On January 22, 2016, the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 125th Annual Dinner and Membership meeting. With a capacity crowd filling the Sequoia Conference Center with more than 400 Chamber members and supporters, six local business leaders were honored by the Chamber for meaningful contributions to the best interests of the community and in furtherance of the Chamber mission.

The Tom Cooke Award is presented to a public sector official that has demonstrated the understanding that the interests of business and government are not in conflict. Eureka Police Chief Andy Mills was the recipient of the 2015 Tom Cooke Award for his strong support and commitment to both the residents and businesses of Eureka. This special Chamber award is presented in memory of former Fortuna Mayor, Tom Cooke.

The Customer Service Award was presented to the business that demonstrates a commitment to making its customers feel welcome and an important part of its operations. The 2015 Customer Service Award was presented to long-time local business Ramones Bakery and Cafe.

The 2015 Small Business of the Year Award went to Dalianes Travel Services, for its continued commitment to provide a staff of experienced professionals dedicated to providing customer service from the planning to completion of the travel experience.

The Business Person of the Year Award was conveyed to Larry Doss, agent and owner of Ming Tree Realtors. Doss is exceptionally active in the community serving on numerous boards and

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Eureka Chamber Membership News
Send submissions to susan@eurekachamber.com

U.S. Bank names Ben Larson Business Banking Relationship Manager for Shasta, Humboldt district

U.S. Bank has named Ben Larson business banking relationship manager of its Shasta Humboldt District, a network of 13 branches located in Shasta and Humboldt counties. Starting his career in banking over ten years ago, Larson is experienced in client management and addressing customer needs. He most recently held the position of mortgage loan originator with U.S. Bank.

“Ben is focused on growing small business and serving the community,” said Mandy Marquez, North Coast market president. “Ben’s experience and commitment to service will be a tremendous asset for the community and our team.”

U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), with $422 billion in assets as of December 31, 2015, is the parent company of U.S. Bank National Association, the fifth largest commercial bank in the United States. The company operates 3,133 banking offices in 25 states and 4,936 ATMs and provides a comprehensive line of banking, investment, mortgage, trust and payment services products to consumers, businesses and institutions.

Hunter, Hunter & Hunt contributes to Angel Fund

As part of their 25 years of service celebration, local accounting firm Hunter, Hunter & Hunt LLP has contributed $1,500 to the Union Labor Health Foundation’s Angel Fund.

The Angel Fund provides small grants to individuals with immediate health related needs living in Humboldt County. Applications to the Angel Fund are accepted at any time and reviewed weekly.

Hunter, Hunter & Hunt LLP gives in many ways to the community including over $12,000 alone through Humboldt Area Foundation to support various causes including; local health, education and community development needs.

The Union Labor Health Foundation is led by local health and social service professionals who serve on a volunteer Board of Directors and operates in partnership with Humboldt Area Foundation. It was established in 1997 by the Union Labor Hospital Association, formerly associated with Eureka General Hospital.

Union Labor Health Foundation has distributed $3.56 million since they were founded eighteen years ago. Throughout the year they give to nonprofits, provide scholarships to nursing school students and offer financial assistance to low-income children and adults for health and dental care.

To learn more about the Union Labor Health Foundation and their grant programs, visit www.ulhf.org.
We’re on our way

Well, the New Year and our 125th started with a bang. With over 400 attendees, we overfilled the brand new Sequoia Conference Center. And for those that missed it, here’s the historic portion of my speech:

“Welcome to our 125th anniversary. That’s right, for over 125 years we have represented, defended and promoted business in our Greater Eureka area.

From 1883 when Mssrs Vance, Carson and Sweezy petitioned Congress to reestablish a military force here, to 2015 when we petitioned the City of Eureka to not cut the police budget.

From clearing a field for the first military flight in 1918, to supporting Fly Humboldt today.

From building the Eureka Inn in 1922 to promote tourism, to 2015 and running the visitor center for some 50 years.

From bringing the Chicago Bridge and Iron Co here in 1942, to opposing a Eureka only minimum wage in 2014.

In the 50’s we contributed $40,000 in today’s money to build Ruth Dam and we built our own office which we still occupy.

In 1964 we supported the transient occupancy tax, in 2006 a utility tax, in 2010 a sales tax and in 2014 more sales taxes.

From 1968 when we started the Rhody parade to our continued support today.

From supporting the creation of the College of the Redwoods in 1964 to 2015 and CR chairing our education committee.

From 1977 when we encouraged the Coast Guard to establish an Air Base here, to 2015 when we actively participated in celebration of Coast Guard days.

From 1997 when we petitioned Congress to modify a law so as to encourage cruise ships, to 2015 when we have been actively supporting attracting cruise ships to Eureka.

From 1983 when we first hosted a dinner for the Coastal Commission which continued for 25 years, to 2015 when we participated in actual Commission meetings.

From 1988 when we started the Youth Ambassador Scholarship, to 2015 when we gave over $5,000 in scholarships.

From 1989 and 1997 when we supported funding for dredging, to 2015 when we did it again.

And the list goes on. We’ve done a lot in 125 years.”

Now looking back on our Visitor Center, last year we served 9,589 tourists who just walked in our doors asking, “Where are the redwoods, what is there to do in Eureka, where is Old Town, do you have maps or brochures?” That’s 10% more than the year before. In the summer we sometimes have more than 150 visitors in a day. Even in January, we averaged 28 a day. Most come in the morning, presumably to plan their day. They seem to be of all ages. Most enter Eureka from the South and stop because they see our sign. The big ones, like pictured below, arrive in Fall.
A message from your 2016 Board Chair, Ken Musante

I just became Chair of the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce for 2016. It is an honor to serve and it is an intimidating position because of the storied heritage and impressive membership. The Chamber is an organization of members that promotes and advocates for trade, commerce, jobs and tourism, all within the Greater Eureka area. We are a member driven organization and embrace our role as being a champion for business interests.

The Chamber has an Executive Director, Don Smullin and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meets monthly. The meeting typically has a 20 minute presentation from a civic leader in order to provide the Board context for how we can best allocate our resources. Further recommendations are provided from the Chamber committees who advocate on behalf of our entire membership so that we may provide direction to Mr. Smullin.

The Chamber committees are vital to our governance and ultimately allow the Board to make more informed decisions because the committees can dive more deeply into issues and are comprised of subject matter experts from our community. Any of our members are eligible to serve on our committees.

The committees of the Chamber are: Organization, Tourism, Business & Industry, Business & Education, Government Affairs and Finance. The Chair of each committee has wide discretion as to which topics their committee will take on based upon the direction of the Chamber Board, the strengths of the individual committee members and current needs of Chamber members.

Last year, I served as the Chair of the Business & Education Committee. I am particularly proud that, with the participation of HSU, we connected a number of our ‘for profit’ members with the business program at HSU, which allowed HSU the opportunity to connect their best and brightest students with companies that were hiring, growing and had business within Humboldt County and beyond.

I am also very pleased that through the Business & Industry Committee we have established a formal network of Northern California Chambers so we can better advocate for needs which are unique to rural communities. This was a significant and major networking process.

The Organization Committee, in concert with Keep Eureka Beautiful, is overhauling our parking lot including the repaving the black top and enhancing the area with plants and trees.

Finally, the Government Affairs Committee was instrumental in educating our members about the inequities inherent in Eureka’s Measure R which would have increased minimum wage for all businesses operating within Eureka and made Eureka a less friendly place to do business.

We have a number of issues facing our city and business community. All of us are impacted by homelessness and need to advocate for solutions that are caring to our community members but also business friendly. We need to campaign for city leaders who are compassionate for our community members and also passionate about ensuring the long term success of our business community. I look forward to serving as the Chair of the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce and invite Chamber members to consider serving on one of our committees. And by the way, we have mixers once each month. Contact the Chamber for details.

American Pickers to film in California

California is excited to welcome Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz and Antique Archeology to the area. The team will film episodes of their hit series American Pickers throughout California. Filming is scheduled for March 2016.

American Pickers is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique ‘picking’ on the History channel. This hit show follows two of the most skilled pickers in the business, Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz, as they embark on an epic road trip across the U.S. in search of America’s most valuable antiques from motorcycles, classic cars and bicycles to one-of-a-kind vintage memorabilia. Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle America, restore forgotten relics to their former glory, and learn a thing or two about American history along the way.

American Pickers is looking for leads and would love to explore what you may have. They are on the hunt for interesting characters with interesting and unique items. Some of what they look for: vintage bicycles, toys, unusual radios, movie memorabilia, advertising, military items, folk art, vintage musical equipment, vintage automotive items, early firefighting equipment, vintage clothing, pre-50’s western gear.

If you have a large collection or want to refer someone to Mike and Frank, email: your name, number, address and description of the collection and photos to americanpickers@cinemilx.com.
Newton Drury Scenic Parkway closed to vehicles February through May on first Saturday

From February through May, on the first Saturday of the month in 2016, Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) will be closing the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park to all motorized vehicles. Access to the Elk Prairie Campground and Visitor Center will remain open. Closing the 10-mile through route to motorized vehicles provides an opportunity for park visitors to experience the parkway without the noise and sounds of cars and trucks. Come explore by foot, bicycle, skateboard rollerblades or any other non-motorized vehicle. Dogs-on-leash are also welcome on the parkway, although are prohibited on the trails for the safety of pets and wildlife.

Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway is located off of and parallels Highway 101 six miles north of Orick, CA, and four miles south of Klamath, CA. Parking is available in southern entrance in designated spaces parallel to the roadway and adjacent to Elk Prairie on the road to the campground. The parkway has something for everyone from families with young children looking for a safe and easy ride, to those looking for a more physically-challenging route. Much of the southern end of the parkway is relatively flat, while the hills of the northern portion offer require more expertise. Mark your calendar the first Saturday of Feb, March, April and May for recreation in the redwoods.

For more information about the first Saturday parkway closures or other ways to enjoy your parks, call the Redwood National and State Parks Information Office at 465-7335, or stop by a Redwood National and State Parks visitor center between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Information is also available on the Redwood National and State Parks website at: www.nps.gov/redw

Board of Supervisors appoints Connie Beck Director of DHHS

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has appointed Connie Beck to the position of Director of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS).

Beck brings considerable experience and expertise to the position. She has worked for DHHS for 20 years and has been the department’s interim director since late December. She also served as Assistant Director, Administration for three years before being appointed to the position.

As director, Beck will oversee a department with a yearly operating budget of approximately $150 million and provides direct services to more than 38,000 residents each year. Beck will work collaboratively with a variety of county departments as well as public and private community stakeholders in developing and implementing programs and services to meet community needs.

Beck becomes only the second person to lead DHHS since 2001 when the integrated agency was created, combining what were previously six separate county departments into one. Phillip R. Crandall, the previous director, retired Dec. 29, 2015.

HAR scholarship applications now available

Applications are now available for Humboldt Association of Realtors annual scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded to students who are, or will be, enrolled at a college or university whose studies are centered on, or support, a career in Real Estate Sales, Real Estate Finance, Real Estate Management, Real Estate Appraisal, Real Estate Investments, Real Estate Economics and/or Real Estate Law, Escrow, Title and Property Management, Interior Decorating, Construction Technologies, Landscaping, Woodworking, Cabinet Making, Architectural Design, Engineering and/or Drafting.

Scholarship applications are available online at www.harealtors.com, or by contacting the Humboldt Association of Realtors office at 442-2978 located at 527 West Wabash in Eureka.

All completed applications and supporting documents must be received by April 8, 2016.

A transformative professional development certificate program focused on creating desired change at work and in your communities.

Communication and Leadership Skills for Productive Interactions
Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 18-19: Gain skills to avoid or minimize misunderstandings and reactivity in conversations. Understand why and how people misperceive and "trigger" one another; how to keep this from happening; and how to get the conversation back on track.

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Presented by the College of eLearning & Extended Education at Humboldt State University
CalChamber opposition stops 2015 Job Killer holdovers

A number of California Chamber of Commerce-opposed job killer bills first identified in 2015 appear to be dead for this year after missing legislative deadlines or being amended.

Missed Deadlines

AB 244 (Eggman; D-Stockton) jeopardized access to credit for home mortgages and increased the challenge to attract business to California because of high housing prices by extending the homeowner’s bill of rights to others, thereby opening the door to more private rights of action.

AB 244 was held in the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee on February 17, 2015, therefore missing the January 15, 2016 deadline for any committee to advance a bill introduced in that house last year.

AB 356 (Williams; D-Carpinteria) would have potentially shut down certain in-state oil production operations by redefining critical components of the Underground Injection Control program which would, in turn, have compromised oil production without providing any additional environmental and groundwater protections beyond those recently proposed by state regulators.

AB 356 was placed on the Assembly Inactive File on June 11, 2015, thereby missing the January 31, 2016 deadline to pass the house in which it was introduced in 2015.

AB 357 (Chiu; D-San Francisco) would have imposed an unfair, one-size-fits-all, two-week notice scheduling mandate on certain retail and food employers that penalized these employers with “additional pay” for making changes to the schedule with less than two weeks’ notice, and additionally imposed a new, protected leave of absence from work for employees who are seeking public assistance.

AB 357 was placed on the Assembly Inactive File on June 4, 2015, thereby missing the January 31, 2016 deadline to pass the house in which it was introduced in 2015.

AB 1357 (Bloom; D-Santa Monica) threatened jobs in beverage, retail and restaurant industries by arbitrarily and unfairly targeting certain beverages for a new tax in order to fund children’s health programs.

AB 1357 failed to pass the Assembly Health Committee on May 12, 2015. It therefore missed both last year’s deadline to be considered on the Assembly Floor and the January 22, 2016 deadline for bills introduced in 2015 to be sent to the Assembly Floor.

AB 1490 (Rendon; D-Lakewood) would have driven up fuel prices and energy prices by imposing a de facto moratorium on well stimulation activities by halting the activity after an earthquake of a magnitude 2.0 or higher.

AB 1490 was in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 6, 2015. It missed both last year’s deadline to be considered on the Assembly Floor and the January 22, 2016 deadline for bills introduced in 2015 to be sent to the Assembly Floor.

SB 203 (Monning; D-Carmel) would have increased frivolous liability and exposed beverage manufacturers and food retailers to fines and penalties by mandating a state-only labeling requirement for sugar-sweetened drinks.

SB 203 failed to pass the Senate Health Committee on April 29, 2015, therefore missing the January 15, 2016 deadline for any policy committee to advance a bill introduced in that house last year.

SB 576 (Leno; D-San Francisco) stifled innovation and growth in the mobile application economy and created unnecessary and costly litigation by mandating unnecessary, redundant and impractical requirements that will leave many current and future mobile applications unusable, with no benefit to the consumer.

SB 576 has been in the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee since March 12, 2015, therefore missing the January 15, 2016 deadline for any policy committee to advance a bill introduced in that house last year.

Amended to Remove Job Killer Status

Before the January 4, 2016 amendments, SB 563 (Pan; D-Sacramento) exposed injured workers to potentially inappropriate treatment, undercut the recent workers’ compensation reforms and significantly increased workers’ compensation costs by eliminating the Utilization Review and Independent Medical Review process for many treatment requests.

The January 4, 2016 amendments led to removal of the job killer tag. Based on those amendments and the author’s commitment to adopt additional amendments that provide confidentiality protections to utilization review contracts, payment schedules and compensation agreements referenced in the bill language, the CalChamber is now neutral on SB 563.
Members gather to celebrate from page 1

committees for local schools, churches and non-profit organizations, as well as coaching and refereeing youth sports and fundraising for non-profits. Doss demonstrates a tremendous level of commitment to the community and its residents.

Jack Rieke, owner of Shafer’s Ace Hardware accepts the 2015 Business of the Year Award from 2015 Board Chair Tom Schallert.

The coveted Business of the Year Award went to Shafer’s Ace Hardware. This long time Humboldt County business began in 1945 and has now expanded to two Eureka locations, Fortuna and Willow Creek. Shafer’s has consistently demonstrated a genuine commitment to making a difference in the local community, from donations to non-profits to supporting youth sports and more.

Additionally, Carole Crossley of Celebration Boulevard was named the 2015 Ambassador of the Year. Chamber Ambassadors are business members who support Chamber programs in a variety of ways including, new business openings, Chamber mixers and new member development.

Jack Macdonald, 2015 Lifetime Service Award recipient speaks to Annual Dinner attendees.

The Chamber Annual Dinner and membership meeting is held annually to provide an opportunity for the members of the local business community to celebrate their collective investment in the local community.

For 35 years, Humboldt County's best source of talented professionals.

February 18 Mixer
at new Hospice of Humboldt Campus

Join us Thursday, Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hospice of Humboldt Conference Room for food, libations and fun! Campus tours available. Bring your business card to enter the drawings!

For info call Christiana, 267-9811.
Bring Your Business Cards!
Next Mixer is hosted by Hospice of Humboldt on Thursday, February 18th, 5:30 PM at 3327 Timber Fall Court in Eureka.

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Families Advocating Autism Now donates to The Studio

Fatima Naylor, President of Families Advocating Autism Now (FAAN) recently presented John Bensch, Director with The Studio, a division of HCAR, with a new iPad Air, case and an iTunes card.

This donation will allow the artists more accessibility to make digital art. They will also benefit from the painting and graphic art capabilities that an iPad provides.

John is passionate about making a safe, and creative space for artists who often have little control over many aspects of their lives. He believes that helping people develop hidden talents is the ultimate reward. The Studio is an open art studio providing materials and work space for adult artists with developmental disabilities.

FAAN is a local non-profit dedicated to improve opportunities for growth and development of individuals diagnosed with autism, and provide support and guidance to the education system for special needs of children on the autism spectrum while advocating for individuals with autism in our community. For more information, please visit www.humboldtfaan.org.