

March - April 2024



# Alsea Valley Voice



**Kathy Plaza – New ACE Board Member**

## Alsea Valley Voice

March-April 2024

Volume 26, No. 2

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### Printed by

Franklin Printing, Corvallis, Oregon

### The Alsea Valley Voice is a publication of the Alsea Community Effort

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**Alsea Valley Voice** (AVV) (USPS Permit No. 135) is published bi-monthly, and free for residence of Alsea Oregon and the surrounding communities by Alsea Community Effort, 19192 Alsea Highway, Alsea, Oregon 97324 - a nonprofit 501(c) Organization serving the social and economic needs of our rural community. Preferred periodical postage paid at Alsea, Oregon 97324. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in art without written permission is prohibited.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to ACE /AVV 19192 Alsea Highway, Alsea, Oregon 97324

### How to contact the AVV:

#### Email

Alseavalleyvoice1@gmail.com

#### Subscription services

Nonresident subscriptions \$25.00 (U.S.) per year; \$25 per year (Foreign).  
Prepayment required. Allow 4-8 weeks for first issue.

#### Address changes

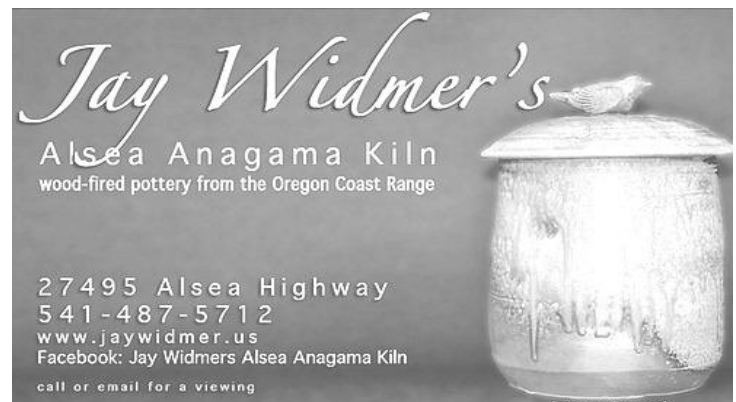
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# Letter From the Editor

By Kathy Adair

I don't know about you, but I am so glad spring is here. I love this time of year with all of the new growth and flowering trees. A feeling of newness and rebirth is all around.

In this issue you will find some great information on what many of our various community groups have been up to over the last month or so. Our community may be small, but we are mighty! There are also plenty of opportunities to lend your support in a variety of ways, large or small. Any and all help is always welcome and your support is vital.

If you would like to submit an article, please let me know. The next deadline for article submission will be **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. 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 – [AalseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com](mailto:AalseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com). Don't forget the "1" on the email. You can also still reach me on my personal email.



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## Blood Drive



Save your Blood for the  
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**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from  
1-6 pm**

Aalsea School Gym  
Make your own appointment at  
time online at  
**American Red Cross**  
Enter zip code 97324, create an  
account and reserve your  
appointment time!

## Musings from the ACE President

I am very happy to share that former Board member Kathy Plaza rejoined the ACE Board of Directors in December. Kathy, who already actively participates in our Arts Committee, decided that the time was right for her to help make decisions at the Board level. Also, she shared that time in her own life has been freed up to allow her to participate. Kathy and her husband Phil have lived in the Alsea area for thirteen years. Kathy taught primary school in Alaska, in Java on Indonesia, Saipan in Micronesia in the Northern Mariana Islands, Japan, and in India. Kathy can speak Spanish, Bahafa Indonesian, and a little Japanese, as well as English. (See photo on cover of this AVV issue)

ACE volunteers will be presenting at an upcoming Benton County Commission meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to share details about the progress made on our Alsea Community Library Legacy Fund. The fund was started in 2022 as a partnership between ACE and Corvallis - Benton County Library Foundation to grow financial reserves for maintenance of the library and community building. Library Director Ashlee Chavez has coached the ACE Board on fundraising and outreach for the fund. More information about how to contribute to the Alsea Legacy Fund can be found on the Corvallis - Benton County Library Foundation's website at <https://thebestlibraryfoundation.org>

Also, a couple of kudos to share. Thank you, Eddy Provost, for managing the installation of the three new HVAC systems in the library and community building. Patrons should be more comfortable with the energy efficient systems and perhaps we will also save on our electricity bill. Also, thank you Kathy Plaza for writing a grant to the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund (STCCF) and Consumers Power Ins. to fund future Art Committee activities.

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

Meredith Howell, ACE President

### 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.

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

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



## Gardener's Corner

By Kathy Adair

Spring is here and as I write this, it's a warm, sunny day and Kerry is out mowing the orchard. I don't know about you, but I love the sound of a lawn mower. It's a signal of warm weather and beautiful days here in our gorgeous valley.


Right now is a great time to start getting your garden spots ready for your starts. Weeding out anything that doesn't belong and adding in some good mulch will give your soil some much needed nutrients to boost your new starts.

We learned something this winter. The tree companies that have been working along the highway are often looking for places to dump their wood chips from their road work. If you are in need of a load or so of wood chips (like we were), they will dump loads for free. This saved us hundreds of dollars and we now have enough chips to lay not just throughout the nursery, but in all of our flower and berry beds. All you have to do is contact them and give them your address.

Cold crops have been seeded up and are growing nicely. We should have those ready for sale shortly after this issue gets in your mailbox. We are looking to open Alsea Valley Nursery on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Watch our Facebook page for updates. Walla Walla onions are looking awesome and the greenhouses are already full of a wide variety of plants. We have several varieties of lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, kale and more, to get your garden started. We also have bags of soil for sale again this year.

We are looking forward to this growing season. As always, we are here to answer your gardening questions to help you have a successful garden. Our area is full of individual microclimates due to the hills and trees, which changes the level of sun and temperatures available during the growing season. Some of us have a combination of issues and it can make getting a good harvest a bit of a challenge. Add in the wide ranging weather patterns our springs give us, and it keeps us on our toes!

Regardless, we always look forward to this time of year when we finally get to have fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers to enjoy. When they are grown by our own hands, it makes the harvest even more special. Here's to a great growing season!!



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## Library Lines

by Kathy Koetz

SPRING! I can hardly wait for real spring to get here! We have had a few “false Spring” stretches that certainly got our hopes up, but now it is really time for Spring to be here. And there is so much to get done before the planting season! There is pruning to do and soil to amend, then choosing seeds and plants. Do I want flowers? Vegetables? So many choices to be made and I can hardly wait. If you need help with knowing how to prune (and when), what will grow well in our area, or tips on watering and fertilizing, we have a book (or video) for that! If the one you need is not on our shelf here in Alsea, we can order it in.

We have a beautiful array of Pyrites in our display case from all over the world. Brian Leavitt (and granddaughters) set up some of their collection for us to enjoy. And Brian has been kind enough to come in and talk to our elementary classes during school Storytimes about these super cool finds. Drop in and check it out!

Don't forget that Lego Day is still the First Tuesday of each month! In February we also had a visit from the Mid-Valley STEM Club. We learned about our senses, what happens when you mix different solutions (some get really BIG) and ended up making SLIME. What fun!!

Legos: April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> 3:30-4:30 We will use our collective imaginations to build something fun!

Mobile Maker (STEM) May 14<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5 subject TBA we will post to our Facebook page as soon as possible.



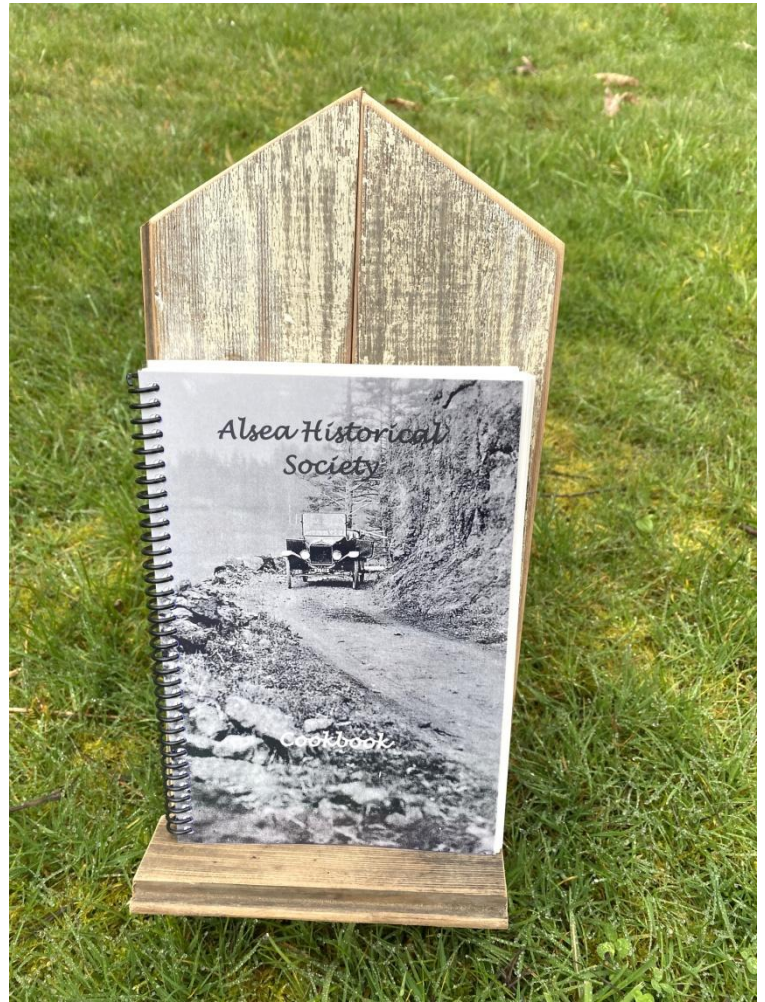
Brian Leavitt talking pyrites with 4<sup>th</sup> graders




## COOK UP SOME ALSEA HISTORY

Alesea Historical Society Cookbook is here! Hot from our friendly printer, Franklin Press, the 160 page book is filled with local history and the traditional recipes that local folks shared. Author, Roy France, has compiled personal, family, friends, Al-Senior Center, and Kingfisher sources to make a delight-filled collection. Roy also added a sourdough section and lots of tasty snack recipes. This is the first edition and the Alesea Historical Society plans at least one future edition with more local treasures. We already have great suggestions for future contributions, including Deb's grandmother's pie crust recipe! Cookbooks are available from our generous local merchants Matt at John Boy's and Deb at Deb's Café. Roy France and Patsy Jones can also hook folks up with a copy, even a signed copy that would surely be a family treasure. Copies can be ordered at [Alseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:Alseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com). The books are selling for \$15 locally. Ordered from the website, shipping charges will be added.

The Alesea Historical Society has plans(dreams) of earning funds and winning grants to obtain a local building to store historical treasures and lore that eventually will be available for the community and visitors. Thanks to a grant from the Alesea Clinic funds, this book was published so sales will begin to build to that dream. Alesea Historical Society is a 501 (3-c) nonprofit organization and all donations are cheerfully accepted and tax deductible.





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## Government Corner at Alsea Library

By Sara Cash

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Benton County Commissioner Xan Augerot brought together another meeting for Alsea residents to talk with our elected and county officials. About 40 locals gathered in person and virtually along with Commissioner Augerot, Lincoln County Commissioner Casey Miller, Benton County Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall, Christine Mosbaugh of the Benton County Community Health Center, Oregon State Representative David Gomberg, and Oregon State Senator Dick Anderson. There was a lively conversation with much input from the Alsea attendees. Many thanks to all of these public officials for taking time from their busy schedules to visit Alsea and to all of the townspeople who came to listen, ask questions, and work together on the hard topics facing our community. Sadly, Commissioner Augerot, who has been so supportive of Alsea, will end her tenure at the end of this year. She has endorsed Liz Irish, who was also at the meeting, for the coming election to fill her seat.

Commissioner Augerot brought great news that US Senators Wyden and Merkley were able to secure **\$1 million of funding specifically earmarked to work on the Alsea and Alpine sewers!** She reported that bids will be taken some time in the next few weeks, with the possibility that work could be done this year. Sheriff Van Arsdall reported that US Representative Val Hoyle secured funding for the new antennae that offers better tri band radio coverage for Benton County Rural Fire during emergencies. Both of these public servants stated repeatedly that they welcome input from the public and reserve Fridays for personal meetings and calls with Benton County residents. Christine Mosbaugh gave a report of the status of the Alsea Clinic closure and reopening. A flyer with more detailed information about the clinic has been mailed to all the mailboxes in the Alsea zip code. Other news from the county is that there will be an election for a new district attorney. Sheriff Van Arsdall encouraged people to make public comments about concerns expressed at the meeting concerning prosecution and incarceration in Benton County.

Senator Dick Anderson stated his support for the Alsea Community Action Collaborative as a vehicle for positive change for the community. Then Jamie Olsen made a plea for assistance with the many challenges facing our community, Rep. Gomberg replied that he and our senator would welcome an “organized, concerted, community wide emergency based ask” for intervention. I am going to follow up on this statement to find out more specifically how we as a community could make that “ask.”

Concerns were shared from the attendees about fire related issues like fireworks, the need to prosecute firebugs, fire insurance rates, and renters’ insurance rates due to distance from fire protection. Alsea Fire Department Captain George Foster stated that he thinks the State Fire Risk map, which affects things like insurance rates and taxation, is too restrictive. He also stated that part of the clinic reopening needs to include walk in services so that the fire department does not have to respond to minor emergencies, which further taxes their underfunded and understaffed resources.

Land use and housing issues, of course, took center stage during the discussion portion of the evening. Points were made that Alsea lacks Rural Residential zoning, which allows for housing exemptions, and that returning Multi Use Ag zoning to use would address this problem. Soren Rounds pointed out that, if zoning requirements were changed, there are empty lots in downtown that could be made into housing units for professionals who could then move to town to teach at the school or serve at the clinic. The question then arose of how to ensure that such units would go to the intended public professionals.

~ Continued on next page~



## Government Corner at Alsea Library continued

Janet Hendrix stated that Oregon needs regional zoning rather than statewide zoning, so that codes could better fit the local needs and land usage. George Foster stated that land use regulations must be eased so that Alsea can grow as needed, suggesting that large scale landowners be able to divide off parcels staggered over time to build housing units for family members. Janet Hendrix raised the question of how to direct housing to those who need it without restricting the rights of property owners to do as they want or need to with their own property. Linda Carter and others expressed concerns about land use changes leading to our own tiny version of urban sprawl.

As part of the housing conversation, Senator Dick Anderson announced the creation of a low interest revolving loan system for municipalities and counties that is intended to fuel the building of affordable housing units across the state. The concept is that the local community determines what would work best in their community and then seeks funding through their municipality or their county if the town is unincorporated. The loan is repaid over time using the property taxes from the newly created housing units, which in turn replenishes the funds available to loan.

Commissioner Augerot pointed out that the current rewriting of the countywide comprehensive plan provides a unique opportunity to address land use problems in Alsea through the vehicle of the Alsea Citizen's Advisory Committee (read more about this in another article in this issue). She also stated that taking away tax deductions for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> homes might make units that are currently empty available for purchase or rent.

Liz Irish, Benton County Planning Commissioner and candidate for Benton County commissioner, suggested leveraging my position on the planning commission to address land use in our community. She asked that comments and input from Alsea residents on how to redistrict our local areas be addressed to the committees and subcommittees of the Planning Commission that are working on land use issues and rewriting the comprehensive plan.

Representative Gomberg has been creating initiative to finance infrastructure development to support additional housing units. He says there is discussion at the capital to allow acreage to be swapped like for like to encourage the production of housing units near urban growth barriers. Senator Dick Anderson suggested the creation of a model for zoning that addresses the needs of small communities by loosening land use restrictions to accommodate the desires of those communities.

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## Let Your Beneficial Insects Take Care of Your Garden

By Glenn Bravy

My first year gardening in Alsea, I was welcomed by aphids in the thousands on my tomatoes. I tried spraying them with soapy water and neem oil. But first I freaked out. If I had instead worked to mimic nature, I would have seen that all things live in harmony. Aphids are hunted by lacewings and wasps which are hunted by other insects which are hunted by birds and spiders. May the food circle be unbroken and may nature be the guide.

My beneficial insects have their favorite flowers and herbs such as yarrow, cosmos, fennel, dill, and dozens more. Having access to those flowers and a water source is as much as you need to do. Nature will take it from there.

Lacewings, ladybugs and mini-wasps, among others, are all hunters of pests like aphids, mites and mealybugs. As long as the insect buffet is open, they'll stick around and feast! Lacewings do not dine on insects alone. They need pollen and nectar from flowers too so planting their favorites brings all the lacewings to the yard. Add to that a shallow water dish and you're in business. Lacewings will find their way to the garden and eat all the pests.

Ready to woo all the beneficial insects?

1. Find out the predators of the pests you've seen. Lacewings and ladybugs are among the generalists of the predators. Yarrow is a very desirable flower because while it looks beautiful and is edible, it attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds as well as our predator insect friends. Insect friends also like dill, coriander, cosmos, and a long list that's worth Googling to find your favorites.
2. Plant many different types of flowers. Some bloom in spring and some in late summer. The insects we want will want to eat all season long.
3. Provide shallow bird baths near their flower habitats. Whereas birds can bathe in deeper water, bees and other insects would drown in those deep baths. Give them a shallower pool to drink from.
4. Be mindful of planting before the risk of last frost - May 4th or whenever the snow is gone from Mary's Peak. After that, you can sow seeds directly or take the starts from inside a greenhouse or windowsill out into the garden.
5. Give it some patience when pests arrive. Nature seeks balance. The news will spread, and the insects you want to see will arrive soon.
6. As a bonus, allow for taller flowers, undisturbed corners and piles of rocks where spiders like to make their homes. They will continue eating pesky mosquitos and other insects all season long.

Provide all the right conditions and wait - nature will even things out and you'll find tomatoes without pests. Lastly, save money and ditch pesticides. It kills off pests, yes, but also beneficial insects. What's worse is that those pesticides don't leave our food and no amount of washing that apple will get rid of them.

Make a floral wonderland that beneficial insects love and you'll get to keep more of your produce without extra work. The insect helpers will wish you the best until next season with a song of "so long and thanks for all the bugs!"

## Alsea Citizen's Advisory Committee and Benton County Comprehensive Plan

By Mimi Stout, Chair of the Alsea CAC and Sara Cash

In a series of meetings over the past few years, the Alsea community has been seeking additional cooperation and support from Benton County and the State of Oregon as we seek to address long-standing and emerging community needs. One way to secure support is through establishing and maintaining a fully appointed, active Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The Alsea CAC's responsibility is to represent our community to the county commissioners.

Because Citizen's Advisory Committees were empowered by the Oregon Legislature in the 1970s to work on land use issues, the Alsea CAC has legal standing in its relationship with Benton County. Since Alsea is unincorporated, the hope is that the Alsea CAC can serve as a vehicle for effective action with Benton County to help Alsea survive and thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Benton County will soon begin the public input portion of an update to the countywide comprehensive plan. Alsea Citizens have had over 50 years living with the current land use plan and its outcomes. This is an important opportunity to be able to collaborate with the Commissioners and their representatives to make improvements to the plan that will allow for prosperity for the community and support for the many community-based services. Between now and June, it is vital to have as much community participation as possible before the county intends to visit to gather input for the update of the county comprehensive plan. Please come to meetings, help fill the vacant CAC seats, and make your voices heard about how you hope Alsea will survive and thrive long into the future.

There are several ways for Alsea citizens to get involved in this process. In April, there will be a series of meetings on Monday nights at 7 pm, possibly the 8<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, to reorganize the committee. The CAC needs to elect three members. In addition to regular meetings, CAC members will need to read and become familiar with current land use laws and attend training sessions and other activities put on by the county.

All CAC meetings will be open to the public to present their ideas about how to solve today's problems and shape Alsea's future. As details are finalized, look for times and locations on the Alsea Neighbors and Friends Facebook page and flyers on the usual town bulletin boards. Also look for future details about the elections to fill the seats on the CAC. Bulk mailings will be used when necessary to assure that all Alsea folks are informed about what is happening and how they can participate.

Zoom access and technology support for these meetings are being provided by the county. This zoom link and password can be used to access all public meetings of the Alsea CAC:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpce6opjlpGtUF-Jv\\_gLTVdCwkHBP7sfyr](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpce6opjlpGtUF-Jv_gLTVdCwkHBP7sfyr)

Passcode: 4966933

Please contact Sara Cash at [acac97324@gmail.com](mailto:acac97324@gmail.com) or 541-602-7819:

- if you need assistance to attend a virtual public meeting of the CAC
- if you would like more information about how to participate in this project
- if you would like to be on an email list for meeting announcements, etc.

## 1st Annual GRANGE Spring Fundraising Raffle

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

During the COVID shutdown of 2020, ACE was in the midst of its Annual Spring Raffle and had already gathered many donated raffle items. As the Raffle had to be cancelled, the prizes were put into storage at the Alsea Community Library. The ACE Board has handed over the Raffle to the Alsea Hope Grange. The funds generated will now go toward Grange projects that enhance community vitality and, primarily, toward the Grange's upkeep of its building.

Regarding the raffle itself, we know that in addition to its importance as a fundraiser, it has become an Alsea tradition. It brings us together each spring, whether we're making hand-crafted donations or buying tickets to support the cause and possibly to win a prize! In this AVV issue you will find a list of prizes donated by our generous supporters. Stapled to the AVV are six tickets for the raffle. The price is: \$5 for six tickets — or, for a smaller number of tickets, \$1 per ticket. Then write your name and phone number on the back of each ticket and return them with payment to the Alsea Library. If you would like to buy more tickets, just indicate how many, enclose your payment, drop your request with payment off at the library, (or mail to: Alsea Hope Grange c/o Alsea Community Library, 19192 Alsea Hwy, Alsea 97324). A GRANGE BOARD MEMBER will fill them out for you and enter them into the Raffle—or you can buy more at the library. You can drop everything off at the Alsea Community Library or a designated jar at John Boy's Merc or Deb's Cafe. (Make checks out to ALSEA HOPE GRANGE.) The drawing will be conducted on Saturday, MAY 18, in the Community Room at the Library. Winners will be telephoned throughout the day to ask them their choices of prizes, so keep your list of prizes handy. Prizes will be available for pick-up at the drawing, or later at the library during regular library hours.

This past year a Grange Capital Improvements Projects list was developed and much has been accomplished. This included much needed additional lighting, both inside and outside, the donated cedar siding has been put on the pump house, some minor foundation work was done, new lighter and easier to set up tables were purchased, an electric heater was put in the kitchen as a second source of heating, and donated bark was placed around the pathways. But these were just several projects of the 24 needed capital Improvements. However as you can imagine there are many more improvements needed to keep this historic building alive. The Grange Raffle is just one way to help, so please consider purchasing your raffle tickets soon.

### Silent Auction Prizes

1: Picnic Table by Jim Minter – minimum bid \$100

2: One load of gravel from Alsea Quarry to be delivered within 25 miles of the Quarry – minimum bid \$150

### More Prize Items of unknown value

Radio Flyer Scooter

Artist's Studio Easel

Outdoor Trellis

Quilt

(2) sets of Blank Hand Painted Cards

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**More Prize Items of unknown value**

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 (3) large 2 topping pizzas  
 Gift bag essential oil items  
 (2) \$10 GC  
 (4) \$ 10 GC  
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The Benton County Veterans Service Office assists Veterans and Veteran Families in submitting claims for Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits to include disability compensation, pension, survivor's benefits, and VA Healthcare. Our Veteran Service Officers advocate on behalf of the claimant to ensure all benefits, for which the claimant is eligible, are received.

Our services are free of charge, and our Veteran Service Officers are fully accredited by the VA, National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, and Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.

We serve all of Benton County and in-person appointments can be requested in Alsea as well as other rural communities within the county to better assist the veterans and families to file claims.

We also conduct telephone appointments when appropriate. Our office is in Corvallis located at 1121 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

We urge veterans and their families to contact our office so that they may explore the potential benefits earned by the service of the veteran.

Our office salutes our veterans and families for dedicating their service to our country. You have served, now let us serve you.

Contact our office at

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**Alesea Community Action Collaborative Update**

By Sara Cash, Project Coordinator

The work of ACAC is to *create a community where our kids can build bright futures through community based projects that enhance safety, stability, sustainability.* You can read about the clinic reopening project elsewhere in this issue. There is also an article about the Government Corner coordinated by Benton County Commissioner Xan Augerot and ACAC and sponsored by ACE. As a new planning commissioner, I have attended several Benton County Planning Commission meetings and trainings. At one training, the topic was HB 2805, which updated Oregon public meetings laws to address emails, texts, and virtual meetings, which is a fascinating topic.

We were delighted when the new Benton County Administrator Rachel McEneny reached out to ACAC to schedule an informational visit to Alesea so she could learn about the needs of our community. We took her on an auto tour of our local services while talking with her about the needs that were expressed to ACAC during the community meetings last year. She fell in love with Alesea and the elk who decided to join the meeting at the library.

Please feel free to contact me at [acac97324@gmail.com](mailto:acac97324@gmail.com) or 541-602-7819 for more information on any of these topics, to offer your ideas and opinions on how to strengthen the Alesea community, or to find out how to get involved in any of these projects.

*Disclaimer: ACAC exists as an advisory committee for the Alesea Community Effort’s Board in regards to Alesea community outreach in matters relating to the possible unmet needs of the immediate town and surrounding rural area. While the Members of the ACE board support research and work being done by ACAC in developing a network of potential partnerships, ACAC is required to present to the ACE board any and all correspondence, proposals, etc for prior approval before further action is taken.*



Sara Cash  
 Project Coordinator  
 19192 Alesea Highway  
 Alesea, OR 97324  
 (541) 602-7819  
[acac97324@gmail.com](mailto:acac97324@gmail.com)

## CREP Saved The Family Farm

By Keta Tom

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) saved the family farm. On a beautiful winter day in 2020 Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District (BCSWD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees piled into a car to tour the farm and judge if and what CREP would cover. The lease pays the landowner to slow mud, pesticides, and fertilizer from filling the Alsea river by restoring habitat. It is best to enroll before October, however I did it in January.

The Ted Tom trust's two 50-acre farms, each with a creek, one Forest Conservation or non-exclusive farm use, the other Exclusive Farm Use, connected by Alsea riverfront on a dead end road with a covered bridge, faced losing its farm deferral. The property taxes would increase by three times. Land in a farm program gets the farm deferral. CREP saved the farms. CREP is a federal farm program to decrease erosion and increase wildlife, mostly salmon. CREP currently pays about \$120 each acre a year to lease, while reimbursing the farmer half the cost to clear blackberries and other weeds, plant new trees and shrubs, and mow between the rows for two years within a budget. It cannot be done with no money. You have to pay for trees and shrubs up front, getting reimbursed for half later. I had to hire a planting crew because I needed to plant over 14,000 trees and shrubs on about 50 acres in a short time.

Most of the work I could not do myself; I am old and don't have equipment. It costs more to buy and maintain equipment in the short term than hire someone to do the work. I was fortunate. Ted's band mate knew Matt Dedek of Baker Creek Restoration, another guitar player, did forest restoration work. Matt had a skidsteer and front end mower and a grapple. He had done restoration work for several years with watershed councils. Pandemic worry caused his Veneta landlord to cease renting to him because Matt had to leave home to work. The landlord thought he would bring the disease home. Matt ended up living in Alsea on the Ted trust farm. I am fortunate to have someone who knows what to do and I don't have to pay trip charges.

CREP leases up to 180 feet on each side of a creek or river with a 35 foot minimum for ten to fifteen years. The lease has cost of living increases and can be renewed, even by heirs. The farm's entire Alsea riverfront is leased. The soil conservationist used an aerial map program to measure the riverbank area so what was an almost straight drop was laid out flat. Both sides of each creek within the farm are leased. Salmon smolts go up creeks to get out of the heavy, winter Alsea current and feed on snails and bugs, getting fat and happy. Mud stays on the land when the water is slower. Keeping the moisture in the soil by restoring the historic stream channel decreases chance of wildfire. The fish return to the Alsea much stronger and go to the ocean.

The Benton County Soil Conservation District is the first stop. It makes the recommendation, along with the NRCS, the Farm Services Agency (FSA) within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) designs the planting plan, two shrubs for every tree. The landowner and the restoration contractor keeps work records for reimbursement and work proof. The FSA supervises and does the reimbursement paperwork. No domestic animals can live on CREP leased land. Only native plants are planted.

The entire farm could not be in CREP. About half remained outside the 180 foot boundary. CREP could not cross the county road, could only go up to it. Buildings cannot be in CREP land. I studied the Oregon Department of Revenue Farm Use Manual and the Forestland Manual, going over the explanations and rules to see how I could maintain the farm deferral.

Continued on next page



**CREP continued**

Of the remaining acreage, about nine acres on the forest conservation field was put in farm woodlot, so it is exempt from farm income requirement. Of the remaining state allowed 20 acre farm woodlot, about 11 acres on the exclusive farm use land, some became a piece enclosing ancient apple and pear trees and another piece with a view. A farm woodlot can be divided into many pieces, even miles apart, if they are part of a contiguous farm by the farm owner, not rented out. The farm woodlot needs only two trees, since it has no minimum tree spacing, and shouldn't look like a city park. The remaining farm land got planted into mixed native trees and shrubs, many which are USDA specialty crops: big leaf maple for maple syrup, cascara, elderberry, and Oregon grape. The land isn't required to be tilled or sprayed for four years to demonstrate agriculture, since there is no convention for these crops. The trees and shrubs don't have to be harvested until they are fully grown.

The CREP lease money pays for the property taxes, electricity, and phone with internet. This means I can live in Alsea and walk on the land.

Benton County Soil and Water Conservation Service: [dschmitz@bentonswcd.org](mailto:dschmitz@bentonswcd.org), 541-753-7208

Farm Services Agency: Dimitri Anglin, [dimitri.anglin@usda.gov](mailto:dimitri.anglin@usda.gov), 541-967-5925 extension 2673

United States Department of Agriculture: Heather Tritt, [heather.tritt@or.usda.gov](mailto:heather.tritt@or.usda.gov), 541-967-5925

Oregon Department of Forestry: Bill Mahr, [bill.mahr@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:bill.mahr@odf.oregon.gov), 541-929-3266 extension 1 6247#

If anyone wants my study and quotes from the Department of Revenue Manuals or the plan sent to the county assessor, I will email them to you. They could be useful for you. The state is committed to preserving Oregon's rural life. Knowing the rules can make life less frustrating.

[ketaktom@gmail.com](mailto:ketaktom@gmail.com)

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## Alsea School District Update

**Krista Nieraeth, M.Ed.**

*Superintendent, K - 6 Principal, and Special Education Director*

At Alsea, "ATTENDANCE MATTERS." Students who attend school at a rate of 90% or better will do better in school. Coming to school 90% of the time each semester means only missing 8 days of school, for a total of 16 days each year. We want our students to be at school ON TIME, EACH AND EVERY DAY. Please remember that school starts at 8am, with breakfast being served at 7:40am. In February, we celebrated 161 students who were at school 90% or more of the time with certificates and t – shirts that said "Alsea...Attendance Matters." Thank you to those students and families who make coming to school a PRIORITY.

We also celebrated our junior high and high school students who earned a GPA for 3.0 or above. Below is Alsea Jr./Sr. High School Honor Roll for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of the 2023 – 25 school year:

### Principal's Honor Roll (3.76 – 4.00)

<b>Seniors:</b>	Sebastian Franciosi, Rebecca Lorain, Hayden Spaulding
<b>Juniors:</b>	Shaylyn Noble, Gerald Peck – Cleveland, Annike Schleuter, Kendra Stone
<b>Sophomores:</b>	Emma Burkhard, Cash Mildwater
<b>Freshmen:</b>	Lila Follett, Tamarra O'Brien, Megan VanLueven
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b>	Kyler Campbell, Luke Hendrix
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b>	Carter Campbell, Kellen Carlson, Delaney Jacobsen, Piper Pedder, Lane VanLueven, Autumn Wilson

### High Honor Roll (3.50 – 3.75)

<b>Seniors:</b>	Ethan Cantrell, Hallie Olsen
<b>Juniors:</b>	Bear Aguas, Christopher Foster, Whisper Garrett
<b>Sophomores:</b>	Paisley Jacobsen
<b>Freshmen:</b>	Hunter Dennis, Max Franciosi, Austin Quam
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b>	Dawson Elbers, Emmett Sapp
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b>	Cobi Smallwood, Chloe Pedder

### Honor Roll (3.00 – 3.49)

<b>Juniors:</b>	Mia DeBruhl
<b>Sophomores:</b>	Kylie Thorson
<b>Freshmen:</b>	Nathan Allen, Shelby Darlington, Gavin Taylor, Braiden Webb
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b>	Jaxx Nepper

Congratulations to the students for all their hard work in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We will post times on our website and Facebook page. As always, if you have questions about your student's progress, please reach out to your student's teacher(s).

The district is continuing to updating our emailing lists. If you would like to receive updates from the school district regarding school activities and business, please email Nathan Roberts at [nathan.roberts@alsea.k12.or.us](mailto:nathan.roberts@alsea.k12.or.us) to get your email and name on our list!

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



1<sup>st</sup> Grade



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



5<sup>th</sup> Grade



8<sup>th</sup> Grade



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## Fire Extinguisher Training Scheduled

Hi Neighbors –

Last year those who responded to our Soap Creek Prepared questionnaire told us you wanted the opportunity to practice and learn – so we did Stop the Bleed classes and had OSU Extension Well people out to test our wells for nitrates. Now we have another “hands-on” training opportunity – a chance to get some practical experience in a safe manner at the same time you add skills to your repertoire. Come on down, spend an hour and get some practical knowledge!

On Saturday, April 20, 2024, there will be an hour-long fire extinguisher training at the Adair Fire station in Adair Village. Your local Soap Creek Prepared committee is partnering with the Adair Rural Fire and Rescue Department, Philomath Fire Department and Benton County CERT to provide this training and experience.

Three sessions are scheduled for that day beginning at 9 AM, 10 AM and 11 AM. If all three sessions are full and we have enough applicants, a fourth session, at noon will be scheduled. For safety purposes, we have 12 slots open each hour. That ensures everyone gets the opportunity to use an extinguisher. Each session will begin with an educational portion that discusses fire extinguisher types and use, then end with safely using an extinguisher to put out a fire. You do have to pre-register as the number of participants is a safety consideration!

Participants must be 18 or older and should wear hard-toed shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Please bring your own work gloves and safety glasses. If you do not have safety goggles/glasses, we have ones you can borrow.

For more information or to register for this event, please contact Pam Wilson at [skookumyaya@gmail.com](mailto:skookumyaya@gmail.com) or call at 541-740-5286. Be prepared to tell which session, 9, 10 or 11, you want to attend, your name(s) and contact information so we can respond with a confirmation.

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## Alsea Clinic Workgroup Update

By Sara Cash and Christine Mosbaugh, Population Health and Engagement Manager for Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties

The Alsea Clinic Workgroup has been exploring options for reopening the Alsea Clinic. The federal legislature has still not approved funding for new points of access for funding FQHCs, which is the only type of clinic that Benton County CHC can provide in Alsea. New points of access are only created every few years, so Benton County CHC has not been able to apply for funding for the Alsea Clinic since they assumed management and can only apply this year if federal funds are released. If funds are released and Alsea Clinic receives funds, it would be at least six months before the doors could re-open (more about all this below). Sadly, Oregon Health Authority did not offer a grant for the clinic reopening project, requiring any community-based reorganizing project to seek different funding sources. The workgroup will meet again in April to report back on outreach and research to discuss paths forward.

Other possibilities for how the clinic might be re-organized include:

- Partnership with an outside healthcare organization to go back to a Rural Health Clinic, which would be a return to the previous healthcare model that community members miss so much. In this case, the ownership and management of the facility would likely have to be run by a local 501c3
- An outreach clinic from Benton County and other health providers that would utilize the clinic facilities. Benton County CHC cannot start outreach here until after the point of access question is resolved because an outreach clinic cannot become a point of access.
- A walk-in medical clinic with an immediate care or paramedicine model. The fire department strongly supports this because it would save our local understaffed and underfunded RFD from responding to minor injuries.
- A School Based Health Center (SBHC) is a potential but not immediate option that would require that Alsea School District assume ownership of the clinic property. A SBHC can provide community wide health services only within strict parameters but would help the school to have access to care along with the community.

A message from Christine Mosbaugh, Population Health and Engagement Manager for Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties:

Community Health Centers across the country are celebrating an increase in federal funding for services, as of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is the first increase in nearly 10 years for Community Health Centers, but is not the whole picture, yet. Health Centers are funded with mandatory funding (70% of their budget) and discretionary funding (30% of their budget). The nearly 10% increase in mandatory funding is exciting, and we are still waiting for a discretionary funding decision. The timeframe for this to happen is March 23, 2024.

Because CHCs save money and provide meaningful care in communities, they have broad support they have enjoyed for nearly 60 years. Despite this, federal budget negotiations can be complex. After the federal funding picture is clear, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will be able to make decisions about new funding options and processes. Health Centers will be awarded these, or compete for new opportunities, depending on what is available.

What the CHC is hoping is that HRSA will add New Access Point options. This would allow us to apply for additional federal support for the Alsea Health Center. That funding comes to us year after year, making the model we use to care for people with a diverse care team possible. The last time New Access Points were available was 2016. We do not know when, or if, this will happen again.

We will apply for this opportunity if it is available, and the community can still decide, during the process, if this comprehensive model of care is the right fit for them. If Alsea Health Center receives funds, it would likely be Fall/Winter 2024 before we had this information and could reopen.

To keep folks up to speed with this process, the CHC submitted an Every Door Direct Mail that should have arrived before the end of March for those who live in the 97324 zip code.

## Alsea School New CTE Construction Begins!

Wow! At long last, construction is beginning on the new CTE building at Alsea Schools!



Work began in mid-March and you should already see underground utilities installation progressing. Through April you'll see that work transition into foundations work and construction of the metal building will begin in May. All construction is expected to be complete in mid-August, in time for the school to move in, with some final finishes potentially going into the fall. We will keep you informed on progress with regular postings on the school's website and social media.

Please note that this will be considered an active construction site throughout the whole process, so do not try to enter the fenced off construction zone unaccompanied. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Giggy at [nancy@imsoregon.com](mailto:nancy@imsoregon.com) or at 541-452-1919.

Yay, Alsea!

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## Her Last Lesson

Joyce Marie Mahr passed away on October 12, 2023, with her family by her side. A brave woman that chose her perfect ending to her battle with Pancreatic cancer.

Joyce was born to Burt and Mina May McMullen on September 11, 1953. She was born and raised in Philomath, Oregon. She and Rodney Mahr married and became partners in life on April 30, 1977.

Joyce and Rodney moved to Alsea Oregon to raise their three sons: Dan Mahr, Bill Mahr, and Todd Mahr.

Joyce was a homemaker while her children were young, then worked for Benton County Parks Department for several years. She then landed her dream job, a Fish Hatchery Technician at the Alsea Fish Hatchery, where she made lifelong friends. She later transferred to the Fall Creek Fish Hatchery; later to become the Hatchery Research Center.

Joyce was a loving wife and a great mother. If we (the boys) needed a whooping, she whooped the hell out of us. If we needed loving, she loved the hell out of us.

Joyce leaves behind husband, Rodney Mahr, and children, Dan, Billy, and Todd. She had one granddaughter Jasmine Vanderford, and several other grandchildren that carry her last name: Wesson, Adam, Kaleb, Nathan, and Tayte.

Joyce loved life and loved family.

She had an opinion and was not afraid to share it even during her passing. She gave family the best and last lesson. She in her absolute and unwavering decision decided to spend her last days at home in Mitchell Oregon, rather than spending them in a hospital. Selfishly her family tried to talk her into other options, but she would not waver.

During her last days she was able to watch her birds from her front porch and have conversations with family. Her last demand was that her family was around her when she passed. We (Rodney, Dan, Bill, and Todd) made her perfect ending by being by her side as she passed.

Joyce's love for God, and her faith give her family comfort that she will be waiting for us when our time comes. It turns out that her decision to go home and pass was best for family too.

A celebration of life was held for her on March 16 at the Alsea Hope Grange.



# 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 Wolverines Booster Club				503-740-9639
Alsea Food Bank	Jeni's Place	Thursdays	10:00am-4:00pm	541-487-3663
Alsea Garden Club	ACF Church	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat Monthly	12:00pm	541-760-3856
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
Stitch and Rip Quilting Club	Various (please call)	Mondays	10:00am-3:00pm	541-487-8011
Alsea Kitchen Club	Alsea Library	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun Monthly	2:00-4:00pm	503-255-8055

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