



## RIO DELL'S NEW WATER PROJECT UNDERWAY

A \$12 million project, a decade in the works, is happening in Rio Dell, replacing the city's drinking water infrastructure in its most-needed places. Funding comes from a State Water Resources Control Board grant. Water infrastructure from before the city was incorporated is being replaced with modern standards, methods and materials, City Manager Kyle Knopp says. "We will have a state-of-the art new storage tank and about 30 new fire hydrants. Some lines will be upsized. More valves will be added so if we must shut off water, it will be to a smaller section of town. We're getting a vital investment towards the health, sustainability and investment-worthiness of Rio Dell. It's a big deal." Why did it take 10 years? A significant deficit in the water fund made the city ineligible for grants, Knopp said. "A second priority, drought resilience and our backup water supply, split our attention." There were delays at the state level once the grant was submitted in 2018. "What really pushed the project through was the 2022 earthquake," Knopp said. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) asked if there were other ways the state could help and Knopp mentioned the grant that had been awaiting approval. "If work had been completed prior to the earthquake, the city would never have lost water supply and the complications that resulted from that." In addition to CalOES, Knopp points to many others who made the project happen: city finance staff that kept the clean audits needed for receiving grants; the city's engineering firm GHD; and ratepayers and a city council that understand the value in infrastructure investment and tough decisions required. But if he were to single out one person it would be Randy Jensen, the city's water superintendent. "He makes the system work and can 'ground truth' a lot of the planning and implementation with his experience." Knopp hopes most of the construction will be done before the rainy season but notes some aspects such as the storage tank will not be completed before 2027 because of the complexity of the project and supply chain issues. What about the brown water reported in some homes where the work is being done? "We recommend running your faucet and eventually it will clear," Knopp said, noting it is caused by "legacy manganese" that loosens when pressure changes in the lines. Knopp says the manganese is non-toxic and he reminds residents that prior to 2000, white clothes in Rio Dell sometimes turned brown in the laundry because of this issue.



Workers and equipment from the contractor Wahlund Construction can be found around town as the drinking water replacement system is installed.

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Deadline for October newsletter is September 12th..

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## Wildwood Days winners named



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**Winners of Thursday's rib cook-off** were Tommy Norton in first, Wally Coppini in second, and Amanda Johnson in third, with Joey Queen winning People's Choice. Event coordinator Mavis Amen noted trophies were made by Ferndale Jewelers, and live music was by Lora Lyn Carter and Monument Road. Judges were Rio Dell Mayor Debra Garnes, Mayor Pro-tem Amanda Carter, Police Chief Josh Phinney, community members Jasmine Carr and Scott Thommson, and visitor Richard Rumsey.

Amen adds, "Thank you to The Patron for allowing us to use their space for judging and to the official score counter, Jade Reynolds."

**Saturday's parade** saw Larry Doss take Best Overall with his draft horse team; Colette Daggett won Best Use of Theme with her '57 Chevy; Best Vehicle was the Paddy Wagon, owned by Greg Madonna, and Rio Dell School got Chamber's Choice. The chamber thanks Girlie Girls for the flowers, and Coast Central Credit Union, Tri Counties Bank and Humboldt Redwood Company for the sponsorships.

**Sunday's Show and Shine** car show had 69 entries, from Brookings, Oregon to Garberville. Coordinator Mary Burns dedicated the event to Red Elliott, her "backbone" in helping put on the show, whom she misses immensely. She thanked his grandsons Brett and Billy Elliott for stepping in to help, and to Ferndale Jewelers for the great job done with the trophies.

Winners were: People's Choice (donated by Automotive Workshop, Rio Dell) 1962 Corvette, owned by Rick and Tony Smith, Carlotta; Participant's Choice (donated by Napa 101 Rio Dell) 1966 Cobra, owned by Bob Oliver, Rio Dell; Peace Officer's Choice (donated by Rio Dell Peace Officer's Association) 1963 Impala owned by Shawn and Emma Sue Mitten, Loleta; Fire Chief's Choice (donated by Ferndale Jewelers, Fortuna) 1951 Sunbeam, owned by Don and Pam Ingram, Fortuna; Platinum Award (donated by Mercer Fraser, Fortuna) 1966 Chevy II owned by Bob Tritten, Rio Dell; Red Elliott Memorial Trophy (donated by Sequoia Gas, Fortuna) 1965 GTO owned by Charlie Manzi, Rio Dell; and Best of Show (donated by Kreations, Rio Dell) 1940 Mercury convertible owned by the Billinger family, Bayside.

**Duck race winners** first place through 21st and the donors and prizes they won were Craig, \$500; Allan Baird, \$200; Tara Kemp, \$100; Steve Klatt, \$300 donated by Humboldt Redwood Company; and WeCare, 4-hour patio boat rental from Ruth Lake Marina. WeCare and Ed Hower each won a \$150 fuel card from Town of Scotia. Cindy Daetwiler and WeCare each won a \$150 gift card from Shamus T Bones. RFI won swag from Eel River Brewery and WeCare, a fishing rod and reel from Grundman's. WeCare and Checka each won a \$10 gift card from Jitter Bean. Dennis Flemming got a charcuterie board and utensils from Arnie Kemp; Misty Peralta, a lunch for two at DJ's; Cody Hayes, a solar radio from CCrane; Walker, a board from Gratitude Gift Company; and Mary Hinrichs, Lonnie Tucker, Manny Meras and AquaDam, each won a \$50 fuel card from Valley Pacific.

The Scotia Volunteer Fire Department thanks all who donated prizes and bought tickets.

**Sunday's race winners** were Roberto Lincona, Aliese Landry and Yolanda Becenil taking first through third place in the 5K race, and Ruan Allen, Royal Allen, and Olivia Lindsey placing first through third in the kids' race. Coordinator Aundra Vaughn said about 19 participated in the 5K and seven in the youth group. She thanked helpers in putting the race on.



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## Two teachers join staff in Rio Dell schools

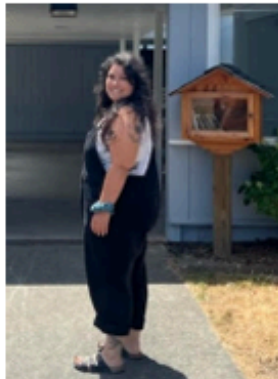
Art teacher Emily Miller and middle-school teacher Isabelle Quintero join the staff at Rio Dell's school district this fall.

Miller, who also goes by "Emmy," is from San Luis Obispo but moved to Arcata five years ago to pursue a double major in art education and studio art as well as her teaching credential, at Cal Poly Humboldt. She's taught ceramics and worked as an after school/break camp coordinator at Trillium charter school, and is eager for new experiences in Rio Dell, where she will teach kindergarten through eighth grade art. She chose her career after seeing the positive impact her mother, a teacher, had on students and wants to continue her legacy.

Drawn to the beauty of the area and the closeness to Weott where her partner Evan works for Cal Fire, Miller has a cat, Hobbes, and enjoys animals, reading, films, all kinds of games, and mythology as well as doing art in her free time. She adds, "My door is always open for a good nerdy conversation!"

Quintero hails from San Diego and moved to Humboldt County for college, building lasting friendships that drew her back to the area after a five-year stint in Southern California where she worked in manufacturing. While successful, she returned to her original path, teaching, for a career that is more fulfilling. She had been a long-term sub in McKinleyville and completed her master's and credential training in May.

"I love the older grades. I'm happy to be teaching in middle school," she says. Fluent in Spanish, Quintero lives in Eureka with two big dogs and loves camping and going to the rivers.



Emily Miller



Isabelle Quintero



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## Humboldt Disc Dogs to host local events

Get ready for a dazzling display of canine athleticism and community spirit—Humboldt Disc Dogs is proud to host upcoming trials, welcoming spectators and competitors alike to cheer on these high-flying pups at Fireman's Park ball field in Rio Dell! Our schedule for the rest of 2025 is Sept. 6 practice; Sept. 20-21 trial; and Oct. 11 practice, Oct. 18-19 trial. Each day starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 4 or 5 p.m. Whether you're a longtime fan or just discovering the thrill of disc sports, this event brings together energetic dogs, dedicated handlers, and a welcoming crowd for fun, flair, and fast-paced frisbee action. Certified judges will oversee the competition. Teams can score points towards national rankings. The trial runs rain or shine, and volunteers play a vital role—new helpers are always welcome, even if they've never chased or thrown a frisbee. Interested in participating, volunteering or sponsoring? Contact [humboltdiscdogs@yahoo.com](mailto:humboltdiscdogs@yahoo.com) or on Facebook.

By Deb Lake

## Pacific farmstand offers garden surplus, more

Started as a plant stand a few years ago, the Pacific Farmstand at 775 Pacific in Rio Dell has grown to include fresh garden items, succulents and eggs for sale, and free books and information. "People drop off the gleanings from their gardens and fruit trees. There's new stuff all the time," notes owner Erielle Laura, a 20-year Humboldt County resident who says Rio Dell is "one of the most charming places" she's seen.



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