

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

## 2023 Wildwood Days a wrap

Wildwood Days roared back to a four-day format this year, opening Thursday afternoon downtown where nearly a dozen teams, some with banners proclaiming their names as Smokin' the Swine and Famous Amens, competed for trophies and prize money in a barbeque cook-off. Two string bands, Honey Hill and the Wildcats followed by Elderberry Rust, played. People strolled in the sunshine or sat on hay bales to enjoy the music. Horse rides were on hand at both ends of downtown, and Gerardo Gonzalez of Patron Kitchen rented a large mechanical bull apparatus with an inflatable surround to give people a taste of rodeo riding.

Later, members of the theater community performed a skit and made other appearances. North Coast Repertory Theater's managing director Calder Johnson helped secure transient occupancy tax funding from the county to pay for expenses for this outdoor art event. Fire department member Jon Brodeaur (aka "Jono") coordinated much of Thursday's activities and donned western gear to marshal helpers through the schedule. A firefighters' muster drew teams from Ferndale, Loleta and Fortuna to a downtown water fight.

Rolling into the weekend, traditional Friday night activities included Kids' Night, the Ernie Cannady car cruise and barbeque at DJ's Burger Bar, and a street dance.

The parade, organized by the Chamber of Commerce with the theme, Back in the Saddle Again, fittingly saw several entries of horses and riders. Larry Doss' several rigs drawn by his collection of massive Shire and Clydesdale draft horses won the prize for Best Overall, while Bob Tritten's Chevy Nova SS won Best Vehicle and a quad unit decorated in elk antlers entered by Hunter Hatten and Bryson Gillam won Best Theme-Related. A float entered by DJ's Burger Bar won Chamber's Choice. The chamber thanks Cole Steed for the use of his truck to pull a float featuring line dancers doing the Boot Scootin' Boogey.

Riding up front among the fire department vehicles, the Dennis Wendt eagle made its first appearance. It was commissioned by the late owner of Wendt Construction to be located on the city hall lawn in Rio Dell as an expression of Wendt's warm feelings for the community, for which he did a lot of work. He spoke with Byran McWaters at Mad Metals in Fortuna and the project got underway, but Wendt died before the project was completed, or completely paid for. "The fire department wanted to do something for him, so I suggested we complete this project," fire department member Susan Pryor said, and she applied for, and received, a grant from the McLean Foundation that enabled the second payment of \$2,500 to be made, resulting in the completion of the project. It will be installed permanently at a later date.

Some standard events got a new twist. The fun run had not been held recently, due to lack of an organizer, but firefighter Aundrea Ashley Ruth offered to set it up this year. "They know I'm a runner," she said of her department colleagues, "and someone suggested a color run." It is based on a joyful festival called Holi, that takes place throughout India, where people throw powdered, colored chalk at each other. Forty-three runners were entered, with a 1k race for children and a 5k race for adults. Participants got white t-shirts emblazoned with "Wildwood Days." Event photos show contestants, including some in wheel chairs, splashed with colorful powder at the conclusion of the race.

The duck race has moved to new formats as some years the river was too low to race the rubber toys. This year they were put into a tub and water poured in, causing them to flood out and float down Center Street.

Other familiar Wildwood Days events included the library's book sale, the vendor fair, and a women's softball tourney as well as Saturday morning bocce and Saturday afternoon music in the park. The night was topped off with fireworks, the last such event for a while according to coordinator Lisa Davenport Wilson in a Facebook post in which she explained the cost was too high to offer regularly. First brought out with much acclaim two years ago to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wildwood Days celebration, the effort proved too expensive to raise funds for last year, so donations collected were rolled over to finance this year's display.

Sunday saw the annual car show and shine, organized by Mary Burns and friends, in front of city hall. She notes "a total of 72 cars were at the car show, from Redway to Brookings, Oregon; from McKinleyville to Carlotta, from the Eel River Valley and even Seiad Valley," an unincorporated community in Siskiyou County. (Continued on Page 3)

# Notes and News

## Youths honored for service after earthquakes

Three young Rio Dell men were honored for their work in the aftermath of last winter's earthquakes. "They were there every day helping out," Mayor Debra Garnes said, so individual, framed certificates were made in appreciation for their dedication and work, and presented ahead of the auction in the park on Sunday of Wildwood Days. Pictured, left to right, are Wyatt Steed, 11, and his cousins, brothers Carter Steed, 17, center and Carter's brother Caston, 8, at right.



## New middle-school teacher joins Rio Dell staff



Kevin Christman will teach in the middle school, splitting his classwork between English and science. He received his bachelor's degree from University of the Pacific in Stockton and earned his master's online.

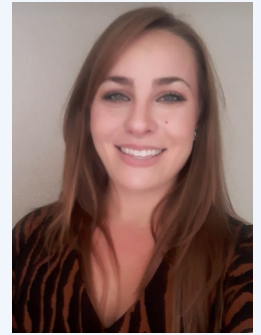
Prior teaching experience includes six years in Hoopa, and 20 years overseas, teaching second grade through university level classes in China, Japan and Korea. Christman moved to Humboldt to be closer to family. "I like smaller schools," he said of his interest in the Rio Dell position. He lived in Willow Creek while teaching in Hoopa, and moved to Fortuna for this new position.

His interests include bicycling, reading and board games.

## New art teacher comes to Rio Dell

Anastasia Borissenko grew up in the Bay Area and camped as a child with her family in Trinity and Humboldt counties, developing an affinity for "this magical place," which felt like home. She connects her earliest jobs, for instance in waitressing, with skills that help her today such as time management and communication.

"Art is a huge part of who I am," she says. "I paint, screen print, wood burn, and draw. I also love to study art and have a fascination in art history and architecture. I would say that creativity is my strength and it comes out in my teaching in so many different ways."



"I fell in love with education in college," Borissenko says, and received degrees in Humanities, Social Behavioral Science, and Art Education, then completed the Teaching Credential Program at Cal Poly Humboldt towards credentials in Multiple Subject Elementary Education and Secondary Education in Art.

Student teaching was at Cutten and Washington Elementary. At Jacoby Creek School she taught Social Emotional Learning and Art to students from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, which she calls an incredible opportunity to blossom as an educator working with over 400 students of all ages.

Borissenko is all about the outdoors and fitness - camping, backpacking, running, swimming, strength training. She has traveled to 15 countries, studying art history in Florence, Italy. Her goals are to visit a new country every summer that relates to the California Middle School standards to bring this information to her students.

## Proper Wellness, other local organizations win 2023 Best in Humboldt awards

Congratulations to Proper Wellness, with locations in Eureka and Rio Dell, for winning two categories – for best budtender, Rafael, and best cannabis delivery – in the *North Coast Journal's* annual "Best of" competition last month. Chamber member Bear River Casino Resort won for best arts and entertainment.

Area winners included Food for People for best cause, best non-profit and best place to volunteer. In Fortuna, Miranda's Rescue won for best place to adopt an animal; Bob's Footlongs, newly reopened and a place of fond memories for many during their high school years won for best hotdog; and Green's Pharmacy, a special place for those who appreciate locally-owned businesses after Palco Pharmacy closed earlier this year, won for best pharmacy.

# Happy



# Labor Day!

**(Continued from Page 1,) 2023 Wildwood Days a wrap** She thanks Cindy at Ferndale Jewelers for the beautiful trophies she designed, and Cooks BBQ, Grundman's, Tammy Robison, Meredith Biasca, O'Reillys Auto Parts, Rays Used Cars, Hummel Tire, Walgreens, Pat Lindley, Dotti Reynolds, Bill and Deb Jeffries, Sara Chapman and Ginger Parker for their generous donations. She also thanked "helpers Red Elliott, Mike Burns, Garrett Stevens, Brett Elliott, Bill Elliott, Bea Parker and Gabby."

In addition to the ongoing book sale and vendor's fair, Sunday saw a performance by Scotia Band in the park, and the fire fighters' barbeque dinner, which 123 people turned out to enjoy, followed by the annual auction. A trio of young men were honored for their dedication to helping the community in the aftermath of the earthquakes. See the separate story, page 2.

### **Duck race winners:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Kim Gibbs - \$500
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sarah Kelly - \$200
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Aldie Barrote - \$100
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Diana Robledo – 4-hour patio boat rental from Ruth Lake Marina
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Hailey Huessler – 1 night's stay at Scotia Lodge
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Kim Gibbs - \$100 cash from Element 7
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Rachelle Goins - \$200 fuel card from TOS
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Pete Chapmen - \$200 fuel card from TOS
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Cindy Daetwiler - \$50 fuel card from Valley Pacific
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Tish McCrigler - \$50 fuel card from Valley Pacific
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Bruce Reback - \$50 fuel card from Valley Pacific
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Ann Bettiga - \$50 fuel card from Valley Pacific
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Bruce Reback – fishing rod and reel from Grundman's
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Ryan Heussler – solar radio and flashlight from C Crane
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Mary Burns - \$10 gift card from Jitter Bean
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Ann Bettiga - \$10 gift card from Jitter Bean
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Stormi Davis – yard décor from WW Days Car Show
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Joan Snapp (Andrea Vaughn) - \$10 gift certificate from The Patron
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Joe Henry - \$10 gift certificate from The Patron
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Steve Deike - \$10 gift certificate from The Patron
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Ryan Heussler - \$10 gift certificate from The Patron
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – John Broadstock – meal for two at DJ's
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wendt Construction – 1 night's stay at Bear River Hotel
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Aqua Dam – dinner for 2 at Bear River River's Edge Restaurant

### **PHOTOS TAKEN DURING WILDWOOD DAYS**



**JONO AT WORK**



**OREGON VW BUG IN PARADE**

### **Car Show and Shine Winners:**

People's Choice award, donated by Automotive Workshop in Rio Dell, went to Henry Convin of Fortuna with a 1967 Mustang fast back.

Participant's Choice award, donated by 101 Auto Supply, Rio Dell, was won by Bob Tritten of Rio Dell with a 1966 Chevy II SS.

Police Choice award, donated by the Rio Dell Peace Officers Association, went to Shawn and Emma Sue Mitten of Loleta with a 1963 Impala.

Fire Chief's Choice, donated by Ferndale Jewelers of Fortuna, was won by Joe Gastonguay of Brookings, Oregon, with a 1934 International pick-up truck.

Platinum Award, donated by Sequoia Gas, Fortuna, went to Jere Cox from Hydesville with a 1968 Karmann Ghia.

Best of Show, donated by Kreations Auto Body, Rio Dell, went to Bert Silva with a 1970 Boss 302.



# WILDWOOD DAYS PHOTOS



**BEST THEME**



**CHAMBERS CHOICE**



**JIM RICH —GRAND MARSHALL**



**PARADE BEST OVERALL ENTRY**



**SHRINER FLOAT**

**PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY  
MARY BULLWINKLE**



**COLOR RUN WILDWOOD DAYS**

## **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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