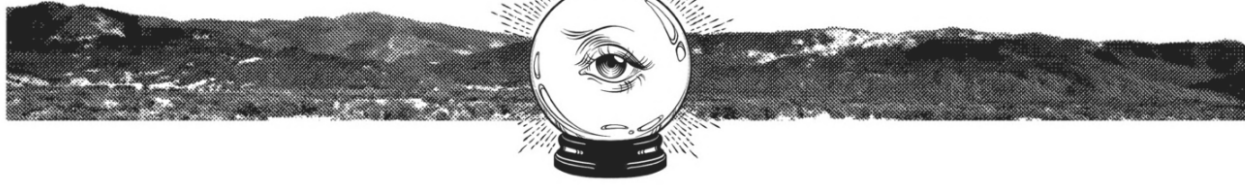




Round Valley Reader



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

FREE FOREVER | Vol 1, Issue 41

Past * Present * Future

May 24, 2024



Tribal/Community Coalition Rallies to Protect Eel River Canyon from Great Redwood Trail Route

A Tribal/Community Coalition of concerned community members have continued voicing substantial concerns about the potential environmental, cultural, and moral impacts of the Great Redwood Trail (GRT) and they are urging the community to join their cause.

The Eel River Canyon, extending through Southern Humboldt and Mendocino counties, encompasses ancestral territories of several tribes. Despite the cultural and historical significance of this area, many tribes, including the Cahto, Pomo, Wailaki, Wyott, and Yuki, were not adequately consulted in the GRT planning process. This lack of engagement is particularly troubling, given the project's potential impact on tribal ancestral lands and cultural resources. Environmental concerns also loom large. Community members worry about the threats to the area's delicate ecosystem, including endangered species like salmon and steelhead trout. Organizations like Native Health in Native Hands and the Kinest'e Community

Coalition emphasize the importance of preserving the Eel River watershed's ecological integrity. Some excerpts from a template advocacy letter written by the Tribal/Community Coalition (which you can access the full text of via the QR code on this page):

"We, the undersigned members of the community, are providing public comment in opposition of the proposed Great Redwood Trail route along the Eel River Canyon. Adequate collaboration with Tribal Peoples and Governments along the trail route have not been initiated. The GRT also fails to adhere to the California Fish and Game Code who holds jurisdiction over the protection and development of natural resources, including fish resources, Tribal Beneficial Uses.

The Draft Master Plan includes 2 individuals associated with Tribal Organizations and does not adequately reflect Culture and Knowledge of the Tribal Communities located along the trail. Many of the trails are slated to traverse through areas of immense cultural significance, including ancestral ceremony and burial sites. The diverse peoples residing along the 300+ mile trail have a long history of displacement and marginalization, with some communities not even federally recognized, further exacerbating the issue.

Concerns raised by community members such as Nikcole Whipple, Michelle Merrifield, Perry Lincoln and members of the Cahto Tribe of Laytonville and Round Valley Indian Tribes underscore the need for respectful consultation and collaboration before approval of the Draft Masterplan. These voices emphasize the need for cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and the recognition of Indigenous sovereignty over their ancestral lands.

Furthermore, the lack of diverse consultation and consent is not only disrespectful but also perpetuates historical injustices and trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples. This project cannot move forward in good conscience without the full and meaningful participation of affected Indigenous communities."

The Tribal/Community Coalition calls upon the Great Redwood Trail project leaders to restart the consultation process with Indigenous communities from the beginning, ensuring equal representation and meaningful engagement. This includes representation from Eel River Tribes, such as the Wiyot, Bear River, Tolowa, Sinkyone Tribal Coalition, Cahto, Wailaki, Yuki, and Pomo (Round Valley, Sherwood, Redwood, Coyote, Potter), as well as Lake County tribes, including the Atole and Robinson. They demand amendments to the Great Redwood Trail Vision Statement to incorporate tribal leadership and ensure Indigenous perspectives, cultural knowledge, and language are central to project planning and implementation, with adequate funding and resources for participation. They also call for the establishment of a board position for tribal representatives, the protection of cultural sites and ancestral territories through rerouting trails away from sensitive areas, and a commitment to ongoing dialogue, transparency, and accountability with Indigenous communities. This includes creating a survey to outreach to tribal communities and making it public on the GRT website, followed by re-visiting the communities for feedback. Overall, they assert: "It is imperative that the Great Redwood Trail project uphold principles of justice, equity, and respect for Indigenous rights. Failure to do so would perpetuate historical injustices and further marginalize already vulnerable communities."

The GRT's Draft Master Plan for the trail is available for review and public comment. You can view the Draft Master Plan and provide comments using several methods: using the Online Comment Tool or Contact Form available on the project website, emailing your comments to info@greatredwoodtrailplan.org, or leave a voicemail message at (707) 440-9445. **The public comment period closes on June 3, 2024.** After this period, according to the GRT website, "The GRTA (Great Redwood Trail Agency) will consider all feedback and may revise the Master Plan before its tentative adoption in Summer 2025. The GRTA is also starting a program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) process as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Master Plan.





COMMUNITY GOINGS ON

Employment Announcement:

Summer Youth Intern at the Tis-Bil Indian Education Center
Wage:\$16.00/HR
16-20 hrs/week

Job Description: The Tis-Bil Indian Education Center is looking for (2) youth interns to help us with our 4 week long summer program. This is an opportunity for youth to gain work experience over the summer as well as possible references for future employment. These youth Interns will be modeling good behavior for the Junior Youth to observe and being a positive peer.

Job Duties:

- Interns will assist the Tis-Bil Staff with the daily scheduled activities.
- Interns will help prepare and serve lunch to our Junior Youth.
- Interns will assist with light clean up duties.
- Be a role model to the Junior Youth.

Minimum Requirements:

- 2.0 Grade point Average from the 4th quarter of 2024 school year.
- Must be a High School student.
- Must obtain a work permit from the high school.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Have reliable transportation.

Deadline: Friday June 7,2024 Interviews will be conducted June 18

Questions/Applications: Contact the Family Resource Center (707) 983-6262, and ask for Kylie Whipple.

Caltrans District 1 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2024 \$2,250

AWARDED TO ONE STUDENT SEEKING
A CAREER IN TRANSPORTATION

Deadline: Friday, May 31

Applicants must:

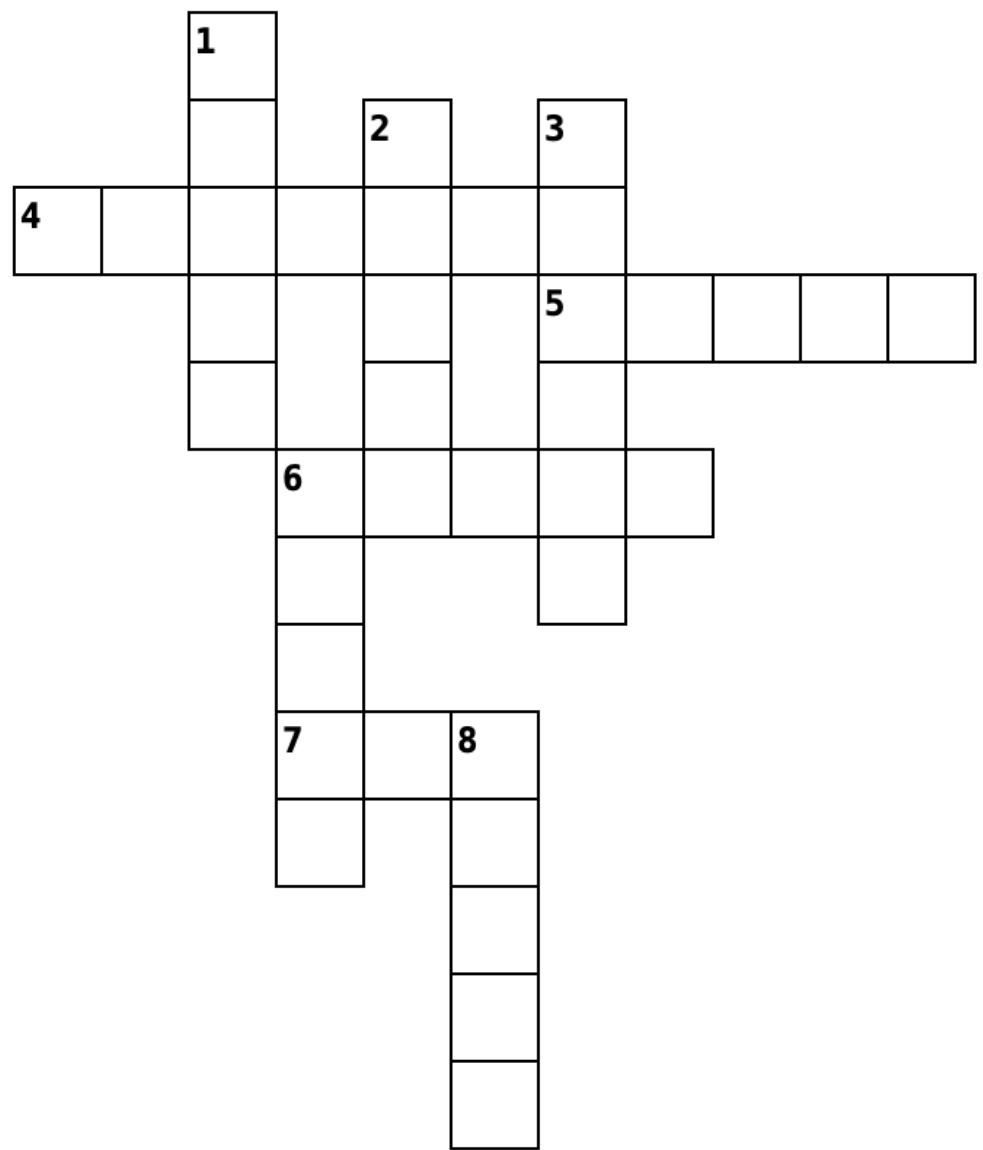
- Be a high school senior or undergrad college student
- Reside in or be from Humboldt, Del Norte, Lake or Mendocino counties
- Attend or be accepted to a post-secondary institute in California



Scan the code for full details →



RVR Crossword is back this week!



Down

1. after Leo before Libra
2. Not a winner
3. 'Tis the season
6. Farmer's Market location
8. Odin & Thor of this mythology

Across

4. "empty orchestra" in Japanese
5. To bring together
6. _____ Theft Auto or piano
7. Scooby gang ride

EMPOWERING Mendocino Workforce

Through
Diversity
Equity
Inclusion

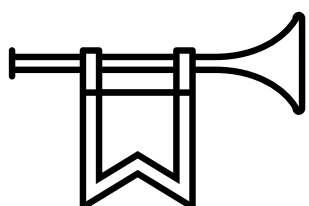
JOB FAIR

Coyote Valley Casino
May 30th
10 AM to 2 PM

Event possible thanks to the generosity of



Event developed with the dedication and assistance from



WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING WITH OUR COMMUNITY?

Send your community announcements, story ideas, events, future imaginings, local asks, & advertisements to coveloarts@gmail.com

