



Rio Dell - Scotia News

November 2025 Vol. XXXIV Number 11

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Save the Date – Tree lighting, Sat., Dec. 6
Starting at 5 p.m. Refreshments, Santa, fire truck parade, more.
Community Resource Center, 406 Wildwood Ave. Rio Dell



Laundromat to open this month



Two local couples are the new owners of the laundromat in Rio Dell, due to open in November. Friends Tyler and Amber Hutton and Trina and Jerry Keller are renting the recently remodeled building and installing new top-loading and front-loading Speed Queen washers and efficient dryers, with additional units to be added later. Tyler Hutton, who formerly worked at Redwood Appliance in Fortuna, owned by his wife's parents, notes, "Both families are excited to reopen the laundromat in the community they love and call home. With fond memories of using this very laundromat before it closed, we are now looking forward to giving it a fresh start and serving our neighbors!"

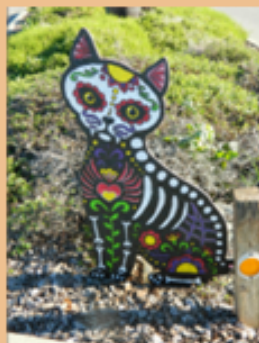
Promising a clean, convenient and welcoming experience, he urges residents to keep an eye out for the official opening date and ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Sign up for the annual holiday home & business decorating contest:
<https://forms.gle/iMNsPYUSfJgeCsLh7>



Several Halloween and Day of the Dead themed images cropped up on the median in Rio Dell last month, the result of a collaboration led by Debra Loyd of Scotia. First 5 teacher through the Rio Dell Community Resource Center. Loyd drew and painted images on donated pieces of plywood, which were then cut out by resource center coordinator Sarah Reback's husband, and a friend.



Dates to remember –

Nov. 2 – Daylight Savings
Time ends
Nov. 4 – Election Day
Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

Happy THANKSGIVING

Rio Dell - Scotia News is free of charge, published monthly by the
Rio Dell - Scotia Chamber of Commerce and the Rio Dell Community Resource Center.
Funded by local businesses and the St. Joseph Hospital Health System.
Copies distributed in Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Scotia and archived at riodellscotiachamber.org

Deadline for December newsletter is November 7th.
Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 707-506-5081 to advertise.

 **Providence**
Medical Group

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Rio Dell woman shares her love of art, teaching, with many

Elizabeth Warren lays out the materials to be used in the free class she's about to teach at the Rio Dell Community Resource Center where nearly a dozen have gathered around tables to learn wool felting, a craft that turns shreds of wool into shapes that can become ornaments, jewelry, or just items made for fun while meeting new friends on an evening out.

Warren has taught art and crafts to children for years, in after-school and summer-camp settings and presently teaches days in the Scotia school district. She has headed up efforts like sidewalk chalk art as part of Wildwood Days and has her own YouTube channel where she teaches crafts to more than 400 followers (youtube.com/@ZabERocks). "I'm always trying new things," she says of art, describing projects she calls backyard whimsy and an art medium called an acrylic pour, involving stacking layers of color.

But a form of artistic expression that she stumbled into accidentally decades ago, with the help of a gift certificate to a stained glass class, has been a mainstay of her life and a source of pride, income and notoriety, as she has commissioned about 30 stained glass pieces at the request of clients (the First Baptist Church in Eureka purchased five), stemming from her displaying her work in area galleries and by word of mouth.

From a workroom in her home dedicated to the project, Warren first sketches the design and assigns codes for the various colors each piece will be, sometimes working from photos supplied by the client. Having created a carbon copy of the design, she cuts that into pieces, each the template for a piece of stained glass she will cut from the large sheets she has purchased and stored. "I try to cut 10 pieces per day," she says but there is huge variability in the sizes. Many steps follow – grinding, applying copper foil, soldering. A piece can take months to complete. Earthquakes are a cause of concern.

Warren says she sees stained glass art as like a jigsaw puzzle, and she is attracted by the colors and tactile experience. She recalls seeing a neighbor in her native Sacramento use a saw to cut wood, and was fascinated by the process. This is safer, she says, you are not going to cut your fingers off.



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TUES: 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.

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Managing a paper route for over a decade

"My husband John became secretary/treasurer of the chamber after he retired, and he volunteered me," Sandy Dunker says of her start distributing this chamber newsletter to more than three dozen locations in Rio Dell, Scotia and Fortuna every month. "He's been gone nine years, so I've been doing it longer than that."



The Dunkers moved from Southern California in 1986 with sons Scott and Jeff, as John had taken a position with the California Conservation Corps in Fortuna. "We needed a place to live," she says of their discovering Rio Dell, "and as we were driving around, we saw children playing in the street, a town with no traffic lights, and there was our church" - Rio Dell Baptist, on the corner of Wildwood and Butcher Street, where she now works as secretary. Church was important to the Dunkers - it's where they met as children, after their respective families moved to Livermore, California, from their respective homes in New Mexico.

"I love it," Dunker says of the newsletter distribution gig. "I enjoy being part of the community, I enjoy people." She walks every day with a group of women from the church. Son Jeff is executive chef at the Ivanhoe in Ferndale, and Scott is an industrial electrician in Southern California. A grandson is in the Navy.



Rio Dell garden spots for public enjoyment include the dining area at Lety's restaurant and the area between the doctor's office and EJ Liquors. Kudos to those maintaining these bright places!

Scotia's dog park is now open! Here Pedro, a worker with the Scotia Community Services District, does some maintenance for the ball field lighting in the area now a dog park.

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Protect against Amazon-related Scammers

By: Billy Joe Long, PSA Computer Services

Amazon's immense customer base makes it a prime target for scammers. The company warns that it will never ask for payment information, your password, or to verify sensitive personal information over the phone. The scale of the problem is significant. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported that between July 2020 and June 2021, around 96,000 people were targeted by Amazon-related scams, losing over \$27 million.

A common scam involves a message—via text, email, or phone call—falsely claiming your Amazon Prime account is suspended. It includes a fraudulent link or requests that you "verify" your account by providing information verbally. Victims are lured into handing over login credentials or payment details. Always check that links contain "amazon.com" or "amazon.com/support" before clicking. Scammers create a false sense of urgency to bypass your better judgment. Amazon itself advises "be wary any time someone tries to convince you that you must act now."

While the FTC notes these scams are particularly effective against those over 60, reports indicate 82.9% of young adults have been tricked by suspicious links. As a local IT service provider, I can attest that scammers successfully target all age groups. Here are two prevalent scams to avoid:

Off-Platform Payments: A seller lists a product on Amazon but contacts you directly to pay through another service like CashApp, Venmo, or Zelle. By paying outside Amazon, you forfeit all buyer protection and likely send your money and information directly to a scammer. The rule is simple: only pay using Amazon's official platform.

Phishing Phone Calls: A caller pretends to be an Amazon support agent requesting personal information to "verify your identity." This is a numbers game; with millions of Prime members, scammers often call someone expecting a legitimate callback. Protect yourself by adopting a policy of never giving out personal information to an unsolicited caller.

The Internet's convenience also makes it a breeding ground for thieves. Always exercise constraint and common sense. If you feel uncomfortable with a request for your information, end the conversation immediately!

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