

September - October 2022



Alsea Valley Voice



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Musing From the ACE President

by Eddy Provost

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Fall edition of the AVV. I don't know about you, but I was blown away by the response to the Community Survey that was distributed after the summer AVV edition. It's heartening to read all the comments and suggestions from our fellow community members who want Alsea to be a more welcoming, sustainable and vibrant community. If you haven't had a chance to share your views about our town's future, please take a moment by going to:

<https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/IFmXkU>. You can also view it on the ACE Facebook page, the Alsea Neighbors and Friends Facebook page, or by picking up a hard copy of the survey at the Community Library.

The comments and results of the survey can be viewed at:

<https://www.sogolytics.com/zRMx/ViewSharedReport.aspx?share=K3T1D5R1R>

Other good news to share: In cooperation with the Corvallis-Benton County Library Foundation, Alsea Community Effort (ACE) has inaugurated the Alsea Community Library Legacy Fund, design to provide a continuing revenue source for the maintenance and upkeep for the building that houses our library and community room. This fund, which will grow from local and regional donation sources, and through investments, will help future-proof our abilities to provide a safe and welcoming presence for both community enrichment, and emergency situations. If you haven't made a commitment to become an "Alsea Community Champion", I urge you to fill out the Pledge Form found elsewhere in this edition of the AVV.

Also of note, after many long hours of researching and meeting attendance, local resident Phil Plaza has finalized and presented to the ACE board of directors, the updated Alsea Emergency Response Plan. This extensive document, which is updated every four years, outlines the "Who, How, What, Where and When" Alsea will utilize its physical and human resources in the event of a natural disaster. If you have any questions as to what you should do, where to go, and who to contact, I urge you to review this document for your own peace of mind. A copy is available for viewing at the Alsea Community Library.

Thank you Phil for you hard work, dedication, and continued support for a safer community.

"Find your unity in your service to all".

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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Letter From The Editor

By Kathy Adair

It's Fall and the weather is certainly changing. I have been avidly looking at the long-range forecasts and it looks like we will have a similar winter as last winter, but the possibility of some change in the spring. Guess we will find out! The change in weather also heralds fish for the fishermen. Yes, that is Kerry holding a salmon he caught recently on the front page of this issue. Speaking of front page pictures, if you would like to submit a picture for possible publication, please submit a JPG picture to our new AVV email **AlseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com**. Include name and description and if an Alsea School District student, please list grade. We will try to publish all we can depending on space.

We (ACE) and I (Kathy Adair) have been very thankful for the creative and wonderful volunteer work that Caitlin Moore, now **Caitlin Mills**, has given to us these few years, most recently as the AVV Layout Specialist. Caitlin has recently just gotten married and moved to Lebanon to begin new adventures and so has decided to step away from this position. We wish her so much joy and happiness in her new life and our thanks are heartfelt.

Lots of fun changes have been happening. We have designed a new ACE logo which is at the top front of this issue. Alsea Community Effort is primarily about community working together to benefit all and we feel this logo encompasses that mission. We also made a survey available for our Alsea community to share their thoughts. The survey is still open and available for input, but we have results from what we have gotten and they are very helpful. We so appreciate all of you who have participated, so far. The links are in the Musings From the ACE President on page 3 and on our Alsea Community Effort Facebook page.

We have such a wide variety of articles in this issue, which is so exciting. We have updates on our Alsea Emergency Plan, information from the Alsea School District, Randy Hart found Alsea actually has local weather predictions from the National Weather Service, and so much more. As always, thank you to all who have submitted articles to this issue. The deadline for the next issue is **November 15th**. Please have your pieces in early, if at all possible. So think ahead and if you have something coming up, let's get it in the paper so people know and can plan and put it on their personal calendar.

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**. 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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National Novel Writing Month

By Kathy Adair

November is National Novel Writing Month. For those of you who have never heard of it, it was organized 1999 as an internet challenge to encourage people of all ages to write 50,000 words of a novel or non-fiction work in 30 days beginning November 1. NaNoWriMo is a non-profit organization that has a number of programs to support and promote writing fluency and education, while also allowing for local, or even on the other side of the world, writers to connect. Local regions have "write-ins" that writers can attend if they wish.

I have been doing NaNoWriMo since 2009 and I can honestly say that this program had the biggest impact on my ability to write, forcing me to turn off my inner editor and allow me to free-write, thus allowing for far more creativity in both my fiction and non-fiction articles and other projects. The other by-product of this program also helped me be a better editor. For those who complete the 50,000 words in November, they have a long list of supporters who can help you take your "novel" to the next phase, including helping you get it published.

While this may all sound daunting, it couldn't be easier. It's a fun website and program that does everything to encourage you to write to your heart's content. They even have fun writing prompts, lots of encouraging words, reference links to help you and ways to get you un-stuck. There is even a word counter to help you stay on track. So, whether you are a young person, a senior, or someone in between new to writing or a professional, jump online to www.NaNoWriMo.org and check it out. If you decide to join me in writing, come find me. I'm Tale-Creator and would love to join with you on this adventure!

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Alsea School, Where it's All About the Students!

By Sara Cash

In commitment to strengthening communications with the public, the Alsea School Board of Directors and Interim Superintendent Gallagher have contracted with me to serve as Public Information Officer (PIO) for Alsea School District. I have had the pleasure of working with students at the school off and on since 2015, as a substitute aide, the MAP testing coordinator, and the Enrichment Program Coordinator. I am currently a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma online, with future plans of serving rural kids and families in Benton County.



Alsea is blessed with a wonderful school to nurture the children of our community. There is something so special about a school where every staff member knows every kid's name. As PIO, I am committed to building strong, clear, positive communication with our local community, school families, and other stakeholders. Communication is a two-way responsibility, so I hope you will contact me with your suggestions, questions, and input. My email is sara.cash@alsea.k12.or.us; phone is 541-487-5667. I look forward to serving as one of many voices that make Alsea School such a wonderful place for kids to be and grow and learn.

Alsea School is excited to announce the launch of a new communications option for community members who are interested in receiving news about the school. Our list of "Key Communicators" will receive an email of all important communications issued by Alsea School and serve in addition to existing email lists. Any time the school issues a press release, a feature article, etc., people on this list will receive a copy. We may also include pertinent information as it develops, kind of like mini press releases to our interested community partners. If you would like to be on this list of vital community partners, please contact me at sara.cash@alsea.k12.or.us.

In an effort to facilitate public access to School Board information, Alsea School has added Boardbooks as a user-friendly way to access board meeting information. To find this new tool, please go to <http://alsea.k12.or.us/board/minutes-agendas/> and click on the "Boardbooks" tab. Here you can create an account which will take you to our public access school page, where you will find a calendar of past, current, and future school board meetings as well as meeting minutes, which will only be posted after approval by the board and superintendent. The date and time for all meetings-board, bond, regular, or special-are posted here. If you click on "agenda" on the right-hand side of a meeting, you can access all of the documents discussed at that meeting. Please note that all reports to the board by administrators, athletic programs, etc., can now be accessed on the new "Superintendent" tab on the school website under "Administrative Reports".

At the bottom of our school Boardbooks page there is a tab to sign up for email notifications of posts to our page, including meeting minutes. Links will also still be posted on the school website under the Board tab as well as on the new school Facebook when it is up and running. If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of the minutes, please stop by the school office or call the school at 541-487-4305.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Alsea Community Effort Announces Upcoming Art Exhibit!

October 17 – December 31, 2022

ACE is pleased to bring back the Corvallis Art Guild for a 2nd Annual Fall Art Exhibit at the Alsea Community Library and Community Room!

Fine Art from various members of the Corvallis Art Guild will be featured, such as this gorgeous multi-media example of Peggy Sharrow's artwork, "Budding Future from Scraps of the Past"



And this Colored Pencil PhotoFusion example of Debi Friedlander's beautiful artwork, "Grace"



The Corvallis Art Guild was founded in 1946 "to provide an opportunity for local painters to interact, improve skill, and exhibit work." Today over 150 members include both professional and recreational artists working in all fine art media. The common bond of the Guild is "enthusiasm for creative expression plus a desire to nurture appreciation for original art in our community."

It is to this goal that we invite the entire community to experience this event in our own local community venue. Please plan to come enjoy this exhibit during regular Library opening hours!

Note: *There will be some art for sale, so save your money for that unique Holiday Gift for someone special!*

Alsea Emergency Response Plan

By Phil Plaza

It is that time again when the Benton County Natural Hazards and Mitigation Plan (NHMP) must be reviewed and revised. This happens every 4 or 5 years and once again Alsea residents have the opportunity to voice their concerns and offer suggestions regarding potential hazardous effects during Natural Hazard emergencies.

For the next year, the Benton County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan's steering committee will be meeting monthly to develop an updated NHMP in order to address a list of potential hazards facing Benton County. Alsea, as an unincorporated community, will fall under this plan. The list of Natural Hazards includes: Earthquakes, Floods, Fires, Landslides, Winter Storms, Wind Storms, Droughts, Volcanoes and Pandemics.

These hazards will be ranked according to the frequency and the severity of their impact upon both cities and all rural communities in Benton County. Mitigation measures will be developed and set out in the plan to help lessen those impacts. Alsea being one of those communities will have the opportunity to have a voice in the planning and developmental phase of the new plan.

Having only been an Alsea resident for the last 12 years, I have experienced several Natural Hazards or Incidents. I am sure there were many more before my time. Just recently during the summer of 2020, the fire along highway 34 with winds gusting to 60 mph was a scare for some, but fortunately the Alsea Rural Fire Department arrived on the scene near midnight and extinguished that fire before it got out of control. As I personally drove to the coast, leading a convoy of at least seven other cars, we had to stop four separate times to cut up large trees, which had been blown down across the highway in the strong winds. One was at least 3 feet in diameter. We also came upon 3 fires alongside the road.

The Alsea River has had numerous floods. The last flood closed down Deadwood Highway to all but the largest trucks. These floods threaten to overflow not only the Alsea River, but several homes and the sewage system for Alsea Water District. Raw sewage could have potentially flowed into the Alsea River as well as the Alsea School. Former high water flood marks can still be seen in the lowest levels of the school's building.

I recall that winter Ice storm which stranded travelers who were then put up overnight in neighbor's homes and were also fed and housed at the Alsea School. That storm also injured a member of Alsea's Fire Department who went on that call. It is hard to mitigate for that type of occurrence but plans had to be made for such an event.

There have been numerous power outages caused by winter storms. One mitigation measure was the awarding of a Home Land Securities grant which gave Alsea a generator to operate both the sewage system and keep water in the tanks for "down town" Alsea. Alsea's raw sewage now won't run off into the Alsea River and the fire hydrants will continue to have water should power be out for an extended time.

Landslides are a continual hazard along highway 34. The last big one took out a power pole and closed Highway 34. Fortunately, Alsea Quarry with the help of the Alsea Fire Department showed up with their equipment and cleared that section of the road, helping CPI to restore power. And how about the 2 plus years of Covid-19? As controversial as it may have been, there is no doubt the severity of its impact was enormous. Pandemics and Epidemics are listed as Hazards with this plan.

- Continued on next page



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ALSEA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN – continued

Alsea has had its own Emergency Preparedness Plan since 2008. From that plan there were numerous suggestions for further mitigation measures to limit the effects of hazardous incidents. Many grants have been awarded to the Alsea Community Effort, The Alsea Emergency Preparedness Council, several churches and the Alsea Gleaners, so indeed much has been accomplished. But there is still work to be done. One way to help is to join in, think about volunteering with the Alsea Emergency Preparedness Council. Maybe take a look at the Alsea Rural Fire Department. Perhaps attend a meeting of the Alsea Community Effort. At the very least put together your own emergency plan. There are resources to do just this at the Alsea Library.

With regard to the new Benton County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, your input as a community member will be sought. You will have an opportunity to voice your concerns, offer suggestions and have some say in the development of this plan. There will be a suggestion box labeled "Benton County NHMP" placed in the Alsea Library. Drop on by the Library and drop a note. Or you can send a letter to Alsea Library, 19192 Alsea Highway, Alsea, OR 97324. There will be more opportunities later as this next year progresses. This is your chance to help build resiliency for the future of the greater Alsea and Lobster Valley Communities. You can also e-mail me for now at philplaza@hotmail.com

I promise to make sure your voices and concerns will be heard during these steering committee meetings and Alsea will continue to be represented.

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ALSEA FOOTBALL & VOLLEYBALL JAMBOREE – Bringing Back The Blue

The Booster Club was asked to host the concessions for the August 27th Jamboree. Normally, the Junior class runs concessions at the school, but since school had only been in session since August 22, there was no time for them to prepare. As you can imagine it takes several weeks at the least.

The Booster Club jumped right in with most of us having no experience, with the help of our resident board restaurateur, valued advice from Deb (Deb's café), and some amazing volunteers, were able to pull it off. It was a lot of work but turned out to be a wonderful experience.

We hope that this will start a new tradition, becoming bigger and better, for Alsea and our School. We want to thank Bart Rothenberger, our Athletic Director, for putting the Jamboree together with very short notice. As the tradition of the Jamboree continues to develop, the goal is to see many more competing volleyball and football teams coming from surrounding schools.

This event is definitely— "**Bring Back The Blue!**"

Terry Lunsford – President
Alsea Wolverine Booster Club



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Harvest Time

By Thomas Ebert

It is harvest time in our orchard. The problem is there are hardly any fruit to harvest. Apple trees are almost empty. There are a few Bramleys, no Winesaps, a couple of Northern Spys and three or four Liberties. What has happened? It was an unusual Spring. Yellow-faced bumblebees were out already in February when it was 65°F on the 18th. The month was dry with only a bit over 3" of rain until the 28th when there was a proper rain storm of nearly 3". In March and early April, fruit trees other than apples were flowering and various bees were busy. Then along came April with frost and rain and then more rain: 12.4" in April, 9.5" in May and 4" in June. Frost and a cool, wet Spring might be the explanation for poor harvest this year or the early warm period in February and March that woke-up bees followed by cool, wet weather led to poor pollination, or a combination of these two. It hasn't been just our orchard because a couple of volunteer apple trees along our driveway also have few apples. I hope next year will be better but we still have La Niña conditions off the coast and the climate it is a changin'.

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ALSEA SCHOOL, WHERE IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STUDENTS – continued from page 6

Regular school board meetings are always open to the public and held the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm in the school library. Please come and add your support and suggestions for growing the best possible school for the youth of Alsea. If you would rather attend virtually and want to be added to the community email list to receive board meeting zoom links, or think you are on the community email list but are not receiving notifications of meetings with zoom links, please contact Shirley Koetz at shirley.koetz@alsea.k12.or.us. Parents and guardians of Alsea School students should be receiving a link automatically. You can also find a link to attend meetings virtually on the Event List on the Home page of the school website at alsea.k12.or.us. Either of these links should automatically admit you to the zoom room for a meeting. If you find yourself stuck in a waiting room, please contact the technology administrator Nathan Roberts at nathan.roberts@alsea.k12.or.us for help accessing the virtual meeting. He should be accessible via email for the duration of any virtual meeting.

The Board tab on the school homepage offers other invaluable resources for folks who are interested in the goings on at board meetings. At <http://alsea.k12.or.us/board/minutes-agendas/> you can find links to sign up to speak at a meeting as well as the guidelines for doing so. The Board page also has links to communicate with sitting board members as well as an online posting of the Alsea Policy Manual. Finally, the Board page has links to postings of minutes and recordings of past board meetings prior to the implementation of Boardbooks in June of 2022.



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National Weather Service for Alsea

By Randy Hart

Hi! We're elated to have finally found National Weather Service forecasts for Alsea itself. If you're interested, to get to them:

1. Click on: <https://www.weather.gov/pqr/>
2. Click in one of the Location boxes and input our zip code (97324) and click Go
3. Scroll down past "Village Creek" to the information for Alsea

There is Extended Forecast and Detailed Forecast

4. Click on "Hour by Hour Forecast" and then click on "Alsea" (the map actually shows Alsea by name!)

We haven't explored other buttons yet. Some look interesting...

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AWBC – Volunteers

We are reaching out to the community and parents with a request to consider being a volunteer. We would like to encourage “everyone” but especially elementary and middle school parents. Having parents, grandparents, family members and friends of younger children helps as your child grows through the school years and eventually graduates. It will keep the Boosters alive long after others have moved on. This is the largest issue with all non-profits.

Even if you just commit to ONE TIME a year, it would be a huge help to supporting the benefits that the Club can bring. It is also a way to meet new people and be involved. During the Jamboree we had retired people with no child in the school, we had school employees, we had a few students. Some of these people had never met and now we have an even better group because of it.

We also want to hear from you regarding new ideas to benefit all grades, the community and school. Please consider and if interested contact me or anyone on our board even if it's just to put your name on a list for a time slot during the year. Also consider coming to our meetings, which are posted on the Alsea Wolverine Booster Club FB page.

Some events coming up besides are regular sale table at games are:

Homecoming - Sept 28-30

Quilt raffle – TBA

Grange Christmas Bazaar and Pie Sale – Dec 3

Donkey Basketball – Spring TBA

We have others in the works but not finalized as of yet.

Thank you

Terry Lunsford – President

503-740-9639

Alsea Wolverine Booster Club



Library Lines

By Kathy Koetz

As September zooms past me, I can't help but try to run to keep up. There can be so much to do to get ready for the change in weather that comes with October. It will get dark earlier, it will be colder, it will get WET, my slightly aging body will want to crawl into a cave to sleep away the winter...Sorry I was drifting off of the subject.

As the seasons change, so does the programming at the Library. Summer Reading is over, but we have started doing Storytimes with classes from Alsea School. They are visiting our building to hear stories and check out books to take back to their classrooms.

We are going to be hosting afterschool programs for children and tweens/teens on the first Tuesday of each month from 3:30-4:30. We started with a LEGOS program for Children on September 27th and our first Tween/Teen Hangout program is scheduled for Tuesday October 4th. We are planning to have a lot of fun with crafting, video games and snacks. We will then have a Children's LEGO Day on November 1st. If there are any ideas out there about what programs you would like us to offer, please stop by or call 541-487-5061 and let us know what you are interested in! We can't promise to try everything, but we really do like doing fun things with our patrons!

We know that patrons are always looking for something new, so along with new books, we get the Gazette-Times, the Oregonian and many magazines delivered to us twice a week with the interlibrary courier. Did you know that all books, magazines, games and DVD's in the Library collection can move around between all of the library buildings in the county? If you don't see it here, but you do find it in the online catalog at <https://cbcpubliclibrary.net/>, we can order it in for you! We can also help with requesting that the library purchase something if we do not currently own it.

Dates to remember:

October 4th - Tween/Teen Hangout program 3:30-4:30

November 1st – LEGOS 3:30-4:30

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ACF Trunk or Treat

ACF Church invites you to join us on October 31st for Trunk-or-treat at the Alsea Community Library parking lot. Come enjoy fun games and awesomely decorated cars filled with candy! We will be doing a 50/50 raffle for kids' ministries at ACF Church. The event starts at 5:30 pm and ends at 7:30 (the drawing for the raffle will be at 7 pm). A special thanks to the Alsea Community Effort for allowing the use of the library parking lot.



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27495 Alsea Highway
541-487-5712
www.jaywidmer.us
Facebook: Jay Widmers Alsea Anagama Kiln
call or email for a viewing

 A glowing ceramic jar with a lid, labeled 'fermentation crock'. The jar has a textured, wood-fired appearance and is emitting a warm light from within.

Kingfishers Perch
Bed & Breakfast

Relaxing riverside retreat

Online reservations
[Airbnb.com/rooms/16014044](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/16014044)

Mark and Shannon Shepherd
Seeley Creek Rd. Alsea, Oregon

 The Airbnb logo, consisting of a stylized 'A' shape.

little things sharing love, light & whimsy

By Carol Pearson

For as long as I can remember, I have delighted in a poem by George Cooper titled October's Party. While putting my thoughts together for this piece, I considered some notes about Mr. Cooper himself would be appropriate. He was born in 1840 and passed away in 1927. Much of his work was put to music by Stephen Foster and can be found in hymnals. My quick study didn't reveal any works that I readily recognized, but I plan to look further soon! My quick study ALSO revealed that the poem I have delighted in for so many years, *ACTUALLY HAS 2 MORE STANZAS!! Who knew??* Wikipedia also revealed that this poem was "memorized by 3rd graders in the 1940's". Worthwhile!! As for me, I will add the other 2 stanza's to the written poem I tape up yearly on my refrigerator.

Here is the WHOLE poem! Enjoy! Celebrate! Party!

October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came –
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.

The Chestnuts came in yellow,
The Oaks in crimson dressed;
The lovely Misses Maple
In scarlet looked their best;
All balanced to their partners,
And gaily fluttered by;
The sight was like a rainbow
New fallen from the sky.

Then, in the rustic hollow,
At hide-and-seek they played,
The party closed at sundown,
And everybody stayed.
Professor Wind played louder;
They flew along the ground;
And then the party ended
In jolly "hands around".

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REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT/NAME	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	PHONE NUMBER
Alsea Community Effort Board Meeting	Alsea Library Community Room	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 Wolverine's Booster Club				503-740-9639
Alsea Food Bank	Jeni's Place	Thursdays	10:00am-6:00pm	541-487-3663
Alsea Garden Club	ACF Church	2 nd Sat Monthly	6:00pm	541-487-5191
Men's Bible Study		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	Thursdays Saturdays	Th: 2:00pm-4:00pm Sa: 11:00am-1:00pm	503-951-2499
Stitch and Rip Quilting Club	Various (please call)	Mondays	10:00am-3:00pm	541-487-8011

ALSEA VALLEY VOICE

Alsea Community Effort
19192 Alsea Highway
Alsea, OR 97324

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Postal Patron
Alsea, OR 97324

September - October 2022