



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 50

PAST*PRESENT*FUTURE

JULY 26TH 2024

Dreamland & Round Valley Skate Park Project Imagine the Future

by Jenn Procacci

Last Monday, July 29th, the Round Valley Skate Park Project held a community meeting at the Library Commons to brainstorm with Dreamland, an Oregon-based company of architects, skateboarders and concrete workers who design and build skateparks. Dreamland has built countless skateparks all over the United States and even internationally.

The community meeting consisted of a mingling of community members and the Dreamland team, followed by a presentation by Danyel Scott, co-owner and head of business administration. Scott emphasized Dreamland's commitment to honoring the community's vision, with everyone getting the opportunity to express their ideas and give their input.



Dreamland's parks are known for their skateable art elements, as well as incorporating a variety of terrain that can accommodate a skater as their abilities grow. Due to the high water table on the valley floor, it is likely that the Round Valley Skate Park will be above ground. Various shade elements, such as trees and possibly a roof, were also discussed.

Round Valley Skate Park Project is set to enter Phase I with Dreamland; the execution of a skatepark by Dreamland is a 3 phase system, with phase I being the design phase. RVSP hopes to complete the entire skatepark project through Dreamland, a decision that will be determined in part by the total cost of the project. Once the cost of a project reaches \$600k, the project becomes a public entity, and RVSP would be required to get multiple bids on the project. Once the RVSP has a design and architectural plans from Dreamland, it will open the door for the RVSP to apply for additional grants and funding to commence the construction of the skate park.

RVSP continues to hold their popular skate nights at the Rec center, thanks to the support of The Lions Club and The Round Valley Indian Health Center. The events, which are held every month, feature a free skateboard raffle. Safety equipment such as elbow/knee pads and helmets are also provided for use free of charge.

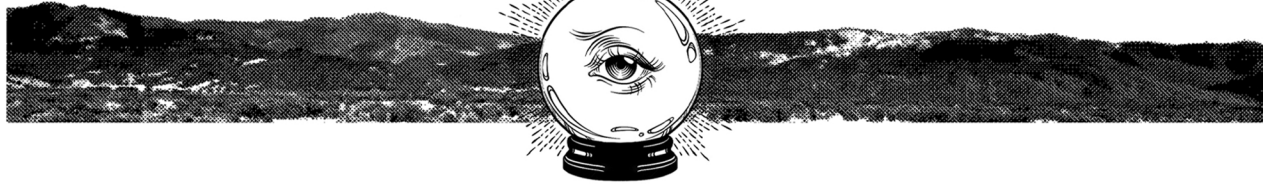
**IT'S ALMOST
THE END!**

Next week is the last edition of The Round Valley Reader for now... so make sure to get your

Future ideas, general comments or requests in to us at coveloarts@gmail.com before then! The Round Valley Reader has been a year long journalism and creative writing project that has endeavored to engage our community it examining our past, exploring our present, and imagining our limitless future.



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AUGUST 1ST 2024

Covelo Students and Teacher Revolutionize Construction & Invent Eco-Friendly, Fire-Retardant Material

Imagined by Michelle Peñaloza
August 3rd, 2040

In a remarkable story of innovation and collaboration, a high school science teacher and her students in Covelo, California, have invented a groundbreaking fire retardant and cooling building material that is set to transform the construction industry. Named ThermoShield, this material is made from local drought-tolerant plants, such as star thistle, and offers exceptional fire resistance and thermal insulation.

Emily Tran moved to Covelo five years ago, initially working as a substitute teacher at Round Valley High School. Her passion for science and education soon led to a full-time position teaching chemistry and environmental science. Recognizing the potential for real-world applications of classroom learning, Tran encouraged her students to explore innovative solutions to local challenges, such as the threat of wildfires and the need for energy-efficient building materials.

The inspiration for ThermoShield emerged during a class project on sustainable materials, which was further enriched by the students' involvement with the Eel River Recovery Project. This local initiative educated them on the environmental benefits of native plants, particularly how willow trees are used to prevent erosion along riverbanks. This sparked the idea among Tran's students to consider how other plants might offer solutions for the climate crisis, especially in contending with wildfires. The class focused on star thistle, a pervasive and resilient weed known for its fibrous structure and heat-resistant properties, as a primary component for their project.

With support from the school administration and community via a Community Foundation grant as well as a few local fundraising events such as Covelo Karaoke Showdown, an EcoVac Car Wash day, and a Wheels N'Reels Drive-In Night, Tran and her students transformed their classroom into a makeshift laboratory, experimenting with different plant-based composites, eventually developing a material that combined star thistle with other local plants and natural resins. The resulting ThermoShield material demonstrated remarkable fire-retardant qualities and excellent thermal insulation.

The project quickly garnered attention, leading to a partnership with the University of California, Berkeley. There, the material underwent rigorous testing, confirming its effectiveness and environmental benefits. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) approved ThermoShield for use in construction, recognizing its potential to enhance fire safety and energy efficiency.

The success of ThermoShield has had a transformative effect on Covelo, turning the small town into a center of innovation and sustainability. The production facility was established by the RVIT at the Round Valley Business Park to manufacture ThermoShield and has created numerous jobs, revitalizing the local economy and providing students with opportunities to pursue careers in science and technology. T

hermoShield's adoption seems as though it will rapidly expand beyond Covelo and California. Construction companies across the United States and abroad are clamoring for the material for its eco-friendly properties and superior performance. Cities prone to wildfires and extreme temperatures, such as Los Angeles, and Phoenix, hope to incorporate ThermoShield into new building projects.

The story of ThermoShield is a testament to the power of education, collaboration, and community-driven innovation. From the classroom of Round Valley High School in Covelo, California, this pioneering material is now setting new standards in the construction industry worldwide, illustrating how creativity and teamwork can overcome challenges and build a better future for all.



