



Rio Dell - Scotia News

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Local archaeologist has impact near and far

Nick Angeloff of Rio Dell is a man on the go with three jobs on top of civic commitments such as chamber president and head of the city planning commission, for which he is locally perhaps better known. His archaeological work, however, not only keeps him busy but takes him far afield. CEO (chief executive officer) of his own firm, Archaeological Research and Supply Company located at 440 Wildwood, he fields teams of associates, sometimes pulled from masters' degree programs such as at Chico State, to ensure any artifacts that are found in excavations are gathered and handled appropriately. Some projects involving disrupting large areas of land, for instance for highway work, or laying fiber optics, often require that an archaeologist be assigned for this purpose. Angeloff is one of three in Humboldt County who might be contracted for this work.

Additionally, during the process of legalizing cannabis grows starting in 2017, he was kept busy preparing reports from his field teams who examined cultural resources found on the land of more than 200 growers, this being part of the process of their obtaining legalization. As those contracts were completed, he was tapped to work at Humboldt State (now Cal Poly, Humboldt). At present he serves as senior research advisor to students there and teaches courses such as Cultural Resource Management and Archaeology of Empire, the latter focusing on Macedonia and Rome.



photo: Cal Poly

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Meet a new chamber member

JJ Reynolds, owner of Accurate Productions in Samoa, joined the chamber at the Silver level when he offered to provide pro-bono technical equipment and assistance for the chamber's event held in December recalling the 1964 flood. Reynolds has owned the business for 18 years, and notes its services include providing DJs, lighting, equipment rental and photo booths, among other things, for corporate and school events and weddings as well as in other settings. He can be found at accurateproductions.com.



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City council holds post-election reorganization

Amanda Carter and Frank Wilson were sworn in last month to their newly re-elected positions on the Rio Dell City Council. Mayor Debra Games was re-elected mayor, and Carter re-named Mayor Pro Tem in the subsequent reorganization, with committee roles staying the same.



Rio Dell police voted top cops in poll

A poll by the *North Coast Journal* last month asking readers to choose their favorite law enforcement department saw Rio Dell getting first place with 20% of the 1836 votes cast, and the county sheriff's department in second place with 17%. Other departments in the list included not only police in other cities in Humboldt County but a full list of tribal, university, and state and federal law enforcement - Fish and Game, Parks, Bureau of Land Management, and the Fortuna office of the FBI. A handful of local boosters kept knowledge of the poll in front of people through Facebook's Rio Dell Neighborhood Watch site.

Shell station becomes Chevron

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The Shell station in Rio Dell switched brands to Chevron recently, the latest sign of a change in ownership of the parent company, now nearly a year old. The station and others formerly owned by Andretti Petroleum Group were sold to H&S Energy in March 2024.

Andretti, named for founders of racing fame, owned gas and convenience stores in 170 locations in northern California, Oregon and Washington. This acquisition more than doubled H & S's 160 locations. The new owner is based in Southern California.



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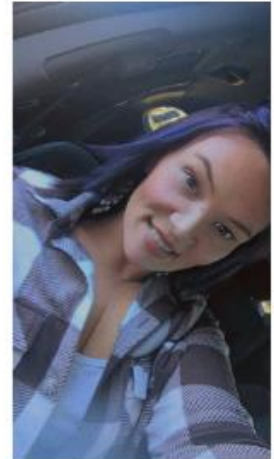
Barber Shop expands services

Neighborhood's Barber Shop in Rio Dell, which had a soft opening in the past month, has added a second hair stylist, Shalico Willis Johnston. "I knew Lex at cosmetology school, and he said to call him when I graduated," she said of her business associate, featured in the December issue of this publication. He focused his training on men's hair and she, on women's, but both can do cuts for either men or women, she noted.

Under her business title, Top Tier Beauty, Willis Johnston offers cosmetology services including haircuts, coloring, color corrections, waxing and perms, "anything hair-related," and plans to eventually do nails. She describes herself as "chill" and wants to offer a fun environment, including scheduling after-hours appointments for those who can't come during regular business hours. In the future she hopes to be able to visit long-term care facilities to serve clients who are not mobile.

Willis Johnston also enjoys working with children. "I'm a mom, first and foremost," she said, with children ages 10, 11 and 16. "I cut and color their hair and that of all their friends," she notes.

The Humboldt native has lived in Rio Dell but makes her home in Fortuna at present. She has done office work in the past, and enjoys music, river and beaches, and animals. "I'm very pet-friendly," she says. She also works at CosmoProf, a professional beauty supply business in Eureka. She says people can contact her for an appointment at 707-298-1125 or to walk in during the hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



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Local archaeologist has impact near and far, cont.

As has been reported in these pages previously, Angeloff's casual travel to Macedonia in 2018 brought him in contact with archaeologists planning several upcoming digs. That, combined with a chance encounter with a Cal Poly student who was a relative of the Macedonian contact, firmed up his research agenda and has seen him return on several occasions, starting in 2022, with students and others, to recover artifacts during these digs. Angeloff has studied the Macedonian language, which he notes is difficult to learn, with an online tutor in order to facilitate this work. He has presented his findings, most recently to an international archaeological conference in Istanbul last December, and has other opportunities to make presentations to groups, including in the U.S. later this year, both on the subject of his Macedonia work and his local research, for instance a talk on artifacts of Humboldt County's landscape from 12,000 years ago.

In mid-2024, Angeloff associated his Rio Dell-based firm with Chronicle Heritage, the world's largest cultural and heritage resource management consultancy, with projects and clients around the world. He found himself rapidly moved into new roles through organizational changes, and now has the title of California regional principal, and a business card listing an office in Sacramento. He says it's like his cannabis growers' work "on steroids" and heads a team responsible for 400 projects across the state, working with clients who need a cultural resource survey - meaning, an archaeologist to record any artifacts recovered in the underground (or underwater) excavations being done as part of the client's project. Many of these are renewable energy projects, such as large-scale solar arrays, some encompassing up to 7,000 acres, and others potentially off-shore.

In welcoming him to Chronicle Heritage, the firm said on its website, "Nick has nearly 30 years of experience in all phases of cultural resource management across California, Oregon, and Nevada, with successful work for the U.S. Forest Service, State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, multiple Departments of Transportation, and other agencies. He also has an extensive background working with and for indigenous communities including as a Tribal Historic Preservation officer collaborating with the White House to help develop the National Ocean Policy and with the Department of State on the U.N. Declaration of Indigenous Rights."

Rio Dell florist offers Valentines-related fare

Ashley Selby of Girlie Girls, a home-based floral business in Rio Dell, offers flowers for all occasions, with an eye towards budget and individuality. She invites calls or texts for flower orders at 707-786-4544, or visit her website, girliegirlsflowers.com, where one can also register for a Feb. 5 Galentine's flower class (making floral crowns women can gift to their gal pals) at Las Cazuelas Restaurant in Fortuna. Watch for a full feature on Girlie Girls in the March issue of this publication!

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