

Rio Dell-Scotia News

City Oks three dispensaries

The Rio Dell City Council approved the applications of three dispensaries to operate in the city center at its June 4 meeting. Members approved the ranking of an ad hoc committee consisting of Mayor Debra Garnes, Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Woodall, City Manager Kyle Knopp and Community Development Director Kevin Caldwell, who reviewed the six applications in advance of the meeting and created a short list.

Getting the go-ahead are Rio Dell Remedies, Element 7 and Proper Wellness Center. Representatives of the three were on hand to present an overview of their organization and respond to questions. A fourth applicant, Humboldt Legacy, was named as backup in case one of the initial three did not complete the process and open for business.

Two other proposed companies, Med Buddy and Café Joint, both with local applicants, were not moved ahead in the process. Café Joint had initially moved to purchase the Green Bean restaurant in Rio Dell, until a partner backed out.

The council approved the action 4-1 with council member Susan Strahan noting she's opposed to cannabis as a federally illegal drug. Frank Wilson, who has not been a supporter of cannabis-related actions, said he supported the herbal and other uses of the product that were part of the applicants' goals in opening their businesses, as well as to fight opioid addiction and promote wellness.

The highest-ranking of the applicants in the city's list was Rio Dell Remedies, "the vision of a diverse group of women with a shared belief in the benefits of a mindful, holistic, and natural approach to invoke the power of healing," according to the firm's proposal, noting "the team consists of a group of successful professionals across various fields."

They include several with law degrees who spent years working on behalf of growers and the legalization process while embracing alternative health therapies, and gaining backgrounds in marketing, contracts and education. Another, Kim Phelps, is an herbalist and doula (someone assisting women in childbirth), with a master's degree in Herbal Medicine and a doctorate in Natural Medicine. Dawnita Hoisington is a volunteer, community activist, and investor with her husband, Randy, in the Rio Dell industrial park. Liana Held was co-founder of one of the first and most famous cannabis dispensaries in California, the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club, having gathered signatures for the original passage of Prop 215 in 1996.

Spokesperson Jennie Stepanian told the council the business was seeking a location with two entrances to focus its missions on healing and health with a variety of herbal methods in one setting and the more traditional dispensary business in the other.

Element 7 focuses on size, education

A wholistic wellness cannabis company focused on being California's largest retail dispensary operator, Element 7 is owned and run by founder Robert de Vito, previously of the education industry. Expected to be open in first quarter 2020, according to company contact Josh Black, Element 7 will "collaborate with the local cannabis community to take craft cannabis from Rio Dell across the state, showcasing the products, passion and commitment from local farmers and artisans." (Continued on Page 3.)

WILDWOOD DAYS AUGUST 2nd -4th
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Scotia music teacher retires

Dana Christen, music teacher at Scotia since 1981, retired last month at the close of the school year. Known for her hard work, she was honored over the years with awards Including: Outstanding Music Educator from the California Association of Music Educators, the North Coast Music Educators Association Educator of the Year award, and the Wells Fargo Stage-coach Award.

A Scotia graduate herself, as were her daughters Katie and Karly, Christen spent summers summers taking classes to earn her Master's Degree from the University of Oregon. She added stringed instruments to the Scotia music program, and took students on field trips to diverse local venues including the Eureka Symphony, the Jazz Festival and the All County Music Festival. She taught band, chorus, strings, recorders and classroom music; played for classroom performances and graduation, and led sing-alongs.

Outside of school, Christen taught piano lessons; played weekly for a local church and in the Ragtime Band and at the Dixieland Jazz Festival; and is an accompanist with the Fortuna Concert Series and the Ferndale Community Choir, which she accompanied to Carnegie Hall in New York when it performed there in November, 2017, an experience she termed a career high...



Rio Dell school head leaves, replacement named

Rio Dell school superintendent Kevin Trone has accepted the position heading the Hydesville school district. Rio Dell principal Angela Johnson will assume his post. Her replacement will be named at the June 19 school board meeting. Trone and Johnson were named to their posts in 2017.

Community garden thanks Adam Dias

Deb Fisher, on behalf of the people using the community garden managed by the Community Resource Center and located on the Baptist Church property in Rio Dell, thanks Adam Dias of Rio Dell for donating, and delivering, a stack of pallets to the site. The pallets are used in a number of ways to keep down weeds, supply trickle-down watering, and more Fisher says.

Gate to Firemen's Park in Scotia automated for easier access

Visitors to Firemen's Park in Scotia may now get through the gate from sunrise to sunset every day, as the gate's opening and closing have been automated. Those enjoying the park will need to be out by sunset, however, or risk being locked in.

Cleanup nets 20 tons of trash

Rio Dell City Manager Kyle Knopp told the city council at the June 4 meeting that the May 11 citywide cleanup saw nearly 21 tons of recycling, yard waste and other materials collected, noting it was down 10 percent over the year before.

Celebrate local new business

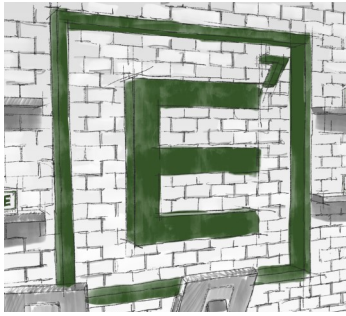
Come help Rio Dell business owner Jesus Ramirez celebrate ***Humboldt Auto Styling's*** grand opening and ribbon Cutting, **Saturday, July 13 from 1-3 p.m. at 3579 Rohnerville Rd., Fortuna.** Ribbon cutting will be at 1:30 p.m. Come grab a quick bite, enter to win a raffle prize and meet the staff.

Looking good!

Flowers are bursting out all over on Rio Dell's Wildwood Avenue, the work of many caring volunteers. Photos by Jim Brickley.



(Element 7 Continued from Page 1,)



Examples of the envisioned Element 7 Dispensary

We want to hire locally, and create a local community advisory board to keep us accountable to the commitments we make at a local level across health, education, veterans affairs and community," Black said, adding the company will actively engage with the community to "ensure that we address the changing needs of customers, patients and consumers, educating them to understand the medical and health benefits of cannabis as medicine.

The location, slated to be at 307 Wildwood Avenue after extensive remodeling, will feature an interactive "E7 Learning Zone" targeted at educating first-time customers before they make their first purchase.

Tara Gurley, co-owner along with Simone Mellor of **Proper Wellness**, another of the three dispensaries approved, showed a guest around her Eureka location at 517 Fifth Street. We promised the city we'd clean up this block," she said of the litter, discarded hypodermic needles and chronic vacancies that plagued the area. A recent clip on Channel 3 news told how the company has succeeded, in its few short months in operation, with efforts like hourly checks by the security guard posted outside for litter.



Gurley's goals in Rio Dell, similarly, are to help by bringing wellness and commerce to the community and supporting local growers and others. She points to efforts initiated in the Eureka location, such as recycling cannabis packaging and raising funds to help non-profits, that are indicative of actions she plans to bring to the Rio Dell location.

Disney-themed home brings joy to couple

Jim and Renee Quittenton

Jim Quittenton explains his fondness for all things Disney as he greets a visitor by the Mickey Mouse mural a friend painted for him that is mounted outside the front door of his home on Sequoia Street in Rio Dell. "I grew up in Anaheim," he explains, and in those days Anaheim residents got into Disneyland free. "It was my second home," he recalls. His dad enjoyed Sunday mornings on a park bench there and made friends with a man who enjoyed the same location. He later found his bench buddy was Walt Disney himself, who at the time lived in the park. "Dad said he was a grown man with a mind like a kid," Quittenton recalls.

Today, people might say the same of Quittenton, 66, who shares his house with his wife of 19 years, Renee; a cat she adopted named Ocean Pearl, and every imaginable bit of Disney memorabilia, including a pink television set, lap robes, throw pillows, seasonal decorations, books and movies, completed jigsaw puzzles framed on the walls, stuffed toys and figurines of Woody, the Toy Story cowboy; the full family of princesses, Nemo the fish, and of course Mickey and Minnie. Wife Renee shares the joy, showing off additional items she brought to the marriage like a Bambi painting from her mom. "We are kids at heart," she laughs.



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 by the Rio Dell Baptist Church.

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Submissions deadline for August newsletter copy is July 12
Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at
506-5081 to advertise.

St. Joseph Health 
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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.

News and Notes Continued from Page 2.

Danco project underway

The 26-unit housing project Danco is building at Rigby and Center in Rio Dell has begun. The \$7 million project offers affordable housing to populations including veterans, the homeless and elderly who meet income requirements. Jim Brickley photos.

