

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Update on earthquake recovery efforts

Loans for qualifying applicants announced

The Humboldt County Sheriff's office in a news release last month announced that low-income homeowners with residences in unincorporated Humboldt County and the City of Rio Dell whose homes sustained earthquake damage may qualify for owner-occupied rehabilitation loans.

These low interest, deferred payment loans are made possible with approximately \$2 million received by the County of Humboldt and the City of Rio Dell through the California Department of Housing and Community Development's CalHome and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

The Humboldt County Planning and Building Department is currently accepting pre-applications for owner-occupied rehabilitation loans and has partnered with the City of Rio Dell to administer the city's program funds.

Homeowners with residences that have been red tagged due to earthquake damage are especially encouraged to begin the loan screening process. Start with a pre-application, here: <https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/116479/Owner-Occupied-Rehabilitation-Loan-Pre-Application-Form>. They will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

The maximum loan amount Rio Dell CDBG loan recipients may receive is \$80,000 and the minimum loan amount is \$5,000. The maximum loan amount eligible residents may receive in CalHome funds is \$200,000, and loans typically range from \$25,000-75,000.

For qualifying homeowners, owner-occupied rehab loans may be used to remediate health and safety issues, bring homes up to building code standards, repair or replace major home systems, make energy savings-related improvements, make Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility improvements, and repair earthquake, flood, or fire damage.

To be eligible one must:

- Earn less than 80% of Humboldt County's median income adjusted for household size. For a family of four in 2023, that is up to \$62,300 a year.
- Be a full-time resident in your home located in an unincorporated area of Humboldt County or within Rio Dell city limits. Maintain property insurance and have your property taxes current.

After rehabilitation, the value of your home cannot exceed 105% of the median purchase price in Humboldt County, as defined by the California Association of Realtors.

Owner-occupied rehabilitation loan rates are 3%, simple interest, amortized for 30 years. Loans are secured by a deed of trust with no payments required as long as the borrower remains in the residence, property taxes are paid, and fire insurance is maintained.

Completed forms must be emailed to plbl_grants@co.humboldt.ca.us, dropped off in person, or mailed to County of Humboldt Attn: Housing, 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

For more information contact the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department at 707-267-9402. For updated information and available resources regarding earthquake recovery, visit humboldt.gov/earthquake.

When will there be boots on the ground?

Nick Bown-Crawford, who rose to near-saint-hood in the eyes of earthquake survivors for his work lining up food trucks serving hot meals in the aftermath of the quakes, reports that progress is being made on getting the disaster case management system running. In his new role as interim head of the Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG), a coalition of organizations that is leading the effort to manage rebuilding, he explains that "what seems like a sluggish timeline" nonetheless is ahead of many recent disasters. As an example, he notes "the latest LTRG formed in LA County took 6.5 months to implement their case management system before they could start getting resources to impacted individuals." (Continued on Page 3.)

Mother's Day pancake breakfast planned

The pancake breakfast put on annually by the volunteer firefighters at the Rio Dell fire hall will be from 8 to 11 a.m. on Mother's Day, May 14. Diners of all ages can enjoy the meal for \$10 each.

Household waste round-up set

The annual waste round-up for Rio Dell residents will take place Sat., May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eagle Prairie Elementary School, 95 Center Street, Rio Dell. Those participating are reminded that the items accepted include furniture, appliances, scrap wood and metal and yard trimmings. Items not accepted at this event include tires, trash, e-waste, hazardous waste and construction waste. The event is sponsored by Recology Eel River, which accepts e-waste at its Fortuna facility at 965 Riverwalk Drive for a small charge per item. People coming to the May 13 event are reminded that the line goes more quickly for everyone if the items are sorted in advance into trash, wood and metal, so they can be unloaded in that order.

Be able to assist your neighbors in a disaster with free Red Cross training

Two days of free training will be offered through the Red Cross at the fire hall in Scotia on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, for those interested in volunteering for the Disaster Action Team (DAT). Red Cross volunteers who sign up for DAT are available for shifts in which they are available to respond to calls to help those who have lost their home or are facing other personal disasters that leave them in need of immediate assistance.

House fires are a frequent situation to which DAT responders are called. When a house fire leaves the family without a place to stay (because the home is unsafe or totally destroyed), if the family indicates to responding fire personnel that they do not have someone close by to whom they can go, the Red Cross is contacted and reaches out to the DAT members on call who work in pairs to provide the displaced family with vouchers for a motel stay, meals and some clothes and toiletries to get the family through the immediate crisis. Explosions, gas leaks and mud slides are among the situations have brought DAT responders to the assistance of one or more affected families.

Interested? For more information about becoming a volunteer and getting the training, call 707.601.8490

Get ready now for the Wildwood Days Parade!

The fire department is busy planning Wildwood Days, and several of the activities being discussed at this point have a western flavor. In connection with that, the theme of the Wildwood Parade, put on by the chamber, is *Back in the Saddle Again*. Businesses, families, organizations and others are encouraged to think of a way to participate in this Aug. 5 event by dusting off their boots, string ties and other western gear and planning a parade entry. As always, entering is free. People are asked to complete an application so a description of their entry can be read at the reviewing stand. Copies are at the chamber web site, riodellscotiachamber.org, and will be available at the staging area for the parade, in front of the schools on Center Street. Prizes will be offered to winners in categories such as best use of theme, best vehicle, and best overall.

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. May 5 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.



Continued from Page 1) When will there be boots on the ground?

The case management system will provide one-to-one help through area non-profit organizations such as Arcata House Partnership experienced in assisting in rebuilding and repairing damaged homes. The actual construction will be through organizations such as Hope Crisis Response Network and Habitat for Humanity, but the case managers will streamline the efforts for the home owners or renters involved and interact with the builders.

Bown-Crawford adds that the members of the LTRG “want to recognize the anxiety of waiting without information that feels adequate enough,” so an in-person drop-in and chat event is being planned with members of the LTRG and other partners in the recovery effort at the Community Resource Center to share what the community can expect in the coming months.

While the Community Resource Center will be a host of the case management system when it is operational, archaeologist Nick Angeloff is offering the use of his office, two buildings north at 440 Wildwood, for additional space and a more confidential and private setting in which case managers can meet with clients about the plans and processes involved in repairing or rebuilding their homes.

The Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce board last month approved serving as a fiscal sponsor for funds moving from donors and grants to recipients, a requirement to have in place. The board waived the opportunity to charge a couple percentage points for the role. Bown-Crawford will manage the actual accounting, with the chamber writing checks as the expenditures are approved by the LTRG.

Scotia Museum project advances

Town of Scotia staffer and *Times-Standard* writer Mary Bullwinkel shares some photos and an update on the Scotia Museum which has been undergoing some remodeling prior to reopening. The schedule is not firm, she notes, as the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system has been installed but not hooked up, pending completion of a new gas line, which she notes is the subject of ongoing discussion between the Scotia Community Services District and energy provider PG&E.

The museum was first steam heated (from the Scotia Cogen plant) and when that was dismantled, the only warmth came from electric baseboard-type heaters. The new heating system will be “hugely beneficial,” Bullwinkel notes, for preserving the more than 100 years of documents, photographs and other items stored in the museum, covering both The Pacific Lumber Company and the town of Scotia itself.

There are rusty dishes and ceramic coffee cups from old logging camps, shipping schedules from the days when lumber was shipped on schooners, a wicker wheelchair and other medical items from the Scotia Hospital, and office records from the hospital and the First National Bank of Scotia, which was a former occupant of the present-day museum building.

There are examples of byproducts produced by PALCO, such as insulation (known as PALCO wool) and an oil well drilling mud conditioner/inhibitor (known as PALCOTAN).

The building itself was constructed in 1920. The museum opened in the early 1950s, when a new bank building, now the office of the Town of Scotia Company, was completed.



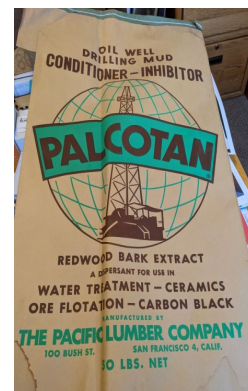
Main Entrance to Scotia Museum



ADA Bathroom Scotia museum



HVAC in Museum



PALCOTAN BAG

All photos supplied by Mary Bullwinkel

Star Wars-themed event slated for June 2-3

Fans of Star Wars, and businesses seeking a way to connect with new populations, rejoice. The Forest Moon Festival, a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the release of the movie *Return of the Jedi* is planned in many venues across Humboldt and Del Norte counties next month.

Why? Because portions of the movie were filmed there, in 1983. In Humboldt County the Cheatum Grove in Grizzly Bluffs State Park on Highway 36 was the site where the sequence known as the speeder bike chase was set. In Del Norte, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, as well as private property, were locations where shooting took place, representing Planet Endor. One hundred Del Norte residents were hired to serve as storm troopers in the movie.

This is not the first time an effort has been made to celebrate the George Lucas film franchise. Last year, the Sequoia Park Zoo held an event on May 4 (“May the fourth” is code to Star Wars fans for the saying “May the Force be with you,” said by various characters, from Hans Solo and General Dodonna to Obi-Wan Kenobi). Free entry to the zoo, including the skywalk, was on offer along with music, guest speakers associated with the film, and the chance for visitors to come dressed as their favorite Star Wars character, which many chose to do.

This year, May 4 events are being held around the country to celebrate the anniversary event, as well as those, as is happening locally, on other dates. Humboldt-Del Norte County Film Commissioner Cassandra Hesseltine explained on a Zoom call last month the dates of June 2 and 3 were chosen for the local celebration because that’s when motels and hotels have more vacancies to fill than at other summer times.

Businesses are being encouraged to offer tie-in opportunities to boost the enthusiasm and to draw in visitors. Examples are themed meal and drink items, staff dressed as Star Wars characters, Star Wars trivia events, discounts for costumed customers, and more. Those who take their business in the form of vendor booths, pop-up tents or food trucks to events such as farmers markets or art shows falling during that weekend might find other vendors and participants are taking advantage of the Jedi buzz and want to plan accordingly.

The effort is being undertaken in cooperation with Lucas Films, and care is being taken not to cash in on what is called ‘intellectual property’ – for instance, the selling of products associated with the actual film. The naming of beverages, the holding of a themed trivia competition, or the encouraging of people to make and wear their own costumes, is fine.

Those wanting to know more, from what entertainment they can take in to what business tie-in opportunities exist, can check out the film commission’s website, Forestmoonfestival.org.



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Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 506-5081 to advertise.



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