

January - February 2023



# Alsea Valley Voice



## Alsea Valley Voice

January - February 2023

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## Letter From The Editor

By Kathy Adair

Are you proud of our wonderful community or would you like to somehow help to make it better? Volunteering at any one of our town's wonderful groups is a great way to have a lasting impact. This was one of the things that was high on the list from our summer survey. People wanted to volunteer. There are plenty of opportunities available. From being a part of the Alsea Community Effort, to Alsea Gleaners, Hope Grange, Alsea Garden Club, Alsea HAM and more. These organizations all have a focus to make our community vibrant and strong. It's easy to volunteer and it doesn't mean that you suddenly have another full-time job. Far from it. You get to help as you can. The more community members we have involved, the more amazing our community is. To learn more, check out the Town Hall article where you can attend a dinner and meeting to voice your ideas and learn more. The old saying is true, "Many hands make light work." Please think about joining one of our community partners.

That being said, some of the great things happening thanks to volunteers are in this issue. Phil Plaza gives us another update on our Emergency Survey Results in this issue. Mary Ann Carr needs our community to step up and donate blood. The need is high, so please schedule an appointment. Great things are happening at the library and so much more. Read through this issue for more information.

If you would like to submit an article, please let me know. The next deadline for article submission will be **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. This will be for the March/April 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.

As always, if you have questions or article submissions, please don't hesitate to message me on Facebook Messenger or email me at our new email – [AlseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com](mailto:AlseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com). Don't forget the "1" on the email. You can also still get a hold of me on my personal email.

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## Musings from the ACE President

Hello all, and welcome to the first 2023 edition of the Alsea Valley Voice. Now that most of us have been able to return our normal post-holiday lives (whatever that is), it's time to look forward to more planned progress and growth coming to the valley.

With the easing of most supply-chain delays, the Alsea Emergency Preparedness Committee (AEPC) will soon be receiving the much anticipated final pieces of the HAM radio tower. This antenna tower will allow us to maintain communications with resources outside of the valley in times of disasters. AEPC will also be offering free classes to anyone interested in learning how to operate HAM radios, and help with HAM license test preparation. These classes are open to all those interested in this fascinating field.

One other upcoming event happening in early spring includes a gathering, hosted at the Alsea Valley Hope Grange Hall, which will bring together various community organizations such as Alsea Community Effort, The Alsea Booster Club, and more to help facilitate coordinated efforts to improve the lives of those lucky enough to live here. Learn more about this in Sara Cash's article elsewhere in this issue.

Speaking of local happenings.... Check out the reprint of Danita Cahill's "Ruralite" article featuring the Hagen family's efforts for Coho habitat. A great example of "...thinking global and acting local". They do us proud!

In closing, I want to wish one and all good fishing and a safe and productive hunting season. Using these valuable resources in a sensible manner will help preserve and protect our families and future generations to come.

Eddy Provost, ACE President

"Personal growth lies within the unknown: courage permits you to explore this space."

### 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

## ALSEA NEEDS NEW BLOOD

**Literally!** The Alsea Community Blood Drive is held twice a year in November and April—and we desperately need new folks to step up to donate blood. Let me give you some details.


I have been the Alsea Drive Coordinator since the late 1990’s when I worked at the Alsea Clinic. That means I have been recruiting blood donors for over 20 years. I used to know almost everyone in Alsea, and we had a wonderful group of regular donors so it wasn’t a difficult job. However, many of those donors have moved on, or are as old as I am so they may no longer be able to donate because of health issues. Despite increased efforts, it is getting difficult to meet the quota of donor appointments that the Red Cross sets for us each Drive.

I know from Facebook and volunteer work at Alsea School that there are MANY new (to me) people in Alsea. A new face means “New Blood”, right? I know you’re out there, but my efforts to reach all of you wonderful Alsea folk are failing and we need your help.

I believe that donating blood is one of the most generous things we can do for our fellow human beings. Likely everyone among us has had contact with a friend or family member who has needed blood in an emergency, a surgery, cancer treatment, or some other medical issue. Giving blood is the best gift ever—better than any Christmas present! Just think about that for a moment.

So folks, it is up to us to continue the tradition. The next Alsea Community Blood Drive is **Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**—as usual in the Alsea School Gym from 1-6 P.M. It is by appointment but now computerized so you can go online to make your own appointment using our zip code at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>, or just American Red Cross. OR you can call me and I will find an appointment time for you: Mary Ann Carr #541-487-7364. We try to SAVE at least 10 appointments from 1-2:30 PM for students as they often need to ride the bus home. New Blood put to best use ever!

### Blood Drive




---

Save your Blood for the

## Alsea Community Blood Drive

**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 pm**

Alsea School Gym  
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## Elected Officials Meeting

By Phil Plaza

On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, a breath of fresh air swept into the Alsea Library Community Room. Our newest State legislators, Representative Gomberg, Senator Anderson, along with Lincoln County Commissioner Jacobson and Benton County Commissioner Augerot, held a very friendly and casual “meet and greet.” As often stated, “It was a very informative and productive meeting.”

At a time of cynicism, apathy and often deeply divided polarization of politics, it was refreshing to sit with our elected officials who came together in order to discuss important rural issues with their constituents.

There were questions from Representatives concerning the Alsea School District, both the needs of the building as well as the ongoing needs of the students. There was discussion about the future and sustainability of the Alsea Hope Grange. Also discussed was the need to develop economic opportunities in rural Alsea and Lobster Valley given the vast diversity of resources in this area, the condition of our roads and the safety of Alsea Highway 34, the access to greater broadband infrastructure, a better awareness of the Emergency operations and a common desire for increased communications for all services between Alsea and governing agencies.

It is not always an easy time for elected officials but these representatives came out to Alsea to listen, to learn and to present avenues of assistance, while offering suggestions to help our rural community thrive. These are indeed steps forward, so please be a part of Alsea’s future and attend the next meeting.



## Elected Representatives Visit Alsea for Input

by Sara Cash

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, elected officials representing our community hosted a Commissioner's Corner at the Alsea Library to get public input on community needs and concerns to evaluate before the first in person legislative session in two years. Due to the latest round of redistricting, Alsea has new representation in Salem. We are now part of District 10, with Representative David Gomberg (D, Lincoln City) as our State Representative. As part of District 5, Senator Dick Anderson (R, Lincoln City) now serves us in the State Senate. Also attending were Benton County Commissioner Xan Augerot (D) and Lincoln County Commissioner Kaety Jacobson (Non-partisan). Comm. Jacobson organized the event in hopes of building better community supports in the area west of Alsea where Benton and Lincoln counties border around Yates Rd.

Sen. Anderson is originally from Willowa. Rep. Gomberg moved here in 1971 to attend OSU after growing up the son of an Air Force Officer. Xan Augerot has lived in Oregon for over 20 years. Kaety Jacobson grew up in Lincoln County in a commercial fishing family and has ties to Alsea.

Areas of need identified include the Alsea Hope Grange, particularly the building; emergency preparedness and alerts coordination, including the need for an industrial kitchen at Alsea School for an emergency shelter; the loss of our gas station; and state forestry fire access in the event of a major wildfire. Further issues identified at the school were the need for highly skilled superintendent candidates to guide the school through the current rebuilding process and the need for more and accessible counseling options because the mental and emotional wellbeing of today's young people has been deeply affected by living through COVID lockdowns. Natural resource management and river protections along with the developing ACE Forest/Forestry collaboration were also discussed.

ODOT and county road maintenance came up throughout the conversation. Questions were asked from both sides about increased traffic, signage, the need for new bridges, and accommodations for bicyclists. Sadly, Rep. Gomberg said that this part of Oregon is not slated to receive any major state highway funding for 30 years. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Coastal Caucus, he is actively working to find alternative funding for maintenance and improvements for Hwy. 34 and other state roads in the district.

Items that were addressed at or soon after the meeting include up to date information on Alsea members of Benton County management boards. Cross county collaboration was immediate when Kathy Koetz offered that Alsea Fire Department needs an adaptive connector in order to fight fires along Yates Rd., which originates in Lincoln County. All the representatives offered facilitation of grant applications. There is a resurgence of interest in policy and investments supporting rural communities post COVID, with accompanying funds available for projects that could be identified in our area.

Meeting attendee and longtime Alsea resident Lori Greenfield said, "It was very nice to know that our elected officials care about the needs and interests of our rural communities." Catherine Ellis, middle school Humanities teacher at Alsea School, added, "It was great!..... I really hope we have another one in early spring!!!"

Please plan on attending the follow-up meeting in early April, which should be at the Grange Hall, where your elected representatives will be asking again for your input on how they can help Alsea and Lobster Valley to thrive as a resilient rural community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

[Rep.DavidGomberg@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.DavidGomberg@oregonlegislature.gov)  
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## Library Lines

by Kathy Koetz

WOW! A new year is here and I am not at all ready for it! There is still so much left over to do from last year! But January has come and so I must get myself ready!

Alsea Library is going to be offering our Legos Day! each month starting on February 7th from 3:30-4:30. Legos is a popular program and we enjoy providing it to the community. This program is open to kids of all ages...drop in, have a snack and see what you can build! And then check our Facebook page to see photos of what the great imaginations of Alsea have built!

Did you come in to our Mobile Maker Day? Photos from that program are also posted to the Alsea Community Library Facebook page.

Our Winter Reading Bingo has ended and we have given prizes to many kids. Congratulations! Let's do it again next year. The Library is busy getting ready for our Summer Reading programs. Summer Reading will start June 1st and will be all in person this year. Stay tuned here for details when they are available.

Have you been receiving seed catalogs in the mail? Are you ready to get started on your summer garden? Our library has many books and DVD's to help you have a successful growing season.

Are you an artist or do you know an artist who would like to display your art at Alsea Community Library? Contact Kathy Plaza [ksplaza@icloud.com](mailto:ksplaza@icloud.com) or Shelley Smith [smithshelleyfay@gmail.com](mailto:smithshelleyfay@gmail.com) to find out the details on using our great hanging system.

Dates to remember:

The First Tuesday of each month – Legos Day!



← From This..... To This ↑



## ALSEA HOPE GRANGE #269 SEES A SPARK IN RENEWED INTEREST FROM FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

To start the new year off on a positive note for the Alsea community, our Alsea Grange held its first monthly meeting on January 5, 2023. What was so very special about this meeting was that many community residents accepted the invitation to come and participate and showed enthusiastic support for the Alsea Hope Grange and its important position in the community.

The meeting was focused on asking for and receiving input from the community on ways to keep the Grange organization functioning and viable as the historical asset it has been for the Alsea community and surrounding rural areas of Benton County for over 126 years.

Long-time members, renewing members, and new members shared ideas for strengthening the Grange's presence in Alsea as a social gathering place and renewing its value as the "town hall" as it had been in the past. New residents in Alsea visited to find out more about the Grange organization and to meet their neighbors as well.

During the coming months, the Grange board, members, and volunteers will be reaching out to the community for more input as a follow-up to this meeting while, hopefully, building the membership, and growing the number of social events. We look forward to hearing more from our neighbors. We have a website coming soon but visit us on Facebook at [Alsea Hope Grange 269](#) or email us at [alseahopegrange@gmail.com](mailto:alseahopegrange@gmail.com) and share your ideas.

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## Saving Silver Salmon

The Hagens and other community members restore Coho habitat in Alsea

By Danita Cahill (reprinted with permission of the author)

Rolfe and Janet Hagen and their adult daughters Emily Stimac and Bethany Glanville are proactively working to save endangered Coho salmon on the family's Alsea property in the coastal mountain range. Threats to salmon are many. Besides climate change, there is also commercial and recreational fishing, habitat loss and degradation, and habitat blockage such as large dams

"We had six adult Coho in a good year. Coho in this watershed were imperiled," Bethany says. "Out of 2,000 eggs laid, maybe only 4 or 5 survive to adulthood. If anything happens to those 4 or 5, there won't be any salmon that generation."

Adult Coho leave the Pacific Ocean to swim a 45-mile gauntlet through Alsea Bay, up the Alsea River to Crooked Creek and then into a smaller tributary called Ernst Creek. (Sections of the two creeks run through the Hagen's 80-acre chunk of property). In Ernst Creek the Coho spawn in the place where three years earlier their life began.

Ernst Creek – some call it Ernest Creek – was channelized by a previous landowner to drain off excess water. But the manmade channel cut off half a mile of meandering Coho spawning ground and habitat for their young. Coho fingerlings stay in the stream for a year before journeying out to the Pacific.

The Hagen's salmon habitat restoration project started in 2002. During that year and the next, they planted 1,000 trees in the riparian zone along Ernst Creek to shade and lower the temperature of the creek. And they diverted the channelized water back to its original streambed.

"As close as we could. We built a berm and the water found where it wanted to go," Bethany says. "In two months, the water had cut back to bedrock."

The family shored up areas along the stream where banks had eroded. In one spot there is a stack of logs three deep, two of them buried underground, with willow trees and native grasses planted below the logs towards the creek.

"It helps with filtration and bank stabilization," Bethany says.

In a naturally low-lying area, the Hagens dug a pond for the baby fish.

"Coho really like backwater areas like a pond," Bethany says. "It's a nursery for them to fatten up."

The Hagens buried a culvert in Ernst Creek, large enough in diameter for the fingerlings to swim through to reach the pond, but small enough that big fish can't fit. It's Rolfe who daily plunges his arm into the frigid water to clear leaves from around the culvert. Nearby he built a small rock dam. As Ernst creek cascades over the dam, it raises oxygen levels in the water.

"There were a lot of projects going on simultaneously," Bethany says. "This whole watershed really got on board."

Emily is quick to give credit to others involved in the project. Recent sponsors include Georgia-Pacific, MidCoast Watersheds Council, Trask Consulting – it was Steve Trask who first approached Rolfe about the restoration project – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership. The latter grows and supplies native plants.

Last year Georgia-Pacific donated local logs and placed them at five spots in the creek. The logs provide cover for fingerlings, as well as providing shade and habitat for the fish and their food sources. The logs also create flat areas in the creek bed, or a step system, similar to a terraced garden. It's in these flat, "steps," where the adult female Cohos build their nests, or redds, and lay their eggs. The males fertilize the eggs, and the female covers them for protection from predators.

## Continued from Page 10

“Fish can’t spawn downhill,” Bethany explains.

Where the riparian zone was damaged in 2021 from logging equipment, the Hagens planted young cedar, hemlock and fir trees.

Coho prefer to spawn in smaller tributaries like Ernst Creek. They tend to show up after autumn leaves drop and wash away downstream. It’s Rolfe who daily plunges his arm into the frigid water to clear leaves from around the culvert. Last year there were adult Coho in the creek at Christmastime. This year the fish made their initial showing in early December.

“Coho have a small brain, but a perfectly in-tuned brain,” Bethany says about the fishes’ instincts and internal homing device.

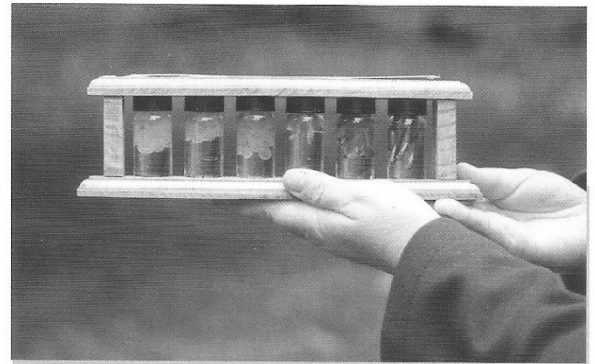
Every year the Hagen family counts the Coho as they swim past a certain spot in the stream.

“75 was the big bang year. 40-50 is more common,” Emily says. “It’s cyclical.”

### The Thyme Garden

The Hagens also own and operate The Thyme Garden on the same land they share with salmon. Established in 1989, the family business grows and sells herb plants and seeds, teas, seasoning mixes, organic hops, and gift items. They have a large mail-order business, but also open seasonally to the public.

The Thyme Garden offers display gardens with 750 different varieties of herbs from around the world – approximately 65 varieties of thyme alone. The Hagens rent their property for weddings, and they host summer luncheons prepared with fresh herbs. The family also puts on special events, including their annual Salmon Celebration. The celebration includes an herb-infused, multi-course meal with grilled Sockeye salmon as the main course, and a guided stroll through the forest and along the pond and streams. If nature cooperates, and if attendees are sharp-eyed and fortunate, they can observe spawning salmon in the wild. For more info: <https://www.thymegarden.com>



Emily Stimac holds a display showing the coho life cycle from eggs to fingerlings.

## Coho vs. Chinook

Several Indigenous tribes use the coho to symbolize sustenance and life. Coho, also known as silver salmon, generally weigh 7-11 pounds and measure 24-30 inches at adulthood. They feed on insects, small fish and plankton. Along the Oregon Coast, the species is listed as threatened.

Chinook return home from the ocean to spawn in Crooked Creek. A larger species, Chinook weigh 20-40 pounds and measure 24-36 inches, although they can grow considerably larger. Chinook are listed as protected on the Oregon Coast. Their lifespan is typically three to four years, but they can live up to seven years.



Janet and Rolfe Hagen and their daughters, Bethany Glanville and Emily Stimac, wear special glare-eliminating, fish-spotting glasses while watching coho salmon. PHOTOS BY DANITA CAHILL

### Coho vs Chinook Salmon

- Several indigenous tribes use the Coho to symbolize sustenance and life. Coho, also known as silver salmon, generally weigh 7-11 pounds and measure 24-30 inches at adulthood. They feed on insects, small fish and plankton. Along the Oregon Coast the species is listed as threatened.
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## LITTLE THINGS: Sharing love, Light & Whimsy

By Carol Pearson

Forty years ago this February 11<sup>th</sup>, Tim and I got married in a candlelit ceremony on what I think was a rainy Friday night. I know it was a Friday because we had a week-end honeymoon to the Oregon Coast. He was a student at OSU and I was a medical receptionist for a group of doctors in Corvallis; those responsibilities didn't slow down just because we tied the knot! There are so many little details that I remember fondly about this precious "everything is new" time in our lives. One tid-bit that stands out particularly clear is the day our Pioneer Telephone book arrived in the mailbox. Seeing our names listed side by side with a single phone number in the "Alsea" section made everything in my world feel complete. A simple seven digit number that was assigned to us. It was OURS. We were official. (Funny. I don't remember that number now-- but I do remember his families Alsea phone number from our courting days--and he remembers mine!!!) Our first phone was a table phone (as opposed to the wall model) so we pretty much stood still, in one place, when making or receiving calls to our friends and neighbors. There was always a pad of paper for taking notes & doodling near the phone and those pages could be pieced together to tell some mighty good tales! In 1983 you pretty much had to catch us --and anyone you were calling -- at home in order to make a connection. Although answering machines were up and coming, they were not a standard for setting up housekeeping! (I remember our first answering machine as well -- but it didn't thrill me like seeing our name in the phone book did). Rotary dial phones were common in the early 80's and push button types were available but considered "fancy". Phones were rented from the phone company and the fee was nominal. Your biggest expense was making long distance calls. There were discounted rates in the late hours of each day. IMAGINE! Staying up late to call someone you wanted to connect with. It was simple and felt uncomplicated as Ma Bell was in "her" final days of what was categorized as a monopoly on telephone services.

Changes in communication have been constant and swift through all the years but you can't convince me that anything is better nowadays! Cell phones have pretty much replaced the landline and towers have replaced the poles & lines that mark our roadside landscape with a sense of connection. We now have robots answering our calls attempting to convince us that our call is important. We get stuck in loops of choices that don't BEGIN to solve our problems. (There isn't much chance that ELO's song TELEPHONE LINE will ever make sense to anyone listening to an oldies station...and that is a tragedy). 7 digit numbers have been replaced by 10 & those prefixes are not easy to decipher like the land lines of yesterday! Oh sure, we can chat with whomever we need/want to while we run errands, drive to work, take a hike or grab our groceries. I would agree that it's easy (enough) to program the phone numbers of your loved ones into your personal "smart phone" -- and you can google the business numbers you need on the same device.

We recently received the latest edition of the phone book. 2 days after getting the book, we received "the letter" from Pioneer stating that the phone book won't be published anymore. I think the letter said we could get one by request...but, essentially, the latest book would be our last. Such a silly thing to be sad about, really. But my number isn't his number and his number isn't mine any longer. (Except for our landline which we vow to keep until death do us part!)

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## Upcoming Town Hall Meeting

by Sara Cash

Alsea and Lobster communities are invited to a Town Hall on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Alsea Hope Grange Hall. This meeting is open to the public. Dinner will be served at 6 pm. We are seeking to provide a forum where the people of our community can:

- Offer specific ideas for how to strengthen our community
- Help identify ways to help our community and community members thrive
- Share visions for the future of our community in the context of our changing world
- Make new friends and meet with neighbors

Information gathered at this meeting will be used at an upcoming meeting of leadership from local grass roots organizations. Grant funding for future local projects will seek input from these types of meetings as an essential part of the viability of successful grant proposals. Funding for this event is provided by Alsea Community Effort.

Across the country, there is a resurgence of awareness of rural communities, issues, and policies. Rural communities are relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As the world transforms around us, Alsea can adapt proactively. By leveraging existing resources, our local residents and organizations can collaborate to maximize the impact for community-based projects to improve the quality of life for all of us.

# ALSEA TOWN HALL

TUESDAY MARCH 7, 2023

6:30 AT ALSEA HOPE GRANGE, DINNER SERVED AT 6:00

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

BRING YOUR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT COULD HELP MAKE  
ALSEA AND LOBSTER COMMUNITIES STRONGER

*EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING*

FUNDING FOR THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY ALSEA COMMUNITY EFFORT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT SARA CASH AT 541-602-7819 OR [SARA.D.CASH-1@OU.EDU](mailto:SARA.D.CASH-1@OU.EDU)



## Survey Results for Benton County Natural Hazards

By Phil Plaza

The results are in from Alsea/Lobster Valley. The surveys prioritizing the Natural Hazards in the Alsea/Lobster Valley area have been tabulated and will soon be presented to the Benton County Steering Committee. Generally speaking the results are somewhat in alignment with the other Benton County areas. The prioritizing is not yet completed for all of Benton County. As you can imagine there are some slight differences from our area.

The final results are as follows: The number 1 most concerning hazard out here was wildfire. Far and away this was ranked number one. This was followed in order by landslides, flooding, and the Cascadian Subduction Zone Earthquake. Coming next, were winter storms, followed by drought, a Crustal Earth Quake, then extreme heat, a pandemic, dam failure and finally a volcanic event was ranked last at number 11.

Given the local environment and the proximity of our location to the ocean, a major event such as the Subduction Zone Earthquake would play a significant factor in our community's ability to be resilient, both as a route of exit for the residents from Waldport as well as the many landslides along Highway 34. We will be impacted one way or another.

There is more work to be done, however all the results will offer the County a roadmap in order to acquire funding to help mitigate the effects of any future events. This is the Mitigation Plan's purpose. The Alsea Emergency Preparedness Plan is slightly different in that it gives us a roadmap of what to do once the event has occurred. For example what can landowners do to mitigate the effects of a potential wildfire? They can start by clearing vegetation away from their homes, clear out the hazardous material that accumulates in the understory and importantly plan ahead. The Alsea Emergency Preparedness Plan is what happens while we have a disaster. Gathering points for personal safety, for needed medical care, supplies and other help are identified and ready to be of assistance.

There will be federal grants offered to Benton County very soon. Several projects have already been identified for mitigation purposes. If you as a concerned citizen have some ideas or suggestions with respect to mitigation measures, please speak up soon. You can e-mail me at [philplaza@hotmail.com](mailto:philplaza@hotmail.com) with your suggestions. And thanks to all who filled out the survey. Your concerns will be heard.



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## Press Release for Diana Cherrywood Challenge Art Quilt Show

Royalty is coming to Yachats!

Not King Charles, Prince William, Harry, Kate or Megan, DIANA is coming to Yachats!

The 2020 Cherrywood Challenge Art Quilt Show DIANA is coming to the Yachats Commons. The show runs Friday through Sunday, February 18, 19, 20, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, with a suggested donation of \$5.00. The exhibit will feature 100 quilts paying tribute to Princess Diana.

Art quilt shows were first brought to Yachats by artist and former Polly Plumb Productions Board member Ruth Bass. “One of the goals of the show is to introduce art quilting to local residents and visitors. Art quilts do not typically follow the patterns used in traditional quilting. Instead, artists use fabric and other materials to build conceptual creations based on a theme, design or simply the artist’s imagination.”

A quilt is a fabric sandwich comprised of least two layers. Art quilting uses mixed media or fiber art quilts, with modern and traditional quilting techniques to create art objects. According to the Art Quilt Association club definition, “An art quilt is an original exploration of a concept or idea rather than the handing down of a ‘pattern’. It experiments with textile manipulation, color, texture and/or a diversity of mixed media. An Art Quilt often pushes quilt world boundaries. An Art Quilt should consist predominately of fiber or a fiber-like material with one or multiple layers which are held together with stitches or piercing of the layers.”

Art Quilting is a fascinating and relatively new art form. The evolution of the quilt from bedcover to museum piece, and the quilt maker from homemaker to trained artist, is celebrated in a 1977 book *The Art Quilt*, by Robert Shaw. As the quilters workplace moved from kitchen to studio, the art quilt continues to reinvent itself. Quilters with their signature techniques, search for innovative methods of construction, while increasing the use of non-traditional materials, and instilling personally meaningful subject matter.

PPP Board member Robert Rubin said “Prepare to have your mind blown. People are astounded at these shows. The depth and detail of the pieces are incredible. PPP has exhibited a few International competitions, plus a show of renowned artist Hollis Chatelain. PPP has also sponsored our own international art quilt competitions, themed *Gems of the Ocean*, three times. First time we had entries from 6 countries. We awarded \$2,000 in prizes. Don’t miss this Diana show. You will be amazed at what those artists have created.”

Polly Plumb Productions (PPP) is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization that produces, supports, and promotes, diverse, artistic, colorful, whimsical, musical and intelligent arts and cultural programming in the Yachats area. Polly Plumb produces the popular annual Yachats Celtic Music Festival. Please visit <https://pollyplumb.org/> and on Facebook Polly Plumb.



**ART QUILT SHOW**

February **18, 19, 20** 2023

10 am - 4 pm

Don't miss this art quilt show!  
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## Superintendent Search is Underway at Alsea School District

The Alsea School Board of Directors (ASB) has begun the search for a new Superintendent to guide Alsea School District (ASD) starting July 1, 2023. ASD has contracted with Vince Adams, a Consultant with OSBA, and a Corvallis School District Board Member, to oversee the timeline and process of the Superintendent search.

ASB Chair Risteen Follett has this to say: “The school board is really looking forward to the superintendent search. We’re thankful to Deb Lindberg for leading the communication efforts with OSBA. Partnered together we hope to find outstanding candidates to interview for the position who are a good fit for the school and community. The board will be working with a group of Alsea staff and community members to hear their feedback on each candidate. This is an exciting time for us as a district, and we look forward to sharing updates as we have them.”

Mr. Adams presented the results of the Superintendent Online Survey to the Alsea School Board on October 27, 2022. There were a total of 103 responses with a good balance of respondents from administration, classified staff, certified staff, community members, and parents. The qualities and qualifications that had the highest number of positive responses were integrity/core values, communications/someone who listens to the community, someone capable of making hard decisions for the community, and commitment to transparency. Notes from the survey can be found here: [http://alsea.k12.or.us/media/2022/11/2022-Alsea-Supt-QQs\\_approved.pdf](http://alsea.k12.or.us/media/2022/11/2022-Alsea-Supt-QQs_approved.pdf)

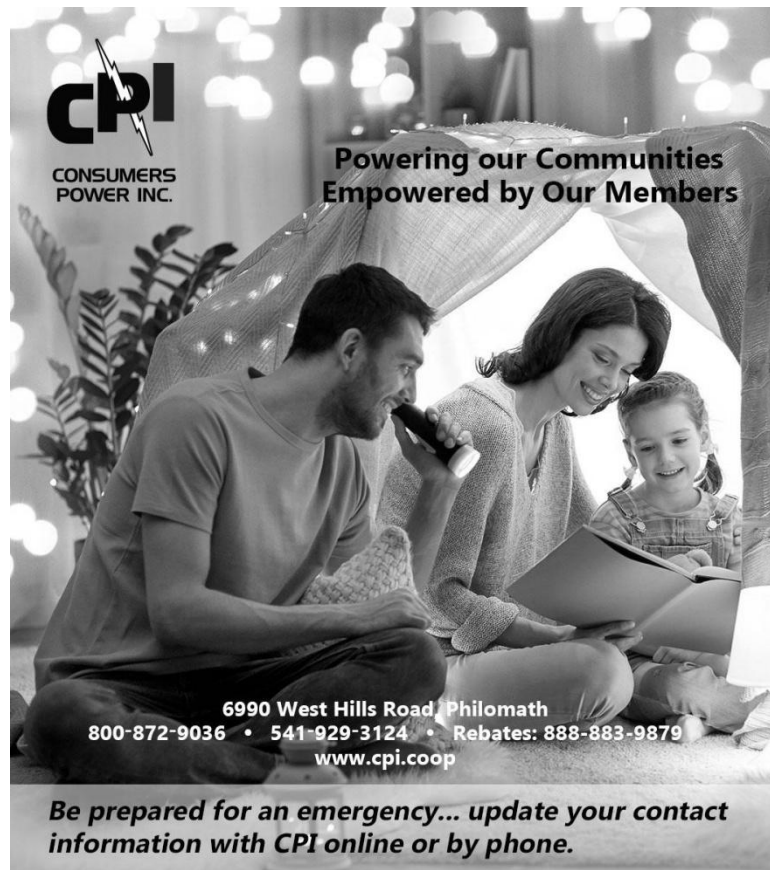
“The district is actively searching for a new superintendent that would be a “good fit” that aligns with community input and school board parameters per the recent Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) survey that was conducted,” said Acting Superintendent Mr. Gallagher. The open Superintendent’s position has been posted with a target salary range of \$120,000-\$135,000. The position listing which includes pertinent information about Alsea School District can be found at [https://www.cosa.k12.or.us/sites/default/files/job-files/alsea\\_sd\\_search\\_electronic\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.cosa.k12.or.us/sites/default/files/job-files/alsea_sd_search_electronic_flyer.pdf)

On January 17, 2023, the Superintendent Search Screening Committee will commence with a confidentiality training. Invitations for membership will

be sent out to build a committee of 11-16 members from district staff. The district will announce the committee members when responses are received.

The process plan at time of writing flows like this. Once the Superintendent Screening Committee has identified potential candidates, interviews will follow. Next, the ASB and school administrators will meet with the finalists during a visit to Alsea School. At this point, ASB may choose to exercise an option to include a town hall for the community to meet the candidates. Next the ASB will select a final candidate to go into negotiations which will take place in executive session. The new superintendent should be signatory by March, with their work term beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you have questions or corrections for this article, please contact the Public Information Officer for Alsea School District at [sara.cash@alsea.k12.or.us](mailto:sara.cash@alsea.k12.or.us)



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## Red Cross Helps as West Coast Faces More Dangerous Weather

Californians are bracing for their third major storm this year as very active weather in the Pacific Ocean pushes another round of heavy rain and damaging winds toward the Golden State.

The American Red Cross is monitoring the situation closely and working with our partners to shelter and support people impacted by these storms. Trained Red Cross disaster workers are coordinating response plans with local officials and providing shelter and care up and down the state.

The latest severe weather is expected to hit tonight and tomorrow with as much as six inches of rain in some areas and a possible two feet of snow in the mountains. There is also the possibility of landslides as the area getting the most rain has been in an extreme drought for the past several years and experienced a lot of wildfires. This leads to an increased risk of landslides as the ground becomes saturated.

And the threat isn't over — another storm is predicted for next week. Close to 59,000 customers are still without power as this latest severe weather nears.

Meanwhile, the recent dangerous weather conditions have already canceled hundreds of blood drives this winter-- forcing more than 10,000 lifesaving blood donations to go uncollected. With more severe weather forecasted in the next several days, the Red Cross urges individuals in unaffected areas to pitch in and schedule an appointment to give blood to help meet all patient needs across the country. **Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-Red Cross.**

The Red Cross offers these safety steps people can follow:

~ CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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Red Cross - Continued

### **FLOODING SAFETY**

Turn around, don't drown! Stay off the roads. If you must drive and you encounter a flooded roadway, turn around and go another way.

- Follow evacuation routes and do not try to take shortcuts because they may be blocked.
- Stay away from floodwaters. Beware of snakes, insects and other animals that may be in or around floodwaters and your home.
- Keep children and pets away from hazardous sites and floodwaters.
- Do not use water that could be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice or make baby formula.
- Offer to help people who require special assistance including older adults, those without transportation, large families, people with disabilities and the people who care for them.
- If power lines are down outside your home, do not step in puddles or standing water. Report them immediately to the power company.
- If any gas or electrical appliances were flooded, don't use them until they have been checked for safety.
- Dispose of any food that has come into contact with flood water.

### **POWER OUTAGE SAFETY**

- Use flashlights in the dark — not candles.
- Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out and roads will likely be congested.
- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment and appliances. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.
- Leave one light on, so you'll know when power is restored.
- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Keep these devices outside away from doors, windows and vents, which could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Full generator safety information is available [here](#).
- During a prolonged outage, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to protect your food. Use perishable food from the refrigerator first, then, food from the freezer. If the power outage continues beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items. Keep food in a dry, cool spot and cover it at all times.

~ CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



**LANDSLIDE SAFETY**

- Stay alert and awake. Many deaths from landslides occur while people are sleeping.
- Listen to local news stations on a battery-powered radio for warnings of heavy rainfall.
- Consider leaving if it is safe to do so.
- If you suspect imminent danger, evacuate immediately. Inform affected neighbors if you can, and contact your public works, fire or police department.
- Listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together.
- If you are near a stream or channel, be alert for any sudden increase or decrease in water flow and notice whether the water changes from clear to muddy. Such changes may mean there is debris flow activity upstream so be prepared to move quickly.
- Be especially alert when driving— watch for collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks and other indications of possible debris flow.
- If you are ordered or decide to evacuate, take your animals with you.
- Consider a precautionary evacuation of large or numerous animals as soon as you are aware of impending danger.

**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](http://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).*



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# REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT/NAME	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	PHONE NUMBER
Alsea Community Effort Board Meeting	Online - Zoom	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs Monthly	6:00pm	541-207-6552
Alsea Wolverine's Booster Club				503-740-9639
Alsea Food Bank	Jeni's Place	Thursdays	10:00am-6:00pm	541-487-3663
Alsea Garden Club	TBA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat Monthly	6:00pm	541-487-5191
Men's Bible Study	ACF Church	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat Monthly	8:00am	541-487-4442
Alsea HOPE Grange	Grange Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs Monthly	6:00pm	541-486-4215
Line Dance Class		Mondays	6:00pm	541-452-1919
Alsea School Board Meeting	School Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs Monthly	7:00pm	541-487-4305
Alsea Valley Gleaners Distribution	18889 Haines Rd	Fridays	2:00pm-7:00pm	503-951-2499
Stich and Rip Quilting Club	Various (please call)	Mondays	10:00am-3:00pm	541-487-8011

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