

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

## Element 7 to open

A second dispensary is expected to open in early to mid February in Rio Dell, according to Josh Black of Element 7 who manages the firm's commercial, licensing, training and marketing functions. "We are targeting January 15 for the completion of construction and January 30 for the completion of all tech / security installations," Black said by email at the end of last year. "In Fort Bragg, we opened with 100 percent of management and staff locally hired and a great selection of local suppliers and partners, and we absolutely plan to do the same in Rio Dell." The Fort Bragg store goes by the name, The Bakery, and is shown in photos here. The Rio Dell location will look different but of the same high quality, Black notes.

The Rio Dell facility will open at the site of the former Green Bean restaurant, 281 Wildwood Ave. Approved by the city council at the same time as Proper Wellness, which opened in Rio Dell last March, Element 7 was initially slated to occupy a house just north of the current site, which would have required extensive renovation. Some work has been done on the Green Bean site in recent months to meet the needs of the new dispensary.

Black says the business, which will be called "Element 7 Rio Dell," will initially be open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and feature a range of events around the opening.

Element 7's corporate tag line is *Cannabis with a conscience*. The website [e7ca.com](http://e7ca.com) states, "Element 7 is a retail cannabis company with an operational footprint that spans California. With a focus on educating customers, social justice and inclusion, and operating with a very local voice and footprint, Element 7 is a driving force for change in the industry."

Launched in 2018, the company has, in addition to the Rio Dell and Fort Bragg locations, another 10 scheduled to open in 2021, including Eureka, and more in 2022, with the total ranging the length of the state.



Josh Black



PLEASE NOTE These images are of a sister store in Fort Bragg called "The Bakery." It is a suggestion of what the new one in Rio Dell will look like, (but not the new one which is still being worked on).

## Chamber sets goals for year

The Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce board outlined a busy list of activities for 2021 at its January meeting, following up on efforts begun or continued in the year just past. Reviewing the Christmas decoration effort, President Nick Angeloff noted that several businesses in town wanted to keep the lights that were added this year as part of the annual decorative display lighted beyond the Christmas season because of the effect they had in the community.

The plan for the year ahead includes expanding the use of lighting and décor, for which the board authorized the purchase of \$3,000 which was offered by businesses and others who donated to this fund through larger levels of membership, for instance at the bronze, silver, gold and platinum levels.

Also to be expanded is the selection of cutouts – those wooden, painted figures in the median and on the City Hall lawn that show elves, the Grinch, candy canes and other images of the season. Additional ones can be placed in locations like Triangle Park and Memorial Park, in which case they can be larger as they would not be affecting the visibility of traffic on Wildwood as are the ones in the median.

**The public is encouraged to produce a cutout** for the chamber to use in the years ahead (see the item in Notes and News). (Continued on Page 3.)

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Kiwanis corner by Carole Arrington, Secretary

The local Rio Dell/Scotia Kiwanis club is always looking for new members. Currently we are meeting via Zoom and are not able to hold any community events, but we are making plans for when the COVID restrictions are lifted and we can, once again, come together. With the turmoil we are experiencing throughout the country, Kiwanis is a safe place where likeminded people come together for the betterment of their community. No politics, no hatred, no racism allowed – Kiwanis is a place for positive action. A successful club requires involvement and support of our community. Through that support blooms positive actions.

Our local Kiwanis club is small, but we are mighty and with your help we can be even stronger. With new members come new ideas, new energy and new opportunities. Some things can be successful with one, others with a few, but a successful Kiwanis club takes many. Now is the time to join – If you have been thinking of becoming involved, do it now. We would love to have you. Kids need Kiwanis. Will you help? Inquiries can be made through the Rio Dell/Scotia Kiwanis Club Facebook page or email [riodell.scotiakiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:riodell.scotiakiwanis@gmail.com). We welcome you.

**Scotia school employee honored Matt Crnkovich**, head of maintenance and transportation for the Scotia school district, was recently awarded School Bus Driver of the Year for the Humboldt/Del Norte County region by the California Association of School Transportation Officials. Amy Gossien, superintendent of the Scotia district, notes, “We are very proud of Matt and his continued service to our students, making sure they are transported to and from school safely and with a smile. He has been driving the bus for our school for the past 10 years and also does the morning health screenings for all of our students as they arrive. He is the first friendly face the students see when they arrive on campus, and they all know and love him, and he knows and cares for all of them too. The kids call him Mr. Matt.”



**Scotia school seats new board members, offers update on gym.** Two members of the Scotia district school board, **Debbie Reback** and **Neil Bartlett**, were seated for new, four-year terms at the district’s reorganizational meeting, according to Scotia superintendent Amy Gossien. Their terms end in 2024. Reback is the board president for the current year and Bartlett the board clerk.

Gossien notes, “Our plans for the new gym building have been submitted to the Division of State Architects and the California Department of Education. We are expecting plan approval by mid-March. After that, I will have a more definitive timeline for construction. The gym building project completion date is scheduled for March, 2023 as long as the project stays on track.”

**Chamber asks for Christmas cut-outs for next year.** Got some tools, a bit of paint, a sheet of left-over plywood taking up space, and a wish for a winter project you can do in the garage? Here’s an idea: Make a wooden, holiday cutout decoration for the chamber to use in the years ahead (see the chamber goals story on page 1 of this issue for more). It will be stored by the chamber and placed out each year as part of the city’s holiday decorations. It can be any size – larger ones can be put in the parks as opposed to the median – and you can sign it, take your picture with it for a newsletter item when done and know you are helping the community with holiday spirit. Two such cutouts were stolen this year – the first time this has happened – but plans to bolt them in place next year should solve that. Call or write the chamber for more information – [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com), or 707.506.5081.

**There’s still time to sponsor a flag.** Due to the large response, another set of flags has been purchased to be posted on Wildwood on national holidays. Of those, 12 flags could still be sponsored. Contact the chamber at [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com) or call 707.506.5081 with questions, or mail your check for \$50 and your contact information as well as the commemorative message to be put on the plaque, to PO Box 95, Rio Dell, CA 95562. Thanks to all who have made this project a success, and to Ferndale Jewelers in Fortuna for donating the production of the plaques.

**Send in your service member photos for holiday posting.** As noted in the larger story of chamber plans for 2021, one goal involves creating a set of posters to honor local service people from our communities, whether living or deceased. If you have a photo (scanned into a jpeg, or a slide, from film photography days) of a local man or woman who has served, and would like to have that made into a laminated poster to be placed among the flags on flag holidays, contact the chamber at the phone/email/mail address above with your information and that of the person to be honored (if different).

NEWS AND NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Chamber Goals ( continued from Page 1)

Public is encouraged to produce a cutout. So those with some spare wood and tools who want a winter project in the garage might give some thought to how to portray a holiday theme in plywood, chipboard, or another medium which can withstand weather with the aid of some paint and preservative varnish, to donate to the chamber.



**Jim Brickley with his Christmas cutouts**



**Flags on the Avenue**

**The flag project** launched last year has seen strong support, with so many people sponsoring a U.S. flag that additional ones needed to be purchased, with school students, members of a Fortuna Cub Scout troop and their adult leaders as well as others in the community turning out to set out and take down the flags on national holidays. Now with 88 sponsored flags, the chamber will be creating locations for those additional ones purchased, in advance of the Memorial Day launch to the 2021 flag holiday season, and has another 12 flags that could still be sponsored. Contact the chamber at [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com) or call 707.506.5081 with questions, or mail your check for \$50 and your contact information as well as the commemorative message to be put on the plaque, to PO Box 95, Rio Dell, CA 95562.

**Efforts to expand the flag project still further** this year include creating a list of flag sponsors and those honored that will be posted in the chamber window at 406 Wildwood Avenue; and creating a set of posters to honor local service people from our communities, whether living or deceased. If you have a photo (or slide, from film photography) of a local man or woman who has served, and would like to have that made into a laminated poster to be placed among the flags on flag holidays, contact the chamber at the phone/email/mail address above with your information and that of the person to be honored (if different) such as branch of service and unit, and including the digital image of the person (for instance, scanned to a jpeg if originally taken with film photography). The hope is to complete the first set of posters from photos offered by the community to be put out on Memorial Day of this year, with others added as they come in. The ideas behind these efforts have been forwarded by Tim and Melissa Marks, who have also designed and created a rack to hold the flags when not in use.

**Join in and help out!** If these sound like ideas you'd like to support even more, you can join the chamber if you haven't already, and/or promote your business, organization or service with a standing ad in the insert of this newsletter.

Go to [riodellscotiachamber.org](http://riodellscotiachamber.org) and click on the lower-bottom right box for membership information and go here to learn about advertising sizes and rates: <https://www.riodellscotiachamber.org/newsletter-aroundtown/>.

You can join monthly board meeting phone calls at noon on the first Friday of each month by calling 605.313.4802 and entering access code 860467 at the prompt.

**A glimpse back: a short history of Rio Dell and Scotia** By: Carole Arrington, Rio Dell Resident

In 1883 a deal was struck between Henry Niebur and the Pacific Lumber Company to purchase a stretch of land just south of Rio Dell known at the time as Forestville. The site would soon become the town of Scotia and home of the Pacific Lumber Company and its many workers.

At the time, an essential part of logging was railroads so the first order of business, after acquiring the land along the Eel River, was to build a railroad line. Trains were used to get logs out of the hills to the mill, take the crews to the logging sites and carry the finished product to the docks for shipping. In 1885 opportunity brought crews of experienced Chinese railroad workers to Humboldt County.

Crews were put to work building a rail bridge across the Van Duzen River as well as constructing a line along the Scotia Bluffs. There, the hillside is composed of soft marine sandstone and mudstone which is prone to frequent slides. The completed rail line entailed an elaborate series of retaining walls and trestles approximately 50 feet above the river during the summer months and could be dangerously close to the river's edge in the rainy season.

This stretch of railroad was completed in 1885, but technically the work never ended as they were constantly in a state of repair due to slides, erosion and flooding. A fulltime crew was assigned to work exclusively on the Scotia Bluffs trestles from 1916 through 1959.

The railroad was built for logging purposes but had another welcome use. The completed rail line helped connect the people living in secluded, undeveloped areas of Southern Humboldt to the larger, more populated areas of the county and encouraged travel. In addition to passenger service, the railroad also brought freight and mail services to isolated areas and ran excursion trains from Eureka to Scotia, offering city dwellers an opportunity for sightseeing and picnicking in the vast redwoods.

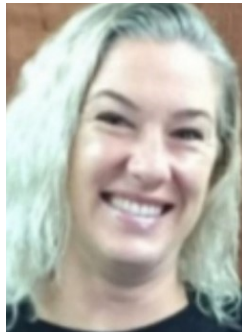


**Officers named, new member seated in Rio Dell council.** Mayor Debra Garnes was re-elected to a two-year term in the organizational part of the city council meeting in mid-December, which also saw the seating of newly-elected member **Amanda Carter**, a physical therapist and the re-election of board members **Gordon Johnson**, a retired engineer, and **Frank Wilson**, who works for Humboldt Redwood Company. Johnson was re-elected mayor pro-tem.

Carter, who has served on the city's nuisance advisory committee, is also an original member of the Rio Dell COVID-19 Volunteer Corp.



Debra Garnes



Amanda Carter



Gordon Johnson



Frank Wilson

**New member seated, officers named in Scotia CSD.** The new member of the Scotia Community Services Board is **Delia Anstead**, appointed because there were fewer individuals running for the board seats than openings. **Paul Newmaker** was re-elected as board president and **Diane Black** as vice-president in the district's organizational meeting.

**Rio Dell wastewater testing indicates Covid-19 levels locally.** Since October 1 the City of Rio Dell has been conducting COVID-19 surveillance testing at its Wastewater Treatment Plant, City Manager Kyle Knopp announced in December in a news release. The testing, through Biobot Analytics, samples the inflow of untreated wastewater to isolate the unique genetic signature of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and analyze the amount of the virus present. The Biobot Analytics testing is done independently. Between October 1 and December 3, test results ranged from 'non-detect' to detection at levels below the national average, but results from December 17 showed higher concentration levels than 84 percent of those collected nationwide by the testing facility, well above the median national average.

"This information further supplements and confirms the observations of the County Health Department," stated Knopp at the time. "The virus is present in this small community at high levels."

The city will not get additional testing at this time, due to the expense which has used up available federal funds, but continues to encourage mask wearing, social distancing, regular hand washing, regular surface cleaning, testing and staying home when sick as good methods to slow the virus and protect the community's fragile health systems.

Scotia doesn't test wastewater, according to General Manager Leslie Marshall, noting the cost involved, but wastewater treatment personnel use appropriate protective gear to guard against getting Covid-19 that may be present.

Knopp points out that testing is available in Scotia at Palco Pharmacy (an appointment is required) and Southern Trinity Health Services – Scotia Bluffs (call first) as well as at Redwood Acres and occasionally Fortuna for which one must register in advance through Optum Serve, by phoning 888-634-1123.

**Exercise group continues on Zoom.** The exercise group that was meeting at the Chamber of Commerce office on Wildwood prior to Covid is still exercising, on Zoom. You can meet with them online Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. via Zoom meeting number 785 092 5856, according to leader Susan Nessen.

#### Rio Dell-Scotia News

Is free of charge and published on the first of each month 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

Copyright © 2021

**Submissions deadline for Mar. newsletter copy is Feb. 12.**

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



St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial