

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

## PG&E warns of public safety power shutoffs



Much attention is being given to the issue of “public safety power shutoffs” by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), the local electric utility. Through television commercials, a speaker at a Rio Dell city council meeting in August and other means, the utility is trying to let people know of the possibility that all their supplied power will be turned off if triggering events such as a wild fire or other extreme weather in the area demands this action.

The website [Prepareforpowerdown.com](http://Prepareforpowerdown.com) gives information about ways to stay informed and to contend with various issues individuals or families may experience in a power outage. Tips include refreshing yourself on how to manually open a garage door for which you usually have an electric opener; to identify back-up charging methods for cell phones and other technology; and having a plan in place to operate medical devices that require power, which might include purchasing and learning to operate a generator, and staying at someone else’s house outside the affected power outage area. PG&E urges applying for the Medical Baseline program which offers a lower rate for those dependent on medical equipment using electricity, and which also enables more alerts to pending changes in the power supply.

PG&E safety specialist Mike Weaver spoke to the Rio Dell City Council Aug. 21, pointing out that the utility has invested in several efforts to manage wildfire risk and avoid shutoffs, which include expanding the network of weather stations, increasing efforts at vegetation management, installing new, high-definition cameras in fire-risk areas, monitoring conditions through a wildfire safety operations center, installing new and more resilient power poles, and accelerating inspections of infrastructure. The safety power shutdown is one aspect of this effort.

Environmental factors that may trigger a shutdown include a combination of low humidity, dry vegetation and high winds. While much of our area is in Tier 1, the least likely of three tiers of potential danger, the power lines run through several areas and therefore a shutoff may be called for due to problems in another tier level.

The utility is encouraging customers to check that their landline, cell phone and email are up to date on file to enable advance notice of a shutoff of power. Additional tips are to have an emergency kit with batteries, flashlight, a battery-powered radio, a supply of required medicines, a supply of food for the family and pets, cash (since ATMs won’t work) and other necessities to go for potentially several days without electricity.

To make sure PG&E has your current contact information go to [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety) or call 866-743-6589.

## Meet a chamber member: Scotia Band

Scotia Band was formed in 1935 when several mill workers at The Pacific Lumber Company pitched an idea drawing musically-inclined colleagues and community members to establish a cultural arena in the Eel River Valley. At the time, the cultural center was in Eureka, a grueling two-hour trip to the north. During the era of home-town baseball games, July 4 celebrations, and steam trains, throughout the nation hometown community bands were an integral part of community social culture. With borrowed music books and long-stashed musical instruments, the little band grew to play gigs throughout the Eel River Valley and beyond.

With goals of enriching the region with music and education, the band is still performing 84 years later. While other community bands in the region came and went over the years, Scotia Band has expanded its niche as Humboldt County’s community band. **(Continued on Pg. 2)**

# *News and Notes*

## **Electronic waste round up slated**

Now is the time to clean out the closet and garage of old TVs, computers and more . . . bring them to the electronic waste round-up at Rio Dell City Hall on Sat., Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's open to businesses and residents from any community, and accepted items will include things with circuit boards, such as game boys, DVD players and cell phones. Not accepted will be batteries, hazardous waste, bulbs, speakers and appliances. For more information, call 441-2005 or email [cchavez@hwma.net](mailto:cchavez@hwma.net).

## **Free area history talk planned**

Noted local author, speaker and historian Jerry Rohde will speak at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. His topic will be "Meandering on the Mad," about communities and life along the Mad River in days gone by, some of which are unknown to us today. His talks are sponsored by Pierson Lumber and are free and open to all. The chamber office is at 406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell



## **Kiwanis sets free movie night**

A family-friendly movie will be shown in Firemen's Park in Rio Dell on Sat., Oct. 12, sponsored by the local chapter of the Kiwanis Club, which has as its focus supporting children in the local communities. The event is free and open to all; refreshments including beer and snacks will be sold. The event starts at 7 p.m. and the movie, at 8 p.m.

## **Historic photos sought**

Next year, 2020, will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rio Dell's celebration of Wildwood Days. The chamber of commerce is seeking photos from past years to flesh out an online history page, and possibly share with the public in other ways. Please, if you have old photos of Wildwood Days events you are willing to share for this purpose,

- 1 - scan them in and email them to [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com), or
  - 2 - mail hard copies to the chamber at PO Box 95, Rio Dell, California 95547, or
  - 3 - drop them off when the chamber is open (times vary by the day as we are a volunteer organization) or put them through the vertical slot in the door on the side of the building, at 406 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell.
- Please provide as much identification as possible – such as who/what is in the photo, the photographer, the year. Submitted photos become the property of the chamber of commerce, so please only send copies (of snapshots) that you can spare. Thanks!

## **Scotia Band Continued from Pg. 1.**

Holiday performances include the Fortuna Christmas Music Festival, of which it has participated in 42 of the 43 annual concerts, as well as gigs drawing upon smaller segments of the total band: the Winema Winds, Scotia Saxes and Brass Choir. Part of the band's outreach is an annual visit to area schools to perform and inspire children to be interested in music of various types. This year's tour was in the McKinleyville School District.

The band has changed over the years – for a time it frequently marched in what was described by the media of the day as a snappy formation, led by a drum majorette and accompanied by a flag team. Today, many of the musicians have been members for decades; four are approaching their 50-year status, and in the interest of physical safety the band no longer participates as a marching entity.

Scotia Band has been blessed with a line of conductors who have brought a unique direction, depth, and flavor to the musical style of the band, and elevated the musicians musically, according to band manager Sharon Holt. Lloyd Anderson served as conductor in 1935-1936 and 1938-1954; Jack Sutherland 1937-1938; Louis Weichselfelder 1954-1960; Sewell Lufkin 1960-1976; Woodrow Thompson 1976; and Michael McClimon 1976-2010.

**(Continued on Pg. 3.)**

## Scotia Band over the years Continued from Pg. 2



The band had a focus on marches, the widely popular circus style music, and Americana style compositions. At the retirement of McClimon in 2010, Jill Petricca became the first female conductor, serving until 2017. Under her, the band developed a deeper appreciation for classical and historical compositions and lesser-known composers.

Each year since 1979 the band has awarded a Humboldt County high school graduate a \$500 scholarship to enable pursuit of a major in music. The scholarship is a memorial to Sewell Lufkin, a Fortuna High graduate who, as a U.S. Marine in World War II, was captured and held as a prisoner of war for four years. Upon his return, he attended Humboldt State and concluded his career at Toddy Thomas School where band manager Holt notes she had the privilege of being his student, describing him as “patient, kind, and very articulate in his teaching methods.” At the time he taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and was the first male teacher she had encountered, she continues, so there was an air of awe at the change of atmosphere in the classroom. He covered all the standard educational requirements, but also would play the flute. “We were introduced to classical opera overtures, Sousa marches, Tchaikovsky waltzes, and American folk songs. I have no doubt that those quiet times listening instilled my lifelong love of music,” she says, adding, “I now occupy his seat in the flute section.”

Undoubtedly the most influential person involved in the Scotia Band has been Michael McClimon, Holt notes. Serving 34 years as conductor, he held the band together when attendance waned. Many rehearsals consisted of fewer than 10 members, and an audience was populated only with band members’ spouses. Slowly attendance grew and audiences reconnected. Under McClimon’s direction the band mastered many Sousa marches, theater selections, and had a full repertoire of holiday music. After retiring the baton, McClimon joined the trumpet section and continues to not only provide support as a musician, but has composed three original marches exclusively for Scotia Band.

In 2017 the baton passed to Dr. Ken Ayoob. With degrees in music performance and education, Ayoob retired from Humboldt State University having chaired the music department and served as dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Ayoob had previously taught at the university level in Boston and New York and locally served as conductor of the Eureka Symphony, the North Coast Wind Ensemble, and the Curry-Del Norte Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Ayoob has introduced the band to a higher level of performance programming, Holt says, including contemporary American composers and arrangers, classic European selections, and “a myriad of just plain fun to play pieces.”

Prior to Holt taking over as the band’s business manager, it was a position held for over 50 years by Henry Bender who kept precise records of accounting, attendance and performance, all of which are archived in the band’s library. Holt recalls how, during the early years The Pacific Lumber Company was a major contributor and supporter, providing compensation for the conductors, funding for uniforms and printed music, and an occasional banquet at the Scotia Inn.

Scotia Band became a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 2006 and now all funds are provided by community contributions, performance income, and in-kind donations, which include the housing of the band library at Wendt Construction’s office. The size of the library has tripled in the last decade due to the purchase of the George Richter and Francis Dale collections as well as many individual music donations. Today the 30-member band rehearses in the music room of Fortuna High School at 7:30 on Monday nights. The band welcomes new members at various levels of experience with an interest in concert band music and visitors to its web site at [scotiaband2.org](http://scotiaband2.org).



## Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at

506-5081 to advertise.

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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](http://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 Belleview Ave. Rio Dell, **Tuesday & Thursday** 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
- **Bread for Life Food Pantry:** Journey Church, 95 Belleview 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](http://tops.org). Other local chapters meet in Eureka and McKinleyville. New members are welcome.

## October: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know

1. October is Latin for 'The Eighth Month'
2. One of the original Roman calendar months, October literally translates to "eighth month." Because the original Roman calendar began with March, October was the eighth month, just as September, meaning seven, was the seventh month. Same with November (nine) and December (10).
3. Today, with our calendar beginning in January, October is the 10th month.
4. The ancient Saxons called October "Wintirfylith" because it had the first full moon of the winter.
5. October is associated with autumn or fall. It ends on the same day of the week as February every year and January in common years only. On the last week of October, it is the only time of the entire year when all four major American sports have games at the same time: the MLB, NHL, NFL and NBA.  
<https://heavy.com/news/2014/09/month-of-october-holidays-facts/>

