

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

## Early voting starts this month

Ballots for the Nov. 5 election will be mailed to all registered voters early this month. Voting options include mailing the completed ballot back in the postage-paid envelope, putting it in a dedicated drop box between Oct. 7 and 8 p.m. Nov. 5 (there will be one at Ray's Food Place, 2009 Main in Fortuna) or bringing it to a voting center, open Sat., Oct. 26 through Tues., Nov. 5. The closest will be the Veterans Building, 1426 Main Street, Fortuna. Voting centers are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on early voting days and 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on election day.

Those planning to vote in person are reminded to watch for their mailed ballot and bring it to the voting location where it can be dropped off. Those not having a ballot when they arrive to vote will need to vote provisionally, if the records indicate a ballot was sent, which takes extra steps and slows down the line, and also slows the ballot-counting process as election workers need to ensure those voting provisionally have not turned in their mailed ballots before the provisional ones are counted.

Those not registered to vote – and who have therefore not received a ballot – can do so until October 21. This can be done at the elections office at 2426 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Eureka, or go to [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov) to register online – you will need your driver's license or state ID card number and the last four digits of your Social Security number.

In addition to presidential, state and referendum measures, this would be an election in which people choose from city council, school board, and community service district candidates. Locally, however, there are no contests. In Rio Dell, two city council members are up for re-election, Amanda Carter and Frank Wilson; both have filed to run for re-election and their names will appear on the ballot, but being without opposition, they will be seated for new terms in December.

Similarly, there are no contests in the Scotia Community Services District, where one incumbent, Susan Pryor, filed for re-election and no one sought the second seat that will become available in December. According to Christina Strevey of the county elections board, in this situation a director could be appointed to fill the vacancy, which would need to be approved by the county board of supervisors.

In the case of the Rio Dell school district, only one candidate, Valerie Barrote, came in to file for re-election, with another seat remaining empty. In the Scotia board there were three seats that expire in December with no candidates. In the Fortuna Union High School board, incumbent Gabriel Winter Charlton filed for one of the four-year positions and another four-year seat, as well as a two-year seat, will expire in December. School boards in this situation would appoint someone to the empty positions but county board approval is not needed for school district boards.

## Rio Dell police remind pet owners of rules

The Rio Dell police department reminds pet owners of an existing municipal code, section 6.05.050, Animals Running at Large, which says no owner shall permit his animal, wild or domestic (except a domestic cat) to run at large within the city.

Once a loose dog is captured and taken to the police station, efforts will be made to find the owner based on a license, identification tags or information on the collar, scanning the dog for a microchip, and posting a photo of the dog on social media. An owner, once located, may be required to pay fees before the dog is released, based on how many times the dog has been impounded, if it is licensed, and if it is spayed or neutered.

If the owner is not located in a reasonable time, the dog will be taken to Miranda's Rescue in Fortuna. The owner will then need to pay any fees due at the Rio Dell police station and get a receipt or animal release form which must be shown to staff at Miranda's, before the dog can be released. If it is not spayed or neutered, an additional fee will be due to Miranda's which will go towards an appointment for having the procedure performed. **Continued Page 2.**



# Notes and News

## Trunk or Treat slated

A trick or treat event will be held at the parking lot of the Rio Dell fire department on Halloween, Thursday, Oct. 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. Those interested in giving treats to children from the trunks of their parked cars (hence the event's name) are invited to do so, and families are invited to come seek treats during those hours.

## Blessing of animals slated for Miranda's Rescue Oct. 5

All are invited to an interdenominational blessing of animals at Miranda's Rescue, 1603 Sandy Prairie Rd, Fortuna on Sat., Oct. 5 at 4 p.m. The event marks the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who lived in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is the patron saint of animals and the environment.

Rio Dell resident Alice Millington is one of the planners and said the free event welcomes all pets that are leashed, caged or otherwise under control. Wild and feral animals will be included in the blessing. Nancy Courtemanche of Ferndale will be the celebrant.

## Holiday gift program seeks to benefit residents of nursing homes

Area 1 Agency on Aging is planning to give gifts to seniors in skilled nursing facilities throughout the county this holiday season, noting that many such residents have no local family. Donations are sought through Dec. 13. Rio Dell resident Leanne Langston, who heads the effort, says that cash donations are preferred (checks may be made out to Area 1 and mailed to 333 J Street, Eureka, 95501) but the program will also accept new items such as socks, puzzle books and small toiletry items, which must be unopened. Contact her at 707.269.1330 for drop-off information.

## Meet the new crew member at the Community Resource Center

Rio Dell native Jessica Davis recently joined the staff of the Rio Dell Community Resource Center through an AFACTR (Assisting Families to Access Change Through Resources) AmeriCorps program. Married to Matt Davis, another Rio Dell native, she has four children and is very happy to have this opportunity to serve in such a familiar setting. Tasks include organizing donations and updating the bulletin boards. Interests include reading, swimming, and camping,



## Rio Dell police remind pet owners of rules *Cont. from Pg. 1*

**Owners are required to license their pets.** To do so, bring a current rabies certificate one gets from the veterinarian, to the police department. Prices are based on the length of the rabies shot and whether the animal has been spayed or neutered.

Other reminders the police department shares with residents regarding animals is that no crowing roosters are allowed in a residential or multifamily zone of the city, and that it is unlawful for anyone to own more than three dogs or cats four months of age or older, except as stated within the city's animal control chapter.

## New staff joins Rio Dell school district

Rio Dell's school district won a major, \$1.9 million grant that was announced over the summer and will be paid out over five years. Partly as a result of that funding, the district welcomes eight new staff members this year. Here is an introduction to five of them.

**Chelsea Coleman** is teaching 7th and 8th grade math and English. She grew up in Scotia where she was a cheerleader, in the honor band and the All-County Band, and played basketball and volleyball through Fortuna High. A preschool director in Fortuna for eight years, she re-enrolled in college, gaining additional knowledge and certifications in education and related fields.

Coleman has two daughters, three dogs, a cat and 6 chickens. She enjoys a number of hobbies, sports, and activities she shares with her family, saying "I am a big Magic the Gathering player. Halloween is my favorite holiday." She is delighted to be working with the Rio Dell district and says, "I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your kiddos!"



# New staff joins Rio Dell Continued from pg. 2

**Jake Coppini** is grateful to be in such a welcoming and supportive environment for his first year teaching in a classroom setting. He worked as an English lit tutor and taught writing at an online university. He will teach 6th through 8th grade English Language Arts and History. Coppini grew up on a farm in Ferndale, where he went to school. He completed his bachelor's in English while in the Air Force and his master's in English Literature in 2023. Hobbies include learning new languages, and reading foreign language books and original historical texts. He also enjoys football and basketball and spending time with his wife, Sheila, and three sons.

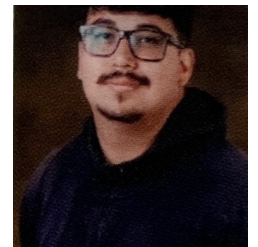


**Evan Nabors** is the new middle school science teacher. He grew up in rural West Texas and worked in the family business for many years, then moved to California, earning his bachelor's degree and teaching certificate from Cal Poly Humboldt. He is excited to join the Rio Dell community as a teacher, to share his love of science with a new group of students and to play a part in preparing his students for high school and beyond.



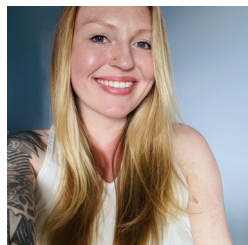
He lives with his wife, Stephane, a counselor at Fortuna High who is shown with him at right, in Eureka with a collection of unique pets. He enjoys playing bass guitar and organ, gardening, reading, cooking, and watching the Giants.

**Chris Licona** is one of two new school ambassadors. He lived in Rio Dell all his life and has worked at the Bear River Family Entertainment Center in Loleta. Interests include walking his dog, Bongo, around town, and playing volleyball or pickleball with friends and family.



Licona loves basketball, and coaches it for one of the grades at Rio Dell. His older brother, Samuel, worked as a school ambassador and has been giving tips and advice on the position. A chief goal in this new job is making a difference for the students. Licona says, "a lot of the time, students just need someone to listen and I hope to be that person."

**Breanna Hendershot** is a lifelong county resident, growing up in Southern Humboldt and going to South Fork High before completing her bachelor's in psychology at what is now Cal Poly Humboldt. She formerly worked as an aide at Fortuna High and enjoys listening to music, reading, walking outdoors and spending time with her fiancé and two children.



Hendershot says of her position as a school ambassador for grades K-4, "I am excited to apply what I have learned throughout my schooling and former positions and create trusted relationships with students and families in my role as ambassador."




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### Rio Dell-Scotia News

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