

September - October 2025



Alsea Valley Voice



Jenga Fun at the Annual Alsea Blackberry Blast

Alsea Valley Voice

September-October 2025

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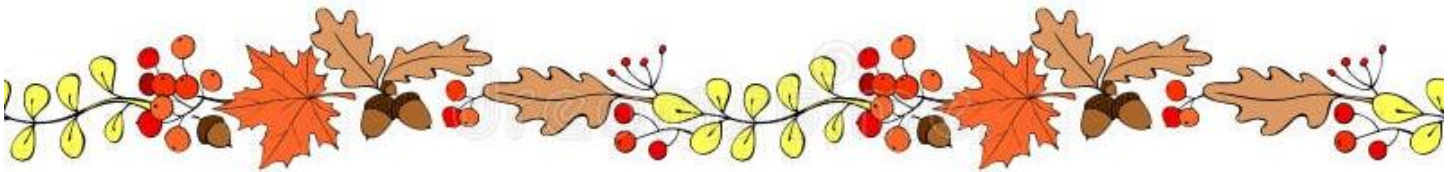
Letter From the Editor

By Kathy Adair

I cannot believe how fast the summer went, this year. Fall is in the air, the leaves are becoming brilliantly colored, and the kids are back in school. Have you seen the new Welcome to Alsea sign? It's awesome! Our wonderful little community has so much great stuff going on. Lots of fun celebrations, gatherings and reasons to come together. Each and every one of you matters and you are an integral part of what makes our town so special.

If you would like to submit an article, please let me know. The next deadline for article submission will be **November 15th, 2025**. This will be for the November/December issue. If you are an organization or business, think about what is coming up that you would like the community to know about and let's get something in the AVV. It is helpful if articles are in Word format and emailed to me. PDF does not work very well. Many thanks to all of you who submit articles.

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



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Musings from the ACE President

It was a Blast indeed. 200 pieces of pie with Lochmead ice cream later, 250 hamburgers and 80 hotdogs with all the trimmings, vendors galore, three marvelous bands and many volunteers all worked in concert to bring the community of Alsea and friends of the community of Alsea together. We were honored to have Representative David Gomberg and his wife Susan on hand as well as Benton County Commissioners Pat Malone and Gabe Shepherd. The Corvallis Gazette Times produced a full-page photo collage of the event. Corvallis-Benton County Public Library staff and ACE volunteers hosted children's activities and a raffle drawing for local business establishments. Highlights for me were the chance to meet so many interesting people and the positive feelings that festival goers had about coming together to celebrate community. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped bake pies, serve pies, plan events, cook, coordinate, and ensure that everyone had a good time. Thank you to our 2025 Blackberry Blast Sponsors: Pioneer Connect, Consumers Power Inc (CPI), Lochmead Dairy, and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

Don't miss the article on page 8 written by Kathy and Phil Plaza about our new LED lighting project. Supported by the capable coordination talents of Kathy and Phil, I think we may have set a land speed record for completing the project. And the replacement of our florescent lighting with LED lighting will reduce electricity costs, reduce the number of times bulbs need to be replaced, and create a warmer light "tone" in the library and community room spaces. Thank you to our project funders: the CPI Charitable Trust, a CPI lighting incentive program and the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund. Thank you to Axis Electric for completing the electrical work on the project.

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

Meredith Howell, ACE President

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Alsea Community Effort (ACE) prints the bi-monthly AVV with the financial support of folks like you. The AVV is mailed at no cost to all residents of the 97324 postal code. Community members outside of the postal code can subscribe to the AVV for \$25. Please help us continue this fun, informative, community-sustaining local publication by subscribing.

Enclosed is \$_____ towards the Alsea Valley Voice newsletter.

Please make checks payable to Alsea Community Effort, or ACE and mail donations to 19192 Alsea Hwy, Alsea, OR 97234. You can also drop donations off at the library.

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Benton County Community Update – City of Alsea

ODOT projects in your area

You may have heard about or noticed two separate ODOT projects in your area:

First, OR 34 is getting guardrail updates between mile markers 2 and 55. The project is anticipated to wrap up at the end of October.

Second, the proposed chip seal project between Alea and Philomath was cancelled due to funding challenges.

Sewer Projects

The project to upgrade the Alsea sewer treatment facility continues to progress toward a bid date of early 2026. The final plans are expected toward the end of summer, and we are hopeful that the federal funds to do the work will arrive shortly thereafter. EPA staff in Olympia, WA is currently processing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents that are part of the agreement process. Release of the funds is currently projected to occur in late fall.

Alsea Clinic conversation continues

Members of ACAC presented to the Board of Commissioners on September 9 regarding finding a way forward for the Alsea Clinic. The BOC has requested the ACAC proposal be reviewed by County staff and plans to have next steps to share with the community in October.

Join the Benton County Sheriff's Reserve

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is looking for qualified men and women to volunteer as Reserve Deputies.

Being a BCSO Reserve Deputy is a great way to gain experience and see if a career in law enforcement is for you. If you already have a career you love, being a Reserve Deputy is a fun, positive way to give back to your community.

For more information, head to bit.ly/41Typq4

Provide feedback to FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency wants your input as they develop an updated environmental impact statement (EIS) and implementation plan for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Public comments can be submitted through October 6.

For more information, head to bit.ly/47Lvnla

Apply for a grant for non-lethal agriculture & livestock protection

Benton County's Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program is accepting application for non-lethal wildlife deterrent projects Oct. 1 – Nov. 31. Protect your crops, livestock, and poultry from predators and beaver without harming wildlife.

Learn more at bit.ly/41XssbD or email sheanna.steingass@bentoncountyor.gov.

Mark your calendar for Dog PAWlooza

Join us at the Kalapuya Building on Friday, Oct. 3 from 12:30-6:30 p.m. to celebrate all things dogs and pet ownership with our inaugural Dog PAWlooza! Set to include on-site vaccinations, chipping and licensing, food trucks, vendors and more, this event is sure to be a blast for pet owners across Benton County!

Learn more at bit.ly/paw-looza

Library Lines

by Kathy Koetz

Wow, it's hard to believe that it's fall already! This summer has flown by so quickly. Your library has been so busy with Summer Reading programs that we are wondering where the summer went! Following the theme of "Level Up at Your Library", we had great programs and fun games brought to us by the Friends of the Library and our wonderful staff. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to our Summer Reading participants and prize drawing winners!

Well, fall brings lots of fruits and vegetables to harvest from our gardens. If you have an abundance that needs taking care of, remember that we have a food dryer and pressure canner for check out! We also have many wonderful cookbooks to help you find new ways to eat the fruits of your labor. Check out [A Taste of Oregon](#), [Vegetarian Cooking](#) or [Most Requested Recipes from Taste of Home](#). All these and more are waiting for you to take them home and find exciting new family favorites.

Now that school has started, our library programming will change a little. As well as our regular Wednesday Pre-School Storytime, we will be doing Storytimes with visiting classes. We are really looking forward to seeing the different groups from Alsea School! On the other hand, if you are a Home-School family, drop in to see what your Library can offer to help you! We have many STEAM kits available for help with science projects as well as wonderful books on all subjects.

Upcoming events in October & November:

Oct 7 – Legos – 3:30-4:30pm

Oct 14 – Squishtivities - 4-5pm

Oct 28 – Crafternoon 3:30-4:30 pm

Nov 4 – Legos – 3:30-4:30 pm

Nov – 11-Squishtivities – 4-5pm

Nov 25 – Crafternoon – 3:30-4:30

Nov TBA – Nerf Night – 6-7:30 pm

Each Week:

Pre-School Storytime 9-9:45am

Children's Choir – 4:30-5:15





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Changes in Blood Drive

By Mary Ann Carr

For close to 25 years Alsea has had two Community Blood Drives annually - one in the Fall (November) and one in the Spring (April). In the early days, when the Alsea Clinic was still open, these blood drives were in the Red Cross "bus" parked at the clinic. The Red Cross encouraged us to have blood drives in the Alsea School gym so it could serve more people and collect more blood donations. With the generous cooperation and co-sponsorship of the Alsea School, we did indeed move into their gym, which has been a very successful collaboration.

It was known that a conflict of blood drive dates and gym availability could develop despite all efforts to avoid a last minute problem. That never happened...until NOW!! THE FALL BLOOD DRIVE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12TH HAS BEEN CANCELED DUE TO AN UNAVOIDABLE CONFLICT MAKING THE GYM UNAVAILABLE THAT WEEK. The Red Cross has all other dates in November scheduled for Blood Drives around the area and cannot change our blood drive to a different date.

Our **Spring** Alsea Community Blood Drive is presently scheduled for **Wednesday, April 22nd**, so please put that in your calendar and plan for your generous blood donation on that date in the Alsea School gym.

This brings up another announcement. After 25 years of coordinating the Alsea Community Blood Drive, I am *retiring* from this volunteer job. I have enjoyed blood drives very much, especially the day of the drive when I happily see and visit with my donor friends. But the weeks of time to make phone calls to recruit donors, face to face recruitment at school and community events, handling the inevitable last-minute changes for the appointments in the hours before the blood drive itself, and learning the inevitable changes the Red Cross has found necessary to make in rules and regulations has made this less fun. It seems fitting to make this change to retirement after the 25th anniversary of this worthy volunteer work.

MANY thanks to all the folks who have showed up for blood donation appointments over these past 25 years - you are the best! Also, my heartfelt thanks go to all the other volunteers who have helped keep everything running smoothly during the Blood Drives. AND many thanks to all the bakers who contributed the best homemade cookies and other goodies that have made the Alsea drives famous!

See you in April, 2026 ☺



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ACE Secretary Kathy Plaza receiving \$3000 from the Siletz Tribe, with State Senator Dick Anderson

ACE would like to THANK Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund and Consumers Power Inc. for the generous grants and rebates for switching out the fluorescent lighting to all new LED lighting throughout the Library and Community Room!

And THANKS to Axis Electric of Philomath for the excellent installation of over 150 hard-to-reach ceiling lights!

This new installation of LED lighting will save energy and maintenance costs for many years to come!



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A Little Bit of Love Goes a Pretty Long Way.... On cleaning up our highway and encouraging you to get involved

By Rachel Berdahl

It's the night before my third highway cleanup of the year, and I am full of anxiety about whether I will have enough help to clean up the twelve-mile stretch of road between Alsea and the bottom of the curves. I've pulled it off, imperfectly, two times before, but can I do it again? What witty thing can I say in a Facebook post to lure people in at the last minute?

It's two days later and I am relieved... We pulled it off again! Ten of us cleaned the highway from Alsea to the bottom of the curves, just as Matt Clark used to do yearly. We are cleaning up a total of four times this year, in order to get an Adopt-A-Highway road sign dedicated to Matt. Then his name will be displayed on the road to this community, shedding light on the mover and shaker that he was; the glue that bonded all walks of life in this community together.

Organizing these cleanups has been difficult for me. The hardest part has been getting enough people to commit, to come out on the road and do the work. If you can walk on sometimes uneven ground and have hand strength to pull the trigger on a picker, then it's not hard work. But it is hard for people to prioritize the time, so let me try to make a case for why you should if you are able. And a warning... It's not all sunshine and rainbows.

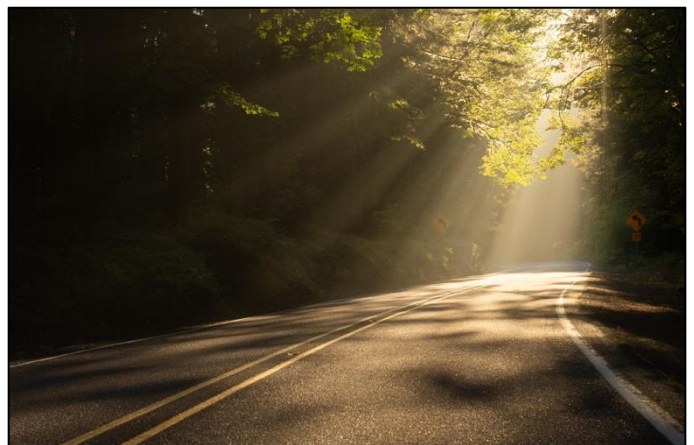
I've already made the case for honoring Matt Clark, but this isn't only about him, but about what he knew. It's about protecting the beauty, health and safety of our home, and teaching people the consequences of littering. Whether it's locals, people who commute through to work, or tourists, 'some people' don't know the consequences.

Some people don't know that when they toss their plastic cups, bags, etc. out of their window, they bake and dry out in the sun, then crack into thousands of pieces of microplastic. When the rain comes, it fills the ditches and carries that microplastic, eventually into our creeks and rivers and quite possibly into the bellies of fish and other wildlife. Maybe that's one reason there's less fish around?

Some people don't know that they could burn this entire community down by tossing their cigarette butts out into dry grass, pine needles and twigs; tinder that could easily go up in flames in the heat of summer. Ironically, I found more cigarette butts this summer than in winter or spring combined.

As bleak as this sounds, there is also a bright side. Fortunately, as humans, we can all be influenced to change our behavior. The more 'some people' see and hear about their trash being picked up off of our roadside, the more likely they'll be to change their behavior. I know that some of you won't believe that, but since we picked up less than half of the amount of litter than we did this spring, when in spring we only picked up eleven less bags than in winter, I do believe we are influencing change. Winter: 67 bags, Spring: 56 bags, Summer: 27 bags. I bet the count will be even less this fall.

So, please help me be the change we want to see. Please help preserve this land that we are lucky to call home. Please commit, be the boots on the ground and help me change 'some people's' minds about littering being acceptable. Finally, help me get this road sign dedicated to Matt, to show everyone who drives through the beautiful mark of influence he left on our hearts. **We will meet Saturday, October 11 at 9am at the Alsea Community Library.** If you have questions, feel free to email me at rachelnberdahl@gmail.com and if you're on Facebook, RSVP to the event there at <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BMFi55GVT/>. If you are able, I'd really love to see you out on the road.



Alsea Annual Blackberry Blast

By Lori Greenfield

Last year I joined the behind-the-scenes team for the Alsea Blackberry Blast as an innocent. Planning, gathering of funds, and delegation of responsibilities had already occurred. A couple of my friends were on the Alsea Community Effort (ACE) art committee, the instigators of this affair. Someone had written a grant to the Ford Family Foundation to help volunteers plan and coordinate the first Blackberry Blast and offer food and entertainment at no cost to community members and visitors who attended.

My role and understanding were minimal. I had fun picking blackberries with friends and laughing about our scratched-up hands and bodies. It was an adventure cooking up my “blackberry juice tea” concoction that was to fill one of the large drink dispensers next to the pies and ice cream cooler. At the actual event, I smiled a lot because I was just having fun. I helped a bit with serving pie and ice cream, knew I was useless to Grill Master, Kerry Adair, toward the production of burgers and hot dogs, visited with lots of people, and shopped at the vendors’ booths. Little did I know upon what a slippery slope I tread!

This year, as a full-fledged board member, I was stressed! How had the first event come off without a hitch? We were expecting a MUCH bigger turnout. Grants and donations again funded supplies, paying for bands and our raffle gift certificates to the downtown local businesses. Mostly it was the board members who baked all those pies, bars, and cobblers last year, and they were determined to outdo themselves this year. Our library assistant, Kathy Koetz, and a few community members also donated their own delightful confections.

I had many doubts. Our board consists solely of old people. What if someone just poops out and there’s a line for burgers or ice cream? I enlisted a few pie and ice cream servers. In my years as a school administrator, I organized much bigger events, many relying on an enormous number of volunteers. Would there, could there possibly be enough pie from so few bakers? How were my fellow board members so chill about it all?

On Saturday, September 6th, after quietly going about soliciting funds and donations, shopping planning, and baking or juicing half the blackberries in the coast range, there were the board members and Kathy and Steven Koetz ready for a day of service. Kerry came equipped with a crew to help him grill and serve what turned out to be over 230 burgers and hot dogs. At the serving table all prepped and ready to go were lettuce, tomatoes, and onions. They sat next to relish, mustard and home-created blackberry mayonnaise and blackberry ketchup. Kerry and his crew appeared as if they were simply relaxing at a backyard barbeque. The bakers for last year’s event challenged themselves to bake more, and more they did! Our ever-enthusiastic dessert servers dished up over 200 servings of pie and such and emptied out almost three full 5-gallon tubs of ice cream. *And* there was still an entire 11 x 17 pan of blackberry bars.



Alsea Annual Blackberry Blast (Continued)

Kathy Adair coordinated the 18 vendors and her booth was where the raffle winners went to claim their prizes. We had three booths of young entrepreneurs selling wonderful creations of their own. (Since the price for setting up a booth is free, I hope to see more youth participating.) Wandering through, I saw everything from books to baked goods, community information to cotton candy, and 3-D printed creations to painting classes. There was truly a little something there for everyone.

Kathy Koetz and Steven supervised the arts and crafts as well as the games. I witnessed the most amazing Jenga game I have ever seen. Maybe it seemed extra special because the blocks were huge. The tower looked like it was close to 5 feet tall before it fell! One of the highlights for me was watching Kathy and county commissioner, Pat Malone, gracefully arcing the air with bubble wands.

While all this activity was happening, three great bands performed from under the book drop area. There was jazz with the Steve Moore Quartet (Steve Moore, Michael Harding, Brian Bucolo, and Ray Brassfield) with guest singer Michelle, then bluegrass with Humbug Mountain (Aryeh Frankfurter, Debo Kerr and Steve Oder), followed by rousing electric Celtic music with the Sassafrascals (Jeffrey "Dickens" Behrends, Jesse Whitworth, Graham Shields, Noah McLain, Snax). The seated audience grew as more chairs were brought out. That could only happen because we had absolutely perfect weather. We will definitely plan for audience seating next year and if the Blast falls on a hot day, we'll have canopies set with chairs under them.

Now that I have been through one full planning process, I'm excited to start dreaming about how we can improve. I invite any of you to join us in the making of this community event.





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Alsea Community Action Collaborative Update

by Sara Cash, Project Coordinator

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

ALSEA COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH CENTER On September 9th, ACAC presented a project proposal to the Benton County Board of Commissioners requesting the return of the clinic facilities to local management and ownership with plans for the facilities to be reopened as the Alsea Community Services and Health Center. The presentation was well received. I want to send a huge personal thank you to the 14 members of the Alsea community who attended the presentation to show support for the project. When asked to speak, these community leaders were wise and kind and obviously deeply committed to the wellbeing of their neighbors and the community overall. The proposal is now passing through county departments for review. We hope to have an answer from the commissioners in October as to whether we will be able to proceed with the project. If you would like to look at the project proposal, please reach out to me at acac97324@gmail.com or 541-602-7819. You can also watch a recording of the meeting: <https://bentoncoor.portal.civicclerk.com/event/479/media>. ACAC presented at the end of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER GABE SHEPHERD ALSEA VISIT Our new county commissioner has visited Alsea three times since taking office two months ago. ACAC was happy to help host a town hall with Gabe at the library on August 9th. Earlier that day, Gabe took the world-famous Alsea auto tour to learn about our community and see all the wonderful community-based projects that help to make this a great place to live. There was an hour-long meeting with 12 local leaders followed by a two-hour town hall with 24 attendees. Gabe said we had the largest turnout for any of his town halls around the county. Discussion was focused on how to solve the challenges facing Alsea. Afterward, Gabe headed to the Alsea Plaza for the 1st annual end of summer party that night. Gabe grew up in the Cheshire area and seems to understand the challenges facing rural communities and how rural people like to live and believe.

MCBEE CAMPGROUND The campground has been transferred from Hull-Oakes to Benton County for redevelopment of the old campground. You can find more information and offer public comment here: <https://tinyurl.com/mcbeecamp>. More campsites by the beautiful waterfalls in that area could help draw tourism dollars in partnership with the HWY 34 Scenic Byway designation.

LEAD PIPE NOTICE Gary Stockhoff, Benton County Public Works replied to a question about the lead pipe notice recently received by some residents using the sewer and water in the village proper.

"The letter is a new regulation that comes to us from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It relates to possible lead contamination from lead water service lines. The above agencies want to identify and track services lines that are not the typical PVC material. ...People who got the letter can also let us know if they have a PVC connection, and we'll remove them from the notification list.

The letter has no connection to the recently completed work on the water system. It also has no connection to the smell or taste of the water, or any future infrastructure investments. It relates only to the two previously mentioned agencies wanting to track and monitor possible lead contamination due to lead service lines."

INCOME SURVEY Plans are coalescing for the upcoming income survey. If you live in the village proper, you will receive a mailing asking two simple yes or no questions about household income, hopefully in the next two months. Please answer and return the survey because a high response rate is needed to have data be useful for grant applications. If Alsea income levels are found to qualify, these results will be used in lieu of US Census results in grant applications to USDA for infrastructure repair and expansion and HUD for housing and other capital development in the Alsea area.

You can always reach out to us at PO Box 121, Alsea 97324; acac97324@gmail.com; or Sara's cell phone talk/text 541-602-7819.



Come Dance with Us!

Join us for an evening of music, dancing and fun at the Hope Grange Open Mic/Jam. Bring your instrument, songs, sing in the open mic with a live backing band, dance, or just sit back and enjoy the tunes! \$2 suggested donation. All volunteer musicians.

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How I Became a Certified Bob Ross Instructor

By Barbra Anderson



It all started with a paintbrush, a little bit of courage, and a whole lot of love for Bob Ross. Like many people, I grew up enchanted by his calm voice, the way he made mountains appear out of nothing, and his magical “happy little accidents.” I started taking hobby classes from a certified instructor in Salem several years back. But one day, I realized I didn’t just want to paint like Bob Ross, I wanted to teach like Bob Ross.

So, I packed my bags, grabbed my brushes, and signed up for three intense, colorful, and unforgettable weeks of in-person training to become a Certified Bob Ross Instructor (CRI).

Week One: Jumping In with Both Feet

Walking into the studio that first morning was nerve-wracking! There were easels lined up, canvases waiting, and nervous but excited artists from all over the country.

That first week, we dove straight into landscapes: snowy mountains, fluffy clouds, and pine trees that seemed to pop right off the canvas. I’ll admit, my first “happy little tree” looked more like a confused bush, but every day I got a little better. More importantly, I learned that teaching isn’t about perfection. It’s about encouragement, patience, and joy.

Week Two: Finding My Groove

By the second week, my palette knife didn’t feel like a foreign object anymore...it felt like an old friend. I could hear Bob’s voice in my head: “Let’s make some big decisions.” And so I did.

We painted seascapes with crashing waves and misty forests that made you feel like you could breathe in the air. My confidence grew, not just in painting, but in showing others how to believe in themselves.

Week Three: Becoming a Teacher

The final week was when it all came together. We weren’t just painting anymore; we were practicing how to teach. Standing in front of the class, explaining how to load a brush or blend a sky, I felt both nervous and excited. But something clicked. I realized: this wasn’t just about painting pictures; it was about sharing an experience.

By the end of week three, I wasn’t just painting mountains, I was perfecting technique and engaging with “students”.

What It Means to Me

Those three weeks were about so much more than paint on a canvas. They were about stepping into Bob Ross’s legacy, learning his method, and preparing to share that joy with others.

Now, every time I teach a class, I carry those three weeks with me - the laughter, the mistakes, the breakthroughs, and the friendships. And when I see someone paint their very first happy little tree, I know I made the right choice.

After all, Bob always said: “Talent is a pursued interest. Anything you’re willing to practice, you can do.” I practiced for three weeks straight, and now I get to spend my time with that joy.



Once Upon a Sign...

By Mystie Munsey

In 1965, the Alsea Garden Club (AGC) decided to spend funds from a rummage sale on a community improvement project. The school grounds were selected, and with the assistance of some local U.S. Forestry men, the group tackled a strip of weeds, briars, wire, and other debris from the highway to the practice football field. Fifty truck loads were hauled out and the ground leveled. From this project came the first Welcome to Alsea sign, built by Raymond Compton, which has existed the past 60 years!



Over time, the Welcome sign has been maintained by the AGC & friends and has seen several changes, including various landscaping, lighting, roof and post replacement, and lastly 'hidden' behind a tall chain link fence, understandably placed for the school children's safety. Realizing the need for relocation outside of the fence, the AGC began discussing this which led to the vision of creating a new sign altogether. Through relationships and community, the AGC was able to work with several individuals in Alsea to bring this project to fruition.

It goes without saying, we have some true talent in our little town! Trip Hardin, a local contractor, had the vision of creating the sign out of a wood slab with a 'live edge'. He suggested doing a 'burn' of the wood behind the metal letters and images to make them stand out. Brighton Ceperich, skilled in wood cutting and employed by Trip, cut the slab, burned and stained, set & attached the letters, not to mention milling and setting the posts for hanging the sign. And Seth Stevens, with the Alsea School CTE (shop) class, worked with the AGC over the summer to narrow down the right fonts and images for the sign and cut the metal with their precision equipment. The idea was to create something not only sturdy and durable but also to capture and reflect the history and spirit of Alsea.

And Alsea as a whole...thank you to so many, including Kati Bishop, owner of John Boy's Mercantile, for hosting the fundraising raffle and donating a shiny new grill, and the many business owners who donated prizes...AND to everyone who came in and bought raffle tickets!

Alsea, enjoy your new Welcome sign. It turned out SO well! Uplighting to illuminate the sign at night is on the horizon. And once the AGC does some additional fundraising, we will look to complete the new west facing Welcome sign. Stay tuned!

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A black and white illustration of a woman with short, dark, curly hair, wearing a plaid shirt, holding a large hamburger.

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The Alsea Hope Grange

Just what does that old faded green building, located on Deadwood Highway, offer for the residents of Alsea and Lobster Valley? How many weddings, high school reunions, memorials, dances, potlucks, bingo nights, quilting bees, Christmas bazaars, Easter egg hunts and Benton County-wide meetings have been held over the many decades of the Grange's existence? Did you know the Grange serves as a gathering place during times of a natural disaster? The Grange also serves as the drop-off site for the Azure Standard bi-monthly food orders.

Frankly, the activities and possibilities of the Grange are only limited by the volunteers and Grange members who show up. Just think of what other activities could be held if more people became Grange members? Things that come to mind are plant and seed exchanges, clothing swaps, Harvest to Table events, educational workshops, family game nights, yoga classes, and meals for seniors. Indeed, the possibilities are only limited by what is called, "human capital," basically people just showing up.

Each event held at the Grange must include the prior cleaning and setting up for the next event. Then the taking down of tables and chairs and decorations and once again the cleaning of the building. Let's not forget the landscaping work, the repair of the facilities and the overall required maintenance of this historic building. And this just doesn't happen by itself. It takes people to keep this Grange going.

So again, just how important is it to have this Grange in our community? Yes, community volunteers are stretched thin. Yes, resources are limited and yet some folks still show up and small amounts of money do come in. So yes, there is a reason for the Grange and the need for community volunteers who do their best to keep the Alsea Hope Grange open.

The Grange's mission is to provide a place for all; everyone is welcome. The Grange is family-friendly, waiting to be used. However, the limiting factor is the human capital, the people who are willing to show up, to contribute in some small way to ensure this historic landmark continues to function.

The Grange holds a meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 6 pm for 1 hour and 15 minutes. It is located just outside Alsea on the Deadwood Highway. Why not stop on by and see what you can offer? There is always a seat at the table for anyone willing to volunteer.




Health Navigation

— We support your insurance needs and can connect you with local resources! —

Alsea Community Library
Every Thursday, 1:00 - 5:00 pm



Oscar Monroy
Health Navigator

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Heartland Humane Pawsitive Care Clinic

Heartland Humane's Pawsitive Care Clinic is popping up at the South Benton Food Pantry (650 Orchard St, Monroe, OR 97456) on Sept 3, Sept 24, and Oct 15 to help keep pets healthy and safe. Services for dogs & cats include vaccinations – \$25, deworming – \$15, flea control – \$50–\$75 (based on weight), and microchips are FREE with any service! Need-based discounts are available. Healthy pets = happy families. No appointment needed—just stop by! If you can't make these dates, the Pawsitive Care Clinic is open at the shelter every Monday by appointment at 398 SW Twin Oak Circle, Corvallis, OR 97333). Call 541-757-9000 or visit heartlandhumane.org for more information!





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Questions - call/text 541-368-9819 or emilyj@heartlandhumane.org

REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT/NAME	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	PHONE NUMBER
Alsea Community Effort (ACE) Board Meeting	Online - Zoom	3 rd Thurs monthly	6:30 pm	541-487-5061
Alsea Kids' Choir Practice	Alsea Library	Wednesdays	4:30-5:15 pm	541-829-1975
Alsea Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting	Alsea Library	1 st Monday monthly	6:00 pm	541-602-7819
Alsea Fire Dept. Board Meeting	Alsea Fire Hall	Last Tues monthly	7:00 pm	541-487-8701
Alsea Fire Dept. General Meeting		Wednesdays	7:00 pm	
Alsea 4-H Small Animal Club		1 st & 3 rd Thurs monthly	6:00 pm	
Alsea Food Bank	Jeni's Place	Thursdays	10:00 am-4:00 pm	541-487-3663
Alsea Garden Club	ACF Church	2 nd Sat monthly	12:00 pm	541-760-3856
Ladies' Bible Study	ACF Church	Tuesdays	9:30 am	541-487-4442
Men's Bible Study		Mondays	6:30 pm	
Church Youth Group		Sundays	6:30 pm	
Alsea HOPE Grange	Grange Hall	1 st Thurs monthly	6:00 pm	541-521-0500
Alsea Open Mic	Grange Hall	2 nd Wed. monthly	6:30 pm	
Alsea School Board Meeting	School Library	2 nd Tuesday monthly	6:00 pm	541-487-4305
Alsea Valley Gleaners Distribution	18889 Haines Rd	Fridays	2:00-7:00 pm	503-255-8055
Alsea Free Community Potluck	ACF Church	1st Wed monthly	5:30 pm	541-487-4442

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

ALSEA VALLEY VOICE

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