

Imagining our  
collective future  
through  
journalistic  
storytelling

# Round Valley Reader



\*Moving thru  
time & space  
\*BB Festival  
turns 40!  
\*Peer into the  
looking glass!

VOL1, ISSUE 1

PAST \* PRESENT \* FUTURE: Sat, Aug 19, 2023

FREE FOREVER

*PRESENT* by Michelle Peñaloza

## ***Round Valley Residents Move Through Time and Space by Way of ... Newspaper?***

Time works a bit differently in Covelo. You can go many years not seeing someone but, when you do, you can always pick up where you left off. Good relationships and good ideas can withstand a bit of time's passing. In that same vein—did you know there used to be several newspapers in Covelo? The Round Valley View, The Round Valley News, The Courier, Round Valley Record and The Frontier Gazette.

These papers, the quality of time, and the layered histories in this valley were part of what inspired us, Jenn Procacci and Michelle Peñaloza—the two folks behind this newspaper that you, dear reader, hold in your hand!—to create the Round Valley Reader: Past Present and Future, a community-centered newspaper that aims to honor Covelo's past, document our present, and create space for hoping and dreaming the future of this community.

Each edition of the Round Valley Reader will have three sections: Past, Present and Future. The Past will publish news stories from the archive (shout out to Donna Vanna Bushnell and all the folks who contribute to the Covelo Back in the Day Facebook Page doing this archival labor); the Present will feature articles on current happenings in the valley; the Future section will highlight imaginative articles, set in the future, creating a

community space to imagine what lies ahead for Covelo/Round Valley.

We want the Round Valley Reader to be a way for our whole community to share stories, information, questions, and opportunities in a space off the internet. (We're all already on staring enough at our screens!) So, the Round Valley Reader won't be published online—it will only be available to pick up in person at the weekly farmer's market (located in the Walnut Grove at the Library Commons). We want this newspaper to be for and by the community. We want to get folks talking, in person, to one another. We want to hear ideas for articles from folks face-to-face. We hope to source the content of this paper from you, dear reader!

We hope for this publication to be accessible to the whole community, so each edition will also be translated into Spanish (see the back so this paper!).

So, please come to the farmer's market and tell us: what stories from the past do you want and need—to share, to see? What news do you know that needs to be known valley-wide? What do you imagine for the future of Covelo—one, ten, a hundred years from now?



Meet Michelle Peñaloza & Jenn Procacci at the Round Valley Farmers Market, to get a copy of *Round Valley Reader: Past Present Future*, and the news you want to share with the Covelo community.

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## Blackberry Festival Turns 40


Looking good! A beloved community event reaches middle age

Each third weekend in August, there is something for everyone, as people gather beneath the arbor: artisans display their work, folks eat blackberry pie and drink blackberry slushies, musicians play, and people square dance, as Round Valley hosts the local and charming, two-day Blackberry Festival.

A parade, led by Helen and Charlie (The Barber) Herman, began the very first Round Valley Blackberry Festival on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1983. Shirley Martion came up with the first idea of annual blackberry festival and formed the inaugural Blackberry Festival Committee with Barbara Wyre, Rose Baschal, Susan Wilson, and Joyce Weisman. Robert Cunnan designed the bandstand and many volunteers help to construct it and the arbor for all the booths. It rained that afternoon of the first festival, soaking spectators and booths alike but, setting a precedent for all Blackberry Festivals to come, the weather did not deter the organizers nor

attenders from continuing on in having a good time.


Over the course of forty years, the Blackberry Festival, a committee under the nonprofit umbrella of the Round Valley Chamber of Commerce, has annually reached toward its original goals: to boost our local economy by



### BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL

# Bingo

SQUARE DANCED	DRANK A BLACKBERRY SLUSHY	CAUGHT UP WITH FRIENDS	LEARNED ABOUT THE EEL RIVER RECOVERY PROJECT	COMPLIMENTED AN ART VENDOR
LISTENED TO LIVE MUSIC	USED A PORTA-POTTY	GOTTEN A COTTON DANDY TUNE STUCK IN YOUR HEAD	BOUGHT A BIT OF LOCAL ART	SAID HELLO TO MICKEY THE CLOWN
WATCHED ROUND VALLEY FEATHER DANCERS	DRANK WATER	<i>Free</i>	STOOD BENEATH THE MISTERS	LISTENED TO LIVE MUSIC
COMPLIMENTED A PERFORMER	CHECKED OUT THE CAR SHOW	BOUGHT SOME BB FESTIVAL GEAR	RAN THE FOOTRACE	BOUGHT A POEM-ON-DEMAND
SOUGHT A MOMENT IN THE SHADE	SHARED AN IDEA WITH THE ROUND VALLEY READER	SOUGHT A MOMENT IN THE SUN	ATE A BLACKBERRY DESSERT	HAD A GREAT TIME!



promoting tourism, to provide an outlet for local artisans to sell their wares, and to bring together the community in a common cause. The Blackberry Festival remains a nonprofit event and raises

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funds each year through donations from local businesses and individuals. The site of the festival is the park-like backyard of John Marshall, who continues to improve the grounds, where there are now many beautiful trees and shrubs that lend shade and beauty, especially the wisteria, which has grown to cover the whole arbor, providing the important resource of shade for the festival's booths.

Since its start, the Blackberry Festival has also occasioned its own

anthem—"Blackberry Jam," played by the Blackberry Jammers for well over twenty-five years to open the festivities—as well as a footrace, a car show, and, now, a cookbook—new this year and available for purchase.

This year's Blackberry Festival is looking great with many exciting artisan and food vendors, such as Saraba Arts, Dreamtime Jade, Mermaizing Scents, Turtle Island Tacos, 162 Burgers,

Comida Mexicana, and more. The 2023 performance line-up includes Yippie Coyote, Loko Yokol, Eagle Mountain String Band, While We're Young, Easy Street, Marjo Wilson Trio, Wild Horses,

## Blackberry Festival Word Search!



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

AUGUST  
BLACKBERRY  
CARSHOW  
CELEBRATE  
COMMUNITY  
COVELO  
FESTIVAL

FOOTRACE  
FUN  
GATHER  
JAMMERS  
MUSIC  
PANCAKES  
PIE

ROUNDVALLEY  
SLUSH  
SQUAREDANCE  
40TH

Soul Circus, Round Valley Feather Dancers, Steven Daniel Hayes, Valley Folks, King Snakes and Funkateers, with the Hot Shots as the closing act on both Saturday and Sunday. A great time should be had by all. Personally, I'm super-excited to see how much of Blackberry Festival Bingo I can accomplish, starting with drinking a blackberry slushie.

See you at the Blackberry Festival!

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*FUTURE* by Jenn Procacci



## **Round Valley Reader Turns One!**

Thank you for joining us on this journey through the past, present, and future

What a year it's been! When we began this project, we knew it would be a lot of work; we hoped that hard work would pay off toward creating connection across the many diverse communities within our larger, collective Covelo/Round Valley community. We had no idea how many folks would find resonance with our project and are so grateful for all your stories, feedback, enthusiasm, and grace. Some highlights from the year:

- Seed paper edition! We loved working with community members who donated their time (and seeds!) and got their hands dirty with us
- Working with young folks on creating news stories and interviewing tribal elders as part of the Native Way Empowerment Project

- Connecting with folks each week to hear family stories, Covelo history, and learning what kept them going through the hard times all the way out here in Covelo.
- We digitally archived all editions of previous community newspapers that were loaned to us, in the process establishing a digital archive that can be added to by community members in the future. All issues of the Round Valley Reader are archived there as well, and both archives are now a part of the Library of Congress.
- Meeting new OG folks; we are grateful for the new relationships we have made with so many community members, many of whom have since time immemorial.
- Celebrating the inaugural edition of the Round Valley Reader at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Blackberry Festival is one of our favorite memories!
- The Round Valley Reader has spawned another community history project, a digital archiving of all the photos from the Facebook group "Covelo: Back in the Day". This project has received generous funding, and upon its completion

As we close out the final edition of the Round Valley Reader, we are left with a feeling of profound hope for our dear valley. Somewhere, right around the corner, a rainbow is forming; its getting ready to peak over the hills, and splash its beautiful bright colors across the valley and mountains. The future looks bright, dear readers, because of you!



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*PAST* by Jenn Procacci

## Peer into the looking glass...

...and get a glimpse of Covelo in years past. In our community, time moves slowly. Many of us live our daily lives without conveniences found elsewhere; we're used to sub-par internet connections and traveling long distances to access resources. Despite sometimes feeling like we live a bit in the past, there's actually far more *past* past to be explored. Covelo was home to many newspapers in years prior; so far, we know of *The Round Valley News*, *The Round Valley Review*, *Covelo Courier*, *Round Valley Record* and *The Frontier Gazette*. Perhaps you, dear reader, know of more? Please tell us!

We're relying on our community to dig out that dusty box in the back of your

barn, evict the mice, and lend us your copies of old newspapers from our town. In this section of the Round Valley Reader, we will reprint content from Covelo's previous papers, including photos. But we can't do it without your help! All loaned newspapers will be digitally archived and returned to you. A big THANK YOU to long time community members Carol Borden and Leslie Cardone, for loaning us their private collections of *The Round Valley News* and *The Round Valley View* to seed our project.

If you have newspapers to loan us, contact [coveloarts@gmail.com](mailto:coveloarts@gmail.com), call Jenn at (610) 517-6462, or bring the copies to our weekly Round Valley Reader booth, from 12 to 4pm, every Friday at the farmer's market in the Walnut Grove at the Library Commons, 23925 Howard St, Covelo CA 9542