



# Round Valley Reader



This activity is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, through the Upstate California Creative Corps program.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

September 1, 2023

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The Round Valley Reader: *Past Present Future* is a community-centered publication engaging community through journalism, storytelling, creative writing and documentation. The Round Valley Reader explores the past, reports the present, and imagines our collective future.

PRESENT written by Michelle Peñaloza

## **An After-Ashes Dream Becoming a Community Reality: The Round Valley Skate Park Project**

“I don’t skate,” said Patricia Mera, “but I see how important it is. I know what a positive impact skating has had on my family. It’s an intergenerational sport. It’s a way to relax, build self-esteem, and help mental health.”

When asked how the Round Valley Skatepark Project began, Patricia cites Jessi Alvarado’s call a couple of years ago on the Covelo Community Facebook Page, when Jessi (her eventual leadership partner in the skate park project) asked—in the aftermath of the losing the North Fork to fire—people to dream big: if they could have anything in Covelo, what would they want? A popular answer: a skatepark! A place for folks to gather, a place that provides a safe, positive outlet, especially for the youth of our community.

From that initial collective dream expressed on social media, came in-person meetings, the coalescing of a core group of volunteers (which, in addition to Patricia Mera and Jessi Alvarado, include Jason Barr, Russell Silva, Hannah Scherzer, Eileen Russell, Ella Ricci, Lourance Hall,

Louisa Bolton-Ast, & Josh Bennett), meeting with folks from Leadership Mendocino and the Laytonville Skate Park, hosting monthly skate nights, hosting a KYBU radio show, called Skate Date, which informs folks about the project and gets into the details of skate culture, and, ultimately, and still in progress: getting funding from The Skate Park Project, formerly the Tony Hawk Foundation, to develop a permanent skate park in Round Valley.



The Skate Park Project outlines its mission as “helping underserved communities create safe and inclusive public skateparks for youth” and it “favors projects that have strong community involvement, grassroots fundraising, and a base of support from the skaters, parents, law enforcement, and local leaders.”

Patricia outlined the ways in which the Round Valley Skate Park Project has been going down the list of The Skate Park Project’s requirements, demonstrating community involvement via

social media campaigns and publicity and engaging in grassroots fundraising; this scrappy group of volunteers has received donations from the Round Valley Indian Health Center, Brotherhood Board Shop, Redwood Oil, Keith’s, and GoPro. Northern Builders Supply donated lumber for ramps. The project thus far has raised \$15K in funds from other diverse sources: The Warm Foundation, the Mendocino



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Sheriff's Department, and the Health and Human Service Fund of the Community Foundation of Mendocino. The project thus far has raised \$15K in funds from other diverse sources: The Warm Foundation, the Mendocino Sheriff's Department, and the Mendocino Community Foundation. The Friends of the Round Valley Public Library have also agreed to house the burgeoning Round Valley Skatepark Project under their organizational umbrella.

"We've proven there's community support and that we can raise money. Now, we need to show The Skate Park Project we have land," said Patricia, "that is easily accessible and safe to build this skatepark. We need land so that this can be a permanent place for all ages to go for many generations." There's still work to do even as the volunteers behind Round Valley Skate Park Project have done so much. They are hosting a benefit gala on October 21<sup>st</sup> featuring a silent auction, the music of La Onda, Marjo Wilson, and DJ Oz. Gigi Cano will be emcee and Denny Lopiano will be serving food. You can buy your tickets at Full Circle Trading Post. The benefit gala should be a really fun get-together for a really wonderful cause.

To learn more about or get involved with the Round Valley Skatepark Project, visit their website, <https://www.rvskateparkproject.org>, for more details.



## YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES:** Did you have a wild time at the Blackberry Festival? Maybe it's time to slow down and regroup. Go for a long walk, breathe, and relax.

**TAURUS:** Your desire for consistency will be challenged this week. A chance encounter at Keith's could break you out of your rut.

**GEMINI:** Fall approaches: it's the perfect time to tidy up your schedule. Hopefully your new planner arrives in the mail.

**CANCER:** Too many feelings? Go for a walk at the business park to clear your head and see your life through fresh eyes.

**LEO:** You don't always have to be the one to start a conversation. Post up at the coffeeshop, have a latte, and wait for other folks to say hello first.

**VIRGO:** Happy Season, dear Virgo! Shine by makings lists, checking things off them, and relishing in the feeling of being right.

**LIBRA:** Your changeable nature will be tested by others who want you to follow through. Identify your priorities; it will help relationships with others.

**SCORPIO:** Your stinger's a bit worn as things have been feeling a bit too much as of late. Take time to gather yourself in cool spaces, out of the sun.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Has communication been a bit rough? Find time to write in your journal and reflect: what are people really saying to you?

**CAPRICORN:** It can be hard to know to what do with all your energy when you feel so uncertain. Gather with friends, enjoy yourself, and try not to worry so much about what you don't know.

**AQUARIUS:** Your creativity can sometimes be isolating if others around you lack enthusiasm for your ideas. Fear not! This week, seek out connection and have others dreaming big, too.

**PISCES:** After feeling a bit down, you are finally starting to feel like yourself again. Find a refreshing body of water and swim, you sweet fishy.

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PAST selected by Michelle Peñaloza

PAGE 12 ROUND VALLEY NEWS, AUGUST 6, 1976

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

???? ..... \*!!\*!\*\*\*

HOW COULD YOU CHANGE YOUR DIET FOR THE BETTER?



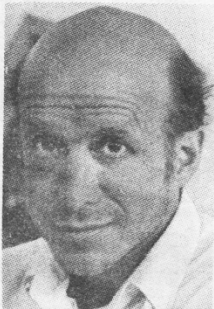
**MITZI MERRIFIELD**  
Eat less sweets - drink less coke - and eat more fruits and vegetables.



**DAVID PATTON**  
Eat a little less,



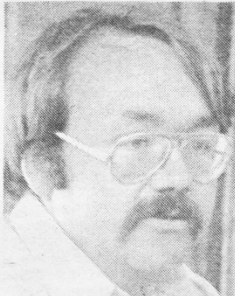
**MERCY AZBILL**  
I can't.



**VERNE PECKHAM**  
Grow more of my own vegetables. Approximately 95% of diabetes, hypertension and obesity is due to eating calorie-rich, nutrient-poor foods and lack of exercise. These civilization-oriented diseases were almost nonexistent here 200 years ago.



**MONIKA ZACK**  
I would eat more M & M's. That's all.



**HARRY Dasher**  
Find a lady to cook for me.



**DENNIS FITCH**  
I'd eat a bunch of junk food.



**MAUREEN HERRMANN**  
My diet's pretty good. I don't buy prepackaged foods. By eating everything out of your garden instead of processed foods with sugar, I think you might avoid most sicknesses.

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*Attention reader - the following article is fictional and does represent current or past happenings in Round Valley.*

FUTURE written by Jenn Procacci

## **THE YEAR 2123... Covelo: one of the few remaining AI free territories in the world**

The latest bumper harvest of sorghum speaks to Round Valley's ability to support itself in the face of a local rejection of global AI trade and economy hub, 1Place. Sorghum has become the newest boom crop for this far-flung town, which has traded in rebellion and boom economies for hundreds of years.

A type of grass, sorghum thrives in the hot and dry climate of remote Round Valley. Widespread local production of the cereal grain has enabled the residents of Covelo to produce their own biofuel, cattle and poultry feed, and their own sweetener, sorghum syrup. With the growing local movement to reject the global AI based trade system, 1Place, sorghum and its products have become a valuable commodity within Mendocino County.

With the sorghum movement, Round Valley continues in the unique spirit that has defined it for hundreds of years. Originally the home of the Native American tribe the Yuki since time immemorial, Round Valley became colonized by European settlers beginning in 1854. This led to the designation of Round Valley as the Nome Cult Farm, in 1856, which then became the Round Valley Indian Reservation. Members of other tribes were driven by force to Round Valley, where they were made to co-exist with one another and the European settlers. Eventually the Yuki, Wailacki, Concow, Little Lake Pomo, Nomlacki and Pit River people would form the Round Valley Indian Tribes, a confederation of tribes. Throughout the 1900's, Round Valley would cycle through many boom economies - cattle ranching, timber, pear orchards, hops production, and into the 2000's, cannabis cultivation. Each time, Covelo grew, peaked, and declined; residents are now hoping that the sorghum movement and its benefits are here to stay.

Stardust Auclair, a 4th generation resident of Round Valley and descendant of

2000's era food producers Blaire and Daniel Auclair, is excited about what sorghum production could mean for her community moving forward.

"We are the staunchest community in Mendocino County in terms of AI rejection," she explains, "and the growing push locally to detach completely from 1Place trading and commerce positions our sorghum fields to be the suppliers of sweetener, biofuel, and animal feed for the entire county. This will allow our county to further its independence economically, which is especially important as we have measures on the ballot in the upcoming election to ban facial and voice recognition, retina scanning, and virtual reality chip implants county wide. These proposed bans will almost certainly provoke a backlash from 1Place, which could impose fines and sanctions on our county or worse. The more economically resilient we are leading up to these proposed bans, the greater our chance of survival."

1Place, which has recently come under criticism globally after it was revealed the main source of the AI's intelligence was the uploaded consciousness of 2000's era entrepreneur Elon Musk, has promised to restrict access to all critical goods and services for territories that do not purchase 90% or more of their goods, including food and fuel, from the global AI trade magnate.

**A CALL FOR LOCAL/REGIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS FOR AN EXHIBITION AT THE LIBRARY COMMONS.**

**All mediums and styles ACCEPTED**

- Painting and Drawing
- Sculpture
- Fiber Art (baskets, clothing, etc.)
- Beading and other Jewelry
- Photography
- Any other medium
- Contemporary or Traditional styles welcome

Intake day will be Sept. 11 at the Library Commons Room . 11am-2pm

For more info contact commonsmanager@gmail.com

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