

Harry Pulver: Lifelong Area Supporter Heads Off to New Adventure



Harry Pulver

Harry Pulver, currently a board member and treasurer of the Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce, has been a source of support to organizations in the region for decades and will be missed when he moves with some members of his family to North Carolina later this month. He has 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.

"I don't know anyone who did so much for so many," Jim Rich, owner of the Rio Dell Pizza Factory, says of Pulver, his friend of nearly 30 years. Pulver grew up in the Alderpoint area and tells of taking the train to Eureka with his family, because the roads were too difficult to navigate by car in those days. He received an associate degree in electrical engineering at Santa Rosa Junior College (now Santa Rosa Community College) in 1957 with the goal of being an engineer.

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Rio Dell-Scotia News/Pulver Post Special Edition

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Water Tank Manufacturer at Sawmill Site



Bill Jeffries at work

Humboldt Rotational Molding is a business that opened last fall in the 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 under 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.

The company is housed in a parcel of the former sawmill site that includes the large, green metal building. Bill Jeffries of Fortuna staffs the manufacturing effort, and explains the process, which involves putting the basic material, a type of plastic called polymer, into a giant piece of equipment called a Rotoline machine which is dominated by a bright blue drum.

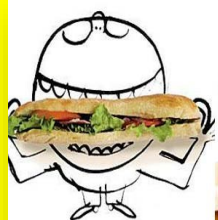
An arm on each side of the drum holds a mold, which is inserted into the drum in a three-stage process that involves melting the plastic, heating it to 580 degrees and turning it in various directions (hence the "rotational molding" name) to coat the surface. It takes 375 pounds of the base material to make a small tank, up to 800 pounds for a large one. He works a control panel on the front of the Brazilian-made piece of equipment to manage the process. The polymer comes from Canada by way of Los Angeles where it is pulverized and the black color is mixed in. With the two arms, one at each side, accepting molds one after another, it's a continuous process, Jeffries says. Eight or nine tanks can be made in 10 hours, depending on their size. The finished tanks then slide out of the mold. **Continued on Page 3.**

Root 101 Nursery to open in Rio Dell

Harry Smith



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. "We have the room," Smith says, of the ability to carry a large product line. **Continued on Page 4.**



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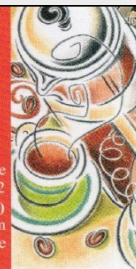
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News and Notes

Save the Date!: A farewell party will be held for Harry Pulver, a long-time supporter of the people and organizations of Rio Dell and Scotia (see the profile starting on page 1). The party will be held at the Winema Theater in Scotia on Sat., March 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to enjoy food, music, a brief program at 2 p.m., and to wish Harry well as he leaves his lifelong home of Humboldt County and travels to a new home with extended family in North Carolina. The event is sponsored by the Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce, CC Market, Aqua Dam, and Automotive Workshop & Fabrication.

Easter egg hunt planned for April: Save the date, the annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Rio Dell Community Resource Center will be April 15 at Fireman's Park in Rio Dell from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be free food for all and an egg hunt for the kids.

Emergency Food: Running low on food this week? Get a bag for your family or just for yourself at the Community Resource Center; no income verification is needed.

Volunteers needed!: The Eagle Prairie Arts District is looking for people to volunteer in the art gallery and visitor's center at 406 Wildwood Ave. in Rio Dell. Schedules are flexible, you can meet the public, represent local arts businesses, and help visitors to the community with information. Contact Kim Reid, gallery coordinator, at 707-681-6819 or visit facebook.com/info.epad.

Rio Dell schools: Rio Dell schools will host the Eel River Valley association of schools in the annual spelling bee March 1 at 6 p.m. The event will take place at the River Lodge in Fortuna. The boys' basketball tournament will be March 3 and 4 in Crescent City. The Parent Teacher Organization is March 6 at 4 p.m. in Room 107. The school board meets March 8 at 5:30 p.m. A steak feed will be held March 15 as a fund-raiser for the 8th grade. Tickets are \$10 each and available from students. The event will be 4 to 7 p.m. in the gym. Parent-teacher conferences are March 15, 16 and 17. Trimester awards will be presented March 24 and 28. Grades K-5 will receive awards at 8:30 a.m. on March 24, and grades 4 and 5 will receive theirs at 10 a.m. Grades 6 to 8 will receive awards March 28 at 10 a.m.

Scotia's school activities: March 1 Kindergarten registration begins - pick up a packet in the school office, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Parent Teacher Organization meets Mar. 1 at 6 p.m. Mar. 2 is Dr. Seuss Day, a national observation of reading in public schools, honoring the birthday of the popular author. Mar. 9 is the school board meeting, at 7 p.m.

Daylight savings time reminder:

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour March 12 for Daylight Savings Time.

Pulver Continued from Page 1. "But I got married instead," he chuckles, and went to work at Pacific Lumber, as the Scotia mill was called then. He was later encouraged to seek a job in the post office and began as interim postmaster, pending passing the required tests, and ultimately serving as post master of Rio Dell and Scotia from 1964 to 1992. After retiring and moving to Fortuna and later Eureka, he continued his chamber membership, and was active with Rich, who moved to the area in 1988, in many community events. The pair worked for 13 years in the Trikes for Tykes effort to refurbish donated bicycles and give them to needy children in the community, using loaned space over what is today The Mill, across from the Pizza Factory, taking in hundreds of bicycles and thoroughly renovating them. The effort ended when bicycles became throw-away items, Rich says. "You could buy a new bike for \$100 and it would take \$200 to refurbish one. You couldn't get the parts." Their inventory of spare bike pieces was then given to Hobart Brown, founder of the Kinetic Sculpture Race, and thus Rio Dell can claim a role in launching that long-time regional event. Rich and Pulver started many of the activities and traditions that are seen widely today, Rich notes. They were in the group that began the rubber duck race that's a part of Wildwood Days, and got grants and sponsorships to put up banners promoting the annual community festival, as Fortuna does today for its many events.

"Harry would have vendors set up all over downtown for Wildwood Days - he handled all that, getting the permits," Rich says. Pulver started a chamber newsletter which Rich insisted on calling the *Pulver Post* to credit him. That was later renamed and managed by the Community Resource Center, and today is a joint project of the chamber and resource center. Pulver computerized the records of organizations he belonged to, such as the chamber and the mobile home park where he lived in Fortuna, and where he also managed a newsletter for residents.

"Racing is what drew us together," Rich says of his friend. Both men raced a class of car called Thunder Roadsters, and in later years both went on to be technical inspectors at Redwood Acres, where they examined machines brought in by drivers to ensure they were qualified to compete by meeting the requirements of their class. "Harry was a family man," Rich says, and raced for years with his two sons, Doug and Tony, and his wife of more than 50 years, Mary.

Motor home travel is another interest for Pulver, who with his wife spent several years on the road full-time, working as camp ground hosts in various states. Since being widowed in 2013, Pulver has volunteered three days a week at the Tail Waggers thrift shop in Eureka, which raises money for the Sequoia Humane Association. He uses his engineering talents to check over the equipment that is donated to make sure all the parts are there and everything works before it is sold.

Water Tanks Continued from Page 1. Aside from the different sizes, there are two styles, a rounded top that sheds rain and one designed for rain water catchment. The tanks are sold to retail outlets throughout Humboldt County such as Whitethorn Construction and Watson Well Service in Eureka. The Studebakers also work at Randall Sand and Gravel in Garberville, where Shawn is operations manager. His mother owns the business, which has been in the family for 65 years. Natives of Southern Humboldt, the Studebakers live there with their three children and are active members of their community, serving for many years with the Briceland Volunteer Fire Department and the Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team. **Continued Page 4.**

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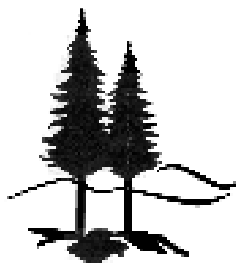
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~Meeting Calendar~

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 second and fourth Saturday of the month starting at 11:00 am with story teller Kathy Frye. 715 Wildwood Ave, 764-3333.

Emergency Food

The Journey Church, 95 Bellevue Ave. Rio Dell, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce

406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell.
For more info call 506-5081.

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: Rio Dell Baptist Church, Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 764-3811 for more information.

Eagle Prairie Arts District

Meetings are the 1st Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Gallery/Visitor's Center. Call 506-5081.

Women's Health Project Breast and Gynecology Eel River Valley

Outreach Center:

707-726-7919 or 825-8345

Friday Playgroups

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 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. There will not be a Storytime when school is closed.



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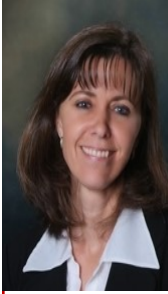


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Submissions deadline for April newsletter copy is March 17th. Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 506-5081 to advertise.


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Roots 101 Continued from Page 1. “Here’s where we will have a café, coffee and waffle tacos, people can eat in and look out these windows, or go to the drive through that will be there,” Smith points as he describes the vision. He says summer hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the café will be open before that to catch early traffic.

Smith and business partner Nick Mitchell of Garberville purchased the building from the John Earp family of Garberville in a deal finalized in late December after Smith spent three years thinking about what that site could be, when driving through town. “It’s a beautiful space. I pitched it to my partner. We told the Earps our vision and they sold without the store being on the market,” Smith said. Gear with the Root 101 logo, produced by 960 Pixels Design in Eureka and printed by Lotus Mountain silkscreening in Fortuna, will be for sale, as well as locally-made items from area businesses, such as soaps and candles. A Facebook site carries photos of the transformation of the building, and a web site is in progress.

Smith says he has been a business owner for five years, and Root 101 Nursery will operate under his parent company, Green 2 Gold Enterprises LLC. Already on the job is Gabriel Smith of Eureka, not related, who as general manager brings nine years’ experience in hydroponics in Las Vegas, San Diego, and locally. Additional help will be hired in advance of the soft opening, expected in March. A three-day grand opening is anticipated around April 20. While growers of all types will be served by the facility, cannabis plants will not be for sale. “We are next to a school, it’s not allowed,” Harry Smith says.

Water Tanks Continued from Page 3. In addition, Aurora is a founding member of Mountain to Sea Wilderness Camp, where she serves as an instructor and board member. Its mission is to give girls and women the opportunity to develop a deeper connection to themselves and the wilderness around them. Jeffries, who retired from more than 40 years at Humboldt Redwood Company (known previously as Pacific Lumber) last fall to start this position, served 18 years as a fire fighter in Scotia during his years at the mill, including a stint as assistant chief, but had to resign when he moved to Fortuna.

As for future plans, Aurora notes, “We plan on making other products in the future if the need arises but for now we are going to focus on water tanks. We are also working on expanding the capabilities to include pulverizing our own material as well as including a high-intensity mixer so we can mix the color into the polymer on site.”

She adds, “People can call us at 707-725-1744, email humboldtrotationalmolding@gmail.com or check out our website at humboldt tanks.com.”