

Fall 2021

Alsea Valley Voice

Save Your Blood for Alsea!

Alsea Community Blood Drive

So, folks, it is up to us to continue the tradition. The next Alsea Community Blood Drive is Tuesday, November 16th —as usual in the Alsea School Gym from 1-6 P.M. It is by appointment but now computerized so you can go online to choose your best time and make your own appointment using our zip code. Simply search online for “American Red Cross” and follow the leads for making a donation in Alsea.

We hope to see you there!

Clippings from the Red Cross:

“There’s no substitute for blood. When a patient receives blood, it was given in advance by a generous donor.

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SPECIAL DEDICATION EDITION

SEE CENTERFOLD FOR MEMORIES OF BARB TRASK

First-hand account of the July 4th Missouri Bend firefight

by Kathy Koetz, long-time volunteer fire fighter for the Alsea Fire Department.

Alsea Rural Fire Department had an exciting July 4th afternoon. A car with two young people took a ride down highway 34 and decided to set off some fireworks. They also started a grass fire that soon crossed the highway and started running up the hill. Lucky for us that it was spotted and called in to 911. ARFD was quickly on scene with a command vehicle, a wildland engine, a fire engine and an ambulance.

It was a very hot day and our crew worked very hard to circle the fire by cutting a path for firefighters carrying hose and hose-packs up the steep hill to get water on the fire. Several firefighters climbed the steep hill multiple times with more hoses along with other community volunteers, including Steve Cantrell. ARFD received help from Oregon State Forestry and Central Coast Fire Department helping to make sure that this carelessness did not turn into a disaster.

SEE ALSO PAGE XX

ALSEA BOOK AND ROCK EXCHANGE

What is this little building and where did it come from you ask?

It has been named the Alsea Book and Rock Exchange. For many years it had been a dream of mine to create a "little free library". I had seen them everywhere, from town to town as we took our grandchildren on adventures, and I wanted to create one!

Oddly enough, thanks to Corona Virus my dream was able to come true!

Here is the story of how Alsea was blessed with this wonderful gift.

My husband, Kenny Vogler, and I moved here to our little cabin in the woods on May 15, of 2018. It seems like such a short time ago to say the date when SO many good things have happened to us since we moved here to this wonderful little town called Alsea. We feel like we found the place we want to call home.

It was in the back room of the garage at the little cabin that I discovered the woman that used to live here was an artist. Her name was Gloria. I found several beautiful sketches of trees and the river, a few of buildings that I told myself it was our cabin in the woods. I am thankful that our daughter-in-law, Kelly Hamblin, saved these sketches and has since given them to Mary Obrien at the school. We also discovered a lot of paints and brushes and drawing papers, so I decided to try my hand and paint a front sign for our cabin! We named it The Triple C CabinCast, Catch and Cook.

This was about the time I realized that I liked to paint, and I might even be kind of good at it? I started painting rocks and even made cute Christmas decorations and rented a booth at the Grange for the 2019 bazaar. Of all the hand- made items we made, the rock paintings were the first to sell out and most popular. I thought...hmm, this cannot be? Can I paint stuff? Huh? Weird right?

I took on a job at the Alsea School and continued to paint rocks and give them away to adults and students at the school.

Our son, with his wife Kelly and their kids, moved to Alsea in June of 2019 and Kelly began taking the kids to the Alsea Library. Unbeknownst to me, MaryAnne Carr offered Kelly this cute little library that they had used in the past for displays but no longer had a use for it. "I know right!" Kelly did not immediately tell me this wonderful news as she did not know of my dream for a community little free library.

A little time had passed and along came Corona Virus. Boom, here we were in this little locked-down town and everyone was so sad. We thought, what could we do to cheer people up, spread some kindness and let people know this town is still strong and we care about each other?

I had always left painted rocks at Debs Café and had even set up a (T1L1) stand on her porch. Sadly, Corona Virus shut down the Café for quite some time so rock sharing had come to a complete stand still.

Then one day as Kelly and I were chatting, she told me of the kind woman at the library that offered her this little library thing before the library was shut down and she was thinking of going and getting it to set it up for the kids of Alsea. My surprised response was, "What did you just say to me Kelly? Oh my gosh. I'm on a mission to get that Library." The library was closed due to Coronavirus, so I had to make some calls but was successful in acquiring the little library building from MaryAnne Carr. She was so kind to meet me there so I could pick it up and get the ball rolling on the project.

Now, where to put it? It immediately came to us that Clark Park would be a nice, centralized spot. We approached Matt and Shauna Clark with the idea, and they were very supportive of the project and were more than willing to allow us to put up the library in Clark Park.

Okay, who would we get to build the structure to house the little library? Well, I decided to recruit Alsea Home Services, and my husband, and son, to build a shelter for it. They agreed and were so kind to incorporate shelving for rock sharing.

On April 28, 2021, The Alsea Book and Rock Exchange was up and running!

The "Exchange" is for everyone to enjoy. We have already had so many books shared. Thank you all so much. There are books in the library for all ages and from time to time there will be blank cards, recipes, flowers and of course, rocks.

The Rock Trading is called a T1L1 (take one leave one). There are stands all over the US and the idea is to take a rock and leave a rock for someone else to find. We incorporated this program into the exchange project. I have listed our stand on Facebook since Highway 34 is a Scenic Byway and we have already had people stop by and leave rocks from ALL OVER THE US at our little stand in ALSEA!!! Maryland, Washington, Virginia, just to name a few states I have seen rocks from. Most of all, the expression on someone's face when they find a painted rock is priceless. And yes, you can leave a blank rock!

It is NOT 100% finished. We still need the sign, but EVERYONE is welcome to stop by and trade books, rocks, recipes...and kind quotes?

Huge thank you to Alsea Library for donating the little Library, and to Kenny Vogler and the Hamblins for building the structure to put it in. I'm certain it will last for years to come.

Thank you to Matt and Shauna Clark for letting us put it up in the park. You are awesome!!

Lastly, I wanted a way to say "Thank You All" so much for embracing and welcoming our family into this community. My hope is that the Alsea Book and Rock Exchange will bring joy, smiles and neighborly cheer!! I believe that had we not moved here, I may have never discovered that I love to PAINT! From the bottom of my heart I hope the town enjoys it.

Sincerely,

Suzette

Aka: The Rock Lady



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Alsea Hope Grange will be holding its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 5th and we are in the midst of planning it. We are currently soliciting vendors to fill the grange. In the recent past, booths have included baked goods, hand crafted items, watercolor paintings, candles, bath bombs, jewelry, holiday decorations, birdhouses, cutting boards, wooden trucks, clothing, and beauty products. If you are interested in having a booth or would like more information, please contact Samantha Pedder at pedderfam2013@gmail.com or 541-740-1596.



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Announcing the Alsea Art Show

The Corvallis Art Guild and Vistas and Vineyards Plein Air painters of the mid-Willamette Valley will be joining together for a show in September and October at the Alsea Branch of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Many Vistas and Vineyards members are also members of the Corvallis Art Guild.

Artists in this show include Dominique Bachelet, Dick Badham, Miriam Edell, Randye Jensen, Phyllis

Johnson, Karen Kreamer, Helen Kropp, Sue Noel, Janet O'Dougherty-Hessel, Peggy Sharrow and Dee Yarnell.

These artists draw and paint in a variety of styles and mediums. Vistas and Vineyards members paint outside from May through October, in locations around the valley to the coast. Many of us are inspired by nature and the beautiful Oregon landscape. Different techniques include the use of graphite, ink, oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, fabric and collage.

Corvallis Art Guild and Vistas and Vineyards-Artists on Location have pages on Facebook.

Websites: corvallisartguild.net
vistasandvineyards.wordpress.com



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Gardener's Corner

by Kathy Adair

I don't know about you, but this dry, hot weather is playing havoc with our plants. Not just the flowers and vegetables, but also our shrubs and trees. Keeping everything watered and fed when it evaporates as soon as it hits the hot ground can be daunting, but keep at it. Kerry is constantly outside moving the sprinkler. He also waters the lawn around the house to just keep a green zone as a buffer.

On a positive side, we are reaping the rewards of that constant nurturing. We are finally getting a good crop of corn and the squash and tomatoes have been giving us good stuff for a while now. Friends, family and neighbors are also getting some of this bounty, since there is only so much Kerry and I can eat! However, we are seeing a future of being overwhelmed by the amount of tomatoes that Kerry planted. Yes, he planted at least one or two of every variety we seeded up and in some cases many more. For those of you who stopped by our plant sale this last spring, you know there were a LOT of varieties.

So, what are we going to do with all of those tomatoes? Well, this year, I am going to dry a lot of them since we love to cook with "sundried tomatoes". I'm not up to the issues and bugs that come with actual sun drying, so I plan on using my food dehydrator instead, then place a lot of them in good olive oil and some herbs. The rest we will either freeze whole or can into salsas or sauces.

Our pear and apple trees are also heavy with fruit this year. It looks like we will be making sauces, canning, freezing and dehydrating those, too. In other words, the end of summer and start of fall look to be busy processing. But isn't that what growing is all about? If you are unsure about how to process your excess fruits

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and vegetables, the internet is a wonderful resource of great ideas.

If you are still struggling to get your plants and trees to produce, check to see if your soil is fertile and your pH levels are correct for your garden. Your soil should measure about 7, which is neutral. 6 is too acidic and 7.5 and above is too alkaline. If your soil is surrounded by evergreen or deciduous trees, it could be that your soil is acidic. The leaves and needles from the trees make the surrounding soil acidic as they decompose and pull necessary nutrients out. In that case, you may need to add garden lime to your soil to adjust the pH level, unless you would like to grow blueberries, which love acidic soil. Or, you might consider building a raised bed and fill it with good growing soil.

For current vegetables, it's okay and actually beneficial to remove excess leaves and runners that are not contributing to putting energy into the fruit. For instance, squash plants will produce many runners. Some of those runners don't produce flowers. Those are perfect to just cut off so that the plant can instead give that energy into the squash. Tomatoes also have lots of branches and leaves that can be thinned to not just help grow the fruit, but also make it easier to pick.

Learning a few tricks, can really help boost your garden's output. I hope to share as many as I can, but feel free to reach out to me with any questions. In the meantime, keep up the good work and keep watering!

Alsea Summer Children's Art Program by Michelle Flame

The free Alsea Summer Children's Art Program was made possible by a grant from the Benton County Foundation, received by Alsea Community Effort to fund afterschool program development. The art class was instructed by Michelle Flamez. At first we were concerned as to where we could hold the classes not knowing what Covid-19 limitations would be placed on public sites hosting community activities. However, we began our program with meeting at Alsea Christian Fellowship (ACF) Church with a positive attitude. We originally planned for 6 weeks (2-hour sessions) but we were able to have an extra session thanks to ACF providing free space! Thank you, Pastor David Pollard!! That enabled us to finish our community service project! We served 12 children and their families in Alsea. In the first session we created art journals, which the children loved! They worked on them before and after class every session! Followed by Nature Art, clay, pressed flowers, and watercolor.

We learned that sometimes art is about the process versus the finished product! We did several cooperative art projects and we ended with a community service project. We painted the trim on the new bulletin board that will be installed at the corner of the Alsea Deadwood highway & highway 34. With attention to cooperation, beautifying our community, and cultural awareness (what's Alsea about, what should we paint on it? etc.) We also had to use some problem solving skills on this project! We can't wait to see it completed!



We were blessed with several great parent volunteers! Special thanks to Blossom DeGroat, our program volunteer! The children and parents made some new friends! Always a good thing! With donations from the community and leftover supplies from the classes, we were able to make and distribute gift bags of art supplies to the children in the program so that they could continue to grow in their art work at home.

Michelle is already making plans for next year! Perhaps we'll have a guest artist!? Maybe music with our art lessons!? Thank you everyone for supporting this wonderful, successful program!

We hope it can be a yearly event!



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Alsea County Service District Committee

The Alsea County Service District Advisory and Budget Committee assists the Benton County Board of Commissioners on issues related to the Alsea Area.

Mission

The Alsea County Service District Advisory and Budget Committee shall assist the Benton County Board of Commissioners/Governing Body and shall have the following powers and duties:

- Establish rate procedures
- Provide penalties
- Amend in entirety all ordinances in conflict
- Review the Alsea Consumer Confidence Report

Meeting Times and Locations

The Budget Committee Meets annually in late spring. Public notices will be advertised in the local newspapers. Notices will also be included in the appropriate utility billing. The Advisory Committee meetings are set at the pleasure of the Advisory Committee members and County staff.

Meeting locations:

- Alsea School, 541-487-4305
- Alsea Public Library, 541-487-5061

Members and Staff

Support

Both Committees are comprised of 3 members, each with a 3 year term, and 4 staff support. Following is a list of the current members:

Budget and Advisory Committee members:

- Amber Winterbourne
- Cheryl VanLeuven
- Ryan Jacobsen

Staff Support:

- Gary Stockhoff,
Public Works Director
- Jon Tompkins,
Operator
- George Looney,
Finance Manager

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The Alsea Community Effort, (ACE) board members, Alsea Library staff, the Alsea Valley Voice volunteers, the Alsea Emergency Preparedness Council and family of Barbara Trask wanted to dedicate this issue of the Alsea Valley Voice to Barbara. We all greatly miss her. We thought it befitting to dedicate this issue of the resurrected paper version of the Alsea Valley Voice because this paper meant so much to her and to her predecessor Bonnie Hill.

She firmly believed that clear, relative and ongoing communication is the lifeblood of any vibrant community.

We hope that this simple dedication will partially capture the essence of Barbara for the readers and that it can bring us closer together in understanding Barbara's passion for living and love for her family, friends and the Alsea community.

Thank you Barb.



Barbara Ferris Trask was born in Glen Lake Minnesota in 1954. She grew up and graduated from high school in San Diego, California. In 1977 she moved to Corvallis to attend OSU. She completed a BS degree in Biology there and met her husband Steve Trask in a Zoology Lab. They were married in 1979 in Augusta Maine where Steve's relatives were from. They settled down in Alsea to raise their family in 1980. Barb was the definition of a wonderful mother and never wanted to be anything other than that. She had all of her 3 children, Graham, Ruby and Walker, at home with a series of midwives over the years. She also home schooled all of her children until about 10th grade and loved the challenge of revealing life's wonders and mysteries to them in her own way. As the children got older, she began taking on some additional tasks for business and community. She worked to build a nationwide car hauling company (Central Dispatch, Inc.) from scratch in her home as the internet began to open up the field of data mining. She was able to progressively hire more and more folks with several from Alsea that shared that experience with her. She left the company after 10 years and began working with her husband to build their biological consulting firm (Bio-Surveys, LLC.).

Barb had a lot of horse power and wanted to continually be giving back to friends, family and community. She joined ACE and spent her time there as the treasurer working on community projects that benefitted us all. She was also a very spiritual person with a desire to help hurting people. She worked as a marriage counselor through her church and later went on to train in the field of spiritual healing. This work she described as meeting her deepest heart felt desires and she was in her element when she was working with this healing modality.

She loved to travel, seek new adventure and experience different cultures. Some of her most precious memories were traveling in Africa with her youngest son Walker where they met up with her daughter Ruby and her husband who were living in Swaziland. She also loved the trip by boat up the Rio Negro (largest tributary of the Amazon) delivering medical supplies and care to many small indigenous villages.

In the last 10 years of her life she got way into road biking and would train all spring by riding the 18 miles up to Alsea Falls and back every other day. She would pour over maps and routes in the evenings for pleasure and piece together a bike adventure with accommodations somewhere for each night. She preferred solo trips for the solitude and the freedom to stop and go at her leisure. She bought a folding bike that fit in a suitcase and headed to New Zealand to tour all over the North Island by herself. She rode from Alsea to the Steens Mountains and back (by herself). She bike toured in Chile, rode the entire Oregon / California coast road and many more of Oregon's gorgeous back country routes. She was fearless and trusted that there was good to be found in everyone she met on her adventures (she was never disappointed).

The focus of her life however was always her family. She was the undisputed and much loved matriarch of all things Trask. We all miss her in so many unique and diverse ways but there is no mistaking the hole that she has left as the foundation of our family. She guided very quietly behind the scenes with love and compassion. Always the confidant, the gentle nudging, overflowing support, brilliant analysis and positive attitude.

Life was good to Barbara, we were rewarded with many great blessings too numerous to list. Our favorite thing has always been quietly holding hands on our river deck in the warm summer evenings, sipping a glass of wine and simply reflecting on what a wonderful life we were given. We always wanted to err on the side of gratitude for all of the bounty and I will always be so grateful for the wonderful 44 years we lived, laughed and loved together.

by Steve Trask

There are some experiences and images that stay with you forever.
My memories with Barb are like that — genuine, simple, heartwarming.

On a drizzly, rainy and cold November Saturday morning, probably 20 years ago now, my husband and I had to head out to the valley and we stopped at Barb and Steve's on the way. They were sitting in the living room on the couch with a warm fire going in the wood stove and drinking coffee. It felt so good to sit with them and talk, soaking up the good feelings there, and I hated to leave. When I think of winter warmth and a feeling of belonging right where you are, I see Steve and Barb contentedly drinking coffee in their cozy, warm living room on that wet and cold Saturday morning.

Barb and Steve were visiting us in Mexico. A good friend mentioned that she and some other women would be making 300 chilis rellenos or stuffed peppers for a fundraiser dinner on the weekend. Barb immediately said "Oh I'd love to help out," and plans were made for her to join them on Saturday. Saturday came and I thought, "I should really go with Barb and help them make the chiles rellenos — even though I'd been working all week and I'm tired, it'll be hot, but I should go too." So Saturday came and we joined probably 20 other ladies to make chilis rellenos for the fundraiser dinner. During the course of the day Barb and I so enjoyed the camaraderie with everyone, the beautiful backyard where we were making the meal, the roasting of chilis, lots of cool breeze, fresh air and beautiful birds flying through the trees. I thought to myself, "Wow what an amazing spot." After that afternoon I began looking around the neighborhood and began thinking maybe this is where I want to move in this little town in Mexico. That year my husband and I ended up buying a small lot and building a small house one house away from where we made the chilis rellenos, and it's all because of Barb's joy and desire to help out and be a part of good things that I ended up living in that neighborhood in a small Mexican town on the Pacific coast. I am so happy Barb and I got to enjoy our flower gardens together and experience the joy of this special place together.

Barb is so loved by so many people — her community, her friends, her husband, her family. And when I think of her, I often see her returning from her morning walk on the beach in Mexico, big smile on her face, watching the pelicans and egrets fly in the early morning light.

I love you my friend.
by Karen Anspacher-Meyer



WALKING WITH BARB by Nancy Cooke

Debbie Richman introduced me to Barb one summer at the river, more than 30 years ago. Barb was pregnant; she had her two children with her. I had three. Time at the river while our kids waded and splashed and skipped rocks was an easy way to start a friendship. Ours unfolded naturally.

Our relationship deepened when we became walking partners. Five days a week we met at 7 o'clock, before the kids were up and before we'd eaten breakfast or had coffee. We started out following Fudge Road, then ventured farther, up onto Starker land. Our walking paces matched. Our lives were very similar. We talked about the challenges of raising young kids, of living with husbands who worked long hours, and we treasured the time to ourselves. Once, trying to remember when we'd started the tradition, Barb told me she remembered coming home and seeing Walker, her youngest, one or two years old, pressed up against the window, waiting for her to come home. Nothing, not toddlers or teenagers, could hold us back. We'd get out of the car sometimes in bad weather and our umbrellas would turn inside out like in a cartoon. We took pride in walking no matter the weather—we were tough! But we also walked because we needed it. We helped each other with all that needed to be worked through—our health and the health of our families, the demands of homeschooling, personal issues large and small. We listened and laughed and returned home refreshed, ready for the day. The first couple of times we went, we were astonished at how the hour had energized us. "I cleaned the whole house!" Barb crowed. It seemed like a magic trick—you expend energy walking, and you come home with even more. Over time, the safety and the intimacy between us built, and the walks came to feel sacred. After she got sick, one of the first things she asked me to help with was to set up a walking schedule with her friends. Walking and talking, walking and talking—Barb was my first walking partner but not my last. When I need to talk to someone I love, I invite them on a walk.



Barb wore orange. She had a beautiful, unique mouth that showed her teeth when she smiled. It's a mouth her daughter Ruby has. She had strong, sinewed arms that produced big piles of food; whole wheat pizzas, yogurt with fresh fruit and maple syrup, yucky beans and cheesy polenta. When my parents had to move to Seattle for my dad's cancer treatment Barb moved in and mothered my brother Henry and I without batting an eye. She wore gold hoops that pressed flat against her ear with the backs curled up behind her lobes. She would exclaim "stop!" in stories where something sort of wicked but definitely funny was happening. It's a hard thing, when someone you love and look up to dies. It's like knocking a star out of the sky that you depended on to find your way. The night Barb died I went on a walk with a friend. We rounded a corner and suddenly came face to face with the full moon rising. It was deeply orange and softly luminous; a perfect circle rimmed in gold. My friend grabbed my hand and we both just stood there while I cried. "It's her," she said "that's Barb." And it was. And it is.

by Hannah Westly



I greatly appreciate my chance to work with Barb on the Ford Institute Leadership Program. Barb took the class with other community leaders from South Benton, stepped up to champion an important part of class project, and then she stepped up further to help facilitate the next leadership class two years later. If Barb could see a goal, her determination and drive meant that the goal would be accomplished. It was interesting to watch the different angles and pathways that Barb would use to accomplish goals - not often a straight line as she worked to overcome barriers and the need to troubleshoot and look for other options.

Her experience, especially as a Facilitator on the Community Ambassador Team, gave me a glimpse of a more self-directed goal - her own growth as a relational leader. As part of a team presenting a curriculum to others who wished to play more of a productive role in community work, Barb stepped into a more vulnerable role of supporting others' growth. Barb's focus on accomplishing tasks softened into a playfulness, good humor, and wit that encouraged others to explore new boundaries of their own leadership abilities. She worked and worked at becoming an accomplished presenter.

Through her efforts with the leadership cohorts, I could see Barb be amazed at her own self - by what new things she had learned, and the new skills that she had built, and what she could do to relate to others. She was beautiful to watch.

Meredith Howell | Resource Development Officer
NeighborWorks Umpqua





MEMORIES OF BARB

by Virginia Titman, long-time Alsea resident

Another citizen is gone from Alsea. I will truly miss Barb. She worked so hard in the community. She helped the churches for years with Vacation Bible School. Just two years ago she volunteered to help the Alsea Garden Club on one of their projects even though she was not a member. She was a trooper opting to fill the shoes of Bonnie Hill for the Valley Voice. That all speaks for itself as to her energy and love for the community. It is amazing how busy we get and even in a small area like Alsea we don't see our neighbors all that often. Then you hear they are very ill and in a short time they are gone. And for a while you feel the absence of their vitality and love for the community. The Bible says the "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." II Corinthians 5:8. Barb may be gone, but her family and her friends who are believers will see her again someday. Until then we should follow her lead and strive to better our community in every way we can.

SHARING MEMORIES OF MY FRIEND, BARB TRASK - THE ULTIMATE DIY CAN-DO-IT QUEEN

By Kathy Plaza

From Knit Nites to Compassionate Caregiving to ACE Action...Barb's strengths will always be with us as her spirit shines on through the many community projects we all enjoy.

In remembrance of Barb, I would like to touch upon the myriad of community leadership roles she carried out with her voluntary participation as an ACE Board of Directors Member over the past 7 years! After joining The Ford Family Foundation Community Leadership Development Program along with other ACE Board Members, Barb went on to become a "CAT" for the Leadership Program: a Community Ambassador Trainer. As a CAT she helped with the training of a whole new group of local people who were interested in community leadership, paying it forward so to speak.

Not only did Barb serve as ACE Board Treasurer, (not an easy task!), but she unhesitatingly "wore the hat" for all aspects of community project management. Those of us who participated with Barb in the Leadership Training will recall the term "Catalytic Leadership," which describes a process of working for positive change while not resulting in a loss of energy. In other words, a Catalytic Leader is a person who is able to work through a project to its successful end without experiencing "burn out." This model was formally adopted by the ACE Board as a useful tool in strategic project planning, and Barb's embodiment of the Catalytic Leader Persona is the strong legacy that she leaves the Alsea Community with.

Each time we enjoy the covered picnic table at the library, each time we anticipate winning a prize in future ACE Annual Raffles, each time we read the Alsea Valley Voice, each time we attend an event in the Community Room, each time we realize that our little community library has a gifted solar power array hooked into the CPI grid, each time we volunteer for or donate to the Library Building Maintenance Fund, and each time we find time to step up and either initiate or join in a community project...we will remember and marvel at the strengths of Barb Trask shining through: Alsea's own "DIY Can-Do-It QUEEN."



Barb and I gravitated toward one-another from the time we met 22 years ago. We shared many things in common:

1. Tending our gardens, vegetables and flowers both
2. Cooking; trying new recipes and enjoying them with gusto
3. Reading, especially pertaining to our mutual Christian faith and interest in caring for creation
4. Homeschooling – we started a home school group together as much for the moms as for the kids
5. Camping and river floating with our families
6. Taking long walks engaged in deep conversation hashing out the world's problems – and our own challenges

Barb was a true friend. I was blessed to observe her for many years, giving her time, energy and love without expectation. She loved and served many in large and small ways. In a time of great need, she moved in and took over the nurture of our children and care of our household, unreservedly and lovingly providing security and stability to middle schooler Henry, high schooler Hannah, and when needed to Taylor away at college. I am profoundly and forever grateful to her for that gift and for her friendship. I sure would love to have more walks with her – we still have challenges to hash out!

by Kathleen Westly



Barbara was strong and determined to succeed in everything she did. She was a positive example to her family, friends and community volunteers. She never quit or gave up on any task she took on. Everyone that encountered her was blessed by the health of her countenance.

Rest in your well-earned peace Barb. We will see you on the other side.



Library Lines

by Kathy Koetz

September comes around and the School bells start ringing...time to see what I can come up with for new displays. What shall I bring to the notice of our patrons? The changing leaves? The (hopefully) cooling temperatures? No, the first thing that comes to mind is something else that is changing: Mary Jackson has accepted a new job teaching math at Alsea School, so I am losing a great co-worker. She will be difficult to replace, but onward we will go.

On August 18th Mary and I did our first Storytime since the closures caused by Covid-19. We were outdoors where we could spread out. We read, sang songs and had craft kits available to pick-up for kids to "take and make". It was great to be doing a Storytime again!

In September I hope to start reading to the elementary classes again, although this, too, may have to wait. Mary & I selected books and took them to the classrooms last year. Although that was fun and worked well for the teachers, we missed having the children here exploring the Library and picking out their own books to read.

It is canning and freezing season again. Have you noticed that your garden is producing more than you can eat? Come in and browse our many helpful books on those canning, freezing and drying that extra. And remember we have a pressure canner and food dryer for patrons to check out for home use.

Cemetery Maintenance

The Alsea Cemetery Maintenance District Board would like to give a HUGE THANK YOU!!!! to the great Alsea High Kids and supervisor that worked so hard and made our cemetery look so good for Memorial Day in May. You are amazing!



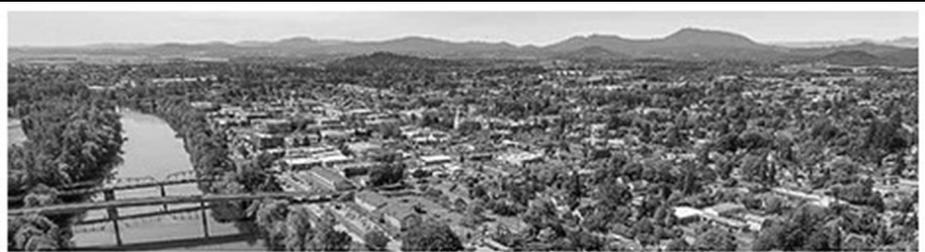
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FIELD TRIP

A wonderful post was made on July 14th to the Alsea School Facebook page, they took kids on an Enrichment Program field trip to the Oregon Coast. If you go and hunt down that post you'll see the tie-dye handy work of Tristan and Lane, two stellar volunteers. Littles gently exploring tide pools, lending listening ears to the local ranger and bigs cleaning up the beach while enjoying the sunshine. And staff instructing our kids to share the sidewalk with others, to leave the space cleaner than they found it and to "be kind". Along with snagging this lovely verbiage, we also included one photo from the many they published.



PHILOMATH COMMUNITY SERVICES by Kathy Adair

I recently ran into a friend of mine who volunteers at the Philomath Community Services (PCS) and she asked if I would please share what they have to offer to anyone who has a need. While I know we have similar programs in our Alsea area, this is another option for people should you or someone you know have a need.

I was surprised by the number of programs they have in place. They are part of the Oregon Food Bank and the Linn-Benton Food Share network, so they are a great resource. They have a Food Bank and June's Kids' Kloset, both of which are well-stocked and they would love for people to come and take advantage of what they have to offer. They have a lot of fresh foods, as well, some of which they have had to dispose of due to not enough people coming in.

June's Kid's Kloset has lots of really great quality clothes and more for children. They are getting lots of donations, but again, need people to come in and get clothes. Since the beginning of school is here, this is a great time to come get free clothes for your children. Other services that PCS offers are the Philomath Gleaners, Lupe's Community Garden where volunteers can grow their own produce and donate extras to the Food Bank. For the holidays, they have a Holiday Cheer program where "adopted" families receive a holiday dinner and a hygiene basket. There is also a Resource Navigator from

the Benton County Health Department who can assist people with Oregon Health Plan applications as well as connections to various programs throughout Benton County (for this program, please call 541-714-0689 for more information).

PCS is open Tuesdays 4:30pm to 7:30pm and on Thursdays from 9am to Noon. Their address is 360 S 9th Street, Philomath OR 97370; phone is 541-929-2499. Please do them a favor and go visit them!

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Facebook: Jay Widmers Alsea Anagama Kiln
call or email for a viewing

fermentation crock

Tips From Our Fire Department by Kathy Adair

I recently had the pleasure to talk to our Alsea Fire Department's Assistant Fire Chief, Ryan Jacobson. I asked him what he and the department would like us, as a community, to know to help support them, as well as ourselves, particularly during this hot, dry fire season.

One of the things he wanted us all to be aware of is that when a call goes out, whether medical or fire, please stay away from the scene. Our roads are narrow and easily congested, especially around fires and we all want to keep our firefighters and volunteers safe. They also need to be sure there is an escape route, should they need it, that isn't blocked by onlookers. So, short version, please stay away in spite of that desperate desire to go see what is happening. I know, we are all curious and want to help.

I asked Ryan if there was anything he could suggest for all of us to be proactive in fire-scaping our properties and protect our homes and buildings. He suggested going to the Oregon Department of Forestry's page on Fire Prevention at www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/fireprevention.aspx. There you can find all sorts of great information to help keep your property safer. Another link he shared was a fire level map at www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/restrictions.aspx.

Ryan had another suggestion regarding the importance of creating a good evacuation plan in the event of forest fire, earthquake or serious weather events. We all know that we have a limited source of evacuation routes out of our valley, should the need arise, but knowing your way around our various road systems is important, especially for those who are new to our area. Those of us who were here in 2012 when there was a large slide near the mountain pass and another slide west on Hwy 34 leading to Waldport remember that basically the only way in or out of here was over South Fork. That route, however, was compounded by flooding which made it treacherous, as well. It's also important to have a meeting place agreed upon with family members as well as someone outside the area to call to check in. We never know when a devastating event could happen but having these plans in place bring a real peace of mind.

We talked about how the AFD gets information out to residents in the event of emergency. They utilize a variety of notices. If urgent, they will send people door to door to let people know of the emergency. Sometimes they will call, if there is time. They work with dispatch, use public announcements and social media. He recommends that people sign up for emergency alerts through FlashAlert and Linn Benton Alert, making sure ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) and other emergency agencies are checked so that information is quickly shared. These apps are extremely helpful, and I have used them for years. Trip Check is also a great reference. Of course, we know how important our two Facebook pages – Alsea Neighbors and Friends, as well as Alsea: HWY 34 Road Conditions and Lobster Valley are for information to our community.

If anyone was interested in volunteering for the Alsea Fire Department, they have a meeting every Wednesday at 6 pm at the Fire Hall. You just need to be 18 years of age or older. They would love to have more volunteers. They train for medical, fire, making calls, helping with traffic control and more. Just come on by their meeting to find out more.

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Musings from ACE President's Corner

by: Naomi Shadwick, Volunteer ACE President

Rather than take up a big chunk of the Alsea Valley Voice each edition on ACE's future program planning and development we have reserved this area of the AVV to give the community a short description of ideas, and potential projects we are working on in the back room-so to speak. The Board only meets quarterly but in between those meetings we communicate with each other and the rest of the community about unmet needs, and how we can address them as a conduit to bring the community together on projects that positively impact the town of Alsea and the surrounding rural area. Now having said all that here goes!

1. **Update on the status of the Alsea Gas Station** which is closed due to need to remove underground storage tanks, replace with above ground storage tanks and update the pumping systems for both gas and diesel. Owner Matt Clark has recently received a contractor bid and ACE is helping to do the research on funding through various agencies such as USDA Rural Development, Oregon Business and Benton County, plus others. Lots of leg work and PR are needed with this. In the meantime make your concerns known to your elected representatives regarding the effect of this closure on emergency/disaster preparedness in addition to the economic impact.

2. **Results from the June Edition AVV survey.** We received limited response, but we **did** receive responses, most of which were happy the printed version was being done again. Several of the comments indicated you wanted to see more articles as they relate to our residents and less about each organization's ongoing activities. So, we are working on that. Thank you to the readers that donated funds to help with the production of the newspaper. All that helps with costs of ink, supplies, and postage.

3. **ACE has a new (in the development stages) website:** www.Alseacommunityeffort.org. The email contact for ACE from this website is info@Alseacommunityeffort.org. Any suggestions on improving the website will be greatly appreciated. We also have a new office phone: **541-487-TOWN (8696.)** We will be accepting voice messages for the Alsea Valley Voice, Alsea Emergency Preparedness Council, and the ACE administration. **Please indicate which program you are leaving the message for.** We check the messages everyday remotely so we will get back with you as soon as possible.

4. **Reaching out to the elders of our community.** Many of us are reaching the stage in life where we need to slow down and be more careful about our daily safety, both physically and mentally. For me the past 12 months has made this increasingly more evident. In discussion with a few of the elders of the community perhaps it's time for the development of an Alsea Elders Committee that could meet, both electronically and physically to evaluate and think about how the ACE could lead in creating a program(s) targeted to elders. Let me know what you think by emailing me at shadwick@casco.net.

5. **Making your voice heard.** Now, more than ever, we need to let our community voices be heard. There are ways to do that. Write/call your County(s) elected officials, Community Advisory Committee(s) (CAC) members and other appointed representatives and let them know your thoughts, concerns, etc. Yes I know you have heard this all before, but it does work if you keep after it. Start asking questions. The AVV will be implementing a section in the coming issues for "letters to the editor and/or an op-ed section" to help in the sharing process as well. The AVV will be mailed to those in decision making positions and your input will be read by them.

July 4th Fire Recap by Kathy Adair

First and foremost, we would like to sincerely applaud our Alsea Firefighters. You are all amazing and we so appreciate you and your dedication to keeping us all protected.

On July 4th, two young men from Lebanon and Corvallis set off fireworks from their vehicle as they were driving west on Hwy 34 around milepost 31. The fireworks created a fire that burned on both sides of the highway. Thanks to the speedy reaction of our amazing AFD, the fire was contained to only about .64 acres and put out with only damage to local brush.

This is the report from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office regarding this incident:

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office - Oregon

July 5 at 2:46 PM

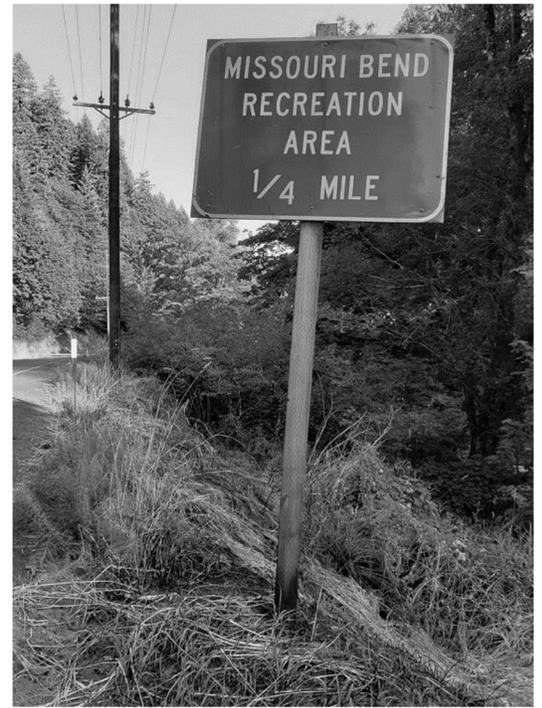
We made it through yet another jam-packed holiday weekend with little incident. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office was prepared with all hands on deck to deal with the increased call load the 4th of July weekend brought. Additional deputies were deployed to vehicle and foot patrols in Lincoln City and Waldport to cover the anticipated need for a higher police presence. We responded to 102 calls on July 2nd, 127 calls on July 3rd, and 102 calls on July 4th. Of those, 11 arrests were made.

Our Animal Services Deputies worked additional hours to ensure the seemingly non-stop back-to-back missing or found and frightened animal calls were handled promptly.

While Lincoln County experienced zero fireworks related emergencies, our deputies assisted Benton County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and several area fire departments with a large brush fire that was started at approximately 5:30 PM along Highway 34 near milepost 31 on July 4th. Deputy Cates arrived on scene to assist with traffic control and evacuations and learned that 2 males associated with a light blue sedan were seen launching a mortar-style firework in the area just before the fire started.

Later that afternoon, our office received a call from a Tidewater resident who reported a similar vehicle driving West on Highway 34 throwing lit fireworks from the vehicle at passing motorists. Remember the part about us being "all hands on deck"? Well, we had no less than four deputies in between Tidewater and Waldport at the time. Deputy Akin quickly located the involved vehicle driving approximately 90 MPH along Highway 34 and located fireworks in plain view during the traffic stop.

Deputy Cates just so happens to specialize in fire and arson investigations and interviewed both parties (20-year-old Tristian Forrest of Lebanon and 21-year-old Tyler Weeks of Corvallis) who ultimately confessed to recklessly shooting off aerial fireworks near milepost 31, causing the fire. Benton County Sheriff's Office responded to Waldport to take custody of both suspects who were subsequently lodged at the Benton County Jail.



Benton County Sheriff's deputies took the suspects into custody in Waldport and then to the Benton County Jail where they were booked and released.

Tyler R. Weeks, 21, of Corvallis, and Tristan P. Forrest, 20, of Lebanon, are charged with second-degree arson, arson involving fireworks, reckless burning, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

Again, thanks to all First Responders for such quick response to this incident.

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2021-2022 Proposed Budget

Alsea County Service District

For the Fiscal Period Beginning July 1, 2021 Ending June 30, 2022

Governing Body: Xanthippe Augerot, 2021 BOC Chair; Patrick Malone, Commissioner; Nancy Wyse, Commissioner. Citizen Budget Committee Members: Ryan Jacobsen; Cheryl VanLeuven



**Benton
County**
OREGON

Alsea County Service District

Administration: Benton County Public Works
 Director: Gary Stockhoff
 Facilities manager: Paul Wallsinger
 Office location: public works, 360 SW Avery, Corvallis
 Telephone: 541-766-6821
 Internet address: <http://www.co.benton.or.us/pw/utilities/alsea.php>

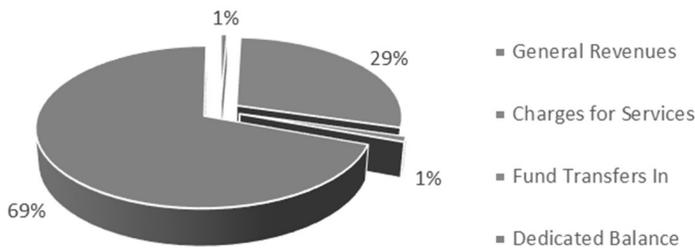
DISTRICT OVERVIEW:

To provide water and sewer service to the community of Alsea which is located approximately 30 miles southwest of Corvallis.

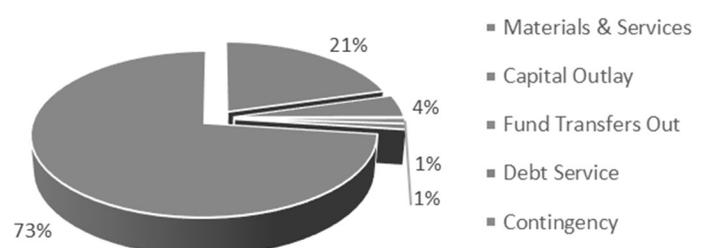
The service district is an independent municipal corporation. The Benton County Board of Commissioners sits as the Governing Body. Benton County Public Works Department manages daily operations, customer billing, and staff support. County Financial Services provides treasury, financial management services and coordinates the Budget process. The County is reimbursed for these services by district funds.

The district was organized in 1983 to take over operation of the community water system. Water system improvements and the community sewer system were completed in 1986. Additional water system improvements were completed in 1997. An advisory committee reviews District operations and makes recommendations on issues and rates to the Governing Body.

Revenue Sources



Expenditures by Category



	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22
Category Title	Actual	Actual	Adopted	Proposed Budget	Approved Budget	Adopted Budget
General Revenues	2,247	2,398	1,500	1,500	-	-
Charges for Service	64,724	61,410	65,600	65,600	-	-
Fund Transfers In	2,355	2,355	2,355	2,355	-	-
Current Program Income	69,326	66,163	69,455	69,455	-	-
Dedicated Beginning Balance	79,079	107,256	133,020	158,020	-	-
Beginning Balances	79,079	107,256	133,020	158,020	-	-
Total Resources	148,405	173,418	202,475	227,475	-	-

Table continued on next page

Budget Summary – All Cost Centers Continued

Materials & Services	36,439	39,004	47,728	46,820	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	14,000	10,000	-	-
Other: Fund Transfers Out	2,355	2,355	2,355	2,355	-	-
Other: Debt Service	2,355	2,355	2,355	2,355	-	-
Expenditures	41,149	43,714	66,438	61,530	-	-
Other: Contingency	-	-	136,037	165,945	-	-
Reserves	-	-	136,037	165,945	-	-
Total Budget	41,149	43,714	202,475	227,475	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) of Fund Resources to Expenditures	107,256	129,704	-	-	-	-
Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE)						
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

District Statement

This is an annual budget. The fiscal year will begin July 1, 2021, and ends on June 30, 2022. The budget was built on the assumption of no increase in rates or charges. The District has no personnel. All services and support are provided by County operating departments as discussed above.

The remaining balance of the federal government loan that paid for water system upgrades was paid off and refinanced with a loan from the County General Fund in FY 2016-17. This will allow the District to take advantage of the lower interest rate environment, allow the principal to be retired faster and save the District about \$5,500 in interest cost over the prior debt schedule, without increasing what the District currently pays for annual principal and interest. This action will reduce the payoff of the loan from 2028 to 2022.

The County contracted with Murraysmith to conduct a fiscal and physical analysis of all of the County Service Districts. The physical assessment of each District was completed in late 2020, and the final report became available in May 2021. Initial analysis of the information related to this District indicates a significant need for improvements to the sewer infrastructure, and moderate need to water infrastructure. Fiscally the District would be unable to complete the needed improvements without loans or grants.

Water Operations

Category Title	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Adopted	2021-22 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Approved Budget	2021-22 Adopted Budget
General Revenues	2,247	2,358	1,500	1,500		
Charges for Services	27,807	26,670	31,000	31,000		
Dedicated Beginning Balance	22,560	35,301	48,000	60,000		
Total Resources	52,613	64,329	80,500	92,500	-	-
Materials and Services	17,313	18,009	21,522	21,313		
Other: Contingency	-	-	58,978	71,187		
Total Expenditures	17,313	18,009	80,500	92,500	-	-
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mission & Purpose:

To provide operation and maintenance of a water system in the community of Alsea; serving approximately 68 residential and 14 commercial customers. Operate a successful and efficient system within the requirements of the Oregon Water Resource

Sewer Operations

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22
Category Title	Actual	Actual	Adopted	Proposed Budget	Approved Budget	Adopted Budget
General Revenues	-	40	-	-		
Charges for Services	28,213	26,527	28,000	28,000		
Dedicated Beginning Balance	3,485	12,364	30,000	34,000		
Total Resources	31,698	38,930	58,000	62,000	-	-
Materials and Services	19,334	16,760	21,171	20,019		
Other: Contingency	-	-	36,829	41,981		
Total Expenditures	19,334	16,760	58,000	62,000	-	-
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mission & Purpose:

To operate and maintain a sewer collection and treatment system for the community of Alesia servicing approximately 66 residential and 14 commercial customers. Operate the system in a cost effective and efficient manner in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality permit requirements.

Water Construction Reserve

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22
Category Title	Actual	Actual	Adopted	Proposed Budget	Approved Budget	Adopted Budget
Charges for Services	4,168	4,101	4,600	4,600		
Dedicated Beginning Balance	25,301	27,026	25,000	26,000		
Total Resources	29,469	31,127	29,600	30,600	-	-
Materials and Services	89	2,170	2,470	2,790		
Capital Outlay	-	-	4,000	-		
Other: Fund Transfers Out	2,355	2,355	2,355	2,355		
Other: Contingency	-	-	20,775	25,455		
Total Expenditures	2,444	4,525	29,600	30,600	-	-
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mission & Purpose:

To provide for accumulation of revenue dedicated to future system replacement, improvements, and emergency repairs. Fund one-time major maintenance and repairs that are too expensive to fund out of the standard operating budget.

Sewer Construction Reserve

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22
Category Title	Actual	Actual	Adopted	Proposed Budget	Approved Budget	Adopted Budget
Charges for Services	4,536	4,112	2,000	2,000		
Dedicated Beginning Balance	27,713	32,546	30,000	38,000		
Total Resources	32,249	36,658	32,000	40,000	-	-
Materials and Services	(296)	2,065	2,565	2,698		
Capital Outlay	-	-	10,000	10,000		
Other: Contingency	-	-	19,435	27,302		
Total Expenditures	(296)	2,065	32,000	40,000	-	-
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mission & Purpose:

To provide for accumulation of revenue dedicated to future system replacement, improvements, and emergency repairs. Fund one-time major maintenance and repairs that are too expensive to fund out of the standard operating budget.

Debt Service

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22
Category Title	Actual	Actual	Adopted	Proposed Budget	Approved Budget	Adopted Budget
Fund Transfers In	2,355	2,355	2,355	2,355		
Dedicated Beginning Balance	20	20	20	20		
Total Resources	2,375	2,375	2,375	2,375	-	-
Other: Bond Debt Principal	2,355	2,355	2,355	2,355		
Other: Contingency	-	-	20	20		
Total Expenditures	2,355	2,355	2,375	2,375	-	-
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mission & Purpose:

Account for resources and payments associated with payment of principle and interest on bonded debt for improvements to the water system.

Notable News

Exciting news! The raffle will be BACK in April 2022! It will be the best raffle EVER, so get ready for some amazing items and for the silent auction. If you would like to donate, please contact an ACE board member or your librarians. Please note that we are unable to accept used items so please reserve those for Goodwill or other resale centers.

We are so excited to be bringing back AVV in paper form. Currently, it will be sent out quarterly. If you would like to receive this more often, we will need more donations. We will also need more content, so if you would like to join us in submitting articles or pieces of interest, please contact the Alesea Library or simply mail your donation to ACE at: 19192 Alesea Highway, Alesea OR 97324 Your support is appreciated!!!



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Mark and Shannon Shepherd

Seeley Creek Rd. Alesea, Oregon



ALSEA REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

Event	Day	Place	Time	Phone
Alsea community effort (ace) Board meeting	2nd Tuesday in Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov.	Alsea Library Community Room	5pm	541-487-5061
Alsea valley gleaners board meeting	1st Monday after LAST Thursday of each month.	18889 Haines Rd	5:30pm - 7pm	541-487-5002
Alsea valley gleaners distribution	Every Thursday		10am - 3pm	
Alsea fire dept. Board meeting	Last Tuesdays	Alsea Fire Hall	7pm	541-487-8701
Alsea fire dept. General meeting	Every Wednesday		6pm - 7pm	541-207-6552
Alsea 4-h small animal club	1st and 3rd Thursdays			
Alsea food bank (jeni's place)	Every Thursday	Jeni's Place	10am - 6pm	541-487-3663
Alsea garden club	2nd Saturdays	Alsea Christian Fellowship - 18080 Alsea Hwy.	6pm	541-487-5191
Men's bible study	1st Saturdays		8am - 9am	541-487-4442
Grange meeting	1st Thursdays	Grange Hall	6pm	541-486-4215
School board meeting	2nd Wednesdays	School Library	7pm	541-487-4305
Stitch & rip	Every Monday	Various (Please call)	10am to 3pm	541-487-8011

ALSEA VALLEY VOICE

Alsea Community Effort
19192 Alsea Highway
Alsea, OR 97324

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
ASLEA, OR 97324
Permit No. 135

Postal Patron
Alsea, OR 97324

Fall 2021