

Fortuna artist joins gallery



Irina Abolnik has joined the Eagle Prairie Arts District gallery in Rio Dell, displaying some of the many genres of art she is exploring, and eager to share her talent and skills with area youth in art classes she hopes to teach.

Abolnik moved to Fortuna with her husband, a physician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Eureka, in the past year. A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, she lived for many years in Israel and has been in the U.S. for 30 years. The couple has three sons, now grown. Abolnik points to her years as a full-time mom, her time living in the former Soviet Union, and other experiences that taught her to be creative, find simple ways to get things done, and to learn how to accomplish whatever one needs to do, oneself, whether it is helping to roof a house or put in a new floor. .

Abolnik volunteered at the schools her children attended as they grew up, and describes experiences such as demonstrating art techniques in an auditorium filled with students from various grades. Now, with an empty nest and new surroundings, she is eager to become involved in her passion of working with children and other populations who could use a helping hand.

Having lived in different cultures and learned several languages and alphabets, **Continued on page 3.**

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Rio Dell-Scotia News



Save the dates!

The Chamber of Commerce will once again produce the parade, the theme of which is *Lest We Forget*, honoring the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, now called Veterans Day, which marked the end of World War I, and veterans from all wars. The parade will be Saturday, Aug. 4 at noon. All veterans from the Eel River Valley are invited to participate and should gather at Dr. Shin's dental office on Bellevue Ave. just off Wildwood in Rio Dell at 11:30 a.m. to get in the parade lineup. Participants will be able to walk, ride a float, or ride in provided cars as needed .

For others wishing to enter a float or other unit in the parade, there will be three categories for which one might choose to compete: Best Theme-Related Entry, Best Vehicle Entry and Best Overall Entry. As always, anyone not wanting to compete can enter, anyway, and participation is free. Applications can be downloaded from the chamber's website, riodellscotiachamber.org, or request by emailing rdschamber@gmail.com. Applications are needed so there is a description to be read by the emcee as the parade passes the reviewing stand.

Following the parade, there will be a tree planting ceremony in Memorial Park, across Wildwood Avenue from City Hall, at 1:30 p.m. The tree has been donated by Mark and Jenny Gillam of Rio Dell to honor veterans.

A plaque will be provided by the memorial tree program of Saving Hallowed Grounds, a historic preservation and commemoration non-profit organization that has been working for the past four years nationally to mark the centennial of the First World War. The ceremony will include the raising of the flag on a 30-foot pole set up for the occasion, a 21-gun salute by the Mad River Community Honor Guard, music by the Dixie Gators band, and taps, played by a team of local buglers. Refreshments will be served. Those wanting to donate a pan of bars or some cookies for this occasion would be gratefully appreciated.

Many other opportunities to become involved in Wildwood Days exist - for instance, those wanting to have a booth to promote their business, organization, or to sell products should contact Josh Miraglia at the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department. Email him at miragliajj@gmail.com or joshmiraglia@riodellfire.com.

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

Students win chamber of commerce scholarships

Congratulations to the area 8th grade graduating students who received Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce scholarships: Tristan Jones and Jason Bailey from Monument Middle School in Rio Dell and Baileigh Sturdevant and Antonio Garcinuno from the Scotia district. Students were selected by their teachers for the award, based on scholarship, community engagement, service, citizenship and ethics.

Summer lunch program scheduled

Summer lunch program put on by the **Rio Dell Community Resource Center** together with **Food for People** is served 12:15 to 1 p.m. at **Fireman's Park in Rio Dell** and 1:15 to 2 p.m. at the **Bread For Life Pantry in Scotia**, weekdays except for the 4th of July.

New sculpture added on Wildwood Ave.

The third of four pieces of art by Eureka artist Dan McCauley was recently mounted on Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell as part of the city's Sculptures on the Avenue project. The work depicts a bull elk rubbing its antlers against a tree. The sculpture is articulated and moves with the wind. McCauley's first display, of a great horned owl, was installed last October and a metal mountain lion was set in place earlier this year. A grizzly bear sculpture will follow. The sculptures will be displayed over a five-year period and replaced as interested buyers purchase the artwork from McCauley. More of his work can be seen at

dancustommetals.com



New dryer installed in laundromat

The laundromat in Rio Dell has a new, functioning dryer, a long-awaited event for manager Earleen Finan, who took over operation from her mother and stepfather, Marleen and Joe O'Dell, who retired to McKinleyville this past year. Finan notes the dryers were delayed in shipping, one fell off a truck causing more delays . . . and in her effort to help people needing to transport damp clothes during the period in which no dryers were available, she provided free, plastic bags. Pleased that she's been able to continue to offer the lowest-costing laundry in the area, Finan is eager to help others in the community

Projects move ahead at industrial park Several signs are in place of projects taking shape at the industrial park on Northwestern Ave. in the northern corner of Rio Dell. Fencing has marked out areas where companies are starting to build, followed by the arrival of portable buildings and a couple water tanks . . . and now ground is broken, and construction has started on the first, as travelers on Highway 101 can see as they pass by. The companies will be cannabis research and testing labs. Let's watch these new ventures as they grow!



Rio Dell artist featured at Morris Graves Museum

Congratulations to Rio Dell artist Kim Reid whose work celebrating the nature that surrounds us is featured at the Morris Graves Museum in Eureka through August 5 in a juried art exhibit presented by the Humboldt Arts Council, Redwood Parks Conservancy and Redwood National and State Parks, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Redwood National Park.

(Irina Abolnik continued from page 1)

Abolnik has seen many ways of being in the world. She encourages the teaching of all creative arts to young people, such as music, dance and creative writing, and is sad that in so many places these subjects are not supported in the schools, pointing out that integrating those skills with the traditional math and science curriculum can help children understand concepts that do not come as easily to them.

Abolnik leads an integrated life herself, enjoying many creative outlets including writing. Stop by the gallery at 406 Wildwood in Rio Dell on Thursdays to meet her, and to see her work.



The painting project on the Eagle Prairie bridge continues—here is the view from the Rio Dell side in late June.



Meet a Silver Member:

Humboldt Redwood Company

Humboldt Redwood Timberland and Sawmill, a silver member of the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce, is glad to be providing over 300 local, family wage jobs in Humboldt County, notes John Andersen, director of forest policy.

Environmental concerns are important, as well, he notes. Since the inception of sister company Mendocino Redwood, the company has sought to restore its redwood forest through third-party, uneven-aged, selection harvesting within the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council, as well as incorporating watercourse improvements and wildlife protection.

HRC has a major impact in the local economy, Anderson points out. In 2017 the firm spent over \$110 million buying local logs and hiring local contractors to cut and haul them, plus its own logs, to the Scotia mill.

HRC employees, meanwhile, received over \$20 million in wages plus another \$6 million in benefits. Most of this money stays in the local community, buying groceries, gas, entertainment and paying rents or mortgages, supporting thousands of related jobs. Additionally, more than \$25 million was spent on supplies, services and materials in support of HRC forest and sawmill operations.

“All told over \$150 million moves into the local Humboldt economy from our forest and sawmill operations, with most of those dollars flowing to thousands of local employees, contractors, government services and independent service providers,” Andersen says.

He concludes, “Our forest management, considered alongside our investment in upgrading the Scotia sawmill with over \$30 million in capital improvements, plus the recent acquisition of the Scotia power plant represents our long-term commitment to a fully integrated, sustainable and healthy business for the long haul.”

Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Submissions deadline for August newsletter copy is July 20

Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at

506-5081 to advertise.

St. Joseph Health 
St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial

Ongoing Events

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 Bellevue Ave. Rio Dell, **Tuesday & Thursday** 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **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:** 100 Butcher St., Rio Dell,

Rio Dell Baptist Church, **Tuesdays** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 764-3811 for more information.

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

Friday Playgroups: We have a new Playgroup leader named Nicole and she's so excited to meet our community families! 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! .

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.

There's a seasonal , patriotic look at the industrial park, as Humboldt Rotational Molding has water tanks painted red, white and blue out by the highway.

