



Rio Dell-Scotia News

Decorations a team effort

The holiday lights and other decorations in Memorial Park and the median in Rio Dell are a team effort, led by the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce but made possible by the work and donations of many. A large number of chamber members joined at the Silver (\$500) membership level last year, enabling the purchase of an expanded array of lights across Wildwood Avenue and on the trees in Memorial Park. They include Aqua Dam, Dayle's Diesel, Humboldt Redwood Company, Kreations Auto Body, Ecology Eel River, Root 101 Nursery, Richter Construction, the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Dept., Fire Protection Dist., and Police Officers' Association, and individuals including Rodney and Amde Hamilton as well as business owners who are constructing projects in the industrial park that have not yet become local names (stay tuned for future issues).

As the 2019 membership drive gets underway, other businesses are taking advantage of the opportunity to contribute as well, with Shotz Coffee the most recent. In addition, Brian Davis' U Haul, DJ's Burger Bar and The Pizza Factory are among those planning to purchase a shooting star to be mounted on light poles in the city.

Many others provided "in kind" work – hours spent hanging lights, donating use of lifts, providing power, and painting and varnishing the wooden cut-outs retrieved from a warehouse where they had been stored for years.

Dorothy Johnson, Virginia Sifford, Carole Arrington and Ken Davis are among the painters, showing up at Root 101 Nursery where materials were laid out in a back room on a number of Saturdays. Chamber board members Nick Angeloff and Jim Brickley head the effort, which has been ongoing throughout the yeagathering funds and working out logistics.

Meet a chamber member: KREATIONS

Left to right, Deedra Ambrosini, office manager; owner Kevin Bradley; Halie Jones, customer service and Jesse Boomer, marketing.



The auto industry is changing in ways that demand more training and knowledge for auto body firms like Kreations in Rio Dell. Innovations like self-driving cars, back-up cameras and adaptive cruise control (which causes a car to slow down or speed up in response to the actions of the car ahead) mean that repairing a car after an accident involves attending to the calibration of these things, too, forming a merger of auto mechanic and auto body repair skills. So the folks at Kreations are proud of a recent certification by I-CAR which refers to the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair, an international not-for-profit organization providing training to perform safe and quality auto repairs. Its Gold Class certification means that all technicians on staff are at the required level of training which according to industry statistics means that Kreations is in the top 10 percent of collision-repair businesses in the country.

The certification opens the way for area car dealerships to certify Kreations staff to work on cars of the makes and models sold in that dealership. Such a connection has been formed already with Honda and Fiat Chrysler.

Up above the sprawling shop floor, with a variety of cars in various bays, there's a renovation going on to create a large conference room to use for training, among other purposes. "Teaching people is part of what we do," Jesse Boomer says of Kreations, which employs 27 people between its Rio Dell and McKinleyville locations. Boomer, who handles marketing for the firm, explains that it is important to work with insurance agents, who sometimes don't know the considerations that go into auto body repair, which their clients need to know when making a claim. That field, too, is changing, he adds, referencing a website where someone can upload a photo of a car that has been in an accident to know if it can be repaired. Kreations staff learn of such advances through industry partnerships.

Boomer takes a visitor through the shop to show the laser equipment that measures a car frame to determine the degree to which it needs to be brought back into calibration, noting that cars today typically have 20 or more computers on board which a repair shop needs to have working correctly after a wreck, as well addressing the more typical auto body tasks of pounding out dings or repainting a door panel. Kreations subscribes to a service that updates the information on each new model of car from all the manufacturers to know what requirements must be met to ensure the car is prepared to go back into service with all its computers working correctly.

Kreations is one of several auto body firms in the county that accepts College of the Redwoods students studying Collision Repair, on an "externship" program in which they rotate through various shops, getting on-the-job experience. "We're always hiring when we find the right person," Boomer adds. **Continued pg. 3**

Tree-lighting party to be held at chamber

The annual tree-lighting ceremony will take place Saturday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce and art gallery building, 406 Wildwood Ave., in Rio Dell, at Columbus. Come for refreshments, meet Santa, greet the elves, and enjoy caroling. This family-friendly event is co-sponsored by the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce and the Community Resource Center.

Annual holiday play to be staged at Winema

Around the World in 80 Days is the name of the holiday-themed play being performed by Dell Arte International this year; the play will be performed at the Winema Theater in Scotia starting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3. It is free to the public bringing an item for a local food pantry.

Dollar Store offers local giving opportunities

The Dollar Store in Rio Dell is collecting donations to be given to local families, manager Shawna Gutierrez announces. Last year, the store collected four “huge” boxes, Gutierrez notes, indicating sizes three feet wide and high, which were given to a regional charity. This year the focus is on helping families in Rio Dell and Scotia, and donations will be made through existing channels such as the Community Resource Center, or the Kiwanis Club, of which Gutierrez is a member.

People wishing to donate may buy a toy or clothing item and place it in the box, bring a new item purchased elsewhere, or donate money which the store staff will use to purchase large and small gift items for children in need.

Gutierrez, who began as manager at the Dollar Store in September, 2017, oversees a staff of 11. She describes one, Debbie Drake, as a leader in starting this giving effort to help thank the community for its patronage, and notes that in the fall, a similar drive was held to garner school supplies for needy children in Rio Dell and Scotia schools, with, again, several large boxes of all types of supplies delivered to the schools for distribution. “The first person Debbie asked if she would like to donate, went out to her car and came back with \$100,” Gutierrez notes of Drake’s role.



More giving by area businesses

Two companies outside of town have donated \$400 between them to the local Kiwanis chapter to fund socks and shoes for students at local schools. They are Bear Creek Farms and Myers Flat Farms.

Burger Bar addresses sewer line woes

DJ’s Burger Bar in Rio Dell has been closed for more than a month, with no re-opening date in sight, according to owner Dorothy Johnson. A sewer line break resulted in the need for repairs that were difficult to come by, as potential contractors were too busy to tackle the job until next year, if at all. The break was located under the building which sits on a concrete slab, making access difficult.

Johnson notes her son, who had worked construction in Alaska and gained experience in a variety of trades, ultimately completed the job for her, but finishing work remains. Meanwhile, she is using the down time to address indoor upgrades such as painting, as well as volunteering (see story about holiday decorations, page 1)

Dollar Store sets expanded hours

The Dollar Store is now open at 7 a.m. and remains open until 11 p.m. seven days a week, notes manager Shawna Gutierrez.

Scotia Community Services District relocates

The Scotia Community Services District has moved to 400 Church Street in Scotia, the former child care center.

Kiwanis sets officers for new chapter

Recently named leaders for the new, Rio Dell-Scotia chapter of Kiwanis International are Harry Smith, president; Connie Griffith-O’Neal, vice president; Marilyn Ross, treasurer; Dana Webb, secretary; and board members Carole Arrington, Rachel Sovereign, and Mike O’Neal.

Rio Dell businesses sue Cal-Trans

Thirteen businesses which provided paperwork requesting compensatory funds from Cal-Trans for lost income during the closure of the Eagle Prairie Bridge earlier this year, have received notice that their claims were rejected and they are now planning to work individually through Small Claims Court to seek reimbursement.

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(Kreations continued from Page 1)

Kreations was founded in 1999 by owner Kevin Bradley who has a reputation as one of the industry's elite builders of hot rods, street rods, and pro-touring cars, as noted on the company website. The firm works on high-end cars for clients living as far away as Canada, Hawaii, and the East Coast. While winning awards at prestigious events and being featured in industry magazines, Bradley was asked to take on auto repair as well, creating a dual track in the shop, with the repairing of wrecks taking place alongside the preparation of show cars that might take eight months to complete. Some projects fall in-between, like a Chevy Suburban being redone as an adventure vehicle by a woman who wants to share with her young family the type of travels she enjoyed with her dad, who had previously owned the vehicle.

From its impeccably clean lounge with its welcoming gas fireplace, leather seating and crystal-clear aquarium housing tropical fish to the friendly vibe of massive Great Danes snoozing on couches in the office, Kreations reaches out to customers at both ends of the automotive spectrum. The firm works with car rental firms for those car owners who need to get to work while their collision damage is being repaired, but also keeps a half-dozen loaner cars on hand to offer, free, to those whose insurance doesn't cover that option. In addition, Kreations staff take part in area events, as Silver chamber members enabling holiday lighting and other efforts at local community betterment, as well as participating in fun activities like the three-day Kinetic Sculpture Race from Arcata to Ferndale in human-powered machines.



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Directory structure and file name conventions

When storing data we, as responsible digital citizens, need to ensure our directory structures and file names are readable and well organized. This ensures the digital information stored within your company (or home) can be retrieved efficiently and accurately. Let's start this discussion by looking at a few directory structure conventions and a usage example.

As with most things in life, consistency is critical. Organize directories in a way that makes sense to anyone working within your home or company, and then stick to it. I work from a home-based office, so my computer contains not only personal data (pictures, documents, etc.), but also business data. The root of my storage directory structure clearly describes that distinction by providing two directories: 'Personal' and 'Business.'

Once the initial directories were in place, I began to make more distinctions about the type of data the directory contained by using descriptive names and nesting related directories, where appropriate, in a hierarchical fashion.

For example: let's say you have hundreds (or more) pictures collected over many years. First, create a 'Pictures' directory (one probably already exists on your computer). Then organize the pictures further by creating a year directory within it: 2018, 2019, etc. Then within each year directory you could include month directories, for example JAN, FEB, etc. This directory structure can be as simple or complex as necessary. I adhere to the 'keep it simple and consistent' policy. Next, let's take a look at 'File Naming Conventions.'

A file name should be distinguishable among other files. Groups of files should be easily sorted for efficient reviewing and searching. File names should also be unique. Over time files can be moved and without the existing folder structure, important descriptive information about the contents of the file could be lost. Carefully consider whether your filename would be meaningful outside of your directory structure.

Here are four guidelines I use consistently:

1) If the date the file was created is important, include it in the filename. If you are going to use the date, pick a format and stick to it. I like to use the MMDDYY format (two-digit month, two-digit day, two-digit year). 2) if the file is related to a project, consider using an abbreviation of the project name as part of the file name. 3) if the file is part of a multi-organizational effort, consider using your organization's initials in the name. Be sure your initials are unique among the other involved organizations. 4) if there will be multiple versions of the file, consider using a 'zero padded' numbering system as part of the name. You will need to make an educated guess as to how many versions there may be, and pad the version number appropriately. At a minimum, I pad file versions with two zeros, e.g. 001, 002, etc.

Finally, here is a list of the "Do's and Don'ts" of file naming:

1) Don't use spaces and punctuation, except for the hyphen and underscore. 2) Do use underscore or "camelCase" between file name elements, e.g. my_data_file.txt or myDataFile.txt. Neither approach is better - but whichever one you pick, stick to it! 3) Don't use spaces, tabs, semicolons or periods in your filename. 4) Do try to keep the file name to a maximum of 25 characters in length if possible.

A well-thought-out directory structure coupled with an equally well-thought-out file naming convention makes searching and sorting information a straightforward task. If you work at a company, check if they have guidelines for directory and file naming conventions ... they really should! One day we will retire; will the guy or gal replacing us be able to find anything efficiently? It's up to us!

Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Submissions deadline for January newsletter copy is December 14

Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at

506-5081 to advertise.

St. Joseph Health

St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial

Ongoing Events

CalFresh/CalWorks:

Do you know if you are eligible for either CalFresh or CalWorks? Come to the Community Resource Center to find out how to qualify and apply for both programs. You can also apply for CalFresh, CalWorks and MediCal at www.cyourself.com.

Senior Brown Bag Program: Food boxes given the **2nd Thursday** of every month for local seniors. Boxes distributed from 11:30 am- 1 pm 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 am 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 Bellevue Ave. Rio Dell, **Tuesday & Thursday** 9 am- 11:30 am
- **Bread for Life Food Pantry:** Journey Church, 95 Bellevue Ave., **3rd Thursday**, from 9 am -2 p.m., For more info call 764-5239.

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

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

SAIL: Staying Active and Independent Living helps prevent falls and broken bones. This free program meets 11:30 am to 12:30 pm **Mon., Wed., and Fri.** at the at the Rio Dell Baptist Church, 100 Butcher St. Call Susan at 407-8707. Join us! .

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

News and Notes

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Resource Center plans community giving opportunities

The Community Resource Center is collecting food donations through Food For People. Please leave donated food items in the barrels at participating businesses such as Root 101 Nursery, CC Market and the post offices in Rio Dell and Scotia.

A holiday toy drive will be held through Dec. 17. Watch for barrels in participating businesses to leave donated items. The distribution will be during the day on Dec. 21 at the chamber of commerce/art gallery, 406 Wildwood, Rio Dell. Parents can come in to receive available gifts. This is instead of the giving tree describing individual children that has taken place in the past.

Scotia school schedules December events

The Scotia Parent-Teacher Organization will meet Dec. 6 at 3:15 p.m. in the portable on the hill. The school board will meet Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the school library. The concert for grades K-4 will be on Dec. 18 and the performing groups concert will be Dec. 20, both at 7 p.m. at the Winema Theater. Winter break will be Dec. 24 through Jan. 4.

2019
Happy New Year!