

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Come to the Tree Lighting Sat., Dec. 7 at 5 p.m.
at the Chamber Office, 406 Wildwood Ave.
See pg. 2 for more details

Scotia women bring skills in art, music

Two Scotia residents are bringing diverse skills to home-based businesses



Loretta Huntress restores art and antique items that have been damaged through aging or accidents. She is self-taught, taking after her handy-man father who always told her

there's nothing that can't be fixed. "Whenever someone says it can't be done, I say I'll do it!" she notes. Huntress worked for two decades for Joe Koches who owned the Blacksmith Shop in Ferndale. She described her duties as managing, maintenance, and all-around whatever needed doing, then went to part-time when her youngest daughter was born, 20 years ago, decreasing her hours in later years to only coming in for special jobs.

During the 1992 earthquake, bronze sculptures in the store were broken, and Koches said they couldn't be fixed, so Huntress stepped up to the challenge and repaired them. Word spread and others started asking her to restore items they had which had been damaged, perhaps by being dropped or handled roughly, or through the process of aging. Many things she gets are of sentimental value to the owners, she notes, rather than costly.

One early task involved the statue of St. Joseph that stands in a meeting room at the Church of the Assumption in Ferndale. Damaged in that same 1992 earthquake, the broken statue had a rod sticking out of its head, and the cracked plaster was mixed with horse hair, as was the practice at the time it was created. She re-plastered the statue and repainted the features, finding paint to match the original colors.

Another example of her work was restoring a Marine drill sergeant's hat from the Korean War, brought to her by the brother of the owner, who lived in Florida. The leather bands were cracked, and there was a hole chewed by a mouse. Huntress found similar material on a hat in a thrift store and cut out a section to repair the mouse hole, **(Cont. on Page 3)**



Rachel Huang teaches classes and offers instruction individually in yoga and violin. Both have been a part of her life for decades. "I took music when I was in a rural school in Colorado," she says of her childhood, something many children no longer have access to.

She took classes in violin but also taught herself to play the guitar from a song book with chord charts in the back that her mother had. "My parents were musical," she says, and she sang in church choirs, and majored in music in college, focusing on the viola. When she joined a band and the bass player quit a short time later, she taught herself the bass.

A child of eclectic interests, Huang became interested in yoga and meditation at a young age and kept them as a part of her life. A Navy veteran, she lived in Oakland for many years, running a cleaning service while she raised her two daughters because the money was good, and performing in Bay area symphonic orchestras. Tired of the high rents and city living and attracted to what she had seen of Humboldt County when visiting friends, she checked out a mortgage calculator online and bought a house in Scotia a year ago. She extols the attractions of her new home town in a song she wrote, addressing among the area's many features the river scenes, friendly people and trees.

"I have a big front room with a wooden floor and the light pours in," she said. "As soon as I saw it, my mind went – yoga studio." She joined the Eureka Symphony, the Humboldt State Symphony and the All Seasons Orchestra which began as a Parks and Recreation class in Arcata and grew into a civic and community orchestra, she said, calling the people in each setting "super-welcoming." She is part of a string quartet as well and enjoys the music of India including devotional Hindu chants called Kirtan. There is a tradition that blends the music of India with Appalachia, she says called American primitivism. **(Cont. on Page 3)**

News and Notes

Annual free holiday play slated at the Winema

Each year Del Arte Company's holiday show tour brings the Blue Lake-based school of theater to Scotia to present a free performance of an adapted classic at the Winema Theater. This year it is *Return to Oz*, and will be held on Tues., Dec. 3 starting at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring an item for the local food pantry. The family-friendly fare finds Dorothy returning to Oz to find it in ruins and has to Marshal her wits and skill to thwart her nemesis, accompanied by her familiar friends, the Tin Man, Lion and Scare Crow. This is the 39th year Del Arte has put on these performances, playing to 7,000 people across a three-county area between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Come to the Tree Lighting!

Sat., Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. will be the annual tree lighting at the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce, 406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell. The event is free and open to all, and family-friendly. The Community Resource Center will provide refreshments and activities for children; live holiday music will be provided by the Baptist church choir and Scotia Saxes, and Santa will be on hand. Make time for this annual tradition, named for the past three years for Dennis Wendt, Fortuna businessman and philanthropist, who died in 2017.

Rio Dell schools slate December events

On Dec. 2 the Parent-Teacher Organization meets at 4 p.m. in room 402. On Dec. 6 there will be Panther Picnic during regular lunch times. On Dec. 11, the school board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in room 103.

On Dec. 13 the PTO Holiday Store will be in the PMU from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Dec. 13 the Varsity girls basketball tournament will be in Crescent City. On Dec. 17, grades 4 through 8 go to the ice rink. The Winter Concert will be Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. On Dec. 20 there will be a school sing-a-long at 9 a.m.

There will be school-wide early release at 1 p.m. on Dec. 20 and the after-school program closes at 4 p.m. There will be no school Dec. 23 to Jan. 3.

Scotia school sets December schedule

The Parent-Teacher Organization meets in the library at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 4. Report cards are sent home Dec. 5. The school board will meet in the library at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12. The Winter Concert will be held at the Winema Theater at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17. The Christmas Store will be at the Winema on Dec. 18. School will be closed for winter break from Dec. 21 to Jan. 5.

Open your heart and home to foster kids – here's how to get started

Two informational sessions will be offered this month for those interested in exploring foster or kinship care – the latter referring to caring for children removed from the home of relatives or close friends. The sessions will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 2 and again on Dec. 16 at Eureka Church of the Nazarene, 2039 E St., Eureka, and are sponsored by the county's Department of Health and Human Services. Children are not allowed at these sessions. For more information, call 499-3410.

Resource Center sets holiday food distributions

The Community Recourse Center will be providing holiday food baskets to qualifying individuals and families who come to the food pantry on Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to noon. A protein and larger than usual vegetable portion will be included in each basket. Individuals new to the pantry can self-certify that their income is at or below the required level \$1,561.25 per month for one person, or \$2,113.75 for two persons; for each additional person in the household, add \$552.50 of monthly income. Foods have been purchased with monies received from grants.

Help restock the food pantry

Barrels will be out in the post offices in Rio Dell and Scotia and in Root 101 Nursery to accept food donations through Dec. 17 to build up the food pantry supplies with items for holiday baskets and restocking into next year.

Check out these giving opportunities to help area families

The Community Resource Center is working with Toys for Tots to provide gifts for needy families this December. Those wishing to donate stocking stuffer items may buy them at, or bring them to, Dollar General in Rio Dell where a donation bin will be available. Larger gifts are only being accepted for children ages 15 to 18, for whom no other source of gifts is available. Sara Faught of the resource center says popular and affordable items for young people in this age group are hoodies, gift certificates to area shops and blue tooth speakers.

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Families can get help with gifts for children

Families wishing help providing holiday gifts for their children this year may complete an application in advance at either the Rio Dell or Scotia office school or at the Community Resource Center in Rio Dell, stating the name, age and other information about the child for whom the gift is intended, to aid in selection of appropriate items. Gifts will be provided through the Toys for Tots program operated by the U.S. Marine Corps, and will be directed to families with an application on file based on the child's age, size and gender. Gifts may be picked up locally on Dec. 14 at the Rio Dell Baptist Church between noon and 4 p.m. The person picking up will need a photo ID to establish it is the family member applying.

Yoga classes offered in Scotia

Getting stressed by too much happening around the holidays? Take a break – take a yoga class. They are offered Fridays at 10 a.m. in Scotia at 614 First St., across from the school. There's a sliding scale to pay, \$1-\$20. The class is open to all levels, with an emphasis on basic concepts and poses, called asanas, and includes tea and meditation. Taught by Rachel Huang, a certified 200-hour yoga teacher trained by Square One Yoga, she is certified by the Veterans Yoga Project and has more than 30 years of meditation experience. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable, loose clothing, and to bring a mat and props such as blocks, a strap and blanket, if you have them – a few are available, if not. Private yoga instruction is also available. Text Huang at 510.290.2650 or email her at cleaningdetail@yahoo.com.

(Loretta Huntress continued from page 1) as well as replacing the leather straps. She has done work sent to her from England and Australia.

"I need to see the project to give a price," she says, and notes she's very fair, telling clients when she's able to find a deal in a thrift shop to repair an item rather than pretending it required a large investment.

Aside from repairing things for others, Huntress paints in oils, something her mother was very talented in, she notes. Her parents grew up in war-torn England, seeing so much loss and destruction that they valued the things they had and learned to make due. They immigrated to Canada and then to Southern California, where her father worked in dairies and ice rinks, building a reputation for his ability to repair anything. Among his clients were several famous Hollywood names, Huntress said, such as Debbie Reynolds and Lawrence Welk, although she didn't get to meet them. He built a house for the pet cheetah of one Hollywood celebrity, and her mother thought, "What will the animal look at all day?" and painted a scene of the Serengeti inside the shelter.

Huntress bought her home in Scotia in July of this year, wanting someplace "quiet, peaceful, and warmer" than the other communities in which she had lived locally, which included Ferndale and Fortuna, where her two sisters and most of her five grown children live.

(Rachel Huang continued from Page 1), "I play more music here than I did in the Bay area," she says, noting the difficulty of scheduling and accomplishing things in a city. Still, she is interested in finding musical opportunities in the center of the county since she drives so often north or south to take part in musical groups.

Huang says she is flexible with scheduling classes and encourages those interested in violin or yoga lessons to call, email or text her (see yoga class listing above) for contact information). People have asked her about classes in guitar or voice, but for now she wants to start small and see what comes of it.

By Billy Joe Long
PSA Computer Services
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Windows 7 End of Life – What You Need to Know

Microsoft will end support for the Windows 7 operating system on January 14, 2020. This includes all editions of the Windows 7 operating system: Starter, Home Basic, Home Premium, Professional, Enterprise and Ultimate. If you have not upgraded by January 14, 2020, you will be using an unsupported operating system. (Continued on Page 4.)

Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Submissions deadline for January newsletter copy is December 10.

Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at

506-5081 to advertise.

St. Joseph Health 

St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial

Ongoing Events

CalFresh/CalWorks:

Do you know if you are eligible for either CalFresh or CalWorks? Come to the Community Resource Center to find out how to qualify and apply for both programs. You can also apply for CalFresh, CalWorks and MediCal at www.cyourself.com.

Senior Brown Bag Program: Food boxes given the **2nd Thursday** of every month for local seniors. Boxes distributed from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 325 2nd Ave. in Rio Dell. To sign up call Food for People at 445-3166.

Rio Dell Library: Tuesday-11-4, Wednesday 1-6, Saturday- 11-4

There is a First 5 Puppet Story Time every **Saturday** at 11 a.m. 715 Wildwood Ave., 764-3333.

Emergency Food: Running low on food this week? Get a bag for your family or just for yourself at:

- **The Community Resource Center:** 99 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell, no income verification is needed.
- **The Journey Church:** 95 Belleview Ave. Rio Dell, **Tuesday & Thursday** 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
- **Bread for Life Food Pantry:** Journey Church, 95 Belleview Ave., **3rd Thursday**, from 9 a.m.-12 Noon, For more info call 764-5239.

Clothing Closet: Ruth's Room: Rio Dell Baptist Church, 100 Butcher St., Rio Dell, **Tuesdays**, 9 a.m.– 12 Noon Call 764-3811 for more information.

Women's Health Project: Breast and Gynecology Eel River Valley Outreach Center: 707-726-7919 or 825-8345.

Free exercise program open to all meeting at Chamber of Commerce: An exercise group meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce, 406 Wildwood Ave. in Rio Dell, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The group is open to all ages and seeks new members. Formerly called SAIL, it focuses on improving balance, flexibility and range of motion to help prevent falls and broken bones.

Free Produce Available: Those whose households qualify based on income are reminded of the monthly Mobile Produce Pantry that comes to the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department on the **second Wednesday** of each month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Food for People at 445-3166.

Weight-loss group meets at chamber office; Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at the Chamber of Commerce office at 406 Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell **each Friday morning**. Weigh-in is from 8 to 9:30 a.m. to accommodate various schedules, and a program is held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. All are invited. TOPS is part of a national organization and more can be found at the website tops.org. Other local chapters meet in Eureka and McKinleyville. New members are welcome.

(Windows 7 End of Life – What You Need to Know, Continued from Page 3.)

You may wonder what Microsoft means by “ending support”. This means they will no longer provide support for laptops and desktops with Windows 7 installed. If you run into a bug in the operating system, Microsoft will not fix it – so don't bother calling them.

An issue often overlooked when discussing the end of support for Windows 7, is the third-party application issue. Many software providers will not support their software if it is installed and running on an unsupported operating system. Additionally, some software you purchase may not install on Windows 7 at all. This will become more prevalent as time passes.

Additionally, Microsoft will stop patching Windows 7 with security updates. The patches provided by Microsoft for Windows 7 help keep the operating system secure, and as time passes the un-patched operating system will become more and more insecure and prone to compromise by hackers.

One bright spot on the horizon, if you choose to upgrade to Windows 10 from a properly licensed and activated copy of Windows 7, is that you may not need to pay for Windows 10. As of this writing, I am able to upgrade Windows 7 computers to Windows 10 and activate them with a valid and legal digital license at no cost other than the \$100 flat rate I charge to perform the upgrade. That is a savings of approximately \$140 - \$200 per computer, depending on the edition you get.

If you need help upgrading your desktop, laptop or a whole organization, give PSA give PSA Computer Services a call at (707) 506-6228.