

New Artist Showing at Local Gallery



Andrea Rodriguez is the newest artist at the Eagle

Prairie Arts District gallery at Wildwood and Columbus in Rio Dell. She seeks in her art "to make something beautiful out of the worries and troubles of everyday experiences," she says. Mostly self-taught, she says acrylics are her go-to tools, but she likes experimenting with mixed media, and seeing how materials take on a life of their own. She likes the challenge of "things that make me uncomfortable," she says, like wood burning. Rodriguez lives in Rio Dell with husband Ryan Nattress who does pen and ink sketches, and their 13-year-old daughter, a budding artist. Rodriguez previously lived in the Bay area where she studied criminal justice and worked full time in retail management. Because of her hectic schedule, her mother helped raise her daughter. Rodriguez is thrilled to enjoy the "different pace and amazing people" in Humboldt County. Citing family and art as her biggest influences, she hopes to open a gallery some day in Eureka but to still support the local effort. "Artists should work together, we face the same issues and challenges," she says, and that's the feeling she gets at the local gallery.

Rio Dell-Scotia News

FREE!

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~AROUND TOWN~

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Area Woman Sells Shipping Containers at Sawmill Site



Drake and daughter

Rebecca Drake of Fortuna has opened a business selling steel shipping containers at the Eel River Sawmill site north of Rio Dell. Drake notes it's the perfect job, since it allows her to work from home much of the time and care for her 18 month old daughter, Juliana Jeffries.

The business opened in November selling new and used shipping containers in sizes ranging from 8 by 20 feet to 8 by 40. They are air- and water-tight, and can be insulated, a most-requested feature, which keeps the items stored inside from "sweating" in temperature variations. DC Insula-

tion in Eureka does the insulating for her. Shipping containers can serve many uses, Drake notes, and don't require a building permit when used for storage, which to date has been the purpose for the units sold.

Drake gets the containers through an Oregon-based broker, and they are delivered from the Bay area on a truck. She has a specially-equipped trailer made in Georgia that allows her to winch the shipping containers on board for delivery to customers throughout Humboldt County. **Continued on Page 2.**

Resource Center Coordinator Reviews First Year



Sara Faught, Coordinator

Sara Faught is completing her first year coordinating the Community Resource Center office at Wildwood and Monument in Rio Dell. Looking back, she notes that the number of services provided over the year has increased, as she met with community partners, worked to extend more services into Scotia, and to

expand an understanding of the ways the center can help people. "Not only do we accommodate homeless, low-income and at-risk individuals, we are a tool accessible to any person," she explains, adding that she strives to overcome any stigma that may be associated with using the center and hopes everyone feels comfortable and safe coming to the office, its programs and events. "Within a couple of months, we were completely blown away by the number of community members we were helping; it was almost overwhelming how many people were coming through our doors," Faught notes. **Continued on Page 4**



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News and Notes

Closed for President's Day:

Rio Dell Community Resource Center will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20.

Emergency Food

Running low on food this week? Get a bag for your family or just for yourself at the Community Resource Center; no income verification needed.

Volunteers needed!

The Eagle Prairie Arts District is looking for people to volunteer in the art gallery and visitor's center at 406 Wildwood Ave. in Rio Dell. Schedules are flexible, you can meet the public, represent local arts businesses, and help visitors to the community with information. Contact Kim Reid, gallery coordinator, at 707-681-6819 or visit facebook.com/info.epad.

Gallagher's Pub has Closed at the Scotia Inn

Effective Jan. 31, Gallagher's Pub will no longer be open in Scotia. Miguel's Restaurant will continue as before. Wes Paden, who manages the Scotia Inn, has been president of Gallagher's Irish Pub Inc., according to Kelly Erben, who was vice president and a long-time employee of the business, which also has a Eureka location. Erben says the partnership is splitting up and the two are going their separate ways, with Gallagher's in Eureka remaining open.

A You Tube video, tracing the history of Gallagher's, features Paden's dad, Reed Paden, discussing how his grandfather launched the Irish-themed eatery known for fish and chips. Scotia Inn, which is leased from the Town of Scotia, remains for sale. Wes Paden says the pub will close for a time but expects it to reopen in March with new offerings and a new name.

Senior Exercise Class Has Moved

SAIL, the free exercise class offered three times weekly for seniors wanting to stay active and healthy, has moved back to the Rio Dell Baptist Church at 100 Butcher St. It continues to meet at noon. Contact Susan Nessen at 407-8707.

Arts District Receives Grant

The Eagle Prairie Arts District thanks the McLean Foundation for a \$1,700 grant to provide a new, Macintosh computer, printer/copier and supplies.

Valentine's Event Planned at Gallery

A "paint and sip" event will be held at the Eagle Prairie Arts District gallery at Wildwood and Columbus on Friday, Feb. 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. Participants will each have a chance to make a Valentine's Day gift from a supplied heart-shaped piece of redwood, donated by Dias Artistries. Beer, wine, soft drinks and pizzas from The Rio Dell Pizza Factory will be available, and materials will be provided, along with a folk art class taught by Rio Dell artist Amy Embree to help get participants going, designing their gift. The cost of the family-friendly event is \$30 each or two people for \$50.

Rio Dell Schools

The Parent-Teacher Organization will meet Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. The school board meeting is Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a district spelling bee Feb. 9. The 6th grade boys' basketball team will host a tournament Feb. 10 and 11. Rio Dell schools will be closed for the week of Feb. 20 to 24.

Scotia Schools

The Parent-Teacher Organization will meet Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. The 100th day of school is Feb. 8. The school board will meet Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. There will be a spelling bee Feb. 15 for grades four to eight. School will be closed Feb. 20 to 24.

Containers Continued from Page 1. Business has been brisk, Drake says, as she has sold out of her initial order of 20 containers and is expecting another load in. Prices range from \$1,500 to \$4,400 depending on size and condition since they are available either new or used, and are available to be seen not only at the sawmill site but at a second location, just opened in Redway in January, as well as in photos at her website, norcaltransportcontainers.com. She can be reached by phone at 845-6935.

Drake grew up on a Ferndale dairy farm, and played sports in high school and in college. She completed a business degree at Sacramento State University.

Senior Citizens Needed To Volunteer at Area Schools for a Stipend

A foster grandparent program links eligible Humboldt County residents 55 years or older, with children needing a bit of help in public schools. Participants volunteer 15 hours a week or more, working one on one with children to help them read, understand math, or just receive the caring they may be missing at home because their families are challenged with too many issues to give the children the attention they crave. Susan Nessen, who works with the program locally, notes that seniors must be considered low-income, and can receive a stipend of \$200 or more per month, as well as other benefits such as a free meal at the school, mileage to and from the school site, and training and social gatherings where they can meet and visit with other foster grandparents.

Nessen says the program exists at several schools, including Rio Dell, and she hopes it expands to Scotia. No experience is required to work with the children, and the stipend will not affect volunteers' income-based assistance or Social Security. The program is funded through North Coast Opportunities, a Ukiah-based community action agency. Those interested in learning more should call the organization at 462-1959 or Nessen at 407-8707.

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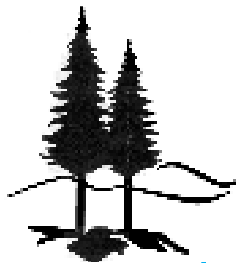
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~Meeting Calendar~

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 second and fourth Saturday of the month starting at 11:00 am with story teller Kathy Frye. 715 Wildwood Ave, 764-3333.

Emergency Food

The Journey Church, 95 Bellevue Ave. Rio Dell, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce

406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell.
For more info call 506-5081.

Bread for Life Food Pantry

143 Main Street, Scotia, 3rd Thursday, from 10 am -2 p.m., For more info call 764-5239.

Clothing Closet

Ruth's Room: Rio Dell Baptist Church, Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 764-3811 for more information.

Eagle Prairie Arts District

Meetings are the 1st Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Gallery/Visitor's Center. Call 506-5081.

Women's Health Project Breast and Gynecology Eel River Valley

Outreach Center:

707-726-7919 or 825-8345

Friday Playgroups

The Community Resource Center provides a First Five playgroup Fridays 10 a.m. to noon at the Early Head Start classroom, 95 Center St., Rio Dell.

SAIL

Staying Active and Independent Living helps prevent falls and broken bones. This free program meets noon - 1 p.m. Mon., Wed., and Fri. at the at the Rio Dell Baptist Church, 100 Butcher St. Call Susan at 407-8707. Join us!

Monday Storytime

Families with children 0-5 years old are welcome to join Community Resource Center staff at the Eagle Prairie School library room, Mondays from 8:20 to 9:20 a.m. to develop childhood literacy through stories and crafts. Snacks are provided. There will not be a Storytime when school is closed.



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Submissions deadline for March newsletter copy is February 17th. Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 506-5081 to advertise.

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Leath, Bernal and Homen

Resource Center Continued from Page 1.

Examples include providing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to more than 450 people, sponsoring the Easter egg hunt at Firemen's Park in Rio Dell which brought more than 360 adults and children, and serving more than 200 each at events at Rio Dell and Scotia schools and at the "Trunk or Treat" Halloween event sponsored at the Winema

Theater by Faith Center South. On-going efforts include various emergency food programs and pre-school story time and play groups which are detailed in the "Calendar" column of this newsletter on page 3. Other areas of aid include housing, transportation and work assistance, which last year helped hundreds more.

Faught, raised in a small Missouri town, moved to Humboldt County in 2010 after finishing college, and notes she is falling in love with the Rio Dell and Scotia communities, saying "everyone has been incredibly welcoming to our team. I am so excited to see our community relationships continue to grow and thrive."

She is aided by a staff of three, including program assistant Marina Bernal, who was born in Humboldt County, graduating from Eureka High School in 2010. A former nursing assistant, she loves the chance to interact with clients and help people. "I found this job because I used the Resource Center to look for jobs until one day they asked me if I would like to apply for this position," she says, adding "I can't wait to see what this year will bring us."

Peach Leath works for AmeriCorps, a federally-funded organization that addresses community needs. Her specific program focuses on bridging the gap between rural communities and available resources. Born in Yuba City and "raised all over northern California," she came to Humboldt County to pursue her college degree and is "excited to be helping people in such a great community."

Playgroup coordinator Molly Homen, a Humboldt County native, is very passionate about working with young children. "Being able to connect with families is truly the best job ever," she says.