

## Featured Artist: Kathie Walker



Kathie Walker

Area native Kathie Walker has returned to her roots with an array of art representing the many styles and genres within

which she works, from whimsical sculptures to prints of retro airplanes and trucks, to animals wild and domestic. "I'm into history right now," she says, inspired by the old logging photos she has seen. Born at Scotia hospital, she recalls the floods of 1955 and 1964, standing on the bluff in Fortuna and seeing the expanse of water rolling by, carrying homes and animals. Walker has recently relocated to Rio Dell after stints in Florida and Minnesota, spanning the past 15 years, and has a space at the Eagle Prairie Arts District gallery, 406 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell. She works in fibers, sculpts in papier mache, and likes colored pencils to produce prints. "I was doing art since I could pick up a pencil," she says, and enjoys making felted animals, like sheep, and doing portraits of people and pets. Her studio is "wherever I happen to be," and she carries a sketch book, a valued suggestion from an art instructor. "I haven't had a lot of formal education," she says, beyond art classes in high school and College of the Redwoods, and at the Minnesota River School of Fine Arts when she lived in the Midwest, but she's been fortunate in those settings to have good teachers. "Artists are often inventors," she notes, because they are able to see possibilities. **Cont. Pg 4.**

## ~AROUND TOWN~

### Rio Dell Police Chief Retires

Rio Dell police Chief Graham Hill retired Aug. 1 after 22 years with the police department, 13 of them as chief, making him the city's longest-serving police officer and longest-serving chief. Hill was honored at the Aug. 1 city council meeting where members of the public thanked him for his service as they also did on the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, where the retirement was announced, and in the comments section of online media covering the retirement. Chief Hill was, and still is a pillar of our community creating an atmosphere within the Rio Dell PD of service to the community, anyone in town felt comfortable speaking with Graham in uniform or not. Chief Hill has developed a department that other communities across this nation strive to achieve.

Sergeant John Beauchaine, a 14-year veteran of the department, will serve as the interim police chief until a new chief is selected.

### Faces Change in Rio Dell: Long-time Dentist Retires



Dr. Roberts

Dr. Ralph Roberts has sold his dental practice, after more than 50 years in Rio Dell. "It's time, he's 83," smiles his wife, Rita, of his retirement. Dr. Roberts is known internationally for his use of a style of dental implant called a ramus frame which involves embedding a titanium rail in the bone of the patient's lower jaw on which a lower denture can rest. This technique is done when the bone in the lower jaw has receded and there is no support for the denture. Other implants are used for the permanent attachment of smaller numbers of replacement teeth and even a single tooth. The more complex procedure involves anesthesia and a half-day office visit to insert the rail, followed by some time allowing the gum to heal before the dentures are applied.

Dr. Roberts has lectured throughout the U.S., England and Germany, as well as hosted dental professionals at his office to share his knowledge of the technique. A framed research award on his wall was presented in 2015 by the American Academy of Implant Dentistry Foundation. "People say he's a genius," his wife says, smiling her agreement.

After college, a stint in the military and dental school at Loma Linda University in Southern California, Dr. Roberts was recruited in the mid-1960s by Lane Thomsen, a Rio Dell dentist who knew him from dental school and promised he had plenty of work to keep another dentist busy. Rita Roberts notes that she prefers small towns and rural areas to the big city.

Dr. Thomsen later returned to Loma Linda to teach in the dental school, while the Roberts' settled in the large farm house where they live now on Rio Dell Avenue. "There was vacant land next to it on which to build the office," Rita Roberts says of the two-story structure where four assistants and technicians work. She did the bookwork for the practice, as well as serving as treasurer at the Fortuna Junior Academy for many years.

The couple, married for 60 years, has raised four daughters who live in Hawaii, Maine and Texas, with one remaining locally. Three grandchildren live in Texas. Interested in helping others, Dr. Roberts has collected dental equipment from offices that close and sent them to places in need, in Africa, the Philippines and the Ukraine, where he helped set up a dental clinic with one of his brothers, also a dentist, and to which he traveled often. He served on the Rio Dell city council and was mayor for a term. **Continued on page 4.**

## **Scotia School News**

The Parent-Teacher Organization meets Wed., Sept. 6 at 1:15 p.m. The school board meets Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

### **Rio Dell Schools Welcome New Staff, Students to Fall Term**

Rio Dell schools are now in session and welcoming new staff this school year including Kaitlyn Kemp, resource teacher; Jamie Lommori teaching grades 6/7; assistant cook Haley Harrison, custodian Alfredo Gutierrez, and Jennifer Coyle, Tier II middle school. See last month's newsletter for an interview with the new superintendent, Kevin Trone, and elsewhere this issue to greet the new principal, Angela Johnson. Call 764-5694-ext. 104 if there are any concerns about the vaccinations required for all kindergarteners and the TDap shot required of 7th graders. The school board will meet Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m. and there will be an open forum that day starting at 4:30 p.m. on the Safe Routes to School effort to make the streets and crossings used by pedestrians and bicyclists around the schools easier and safer to use with the help of grants to fund road work.

### **Eagle Prairie Arts District Slates Community Jam**

Come to downtown Rio Dell Sept. 9 for the second Saturday event held May to October by the Eagle Prairie Arts District, and see what's happening. An open jam is billed, so bring your musical talent and join in!

### **Free Produce Market Set for Fortuna**

The Food for People free produce market will be Sept. 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Fortuna Adventist Community Services, 2331 Rohnerville Road. These monthly markets seek to ensure that low-income households have access to the fresh fruits and vegetables necessary to support a healthy diet. Anyone who meets the income eligibility requirements is invited. It is also requested that those who attend please bring their own bags.

## **From the Community Resource Center**

### **Nurturing Parenting Program Meets**

The Nurturing Parenting Program is now available through the resource center. NPP focuses on discussions and activities which promote nurturing relationships between parents and children. This program is FREE to all community members. We offer flexible scheduling, and meetings can be 30 minutes or 1 hour. Please call and register with Peach Leath. Childcare will not be provided during NPP sessions.

### **CalFresh/CalWorks:**

Are you currently enrolled in CalFresh or CalWorks? Do you know if you are eligible for either program? Come to the Rio Dell Community Resource Center and find out how to qualify and apply for both programs. You can also apply for CalFresh, CalWorks and MediCal at [www.cyourself.com](http://www.cyourself.com).

### **Back-to-School Supplies:**

Rio Dell Community Resource Center has a limited number of backpacks and basic school supplies for local school-aged children.

### **Commodities Available**

The Bread For Life Pantry has commodities to give away the third Thursday of the month (Sept. 21) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you can't make it then, please call the Rio Dell Community Resource Center to see how you can still receive your monthly food box.

### **Emergency Food:**

Running low on food this week? Come in and get a bag for your family or yourself; no income verification is needed.

### **First Five Playgroup:**

Our First Five Playgroup meets on Fridays, in the Early Head Start classroom (95 Center St), from 10 a.m. to noon. We have a new Playgroup Leader named Nicole and she's so excited to meet our community families!

## Rio Dell School District Welcomes New Principal



Angela Johnson

Angela Johnson joins the Rio Dell School District as principal this year, replacing Jorey McComas. She grew up in Scotia and lives in Fortuna with her husband and two children, ages 11 and 8. She coaches and serves on the boards for Eel River Little League and Eel River Youth Soccer teams, as well as on the boards for the Multi-Generational Center and the Fortuna Sunrise Rotary.

Johnson holds an educational degree and teaching and administrative certificates from Humboldt State and is certified in special ed with autism authorization. She has worked as substitute principal and resource specialist at South Fortuna Elementary and Toddy Thomas Middle School and before that was special day class teacher for four years in Fortuna. Johnson says, "My community is important to me and making this a great place for kids and adults to be active and involved. I am very excited to begin this new journey as principal at Rio Dell, working with the amazing staff, children, and families."

## Wildwood Days Continued:

In his honor, several parade floats such as the one entered by the Rio Dell cheerleaders, which won first place in the kids/family/pets category, and the entry by Journey House, which earned honorable mention, featured a children's theme. The Town of Scotia and Coast Central Credit Union funded prizes, and three members of the Scotia Community Services District board served as parade judges.

The rubber duck race put on by the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department was won by Carolyn Neal in first place, receiving \$500; Rusty Broadstock in second place, for \$200; and Town and Country Refrigeration in third place, for \$100. A number of other prizes, donated by area businesses and individuals, were awarded as well.

For more, check out the Wildwood Days Facebook page with plenty of photos and video of the various events held.

## Wildwood Days Roars Through Town

Wildwood Days capped off its three-day run in Rio Dell this year with several new features. Downtown was the place to be on Friday night, as events formerly taking place on three different evenings were combined into one very full street scene.

The Saturday parade honored Ernie Cannady, who died in March. He was a dispatcher and reserve police officer in Rio Dell during the 1970s, worked for the city's public works department in the 1980s, and served as council member for eight years, including time as mayor, from 1988 to 1996 according to City Clerk Karen Dunham. In addition he worked at the Rio Dells schools. In his spare time he coached youth sports, and worked with Dorothy Johnson of DJ's Burger Bar to promote summer "cruise nights" that bring antique, vintage and restored cars to town. The cruise, barbeque and live music event hosted by DJ's that is part of Wildwood Days each year has been named for him. **Continued on this page below left.**

## 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 Belleview 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. 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 at the Rio Dell Baptist Church, 100 Butcher St. Call Susan at 407-8707. Join us!

**Monday Storytime:** Families with children 0-5 years old are welcome to join Community Resource Center staff at the Eagle Prairie School library room, Mondays from 8:20 to 9:20 a.m. to develop childhood literacy through stories and crafts. Snacks are provided. There will not be a Storytime when school is closed.

**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.



### Kathie Walker Continued from Page 1:

Walker lives for now with her brother, Arnie Kemp and his wife, and enjoys music and reconnecting with her roots. She is interested in offering classes, so stop by and see what she has on display.

### New Faces Continued from Page 1:

In the large, attached garage and in the expansive wooden barn next to it, are several restored cars, going back 100 years. Stored there, too, are car parts, some of which Dr. Roberts makes. "We've added onto the barn twice," his wife says, indicating a dental lab and other rooms that ramble across the property. Outside, a large garden that backs up to Wildwood Avenue a block away features sweet corn as the only crop. "The deer got everything else," Rita says of prior years' experience, "the raccoons get the corn."

### New Dentist Takes Over



Dumitrescu Family

Dr. Adrian Dumitrescu has purchased the practice from Dr. Roberts. He graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 2001 and served as a clinical instructor there part time while practicing dentistry full time in Southern California.

He completed a three-year formal training program in implant dentistry at Loma Linda University, noting "I use modern surgical and prosthetic techniques to improve the quality of life for my patients by replacing missing teeth or stabilizing loose upper and lower dentures where supporting structures are missing." He also holds a bachelor's degree in Medical Radiography with emphasis in 3D imaging (CAT scan) and enjoys staying up to date with the latest developments in dentistry through continuing education courses.

When not in the office Dr. Dumitrescu enjoys spending time with his wife, Jolene, an operating-room nurse, and their 3-year-old son, Quentin. They enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, camping and biking, which makes Humboldt County so attractive. He also enjoys photography, and shares with his wife a deep interest in music. Each holds a master's degree in that field, his in violin and conducting, and hers in piano. He has taught music and conducted choirs, bands and orchestras as a faculty member at Cal State San Bernardino.

### Rio Dell-Scotia News

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



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### Member Feature: Eureka Payments, Based on Trust



Steve Kimberling and Ken Musante

"It's hard to believe we've been in business seven years" president Ken Musante says of Eureka Payments, the business he and two partners, Steve Kimberling and Scott Bartlett, formed in 2010 to handle credit, debit, gift card and EBT (electronic benefit transfer) transactions for businesses, governmental entities and schools.

Musante founded Humboldt Merchant Services in 1993, which came to have \$5 billion in transactions with 100,000 clients. Kimberling and Bartlett had key responsibilities in the management team there. When a series of changes

found them working for a large company "that did things the way big companies do," they went out on their own.

Eureka Payments serves 1300 clients in a territory from Medford, Oregon to Garberville from its Eureka office, where three staff members work along with the three partners, and from a Medford office, where another person is employed. Another couple hundred clients operate in an online environment outside the region, together comprising a volume equal to the larger group in the county.

Future growth will come from increasing the clientele in the region, Musante notes, rather than expanding into other areas. "We let our clients use our equipment free of charge, and provide a free supply of receipt tape," he says of the need to be in contact with the firms who use their service. When credit card companies replaced their cards with one embedded with "the chip," Eureka Payments provided clients with equipment at its own cost to handle the new technology.

"We are selling trust," Musante says of the business philosophy. "Our clients aren't bound by contracts, there's no upfront cost to join so they can leave if they want. We appreciate our customers. Our goal is to leave them better off than we find them." He advises that the business best able to gain from the relationship is one doing \$2,000 or more per month in sales. "If their sales are below that, I tell them to use the Square," he says of another credit card payment system.

While credit card payments are the core competency of Eureka Payments, other companies offer the service, including banks. However, three financial institutions – Redwood Capital Bank, Coast Central Credit Union, and a Garberville credit union, handle credit card transactions through Eureka Payments rather than on their own.

"I'm a big believer in chambers of commerce," Musante says of his firm's membership in many chambers throughout the region. "We are looking for business customers, and that's where to reach them." He notes that contacts are made by potential clients as well as by his firm, where a white board lists leads to follow up. Those interested in more information can contact the team at [eurekaypayments.com](http://eurekaypayments.com) for a free analysis and consultation of the services available.