

## A Year in Review 2017

### January

The work of 18 artistically gifted Scotia students was displayed in the Youth Gallery at the Morris Graves Museum in Eureka during January.

### February

Rebecca Drake of Fortuna has opened a business selling steel shipping containers at the Eel River Sawmill site north of Rio Dell, which has since been renamed Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park. The business sells new and used shipping containers in sizes ranging from 8 by 20 feet to 8 by 40.



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Sara Faught is completing her first year coordinating the Community Resource Center office at Wildwood and Monument in Rio Dell. Looking back, she noted that the number of services provided over the year has increased, as she met with community partners, worked to extend more services into Scotia, and to expand an understanding of the ways the center can help people.

"Not only do we accommodate homeless, low-income and at-risk individuals, we are a tool accessible to any person," she explained, adding that she strives to overcome any stigma that may be associated with using the center and hopes everyone feels comfortable and safe coming to the office, its programs and events.

### March

Humboldt Rotational Molding is a business that opened last fall in the former Eel River Sawmill site north of Rio Dell.

Owned by Shawn and Aurora Studebaker, the business produces tanks in sizes ranging from 2800 to just un-



der 5000 gallons that can hold potable water, meaning it is safe for drinking. Aurora Studebaker notes that the company is "providing local jobs and a great product at a lower price to customers," by cutting the transportation costs other companies must charge to bring products made elsewhere, into the area.

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Root 101 Nursery is a new business opening this month in the former hardware and feed store at 770 Wildwood Ave. in Rio Dell. Owner Harry Smith of Fortuna takes a visitor on a tour of the expansive site where a half dozen construction workers tackle projects from roof to floor. Smith summarizes the product line as everything needed for growing, from vegetable starts and trees to hydroponics, as well as related items one now must leave town to buy, like lumber, PVC pipe, and some animal feed.

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Harry Pulver was feted in a farewell party as he prepared to move to North Carolina to be with family members. A board member and treasurer of the Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce, he had been a source of support to organizations in the region for decades. He had been a member of the chamber of commerce since its inception in the 1960s and was appointed to the Rio Dell City Council in May, 1989 to fill the term of Stan Parker, who resigned due to illness, until that term expired in 1990.

### April

Harland Law Firm, at 954 Main Street in Fortuna, has been providing legal services to the area since 1946 when Collis Mehan opened the office. Six years later Gerald Har-



land joined him and when he died in 2012 while still working as a partner, the decision was made to name the firm after him permanently. That respect for "how Jerry did things" still guides the firm today, notes Amy Mendoza-Stover, the youngest attorney, who joined the currently five-member firm a decade ago, right out of college.

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Natalya Burke effusively greets visitors to the Eagle Prairie Arts District gallery at Wildwood and Columbus in Rio Dell, explaining the work on display, many pieces of which are her own. They represent a wide range of art media that include encaustic wax (which she explains means ironing wax on paper); watercolor marbling (which requires special tools, paint and paper to achieve the de-sired effect); painting on both sides of glass (to give a stained glass effect with greater depth); and leatherwork, both of scenes and items such as brooches to affix to clothes or hats.

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CC Market at noon. The group is open to anyone 60 or over.

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Nicole Norton of Shotz Coffee in Fortuna has confirmed a second location will open in Rio Dell at the site most recently housing Higher Grounds Coffee & Treats, which moved to Fortuna.

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Continued on Page 2

## Year in Review:

### April Continued from Page 1

This newsletter reported earlier the impending closure of Gallagher's Pub in the historic Scotia Inn. Inn manager Wes Paden said at the time that the bar would close January 31 and hopefully reopen with a new name and customer experience. However the whole inn remains closed. A sign on the front door says the closure is for the season, and provides a phone number for more information. Steve Dieky, controller for the Town of Scotia, whose phone number is posted on the sign, reports that the lease for the facility expired January 31 when the tenants chose not to renew, and the inn will only reopen if a new manager steps up to propose a business plan to the town that is approved. Miguel's Restaurant, which formerly sublet its space from the Scotia Inn, is now leasing its facility directly from the Town of Scotia and remains open as before.

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The Scotia Volunteer Fire Department's newest addition to its two-fire-engine fleet was introduced to the community in an open house. Fire Chief John Broadstock said he and the other 13 firefighters in his department are excited to replace a 1977 International Van Pelt fire engine with a newer, safer engine. Costing under \$300,000, the Rosenbauer 2017 RTX Type 1 engine, a type used in structure fires, features a 1,000 gallon water tank and 20-gallon foam tank, as well as a remote control water gun on top of the engine that can be operated without someone climbing up, and risking falling off. It offers additional equipment storage, easier pumping with simplified and computerized systems, and it carries five persons, two more than the engine it is replacing.

### May

As we move into the tourist season, Humboldt Gables Motel on Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell will be ready. Owner and manager Dave Thompson clicks off the upgrades he's recently made to the 20-room facility – soundproofing, new paint and carpet, new Simmons Beautyrest mattresses, flat-screened TVs.

Thompson and his family have deep

roots in the area. "My grandfather was a watchman in the Scotia mill," he notes, and built a couple homes in Rio Dell; his father moved to the area after serving in World War II, also working in the mill, then becoming ordained as a Baptist minister.

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The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is due to start serving homes in Rio Dell (where the city has joined the program) and Scotia (because of the county's signing on) this month, switching you over on your billing date to the new service (so your first actual bill under this program will come in June). Called Repower, it promises to be cheaper than PG&E, and will use the existing PG&E infrastructure to deliver electricity to your home, as before.

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To replace Harry Pulver on the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (see April article) and as treasurer, the board appointed Melissa Marks, a Rio Dell native. She served on the Rio Dell City Council from 2004 until 2014 when she chose not to run for re-election, and last year was named to the city's Planning Commission. She is a retired bookkeeper who last worked at HR Block in Fortuna.

Eldon Whitehead of Fortuna was also named to the board as historian. A long-time member of many organizations in the region over the past 40 years, he shares his passion for local history on a dozen Facebook pages and websites. He was featured in this newsletter last summer when named Grand Marshall of the Wildwood Days parade.

### June



er of Hoby's Market in Scotia, and the change will take place July 1. But while the store will be in new hands, Sandra Close says she and husband Wally plan to keep the catering business going. She encourages those interested to call her at 764-5202 to discuss their catering needs.

CC Market, the popular market, deli and catering place in Rio Dell is undergoing changes. It has been purchased by the own-

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The move from the Last Company Town to a community with private home ownership moved ahead in



Scotia when the Community Services District agreed April 27 to assume ownership and control of the town's facilities. Included are the wastewater treatment plant, drinking water distribution system, certain streets not maintained by the county, street lighting and storm drainage infrastructure, the Winema Theater, Scotia Museum, and popular parks and recreation facilities such as Fireman's Picnic Park, Carpenter Field ballpark, the Scotia soccer field, and the Scotia Community Forest.

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Crosbie Chiropractic, located next to Coast Central Credit Union in the area of Ray's supermarket in Fortuna, actually began in Rio Dell in 2006, across from the Pizza Factory where the staff still congregates for celebratory lunch at times. Dr. Michael Crosbie, whose experience goes back more than 30 years, is a 1982 graduate of the Cleveland Chiropractic College in Los Angeles. His resume speaks of methods within the field of chiropractic medicine in which he has been certified, including the Koren Specific Technique, which he is the only practitioner within 200 miles to offer.

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More than 1900 pounds of food was donated in the May 13 mail carriers' annual food collection drive to benefit local food pantries. That's the total for Scotia and Rio Dell, according to area postmaster Katherine Coleman.

**Continued on Page 3.**



## Year in Review: July Continued from Page 2



A 20-year tradition in Scotia will end in July when the True Value Hardware store closes. Linda David will manage

the final month of the store's operation, with the help of an inventory liquidation firm. Her husband, Paul David, is one of three brothers who ran the business along with an industrial, business-to-business hardware company. One brother died last fall, and Paul and Linda David want to retire to Kentucky, where a daughter lives. "We want to thank the community and the area for 20 wonderful years," Linda David said. A native of Southern Humboldt, her memories of Scotia extend to her childhood in the 1950s.

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Scotia marked the completion of the first home purchase in mid-June, when Dale Mensing, whose father was born half a block away in the old Scotia Hospital, took over the keys, along with wife Karen. "It's great to come back home," Mensing said, noting his family has lived in Humboldt County since at least 1900. All 270 houses will be sold in phases over the next four to five years, according to current plans. See [scotialiving.com](http://scotialiving.com) for the town's information on home sales.



Meanwhile, the Community Services District board of directors is busily assuming responsibility for the water and

wastewater services, parks and recreation facilities and historical structures it took over from the Town of Scotia in May.

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Manager Cindy Hicks at the Fortuna branch of the Coast Central Credit Union has no trouble listing the benefits her em-



ployer offers to the area. "We're a co-operative, so the members are the owners," she says, noting this "fundamental difference" means lower interest rates when borrowing money, and higher interest rates when investing, since profits aren't channeled to shareholders. Other advantages include the organization's size and strength. "We have 13 branches and a billion dollars," she notes.

"We're five-star rated, that's as high as you can go," she says of the Bauer Financial Service system that rates banks and credit unions, which people can check online for free at [bauerfinancial.com](http://bauerfinancial.com). "We're locally managed," Hicks continued, pointing out that decisions are made by a local board. And, the credit union funnels about \$200,000 a year into the community, helping out with non-profit organizations and fundraisers.

## August

Wildwood Days kicks off Aug. 11 this year. A key attraction of opening night is the Ernie Cannady car cruise from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the band, Midnight Special, playing until 8 p.m. and an all-you-can-eat barbeque for \$8, all at DJ's Burger Bar, 509 Wildwood Ave. A street dance featuring Doug Fir and the Two by Fours will begin at 9 p.m. In between, kids' night, with fire truck rides, the penny scramble, talent show and soapbox derby rides will be happening, along with the firemen's muster, in the downtown area.

Lecturer and author Jerry Rohde will present a history talk at 7 p.m. Women's softball also begins Friday at 6 p.m. at Firemen's Park in Rio Dell. The Eagle Prairie Arts District will be joining in the festivities, with bounce houses and kids' activities, downtown on Friday, and with food and art vendors at Fireman's Park on Saturday, in conjunction with the monthly Arts on the Avenue.

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Kevin Trone is the new superintendent of the Rio Dell school district, taking over from Leslie Yale, who retired. A native of the area, he lived in Rio Dell for seven years with his wife, a nurse at Redwood Memorial Hospital,

before moving to Fortuna recently. Trone received his teaching and administrative credentials from Humboldt State, and his teaching and administrative background was at South Bay Elementary in Eureka, a school with similar demographics to Rio Dell, he notes. He is delighted to be working in the Eel River Valley, particularly in Rio Dell.

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It's a family affair, Mary Burns says often of the car show she produces each year as part of Wildwood

Days. The show, which takes place on Sunday morning in front of city hall, typically draws more than 50 cars each year. "We get one of everything," she notes of the range of vehicles that come. "Some are a work in progress, another might be a \$300,000 car." They come from as far away as southern Oregon, Redding and Fort Bragg, but most are local, coming from the Eel River Valley. "Some come back every year, it's like a family," she notes.

## September

Rio Dell police Chief Graham Hill retired Aug. 1 after 22 years with the police department, 13 of them as chief, making him the city's longest-serving police officer and longest-serving chief. Hill was honored at the Aug. 1 city council meeting where members of the public thanked him for his service as they also did on the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, where the retirement was announced, and in the comments section of online media covering the retirement.

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Angela Johnson joins the Rio Dell School District as principal this year, replacing Jorey McComas. She grew up in Scotia and lives in Fortuna with her husband and two children, ages 11 and 8. She coaches and serves on the boards for Eel River Little League and Eel River Youth Soccer teams, as well as on the boards for the Multi-Generational Center and the Fortuna Sunrise Rotary.

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## Year in Review: September Continued from Page 3:

"It's hard to believe we've been in business seven years" president Ken Musante says of Eureka Payments, the business he and two partners, Steve Kimberling and Scott Bartlett, formed in 2010 to handle credit, debit, gift card and EBT (electronic benefit transfer) transactions for businesses, governmental entities and schools.



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Dr. Ralph Roberts has sold his dental practice, after more than 50 years in Rio Dell. "It's time, he's 83," smiles his wife, Rita, of his retirement. Dr. Roberts is known internationally for his use of a style of dental implant called a ramus frame which involves embedding a titanium rail in the bone of the patient's lower jaw on which a lower denture can rest.

Dr. Roberts has lectured throughout the U.S., England and Germany, as well as hosted dental professionals at his office to share his knowledge of the technique. A framed research award on his wall was presented in 2015 by the American Academy of Implant Dentistry Foundation. "People say he's a genius," his wife says, smiling her agreement.

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Dr. Adrian Dumitrescu has purchased the practice from Dr. Roberts. He graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 2001 and served as a clinical instructor there part time while practicing dentistry full time in Southern California.

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Area native Kathie Walker has returned to her roots with an array of art representing the many styles and genres within which she works, from whimsical sculptures to prints of retro airplanes and trucks, to animals wild and domestic.

## October

The sale of the Eel River Valley's largest full-service waste management company, Eel River Resource Recovery, to Recology took place in August, and the trucks are starting to sport the new name. Recology, based in San

Francisco, is employee-owned, with more than 800,000 business and residential customers in 127 communities in California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada. The firm's website traces the company's history from immigrant scavengers in the mid-1800s who found work picking up other people's trash, and embraces that beginning, noting that many of its employees today, including the chief executive officer, are descendants of those early scavengers.

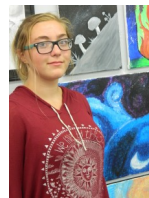
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Chapman's Gem and Mineral Shop on the highway north of Rio Dell is a popular tourist stop, offering room after room of displays ranging from rocks and products made from them to fossils to novelty items like a reproduction of one of the terra cotta warriors found in Xian, China, to art from around the world.

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Students Myranda Wolfe and Mimi Farrell were this month's featured artists at the Eagle Prairie Arts District gallery.



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Fortuna artist Dakota Daetwiler recently completed a mural on the wall that greets people arriving at the Trinity Services Health Center, located in the former Scotia Hospital. She was commissioned to paint it after a friend who works at the health center recommended her.

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While the nation watched in horror at the flooding last month in Texas, Louisiana and Florida, a local company was part of the solution.

Matthew Wennerholm, vice president at Aqua Dam, the Scotia water control company, notes that nine flatbed trucks with more than 20 miles of Aqua Dam products were shipped to states affected by flooding during or in advance of the storms.

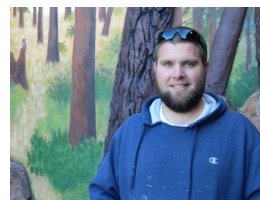
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Nine homes have been sold in Scotia, with eight more in escrow, all located on Church Street, Mill Street and Mill Lane, and Eddy Street. "We are selling all 270 homes in phases, over the next four to five years," explains Mary Bullwinkel who works in marketing for the town. "We are currently in phase one of home sales. We hope to move into phase two by the end of the year."

She adds that the Town of Scotia Company is completing infrastructure improvements such as new underground water and sewer pipes, new sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, and street paving, which is currently moving ahead in Phase 2. While many of the homes are still occupied by renters, she notes, the town is not accepting rental applications or offering homes for rent at this time.

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The fish hatchery at Humboldt Redwood Company is receiving a major



upgrade, under the care of the company's wildlife biologist Michael Cornich. The project is ongoing, with \$60,000 in pumps

and filters due to arrive this month to control the water temperature for the fish. "I've rebuilt the planter boxes and collected ferns," he says, showing off the results, to create the setting around the walkway adjacent to the tanks where visitors can view the fish.

## November



It will be looking a lot more like Christmas this year, thanks to many supporters and contributors.

Last winter Chamber of Commerce president Nick Angeloff visited the Christmas markets in Germany, so named because whole towns are converted to Bavarian wonderlands for the occasion, resulting in increased tourism and expanded business opportunities.

Continued on Page 5



## Year in Review: November Continued from Page 4

Returning with these images and his enthusiasm for the holiday, Angeloff has received funds and donations from the McLean Foundation, the Humboldt Area Foundation, the City of Rio Dell, the Town of Scotia, and businesses including the Humboldt Gables motel and Forbusco Lumber in Fortuna to enable an expanded celebration which is hoped in time might lead to the community being a regional attraction for those wanting to see Christmas displays of lights and decorations.

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Eureka sculptor Dan McCauley of Dan's Custom Metals has agreed to provide four metal sculptures to the city in an agreement for which he will be paid \$4,000, provided by the Humboldt Area Foundation and McLean Foundation, and a donation of \$1,000 by Root 101 Nursery.

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Election Day is Nov. 7. While the ballot is light this time around, in Rio Dell there is Measure X, a proposed excise tax to be levied on the cannabis businesses located at Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park, formerly known as the Eel River Sawmill site. If approved by a majority of voters, the tax will be levied on city-approved commercial cannabis operators, not on the general public. The tax was approved.

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The effort to bring a skate park to Rio Dell will take a step forward Nov. 7 when supporters bring the topic to the city council.

Seen as a need for more than a decade, the effort took on energy two years ago when Amanda Shelton, a local mom working at the Community Resource Center in an internship in fulfillment of her master's degree work at Humboldt State, brought together a group of young skate board enthusiasts.

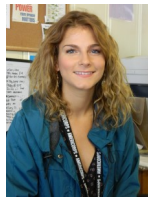
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Merilyn Ross surveys the store she has owned for 30 years, recalling the early days and how it all began. "It was a company



store until 1949 when it was divested," she says of Scotia's Palco Pharmacy.

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Olivia Rodrigue recently joined the staff of the Rio Dell Community Resource Center, hired through the AmeriCorps AFACTR (Assisting Families to Access Change Through Re-

sources) program. She replaces Peach Leath, who completed her AmeriCorps stint earlier this year, and will be assisting Nicole Benton, who coordinates playgroups and story times at the Rio Dell elementary school, among other responsibilities.

## December

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.

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Whitchurch Engineering in Fortuna is a small, family business in its 2st year. Owners Leonard and Lisa Whitchurch are Humboldt County natives who believe in shopping locally, supporting home-town efforts and being involved in the local communities.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Happy New Year  
2018





## Year in Review: December Continued from Page 5

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.

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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.

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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.

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Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day is January  
15th



## **Rio Dell names new police chief**

Jeff Conner has been named the new chief of police in Rio Dell, where he started his law enforcement career in 1993 as a patrol officer under Chief Rick Shipley. Conner was promoted to sergeant and acting chief before he began work at the county in 2002, according to a city news release. While his county work has focused on code enforcement, according to the *North Coast Journal* blog which referenced the appointment, Connor has continued to serve in a reserve capacity for the Rio Dell police department. He has a degree in forestry from UC Berkeley. Conner replaces Chief Graham Hill who retired Aug. 1. He will have a formal swearing in ceremony at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting Jan. 2.

## **Wood stove replacement funds available**

The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District is administering a wood stove replacement grant program for which homes in Scotia and Rio Dell are eligible to participate. The goal is to replace wood stoves with less polluting heating solutions such as a newer wood stove or a wood-to-gas or pellet stove replacement. Applications postmarked by Jan. 15 will be accepted to be in a random drawing to be eligible for funds. For details, go to <http://www.ncuaqmd.org/index.php?page=wood.stove> or call 443-3093, and speak to Heather Bitner at Ext. 110 or Erin Squire at Ext. 111. Coming later is a state-funded wood smoke reduction pilot program with different requirements, including low income qualifications, which will be promoted when it is available.

## **Chamber names new director**

Gabriel Smith, manager at Root 101 Nursery, has been named to the seven-member Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce board of directors. The board meets the first Friday of each month at noon in an open session at the chamber of commerce office, 406 Wildwood Avenue. The public is invited to sit in on the discussion. The chamber reviews plans in progress such as the recent tree lighting, the on-going installation of sculptures to Wildwood Avenue, and the current membership drive. In addition, the Rio Dell Pizza Factory hosts a chamber social each third Tuesday of the month at noon, where a pizza and salad bar buffet plus drink is under \$10.

## **Health fair slated at Bayshore Mall**

St. Joseph Health – Humboldt County will offer its annual Health, Wellness and Resource Fair on Sat., Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka. There will be a variety of free tests available to the public, which generally include body fat testing, blood pressure checks, and fingerstick tests for cholesterol and glucose (no fasting required).

In addition, coupons will be distributed for low-cost blood draws beginning at 10 a.m. which will be held at the Outpatient Lab on the General Hospital campus in Eureka. They will include screenings for CMP (Complete Metabolic Panel), Hemogram (includes Hemoglobin and Hematocrit, etc.), Lipid Profile, PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) and TSH (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone).

According to Brian Olson, event coordinator, the event is a great opportunity to learn more about health and wellness resources in our community. Common topics include senior health, childbirth support, health insurance, medication reconciliation, nutrition education, CalFresh outreach, heart and colon health education and much more. “Be sure to not to miss our inflatable, walk-thru colon and heart,” says Olson. “These larger than life exhibits provide an interactive educational experience that allows audiences to better visualize these internal organs, understand how they work, and better understand two major killers: heart disease and colon cancer.”

For more information contact Olson at 442-5239 or visit <https://www.stjoehumboldt.org/for-community/health-fairs/>.

## **Amped Arts! Family Art Event**

Join the Rio Dell Community Resource Center, Eagle Prairie Arts District and a Humboldt State student group called WRRAP for a family-friendly art event at the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber and art gallery, 406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell on Sat., Jan. 13 from noon to 2 p.m.. We will have snacks and crafts for all!

## **Scotia school events**

The school board will meet Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. School will be closed Jan. 15 in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be a geography bee for grades 4 to 8 on Jan. 17 at 9 a.m. Monthly awards will be presented Jan. 31 at 12:40 p.m. for kindergarten through Grade 3 and 2:30 p.m. for Grades 4-8.

## **Art District seeks board members**

The Eagle Prairie Arts District is seeking two members for its board of directors, as well as a funding officer to seek grant opportunities. The arts district manages the gallery at 406 Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell and plans and manages activities in support of the arts. Examples have included the monthly Arts on the Avenue events, art classes, and working to bring sculptures to Wildwood Avenue. To learn more about the organization, the board, and the application process, contact Adam Dias at 707-267-4920 or by email at [diasarts@hotmail.com](mailto:diasarts@hotmail.com).

## Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Submissions deadline for February newsletter copy is January 19.

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



### 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.

#### From the Community Resource Center:

The Center will be closed Jan. 1 and Mon., Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Day..

#### Food distribution set

The Bread for Life Pantry commodities distribution will be the 3rd Thursday of the month 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 NEW YEAR