

May - June 2024



Alsea Valley Voice



Alsea Girls Track & Field Team

Alsea Valley Voice

May - June 2024

Volume 26, No. 3

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Letter From the Editor

By Kathy Adair

On May 20th, we lost a special member of our community. Matt Clark was not just the owner of John Boy's Mercantile, but a son, a father, a brother and special friend to so many. Our hearts and prayers go out to all.

There are so many informative articles in this issue, as well as opportunities to become involved. Also, a heartfelt "Thank You" and so much more to Naomi Shadwick as she leaves the ACE Board to increase her focus on ACAC and the CAC, as well as her other endeavors. Naomi's passion for making Alsea a more sustainable and special place to live is greatly appreciated. Her talents have benefited all who live here in a positive way and our gratitude is boundless. Both the ACAC and the CAC are looking for volunteers, so check out their articles in this issue, along with all of the other great articles.

If you would like to submit an article, please let me know. The next deadline for article submission will be **July 15th, 2024**. This will be for the July/August issue. If you are an organization or business, think about what is coming up that you would like the community to know about and let's get something in the AVV. It is helpful if articles are in Word format and emailed to me. PDF does not work very well. Many thanks to all of you who submit articles.

As always, if you have questions or article submissions, please don't hesitate to message me on Facebook Messenger or email me at our AVV email – AlseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com. Don't forget the "1" on the email. You can also still reach me on my personal email.



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Musings from the ACE President

In this issue, the ACE Board celebrates Naomi Shadwick and her many community contributions, including being an ACE Board member for the last nine years. Naomi has leveraged her grant writing and bookkeeping skills to help connect community members and build community. She is passionate about bringing infrastructure support to the community (housing, healthcare, business) and she is tactical in her ability to advocate for those Alsea Valley needs at the local, county, and state levels. She will be leaving the ACE Board to take the helm of the new Alsea Community Action Collaborative (ACAC) as its inaugural President. There, she will be able to navigate larger community development projects like helping to find a solution for local healthcare services, supporting infrastructure for sewage and water systems, and supporting businesses in attracting visitors. Board members appreciate all Naomi has done to help ACE track finances, create a vision for the library and community building, and secure funding for building improvement projects.

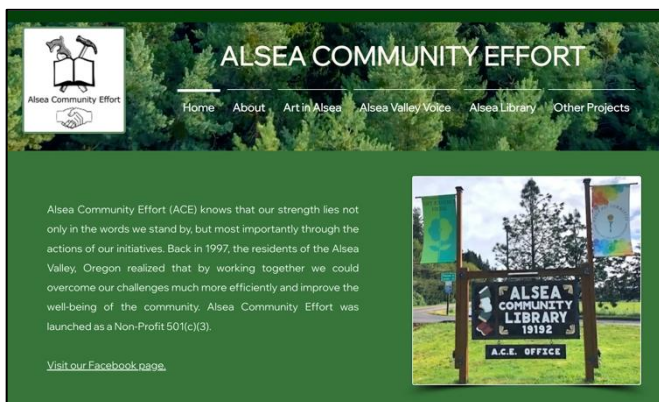


The ACE Art Committee (Kathy Plaza, Cheryl Ross, Eddy Provost, and I) have been working with two Oregon artists to plan for two art installations at the library and we are happy to share that our first “art unveiling celebration” will be June 22. Please mark your calendars to join us from 2-4 pm on Saturday, June 22 to be one of the first to see Salem-based artist Norma Eaton’s new collage creation depicting the Alsea Valley. The new art will be installed as a permanent addition to the wall in the entry of the library. The Art Committee continues to fundraise for a second installation to be installed above the entry to the children’s library area from Cottage Grove-based artist Uyen-Thi Nguyen (UTN).

Also, thank you to the Art Committee for volunteering to spend a portion of their summer weeding the rocked area behind the library and community center building.

The ACE board welcomes ideas, suggestions, concerns and questions about community events or ideas for community building. Please send ideas through postal mail (to our new mailbox at 19192 Alsea Highway, Alsea, OR 97324 or drop off comments and notes in our comment box inside the library building.

Meredith Howell, ACE President



ACE Website Redesigned

Alsea Community Effort has a refreshed website design! Emily Blake volunteered her time to redesign our website and keep things current. There, you'll find info on ACE's projects, including art in Alsea and an online archive of the Alsea Valley Voice newspaper with current and past issues. Check it out at: www.alseacommunityeffort.org

Alsea's New Wildlands Fire Truck

By Phil Plaza

With the fire season approaching and a warmer than expected summer, there is some good news from the Alsea Rural Fire District.

Last February the Fire Department was able to purchase a Wildlands Fire Truck. There are several reasons why this was needed. Most importantly, the ARFD can now coordinate more effectively during wildland fires with the Oregon Department of Forestry. This recent acquisition gives ARFD both better accessibility and maneuverability with this smaller, self-contained truck. On board the truck are pumps which allow firefighters the ability to draw water from nearby creeks, rivers and ponds while fighting wildland fires from more remote sites. This helps with a more rapid response to wildfires.

But responses to wildfires and other emergencies are only as good as the number of available responders. Many of us are aware of the great job our present volunteers do during emergencies. Some of us are the beneficiaries of the rapid response of our local Fire Department. Our department in Alsea is in need of more volunteers. Anyone over 18 can stop by during every other Wednesday at 6pm to visit and to see what a volunteer can offer while helping serve and protect our community. The first Wednesday of the month is set aside for equipment check. No experience other than a willingness to learn and help better serve our community is required.

And speaking of wildfires, there is a YouTube video circulating in Benton County regarding wildfire evacuations. Put out by the Marin Fire Safe Council, it's called: "Wildfire Evacuation: Make It Downhill Alive." I have watched it and learned several very interesting facts that would be helpful if we ever had to evacuate. Remember, it's always good to have both knowledge and a plan for any summer fires!

And finally, what if you had an emergency and called 911? Is your current reflective address stake visible? And do you even have one? If you don't have one you can call the Benton County Road Department. They will give you a reflective address stake and your local Alsea Rural Fire Department has the equipment for you to put the address stake into the ground. In a time of need you wouldn't want the Alsea Rural Fire Department searching Google Maps on their cell phones for your address!

SO STAY SAFE, BE PREPARED and MAKE A PLAN!



Library Lines

by Kathy Koetz

As I write this the sun is out again. Maybe those April showers brought enough May flowers for some, but I am looking forward to getting more in the ground and my hanging baskets up. Do you need help figuring out what to plant where? We have a book for that! Check out The Garden Primer by Barbara Damrosch. Like vegetables more than flowers? Try The Incredible Edible Landscape by Joy Bossi & Karen Bastow. You might even have kids that would be interested in Grow Your Own Sandwich by John Malam. We have these and many more to get you started growing something new or adding to already established beds.

Have you made it in to see the great teddy bear collection in our display case? Or the new art on our walls? You don't want to miss these wonderful displays!

Summer Reading starts on June 1st and continues through August. There will be book giveaways and book bags for all ages. We have some really fun programs planned for this summer, so be sure to check them out! And, of course, our Lego Day will happen on the first Tuesday of each month.

June schedule:

Tuesday June 4th - Lego Day! 3:30-4:30

Thursday June 28 - Journey Under the Sea with the Museum of Natural & Cultural History 2:30-3:30

July schedule:

Tuesday July 2nd - Lego Day! 3:30-4:30

Wednesday July 10th - Super Family Get Down with Mo Phillips 2:30-3:30

Wednesday July 17th - Make your own Turf Buddy 2:30-3:30

Wednesday July 24th - Build Fairy Houses 2:30-3:30

Wednesday July 31st - Reptile Man 2:30-3:30

August schedule:

Saturday August 3rd - Pool party at Osborn Aquatic Center – open to all Summer Reading participants– time TBA

Tuesday August 6th Lego Day - 3:30-4:30

Tuesday August 13th - Outdoor SR Finale Party 2:00-4:00

Teddy Bear Display



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New Alsea Community Website!

by Emily Blake

I created a new website for Alsea as a helpful resource for locals, officials and tourists:

www.alseaoregon.us

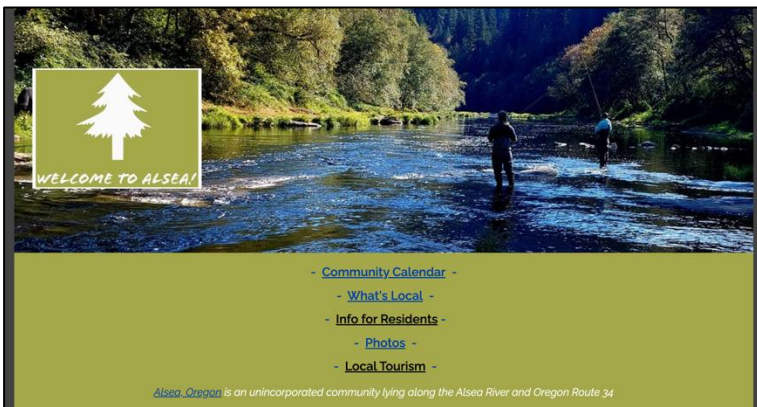
The site has a **community calendar** front and center, which I'll keep updated frequently from events I see posted to Facebook or by people submitting events. This calendar pulls all local events into one place. No more hunting down when that library event is next month or the zoom link for the school board meeting. Just check the calendar. What's going on in Alsea this weekend? Check the calendar!

There's also a **local directory** of all the orgs, nonprofits, businesses, farms, and Facebook groups I could think of. I'm sure I forgot or omitted a few! Let me know any I should add or if the wording on yours needs to be adjusted.

There are **local photos** by Alsea folks. We need more! Let me know if you would like to add your photo to the rotation.

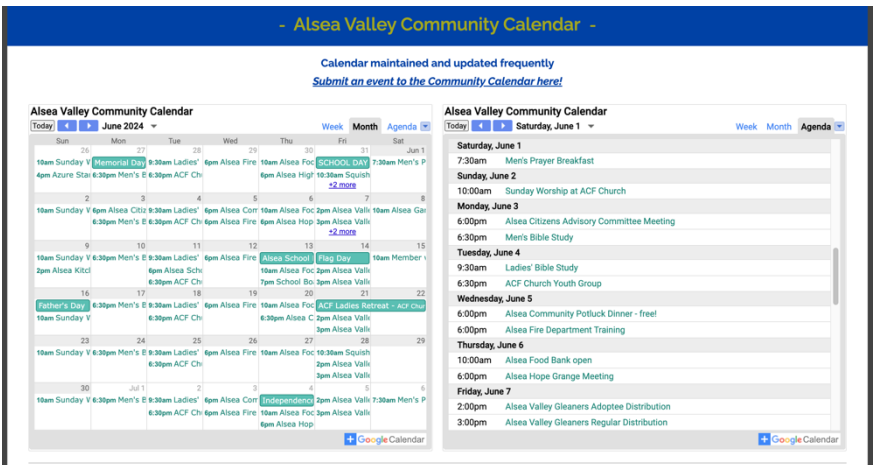
There are two areas that are "coming soon": Local Tourism page and Info for Residents section (think Benton Co docs/links, helpful resource docs, etc).

Please take a look and let me know any tweaks, corrections, additions, subtractions, suggestions, etc. You can message me on Facebook or email me at alseahub@gmail.com.



Website with banner photo by Josh Clark

Community calendar with all the Alsea Valley happenings
Bookmark it!



ACE ART NEWS

ACE HAS THREE THINGS TO SHARE WITH YOU IN THIS EDITION OF AVV!

Number 1:

If you have been into the Library lately you may have noticed that the walls are no longer BARE! Local Willamette artist, BRYNN CARTER, is exhibiting her mixed-media artwork for us to enjoy! The art exhibit will run for a few months and Brynn is offering some pieces for sale.

In spite of her B.A. in Art, for most of Brynn's career she was much too busy for serious artwork, working as a public school administrator after attaining her PhD in Educational Foundations from OSU.

Brynn explains, "After retirement, I began to reinvent myself as an artist. Joining the Corvallis Art Guild was educational, encouraging and inspirational."

Brynn has authored and illustrated five children's books. She enjoys figure drawing and when painting, usually work with acrylics and doing whimsical images of people and pets. She describes her recent works as "mixed media projects."

PLEASE DROP BY THE LIBRARY TO ENJOY BRYNN'S ART EXHIBIT!

Number 2:

The "ACE PERMANENT ART INSTALLATION PROJECT" IS IN FULL SWING!

Last Fall ACE sent out a "Request for Proposals" for artwork to be permanently installed on the high wall visible upon entry into the Library. By January's deadline, ACE had received eight outstanding proposals and had to make the very difficult decision of which one to choose! The ACE Board and Art Committee came to the decision to choose not only ONE, but TWO favorite proposals.

Norma Eaton will be showcasing her piece at ACE's "Gala Unveiling Event," coming up on June 22, from 2:00-4:00pm, in the Alesia Library Mary Rounds Community Room.

Uyen-Thi Nyugen's piece will be the second installation, TBA, which will be installed above the entry to the Children's Section.

PLEASE SEE THE FLYER/ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 9 FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Number 3:

MAX ZELLER AND CATHY ELLIS ARE GRACIOUSLY SHARING A VERY DELIGHTFUL DISPLAY OF THEIR HOMEMADE TEDDY BEARS IN THE GLASS CASE OF THE LIBRARY! (see page 6 for photo)





Art Unveiling Gala

Eat, Meet & Greet

Everyone is invited to attend this special gala event - the unveiling of a beautiful, permanent art display for the Alsea Community Library created by the talented Willamette Valley artist, Norma Eaton.

Come join us in the Alsea Library Community Room on Saturday, June 22nd from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

Finger food will be provided.

Graciously funded by Friends of the Corvallis Benton County Public Library and Oregon Community Foundation Small Arts & Culture Grant.

Meet & Greet our featured artist, Norma Eaton. Bring your friends and family. Hope to see you there!



Alsea School District Update

Krista Nieraeth, M.Ed.

Superintendent, K - 6 Principal, and Special Education Director

The end of the 2023 – 2024 school year is near! Our staff and students are finishing the year strong, with the school year ending on June 13, 2024.

Our new CTE building is starting to take shape! Our general contractor is Todd Construction from Tigard, OR, and they are doing a fantastic job. Expect to see the building take shape by mid-June, with a hopeful completion date of August 30, 2024. The district is very thankful for Chris and Nancy Giggy from Integrity Management Solutions, who are the project managers. They have really helped guide this project for the past two years and have made this project become a reality for our district and community. The east side of our school is an active construction zone, so there are protocols that we must follow to ensure that all are safe. If any community member is interested in the project, or would like a tour, please feel free to contact Lora Nickle at lora.nickle@alsea.k12.or.us and she can help set up a time to tour the grounds and new building.

From June 24 through August 11, all school buildings, except for the district office, will be closed to the public due to it being an active construction zone. The district will be completing the power upgrade, HVAC system, and will be repairing and repainting the gym floor. For approximately three weeks of this time, the district campus will be completely without power. All district employees will be working remotely during this time, but the maintenance crew will be on campus. We will communicate with the community when exactly the buildings will be without power and how to get into contact with the district office. The track and the playground will be open to the public during this entire time.

The district has been awarded a \$2.4 million Seismic Rehabilitation Grant from the state of Oregon. This grant will help the district bring our gym and office addition up to seismic code and ensure that the major parts of our building can withstand natural disasters. We will begin working to start preliminary designs this fall. The district is also continuing to work with ZCS Engineering to evaluate other parts of our school buildings for us to again begin the process of applying for Seismic Rehabilitation Grant to help improve the safety of all our buildings.

Congratulations to our Girls Track and Field Team for a great showing at the 1A - Special District 1 District track meet! Alsea High School is sending two girls to Hayward Field at University of Oregon to compete at the OSAA 1A State Track and Field Meet. Freshman Tamarra O'Brien will compete in the Girls 100m dash and sophomore Paisley Jacobsen will run in the 1500m race.

Alsea High School Class of 2024's Commencement Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 7th, at 7pm in the Alsea School Gymnasium. We will be celebrating the following seniors: Ethan Cantrell, Sebastian Franciosi, Gunner Kill, Rebecca Lorain, Hallie Olsen, Charity Richter, Kaelynn Schubert, and Hayden Spaulding. Congratulations also to Hayden Spaulding and Rebecca Lorain, co-valedictorians of the class, and Sebastian Franciosi, salutatorian of class. The community is invited to attend this huge milestone event for our seniors and wish them well on the start of their new adventures.

Alsea Middle School will be hosting their awards night and 8th grade Promotion on Tuesday, June 11, at 7pm in the Alsea School Gym. Please come and help us celebrate the accomplishments of our middle school students.

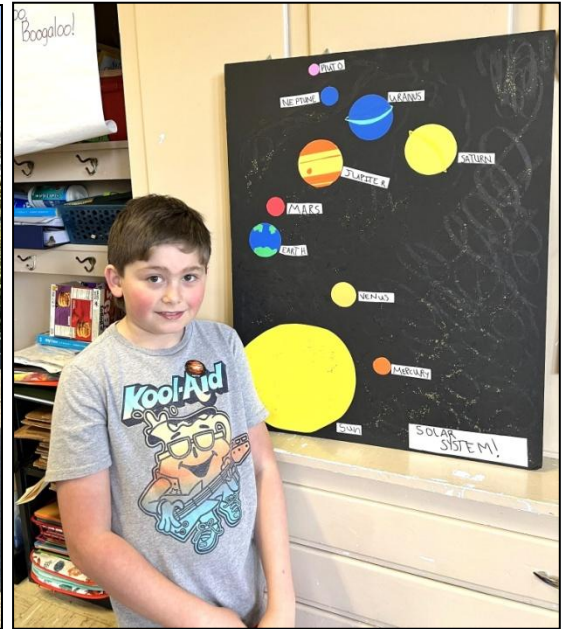
If you have a child who will be age 5 by September 1st and is attending kindergarten in the fall, please give us a call at (541) 487-4305 and ask for a kindergarten backpack! We have put together fun activities for students to practice their skills in preparation for kindergarten, as well as their very first Alsea Wolverines t-shirt. Mrs. Treadway will be our kindergarten teacher next year and is looking forward to having as many Wolverines as possible!

For the most updated information about the happenings at Alsea School District, please be sure to visit our website at www.alsea.k12.or.us or follow us on Facebook.

Photos on next page



Outdoor School



3rd Grade Solar System



New Deb's Cafe sign made by High School Art Class



Evie



Alsea School Staff



ALSEA WOLVERINES BOOSTER CLUB
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503-740-9639

To Our Alsea Community,

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as President of the Alsea Wolverines Booster Club. As of June, I will be resigning from the board. The AWBC board has accomplished so much in the last two and a half years. We couldn't have done that without the partnership of the Alsea school, our volunteers and community.

I am by nature a fixer, a driver... sometimes a little too much. My position has allowed me to tap into my creativeness and I have loved it. I will miss it for sure, but it is time for a change. With my husband Leroy's health issues and both of us getting older, we need to use our semi-retirement time to take care of ourselves and family. This has come after a lot of thought and prayer.

Please know that the AWBC board are amazing people as are all who have served in these positions. The current board will be looking to replace a board member seat soon. I am pleased to announce that Joy Jordan will be the Interim President (until the board elects the Office of President permanently). I have the utmost faith and trust in these members, for which I would like to give my heartfelt thanks.

Naomi Shadwick – Treasurer

Joy Jordan – Board Member and future President Pro Tem

Emily Blake – Secretary

Sara Littlefield – Board Member

Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of making a difference!

Terry Lunsford

Board lineup:

Naomi Shadwick – Treasurer

Naomi has been my rock, my fellow driver, my QB savior, and the best grant writer ever. Without her, none of the wonderful things we have been able to achieve would be possible. Her knowledge of grant writing and philanthropy is phenomenal. She is the one of the most generous people I know and shares my Godly faith.

Joy Jordan – Board Member and future President Pro Tem

Joy started the very idea of an Alsea booster club back in the fall of 2021. She was our school advisor and then was busy with her own family: two daughters and a new baby boy. Last fall she graciously stepped back into an open board position, and I thank her for stepping up now as Pro Tem. She is a go-getter with great ideas.

Emily Blake – Secretary

Emily joined us in January this year. She has a freshman son in Alsea and is way beyond me in all things computers including writing, organizing, and scheduling. She jumps in to volunteer her talents all the time. She is a very smart and kind lady.

Sara Littlefield – Board Member

Sara works at the school as the Alsea Schools Family Outreach Coordinator, which includes liaison for multiple organizations that support underprivileged kids, kids who need extra family support in all realms, as well as after school programs. She has a huge heart for our kids. Her empathy for their needs, no matter what they are, is outstanding. She will be a great asset to our board. Sara has lived in and around Alsea and Philomath.

Changing of the Guard

As most Alsea residents, especially the families of the Alsea School know, our Alsea Wolverines Booster Club has been continuously active since its re-generation back in October of 2021.

The initial key people in bringing life back into this valuable community resource were Joy Jordan, Sara Sapp, Jamie Olsen, Emily Lamb, and Terry Lunsford. Each of these five parents/grandparents has been on a mission to improve access to activities for the Alsea kids. They set up the organizational structure as a non-profit so they could accept donations and grants to fund the projects they envisioned and went to work making a difference. New board members joined and some left but still the momentum to create opportunities for the Alsea youth has never waned.

It has been over two and a half years now and the Board is now about to experience a significant “changing of the guard.” Our President, Terry Lunsford, is stepping down and Joy Jordan has agreed to take her place in the interim until the election of officers is complete. It was not an easy decision for Terry to make and we are grateful that she will continue to participate as a volunteer in the activities for the Alsea youth.

Each of the current board members and the past members as well, want to thank Terry for all her dedication and hard work in making the Wolverine’s Booster Club as strong as it is. As we have all said at one time or another, it is especially important to have new families joining the community and engaging in youth development activities. Terry has been such a splendid example of positive leadership with a never-quit attitude. Joy will now be our AWBC organization leader to help us continue to support the youth of our community. We are hopeful that interest in the Booster Club activities will continue to grow, and we are excited to see fresh faces on the Board with innovative ideas.

Submitted by:

Naomi Shadwick, AWBC Treasurer



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OHHH WHEN THE WOLVERINES ALL FALL IN LINE.....

Do those lyrics ring a bell?

If so, you were probably a student at Alsea School District.

In the past, the class celebrating their 50th served as host of the reunion. This year's class would be 1974. It would be wonderful if we could return to this format. If you were a member of that class and willing to help host please contact:

Jerry Vroman 541-214-6167 or Sue Baccus 541-487-7354

No matter what year you attended, come enjoy catching up with fellow classmates and reminiscing about the times you shared.

Teachers, Coaches, Support Staff welcome.

Annual Alsea All Class Reunion/Potluck

Saturday, July 20th Alsea Grange Hall

Set up 10:00

Help is needed for setup.

(Please bring any memorabilia you may have.)

Lunch around 12:00

Then cleanup and a "Farewell" until next year.



Alsea Community Action Collaborative Update

by Sara Cash

The Alsea Community Action Collaborative (ACAC) is delighted to announce that ACAC is now able to broaden activities to address the needs of the Alsea Community and outlying areas in Benton, Lincoln, and Lane Counties as an independent non-profit 501(c)(3). This establishment of ACAC as an independent nonprofit has been officially registered with the State of Oregon and the Internal Revenue Service.

In late February and early March of 2024, the Alsea Community Collaborative committee held multiple discussions as to the need for an independent non-profit entity to be able to increase capacity both organizationally and financially to facilitate the identification of unmet needs identified by the Alsea community, to serve as a catalyst for community based action to address those needs, and to strengthen broader partnership development to address those needs with outside parties, actors, and grant funders.

The mission statement of Alsea Community Action Collaborative is “to function as a community and neighborhood development organization for the unincorporated town of Alsea and surrounding rural areas located in Benton, Lincoln, and Lane counties.” The vision of ACAC is to work with the Alsea community to strengthen safety, stability, and sustainability to create a community where our kids can have bright futures. The activities of ACAC have been and will remain entirely community driven through community outreach, input, and evaluation to determine paths to improvement desired by the community in general.

The Board of Alsea Community Action Collaborative wants to thank the Alsea Community Effort Board (ACE) for providing grant sponsorship when ACAC was a subcommittee of ACE, offering the Alsea Library Community Room as a meeting space for community improvement activities, and maintaining the Alsea Valley Voice (AVV), which serves as a vehicle for community outreach. The work the ACE Board does in maintaining the library, publishing and distributing the AVV, and overseeing projects that are of importance to the well-being and vitality of the Alsea community and has the full support of ACAC.

ACAC will continue to work on the project of reopening the Alsea Clinic, to provide administrative support for the reemerging Alsea Citizen Advisory Committee, and to maintain and create partnerships with outside actors and agencies to address the list of unmet needs as identified by the Alsea community during ongoing community meetings starting in 2022. Grant funding will be obtained for operations of ACAC and for new and emerging community improvement projects.

If you would like to join these important efforts and projects to strengthen our community as a volunteer, all are welcome. There are possibilities for varying levels of participation from something as simple as posting flyers to the broader responsibilities of being a board member. ACAC also welcomes community input, ideas, or feedback about projects and processes.

Emily Blake kindly created a Facebook page for ACAC, which is a work in process. If you want to keep up with our activities, please follow us at facebook.com/alseacommunityactioncollaborative

For more information, to volunteer, or to offer input, please feel free to contact:

Sara Cash, Project Coordinator
Alsea Community Action Collaborative
PO Box 121, Alsea, OR 97324
acac97324@gmail.com / 541-602-7819

Naomi Shadwick, President
shadwick@casco.net / 541-801-0333



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Bummer Creek

Mountain Views
Nature Trails & Creek
Disc Golf

Alsea CAC and the Countywide Comprehensive Plan Rewrite

by Mimi Stout

Because Alsea is an unincorporated community, the Alsea Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) is the only organization officially recognized by the county and state government. Its purpose is to act as liaison between our community and the county commissioners. Its main duty is advising the county commissioners on land use issues, but the role of CAC will be expanding to help work with the county to address the pressing needs in the Alsea community. In a miraculous coincidence, the county decided to review and update its countywide Comprehensive Plan at the same time that Alsea asked to rejuvenate the CAC. Since zoning regulations are based on the Comprehensive Plan, this is basic to what we will be able to do with our land and community.

The CAC needs 5 new committee members (3 voting and 2 alternates). These people will need to make wise and fair decisions that will affect their friends, neighbors and the community as a whole. The alternates are on the committee to be able to step in and vote if a voting member has a conflict of interest. This means all members of the committee must attend all meetings. To make this easier we are planning to let members and the public attend using Zoom if they prefer.

In order to perform their duties, CAC members will need to study the 15 Statewide Planning Goals, the current Comprehensive Plan, current zoning laws, the public meetings law, and the CAC bylaws. They will be encouraged to testify at planning commission or state hearings that affect our community and/or its citizens. Their main duty will be the updating of the Comprehensive Plan. Since the CAC will be allowed to appoint committees, there is hope that if we can find volunteers, we can also address some of the community's most pressing concerns. Find the Statewide Planning Goals here, 15 of which apply to Alsea:

<https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/op/pages/goals.aspx>

More information is available on the Alsea CAC webpage, which is a work in progress at:

<https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov/benton-county-alsea-cac-citizen-advisory-committees/>

There may be some rough spots as we will be bringing in many new CAC members while at the same time the county is completely reorganizing their Development Department with a lot of new people too.

In addition, the State has run out of land to house its people, but still wants to preserve its agricultural land. The farmers themselves are getting older, and their knowledge, and sometimes their land, will be passed on. Alsea is the first CAC to be reorganized in Benton County. If we can come up with any ways to solve these housing and rural land use concerns, it might help the entire state.

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An Invitation to Apply to the Alsea Citizen Advisory Committee

Are you able to contribute your time to help shape Alsea's future? Do you like to discuss community issues and take action to strengthen the Alsea community? Consider applying for the Alsea Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is a group of Alsea area citizens, landowners, and business owners that examines community issues and provides recommendations to the Benton County Board of Commissioners. You can read more about the expectations for committee members in the article on page 16 by Mimi Stout, current Alsea CAC chairman.

Because Alsea is unincorporated, there is no governmental structure to work on behalf of community issues. In response to this dynamic, the Alsea CAC, which is legally recognized by Benton County and the State of Oregon, is being expanded to work on more than just land use issues for the Alsea community. This project came about at the request of Benton County and the Alsea Community Action Collaborative (ACAC).

Applications for the committee are open to all those who live, rent, own property, or have a business in Alsea and outlying areas that are part of Benton County. To be an effective advocate on behalf of the entire Alsea community, the CAC needs representation from all areas of the community. Are you a renter? Do you rent or own property in the village itself? Do you or your household have specific needs and perspectives that would be an important part of community wide conversations about the future of Alsea? Do you identify with an underrepresented part of the community and wish you had a place for your voice to be heard? Please do not hesitate to apply if you would like to participate because nominations are open to all.

There are 3 regular member positions (voting) and 2 alternate member (nonvoting) positions available. Alternates are required to attend all meetings. Please expect a mailing from Benton County with an application form or use the digital version, which will be posted to the Alsea CAC page soon. The Alsea CAC page is in development with information on the Alsea CAC, planned county projects in Alsea, and more. Check it out at <https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov/benton-county-alsea-cac-citizen-advisory-committees/> Paper applications can be dropped off at the library during regular open hours or mailed to:

Alsea Community Action Collaborative
PO Box 121
Alsea OR 97324

Applications are due by noon on June 24, 2024. After a silent vote by attendees, the current CAC will select a slate of members for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on July 1, 2024, at the regular public monthly meeting of the Alsea CAC, which is held in the Alsea Library Community Room and on Zoom. The Benton County Board of Commissioners then appoints the committee members, who will take their seats at the August 5, 2024 meeting at 6pm at the Alsea Community Library Meeting Room.

If you have questions about this communication or the Alsea CAC;
If you need help accessing an application;
If you need assistance attending an Alsea CAC meeting in person or by Zoom;
If you would like to join the Alsea CAC email list to keep up with Alsea CAC news;

please contact Sara Cash, Project Coordinator for the Alsea Community Action Collaborative, who is providing liaison and communication assistance to the Alsea CAC at:

541-602-7819 / acac97324@gmail.com

Ongoing Uncertainty in Federal Funding for Community Health Centers

By Christine Mosbaugh, Strategy and Engagement Manager, Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties

In previous issues of the Alsea Valley Voice, we discussed the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a federal program that supports community health center (CHC) services across 1,400 organizations and 15,000 sites in the US. HRSA provides structure, funding, and guidance for primary care, dental, and behavioral health services offered in the largest primary care system in the country.

Locally, HRSA funds most of the Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties through a 'base grant'. However, the Alsea Health Center does not receive a base grant. When Benton County partnered with the Alsea Rural Health Center in 2015, opportunities to add new sites were not available. At that time, the county's financial situation allowed us to support the Alsea Health Center without a base grant.

Now, post-COVID and with changes in Medicaid payment structures in Oregon, the lack of a base grant has created financial challenges for the Alsea Health Center. Additionally, recruiting and retaining a regular provider and engaging enough patients to sustain the clinic have been significant hurdles.

The CHC of Benton and Linn Counties continues to wait for HRSA to announce opportunities for New Access Point (NAP) grants, the only way to secure base grant funding for Alsea. Despite a slight increase in HRSA funding for community health centers in the March 2024 federal budget, there has been no confirmation about the availability of NAP grants. We are in a holding pattern, waiting for definite news.

If NAP grants are not available, we will need to reassess community needs, resources, and consider offering outreach services in Alsea. However, if we reestablish services in Alsea before knowing about NAP grant opportunities, we will become ineligible for future funds. We know this uncertainty is challenging for everyone involved. We are practicing patience and hoping for clear information soon.

Meanwhile, the Alsea Community Action Collaborative (ACAC), community members, and CHC staff continue to meet. We aim to listen to and support community-based health initiatives and explore creative ideas for health services in Alsea.

Do you have innovative ideas for improving health services in Alsea? We would love to hear from you. Please reach out to ACAC or Christine Mosbaugh at Christine.mosbaugh@bentoncountyor.gov with your suggestions. We're all ears!



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We Need a Highway 34 Committee!

by Sara Cash

The Hwy 34 Scenic Byway Management Plan Steering Committee Meeting is reconvening after a COVID induced hiatus to update and oversee implementation of the Scenic Byway Management Plan. I was invited to represent Alsea through my role as Project Coordinator for the Alsea Community Action Collaborative (ACAC) and attended a kickoff meeting on May 16, 2024, with representation from communities along the highway from Tangent to Waldport. This proved to be a great place to share news with our neighbors and to advocate for Alsea highway safety, tourism, and economic development issues.

Alsea and Alsea Falls are a pivotal part of the Scenic Byway, which is called "A Working Landscape." You can read the management plan here; <https://ocwcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Marys-Peak-to-Pacific-Corridor-Management-Plan-Updated-July-2018.pdf>. There is a downloadable app that is an interactive auto tour of the scenic byway, which you can access here <https://travelstorys.com/tours/marys-peak-to-pacific-scenic-byway>

Before the next meeting, which will be sometime in mid to late July, there is work that needs to be done by Alsea to facilitate activities for the plan along our stretch of the highway and the side trip to Alsea Falls. I am hoping interested community members will join an ad hoc workgroup to work on this project, which could have significant impact on important issues like visitor dollars and highway maintenance and improvements. This is a great opportunity to be involved in a long-term but low commitment activity that will have long term positive effects for our community. Current tasks are determining the level of Alsea involvement in the project, road hazard identification, updating the management plan, and developing signage materials and planning for the Alsea Valley to the Lincoln County line.

If you have questions or input or would like to participate in the workgroup, please contact Sara Cash at 541-602-7819 or acac97324@gmail.com

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A Wildfire Resistant Yard Can be Beautiful

“Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes - Reduce Wildfire Risk with Proper Plant Selection and Placement” is a beautiful and very informative publication!

It offers suggestions for fire-resistant plants and other resources for a beautiful yard while also improving the chance your home will survive a wild fire.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-590-fire-resistant-plants-home-landscapes>

Authors: Amy Jo Detweiler, Stephen Fitzgerald, Ariel Cowan, Neil Bell and Thomas Stokely

It'll help you design a beautiful landscape that also takes into account the wildfire-significant “Home Ignition Zone” which includes your home and everything within 100 feet. Note: Fires spread more easily on slopes so on steeper slopes this fire-sensitive zone can extend as far as 200 feet.

In this publication you'll find links to many beautiful and helpful PNW-specific extension articles, such as these:

- *Fire-resistant plant profiles: Groundcovers*
- *Fire-resistant plant profiles: Perennials*
- *Fire-resistant plant profiles: Broadleaf evergreens*
- *Fire-resistant plant profiles: Shrubs*
- *Fire-resistant plant profiles: Trees*

You'll also find links to these sites:

- *The Combustibility of Landscape Mulches, SP-11-04, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension*
- *The Home Ignition Zone: Protecting Your Property from Wildfire, EM 9247*
- *Keeping Your Home and Property Safe from Wildfire: A Defensible Space and Fuel Reduction Guide for Homeowners and Landowners, EM 9184*
- *Oregon Defensible Space*
- *Fire publications and resources from OSU Extension*
- *Wildlife-Friendly Fuels Reduction in Dry Forests of the Pacific Northwest,*
- *Oregon Flora*
- *Oregon State University landscape plants*

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People Get Ready, Wildfire, Hurricane Seasons Just Ahead

The 2024 wildfire and hurricane seasons are on the horizon and the American Red Cross urges everyone to make their preparations now.

Experts predict a slow start to wildfire season because vegetation that typically feeds wildfires is wet, and in some areas, under snow. However, the story could change in late May and continue through the summer as fuels dry out, leading to an above-average risk for wildfires in the Southwest and Great Basin, namely Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Nevada and Utah. Hawaii also faces an above-average risk for fires.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially runs from June 1 through November 30 and early forecasts indicate there could be a near-record number of storms this year. Experts even warn that the first named storm could form before the season begins. They are calling for as many as 25 named storms with 4 to 6 having a direct impact on the U.S.

CLIMATE CRISIS The effects of the climate crisis continue to mount a devastating toll. This year's outlook is part of a years-long trend of more frequent and intense hurricanes and wildfires related to climate conditions. In the last 10 years, the number of billion-dollar U.S. disasters has increased 85%. And hurricanes have accounted for eight of the 10 most costly weather disasters.

GET READY NOW If you live in areas prone to hurricanes or wildfires, now is the perfect time to get prepared. May is Wildfire Awareness Month and National Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 5-11. There are simple steps you can take to be prepared:

1. **Create an evacuation plan.** Plan what to do in case you are separated from your family during an emergency and if you have to evacuate. Coordinate your plan with your child's school, your work and your community's emergency plans. Plan multiple routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for pets. **If you already have an emergency plan, update it and review with household members so everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.**
2. **Build an emergency kit** with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, first aid kit, medications, supplies for an infant and pets if applicable, a multi-purpose tool, personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, extra cash, blankets, maps of the area and emergency contact information. **If you already have a disaster kit, make sure the food and water is still okay to consume and that copies of important documents are up to date.**
3. **Be informed.** Find out how local officials will contact you during a disaster and how you will get important information, such as evacuation orders.

Download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for weather alerts, open Red Cross shelter locations and safety steps for different emergencies. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all of the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to [redcross.org/apps](https://www.redcross.org/apps).

Continued on Page 22

Continued from Page 21

People Get Ready, Wildfire, Hurricane Seasons Just Ahead - continued

In addition to taking these preparedness steps, we also have important safety information available for you on [hurricanes](#) and [wildfires](#).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Because of the climate crisis, the Red Cross is now launching nearly twice as many relief operations for major disasters than we did a decade ago. This growing need for assistance is prompting us to increase our volunteer capacity so we can continue responding on a near-constant basis.

The need to help during disasters has never been greater. Join us to provide relief and hope when it matters most.

Visit redcross.org/volunteertoday to sign up for opportunities with your local chapter. Our most-needed disaster positions include supporting shelters and providing health services.

- **SHELTER SUPPORT:** Help at a shelter during a large disaster by welcoming and registering residents, serving meals, setting up cots, distributing blankets and personal hygiene kits, and providing information and other assistance to people in need.
- **HEALTH SERVICES:** We also need volunteers who can use their professional skills as a licensed health care provider to deliver hands-on support, including care and education to people staying at a shelter during a large disaster. Qualified licenses include RN, LPN, LVN, EMT, Paramedic, MD, DO, PA, NP and APRN.
- **DISASTER ACTION TEAM:** While big disasters get the most news coverage, smaller emergencies, such as home fires, are no less devastating to those affected. Join your local Disaster Action Team to help families in need by providing food, lodging, comfort, recovery assistance and other support.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.



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Alsea’s New Azure Standard Drop

Alsea now has a drop for Azure Standard! For those who aren’t familiar, Azure Standard is a family owned and independent company based in Oregon dedicated to providing carefully chosen, affordable organic, natural and non-GMO groceries, health, household, and garden products. The website has over 12,000 products!

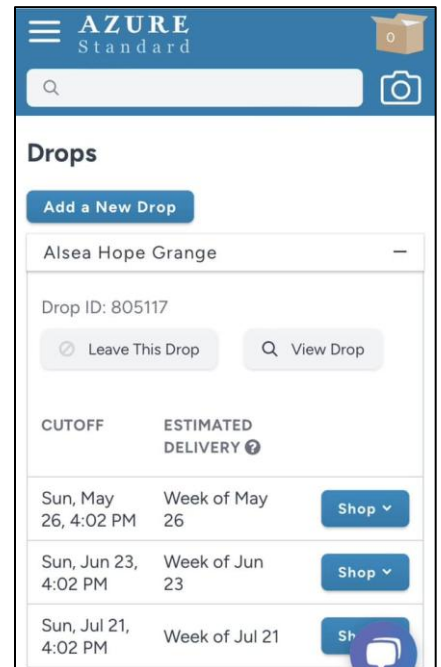
Azure is not a physical store - you place your order online and then pick up your order on a certain date at your nearest drop point. When you set up your Azure account, you select a drop. Then shop, check out, pay, and on the specified date at your chosen drop point, you go and pick up your purchases.

We have a new monthly drop at Alsea Hope Grange! (Previously, we had to go to a drop in Waldport.) Everyone’s June orders need to be done online by Sunday, June 23rd at 4pm and will be delivered sometime the week of June 24th (exact details on date and time of delivery will be announced by Azure when the orders close). Anyone is welcome to join the drop.

Azure is a terrific source for a wide range of bulk food (25/50+ lb bags of every kind of dried goods, etc), frozen products, supplements, and so much more. Buying bulk is a great way to save money and trips to the grocery store. If anyone has any questions or needs assistance in the signing up and ordering process, contact Sylvia Frazier at (603) 852-2971.

Go here: www.azurestandard.com to sign up and order. You can add things to your cart anytime before 6/23 for this month’s drop. Be sure to add Alsea Hope Grange as your drop!

Add Alsea Hope Grange as your drop:



Alsea Community Champions - Pledge Form

I (we) will contribute \$_____ towards the Alsea Library Community Center operations, Maintenance Fund, and/or Alsea Valley Voice newsletter. Please make checks payable to Alsea Community Effort, or A.C.E., and mail donations to 19192 Alsea Hwy, Alsea, OR 97234. You can also drop donations off at the library.

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- I (we) would like my donation to remain anonymous
- Please contact me(us) to set up automatic deduction payments

REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT/NAME	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	PHONE NUMBER
Alsea Community Effort Board Meeting	Online - Zoom	3 rd Thurs Monthly	6:30pm	541-487-5061
Alsea Fire Dept. Board Meeting	Alsea Fire Hall	Last Tues Monthly	7:00pm	541-487-8701
Alsea Fire Dept. General Meeting		Wednesdays	7:00pm	
Alsea 4-H Small Animal Club		1 st & 3 rd Thurs Monthly	6:00pm	541-207-6552
Alsea Wolverines Booster Club				503-740-9639
Alsea Food Bank	Jeni's Place	Thursdays	10:00am-4:00pm	541-487-3663
Alsea Garden Club	ACF Church	2 nd Sat Monthly	12:00pm	541-760-3856
Men's Bible Study	ACF Church	1 st Sat Monthly	8:00am	541-487-4442
Alsea HOPE Grange	Grange Hall	1 st Thurs Monthly	6:00pm	541-486-4215
Line Dance Class		Mondays	6:00pm	541-452-1919
Alsea School Board Meeting	School Library	2 nd Thurs Monthly	7:00pm	541-487-4305
Alsea Valley Gleaners Distribution	18889 Haines Rd	Fridays	2:00pm-7:00pm	503-951-2499
Stitch and Rip Quilting Club	Various (please call)	Mondays	10:00am-3:00pm	541-487-8011
Alsea Kitchen Club	Alsea Library	2 nd or 3 rd Sun Monthly	2:00-4:00pm	503-255-8055

Check out the full Alsea Valley Community Calendar at www.alseaoregon.us

ALSEA VALLEY VOICE

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