

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Scotia school district to scrap Palco gym, build anew

The decision has been made to replace, rather than repair, the Scotia school structure commonly called the Palco Rec Center, or gym, school superintendent Amy Gossien reports, explaining “After multiple attempts at securing enough funding to repair the building over the past 10 years, the Division of State Architects concurred in May that the cost to bring it up to current health and safety codes that apply to school buildings was more than 50 percent of the cost to replace the building - the formula used to determine if it is more cost effective to repair or replace a building owned by a public school.”

Because of this, plans are moving forward for building replacement, with applications submitted for funding to design and build a new gym. Efforts as recent as last year had focused on repairing the structure, purchased along with the school building from Pacific Lumber in 2008. Initially used by the community, but not by the school as it did not meet school codes, it was closed entirely in 2013 according to an article by Mary Bullwinkel appearing in July in the *Times-Standard* newspaper.

“We all know the (current) building is solid,” Gossien said in the *Times-Standard* article, “and if it wasn’t owned by the school, it would be a different story. Our architect has worked tirelessly on this project for the last year,” she added, referring to Guy Fryer of Siskiyou Design Group, who first designed plans to repair the building and is now working to replace it.

“At that time we had just been allocated funding, but it was nowhere near what we would need,” Gossien explains of a June 19, 2019 board meeting in which project options were discussed and plans formulated which, in May of this year, were determined by the state to still be too costly.

“With state timelines, we are still a couple years out, but are finally moving closer to a facility our students and families can safely use after so many years of no gymnasium,” Gossien says. “Two department heads at the state level that I am working with have been involved in the project since the beginning,” she added. “They have personal connections to the project, and their expertise, support and guidance has been invaluable.” **(Continued on Page 4.)**

Local schools welcome new staff

Several new faces – or faces in new roles – are helping launch the school year in Rio Dell and Scotia this fall. In Rio Dell, Adam Drake will be working as a resource teacher, which he explains involves helping students reach their goals by adapting their individual Educational plans (IEPs) to help them learn, while increasing their life and social skills. Drake (whose last name is actually Eastham, but is known at school through the last name of his wife of 10 years,

Morgan Drake, who teaches kindergarten at Redwood Prep) was raised south of Miranda, the youngest of seven children. He worked as a seasonal firefighter with Cal Fire and as an emergency medical technician and dispatcher for City Ambulance and in the flooring and automotive trades while attending Western Governors University in Utah, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in special education and teaching credentials. He did his student teaching in Rio Dell and was a long-term sub in the fifth grade, as well as working in the after-school program, then transitioned to resource teacher when the school closed due to Covid-19. He says, “I have been blown away by the support and mentorship from the faculty and administration at Rio Dell. I am so blessed with the opportunity to teach there and it has felt right from day one. The community is just as lucky to have such amazing and talented individuals teaching and administering to their students!”

Active in sports during high school, Drake likes teaching and coaching activities like boxing and self-defense now. He was assistant scout master for Troop 30 in Fortuna where he enjoyed teaching kids about practical and life skills, and helping them overcome challenges in positive ways. “I love most things outdoors,” he says – fishing, crabbing, backpacking and camping, and spending time with his family. He lives in Fortuna and with his wife enjoys home renovating, “making old things look new, creating, and putting our own touch on great ideas.”

Of the year ahead, Drake says, “I miss working with students and feeling their positivity and optimism, and am craving the structure the school week provides. Good teachers pride themselves on their planning and preparation, often planning weeks and even months ahead; however, many of us are unsure how the school year will unfold. For certain students, routines and consistent expectations help greatly in creating a positive learning environment. This is an awesome opportunity for us to model overcoming challenges for our students, **(Cont. on Page 4.)**



Kiwanis Korner by Carole Arrington, secretary

Wow! September already? I was just getting into the swing of summer and now we are weeks away from winter and the holidays. We all wonder if COVID 19 will still be impacting our lives through the fall and winter months. When this first started, it took a lot of us by surprise and I don't think anyone thought it would go on this long. Many of us are still working from home, have lost our jobs or have had our livelihoods significantly impacted with the pandemic. The Kiwanis Club met in July for the first time in months and discussed ideas on how we can help our community through this time which, under the COVID restrictions, is proving to be difficult.

July also saw the election of the new officers for the upcoming year. Transfer of power takes place October 1: Rachael Sovereign, President - Drew Mentzer, Vice President - Connie Griffith-O'Neal, Treasurer - Dana Webb, Secretary - Carole Arrington, Amanda Huber and Sarah Purvis - board members.

If you are looking for a way to give back the Kiwanis club is always looking for new members. Inquiries can be made through the Rio Dell/Scotia Kiwanis Club Facebook page.

Rio Dell schools seek community members

Community members are sought to serve on a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to review expenditures from construction activity associated with Measure D, approved by district voters on June 5, 2018. The committee will be responsible for ensuring that bond revenues are used only as voters intended and for informing the public on bond expenditures. The Rio Dell school district board invites interested community members to apply.

The board must consist of at least seven members, representing various constituencies, including a member of a senior organization, a member of a taxpayer association, a business representative, the parent or guardian of a child in the district, and someone active in a parent-teacher or other organization as well as at least two members at-large. Preference will be given to applicants who reside within district boundaries, but that is not a necessary qualification.

The committee shall meet no more often than quarterly. Call the Rio Dell Elementary School District at 764-5694 for additional information.

Amtrak closes Rio Dell/Scotia bus stop

Amtrak ended its Rio Dell/Scotia stop on thruway bus route 7 that connected to train service on its San Joaquin line in response to lower ridership and the need to manage limited resources. In addition, bus route 7 service will end at Arcata rather than continuing to McKinleyville as before. Humboldt Transit will provide a free connection for Amtrak ticketholders needing to get to Rio Dell/Scotia from the existing thruway bus stop in Fortuna, or to McKinleyville from the existing stop in Arcata.

For more information about routes or schedules, as well as the public health measures being taken in response to the pandemic, visit AmtrakSanJoaquins.com.

Food for those in need

The Journey Church at 95 Belleview Ave., Rio Dell continues to be open on the third Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon for those needing food. In addition, the Community Resource Center, on restricted hours during the pandemic, will provide a free bag of food while supplies last for those in need.

City distributes free Covid safety equipment to businesses

The City of Rio Dell's Volunteer Corp in July distributed PPE (personal protective equipment) to local small businesses to help supply them with the tools to combat the virus and remain open. The supplies were from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC). The city is also supplying bilingual placards for local business owners that inform customers of the masking requirements. It marked the second such distribution by the Corp who manufactured and distributed hand sanitizer to local businesses on June 8.

Otter promotion postponed

A tri-county tourism promotion of which the chamber had a part, has been postponed until next summer due to the pandemic. The Otter Art project involved the plan to distribute otter statues to participating organizations, each individually decorated by an area artist. The effort was meant to attract travelers over the summer to tour the otter art locations, getting tourists into participating businesses. In the fall, the art would be sold in an online auction to help fund a number of environmental and student-oriented projects managed by Humboldt State. **(Continued on Page 3.)**

What is Dynamic DNS? What can it do for me?

Billy Joe Long, PSA Computer Services, www.psacomputerservice.com



If you are going to be setting up a server to host a service which you plan on offering to the ‘outside world’ (external to your network), a problem you may run into revolves around your ISP (Internet Service Provider) providing you with a dynamic public IP address instead of a static public IP address.

A dynamic IP address is given to you for a designated amount of time. At the end of this designated time your ISP may give you a different IP address or reassign the same IP address to you again. This does not affect any services on your local network, and in most cases is completely transparent to you and your local network users. It does become a significant problem when you are offering external services, such as a website or hosting a game server for instance.

A static IP address, as its name states, does not change. Static IP addresses generally cost extra – if your ISP even offers the service.

This dynamic IP address issue is a problem because your IP address is how external users can find your network and the service you are hosting on the internet. You can think of your IP address as a street address. It tells people how to get to your webserver, game server or other service you are offering. If this address is constantly changing, then you have to contact your users and let them know what your current IP address is every time they want to use your hosted service. For most people or businesses hosting public services from their local networks, this is not feasible.

This is where dynamic DNS comes in. Dynamic DNS is a service that you can set up directly on most routers or on a server directly using a dynamic DNS client application. A dynamic DNS provider, such as DynDns or NoIP, provides you with a custom domain name.

Domain names are easier to remember than a bunch of numbers. For example, most people type *google.com* to visit the search engine instead of typing its IP address – 172.217.5.110. Another example is typing *psa-2.com* to visit the PSA Computer Services support website instead of typing its IP address – 23.235.214.21.

Think of DNS like you would phone numbers stored on your phone. You typically look for a name when you want to make a call. It is the same principal – the name has a phone number associated with it. When you click the name to make a call, your phone converts that action to the phone number and completes your call. DNS services work in a similar fashion – using a name, such as *psa-2.com*, and associating the name with an IP address.

The dynamic DNS service then associates your new custom domain name with your current dynamic IP address. Every time your dynamic IP address changes, the service updates your custom domain name with your new IP address. Now all you have to do to allow your users access to your public service is provide them with your custom domain name provided to you by your chosen dynamic DNS service provider. Every time your IP address changes the service will update your custom domain name with the new IP address, and your users will continue to have access to your service. If you would like more information about Dynamic DNS and what it can do for you or your business, give PSA Computer Services a call at (70) 506-6228.

(Otter promotion Continued from Page 2.)

The Rio Dell-Scotia chamber had sponsored an otter statue and was planning to move it during the summer among area businesses wishing to participate, and posting the dates and locations around town. That effort will now be taken up next summer instead according to current plans.

Rio Dell-Scotia News

Is free of charge and published on the first of each month 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

Copyright © 2020

Submissions deadline for Oct. newsletter copy is Sept. 18
Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at
506-5081 to advertise.



St. Joseph • Redwood Memorial

What of the Pool?

The pool, which had been a signature aspect of the Palco Rec Center and envisioned by many as continuing to provide health and fitness opportunities to the school and community, is not part of the plan. “We are sad, but have been forced to keep our focus on providing a gym for our students. It is not feasible for our small school to maintain a pool, as larger entities have failed to be able to do so,” Gossien notes.

A local non-profit called Save the Scotia Gym raised money to help with the effort but it was a drop in the bucket compared to what was needed. A significant donation, of \$10,000 from the Bear River Band of Rohnerville provided the seed money that launched the effort. Gossien credits former superintendent Jaenelle Lampp for securing that donation.

Nick Angeloff was the executive director of the organization, which held fund-raisers to garner approximately another \$4,000, and turned that fund over to the Scotia school district last year. It has been earmarked in a separate account and will be used to help pay for the new gym, Gossien says. “When we receive our state funding and can begin the project, we will get stakeholder and auditor input before spending any donation funds. We will make that spending plan public at that time,” she adds.

Gossien said the best-case scenario is funding by spring of 2021, followed by plans, development, and approval, site prep and construction possibly by spring 2022. The new gym will be in the same location as the old, but have a smaller footprint.

(Local schools welcome new staff, Continued from Page 1) , with compassion, and to the best of our ability. While some things may be different, we will be flexible, determined, and steadfast in our commitment to teaching students and helping them grow. I am so grateful for the opportunity to teach at Rio Dell and will be working with some awesome students, parents, and educators, as we overcome challenges and experience growth together

Across the bridge in Scotia, Superintendent Amy Gossien notes Sharon Ross, who has been teaching in the district for over 30 years, retired and will now be a part-time intervention teacher. A familiar face will be Anjie Laloli, returning to teach fifth grade. She attended Scotia as a student, worked as a paraprofessional for many years there and did her demonstration teaching in Scotia as well.

Mark McCuen is the new sixth grade teacher. Originally from Philadelphia, he earned his bachelor’s degree at Penn State, with a focus on environmental education. “I worked for several years as an outdoor instructor in several places around the country,” he says, including running a summer camp in Rhode Island, teaching preschoolers to ski in Colorado, and facilitating high ropes courses with teens in Indiana.

McCuen came to the area in 2016 where his wife, Monique, was getting a master’s degree at Humboldt State. He got his teaching credential there and enjoyed teaching at different elementary and middle schools as an apprentice and now as a credentialed teacher, but notes he is “new to Scotia in every sense.” He notes how welcoming everyone has been, adding “I plan having as much fun as possible while putting everyone’s health and safety first. One thing I love doing with my students is taking them to Outdoor School at Wolf Creek. We have a tentative plan for my sixth graders to attend as long as we feel it is safe to do so. We are encouraged to use alternative spaces as much as possible this year due to Covid - luckily we live in such a beautiful place where that is easy and enjoyable to do! With patience and open minds I feel we can provide students with the outstanding education they deserve. I will do everything I can to support my students through these difficult times.”

Crystal Fennell will have seventh grade home room and teach seventh and eighth grade English/language arts and science. She grew up on a small farm in Missouri and fell in love with the Pacific Ocean which she first saw at age 18. That drew her to this area for college and she’s been living here since, graduating with a degree in Liberal Studies Elementary Education. Happily married to “whacky” husband Peter with two children, Kylee age 15 and Lucas, age 13, she enjoys watching her kids play sports, coaching, going to the beach, and spending time with three “fur babies.” She has taught junior high before and is looking forward to the small classes and small school setting Scotia offers, Gossien notes, or as Fennell says, “I’m so incredibly excited to be a Scotia Bear!”

**Mark McCuen, wife
Monique and Buster**



**Crystal Fennell
and family**

