

Rio Dell-Scotia News

A year in review

A look through the year of Chamber of Commerce newsletters – archived at riodellscotiachamber.org/newsletter-around town/ – shows some of the issues facing our communities in 2019.

January – The work of Nick Angeloff, chamber president and archeologist, was highlighted, featuring the storefront he opened on Wildwood to house a team of archaeology students who were assisting him in helping growers become legal under the new rules of the state – an audit of the property to record any historic artifacts being one of many steps required in the process. They established the location of two Native American sites used for inter-tribal gatherings, and found various types of artifacts, some more than 4,000 years old. The group has been working for two years to provide landowners a report that not only met the requirements of legalization but told the story of the land and those who lived there in the past.

*Archaeological
Supply Co.
440 Wildwood*



*Cookies are my
Canvas. Next to
Post Office*



*DJ's Burger
Bar
509 Wildwood*



February – Cookies Are My Canvas, a local home-based business that moved to Wildwood, was featured in this issue, with business partners Stormi Davis and Kimber Timmerman opening a storefront next to the post office in Rio Dell where their special-order treats can be picked up, and parties can be held that feature cookie decorating, among other activities.

A profile of DJ's Burger Bar, which had been closed for renovations the previous three months, was also on offer, with owner Dorothy Johnson looking back on years of café ownership which began partnering with her daughter Jackie, who worked there under a prior owner while still in high school; the recent loss of many people precious to Johnson and important to her business, and also ahead to new efforts, with son Wesley cooking after reopening following recent upgrades and renovations.

The search for options to keep the library open in the face of requirements that it meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations was also explored, and solutions were found in the months that followed, enabling the library to stay at its location with the mandated reforms.

*Library ramp
project nearing
completion in
October*



*Francesca
Cumero new
President Eagle
Prairie Art
Dist.*



*Domenic
Bongio and
Fire Chief
planting tree
in Fireman's
Park*



March – This issue looked at changes in the business community a year after the Eagle Prairie bridge was closed by Cal Trans for painting, in light of concerns voiced at the time about the damage such closure during tourist season would cause area businesses. It profiled the new president of the Eagle Prairie Arts District, Francesca Cumero of Rio Dell; relayed an effort by Domenic Bongio, a horticulturalist who plays in Scotia Band, to re-forest Firemen's Park in Rio Dell after existing trees had to be cut down; offered computer security tips for home and business in a quarterly column by Billy Joe Long; and introduced two community groups using chamber of commerce space for their exercise and weight loss meetings and activities.

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News and Notes

Rio Dell schools set January activities

School starts January 6 after semester break. The Parent-Teacher Organization is Jan. 6 at 4 p.m. in Room 402. The Panther Picnic is Jan. 10, and the school board meeting is Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 103.

There is no school January 20 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. day. Monthly awards will be presented January 31.

Resource Center thanks partners in holiday giving

Sara Faught of the Rio Dell Community Resource Center thanks the Dollar Store for managing the Toys for Tots program, and both Scotia and Rio Dell post offices as well as Root 101 for having food barrels out to accept food donations to stock the food pantry. She notes 299 persons from 120 families were served during the Thanksgiving food give-away and 129 children were signed up for the Toys for Tots program.

Chamber thanks community for making tree lighting possible

Many hands and hearts come together each year in the effort to make Rio Dell sparkle for the annual tree lighting and the growing display of decorations that appear along Wildwood Avenue. Thanks go to Humboldt Redwood Company for the donation of the tree that stands on the median at Wildwood near Columbus; to Sunbelt Rentals (formerly Redi-Rents) for the use of lift equipment; to Root 101 for storing the displays during the year; to the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department and others in the community for help getting the decorations up; to Shotz Coffee for donated refreshments; to the Community Resource Center for providing refreshments, staffing and children's activities during the tree lighting; to Santa for taking time from his busy schedule to attend; to the Baptist Church singers and Scotia Saxs for providing music at the tree lighting ceremony and to City Councilperson Julie Woodall for making donated decorations available free to the community.

The following organizations and companies have been major donors to the chamber's lighting fund, enabling the purchase of the lighting for Memorial Park and street poles:

Archaeological Supply Company, City of Rio Dell and Natura Blue at the gold level; CC Catering at the silver level; and DJ's Burger Bar, Dan Collins Tree Service and The Pizza Factory at the Bronze level.

A year in review Continued

April –(Continued from Page 1) This month an article appearing in the *Red Headed Black Belt* online news media was reprinted with permission, introducing the businesses in the Rio Dell business park north of town in the former Eel River Sawmill site. Humboldt Brand is in the former Scott Moore Trucking space formerly called Spring Creek Supply, which in 2016 was leased by Ron Mattson, featured then in these pages for his garden supply business.

Humboldt Live Resin and the Emerald County Statewide distribution company, the first couple of several businesses owned in whole or part by Glenn White, were also introduced in the article. While construction of White's flagship building remains uncompleted as 2019 came to a close, these businesses have been operating in a series of temporary locations on-site throughout much of the year.

In other stories, the swearing-in of two new Rio Dell police officers, Logan Mitchell and Chrystal Landry, was reported, along with the move of Dias Artistries to a new location on the Avenue of the Giants in Redcrest. The city council approved measures to streamline cannabis taxation, allow up to three dispensaries in town, and permit distribution and testing labs downtown, as well as cultivation on the Dinsmore Plateau.

**Swearing-in
of new RDPD
Officers:
Mitchell &
Landry**



**Future Antiques
220 Wildwood**



**Mendes Supply
Eureka, CA**



May -- Two new businesses in Rio Dell were profiled, Future Antiques, which moved into the site previously vacated by Bigfoot New and Recycled Treasures, and Hardcar, a local office for a nationwide business providing armored transportation for cannabis products and revenue. Dalene Jamack of Future Antiques is bringing 40 years in the flea market business to a brick and mortar store, putting down roots after a life that she says has taken her from Key West, Florida to Anchorage, Alaska. **(Continued on Page 3.)**

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May —Hardcar, is renting space in the chamber of commerce business incubator at Wildwood and Columbus while it gears up, has been staffed locally by Morgan Dodson of Scotia, who when not establishing local contacts for the firm has helped advance its commitment to veterans by planting trees in public space in a program that calls attention to the frequency of veteran suicides.

In other news, Scotia school employees Gayle McKnight, cafeteria manager, and Sandra Close, instructor, were honored by the Humboldt County Office of Education for their commitment to their careers and the school district.

June – The lead story reported the Rio Dell City Council action the prior month, opposing the wind farm proposed by a San Diego-based firm, Terra Gen, for placement on Bear River and Monument Ridges south of Scotia. Scotia's Community Services District and the Town of Scotia LLC similarly opposed the move, which was presented in a number of formats and places over the preceding months by Terra-Gen staff.

The topic proved to be divisive and contentious throughout the county, throughout the year, as various factions asserted the need for renewable energy in a time of climate change and for a local source of power in the face of possible outages. There was concern on the other hand for damage to the environment and to sites sacred to the Yurok people, fire danger, and more. As the year came to a close, the county planning commission has nixed the project but Terra Gen appealed the decision.

A second feature profiled chamber member Mendes Supply, which has proven flexible in times of change, working not only locally but also globally to diversify its offerings and its supply chain

July – The Rio Dell City Council approved three dispensaries to open in the town center area, drawn from a short list of six proposals submitted to an ad hoc committee that reviewed them beforehand. Of those three, two have moved ahead in the process of permitting required in advance of opening the facilities. A second feature this month profiled a couple living on Sequoia Avenue in Rio Dell, Jim Quittenton and his wife, who have amassed a houseful of Disney memorabilia, stemming from a childhood connection Jim had through his dad with Walt Disney.

August – The line-up for Wildwood Days highlighted the newsletter this month along with a feature profiling chamber member Bear River Casino. Activities by the Eagle Prairie Arts District, the new principal at Rio Dell's schools, and a chamber networking event featuring the heads of both area school districts as the new school year was getting ready to start, were among the other topics.

Photos from Wildwood Days 2019



September – Results from various Wildwood Days competitions such as the parade, car show and duck race were highlighted, as well as efforts being made by the city to promote the anticipated opening of the Danco housing project in Rio Dell among the vulnerable populations for which it was intended. Gordon Johnson, veteran city council member, was named to fill the city council spot vacated by Bryan Richter, elected less than a year ago, who moved with his family out of town.

October – The featured story addressed the Public Safety Power Shutoffs that would be used by the power utility, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) in the event drought, wind and other conditions warranted shutting down power lines to help avoid wildfires. Later in the month, such shutoffs became a reality throughout the county. In another article, chamber member Scotia Band was profiled.

November – The proposed merger of four area fire departments – Rio Dell, Scotia, Redcrest and Shively - was highlighted, with Rio Dell chief Shane Wilson sharing the steps and timeline needed to accomplish this task, made possible by new county rules that would streamline and enhance the abilities of the departments to receive funding, training and equipment for better protection of area homes.

December – Traditional holiday events like the free play presented to the region by the Blue Lake-based Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, giving opportunities, and the annual chamber Dennis Wendt tree lighting are featured, along with computer tips from Billy Joe Long at Problem-Solving Applications, and interviews with two Scotia home buyers who are starting home-based services. (See photos Page 4.)

Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at

506-5081 to advertise.



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 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 Bellevue Ave. Rio Dell, **Tuesday & Thursday** 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
- **Bread for Life Food Pantry:** Journey Church, 95 Bellevue Ave., **3rd Thursday**, from 9 a.m.-12 Noon, For more info call 764-5239.

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

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

Free exercise program open to all meeting at Chamber of Commerce: An exercise group meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce, 406 Wildwood Ave. in Rio Dell, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The group is open to all ages and seeks new members. Formerly called SAIL, it focuses on improving balance, flexibility and range of motion to help prevent falls and broken bones.

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.

Weight-loss group meets at chamber office: Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at the Chamber of Commerce office at 406 Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell **each Friday morning**. Weigh-in is from 8 to 9:30 a.m. to accommodate various schedules, and a program is held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. All are invited. TOPS is part of a national organization and more can be found at the website tops.org. Other local chapters meet in Eureka and McKinleyville. New members are welcome.

Photos from annual chamber Dennis Wendt Tree Lighting and Decorating at Chamber Office.

Fireman Brice Sancho stringing Lights on Chamber Office



AmeriCorps Volunteers readying Crafts for Kids



Tara Baldwin And Virginia Smith putting final touches on indoor Christmas Tree



Sleepy Santa Portrayed by Nick Angeloff



Scotia Band Saxes playing in front of Chamber Office



Sara Faught from Community Resource Center at the Refreshment Table

