

## Artist Jennifer Mackey



The life of Rio Dell artist Jennifer Mackey

is as varied as the media in which she creates. While considering her home and studio on Monument to be her base for 35 years, she crafted a career, and life, that has encompassed change. "I followed my heart to Humboldt," she explains, to complete a master's degree in fine art at Humboldt State. The daughter of an interior designer, she had lived in Europe and her minor was French.

It's hard making a living in fine art, so Mackey worked in hospital admissions, then purchased a silkscreen business in Ferndale in 1980. She became bored making t-shirts and started fashioning kimonos, then moved on to create a full line of women's specialty garments that were sold across the country, a business which at one point employed a half-dozen workers.

Love, marriage, and two children were part of those early years, including a son born with muscular dystrophy. The demands of parenting and managing the fashion line were conflicting, so Mackey moved on to produce custom fabrics for home interiors, a process she (Cont. Page 4)

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

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NOVEMBER  
2016

VOL. XVI NO. XI ~AROUND TOWN~

## Aqua Dam, Storing and Controlling Water with Water for Clients Around the World



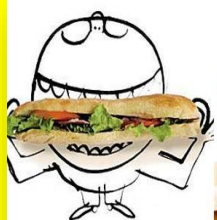
The cavernous headquarters of Aqua Dam, the Scotia-based company that manufactures and sells water containment systems, houses a smattering of desks, at least two fish aquariums, and a dish of kibble for strays. A map of the world hangs on the office wall of Vice President Matthew Wennerholm while a battery of computer screens on his desk offers visuals of Aqua Dam systems being used around the globe.

"We've been here since 2010," Wennerholm notes of the current location. For a quarter century before that the company was housed in Carlotta, home to David Dooleage, inventor of the product Wennerholm and his colleagues make and sell. The company website addresses those early days, when Dooleage experimented in his bathtub with water-filled balloons inserted into other balloons as a way to restrain and divert water. Dooleage moved his experiments to a nearby creek, and then the Van Duzen River, making refinements as he went, and meeting people who encouraged him with needs they envisioned for such a product. In its 30<sup>th</sup> years, the privately held corporation now employs on average 12 people, some of whom manufacture the product on industrial sewing machines in an adjoining warehouse from base material brought in from Canada and Vietnam, among other locales.

Foggy Humboldt County makes a great place to work, Wennerholm says, as the material used to create the product can get very hot to work with in warmer places. Distributors in locations around the U.S. and on other continents handle the product for Aqua Dam in their respective areas. Completed Aqua Dam systems are shipped by truck from Scotia to the ports, airports and trucking terminals needed for them to reach their final destination. "Here's one in Dubai," Wennerholm says, showing a photo of a system in the Middle East. It is 16 feet tall and 300 feet long, and diverts water around a multi-million dollar housing development that was under construction. Governments, nuclear power plants, and others concerned about flood damage and water incursion have purchased the systems.

Closer to home, Aqua Dam has solved a number of local water containment needs at Holmes Flat, Mill Creek in Fortuna, and Humboldt Bay. Private individuals have purchased the product to protect their homes from flooding and the related depositing of silt. An early adaptor was Lynnette Matyshock of Ferndale, who was tired of having to shovel silt out from her garage, Wennerholm explains while showing the system that stands in her residential neighborhood.

You should pre-plan before setting up a system, Nick Angeloff, Chief Executive Officer of the company, points out. Otherwise, the product is available to the general public for flood control and water storage. It can be filled from a hose, drained when not needed, and reused at a later time. (Continued Page 3)



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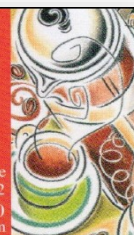
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## News and Notes



### Historian to Speak at Chamber

The popular lecturer, author and area historian Jerry Rohde will present his second talk of the year as part of the Pierson lecture series on Fri., Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce, 406 Wildwood Ave. The topic, entitled *Tanbark, Sheep and Apples*, addresses the lesser-known products that made Humboldt famous, or at least prosperous. He'll go beyond the traditional fishing and logging, and promises to introduce some that are lesser-known today, including two prize-winning products which our region once produced. The event is free and open to the public.

### Rio Dell School News

Rio Dell hosts a 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball tournament on Nov. 4 and 5. The school board meets Nov. 9 at 5:30 p.m. The schools are closed for Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Parent-teacher conferences are the week of Nov. 14-18 with all grades dismissed each day that week at 1 p.m. Thanksgiving break is Nov. 21-25.

### Scotia School News

Scotia's school will hold its Parent-Teacher Organization carnival Thurs., Nov. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. The school board meeting will follow that day at 7 p.m. School will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. The science fair will be Nov. 17 from 6 to 7 p.m. School will be closed for Thanksgiving break Nov. 21 to 25. Superintendent Chris Cox notes that three students won competition sponsored by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Jackie Shin won first place, and Tai Bolden second, in essay writing. Students from throughout southern Humboldt were asked to write a paper in journal format describing an imagined trip to one of our National Parks. Decho Angeloff won first place in the preamble competition where students from southern Humboldt were tasked with writing the preamble of the U.S. Constitution. Students were judged on accuracy and quality of handwriting.

### Storytime Set for Pre-school Children

Storytime will be held every Monday that school is in session, from 8:20 to 9:20 a.m. in the Eagle Prairie Elementary Library. It is a FREE early-intervention literacy program for all Rio Dell/Scotia families with children 0-5 years old. Come for stories, crafts and snack.

### Holiday Food Distributions Scheduled

Mark your calendars! Holiday food will be distributed at the Bread For Life Pantry at 143 Main St. in Scotia on Tues., Nov. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Thanksgiving, and on Thurs., Dec. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Christmas.

### Giving Tree Planned

Donations of presents for community children and their families will again be accepted this holiday season. The Rio Dell Community Resource Center will again coordinate the effort, and have Giving Trees at Rio Dell City Hall and the Scotia post office. Watch for this opportunity to share the sense of giving with others. Tags on the trees, suggesting specific needs, will say that the presents can be returned to Bigfoot New and Used Treasures, 220 Wildwood Ave., the Rio Dell Community Resource Center at 99 Wildwood Ave., both in Rio Dell, and the Scotia Post Office.

### Baptist Church Slates Holiday Boutique

The Rio Dell Baptist Church will hold its annual holiday boutique on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4 and 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event, located at the church, at 100 Butcher St., will feature a bake sale, coffee bar, like-new clothing, and holiday decorations and gifts.

### 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](https://facebook.com/info/epad).

### Scotia Bluffs Medical Center Seeks Local Board Members

The Scotia Bluffs Medical Center is seeking committed, local people to serve on the board of directors overseeing the organization's parent, Southern Trinity Health Services. Lee Lupton, chief executive officer of Southern Trinity, wants to expand the current, nine-member board to 13 members with additional, local representation, since nearly the full board at present is from the Mad River area where the two-campus health services organization is headquartered. Between the two facilities, nearly 3,000 patients were seen in 2015, in more than 11,600 visits. Plans are in place to expand the Scotia facility to include three more examination rooms. The Mad River site offers dentistry among its services, and is accepting new patients. A goal is for Scotia to offer dentistry as well, but a grant is needed to purchase the equipment and that funding has not been available.

These are just a sample of the topics that board members address. For more on Scotia Bluffs, see the feature in the October 2016 issue of this newsletter, which along with other past issues is online at the Rio Dell Scotia Chamber of Commerce website ([riodellscotiachamber.org](http://riodellscotiachamber.org)) under "Resources."

"We can pay mileage to those wanting to drive to our meetings in Mad River, or they can participate in meetings through video conferencing from here," Lupton says. Business leaders, patients, and others with experience of the area and the organization's services are needed to provide their leadership and vision. Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. People interested in this opportunity should contact Scotia Bluffs for an application.

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(AQUA DAM Cont. from page 1) The food-grade material does not harm water quality. Water storage projects are as diverse as containing hazardous materials, storing a whale's supply of salt water during repairs to a Sea World aquarium in Ohio, and 1.5 million gallons of water storage to re-charge aquifers in Qatar. While storing water to protect against drought, and restraining unwanted water are key purposes, the initial uses of Aqua Dams were for environmental applications, keeping silt out of rivers during construction projects and creating fish habitat for example. Angeloff, speaking recently with the *Times Standard* newspaper, cites many new areas in which the product can be used, including micro fish hatcheries, and rain catchment systems that retain winter rains to crops during the dry season from small scale agricultural production to storing acre feet of water for the in the state's central valley.

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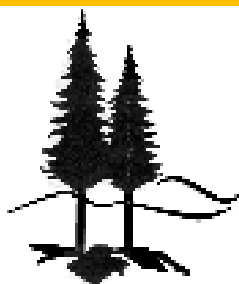
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### ~Meeting Calendar~

#### 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 multi-purpose room at Monument Middle School, 95 Center St., Rio Dell. Call Susan at 407-8707. Join us!

#### Are you registered to vote?

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Remember Veterans Day, Nov. 11

Have a happy Thanksgiving!



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### Rio Dell-Scotia News

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**Submissions deadline for December newsletter copy is November 18th. Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 506-5081 to advertise.**

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## FAITH CENTER SOUTH

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(ARTIST cont. from pg. 1) could do alone and more manageably. The chairs in her studio, upholstered in the muted shades that are her signature, are an example of the work she did. "I use natural fabrics like silk and linen, and the colors are water-based, everything is natural," she notes. Her work has been seen in banners at College of the Redwoods and curtains and canopies at Eureka's Carter Hotel and Restaurant 301, as well as in private homes and collections.

Mackey also bought and fixed up old Victorian homes in the area and sold them, incorporating her fabrics in the décor. "I learned to hang sheet rock and to install plumbing," she says, noting that she enjoys projects, and with a father and a husband as construction contractors, this type of work was natural to her.

She accompanied her son to the Bay Area, and later to Scotland, for his schooling. In the Bay Area, she ran an art studio for a decade, and in Scotland she explored painting, working in oils. Later, on travels in Germany, she took up water colors. "I love to walk and hike and wanted materials that were easy to carry with me," she says.

After the death of her son in 2010 she opened a gallery in Eureka's Old Town for a year. Recently she has taken up photography, and while terming herself an amateur, has won awards from the Redwood Art Association. "I'm having a more relaxed, playful attitude toward art, exploring my authentic self," she notes of recent years, adding that she continues to work in all media.

Mackey's studio is named Chia Jen, derived from the symbols for the word "family" in the I Ching, an ancient Chinese text, family being an important concept that has defined much of Mackey's life. Her work can be seen on her website www.jenmackey.com and she can be reached through it or by mail, at Post Office Box 469, Scotia.

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