

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Wildwood Days! See schedule page 3

Meet a new chamber member:

Critters without Litters – the name says it all

Humboldt Humane is a nonprofit organization doing low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. Newly opened last month in a bright facility at 307A Fernbridge Drive, just south of the now-closed Angelina's Woodfired Kitchen, it has the catchy name, Critters without Litters, on its signage and on the business card Executive Director Kari Crockett, hands a visitor with a smile.

Jennifer Raymond, who formerly ran Humboldt Spay and Neuter, started the organization in 2022. The board includes Amanda Carter, Rio Dell mayor pro-tem. Crockett was capping off a 30-year career in education and applied to be a receptionist but was recruited by Raymond to be its head.

People can make their own appointments online. Separate intake areas are set up for dogs and cats, to reduce stress on the animals while they are examined and prepped for surgery and given any additional treatment, such as vaccines, that the owners request. Provisions are made for feral cats arriving in a live trap. There are separate rooms for surgery and recovery, where cats will be returned to the carriers in which they arrived, and gleaming kennels will house dogs.

Pricing will be \$75 for a male cat and \$125 for a female, Crockett said, and the cost for dogs, between \$250 and \$350, based on weight. They will have to be under 65 pounds as there is no lift at the facility. These fees are less than what traditional veterinary offices charge, Crockett noted. In addition, there is a list of financial resources available to further lower the cost on the website, Humboldthumane.org.

"We hope we will be able to never turn anyone away," she explains, and she will seek grants, but granting organizations want to see a two-year history of an organization before designating funds, so that will have to wait. Donations and fundraisers have helped launch the organization so far.

Dr. Anne Bayer will be the main veterinarian, Crockett says. Dr. Bayer moved to Eureka after holding positions including at the Open Door Veterinary Clinic in Asheville, North Carolina, and as senior director of medicine at Humane Alliance, a program of the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Cody Johns, a veterinarian with the Ferndale and Fortuna practices collectively called Humboldt Veterinary Group, will work with the organization one day per week.

Vet techs and assistants (pictured, with Crockett in a sling) will assist. Volunteers will staff the front desk. The facility will be open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it is envisioned there will be 35 spay or neuter surgeries performed per day.



A Brief Introduction to AI

By Billy Joe Long, PSA Computer Services

It's pretty much all you hear about in the world of technology anymore, AI. As AI continues to be developed, it is expected to have a significant impact on many aspects of our lives, from healthcare and education to transportation and entertainment.



If it is expected to be such an integral part of our lives, it seems important to have a basic understanding of what AI actually is. And so, without further ado, let's ask AI what it is. (The following answer was generated by asking the Brave browser AI "What is AI?". I have adjusted the formatting of the information very slightly, for readability.)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. It involves the development of algorithms and statistical models that enable machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as:

- Expert Systems: AI applications that mimic human decision-making and problem-solving abilities.
- Natural Language Processing (NLP): AI's ability to understand, interpret, and generate human language.
- Speech Recognition: AI's ability to recognize and interpret spoken language.
- Machine Vision: AI's ability to interpret and understand visual data from images and videos.

AI is an interdisciplinary field that combines computer science, mathematics, and engineering to build machines that can:

- Reason: Make decisions based on data and logic.
- Learn: Adapt to new information and improve performance over time.
- Act: Perform tasks and make decisions autonomously.

AI has numerous applications across various industries, including:

- Industrial Automation: AI-powered machines and robots that can perform tasks with precision and speed.
- Scientific Research: AI-assisted data analysis and discovery.
- Creative Industries: AI-generated art, music, and writing.

There are several types of AI, including:

- Reactive Machines: These can carry out specific commands and requests, but not store memory or rely on past experiences to inform their decision-making in real time.
- Limited Memory AI: These systems can store previous data and predictions when gathering information and making decisions.
- Self-Aware AI: These can understand their own existence and make decisions based on their own goals and motivations.

Examples of AI in action:

- AI-powered software can analyze CT scans and alert neurologists to suspected strokes.
- Online virtual health assistants and chatbots can provide general medical information, schedule appointments, and complete other administrative tasks.
- AI-powered software can analyze images and identify objects, such as human faces, animals, and vehicles.

In simple terms: AI is a way to develop systems that can think and learn like humans, but it's not meant to replace human intelligence. The goal is to create systems that can take over tasks that are too menial, dangerous, or time-consuming for humans, freeing us up to focus on more important things.

You can reach PSA Computer Services at (707) 506-6802 or check us out on the web at <https://psa-2.com/>.

Dogs to have their day in Rio Dell

A dog park is being created on a patch of city-owned land bordered by Ireland, Painter and Center streets along the 101 Freeway. It is being constructed in response to community interest, and is 100 percent grant-funded, Amanda Carter, mayor pro-tem, says. It will be ADA accessible, fully enclosed, and have a watering station.

A grand opening is planned as well as a Phase 2 for an adjacent half basketball court.

Pictured, Mattias, an installer for WPF of the anchor-style fencing, with his dog.



Wildwood Days Schedule

Thursday, August 1, Downtown Rio Dell:

Eagle Prairie Bridge closed for BBQ Cook Off at 10 a.m.
Vendor booths 2-7 p.m.
Horse rides by Korobi Stables \$8 per ride starting at 4:30 p.m.
Band *Monument Road* 5-7 p.m.
BBQ Cookoff winners announced at 5:30 p.m.
Fire Muster sign up's 6 p.m. Fire Muster starts at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 2, Downtown Rio Dell:

Ernie Cannady Car Cruise & BBQ @ DJ's Burger Bar 5:30-9 p.m.
Fire Truck Rides @ Columbus & Wildwood 6-7 p.m.
Kids Night: Penny Scramble, Soap Box Derby, Bouncers, Shaved Ice,
Cotton Candy, Face Painting & Vendors @ Shotz's Coffee parking lot 6-8 p.m.
Dennis Wendt Women's Softball Tourney @ Rio Dell Firemen's Ball Field 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 3, Rio Dell Firemen's Park:

Color Run registration 7 a.m. \$5 kids, \$10 adults; run begins 8 a.m.
5K Run: from Rio Dell Fire Station to Scotia Fire Station and back,
Kids' Run: 2 laps from Center Street to Davis Street
Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast @ Rio Dell Elementary Cafeteria:
8-11 a.m., adults \$7, kids \$5.
Bocce Tourney 9 a.m.
Dennis Wendt Women's Softball Tourney 9 a.m.
Vendors & Craft Fair 10 a.m.
Book Sale @ Library 10 a.m.
Parade-Theme *Have A Rootin' Tootin' Good Time* Noon – register at school by 11 a.m.
Barbecued Oysters in the park 4-7 p.m.
Music Festival in the park: *Knights of the Van Duzen* 12-1 p.m. *Ghost Train* 1:30-4 p.m.
Triple Tones 4:30-6:30 p.m. *Blue Rhythm Revue* 7-11 p.m.
Texas Hold-em Tourney 7 p.m.
Tri-Tip Sandwich BBQ in the Park 7 p.m. \$15

Sunday, August 4, Rio Dell Firemen's Park:

Bike Ride: meet in front of Rio Dell fire station at 8 a.m. for 58-mile ride,
at 8:30 for 35-mile ride \$40 entry fee includes a BBQ ticket
Dennis Wendt Women's Softball Tourney 9 a.m.
Car Show & Shine in front of City Hall 9 a.m.
Duck Race @ Rio Dell Fire Hall 9 a.m.
Vendors & Craft Fair 10 a.m.
Book Sale @ Library 10 a.m.
Scotia Band 12 p.m.
Firemen's Bar-B-Que 12 p.m. \$20
Live Firemen's Auction 1 p.m.



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Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 707-506-5081 to advertise.



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