

Shotz Coffee to Open in Rio Dell



The Shotz Crew

Shotz Coffee in Fortuna is opening a second location, at 541 Wildwood Ave. in Rio Dell. Owner Nicole Norton purchased the Fortuna business, located at 1665 Main Street, less than a year ago from Betsy Filippini who has owned it since 2011, and who won the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce's Small Business of the Year award in 2015. Norton has worked as a cosmetologist in Ukiah, for Cal Fire, and in real estate investing, as well as being a mom. "I managed a coffee shop in Willits," she said, and so thought this would be

a fun adventure. "It's been the funnest adventure," she asserts.

She plans to keep the same menu, and for the serving staff to rotate between the two facilities. Fortuna manager Shasta Phillis says a big draw for the business is that it's locally owned. "White mochas are our most popular drink," she offered, and notes the menu has been expanding with new options like bread pudding, paninis and soups.

The Rio Dell manager will be Fortuna native Bergen Jones, who has worked at McDonald's, Starbucks and the Fortuna Theater. Among the other new things to roll out will be a new logo, rebranding the familiar name, created by Precision Intermedia in Fortuna.

Humboldt Gables Readies for Tourist Season



Dave Thompson

As we move into the tourist season, Humboldt Gables Motel on Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell will be ready. Owner and manager Dave Thompson clicks off the upgrades he's recently made to the 20-room facility – soundproofing, new paint and carpet, new Simmons Beautyrest mattresses, flat-screened TVs. "It took three years of saving," he said, to be in a place where he could get all this done.

Thompson and his family have deep roots in the area. "My grandfather was a watchman in the Scotia mill," he notes, and built a couple homes in Rio Dell; his father moved to the area after serving in World War II, also working in the mill, then becoming ordained as a Baptist minister. The Rev. James Thompson needed to supplement his pastor's salary to support the family so sold real estate, which led to a second career after retiring, investing in properties such as a motel and restaurant in Eureka. He took over the Humboldt Gables in 1995, after it was partially destroyed in the 1992 earthquake and returned by a prior owner to the owner before that.

The elder Thompson was joined by his son, who had been studying engineering and computer programming and working for a software company, in 2004. "My mother had dementia and I moved back to help care for her," Dave Thompson recalls, noting he and his father, who was 80 at the time, divided up shifts between motel work and care for his mother, Mary, who died in 2011. The father, now 92, lives with another son and Dave Thompson has taken over the motel. **Continued on page 3.**



The Internet has become a dangerous place, and computer security threats are a very real concern for any organization

or home that uses a computer. "Malware" is blended from the words "malicious" and "software." It is often a catchall term for computer-related threats such as viruses, spyware, adware, and other software installed without a user's consent or knowledge.

Symantec, a computer security provider, reported discovering more than 430 million new unique pieces of malware in 2015, up 36 percent from the previous year. Kaspersky Lab, another computer security provider, reported close to 2 million registered notifications about attempted malware infections aimed at stealing money via online access to bank accounts.

Why is there so much malware? Stealing and selling your personal information, your banking and credit card information, is a huge industry. Attackers not only steal your information, but once they have compromised your computer system, they can use it to attack others, and perform other illegal activities – masquerading as you!

Methods for infecting computers with malware are often quite sophisticated. Malware can spread through what appear to be legitimate files, links, or websites. What's even worse is "attack toolkits," which can be downloaded for free or purchased online, making cybercrime easy and inexpensive to commit by relatively unsophisticated perpetrators.

It's important for computer users to understand these threats and protect themselves. This series of articles will provide an overview of malware threats, suggestions for infection prevention, and steps to take if you suspect your computer is infected. **Cont. Pg 4.**

Bike Rodeo will be May 6

The Rio Dell Community Resource Center will host a Bike Rodeo May 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Rio Dell Elementary School parking lot. It is open to all Rio Dell and Scotia families who ride bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc. The kids will learn about street safety and get a new helmet. There will be raffles for prizes and free food and drinks for all.

Spring Cleanup Offers Free Trash Disposal

The annual Spring Cleanup will be Sat., May 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the elementary school at 95 Center Street, Rio Dell. Open only to Rio Dell residents, this is an opportunity to dispose of furniture, yard trimmings, scrap wood and metal, old appliances, and more, free. Tires, electronics and hazardous waste will not be accepted. Call Eel River Disposal at 725-5156 for more information.

Arts Event Slated for May 13 at Winema

The 5th Annual Art, Brew and BBQ will be May 13 with four musical acts in a concert running from 3 p.m. to midnight at the Winema Theater in Scotia. Performers will include local favorite Layla Dias (runner-up in the Classic Cover Contest conducted last year by KWPT - The Point - radio station); local rock cover foursome Doug Fir & the 2X4s; Absynth Quartet (whose music is described as fire-breathing Indie-grass) and Rosewater (a Grateful Dead tribute band). There will be BBQ and other food, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages for sale; vendors, a silent auction and more. Pre-sale tickets to this family-friendly event are \$35 and \$45 at the door. Kids 12 and under are free. Get tickets at Dias Artistries, Bigfoot's New and Recycled Treasures and the Pizza Factory in Rio Dell and online at brownpapertickets.com/event/2914637. This fundraiser helps the non-profit Eagle Prairie Arts District provide creative and intergenerational arts to the community. The event is sponsored by Dias Artistries, Bigfoot's New and Recycled Treasures, the Eel River Brewery and Pat Paulsen Vineyard. It is funded in part by the Humboldt Area Foundation, The Jean & Harold Wycoff Memorial Fund and The Verna P. Victor Trust. Vendors interested in obtaining a spot and businesses that would like to donate items for a silent auction or help sponsor this event should call 707-267-4920 or send a message to the organization on its Facebook page.

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast Planned

The annual Mother's Day pancake breakfast will be held May 14 at the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department from 8 to 11 a.m. The price is \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children.

Free Produce Market to Start

Food for People, the food bank for Humboldt County, will kick off its 2017 season of free, monthly farmers' market-style produce distributions in May. The nearest is in Fortuna, on the third Wednesday of each month, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Adventist Community Services, 2331 Rohnerville Road, starting May 17. These markets help ensure low-income households have access to the fresh fruits and vegetables needed for a healthy diet. Eligibility requirements range from \$1,485 for one person and \$2,002.50 for two, up to more than \$6,000 per month for a family of 10. Anyone who meets that is invited to attend and asked to please bring their own bags. No income verification is needed. This is in addition to the "mobile pantry" on the second Wednesday of each month Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information contact Food for People at 445-3166 or visit www.foodforpeople.org.

Scotia School Plans Fundraiser, More

The Parent-Teacher Organization will meet May 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. National Teachers Day is celebrated May 9. On May 11, there will be an 8th grade Spaghetti Dinner and Auction fund raiser from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by the school board meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be an open house May 24 from 6 to 7 p.m.; school is closed for Memorial Day on May 29 and the 8th grade trip will be May 30 to June 2.

Rio Dell Schools Slate Concert, Banquet, Carnival

On May 10 there will be a Mother's Day tea from 1:45 to 3 p.m. At 5:30 that day, the school board will meet. On Sat., May 13 there will be a spring clean up sponsored by Eel River Disposal, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On May 24, there will be a potluck sports banquet at 5:30 p.m. in the gym. On May 25, there will be a spring concert at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. School will be closed for Memorial Day on May 29. The school carnival will be June 2, 5 to 8 p.m.

Community Resource Center Names New Family Service

The Nurturing Parenting Program is now available. It focuses on discussions and activities which promote nurturing relationships between parents and children. This program is free to all community members with flexible scheduling, and meetings can be 30 minutes or 1 hour. Please call and register with Peach Leath. Childcare will not be provided during NPP sessions. The First Five Playgroup that meets 10 a.m. to noon Fridays in the Early Head Start classroom at 95 Center Street, Rio Dell, is cancelled May 12. Storytime, that meets Monday mornings at the Eagle Prairie school in Rio Dell, for families with children under 5 years old, is cancelled May 29 Memorial Day.

Humboldt Gables continued from page 1.

His roots in the area, interest in history, and experience watching the community from the lawn of the motel, makes him a font of ideas and information. He's quick to share his thoughts with visitors, and to put his resources where it will help – as noted in last month's newsletter, he has paid for placement of Rio Dell each year in the Avenue of the Giants travel guide. A TripAdvisor recommendation last summer sums it up:

The manager, a lovely, gentle giant of a man, polices his units fiercely and lovingly. We were amazed at the cleanliness, charmed by the information Dave imparted. Dave knows all the restaurants and the back roads to get you there, has great pictures on his walls of Rio Dell. He grew up here, and his care for his town shows. So, at the edge of the Redwoods there is a safe and welcoming place to stay. What more could you want?

Chamber Board Names New Officers

To replace Harry Pulver on the Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (see article last month) and as treasurer, the board appointed Melissa Marks, a Rio Dell native. She served on the Rio Dell City Council from 2004 until 2014 when she chose not to run for re-election, and last year was named to the city's Planning Commission. She is a retired bookkeeper who last worked at HR Block in Fortuna.

Eldon Whitehead of Fortuna was also named to the board as historian. A long-time member of many organizations in the region over the past 40 years, he shares his passion for local history on a dozen Facebook pages and websites. He was featured in this newsletter last summer when named Grand Marshall of the Wildwood Days parade.

Continuing as officers are Nick Angeloff, president; Tracy O'Connell, newly named vice-president; and Sharon Holt, secretary; other board members are Susan Pryor and James Brickley and honorary member Frank Bacik.

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 Belleview Ave. Rio Dell, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **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:** 100 Butcher St., Rio Dell, Rio Dell Baptist Church, Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 764-3811 for more information.

Eagle Prairie Arts District: 406 Wildwood Avenue. 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 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.

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.

Senior Group Meets for Lunch, Cards: Rio Dell-Scotia seniors meet Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for cards and lunch at the chamber of commerce office, 406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell. Contact John at 764-3251 by noon the day before to have a \$3 lunch provided by CC Market, or just come for the cards.

Technology Continued from Page 1:

Malware can get into your system in a variety of ways including:

- Infected email attachments
- Infected removable storage such as portable “thumb-drives”
- Downloaded software
- Links in email, social media websites, or instant messages

Here are a few categories of malware, again, not exhaustive:

- Viruses are a kind of self-replicating software that can slow down or cripple systems, and destroy or alter data.
- Spyware is software that spies on computer users’ activity to steal passwords, online banking login credentials, and other personal information, typically by using a “keylogger” that records the keys you press and sends it back to the attacker.
- Adware displays annoying pop-up ads.
- Scareware mimics a legitimate antivirus or anti-spyware service, saying a computer has been infected, encouraging users to download (and pay for) a fake security solution. The downloaded software is usually spyware.
- Ransomware encrypts files on a computer, making them inaccessible until a specified ransom is paid. More information on ransomware can be found at my website – <http://www.psa-2.com/2016/09/ransomware-victims-urged-to-report-infections-to-federal-law-enforcement/>
- Botnets are networks of infected computers used for illegal activities, such as sending spam emails or “denial of service” attacks.

You may be thinking this all sounds scary, but does it really affect me at home or at my place of business? Yes! It is not just large companies or government organizations that need to protect themselves. Anybody, home user or business, can be a victim of malware if not properly protected. If you have a business, your customers trust you with their personal information. If you are a home user you probably have precious family pictures or important documents stored on your computer. If you’re not taking steps to secure your data your information is not safe. Such security breaches can have major financial and legal consequences.

In the next article we will discuss how anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software works.

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St. Joseph Health 

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Redwood Energy to Start Providing Service

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is due to start serving homes in Rio Dell (where the city has joined the program) and Scotia (because of the county’s signing on) this month, switching you over on your billing date to the new service (so your first actual bill under this program will come in June). Called Repower, it promises to be cheaper than PG&E, and will use the existing PG&E infrastructure to deliver electricity to your home, as before.

The program, also called Community Choice Energy, has been discussed at length in the media, at Rio Dell City Council meetings, and in evening informational meetings at the Chamber of Commerce office, among other venues. The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is called a joint powers authority, made up of representatives from participating organizations with “the goal of advancing the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources to benefit member agencies and their constituents,” according to its website. In addition to Humboldt County and Rio Dell, participating entities include cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Trinidad; and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. Its other projects include workshops and seminars for homeowners on energy efficiency, training for installers of solar power systems, and energy efficiency assessments for home owners, renters, businesses and schools.

The program will seek out different sources of power generation than those used by PG&E, which proponents claim will result in lower costs. Natural gas service will continue to come from PG&E, which will continue to manage the billing and other utility services. People enrolled in discount electric rate programs such as California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE); Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA); Medical Baseline Allowance (MBA); and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will continue to be enrolled in those and receive those benefits. One program that will change is the Balanced Payment Plan (BPP), which levels out monthly fluctuations in the cost of service to one flat, predictable amount – that will not include the cost of power generation under the new program, so that portion of your bill, if you are on that program, will fluctuate month to month.

The new service promises to offer 37 percent renewable energy, more than the basic PG&E sources provide. If you want to go for 100 percent renewable energy, you can opt into Repower+ for an additional fee. If you want to opt out and continue with PG&E, you need to call the Redwood Coast Energy Authority at (800) 931-RCEA – have your PG&E bill handy so you can provide the account number and any other information required. If you prefer, you can go online to RedwoodEnergy.org to opt out.