

Retired minister makes art from scrap wood!



Darrow Sanderson, retired pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rio Dell, . Sanderson crafts wooden bird houses that are on display and for sale at the Eagle Prairie Arts District gallery. The newest member in the gallery family of artists, grew up in Oklahoma and moved with his family to Rio Dell when he was 12 so they could work in the timber industry. His young head had been turned by Elsie, or Pug as she was later nicknamed, a Choctaw girl in Oklahoma, and he traveled south whenever he could to see her. They ultimately married and raised three sons in Rio Dell.

Young Sanderson followed his elders into the timber industry, noting he felled old growth timber for 27 years, then pastored the church from 1991 to 2001. Widowed, he now lives with his oldest son, Rodney, the current pastor, and Rodney's wife Melody. Golf remains an active interest. His introduction to bird house construction came from Deb, the wife of his youngest son, Roger (his middle son, Ronald, died in 2016). She provided the idea, and the painting skills that finish the projects, many of which he has given away.

Sanderson has a sign proclaiming "Birdhouse Man" on his truck, and notes he loves making the pieces, always looking for donations of old fence boards and other suitable lumber for future designs.

Scotia teacher leads district

Amy Gossien is the new superintendent of the Scotia school district. Married with three children, the Ferndale native recalls being first hired in 1993 by then-Superintendent/Principal Richard Barsanti of the Scotia district the week before school started, saying, "It was an exciting time - the school was bursting at the seams with nearly 400 students." (Continued on Page 3)

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Rio Dell-Scotia News



Library, housing development topics of discussion in Rio Dell



Two, initially unrelated projects in Rio Dell have recently come together, drawing attention of the community. The first is the library, located at 715 Wildwood Avenue. A branch of the county library open three days each week, it must upgrade facilities such as the bathroom and ramp to meet requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), federal legislation passed in 1990, or relocate to a site that meets the requirements.

The property is owned by the Rio Dell Fire Protection District which is overseen by a five-member board of commissioners that on August 23 indicated in a letter that it would take \$127,000 just to make the ramp meet the federal requirements, and since the organization's focus is on protecting the community from fire, shouldering this expense would not be possible. The library entered into a formal agreement with the fire district in 2012 after leasing the facility informally. It pays the fire district \$250 per month in rent and covers the cost of utilities, according to the lease.

With the library facing the need to move, various options are being explored. One is the possibility of relocating to the chamber of commerce/art gallery, at 406 Wildwood Avenue, where there is available space. Chamber president Nick Angeloff met with a team from the county to tour and an ADA specialist was to also visit determine the suitability of the space.

The Danco Project - Another site that is under consideration is a vacant lot near the corner of Rigby and Center Streets where a development of low-income housing is planned, into which the construction of a new library might be folded. The Arcata-based Danco Group of construction and property management companies plans to put up this 26-unit project, which was the topic of an August 16 special meeting of the Rio Dell City Council where, according to the agenda, Mayor Frank Wilson requested the council to indicate its degree of support for the project as a whole, and for inclusion of the library. Chris Dart, president of the Danco subsidiary in charge of construction, provided information about the project, which will offer permanent, supportive housing to its tenants. Dart said there would be a full-time coordinator on site to provide services, based on the needs of the tenants, who are envisioned to be homeless, veterans, seniors, and the mentally ill, each of whom would need to qualify based on income.

The city was informed July 23 by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee of the application. According to information this group provided to the city, there are envisioned to be 22 one-bedroom units and four two-bedroom units, one of which will be for use by the coordinator. The construction will be of individual cottages, built with an eye towards energy efficiency and attractiveness, with additional, large indoor and outdoor public areas for gatherings and recreation as well as private offices for counseling.

Dart told the board the project had changed in scope since he presented it to the city five years ago, at which time it was targeting exclusively senior occupancy. Since then, state and federal funding are being channeled more to the type of housing now being considered, to end chronic homelessness and offering more supportive housing. He said the city had reached out to him about possibly including the library, which he was offering as an opportunity if it was desired. (Continued on Page 3)



Historian to speak- Jerry Rohde, historian, author and lecturer, will speak on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at the chamber of commerce/art gallery at 406 Wildwood in Rio Dell as part of the Pierson Lumber lecture series. His topic will be “Home on the Range,” stirring stories of historic ranches in the county, including the Bald Hills, Showers Pass and Bull Creek. The event is free and open to the public.

River clean-up draws helpers-The Eagle Prairie Arts District fielded nearly a dozen helpers Sept. 8 for a river clean-up. Several businesses and organizations including the Rio Dell Police Department, Bigfoot's New & Recycled Treasures, The Rio Dell Pizza Factory, Dollar General, Mike Ward's Automotive Workshop, Dias Artistries, The Rio Dell/Scotia Chamber of Commerce, Jon Phillips, Julie Woodall, and Kim Reid, contributed to make it a success, with half of a 20 yard dumpster filled with trash, and a barbeque at the end for the participants.

Kiwanis chapter launched



Kiwanis Club of Rio Dell-Scotia, a chapter of Kiwanis International, was started last month, with 17 paid members on the initial roster. Harry Smith, owner of Root 101 Nursery, was named president and Dana Webb, current lieutenant governor of Kiwanis Division 20 (comprising Humboldt and Del Norte counties), and a member of the Fortuna Kiwanis Club, is the secretary.



The parent organization is “a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time,” according to its website, which does through service clubs and activities geared to various age ranges from pre-school through college, plus a program for disabled adults.

The local group was launched with the help of the Fortuna Kiwanis chapter and district officers (see photo) who made contacts in the community and secured memberships prior to the organizational meeting. Webb says collecting school supplies for the Rio Dell Elementary will be the first service project, while later goals include starting a Builders Club for middle school students and K Kids for up to the fourth grade, at both Rio Dell and Scotia. She adds, “We also have an awesome Key Club at Fortuna High for students to continue on with Kiwanis after they start high school.”

Webb cites helping the library become ADA approved, building a skate park for kids, and bringing the swimming pool in Scotia back online among the concerns she knows the community wants towards which this group could work. She adds, “Kiwanis is a good thing to have in any community, since every community has children that can be mentored and provided with opportunities to give gratitude, accomplish goals, and lead in their community to make it a better place. Kiwanis also helps with children not able to afford a warm jacket in the winter, a backpack at the beginning of the school year, or meals during the weekend or summer break when school meals aren't supplied.”

Meet the candidates

The November election will include a contest for the Rio Dell City Council with four candidates vying for three seats. The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a free public forum Fri., Oct. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the chamber office/art gallery at 406 Wildwood, to meet the candidates. The session will start with each given a chance to talk about his/her own experience, skills and vision for the council and community, with a second hour in which the public can ask questions. The candidates are: Debra Garnes, John McManus, Bryan Richter and Julie Woodall.

Chamber to hold board elections

Currently paid members of the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce will receive ballots in October to vote for the board, from whom officers will then be named for the 2019 calendar year. Up for election this year are three of the seven members: Nick Angeloff, currently the president; Sharon Holt, currently the secretary, and Susan Pryor. The ballot will have the opportunity to write in a name.

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.

(Cont. from Pg 1)

Amy Gossien and family



Over the past 25 years there have been many changes. “We have had three different administrators in the past six years,” she says, “so when the position became available again, I knew it was time to step up to the challenge. I believe I can offer the students and staff the stability they deserve. I love the school community and how it keeps persevering, through good times and challenging ones.”

Gossien notes, “Right now we are facing unique challenges. With the uncertainty that comes with the sale of the homes, we are facing declining enrollment. Our current enrollment is under 200 students. Through this we still maintain excellent educational, music, intervention, athletic, and after-school programs; a top-notch cafeteria, a beautiful modern building with smart boards in every classroom and 1-to-1 Chromebooks (a type of computer) in grades 4 through 8, and small class sizes with no combination classes.”

Beyond the programs, she says, “we have a loving, dedicated staff. Many have been here as long as or longer than me. Some are Scotia graduates. Our staff is truly a family. Along with our veteran employees, we hired four new teachers in the past three years. It is an exciting time, and I am thrilled and proud to be a part of it.”

“As we make plans for the future,” she adds, “I am hopeful with the sale of homes our enrollment will increase and the state funding will come through so we can rehabilitate and open our gymnasium. I am hopeful the community will continue to support our students, families, and staff as it always has. I love this school and could not be happier to be its superintendent/principal.”

(Library, housing development continued from Page 1)

Discussion at the special council meeting ranged across several concerns, as related in the minutes, including safety and security for those living near this project, and whether or not logistics about including the library should be addressed, with a variety of views expressed.

Community Development Director Kevin Caldwell noted the city’s options are limited in responding to this project, as each city is required to designate a zone in which housing of this type can be located which can be constructed without review. Called “ministerial,” this type of review process only permits the city to address issues like whether or not the library would be placed there. The planning commission only gets to address the design aspects of the construction. The special meeting ended with the decision to continue to explore the library at this setting while leaving the door open to other location options.

Meet a chamber member:

Advanced Security of Eureka wins awards, sees growth



Jarad Petroske

Advanced Security Systems, a family-owned business in existence since 1971, was founded in Eureka, and has offices in Crescent City and Santa Rosa. Brothers Chuck and Rick Petrusha head the company from their Eureka offices.

Business development manager Jarad Petroske notes the firm has won awards, including being ranked Number 82 nationwide on *Security Dealer* magazine's 2018 Top 100 List, based on growth and revenue. Other, local awards reflecting customer satisfaction with the firm’s products and service, include the *Times-Standard* Reader’s Choice award in 2016 and the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce business of the year award in 2012. Petroske attributes “great employees, loyal customers and outstanding service” for the awards, and notes the acquisition of businesses in Santa Rosa helped fuel the company’s growth.

The firm designs, installs and services a variety of systems to help keep business and residential customers safe and efficient, including the traditional security systems that protect against intrusion; smoke and carbon monoxide detection; video surveillance and “access control” which refers to “swipe-card” technology that takes the place of a key to allow people to enter certain parts of a building.

In addition, since the control panel that monitors the system can also be designed as a “smart hub” to run other features in a building, Petroske notes, someone with a system “for a few hundred dollars more” can have home automation that turns heat and lights on and off, or opens and closes blinds remotely from a smart phone application. Technology has democratized features that used to belong only in the most upscale homes, he notes.

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Rio Dell-Scotia News

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Submissions deadline for November newsletter copy is October 19

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 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:** 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, 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.

(Advance Security continued from page 3)

"We're honored to be part of the community," Petroske says of the role his company plays. Noting the ubiquitous vans with the red, white and blue logo can be seen daily around the region, he says that 20 of the company's more than 50 employees are out installing and servicing products for customers. "We are the biggest provider in the Town of Scotia," he says, noting many of the homes being sold already have the system in place and owners just need to call to be hooked up.

A product he suggests would be of interest to those who are elderly or caring for an elderly person is "Easy Call," a personal medical alert system that notifies a call center when a person with the device needs help. "Hundreds of people in the county" are using the system, he says, pointing out it is the only one locally monitored by a Eureka-based call center.

Ballot information topic of Chamber networking meeting Oct. 16

Sean Quincy, Humboldt County senior administrative analyst, will discuss Measure O which will be on the ballot in November and is a reauthorization of Measure Z, funding safety measures in the county. The event will take place during the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce's regular, noon, third-Tuesday networking luncheon Oct. 16 at The Pizza Factory on Wildwood in Rio Dell. Measure O, passed unanimously in July by the county board of supervisors to be on the ballot, is officially called the Public Safety and Essential Services Renewal Measure and enables the increase or maintenance of fire, police, and other protective services such as counseling for victims and witnesses of child abuse, that were reduced in previous years, some of which have been restored with Measure Z funding.