



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 4

Past*Present*Future

Sept. 8th 2023

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.

Representative Jared Huffman Visits Round Valley, Meets with RVIT

Jenn Procacci
Editor, Reporter, Imaginer

On the afternoon of Tuesday, August 29th, Representative Jared Huffman visited Round Valley and met with Tribal Business Administrator James Russ of The Round Valley Indian Tribes. The purpose of the visit was a tour of the new tribal Emergency Operations Center, as well as an update from Russ on the RVIT experience receiving and managing their recent funding. The Tribe received \$28 million from the CARES Act to set up a new Emergency Operations Center, purchase the former Mercantile building for food distribution, and in part for 3 cell phone towers. They also received \$13.5M from the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act for the broadband infrastructure deployment project to install fiber and wireless directly, connecting 726 unserved Tribal households, 3 unserved Tribal businesses, and 7 unserved Tribal community anchor institutions with 1 Gbps/10 Gbps qualified broadband service (source: Mary Hurrell, Communications Director and Senior Advisor, Office of Rep. Jared Huffman). The CARES Act, which stands for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, is a \$2.2 trillion dollar economic stimulus bill implemented in 2020. The stimulus provided \$8 billion in financial assistance to tribal governments (source: Bureau of Indian Affairs).

Rep. Huffman and Russ met at The Buffalo Room, where they were joined by myself, Michelle Peñalosa of The Round Valley Reader, Eileen Russel, a local journalist and correspondent for KZYX, KMUD and KYBU, and Jez Anderson, a field representative from Fort Bragg. We received an overview of the Tribe's experience implementing a tribal internet system, then headed over to the new Emergency Operations Center, located in the business park near downtown.

The Emergency Operations Center is located in a spacious warehouse style building, which formerly housed the Round Valley Precision machine shop. The Tribe used part of their CARES Act funding to purchase the building from former owner Roland Hoehne. The building is currently being used to house the RVIT Head Start program. The remainder of the large building is being kept relatively empty, which Russ explained will allow the space to be easily utilized for services or storage in the event of a disaster scenario. The Tribe has ordered emergency preparedness supplies such as showers and porta potties, which will be kept at the Center. Residents may remember the Emergency Operations Center as the location of the Round Valley Indian Tribe's highly successful COVID response efforts, where all local residents were able to receive COVID testing and vaccines free of charge.



Tribal Business Administrator James Russ of Round Valley Indian Tribes meets with Representative Jared Huffman at the new Emergency Operations Center. Photo by Jenn Procacci

While touring the grounds of the Center, Russ detailed the tribe's challenges with implementing the tribal internet network, including their experience dealing with unscrupulous contractors who prey upon tribes that have received grant infrastructure funding. The Tribe recently switched to a new contractor that is helping to address the issues with the tribal internet network, as well as training local tribal members to climb the radio towers and service the equipment. The goal is for the Tribe to be able to service and maintain the equipment for the tribal internet network themselves. One of these towers is located on the grounds of the Emergency Operations Center, and there is a plan in place with the new contractor to raise the tower 50' to provide better signal.

Our tour concluded with Russ describing future plans for the Emergency Operations Center grounds, which include potential tribal housing and food sustainability activities such as vegetable gardening and a space for 4H and FFA. As we prepared to part ways with Rep. Huffman, Russ jokingly referenced the long standing local survival plan to "blow the Dos Rios bridge" and create a self-sufficient community. We all agreed that we would let Rep. Huffman pass over the bridge before we sealed off Round Valley 😊.

Do you have archives from the past (such as copies of old newspapers from Covelo), present news, and/or imaginings for the future of Round Valley? We want to hear from you! Don't be shy, we need your participation to make this project a success. Tell us in person at Friday's farmer's market in the Walnut Grove next to the library, or email us at cveloarts@gmail.com



Past

selected by Michelle Peñaloza

6

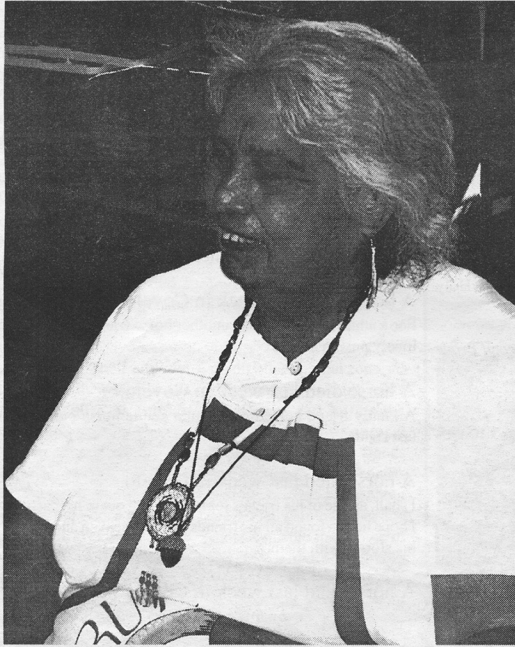
THE ROUND VALLEY NEWS

FEBRUARY 28, 2002

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Round Valley Basketweavers Revive Old Traditions

Editor's note: Every Sunday evening from 5-8pm, a group gathers at the Round Valley Indian Tribes' Buffalo Room to learn, practice and perfect their basketmaking skills. Taught by Karen Whipple, a modest yet very skilled basketweaver who studied with Elsie Allen, Mollie Jackson and Mable McKay, the group has completed many beautiful baskets which they have already exhibited at conferences, earning accolades and ribbons wherever they go. Last week, they had their first showing and sale of their work in Covelo. Those lucky enough to arrive early went home with some beautiful handcrafted treasures which are certain to become future heirlooms.



My name is Karen Whipple. I'm from the Round Valley Indian Reservation. My tribal affiliations are Wylacki & Nomelacki.

In the early 70's I became a student of Elsie Allan, Mollie Jackson and Mable McKay. I wove baskets with Elsie and Mollie for about 8 years. Through the years, we gathered sedge root at Navarro River and redbud here in Covelo or wherever we would see it along the road. I sat in on the Warm Spring sedge garden planning.

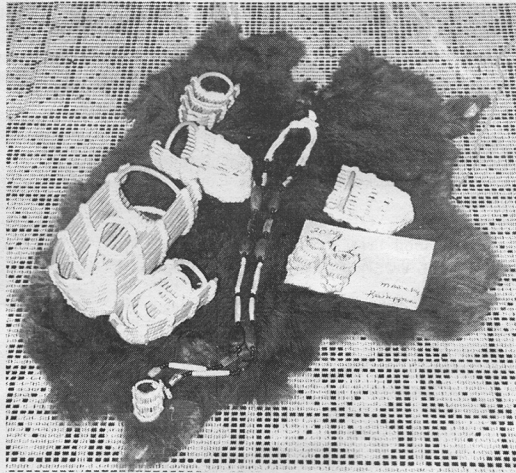
The main part of making baskets is knowing the materials to use, how to identify them, where to find them and how to strip & peel them to get them ready to dry for one year before you use them.

We make several different types of baskets together. One of the baskets we work on here is the Pomo baby basket. The materials we use are creek dogwood or red willow and oak for the rims. The coil basket materials we use are sedge root and redbud, the stick is either redbud or white willow shoots. Pine needle basket materials are pine needles and raffia or sinew. The willow basket materials are gray willow, red willow and other willows that we have here. The Round Valley Indian Reservation has an abundance of red willow, creek dogwood and white willow. The only problem we have is no one had any use for them for years—so everything is severely overgrown and needs pruning!

In September of 2000 I decided that I should try to teach someone about the lost art of basket weaving. So I started back to class at Redwood Valley Rancheria with Julia Parker to renew my basket making skills. After about six months, I started having two classes a week here on the Round Valley Indian Reservation. The process is slow since it takes a year after you gather to be able use the material, and I don't know of anyone who would have sedge for sale.

Through the years I have never won any awards or needed to. In 1976, all of the baskets I had ever made were burned up when our home burnt to the ground. After that experience, I slowed down on the gathering of materials. I would start different types of baskets—then I couldn't find the energy to finish them until one day I just started again. I enjoyed it so much, I decided I would see if anyone else would like to learn. Now we have eleven of us weaving together here in Round Valley. I feel that I have been awarded a wonderful gift in the knowledge of basket making so I just try to share it with others.

For the last two years I have traveled to several basket gatherings here in California and one in Phoenix, Arizona. At the gatherings we come together to teach, share ideas and learn from others. It is such a wonderful feeling to keep the basket weaver's spirit and knowledge alive from the past.



Karen Whipple at left, and some of her tiny baby basket treasures, above.



The lidded basket in the foreground is one of Karen's recent creations, and is a true contemporary masterpiece with its coiled pine needle lid and pinecone handle.



Cambria Whipple, age 9, is pictured here completing a doll basket at the California Indian Basketweaver's Association gathering in June of 2001. Her grandmother Karen looks forward to Cambria joining her at the Round Valley Basketweaver's Gathering they plan to have at Plasket Meadows on July 7-11, 2002.



Past

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THE ROUND VALLEY NEWS

7

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Round Valley Basketweavers Revive Old Traditions



A sample of Brenda J. Pina's baskets. In the framed photo, she is holding her two prize-winning baskets, which are also in the center of this picture.

My name is Brenda J. Pina (Britton), and I am Nomalacki/Wylacki, and was born and raised on the Round Valley Indian Reservation.

I am one of the daughters of the late Frank (Hank) Britton and my mother is June Britton.

I have three children: Angel, Willie, and Chrystal. I am very fortunate to be the Grandmother of six wonderful Grandchildren: Kurtis, Britany, Whitley, Marcis, Adrian and baby Kyle. And I am teaching my granddaughter, Whitley, to make pine needle baskets.

Most of my life I have worked and lived in Round Valley and raised my children as a single parent.

Through the urging and encouragement my sister Karen Whipple, who is also my teacher, I started attending basket weaving classes.

In July of 2001, we traveled to Kings Range, which is above Shelter Cove. There, we gathered material unique to that area to weave with. We also wove Medallions and were shown how to dye our materials at this gathering of basketweavers. It was an enjoyable time for me—I have so much to learn.

After that experience, I attended three classes in Redwood Valley with my Sister Karen, to make redbud canoe baskets. I have yet to finish this basket. Julie Parker from Yosemite was our teacher in Redwood Valley.

In October of 2001—again through the encouragement of Karen, I joined the ladies in the Sunday night Basket class in Round Valley, which is located at the Tribal Center, in the Buffalo Room.

In the end of November, first part of December 2001, we were invited to attend the Arizona Basketweavers Gathering & Market, in Phoenix, Arizona. Karen & Walt Whipple and I left Round Valley at 6:00 a.m. on 11/01/01 (We took the scenic route!). Kathy Cook, Muriel McCoy, and Cora Lee Simmons joined us there, along with Mary Prado and Louis and Juanita Fulwider.

We were truly welcomed by everyone there. From California, three groups attended this gathering. Mostly, the groups were from Arizona, Mexico, New Mexico.

It was so exciting to be able to attend this celebration of basketweavers, and what was more exciting was to place a 2nd & 3rd on two of the three pine needle baskets that I had entered in the basket contest. To actually see my baskets among all the most beautiful baskets was an experience I will never forget!

I would like to thank Karen and Walt Whipple for taking me to Phoenix, Arizona, a special thank you to Bob Polsley, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes for making it possible to attend this gathering. We are invited back next winter!

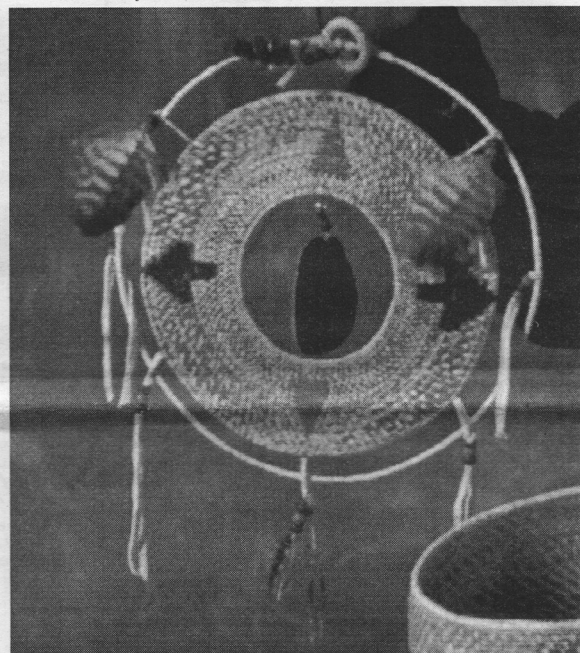
In January of 2002, our basketweaving group attended a gathering of redbud and gray willow materials in Mariposa, at Yosemite National Park.

This July, Round Valley will be hosting the gathering of materials. This is coordinated by the National Forest and BLM Archeological and Basketweaving Awareness program.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Karen Whipple.



At the conference at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Karen had the opportunity to examine some of their vast collection of traditional Pomo baskets, and learn more about their beautiful decorations.



The medallion above is a contemporary interpretation of traditional pine needle coiling techniques, created by Brenda J. Pina.



Lupe Gonzalez and her grandmother, Cora Lee Simmons at the recent Round Valley Basketweavers Show & Sale. Lupe wants to become a basketweaver, too!



LEFT: Basketmaking isn't just a "girl thing"! Here to prove it is Louis Fulwider, a Concow/Pomo man who joins his friends and relatives on Sunday evenings at the Buffalo Room. Louis is shown here with his first place award for his Pomo baby basket at the Arizona Indian Basketweavers Gathering in Phoenix this winter. Round Valley Basketweaver Mary Prado (Wylacki) also attended and won first place for her two-stick twined willow basket.



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Into the Looking Glass Your Weekly Horoscope by Michelle Peñaloza

Aries: You're in your hero mode, saving the day. Lately you've been deeply in tune with how to help others. The planets' movement might have you needing to focus on taking care of yourself, too. Working on your own self-esteem can take on a spiritual quality at this time.

Taurus: You're ending a period of deep rest and reflection, grounding you in a space of examining authenticity and mortality. You're finding where and how is most comfortable for you to live. Next up is reflecting on your role in relationships in a way that is political or spiritual.

Gemini: It's been a very mentally active time, but remember that sleep is key for sanity. Maybe a journal next to the bed can be a good outlet. Insights can come through dreams, therapy, or some intentional time spent alone. There's a reset happening in your life as the planets begin a new cycle. How would you like to reinvent yourself?

Cancer: It's a busy time for you, Cancer! You might be interested in reading more about something you've always wanted to learn about, or developing a skill, either self taught or through a class. See how you can get involved in community activities. You just might make new friends and accomplices who end up playing a key role in your life.

Leo: You might be feeling more affirmed about what's in your heart and how you can express it through fashion or relationships. Now is a time when you focus on the things that support you most—whether that's your paychecks or your self esteem. Money plays a role now, but confidence is priceless. Jupiter retrograde can find you looking for deeper meaning in your career and life's work.

Virgo: Mercury is still asking you to take things more slowly. It's appropriate to repeat yourself around this time. Not everyone will remember things that are important to you, so they might need to be said again! What you have to say will be received well and will help you break out of any shyness or hesitation.

Libra: You've been in introspection and reflecting mode—now it's time to party! How you see yourself in the social landscape has been renewed. Mars is currently in your sign, giving you the drive to stand up for yourself. Virgo season can be a great time to be alone before your birthday chaos begins.

Scorpio: Lately, you've embraced seclusion and secrets. Maybe there are some things that need to be done through a proxy in order to protect your peace. Now is a great time to reflect on what makes for nurturing and peaceful relationships.

Sagittarius: Let the good vibes roll! Even if things have been delayed, they are moving forward as they should—thanks to you showing up everyday. Give yourself a pat on the back and think of ways you can relax, heal, and get some rest in a way that helps you keep smiling and keeping up the good work.

Capricorn: Your mind wanders beyond the reaches of this valley; you're thinking about everyone you need to catch up with, out of town. You might have an important announcement to make; if you're feeling less outspoken, maybe it's an announcement to yourself.

Aquarius: It's transition time for you this week: time to embrace a little chaos and know that these shifts and changes occur for the better! If you can lean into your sense of hope, you can let go and come out on top.

Pisces: Sometimes, it can be hard to know where you stand in partnerships. The planets align this week to help you define interpersonal matters more clearly. Take the truth and swim, fish friend.

FUTURE

How Green is Round Valley?

by Michelle Peñaloza

Editor, Reporter, Imaginator

September 8, 2045

Folks in Covelo/Round Valley are gearing up for harvest this year, as they have for decades, but in the past few years the agriculture being harvested has enjoyed a renaissance in diversification. After many years of the struggling boom-bust economies of logging and cannabis, Round Valley now enjoys a robust agricultural economy that not only includes responsible, sustainable logging and permitted legacy cannabis, but also a reinvigoration of large scale vegetable farming and hops-growing, as well as more recent developments in growing lavender, unique varieties of cut-flowers for the bouquet market, spices and herbs for the dried herb market, and medical mushrooms (psilocybin).

The Round Valley Indian Tribes Community Farm, developed first as a part of the Native Way Youth Empowerment Project, is a model for food and economic justice and sustainability across the west coast. Located at the old "business park," the RVIT Community Farm now grows enough food for every tribal member to receive a box of produce grown in the valley by Native youth each week.

Covelo is now a sight-seeing destination in Mendocino County, especially of interest for micro-brewery enthusiasts, eco-tourists, and alternative medicine seekers.

The Round Valley Brewery, which brews its fine microbrews from the very hops and wheat grown right beside the building, boasts a unique tasting menu that incorporates the diverse plants and cultivated agriculture of the area, such as Star Thistle IPA, Blackberry Cider, Lavender Hard Kombucha, Canna Saison, Manzanita Sour, and Turkey Tail Porter.

The Covelo Lavender Farm, in addition to growing several varieties of lavender, also manufactures tinctures, hydrosols, herbal teas and harvests lavender honey from several of its own hives.

The Covelo Psilocybin Center is in development as the combination of Covelo's location, agricultural viability, and natural beauty make it an ideal healing place for patients to undergo therapy with the pharmacological effects of psilocybin. The CPC development project has attracted therapists, doctors, and cultivators all working toward helping people access healing, especially for patients with "treatment-resistant depression" (TRD), a term used when people with depression do not respond to antidepressant medications.

The article on this page is fictional and does not represent our current reality. It is an imagining of what the future could look like for our community.

People also come to visit Covelo's unique bio-diversified farms, which grow cut flowers, vegetables, herbs, and spices, alongside cannabis and medical mushrooms (psilocybin). These farms didn't crop up overnight, but instead emerged as a result of a successful program, CannaBiz Diversification or CBD, developed by permitted cannabis farmers that stayed after the market crashes of the early 2020s in conjunction with the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and finally competent leadership at the county in 2030. Through the CBD program, many abandoned, unpermitted cannabis greenhouses were repurposed to grow vegetables, cut-flowers, mushrooms and actual herbs instead of just "herb," paving the way for the robust, diverse eco-tourism thriving in Round Valley today.

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 or call Leslie Cordone at (707) 983-6982 or Carol Borden at (707) 354-1297

