

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Wildwood Days winners named

The 51st Wildwood Days is a wrap, with a full slate of activities and attractions for all ages.

Saturday's parade (which is managed by the Chamber of Commerce, while much of the rest of Wildwood Days is run by the fire department) was a salute to first responders. **Grand marshal John Coleman** was driven in one of a pair of T bucket roadsters owned by Kenny DeMello of Fortuna, wearing scrubs and a stethoscope that marked his 50 years of work in medical fields from which he recently retired. **The Native Sons of the Golden West** provided the honor guard.

Winners were named in four categories. Prizes were purchased from area businesses with funds donated by **sponsors Element 7, Tri Counties Bank and Redwood Capital.**

Best use of theme went to **Fruitland Ridge**, where former Rio Dell postmaster **Debra Lake**, who had been a fire fighter there for many years, is now on a team of first responders addressing stress reduction including the use of therapy dogs. **She and her dogs earned the Taste of Rio prize basket** with gift certificates from **The Pizza Factory, Patron's Kitchen, and DJ's Burger Bar.**

Best Vehicle was a golf cart restored by **Greg Madonna of Madonna Brothers Trucking in Rio Dell** who has several vehicles in the parade every year according to parade judges. His prize was a bucket of car care items and included a \$50 fuel card donated by **Valley Pacific.**

Bear River Rancheria won Best Overall and received the movie basket prize which included a \$50 gift card for **Fortuna Theater**, and a popcorn bucket filled with popcorn and candy.

Chamber's Choice was won by the **River Life Foundation** because of all the work the organization does in the area with monthly river cleanups and help to the homeless. The prize contained games and a \$50 gift card for the **Bear River Family Entertainment Center.**

The Duck Race scheduled for Sunday morning was in the form of a drawing rather than the ducks going down the river as has been done other times, depending on water levels. The **First, Second and Third** place winners were **Frank Wilson, Michelle Stone, and Dave Albright, who received \$500, \$200 and \$100 respectively.**

Fourth place was a large pizza per month for a year from the **Pizza Factory**, won by **Michelle Branen.** **Travis Wildgrube won \$100 from Palco Pharmacy** and **Virgil Woodall won \$100 from Element 7.** **Robbie Kemp and Mickey Barsanti** each won a \$300 fuel card donated by the **Town of Scotia.** **Jim Harmeyer and Ryan Elway** each won a \$50 fuel card from **Valley Pacific.** **Grant Weaver** won a half-day boat rental at **Ruth Lake.** **Linda Broadstock** won a \$50 gift card from **Wildwood Waffles.**

Glenn Shewry won a fishing rod and reel from **Grundman's Sporting Goods** and **Jewel Boyd** won an AM/FM solar radio from **C. Crane Co.** **Sandy O'Donald and Nicole Timmerman** each won a \$10 gift card from **The Jitter Bean.** **Sandy Folmar** won yard décor donated by the **Wildwood Days car show.** **M. Meras and Rachel Sovereign** each won a \$25 gift card from the **Scotia Lodge.**

A dozen people won \$15 gift cards from **The Patron Kitchen:** **Katie** (no last name given); **Jeff Griffith; Wendt Construction; Bruce Reback; Mike Farfan; Rusty Broadstock; Marc Barsanti; Tanner Broadstock; Rich McKnight; Jim Meskill; Shawn Toczyl; and Zac Shafter.** **Trish Mathers** won cheeseburger meals for two from **DJ's Burger Bar** and **Phyllis Ladd** won a gift certificate from **Sandy Peterson Photography.**



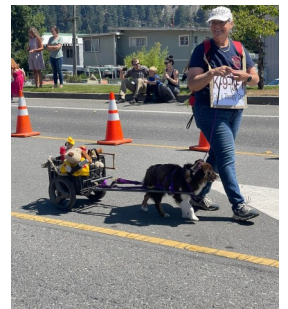
Grand Marshal
John Coleman



Best Vehicle
Greg Madonna



Best Overall
Bear River Rancheria



Best Use of Theme
Debra Lake

July and August were eventful months for the local Kiwanis Club. In July, our club erected and stocked a “Little Library.” We were able to partner with a local Fortuna High school student, Ethan Fuller, who built the adorable library box and placed it in its permanent home on Wildwood Avenue next to the Dollar General store. This “Little Library” is designed to supply children and adults with reading materials at no cost. Anyone is welcome to take a book or leave a book -this is a community library, free to all to use and enjoy. If you have books you have read or outgrown, we encourage you to drop them off to the library and help yourself to a new book while you’re there!

In August the club hosted our third annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday during Wildwood Days weekend where we served over 100 breakfasts to enthusiastic pancake and sausage lovers! We would like to thank everyone for their support as this breakfast is one of our main fundraisers for the year. Proceeds from this event help us fund the Holiday program Kiwanis puts on for all the school age children in Rio Dell and Scotia each December.

Also in August, the club had the honor of hosting the local DCM, a district wide meeting where we welcomed members from all Humboldt and Del Norte County Kiwanis clubs. This meeting was run by our Lt. Governor and featured a special guest speaker from Kiwanis Family House. The event was held on a Saturday morning at the Rio Dell Fireman’s Park.

The club remains small but this year we have added a few new, committed, hardworking members! There’s always room for more! Please reach out on the local Kiwanis Facebook page if you are interested in becoming a member. The club meets at 6 p.m., the first Wednesday of the month in the Scotia Lodge dining room.

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. Sept. 2 will be the next. Call in at 605.313.4802 and use access code 860467 or come to the chamber office at 406 Wildwood at noon to participate.

New police chief named in Rio Dell

• Lt. Greg Allen of the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office was sworn in last month as the new police chief in Rio Dell, replacing Jeff Connor who has retired. Allen has over 28 years of experience in law enforcement, including at Humboldt State (now Cal Poly Humboldt) and the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation. Most recently he managed the Professional Standards Division at the sheriff’s office, supervised the Crisis Negotiations Team and served as an instructor and training officer for the Police Academy at College of the Redwoods.



A recent graduate of the Sherman Block Leadership Institute, named for a former Los Angeles County sheriff, he is currently completing a master’s degree in Public Safety Leadership. He has a bachelor’s degree in Social Work with a minor in Ethnic Studies.

City Manager Kyle Knopp said the new chief’s resume “speaks volumes” but that “he also has a great personal story that has built a strong character with sympathy and understanding towards those who police often interact with.” Chief Allen said of the changing role of policing that it is important “the officer on the street excels in communication and de-escalation skills.” When notice of the appointment was made in mid-July in area media, the comments sections online were full of positive experiences others have had of Allen and warm wishes of support in his new job.

Seniors (and others) resume exercising at chamber

A free exercise class open to all but geared to help seniors maintain balance and flexibility, has resumed after a summer hiatus. The group meets Mondays and Fridays, 11:25 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. at the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce, 406 Wildwood, Rio Dell.



Wildwood Days winners Continued from Page One

The car show, run each year by Mary Burns, drew 71 entries, more than in the past. “We need to expand next year,” she said, indicating she’s on it with plans of how that will work. Vehicles from 1923 to 2016 ranging from cars, pick-ups, motorcycles and a mini stock race car, were entered, from throughout the Eel River Valley.

Burns notes everyone indicated they had a good time and loved coming to the show. She thanked Mike and Red for parking the cars and Bret, Tristan, and Becca for helping at registration and with the raffle. “The car show could not happen without their help,” she said, giving special thanks to trophy sponsors and Cindy at Ferndale Jewelers for the beautiful trophies.

There were **six categories** of competition. **Peoples’ Choice**, sponsored by **Automotive Workshop** of Rio Dell, was won by **Randy Bennett of Fortuna with a 2016 Vette**. **Participants’ Choice**, sponsored by **Napa 101 in Rio Dell** was won by **Bruce Willis of Redway with a 1968 Camaro**.

The Police Officer’s Choice was sponsored by the **Rio Dell Peace Officers Association** and won by **Russ Reynolds of Fortuna with a 1967 Camaro**. The **Fire Chief’s Choice** was sponsored by **Ferndale Jewelers** and won by **Albert Morgan with The Black Widow**.

The Platinum Award was sponsored by **Mercer-Fraser of Fortuna** and won by **Rick and Toni Smith of Carlotta with a 1962 Corvette**. **Best of Show** was sponsored by **Kreations** and won by **Ron Eldridge of Fortuna with a 1969 Chevelle**.

New teachers start year in Rio Dell

Note: Last issue we learned of recently hired teachers at the Rio Dell schools. Here two new teachers introduce themselves. We hope to be able to present others soon. Brittany Munoz-Garcia is returning to her roots, teaching kindergarten at Rio Dell Elementary, where she was a student not so long ago. A 2022 graduate from Cal Poly Humboldt, she recalls the unique sense of community she found growing up in Rio Dell with three siblings. Her mom earned her high school equivalency degree and went on to be a traveling nurse. Her dad, who moved to the U.S. from Mexico as a teen, is “a man of ambition and determination,” she says, who is now a retired business owner.

She is proud of the way her bilingual experiences enable her to understand two cultures. It also helped set her on the path towards her new career, as she worked for more than five years as a bilingual para-professional in the Rio Dell school district, while taking classes at College of the Redwoods and then what is now Cal Poly Humboldt. She speaks with fond respect of her former teachers who were now her mentors and colleagues and credits them with recommending her for additional opportunities such as summer recreation director or assistant in Fortuna and Arcata.



“Being an asset to the community has always been my greatest pleasure,” Munoz-Garcia notes. “Rio Dell has always been home. A place where students come into classrooms, unsure of their identity, but guided by strong leaders and educators who care with the utmost passion and determination to see their students succeed.” Not only is she now teaching kindergarten, but also English at the high school level, at Academy of the Redwoods. “Staying busy and educated” has been her path to success, Munoz-Garcia says. “It is what keeps me prepared for whichever role comes next.”

Erin Westneff, the new middle school teacher, grew up in Ferndale and after completing high school, studied a fifth year of high school as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in Mexico where she not only learned the language but fell in love with the culture. Back in Humboldt, she began working at South Fortuna Elementary School while going to HSU. She taught there for the past 10 years.



Westneff notes she recently bought a home for herself and her two children - daughter Hailey, 9, and son Lance, 7 - in Rio Dell and “decided it would best fit us to enjoy our schooling here.” The family enjoys sports, going to the river and spending time outside. “We are very excited for this new school year,” she says.



Local businesses among those named “Best of Humboldt”

The weekly *North Coast Journal* last month presented results of its Best of Humboldt competition, and several area businesses and others with a local connection were among the winners. Three bronze-level members of the chamber were named: Best Catering was won by CC Catering of Rio Dell (featured in last month’s issue of this newsletter); Bear River won Best Casino; and the Eel River Brewery won Best Outdoor Dining for its location at 1777 Alamar Way in Fortuna.

Other local winners include Dan Collins, Best Tree Service; Proper Wellness with locations in Eureka and Rio Dell won Best Cannabis Delivery; and Bear River’s annual Indian Days, slated for Sept. 17 this year, won Best Cultural Event.

Those with a local connection include Blake Reagan, who created the mural on the Margro Advisors building on Wildwood in Rio Dell (best seen coming north on Wildwood from Scotia, at Monument). He was named Best Muralist and his work, *Diva’s Grace*, at the Speakeasy Tavern at 411 Opera Alley in Eureka was named Best Mural. Reel Genius Trivia Nights which holds events at several county locations including twice a month at Scotia Lodge, won Best Trivia Night.

More photos from Wildwood Day (photos from Fire Department Facebook site)



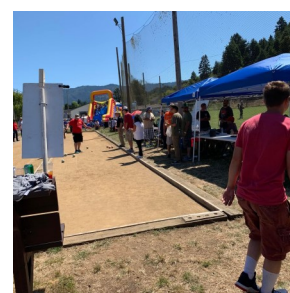
Scotia Band playing



Fireman’s Bar-B-Que



RD-S Chamber Float



Bocce Ball Tournament



PATRIOT DAY
WE WILL NEVER FORGET
9.11.2001



HWMA is Extending the Free Tire Recycling Program until 2023!

The Hawthorne Street Transfer Station in Eureka will accept up to nine auto or light truck tires per day at no extra charge. It’s ok if they’re on rims. No business-generated tires please. This program is only for household generated tires.

Call or email us for details:

268-8680 or info@hwma.net



Humboldt Waste Management Authority
1059 W. Hawthorne St., Eureka, CA 95501
www.hwma.net

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

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