

March - April 2025



Alsea Valley Voice



Retiring ACE Board Member Eddy Provost, Melissa Owens and Mary Jackson
(see page 4 for article)

Alsea Valley Voice

March - April 2025

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Letter From the Editor

By Kathy Adair

Spring has come for the trees and plants, sending forth new growth and blooms of celebration. In spite of the rain, I am having lots of conversations around gardening and weather. There is a definite excitement to start the growing season, but danger of frost is still a factor. The usual rule of thumb here in the Alsea Basin area is to wait until Mary's Peak is clear of snow. That seems to be a pretty good barometer for planting the garden. Current forecasts look like this will be a good season for gardens, so we are looking forward to a hopeful bounty.

Please continue to send articles of information and better yet, fun happenings in your area. This paper is all about YOU, our community and this special part of our state.

If you would like to submit an article, please let me know. The next deadline for article submission will be **May 15th, 2025**. This will be for the May/June 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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The advertisement features a light blue background with a stylized mountain range. In the center, several hands hold up various digital devices displaying different content: a smartphone with a magazine cover, a tablet with the Kanopy logo and '1000's of movies to watch', a smartphone with a book cover, and another smartphone with a book cover. A speaker icon is also present, indicating audiobook availability.




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Musings from the ACE President

Alsea Community Effort (ACE) Board members met with Corvallis - Benton County library staff in February (including our own local library specialist Katherine Koetz) to discuss library programming and how ACE can support library efforts. As a result, the library will be contributing stories to the Alsea Valley Voice and will launch a social media campaign to make Alsea community members aware of digital books and free delivery services. Board members are also working with Friends and Foundation of the Library to fundraise for the **Alsea Community Library Legacy Fund**. The Legacy Fund is restricted to be used to pay for long-term maintenance of the Alsea Library Building. You can donate to the Alsea Community Library Legacy Fund by visiting the Friends and Foundation website at <https://www.cbcpfriendsandfoundation.org/give-now> and the online portal will allow you to designate the Alsea Community Library Legacy Fund for your gift.

With a little melancholy and mostly joy, I announce that long-time Alsea resident and ACE Board member Eddy Provost resigned from the Board at the end of March. Eddy and his partner Mary Jackson have sold their lovely farm and disc golf course on Bummer Creek and look forward to adventuring along the canals in Europe. Eddy served on the Board during a time of transition. His passion, creativity, and good ideas were greatly appreciated. Eddy was the volunteer project manager for both the library roof replacement in 2023 and the HVAC system replacement in 2024. He also served as a member of the Benton County Planning Department and helped the Board move towards closer partnerships with Benton County agencies. Eddy and Mary hosted a Bon Voyage and Welcome celebration in March that included the new owner of their property, Melissa Owens. Welcome, Melissa.

And, speaking of Eddy's accomplishments, I have great news to share. Eddy's last project was to get the exterior of the building painted. Eddy developed a scope of work and solicited bids from contractors, supported fund raising efforts, and managed communications with the rest of the Board. I am happy to share that the project has now been fully funded by the Alsea Community Legacy Fund and the Roundhouse Foundation. This will lead to the project being completed this summer. Since Eddy will likely not be here to participate, he has turned project management responsibilities over to volunteer Phil Plaza. Phil will keep the Board, library stakeholders, and the community apprised of progress on the project. Thank you, Eddy and Phil.

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

Meredith Howell, ACE President



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Benton County Community Update – City of Alsea

Water and Sewer Projects

The upgrades and maintenance to the Alsea water system have been completed. Focus is now turned to the upgrades at the sewer treatment plant. Final design commenced on the plans in late January and are expected to be completed by the middle of summer. Progress is being made on the funding agreement with EPA for the funds needed to complete the upgrades, so we are hopeful that we will maintain the late 2025, early 2026 bid advertisement schedule. However, as previously mentioned, the entire schedule is contingent on EPA finalizing the agreement, and the funds being released.

Volunteer with Benton County Emergency Management

Make a difference in your community with the new Benton County Emergency Management Volunteer Corps! These trainings are a dynamic opportunity for community members to gain essential skills and take part in vital emergency and disaster preparedness efforts. For more information, head to bit.ly/4io2ZOB

Call for Input: Comprehensive Plan

If you missed the community outreach meeting on March 3 for the County's Comprehensive Plan Update, you can still let us know what's important to you! Take the survey and let us know what matters most to you. For more information, head to bit.ly/421SKd9

How do you learn about health?

The Benton County Health Department wants to share health information in a better way. We need your help! Take a 15-minute survey to help us improve how we communicate with you. You can also enter to win 1 of 6 gift cards worth \$50! Your answers are private. If you choose to enter the drawing, your email will only be used for the giveaway. For more information, head to bit.ly/3R5FLkl

Help Us Make Roads Safer

Benton County is developing a Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) to make roads safer for everyone. The County is focusing on rural roads shared by trucks, bicyclists, and other travelers. Attend an open house to share your safety concerns and help shape future improvements.

- April 2 – Adair Village Officer's Club
- April 3 – Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
- April 9 – Monroe Community Library

Family-friendly activities and Spanish interpretation available at all events. For more information: bit.ly/422Ni9T



Reproductive Health Survey



Share your feedback:
bit.ly/RH-Survey2025

*Survey closes 4/18/2025



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Library Lines

by Kathy Koetz

As winter gives way to spring (it will, right?), there is so much to get done outside to make lawns, flower gardens and vegetable gardens ready for the next big weather change. A relatively mild winter gives us hope of the same for spring and summer. Our growing season seems to be longer than what I remember as a child, but I didn't have to start plants from seeds then. I let the grownups do it. Now I do, however, have to get the ground ready, get the trees and shrubs pruned and generally take care of it all if I want it to look good and/or produce the abundance that I will need for next winter.

We have books and videos to help you figure out most everything that you need to know to grow your own fruits and veggies. Stop by and we can help you find just what you need.

Have you used your library card to get movies from Kanopy? Or videos on Kanopy for Kids? These are both available from our website and free with your library card. Or maybe you like to use ebooks or audiobooks? We also have those! Both Libby and the Cloud Library have great ebooks and audiobooks available with your library card.

Teens, tweens and adults had a great time March 12th having an indoor Nerf Night! After our last one November we found Nerf darts everywhere for ages. Looks like the hunt is on again...and so is the planning for next time!

Summer Reading Begins June 1st. Most Alsea Programs will be Thursday afternoon at 2:00 pm. Stay tuned for a calendar of events coming soon.

Dates to remember:



April 1 – Lego Day! 3:30-4:30

April 22 – Crafternoon 3:30-4:30

May 6 – Lego Day! 3:30-4:30


May 27 – Crafternoon 3:30-4:30



Health Navigation

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Health Navigator

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Alsea 4H Update

By Samantha Pedder

Alsea Valley Livestock 4H Club is starting their 2nd year with large animal projects. Last year was a learning year for many of us, but we all stuck it out and are returning for another year of learning. Our members worked extra hard last year at the fair since our numbers were low, but they did great and never gave up, even in the heat. They all showed their animals well for both Showmanship & Market and had great rewards in auction as well. We gained two new members this year bringing our member count to nine. Our members and project animals are: Megan VanLeuven (Steer), Piper Pedder (Steer), Lane VanLeuven (Sheep), Chloe Pedder (Sheep), Evie Taylor (Sheep), Jude Wilson (Swine), Emmy Foster (Swine), Kade Webb (Swine), and Jordyn Smallwood (Swine).

This year we are hoping to do more fundraising and get our group out in the community more. We held a bake sale during the Clemens Holiday Basketball Tournament and want to thank all the supporters who bought yummy treats during that event. Next up: A can and bottle drive slated for May 31st (the weekend after Memorial Day). Start saving your cans and bottles and give any member a shout to collect them. If you aren't able to get in touch with a member, please text or leave a message with Samantha Pedder at 541-740-1596. We will make a plan to send a 4H member to collect that morning, or if needed, arrange a different time. We will also accept drop off donations at the fire department the morning of May 31st. The Merc is also willing to be a drop off location starting May 1st and you can drop there during normal business hours. Just let them know that it is for the 4H fundraiser.

Looking ahead - The deadline has passed to enroll in 4H for this year, but if you have a child interested or would just like to learn more please reach out. We would love to grow our group. To enroll with our group there is an age requirement of at least 9 years old by September 1st. Our group leaders are Ryan and Kari VanLeuven (rkvanleuven03@gmail.com) and assistant leaders are Tracy Foster and Samantha Pedder.

**ALSEA VALLEY LIVESTOCK
4H CLUB
CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 31ST AT ALSEA FIRE
DEPARTMENT STARTING AT 9AM**




**IF YOU HAVE CANS/BOTTLES FOR US TO PICK UP
PLEASE LET ANY 4H MEMBER KNOW
OR TEXT/LEAVE MESSAGE 541-740-1596.**

**IF ITS EASIER FOR YOU. YOU CAN DROP THEM OFF TO THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT MORNING. THE MERC WILL ALSO
ACCEPT DROP OFF DONATIONS STARTING MAY 1ST. JUST
LET THEM KNOW THEY ARE FOR THE 4H FUNDRAISER.**

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Alsea Wolverines Booster Club Family Skate Night

Alsea Wolverines Booster Club is partnering with NW Skateland for a Family Skate Night:

When: April 18th 6pm-8pm

Where: Alsea School Playshed

Price: \$10 individual skate / \$30 family pass (up to 5 skaters)

Please complete the registration to reserve skates at tinyurl.com/alseaskate or scan the QR code: → → →



Boosters needs your help!

We all know the saying "It takes a village" and that couldn't be truer in Alsea. The Alsea Wolverines Booster Club's purpose is to plan, develop, implement, and administer programs and projects that connect with other providers and support Alsea Valley families and individuals with a focus on education, health, and wellness as it relates to sports activities, safety, and involvement of the Alsea youth in community projects.

This mission has so much potential and is limited only at this time because "the village" is small (3 board members). The Alsea Wolverines Booster Club Board needs more people who are passionate about creating a supportive community for the youth of Alsea.

We all have the same 24 hours in a day and time commitment is a hurdle for us all. The booster club board meetings are monthly and typically last an hour via zoom, and from there we delegate tasks and projects for the club and Alsea community.

Please email us at info@alseaboosters.org if you have a passion to BOOST the Alsea Youth!

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Events at Alsea Christian Fellowship

Liberty Quartet's "Rally the Valley"

A good old fashioned country gospel music event

Alsea Christian Fellowship April 6th at 6pm

All welcome! A great family time!



You are invited to a free Easter Party Club!

Snacks – Games – Songs – Bible Story – Crafts

April 19th 1pm - 3pm at Alsea Christian Fellowship

Presented by Child Evangelism Fellowship of Benton County

Pre-registration recommended: <https://cefbentoncounty.org>

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Alsea School District Update

by Krista Nieraeth, M.Ed

As spring begins, Alsea Charter School celebrates the achievements of our staff and students!

We honored students with 90% or better attendance during the first semester with t-shirts and certificates. We were able to honor over 100 of our students!! Thank you to our families' commitment to daily school attendance.

Our Kindergarten/1st grade class is building a garden near the playshed, raising worms to enrich the soil and planting seeds. We appreciate Davis Family Farms for supporting this project. After-school enrichment programs in pottery, culinary arts, choir, and dance have also begun this spring. Our MS/HS Leadership class is participating in the SMART program, reading with Kindergarten/1st grade students each week—a program that has proven successful and will continue next year.

Alsea Charter School hosted a "Literacy on the Farm" night on March 18th for our families to come engage in fun literacy activities. We also hosted a Scholastic Book Fair for our students to be able to purchase new books to take home and read! Thank you to all who volunteered to help put on these two very important events for our school.

In January, sophomores and juniors toured Western Oregon University and Chemeketa Community College, and some juniors and seniors attended the Corvallis Career Fair with over 700 students and 50+ employers. They also participated in mock interviews at the Career Fair to help develop those employment skills.

Congratulations to our Middle School Boys Basketball 'A' team for winning the league tournament and to our high school players: Nate Allen (1st Team All-League), Kyler Campbell (2nd Team All-League), Gavan Hinchberger (Honorable Mention All-League), and Tamarra O'Brien (All-League Defensive Team). Two of our student athletes, Kendra Stone and Callie Rariden, are participating in OHSET with their horses. We are proud of these two girls for working hard in this sport. For spring sports, we are co-opting with Monroe High School for baseball and fielding track teams for both high school and junior high.

The School Board is using data from the Strategic Planning Survey to create priorities for the district. Community members are welcome to attend upcoming work sessions this spring.

The Alsea Class of 2025 Commencement will take place on Friday, June 6th, with details to be shared on our Facebook page in May. The last day of school is June 12th.

The School Board adopted the 2025–2026 Academic Calendar at the February meeting. The upcoming calendar can be found here: <https://alsea.k12.or.us/calendars/>

School Board meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. Check <https://alsea.k12.or.us/board/minutes-agendas/> for dates and agendas.







For updates, visit our website at www.alsea.k12.or.us or follow us on Facebook. GO WOLVERINES!



90% Attendance

AT ALSEA, ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Semester 1





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- ✓ Prices lowered on Saturday
- ✓ Sunday: No book over \$1 in addition to box/bag deals

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April 11th, Friday

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Donors Only Early Entrance
Not a donor yet?

Gain access with a donation of \$10 or more!

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Open to the Public

April 12th, Saturday

9:00 am to 5:00 pm - Open to the Public

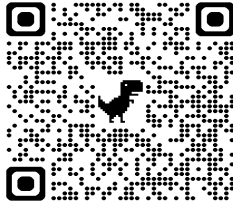
April 13th, Sunday

10:00 am to 3:00 pm - Open to the Public

Alsea Hope Grange Happenings

Easter Egg Hunt - April 19th, 11 am

Free for children up to age 11. Pre-registration is open but not required – it just helps us know how many children to expect. You can go to our Facebook page or scan the QR code for the registration form:



Spring Quilt Raffle - Now until April 19th

Drawing to be held at Easter Egg Hunt

Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. All proceeds go towards projects at the Grange. Tickets are being sold at the Merc or can be purchased at the event on April 19th. You can also message the Grange on Facebook, email alseahopegrange@gmail.com or reach out to any Grange member. For pictures of quilt please visit facebook.com/alseagrangerange or check out flyer at the Merc.

Any other Grange related questions please reach out to alseahopegrange@gmail.com!

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OR Call Mary Ann Carr at
541-487-7364 & leave a message.

Alsea Community Action Collaborative Update

by Sara Cash, Project Coordinator

If you have a project, question, or an idea that ACAC might help with, contact Naomi Shadwick at shadwick@casco.net or Sara Cash at acac97324@gmail.com or 541-602-7819.

Current Informal Research: ACAC and Benton County need input from the community on a few issues. Please reach out to Sara at the contacts above if you have input on water quality in the village, speed of motorists on Hwy 34 through the village, Wi-Fi access in outlying areas near the cell tower above the village, or other concerns you may have.

Upcoming Population Survey: Early planning starts soon for the vital project of doing a population survey of the Alsea community to gather correct data for grant applications to improve the community. Rough plans are that the survey will happen this summer. Stay tuned for more on this important way that you can help your community.

Countywide Comprehensive Community Plan Rewrite: Alsea Community Action Collaborative continues to provide technical, logistical and facilitation support for Alsea Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. The March Alsea CAC meeting was a joint meeting with the BentonBelieves! communitywide comprehensive plan outreach group from Benton County Community Development. Shannon Bush, interim Planning Director for Benton County, and John Seaman, newly hired Code Compliance officer, were in attendance. The meeting was highly informative and interactive, gathering ideas for the main three focus areas for county planning for the next few decades, particularly in the rural areas of the county. Outreach will continue in other Benton County communities over the next few weeks. Agreement at the public meeting, attended by 18 people, was that workforce housing investment and changes to land use zoning are vital to Alsea to help staff the community-based services like the school and clinic. For more information on this project, please visit <https://bentonbelieves.com/>

Board and Staff Development: The ACAC board now includes Naomi Shadwick, President, Mimi Stout, Treasurer and Historian, Sara Cash, Secretary, Jim Rea, Infrastructure, and Tim O'Neill, Emergency Preparedness.

Our most important staffing need at this time is for a Social Media Manager who is adept at online communications and could assume a growing role starting off as a personal contractor. If you are looking for some very part-time paid work to give back to the community, please reach out. Experience in graphics and materials development would be an added plus.

we're hoping to hire a Social Media Manager

Alsea Community Action Collaborative
contact Sara Cash at
acac97324@gmail.com or 541-602-7819



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Note from the Editor - The email below is from Gary Stockhoff, Benton County Director of Public Works, to Janet Hendrix giving an update of water and sewer systems in Alsea. Much of this is verified on page 5 in the Benton County Update for Alsea.

Note from Sara Cash - Please bring your questions and concerns on this or any other community topic to the next meeting of the Alsea CAC on May 5th 6-8 pm at the Alsea Community Library Community Room. The Alsea CAC will try to have someone from Benton County Public Works at that meeting to answer questions. At the very least, the Alsea CAC can compile a list of items from the community to submit to Public Works. The public is encouraged to attend the ongoing Alsea CAC meetings, which are always the first Monday of the month at the Alsea Library from 6-8. If the first Monday is a federal holiday, the Alsea CAC meets the second Monday of the month.

If you have questions or concerns, you can also direct those to Janet Hendrix at janethendrix54@hotmail.com; or Sara Cash, Benton County Planning Commissioner, at acac97324@gmail.com or 541-602-7819 call or text.

Dear Ms. Hendrix -

The issue of capacity in the existing water and sewer systems in Alsea is complex. It is impossible to tell you there is a specific number of water or sewer connections available. The condition and limitations of the current systems are the primary contributing factor as to what capacity is available and what isn't available. Some of the more critical issues are listed below:

1. In the past few years the sewer system has exceeded the maximum daily flow as set forth by the DEQ. It has only been on a handful of occasions , but DEQ is aware of them. The exceedances typically occur in the winter, and during heavy rain events. Storm runoff infiltrates the system, and causes daily flows to go up. The upcoming system improvements may help with this situation somewhat, but until the improvements are done we'll not know for sure.
2. Due to the unknown benefits of the new pumps and such we would be hard pressed to say the sewer system as presently constituted has much, if any, additional capacity.
3. Any proposed in-fill project would be required to perform a sewer needs analysis. The analysis would need to be completed by a licensed professional engineer. Based on the outcome of the analysis there MAY be an opportunity to connect to the existing sewer system. However, any additional sewer connections may also require the approval of DEQ. At the very least Benton County would review and approve any future connection applications.
4. There is some capacity in the water system. However, a similar water needs analysis would need to be completed for any proposed in-fill project. Once again there MAY be an opportunity to connect to the existing water system.
5. The engineering analysis for sewer connections will be required prior to and after the current improvements being constructed.
6. Expansion outside of the existing boundaries of the water and sewer districts will be a heavy lift. Both on the land use side of the coin, and on the technical analysis of water/ sewer needs on the other side.
7. We are working with EPA and our engineering consultant to finalize the plans for the sewer improvements. We hope to be under construction with the improvements in late 2025 or early 2026, but the exact time frame depends on EPA releasing the funds.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on this information, or if I can track down any additional information. Have a great Wednesday and rest of your week.

ALSEA SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION RESUMES THIS SUMMER

By Nancy Giggy

More exciting changes are happening at the Alsea Schools! Although construction of our new CTE building is now complete, we are continuing to make improvements to our facilities, not only improving the structural strength of our buildings, but improving their safety for our students, staff, and community. Two major projects will be completed this summer.

Thanks to a state-sponsored Seismic Grant, our construction team is moving forward with beefing up the structure of the gym, stage and locker rooms, as well as adjacent office spaces, this summer. This is the first of three potential projects. The School District has also applied for a second grant to improve the structure of the high school wing. If successful, design for that next step will begin later this year and we will request a third grant to improve safety in the elementary wing.

In addition, the school is replacing and expanding its current fire alarm system, again boosting safety for our students, staff and community.

Because of the size and complexity of the structural upgrades, the gym will be closed most of the summer to accommodate the construction crews. Work will begin in the locker rooms before school is out to ensure that everything is completed in time for next year's school activities. Work in the gym will begin immediately after the school year ends.

We want to thank you for your patience and support while we make these improvements to our schools. While they will not be as visible as our awesome new CTE building, they will strengthen our school and improve safety for years to come.

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April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month!

In light of that and concern for accidents leading to death, the Highway 20 Safety Group & Citizens Advisory Coalition, a group of nearly 1500 concerned citizens, are having a Safety Drive on Saturday, April 12th in Blodgett (across from the Blodgett Store) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This free event will provide information on distracted driving and driving safely. Free bumpers stickers while supplies last! We also want to bring more awareness to our group and our goals.



Let's work together to make Highway 20 and all rural highways safer for all of us! Find us on Facebook (serch for Highway 20 Safety Group) or contact Michelle Flamez for more information: (541) 453-6386.



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Celebrating





ACE Art News

Announcing Charles Swank's "INNERWORLDS" Exhibit

April 1 – June 30, 2025

How did artist Charles Swank, a resident of Olympia, Washington, end up showing his paintings here in our Alsea library??

Well...sometimes good things just happen!

An old friend of his recently set up a big show of his work in the Yachats Commons... which caught the eye of our ACE Board President Meredith Howell... who suggested this might be something exciting to bring to the library.

Who is Charles Swank? Charles is a very unusual human being. He learned early on what he wanted from life and stuck with it. Turns out it was two things: to paint and to live a deeply spiritual life. He has managed to combine the two in his art.

After completing an MFA at Yale in 1976, in the words of one of his mentors, Charles "committed artistic suicide" by moving from the East Coast art scene to a quiet West Coast community to raise a family. What followed was a lifetime of day jobs, but also the freedom to paint as he wanted. (Among his jobs, he has been a house painter, a butler for Mrs. Joan Kroc, the heiress to McDonalds, and a teacher's aide to developmentally disabled kids - a job he loved.)

His paintings are not your usual collection of forest scenes and seascapes. They are abstracted geometric visions, beautiful, accessible, and fun. You may experience them as spiritual, ethereal, and to some, psychedelic. Even if you don't think of yourself as a lover of fine art, they will surprise and please you.

The Charles Swank paintings will be available to view from April through June, right here at our Alsea Community Library and Community Room!

The Importance of Bench Sitting: Musing on the Merc

by Sara Cash


Downtown Alsea is seeing quite the makeover. The Merc is looking fabulous inside and out thanks to the vision and hard work of Kati, Aaron, and a lot of Alsea folks. The exterior of the Alsea Plaza is so fun. And so is finding those Amazon overstock bargains inside. Suzette and Kenny have a vision for the old gas station and transformed it into something fresh and new. Jessi set the trend with Little Heifer Coffee Co. She forged a path to downtown renewal by creating the cutest little coffee trailer ever that has the cutest business logo ever. And as always, Deb is hard at work at Deb's Café doing home cooking for us when we want a delicious meal out.

I love seeing the enthusiasm and cooperation to bring renewed life to the community. And I am so glad I will be able to "shop local" more! I swear, I would as soon pick ticks off the pound hound than drive over the mountain and stand in line at Walmart. I keep hearing about pizza and beer in town, and maybe a gym. I will definitely need a gym if I can get pizza and a pitcher just down the block. And I can't wait for summer movies at the ice cream shop. Which will mean I'll need even more gym time!

But as good as it is to see positive change, all this also means the passing away of old things and loved ones. The bench at the Merc has been empty for just about a year now. Johnboy isn't there to keep watch over the town and somehow manage to have on hand one of absolutely everything to save us all a trip to town. Matt is no longer waiting there to make us laugh, fight for a stronger Alsea, and give us the shirt off of his back. Les no longer slows the speeding cars down before they reach where the kids cross from the school, weaves us mostly accurate yarns about the history of Alsea, and delivers to the widows in town who would otherwise not have fresh fish. We can't hear Sol and his tiny dog with his great big bark long before they come into view while he makes his daily check on local shut-ins. And although I have no doubt he would have aged into an excellent bench sitter, Ethan will never sit there again with his quiet smile, giving us all hope for the future.

Even if there is a new bench at the Merc and new folks to sit there sharing the local news, how could we ever replace these men who quietly, daily, and with no expectation for thanks helped knit the strong, warm fabric of this community? Sitting on that bench holds a high level of responsibility and respect. We could all aspire to be worthy of such bench sitting. I hope there is a bench somewhere in the sky where the fellas can all swap fish stories after a day on a heavenly mountain river teeming with the fattest, freshest fish to be found. It gives me comfort to think that they can keep track of local happenings and help keep us all safe while we learn how to fill their moccasins.

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REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT/NAME	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	PHONE NUMBER
Alsea Community Effort Board Meeting	Online - Zoom	3 rd Thurs monthly	6:30 pm	541-487-5061
Alsea Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting	Alsea Library	1 st Monday monthly	6:00 pm	541-602-7819
Alsea Fire Dept. Board Meeting	Alsea Fire Hall	Last Tues monthly	7:00 pm	541-487-8701
Alsea Fire Dept. General Meeting		Wednesdays	7:00 pm	
Alsea 4-H Small Animal Club		1 st & 3 rd Thurs monthly	6:00 pm	541-207-6552
Alsea Wolverines Booster Club				503-740-9639
Alsea Food Bank	Jeni's Place	Thursdays	10:00 am-4:00 pm	541-487-3663
Alsea Garden Club	ACF Church	2 nd Sat monthly	12:00 pm	541-760-3856
Ladies' Bible Study	ACF Church	Tuesdays	9:30 am	541-487-4442
Men's Bible Study		Mondays	6:30 pm	
Church Youth Group		Sundays	6:30 pm	
Alsea HOPE Grange	Grange Hall	1 st Thurs monthly	6:00 pm	541-486-4215
Alsea School Board Meeting	School Library	2 nd Tuesday monthly	6:00 pm	541-487-4305
Alsea Valley Gleaners Distribution	18889 Haines Rd	Fridays	2:00-7:00 pm	503-951-2499
Stitch and Rip Quilting Club	Various (please call)	Mondays	10:00 am-3:00 pm	541-487-8011
Alsea Free Community Potluck	ACF Church	1 st Wed monthly	5:30 pm	541-487-4442
Alsea Kitchen Club	Alsea Library	2 nd or 3 rd Sun semi-monthly	2:00-4:00 pm	503-255-8055

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

ALSEA VALLEY VOICE

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March - April 2025