

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Scotia Hospital readies for transformation

The nearly 100-year-old Scotia Hospital is being readied for its new life, under the care of architect Gage Duran who purchased the structure from the Town of Scotia in January of this year. Duran envisions the facility will become a complex that will offer business spaces on the main level, a requirement of current zoning; seven apartments on the second floor of about 700 to 900 square feet; and a couple loft-like living spaces of about 2,000 square feet each on the top floor, which were initially nurses' quarters, and which will take advantage of existing features such as exposed rafters.



Amy, Mason 14, Gage holding baby girl Evren 8 months, Marshall 11, & Nanny Maria Uribe

Duran has spent time acquainting himself with the history of the building and discussing the way in which it can be adapted to meet the needs of the community and its people with area locals, and last month led a tour of the structure which so many locals have visited, or been born in, but which has been largely closed for more than a half century. He is open to seeing "what the market needs" for the business spaces (if that will entail offices, retail space, or another use), as well as finalizing how apartment residents would take occupancy.

The basement, he plans, will have an exercise room for residents and a caretaker's unit for a handyman, as well as an interpretive center that will show how the hospital appeared in its heyday, perhaps reconstructing a hospital room from items currently in storage.

Work that will be done includes increasing the insulative value of the exterior walls which at present hold only redwood bark and caulking and tightening windows. Appliances and mechanical units will be Energy Star rated to increase their energy efficiency.

Renovation has been postponed while the Scotia Bluffs clinic remained in the facility as its move to the former Scotia Hardware store was held up due to supply chain issues during the construction underway there, but Duran hopes his project will be completed in Summer, 2023. "We have enlisted DCI Builders," he notes, to handle the renovation, citing the ease of working with that firm's supervisor, Byron Busick.

Duran's interest in the project came from "a convergence of affinity and family," he notes. His wife, a nurse who currently trains in-home health professionals, grew up near Sacramento and attended college in Southern California, where the couple met. She spent summers in the Eureka area with family, and thus was familiar with, and fond of, Humboldt County.

A Chicago native, Duran graduated from the University of Southern California School of Architecture and received a master's degree from the Sustainable Design program in Philadelphia's Jefferson University. He has worked designing custom homes ranging from 8,000 to 12,000 square feet, but also did mixed-use projects in Philadelphia that involved rehabilitating old buildings. There's a lot of fulfilling things he misses in projects like that, he says. Samples of his work can be seen on his website, gdarch.space.

The Scotia hospital project has several attributes that despite the building's age, work well with current code requirements. "The hallways and doorways are wide, the former hospital rooms are large, there are ramps and an elevator," he points out. Under the linoleum is three-inch redwood flooring that he plans to expose and incorporate.

"I'm impressed with all the work put into Scotia," Duran says – the development of infrastructure that enabled the transition from a town rich in history to its future, which he says is "the kind of community we want our kids to know." He hopes to make the town home for part of the year, pointing to the flexibility his career allows. His family has lived in Colorado since 2015 and includes three children and, over time, a total of 30 foster children.

NEW STORE OPENS IN SCOTIA, SEE PAGE 3

NEWS AND NOTES

KIWANIS KORNER, JUNE 2022

By: Carole Arrington, Rio Dell/Scotia Kiwanis

Summer is upon us and summer is when the communities of Rio Dell and Scotia really come alive! Being located at the gateway to Southern Humboldt, near the rivers and forests, summer is a time of wonder and adventure. Summer can also be a time for giving back to your community!

The Kiwanis Club of Rio Dell/Scotia is a great place to start! Come to a meeting and see what Kiwanis can do for you and what you can do for your community! The Rio Dell/Scotia Kiwanis Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Scotia Lodge main dining room. For more information, check out the Kiwanis Club of Rio Dell/Scotia Facebook page. Now is the perfect time to get involved and help keep Rio Dell and Scotia the best place to live, raise a family, and thrive!

Make plans to vote June 7

As discussed in last month's issue of this newsletter, the voter information guide and ballot should by now have been received by every registered voter in the county. In addition to mailing back your ballot or dropping it off at your polling place on election day, other ways to return a completed ballot include leaving it in the ballot box outside of Ray's Food Place at 2009 Main Street in Fortuna, between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. any day until 8 p.m. on election day.

As noted last month, two candidates are seeking the post of auditor controller, incumbent Karen Paz Dominguez and challenger Cheryl Dillingham. A third person, Mychal Evenson, who has since withdrawn from the race and put his support behind Dillingham, nonetheless appears on the ballot and should be disregarded when voting.

Scotia school tests need for transitional kindergarten

School superintendent Amy Gossien says "We are currently enrolling new students in grades TK (transitional kindergarten) - 8 for the new school year. We are registering students as kindergarteners if they will be 5 years old by the first day of school. The requirements for transitional (pre-) kindergarten are changing over the next few years."

To qualify for 2022-2023, students must turn 5 by February 2, 2023. "However," Gossien notes, "we are also considering a dedicated all-4-year-old transitional kindergarten class, with students eligible if they are 4 years old on the first day of school. We are asking families to contact the school if they are interested in enrolling their 4-year-old for next year. If the need is not there, we will continue with a combination Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten class, as we currently do."

Area eighth grade graduations slated

Scotia's graduation will be held at the Bear River Recreation Center on Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. The last day of school is Thursday, June 16. Rio Dell will hold graduation also at the Bear River Rec Center the following day – Thursday, June 16.

Summer school lunch program set

The summer lunch program will begin June 15 and run through August 15, from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Free bag lunches will be available for all children under age 18 coming to Eagle Prairie Elementary School at 95 Center Street in Rio Dell, according to Shannon Brasher of the Rio Dell Community Resource Center which is coordinating the annual program. For more information, call the resource center at 764.5239.

Join the chamber monthly board meeting

This takes place at noon on the first Friday of the month, June 3 will be the next. Call in at 605.313.4802 and use access code 860467.

Join the exercise group for strength and balance

A group that focuses on the exercise needs of seniors but is open to all, meets Mondays and Fridays from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. at the chamber office, 406 Wildwood Avenue.

Rio Dell seeks school employees

Rio Dell school superintendent Angela Johnson says, "We continue to look for caring and energetic people who want to work with children. We will have some teaching positions open starting next school year along with some classified positions." They include teachers for kindergarten, 5th grade, and middle school science; a Speech and Language pathologist; and classroom paraprofessionals and a 1:1 aide. Applications can be picked up at the school or online at hcoe.org

New store opens in Scotia

Rustic Whimsy is a store selling gift and home décor items that opened last month at 120 Main Street in Scotia. Owner Angela Hunt of Weott has sold products online but looks forward to a brick-and-mortar store. “I’m a junker,” she says of her interests, reflected in her product line, which includes distressed furniture to which she sometimes applies her own artistic touches. In addition, she is a distributor for products such as Michel Design Works, which makes lotions and soaps; Myra brand handbags; Silver Forest earrings; and Dixie Belle products such as its line of chalk mineral paint, used in furniture restoration. “The inventory will constantly change depending on what I find on my junking adventures,” Hunt said.



Hunt recalls shopping at thrift stores with her mother who was “real crafty and budget conscious” and at a young age she didn’t appreciate the value of this experience. “Now I have come to love it. It is so wonderful to clean up an old and discarded item and upcycle it to be useful and loved once more.”

Hunt’s love of junk is contagious, and she hopes to inspire others to upcycle and update their décor and to explore their creativity. The best way to stay up to date on store hours and merchandise as well as special sales is to follow Rustic Whimsy on Facebook and Instagram. The store is next to Massage of the Redwoods in the building anchored by the Scotia Post Office. It also houses Scotia Realty, newly opening and operated by Rio Dell native Connie Orr Goucher.

School retirements noted

Two long-time staff members at the Rio Dell school district retire this month, superintendent Angela Johnson notes. Sheryl Steiner has served as a teacher in the district for 25 years and Bonnie Hilton has been speech and language pathologist for 19 years.



Steiner



Hilton



Zana



Walsh

Scotia school staff honored

Two Scotia school staff members were honored last month by the Humboldt County Office of Education. Pam Zana received the Jean Olson Career Achievement Award and Trudi Walsh was named Classified Employee of the Year by the California Department of Education, after receiving the county Classified Employee of the Year Award.

Zana began working for the district in 1969 and retired a decade ago, but continued as a substitute. She was working full time again in 2019-2020. “The spring of 2020 was unlike any other and in her 51st year of education she switched to distance learning and virtual Zoom sessions during the spring school closure with calmness and grace,” Superintendent Amy Gossien wrote to the selection committee.

Zana continued to teach for two more years, again under unusual circumstances, stepping in where needed, as a long-term sub and currently in a job-share. Aside from being the “go-to” substitute for all grade levels, Zana, who mostly taught second grade prior to retiring, also has a deep love and knowledge of area history which she shares with students as well as in her volunteer work at the Fortuna Depot Museum and the Little Red Schoolhouse exhibit at the county fair. She is a daily walker and frequent traveler and lover of her large family, Gossien wrote, but when the bell rings at 8:30 in the morning, she is a teacher at heart.

Walsh has been in her current role for eight years but brings more than 30 years of experience working for the school in several capacities including cheer coach, study trip chaperone and tutor. Gossien notes that in her current role, on top of days filled with verifying attendance, working on state-mandated reports and fielding calls from parents, Walsh “is the warm landing place for our students who come in hungry or in need of a hug. . . Trudi knows that our students come to us from all kinds of backgrounds and with all kinds of experiences and has been an important part in changing our school’s culture to one of student-centered positive interventions with individualized supports.”

Walsh and Zana join middle school English/Language Arts teacher Crystal Fennell, who was recognized in December as the California Teachers of English “Teacher of Excellence.”

JUNE 7 ———STATE PRIMARY ELECTION ——— VOTE!

Wildwood Days seeks fireworks donations

The annual community event, again set for the first weekend in August, is returning with many of the traditional events according to Lisa Wilson. Some are still being finalized, and a big push at this time is raising money for the fireworks show that was begun last year. Boxes to accept donations are out at stores including DJ's Burger Bar, Mingo's, The Pizza Factory, Root 101, Proper Wellness, and at both CC and Hoby's markets. The goal is to raise \$15,000. Events including a bingo night last month with another in July are being planned to raise additional funds.



Thank you!

We would like to thank the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce for hosting the twice-weekly exercise program that we have seen improve balance, flexibility, and strength for participants.

The Senior Exercise Group

SCOTIA LODGE



MAIN & MILL
kitchen and bar

BUY ONE ENTREE, GET ONE FREE
Offer valid ONLY at Main & Mill Kitchen and Bar
Monday thru Thursday from 1 to 5pm
Limit one per customer per day, not valid with any other discounts,
expires 8-30-22, no cash value.
100 MAIN ST. SCOTIA, CA • SCOTIA-LODGE.COM

SCOTIA LODGE



WONDER BAR

WEEKDAY HAPPY HOUR SPECIAL
\$3 PINTS AND \$6 SPECIALTY COCKTAILS
Offer valid ONLY at Wonder Bar Monday – Thursday from 4 to 6pm
Limit one per customer per day, not valid with any other discounts,
expires 8-30-22, no cash value.
100 MAIN ST. SCOTIA, CA • SCOTIA-LODGE.COM

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 Health System. 650 copies distributed in Rio Dell, Scotia, and Fortuna. **Deadline for July newsletter copy is June 17**

Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 506-5081 to advertise.

St. Joseph Health 
St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial

Copyright 2022