

Cannabis legalization leads to uncovered ancient history

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Rio Dell-Scotia News

2018 in a glance

Much happened in our communities in 2018. Here's a look back from past newsletter issues, with some updates.

January – Police Chief Jeff Connor was sworn in Jan. 2 by the Rio Dell City Council, taking over from former Chief Graham Hill, who retired Aug. 1, 2017. Chief Connor began his law enforcement career in 1993 as a patrol officer in Rio Dell under Chief Rick Shipley and served as sergeant and acting chief before going in 2002 to work in code enforcement for Humboldt County, but continued as a reserve officer in Rio Dell.

February – April Ash opened Emerald's Edge Boutique at 70 Wildwood Ave., in the building housing Mingo's Bar at the south end of Rio Dell, just before the bridge. The shop featured art and craft items from area artisans, hand-made personal care items and more, but closed later in the year, with Ash citing the closure of the Eagle Prairie Bridge for painting and the overall county economy among reasons it was difficult to remain open.

March – Several other businesses opened in Rio Dell including Green Bean, owned by Tawny Morse and offering healthy as well as comfort food at 281 Wildwood, and the medical office of Dr. Frank Fisher in his former site, following a stint at Southern Trinity Health Services in Scotia. The historic St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Scotia was being decommissioned after Easter services April 1 so the building could be sold as part of the move to private ownership of real estate in the community. Earleen Finan took over the laundromat in Rio Dell from her mother, Marlene O'Dell, who died later in the year, and her step-dad, Joe O'Dell.

The Community Resource Center re-opened the community garden on the property of the Baptist Church after it had been unused for a couple years due to drought and logistical issues. City council member Tim Marks was featured for his work refurbishing the name plaques in Memorial Park to give the signage a coat of protection and an upgraded look.

April – New ventures continued to be announced in this month's issue including The Patron Kitchen at 70 Wildwood Ave., adjacent to Mingo's Bar, in Rio Dell, and the massage service opened by Ariel Card, down the hall in the same building. El Patron is run by Gerardo Gonzalez and his wife, Leticia of Fortuna. Card, who received training at the Loving Hands Institute of Healing Arts in Fortuna, has been expanding her knowledge of massage therapies.

It was announced the lumbering equipment on display in Scotia has been sold in a bidding process conducted by the Community Services District. A consortium of buyers from Marin County purchased the equipment to obtain Engine No. 9, which was formerly operated there, and subsequently sold the other pieces to the Timber Heritage Association, which had been another bidder in the process.

May – Another new massage location was announced, but closed later in the year, consolidating to a location in Fortuna. Melissa's Massage, operated by Melissa James, was located at 371 Wildwood Ave., the site of the former Phat Rabbit Boutique. (Continue on Page 2)



In an office at 440 Wildwood in Rio Dell, under the sign 'Archaeologist,' a team works to help cannabis growers become legal, and also to deepen the knowledge of our region about its earliest residents. That search is leading to findings of buried villages and artifacts ranging from 4,000 to 8,000 years old.

Nick Angeloff (who wearing other hats serves as president of the chamber of commerce and a member of the planning commission) is one of three archaeologists in the county who growers may hire to do the portion of their legalization paperwork that requires an archaeological study to avoid impacts to historic artifacts that may be on their land.

Angeloff notes the "green rush" impacting his business (which has seen him take on a staff of archaeology majors to assist him in the field work) has been going on for two years, and is starting to wind down, with peaks happening predictably when there are deadlines in the county permitting process.

The oldest items uncovered are projectile points Angeloff describes as darts, which would be mounted on a shaft and fill the technology gap from spear to bow and arrow. They have more power than a bow and arrow, and would be capable of bringing down an animal, he notes, while use of a bow would be more limited to warfare, being sufficiently strong to take down a human but enabling faster firing than a dart.

(Continued on page 3)



Scotia display of logging equipment moved



The logging and railroad equipment that had been on display in Scotia was moved in late November to new homes where the pieces will be on display to the public. The Heisler Engine No. 9 was purchased by a consortium of friends and supporters who have wanted to return the engine to its former home at Mt. Tamalpais for decades. The other pieces of equipment which were initially part of the package offered by the Scotia Community Services District for sale, were turned over to the Timber Heritage Association, based in Samoa. The sale, conducted by closed bids, took place earlier in the year, but logistics involving two massive cranes to handle the engine, meant the actual move took place in the final days of November.

Scotia school sets January doings

The Parent-Teacher Organization will meet Monday, Jan. 7 at 3:15 p.m. and the school board, on Thurs., Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. There will be a geography bee at 9 a.m. on Wed., Jan. 16 and school will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Mon., Jan. 21.

Archaeologist's office gets new sign

The sign on the office at 440 Wildwood says Archaeologist but over it a new, metal sign has been added. Designed by a friend of Nick Angeloff, whose office it is (see story, page 1) and produced by JB Fabrication, it depicts the historic beginnings of that location, as a shoe repair business. Pictures rather than words were often used on signs in the days when literacy was not high, so the image of a shoe, rather than the name of the business, would be more descriptive to passers-by.



Advertising opportunities exist in this newsletter

Want to promote your business, organization or service while supporting the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce and its work in the community? Check out the insert, and see if you don't want to join the organizations around the region placing an ad there - the spaces are \$10 or \$20/month, payable in advance. Call 707.506.5081 or email rdschamber@gmail.com for more information.

Membership drive underway Are you a member of the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce? Would you like to be? Check out what we're doing and why you are needed for us to be successful. Call 707.506.5081 or email rdschamber@gmail.com.

(2018 in a glance: May 2018, Continued from page 1)

The closure of the Eagle Prairie Bridge by Cal-Trans, which owns the bridge, has become increasingly concerning to the business community, especially those many who only in recent months opened their business. The pending closure was announced a few weeks in advance but Cal Trans personnel later acknowledged that typical measures to engage the community had been for various reasons skipped. The closure, to allow painting of the bridge, was speeded up as a result of the concern, so the bridge was ultimately open in early August, instead of the initially-planned late October. Many business owners remained doubtful they would recover the lost income and an effort was put in place to claim the funds Cal Trans makes available to mitigate business losses.

By the end of the year, with those requests submitted to, and denied by Cal-Trans, several of the businesses are moving individually to seek recompense in Small Claims Court.

June – This month's issue announced the theme of the Wildwood Days parade, *Lest We Forget*, a tribute to veterans of all wars in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. As part of that tribute, a program was scheduled for Memorial Park following the parade.

July – Rio Dell artist Kim Reid was honored with a showing at the Morris Graves Museum in Eureka, where her depictions of the nature around us were chosen to be in a juried exhibit presented by a consortium of art and parks organizations honoring the 50th anniversary of Redwood National Park. (Continued on page 3)

(Cannabis continued from Page 1)

Angeloff says the identity of the users of these tools has been lost to antiquity, but judging by the timeline, they would have been speakers of Yukian or Hoka or Shastan, three language groups spoken in our region during that time, as compared to speakers of a later group, the Algonquian family of languages, which includes those tribes whose names are familiar to the region today.

Among his team's most unique findings were two village sites, dating to the turn of the 20th century, which are described in the ethnographic records of earlier archaeologists, and which were used as summer gathering places for several tribes, which provided an opportunity for inter-marriages and other peace-making. Another site of notice was one of early warfare.

Angeloff says the artifacts, once described and documented, are returned to the earth on the land where they were found. Human remains, if found, would be returned to the appropriate tribe for reburial. While Angeloff notes that part of what he is doing is providing a means for cannabis growers, seeking to operate legally, to meet the requirements of the process, but for him a larger piece is to understand the shared past of humans in this region, and to be able to give landowners a report about the people who lived on their land before them.

City council winners named

The three candidates in the Nov. 6 election garnering the most votes, who will be named to the Rio Dell City Council, are Julie Woodall, Bryan Richter and Debra Garnes.

Woodall, with the most votes, is a former city council member and mayor and, with Bryan Richter, currently serves on the city's planning commission. Garnes ran for re-election to the city council, while council members Tim Marks and Gordon Johnson chose not to seek re-election.

(Continued from page 2: 2018 in a glance) Projects continued to develop, such as the Sculptures on the Avenue effort, the goal of which is to highlight the community's focus on art and to give travelers something to look at, to get out of their cars and spend time in the community. Construction is beginning to move ahead at the industrial park north of Rio Dell, the site of the former Eel River Sawmill, where businesses related to the testing of medicinal cannabis products are slated to evolve. They will be featured in coming issues of the newsletter as their completion draws near.

August – This issue highlighted the Wildwood Days schedule; the artist Ed Stone whose lapidary work is featured in the Eagle Prairie Arts District gallery at 406 Wildwood in Rio Dell; efforts by Julie Woodall to beautify the business district by purchasing and caring for planters of flowers outside area businesses, and the quarterly column by Billy Joe Long, area computer specialist, featuring considerations for home and business computer users.

September – The opening of an upscale thrift store, Love Me Two Times, at 117 Wildwood in Rio Dell, was featured, it being the work of Fortuna resident Heidi Chandler, and offers articles of clothing she tie-dyes, free children's books to promote reading, and antiques, glassware and repurposed furniture.

The reopening of the Eagle Prairie Bridge between Rio Dell and Scotia on August 3 was celebrated with a photo of the ribbon cutting held at the site. A new business line offered by Adam Dias at his burl shop, Dias Artistries, was highlighted, showing his ability to create one-of-a-kind items using computer-aided-technology he recently attained and mastered.

Amy Gossien, long-time teacher in Scotia, is the new superintendent-principal, and new school board members were seated without an election because there were not contests within the Rio Dell or Scotia district for the number of seats available. Four candidates stepped up to run for three seats on the Rio Dell City Council, with two members retiring and one, Debra Garnes, seeking re-election.

The proposal by a San Diego-based firm, Terra Gen, to establish a wind farm on land outside Scotia was announced earlier in the year, and has been the subject of several communications efforts by the organization, which needs to have the county board of supervisors approve the plan, to move ahead.

October – Proposed housing and the need to relocate the library highlighted this month's issue, where a plan from the construction and property management firm Danco, to put 26 units of housing on vacant land at Rigby and Center came under fire by residents concerned that the initially-approved project had been expanded to allow people from outside the area, including the homeless and mentally ill. Part of the concern was that the library, which needed to relocate due to its failure to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities) access requirements, might move there, an offer Danco staff made to the city in an effort to be helpful.

A new, local chapter of Kiwanis International formed to serve Rio Dell and Scotia. The organization's focus is on youth, and the members pitched in on other community projects such as holiday decorating of the business district.

November – The city council candidate forum held in October by the chamber of commerce was the lead story, addressing views on various aspects of cannabis, such as allowing dispensaries in the city, as well as the Danco project and the city's need for economic development to help fund sagging infrastructure. **(Continued on page 4)**

Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Submissions deadline for February newsletter copy is January 18

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 each month, from 10 am to 1 pm. For more information, contact Food for People at 445-3166.

(Continued from page 3: 2018 in a glance) A new smoke shop opened in the portion of E&J's Liquors formerly housing the Subway restaurant, with Nicole Foyster managing operation for E&J's owners. Scotia's sale of housing meanwhile has moved into Phase 2 with 75 new properties on the block to be sold, and seven already in escrow, several by those already renting them.

New staffers were welcomed at the Community Resource Center, where interns and Ameri-Corps volunteers typically round out the staffing and cycle through their time assisting residents with the many programs the center offers.

December – Holiday events such as the chamber's annual tree-lighting ceremony, the Dell Arte International play performed each year for free at the Winema Theater in Scotia, and gift donation opportunities at the resource center and Dollar Store were featured in this issue.

Rio Dell residents enjoyed the Tree Lighting festivities at the chamber office on December 1.

