy," she says of being able to help people provide for their own families' dietary needs. Hearing of the opportunity in Rio Dell, therefore, she thought, "It sounds like a dream job."

## Sign up now for a spot in the community garden

While spring may seem a long way off, the Community Resource Center in Rio Dell is accepting applications for a plot in the community garden for 2018. Located on the property of the First Baptist Church, 100 Butcher Street in Rio Dell, the garden has been inactive for a couple years and is being re-started. Lumber for raised beds was donated by Forbusco Lumber in Fortuna and Root 101 Nursery in Rio Dell. Applications for a plot can be picked up and returned to the Rio Dell Community Resource Center at Wildwood and Monument. The price for a four by 10 foot plot is \$40 for the season. In addition, Hannah Zivolich, food programs manager at the resource center, says there will be community plots which can be shared and used for educational purposes, which she will oversee. The North Coast Community Garden Collaborative is assisting her in re-launching the garden, and people needing to do community services hours through Teen Court can get work assignments from her to work there. "I'm excited to be getting it off the ground," Zivolich says of the effort.

## Root 101 Nursery serving up waffles, and more

Root 101 Nursery in Rio Dell is now serving Wildwood Waffles, the long-awaited food treat, at its corner café and drive-through window. Manager Keira Porter notes the batter is made from scratch, and the coffee, from Chronic Coffee in McKinleyville, is fair trade and certified USDA organic. While an initial menu of "sweet" waffle options includes those dusted with toppings like powdered sugar, cinnamon, maple butter and blackberry jam, a "savory" menu is expected shortly with meat and egg fillings. Owner Harry Smith notes that he was looking for something unique to offer, and remembered a "waffle taco" store down the street from where he lived in Portland, Oregon. "I loved the concept, the simplicity," he said of the place that had become his breakfast stop. Other product lines are springing up at the business, as well. It is selling Christmas trees, from three to eight feet tall, and live wreaths, as well as tree stands. The Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department is not selling trees this year, because they were unavailable from their source, according to Chief Shane Wilson. The nursery, in a move to expand its hardware line, is selling three sizes of propane gas tank and shoppers can fill or refill tanks with Sequoia gas, from an onsite supply. The sales force has been certified in the handling of propane, as part of the propane installation project. A few brands of dog food are available, and the staff is looking at other animal foods, as well as being able to handle special orders, like a pallet of cattle feed awaiting pick-up. Another roll-out will be the sale of Makita power tools.



## Rio Dell City Hall gets new trees



Four flowering cherry trees have been planted on the city hall lawn to replace the trees removed when a section of the median area was taken out of Wildwood Avenue to allow trucks to turn into the property of Root 101 Nursery. The trees were purchased from Miller Farms in McKinleyville by Root 101.

## Rio Dell school news

Trimester awards for K-5th grade students will be on Dec. 1. Students in grades 4-8 will be going to the ice rink in Fortuna on Dec. 5. Monthly awards for students in grades K-5 will be given on Dec 8. The monthly school board meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 13. The Winter Concert will be from 6 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 21. Early release will be at 1 p.m. on Dec. 22, and winter break will be Dec. 25 to Jan. 5.

## Scotia school news

The Parent-Teacher Organization will meet on Dec. 6 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. The school board will meet on Dec. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. A music concert featuring students from kindergarten to Grade 4 will be Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. A concert by advanced groups will be Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Winter break is from Dec. 23 to Jan. 7.

## Conservation Corps has paid jobs

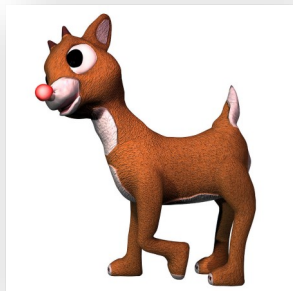
People from age 18 to 25 can get a paid job with the California Conservation Corps. Gear is supplied, and room and board, if needed. Participants can complete high school, get transportation to and from job sites, and earn scholarship money while helping revitalize landscapes and parks, improving forest health, building trails, working on fish habitat restoration, and responding to damage from floods, forest fires, oil spills and earthquakes. People interested should text or call Kaci at 273-8520. Veterans up to age 29 can get paid training in the Fortuna area monitoring salmon habitat by collecting data to determine the effectiveness of habitat restoration. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is partnering with the CCC in the effort. Participants will have the opportunity to attend a community college for free, have health insurance while in the program, and get assistance with job placement. For more information, contact Mark at 725-5106.

## Whitchurch Cont. from Page 1:

Whitchurch's business usually comes from within Humboldt County but engineering prices are much steeper in urban areas. It sometimes makes sense for clients outside the area to retain the firm, depending on the nature of the work. In one such example, the historic building housing the Fortuna Theater was renovated to add three screening rooms, which led to the firm doing similar work in other theaters also owned by the Cinema West chain in places like Petaluma, Livermore, Sonoma and Tiburon. The company gets much of its business from word of mouth but also looks to web sites and sources like the Humboldt Builders Exchange for leads about upcoming work which the Whitchurches discuss with the engineering manager, Darren Tully, prior to putting together a business proposal.

A major undertaking since 2009 has been the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant owned by Pacific Gas & Electric in Eureka. Leonard leads the engineering projects at the Humboldt Bay site and projects are expected to continue for another couple years. At this site the nuclear reactor was uniquely designed and engineering efforts to remove the components took creative ideas. Industry experts from around the world have visited the plant to view the engineering-related projects.

With a majority of its clients in Humboldt County, Whitchurch Engineering plans to open an additional location in Eureka this spring. Be on the lookout for more information over the next few months.



**Chanukkah begins  
Dec. 13.**



## Chamber Continued from Page 1:



The area, shared with the Eagle Prairie Arts District, provides gallery space for area artists to show and sell their work, and offers office space to start-up businesses under the business stimulator program begun several years ago. A visitor's center draws tourists for information, exposing them to the art and other products sold, and wifi is available for people wishing to connect with the Internet. A monthly newsletter, Facebook page and website provide current information, and a new history site keeps people aware of our rich past.

Business matters are handled in a monthly board meeting that is open to the public, and held at noon on the first Friday at the chamber office, 406 Wildwood Ave., in Rio Dell. A noon social lunch takes place on the third Tuesday at the Pizza Factory, where a pizza buffet and salad bar is provided for under \$10 per person, including beverage and tax.

A membership costs just \$35 per year for an individual, \$40 for a couple, and \$50 for a business. For those wanting to support efforts such as those described, higher levels of membership are available: Bronze, for \$250/year; Silver, for \$500/year, and Gold for \$1,000/year. Many organizations have already committed to these higher levels. Examples of Silver members for 2018 are Aqua Dam, Kreations, the Rio Dell Police Officer's Association, Root 101 Nursery, Rio Dell Fire Protection District, PMD, DIOS-Biotech, Recology, Wendt Construction, Town of Scotia LLC, Scott Moore Trucking, Shotz Coffee, and more will be featured in upcoming issues of this newsletter. Join them, and join the chamber, to make our communities stronger! Just download our application from the chamber web site ([www.riodellscotiachamber.org](http://www.riodellscotiachamber.org)), call at 707.506.5081, email at [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com) or write to: Chamber of Commerce, 406 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, CA 95562.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED AND HELPED INSTALL ALL THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!**

- REDI-RENTS FOR THE MANLIFT
- RICHTER CONSTRUCTION FOR THEIR MANLIFT AND TIME
- JENNY AND MARK GILLAM, AND BRYSON GILLAM-ESTRADA
- JODI AND DECHO ANGELOFF
- CHELSEA WHITCHURCH
- MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCIL MEMBERS TIM MARKS, DEBRA GARNES, SUE STRAHAN, GORDON JOHNSON
- TRACY O'CONNELL
- JIM BRICKLEY OF JIM BRICKLEY PAINTING
- BOB CLOSE
- CITY OF RIO DELL
- RANDY JENSON
- CAMERON YAPLE
- CC CATERING FOR LUNCH!
- HRC
- HUMBOLDT GABLES MOTEL
- KREATIONS
- ROOT 101
- DIOS-BIOTECH
- RIO DELL POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
- RIO DELL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
- TOWN OF SCOTIA LLC
- WENDT CONSTRUCTION
- RECOLOGY
- SCOTT MOORE TRUCKING
- SHOTZ COFFEE

SPECIAL THANKS TO SHANE WILSON AND ANDREW GONZALES FOR THEIR ADVICE AND BRIAN HOLT OF CLYDES TOWING FOR GETTING US OUT OF A MUDDY MESS!



### **From the Community Resource Center:**

The Center will be closed Dec. 18, 21, 25 and Jan. 1. The office will be open Dec. 26 to 28 but only from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### **Contribute to the Food For People Holiday Food Barrels**

Barrels are located at the Rio Dell city hall and the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce. All donations will go to feeding Rio Dell and Scotia families during this holiday season.

### **Help a family with the Giving Tree**

The Rio Dell Community Resource Center needs your help to bring presents to our community. We will have Giving Trees at City of Rio Dell and the Chamber of Commerce; you can grab a tag and return the present you purchase that is intended for that person, at either location or at the Rio Dell Community Resource Center. The last day to drop off a present will be Dec. 14.

### **First Five Playgroup:**

We have our First Five Playgroup on Fridays, in the Early Head Start classroom (95 Center St), from 10 a.m. to noon. We have a new Playgroup Leader named Nicole and she's so excited to meet our community families!

### **December Holiday Distributions:**

Call the Rio Dell CRC to find out when your holiday food distribution date is.

### **Food distribution set**

The Bread for Life Pantry commodities distribution will be the 3rd Thursday of the month (Dec. 21) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you can't make it, please call the Rio Dell Community Resource Center to see how you can still receive your monthly food box.

### **Emergency Food:**

Running low on food this week? Come get a bag for your family or just for yourself; no income verification needed.

### **CalFresh/CalWorks:**

Do you know if you are eligible for either CalFresh or CalWorks? Come find out how to qualify and apply for both programs. You can also apply for CalFresh, CalWorks and MediCal at [www.cyourself.com](http://www.cyourself.com).

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



### **Rio Dell-Scotia News**

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Submissions deadline for January newsletter copy is December 17.

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

**St. Joseph Health** 

St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial

### **Ongoing Events**

**Senior Brown Bag Program:** Food boxes given the 2nd Thursday of every month for local seniors. Boxes distributed from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 325 2nd Ave. in Rio Dell. To sign up call Food for People at 445-3166.

**Rio Dell Library:** Tuesday-11-4, Wednesday - 1-6, Saturday- 11-4

There is a First 5 Puppet Story Time every Saturday at 11 a.m. 715 Wildwood Ave., 764-3333.

**Emergency Food:** Running low on food this week? Get a bag for your family or just for yourself at:

- **The Community Resource Center:** 99 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell, no income verification is needed.
- **The Journey Church:** 95 Belleview Ave. Rio Dell, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **Bread for Life Food Pantry:** 143 Main Street, Scotia, 3rd Thursday, from 10 am -2 p.m., For more info call 764-5239.

**Clothing Closet:** **Ruth's Room:** 100 Butcher St., Rio Dell, Rio Dell Baptist Church, Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 764-3811 for more information.

**Women's Health Project:** Breast and Gynecology Eel River Valley Outreach Center: 707-726-7919 or 825-8345.

**Friday Playgroups:** We have a new Playgroup leader named Nicole and she's so excited to meet our community families! The Community Resource Center provides a First Five playgroup Fridays 10 a.m. to noon at the Early Head Start classroom, 95 Center St., Rio Dell.

**SAIL:** Staying Active and Independent Living helps prevent falls and broken bones. This free program meets noon- 1 p.m. Mon., Wed., and Fri. at the Rio Dell Baptist Church, 100 Butcher St. Call Susan at 407-8707. Join us!

**Monday Storytime:** Families with children 0-5 years old are welcome to join Community Resource Center staff at the Eagle Prairie School library room, Mondays from 8:20 to 9:20 a.m. to develop childhood literacy through stories and crafts. Snacks are provided.

**Free Produce Available:** Those whose households qualify based on income are reminded of the monthly Mobile Produce Pantry that comes to the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Food for People at 445-3166.