

**Meet a chamber  
board member:  
Gabriel Smith**



**Gabriel Smith**, general manager at Root 101 Nursery and Hardware on Wildwood in Rio Dell, is one of seven board members overseeing the activities of the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce.

Root 101 has been an active community member, entering floats in the Wildwood Days parade, serving as a staging area for donations going to fire fighters and victims through Pay It Forward, Humboldt, and most recently owner Harry Smith (no relation to Gabe) has been named president of the new, local Kiwanis Club.

Root 101, starting with a focus on horticultural supplies, added hardware after Scotia True Value Hardware closed, and is launching new lines of plumbing for home repair in a 20-foot-long section of shelving and, anticipated for 2019, a line of home electrical repair products. Wildwood Waffles, available in-store or at the drive-through window, attracts customers from many walks of life, from cannabis growers to senior citizens meeting over coffee.

Gabe Smith has been with Root 101 since before it opened in April, 2017, assisting in setting up the new store, and does “everything but make waffles and bookkeeping.” A Vermont native, he has worked in hydroponic stores for half of his 37 years - in Humboldt County, San Diego and Las Vegas – but some of the other product lines are new to him. He lives in Rio Dell with his girlfriend, a massage therapist taking time out to be a full-time mom to his three daughters who range from 12 to 2 years of age, and a collection of critters. Hiking is something Smith enjoys but is putting on hold while the kids are so young.

girlfriend, a massage therapist taking

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**FREE!**

NOVEMBER  
2018

# Rio Dell-Scotia News

**Save the date! Rio Dell tree-lighting will be Dec. 1 @ 5 p.m.**  
See calendar, page 2 for more.

## Forum shows candidate views



The candidate forum held last month to showcase the four persons vying for three seats on the Rio Dell City Council was sparsely attended but provided an opportunity to see the similarities and differences among those attending. (While all four initially indicated the intent to attend, Julie Woodall was unable to and provided hand-outs sharing her thoughts for those in attendance and, like the other candidates, has a statement in the election booklet mailed to voters.)

Discussing their qualifications for the position, incumbent Debra Garnes said the key to such a position is caring about the community, which she does. John McManus pointed to his experience running organizations that sought to help the homeless, and the efforts he has made, working with county government and other organizations, to expand needed support services such as psychiatric care. Bryan Richter noted as a long-time resident of the city and a business owner, how he has needed experience communicating with many different types of people.

Mayor Frank Wilson opened the question period, asking candidates their degree of familiarity with the city's finances and how, given that the sewer and water systems were failing and roads in need of repair, they proposed fixing the situation.

Richter said that's been a concern of his for 26 years, and why he ran for office the first time, two years ago - to fix these issues, which he said were his number one priority. He recalled the fresh taste of tap water as a child living in town, compared to now when he said his wife became ill if she drank water from the tap. Richter promised, if elected, to study the budget thoroughly, and ask questions every time an issue came up with dollar signs attached to it, to be well prepared to make decisions. He also said his number two priority was to have a dispensary in town to raise revenue to help the city deal with its issues.

Woodall, in her election book statement, similarly cited streets and drainage as issues that remain to be addressed, along with the need for economic development to fund such measures.

Garnes said “We need someone willing to bang doors to find revenue, to find people to come to Rio Dell. We need someone to sell the city. You can have ideas as a councilperson but you can't do it on your own.” Richter agreed, “It takes all five on the council working together for solutions.” He supported Garnes' idea of the city having someone assigned to drum up business, but said the *Danco* project (to construct low-income housing near Center and Rigby for a potentially broad slate of tenants possibly including

**(Continued on Page 3.)**

### Scotia opens Phase 2 of house sales

The Town of Scotia has opened the second phase of its home sales to the public. Phase 2 includes more than 75 homes previously not on the market, according to Mary Bullwinkel who works with the marketing effort. Of them, seven are already in escrow, with four of those being bought by the renters who are living in them.

### Company backing wind farm slates open house

Terra-Gen, the San Diego-based firm seeking to put a wind farm on land outside Scotia, will host an open house at the **Winema Theater on Nov. 13 at 6 to 8 p.m.** There will be a presentation, refreshments and a time for questions.

### Smoke shop opens at E&J Liquors

Express Smoke Shop has opened in E&J Liquors at 127 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell, in the area where the Subway restaurant once was. Rio Dell native Nicole Foyster manages the business, open to people 21 and over, which she says is open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. The shop sells water and tobacco pipes and cannabis-related products such as trimming and rolling trays. Foyster is anticipating an expanded merchandise selection.



### Bear statue joins others in Wildwood median

Eureka artist Dan McCauley installed his fourth sculpture in the City of Rio Dell last month as part of a collaborative plan to display art along Wildwood Avenue. The sculpture depicts a grizzly bear. McCauley worked with and received support from the city, Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce and Eagle Prairie Arts District to realize his vision.

In the past year statues of an owl, elk and mountain lion were installed as part of the project which was made possible by generous donations from Pacific Gas & Electric, The Headwaters Fund, McLean Foundation and Root 101 Nursery. The four sculptures will be displayed for a five-year period and will be replaced if buyers purchase the artwork from McCauley. More of McCauley's work can be seen at [danscustommetals.com](http://danscustommetals.com).



### Chamber board holds election

Paid members of the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce whose email addresses are on file have received ballots to vote for the three members of the seven-member board who are up for re-election. If you have not received a ballot electronically and believe you should, please contact the chamber at 506-5081 or by email at [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com) to request one.

### Chamber to launch membership drive

Membership renewals are due at the chamber of commerce for 2019 by the first of the year. Please go to the chamber website, [riodellscotiachamber.org](http://riodellscotiachamber.org), and click on Chamber Business to reach the link for new and renewing members or watch for your membership notice by mail or email.

### Save the date! Christmas event at chamber

The annual tree-lighting ceremony will take place Saturday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce and art gallery building, 406 Wildwood Ave., in Rio Dell, at Columbus. Come for refreshments, meet Santa, greet the elves, and enjoy caroling. This family-friendly event is co-sponsored by the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce and the Community Resource Center.

### Save the date! Annual holiday play to be staged at Winema

Around the World in 80 Days is the name of the holiday-themed play being performed by Dell Arte International this year; the play will be performed at the Winema Theater in Scotia starting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3. **It is free to the public bringing an item for a local food pantry.**



ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 6

## New faces come to the Community Resource Center



**Claire Talbert**



**Hannah Bruckner**

**Claire Talbert** is a new Ameri-Corps worker at the Community Resource Center in Rio Dell, serving in a year-long capacity under a program called AFACTR (Assisting Families to Access Change Through Resources). A recent graduate of Western Washington University majoring in community health and Spanish, she sought the position in Humboldt County to be where her parents are living.

Talbert lives in Eureka and likes hiking and being at the beach. At the resource center she is working with the food pantry, running club at Rio Dell schools, and other projects she is still learning. She plans to apply to pursue a master's degree in public health after her year with the program is over.

**Hannah Bruckner**, a senior in the Social Work program at Humboldt State, is interning at the Resource Center where she is the First Five Playgroup Leader in Rio Dell on Fridays in a program offered 10 a.m. to noon; in addition she works Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. where she plans events like the recent Trunk or Treat which allowed her to partner with local organizations, businesses and churches. In addition she leads the First Five Playgroup that meets at the Multi-Generational Center in Fortuna, where she lives.

The Humboldt County native notes of the people she is getting to meet and work with, many of whom she already knows from other settings, "I am seeing the blessing of having my roots deep within this county."

## (Forum- Continued from Page 1)

homeless and veterans), was "not what I want in town." "I will leave town if there are too many *Danco's*," Richter said, voicing support for providing for the city's elderly poor but not for the other populations that would potentially be served.

"I'm not a NIMBY," Garnes said of her view towards the Danco project, using the acronym for "Not in my backyard" to refer to a wish to avoid living close to certain types of projects.

John McManus echoed support for "one to three dispensaries" to provide revenue but beyond that, he said it takes a strategic approach to determine what the town should look like. "Do we want a Burger King? It would make money, but is that what people want?" He said the city will not get federal dollars in grants if it doesn't fulfill the requirements for supplying housing for targeted populations in numbers such as the *Danco* project begins to provide. "We need to bite the bullet (on *Danco*) to be in compliance," he said, noting that populations such as those the project aims to serve, are already here. "It's the same as the weed culture," he said of potential opposition to dispensaries. "Go outside and smell the air, it's already here."

Discussion addressed the city's lack of land to offer to potential developers wanting to build in the city and the high price being asked by the current owners for available real estate. "Buy the land, even if it is overpriced," McManus said, to have something to work with.

A question from the audience addressed whether "big box" or other corporate stores had ever been invited to come to town. "We don't have the demographics they are looking for," Wilson said in response, citing past outreach by a former city manager to bring such a business to the community. Other questions were about how to get people in the community more involved and get more ideas going. "We need more crazy people," Larry Arsenault said, meaning those with original ideas worth pursuing. An example he threw out was having raft races down the Eel River in spring. Richter encouraged him and others to bring ideas to the new Kiwanis chapter that has been formed. "We are busy discussing fund-raising ideas," he said of the group.

## (New Faces Continued from left)

Bruckner says of the internship, "Sarah has been amazingly supportive of allowing me to learn and grow in a variety of areas." She hopes to gain an overall understanding of the resources available within the county and will be applying to the masters program for Social Work at HSU where she also plans to get her Pupil Personnel Services Credential to work with children within an educational setting.

At home, she says, "I have five beautiful kiddos who remind me daily to enjoy each moment that I have with them. I find deep fulfillment in supporting and encouraging my kids as they mature into young adulthood." When not driving to their activities, she adds, she can be found folding the mountain of laundry or enjoying a family movie night or lazy days at the river. She concludes, "My newest hobby is figuring out my InstaPot and finding recipes given the seal of approval by my children. I drink 'way too much coffee and continue to find amazement at how much one can accomplish by getting up early in the morning."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
NOVEMBER 22





### Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at

506-5081 to advertise.

St. Joseph Health   
St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial

## *News and Notes* (Continued from Page 2)

### **Food Pantry to relocate**

**The Bread for Life food pantry**, formerly in Scotia, is relocating to the Journey Church, 95 Bellevue Ave. in Rio Dell, effective Nov. 15. Pantry hours are 9 a.m. to noon the third Thurs. of each month. For more information, call the Community Resource Center at 764-5239.

### **Thanksgiving food distribution planned**

Thanksgiving food distribution - a protein and a produce item - will be given out at the food pantry during regular pantry hours, 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 15, at the pantry's new location, the Journey Church, 95 Bellevue Ave. (see related item). If you need a food box of more items, please call 211, a number to reach a nationwide system of linking people with needed services. See 211.org for more information about services offered from this site.

### **Resource Center to close for Thanksgiving**

The Community Resource Center will close Nov. 19-23 to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

## **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.cyouyourself.com](http://www.cyouyourself.com).

**Senior Brown Bag Program:** Food boxes given the **2nd Thursday** of every month for local seniors. Boxes distributed from 11:30 am- 1 pm 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 am 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 am- 11:30 am
- **Bread for Life Food Pantry:** Journey Church, 95 Bellevue Ave., **3rd Thursday**, from 9 am -2 p.m.,  
For more info call 764-5239.

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

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

**SAIL:** Staying Active and Independent Living helps prevent falls and broken bones. This free program meets 11:30 am to 12:30 pm **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 am to 1 pm. For more information, contact Food for People at 445-3166.