

Rio Dell-Scotia News



Great Redwood Trail could boost local tourism

A presentation to the Rio Dell City Council last month on the Great Redwood Trail suggested that the city could realize nearly \$1.5 million per year in economic benefits from increased tourism, based on a modeling system that uses the experience of communities along other major trails in the nation.

The Great Redwood Trail is a 316-mile stretch of former railroad right of way reaching from Humboldt Bay to San Francisco that is being transferred to serve as a multiple-use trail for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians, the longest of its type in the nation. The planning and construction will be a multi-year project. Meetings to gain input have been held in many communities and outreach efforts are continuing throughout the summer at events including the July 4 festival in Eureka, the rodeo in Fortuna and Wildwood Days in August. Feedback is additionally being gathered through work-shops to be held this month in Alderpoint and Hopland, an online workshop August 2, and others in early 2024.

There are many questions surrounding the project that are yet to be determined, Louisa Morris, project manager for the Coastal Conservancy in Mendocino County, said. She is on loan to the Great Redwood Trail Agency, formed in 2021 to address the subject. It works with Jeff Knowles, principal of Alta Planning + Design, an Oakland-based consulting group that helps communities address what Alta's website calls "the field of active transportation, evolving our planning and design work into a visionary practice that empowers people to live active, healthy lives and gets them where they need to go."

Questions to be determined include how to make the trail work for the diverse potential users, remain safe on tough stretches like the Scotia Bluffs, and reduce conflicts among users and landowners. Many decisions have not been made, or discussed that fully, for instance whether the route through the area should attempt to tackle the bluffs or take people into town. If the bluffs are used, a stub path can still lead people into town. Getting safely across the river and highway would be key and entail close work with Cal-Trans to design existing bridge access for the various types of trail traffic envisioned, Morris said.

In addition to benefitting existing businesses, the trail might provide a niche that potential new entrepreneurs would want to explore. Bike rental and repairs and parts, hiking and camping gear, and related goods and services are other opportunities existing businesses might want to expand to include, or new businesses might grow up around.

A Google search of Trail Towns provides a wealth of examples of communities that saw major economic benefits from a trail, but the stories also indicate that one needs to do more than set up shop and wait for people to show up. Marketing, enticements to draw people in, and other activities need to be employed. For more information on the Great Redwood Trail, go to <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/>



Pints for Nonprofits Friday July 21 to benefit chamber

Come have a brew at Scotia Lodge Friday, July 21 between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. Chamber members will greet you, share information about membership and chamber activities and the Wildwood Days parade, and give you a free, 16-ounce plastic tumbler.

It's part of the Pints for Nonprofits hosted by Scotia Lodge and other sites in the Humboldt Social franchise, to help area organizations.

NOTES AND NEWS

Sign up now for help making your home safer in future earthquakes

The deadline to register for the state's special Earthquake Brace and Bolt program for those living in the area affected by the late December and January 1 quakes in Ferndale and Rio Dell is July 31.

Nearly \$2 million is available to help homeowners in eligible ZIP Codes offset the cost of seismic retrofits. While these funds cannot be used to pay for repairs to damaged homes, they can be used to protect eligible homes from experiencing the same kind of damage from future earthquakes. A retrofit includes bracing the cripple walls of older houses, when present, and bolting houses to their foundation, making them less vulnerable to earthquake damage.

Income-eligible Humboldt County homeowners may also qualify for supplemental grants. These are available for households with an income at or below \$72,080 and may be able to provide up to 100% of the funds needed to cover a seismic retrofit.

Once registration closes, participating homeowners will be selected through a random drawing and notified via email if they have been selected or if they have been placed on the waitlist.

For more information, please visit <http://www.EarthquakeBraceBolt.com>.

Take the family to the zoo for free

Each month on the first day the library is open, four family passes to the Sequoia Park Zoo are available for checkout with a library card. The pass allows each family (up to two adults and up to six children) to visit the zoo for free. The deal is an arrangement between the zoo and the county library system – passes are available at each county library each month.

Scotia school gym progresses June 2023



Join the chamber monthly board meeting

Join in at noon on the first Friday of the month to be part of the discussion about how to make our communities even better. You can ask questions, make suggestions and be among the first to know new plans. July 7 will be the next monthly meeting. Call in at 605.313.4802 and use access code 860467 or come to 440 Wildwood, two doors north of the chamber office at noon to participate.

Coming to Rio Dell: cops on bikes

“People will talk to someone on a bike more easily than in a car,” Rio Dell Police Chief Greg Allen says. Getting officers out of cars and onto bikes will make them seem more accessible to community members, and help to break down barriers and build trust. The bikes, financed by Providence Medical Group, are a model produced by Trek for police use. They were expected to be on hand for the bike rodeo on June 17 and put into use after officers receive training, through a regular police course, in topics such as maintenance and safety.

Allen notes he used a bike in a former position as campus officer at Cal Poly Humboldt, and has undergone the training program. He, along with officers Crystal Landry and newly-minted addition to the department Aimee House, who graduated from the police academy in June, will be the first officers to take to the streets on two wheels.

Photo from Trek website



Crystal Landry
On Street Patrol

Photo Credit: Elliott Portillo and the *North Coast Journal*
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Wildwood Days Parade updates

Jim Rich named Grand Marshal

The theme this year for the Wildwood Days parade is Back in the Saddle Again, tying in with the western vibe of the over-all three-day community event. The chamber, which manages the parade, has named long-time business owner Jim Rich who retired in the past year as owner of The Pizza Factory, as grand marshal. Rich is being recognized for his years of service to the community in capacities including leadership in community organizations, co-founding the Little League, generously supporting activities with donations, and nearly a quarter century as a school board member.



Dance with the float – free classes offered!

The chamber will have a flatbed float in and around which people will dance the Boot Scooting Boogey to a continuous loop of music. All are invited to dance as part of this float. The song and the line dance associated with it are attributed to various artists dating back to the 1990s and refer to unwinding at a honky-tonk.

Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Carter who in her day job teaches fitness, will teach the dance to anyone interested on Fridays, July 21 and 28 at 10 a.m. at the Rio Dell fire hall. She insists it is very easy (examples of the dance, done by others, can be seen on YouTube).

Sign up this month to be in Wildwood Days BBQ cookoff!

July 12 is the deadline to register for the Wildwood Days BBQ contest, which will take place August 3. There is a \$50 entry fee to cover the cost of the baby back ribs that will be provided on the day of the event. Contestants will cook 3 racks on a barbeque. Individual permits to prepare food for an event are not needed. Cash prize and trophies will be awarded to the top three winners. Go to wildwooddays.godaddy.com to enter.

Computer Security Software Considerations

By Billy Joe Long, PSA Computer Services

Is more security really necessary? When is enough enough? Antivirus, spyware protection, malware protection, browser protection and firewalls, where does it all end? As we dive into this issue, remember each case is different and depends on where, what and how the computer is used. So, for our discussion we will break computer security up into two categories: “online computers” and “always offline computers.”



Online Computers:

1.) If your computer is connected to a network or the internet, you should have a functioning, properly licensed and updated antivirus program. The antivirus software you choose should offer “Real Time” scanning, “Scheduled” scanning and “Manual” scanning. “Real Time” scanning allows the antivirus program to continually scan files as they move to and from your computer, and will notify you if any of the file(s) are suspicious. Think of this as “preventive protection.”

“Scheduled” scanning allows you to schedule a recurring scan of all existing (or selected) files on your computer hard disk in a systematic effort to locate suspicious files. “Manual” scanning allows you to scan one or more particular files any time you feel it is necessary.

In the past antivirus software was purchased and installed on your computer. This usually required an annual subscription and could become quite pricey. For those of us using a modern Windows operating system, antivirus protection is built into the operating system at no additional cost. You can still purchase antivirus protection from a third-party vendor such as Symantec, McAfee and AVG, but be aware these programs have become quite expensive and massive. Worse yet, they can often render your computer unusable.

2.) If your computer is connected to the internet, you should have a functioning, properly licensed and updated firewall. A firewall is software or hardware that checks information coming from the Internet or a network, and then either blocks it or allows it to pass through to your computer using a list of rules. Some of these rules are generated automatically and others are rules we make. A firewall can help prevent hackers or malicious software (such as worms) from gaining access to your computer through your local network or the internet.

A “Software” firewall is installed directly on your computer. Microsoft operating systems have shipped with a software firewall built-in since the release of Windows XP service pack 2. A “Hardware” firewall, in most homes and small businesses, will be your router. With a hardware firewall there’s nothing to install on your computer. There are “paid for” firewall products available, but I would recommend taking a close look at the built-in firewall of the operating system you are currently using (if it offers one) before running out and purchasing the newest firewall product. For the majority of computer users, the built-in firewall is more than adequate. (Continued on Page 4)

Computer Security Software Considerations (Continued from Page 3)

Non-Internet Connected Security Considerations:

If your computer will NEVER be connected to a network or the internet, EVER, then you are at liberty to relax your protection considerably, allowing more of your systems resources to be used on applications. However, there are still some very important considerations. If you will be using storage media containing files from other computers which are connected to the internet, then there is still the possibility of infection. If your computer will never be connected to the internet, and you will never load files from another machine onto your computer, then you can bypass antivirus security software all together. If your computer will be using files from another computer then you should have an antivirus program installed.

Is More Protection Really Necessary?

In short, for a computer connected to the internet, a single antivirus program, a single configured firewall and a healthy dose of common sense is adequate. Installing more than one antivirus program can generate a few notable issues. Let's take a moment to look at the most critical of these issues.

(1) RAM Depletion. Each program running on your computer is using some of your system memory (RAM). The more programs running, the more RAM is used. When there is no more RAM available, your computer will begin to use your hard disk as a "type" of RAM. Hard disk access is not as fast as RAM access, and when your system has to start using the hard disk as RAM it degrades the performance of your entire system- TREMENDOUSLY!

(2) Software Conflicts. Having more than one antivirus program running on your system may result in a software conflict. If both programs are scanning your computer for "viral activity" there is a high probability they will see each other as "viral activity," causing a software conflict. This particular problem can be extremely frustrating and can lead to the next very challenging issue.

(3) System Corruption. Files necessary to the other antivirus program can often be identified as "malicious" and will be quarantined (made inaccessible) or removed, leaving the antivirus program corrupted. Trying to uninstall or repair a program in this state can be problematic, to say the least.

Unsure of your "Security" status? Give PSA Computer Services a call at (707) 506-6802.

Laundromat to be readied for opening

There are plans in the works for the laundromat in Rio Dell to reopen after repairs and upgrading. "We're waiting on permits," owner Davida Gray said last month. She and husband John purchased the laundromat and home next to it, both owned by Marlene and Joe O'Dell and briefly managed by Marlene O'Dell's daughter, Earleen Finan. following the couple's retirement and subsequent deaths. The Grays focused first on getting the home rented out, then moved on to other projects in their construction business. They planned to start work last winter, but then came the earthquake. The couple owns several rentals in Rio Dell, the community they have called home for 11 years



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