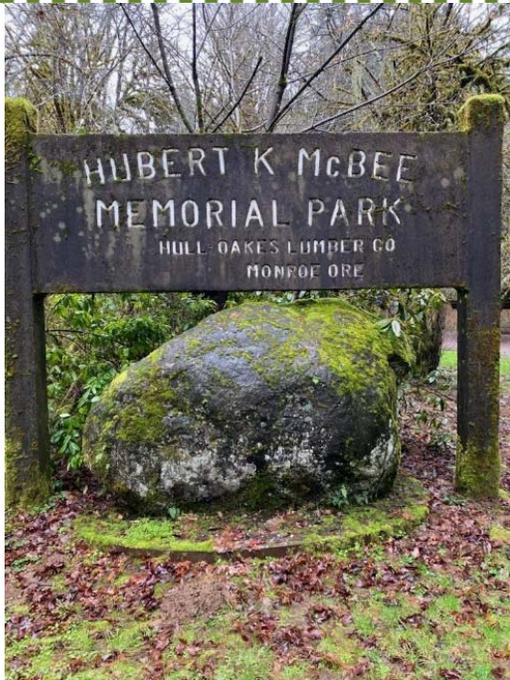


Community News

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Upgrades Planned for McBee Campground

Monroe-area residents will soon enjoy improvements to a much-loved camping and recreation site along the Alsea River. The Hubert K McBee Campground near Alsea Falls is owned and supported by Hull-Oakes Lumber, based in Monroe. The property has long been open to the general public for camping, hiking, and access to the Alsea River.

Recently the Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas (AFRANA) announced the generous donation of the Hubert K McBee Campground to AFRANA by Hull-Oakes Lumber. AFRANA plans to transfer ownership to Benton County in order to preserve the company's long commitment to preserving community space for the enjoyment of local residents.

Benton County Natural Areas, Parks, and Events Director Tomi Douglas stated, "We are ecstatic and humbled by this generous gift from the Nystrom family and Hull-Oakes Lumber. Yet again the timber community is stepping up and generously sharing an incredible public recreation space that families will enjoy for decades – we can't thank them enough for this incredible donation"

Margaret Hull, who served on the Benton County Parks advisory board from 1957-1970, proposed the Alsea/Green Peak Falls area for a County Park and this donation makes her dream a reality.

Benton County Natural Areas, Parks, and Events announced they will undertake essential repairs and improvements to enhance the Hubert K McBee Campground. The campground will temporarily close for overnight camping throughout the year 2024 to repair roads and trails, enhancing campsite amenities, and install new toilet facilities and an on-site water well. The campground will remain open for day use, offering opportunities for picnicking, hiking, biking, and fishing.

AFRANA is a non-profit organization based in Corvallis that supports development of recreation areas in rural Benton County. Ellen Tappon, spokesperson for AFRANA noted, "We are excited and grateful to be a partner in the future of the Hubert K McBee Campground. Hull-Oakes Lumber's generosity ensures that this special place will continue to be a hub for recreation, family gatherings, and nature appreciation for generations to come."

Community Calendars

View the latest events calendars at:

Willamette Grange:
willamettegrange.org/community-events

City of Monroe: ci.monroe.or.us/

Alpine Community Center:
www.alpinecommunity.net

South Benton Food Pantry:
southbentonfoodpantry.org/

Monroe Arts Association:
www.monroeartsassociation.info/

Monroe Community Library:
corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/?branch=5B92%5D=92

Monroe Community Library - a branch of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



Our library is a wealth of information available for free to everyone in the community!

Everything that is available in the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library system is available to us here in the local branch, including: books, magazines, movies, free access to computers and printing, Wi-Fi, storytime, plus winter and summer reading programs. You can put a hold request on items owned by the library that are not currently on the shelves, or fill out a Purchase Request Form for items not listed in the catalog.

With your library card, you can stream hundreds of movies at home, and have access to digital magazines and newspapers like Consumer Reports and the New York Times. And you can reserve the meeting rooms for your own event.

No library card? No problem! If you live or work in Benton County you are eligible to get a library card. Visit the Monroe Community Library where staff will be happy to help or you can apply for a card on-line at <https://corvallis.aspendiscovery.org/MyAccount/SelfReg>

Lori Pelkey, Monroe librarian, said some changes she has noticed since the Covid years are that program attendance has increased, and computer usage no longer has a waitlist which could be a result of students now having tablets or laptops at home which was required during the pandemic.

Phone: 541-847-5174

Library hours:

Tuesday: 10:00 am-4:30 pm (closed for lunch from 1:00 pm-1:30 pm)

Wednesday: 2:00 pm-7:00 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am-4:30 pm (closed for lunch from 1:00 pm-1:30 pm)

Friday: 10:00 am-4:30 pm (closed for lunch from 1:00 pm-1:30pm)

Saturday: 12:00 pm-3:00 pm

Sunday and Monday: closed

Monroe Considers Urban Growth Boundary Changes

Many communities in the Willamette Valley are experiencing population growth and demands for more affordable homes. For the City of Monroe these pressures resulted in a request to adjust the city's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to accommodate a proposed residential subdivision adjacent to the Red Hills Subdivision off Orchard Street and Coon Road.

The property owner and developer are interested in building a residential subdivision on the property. The property is outside the city's UGB and the city is unable to provide water and waste water services, even though the services are adjacent and accessible to the property.

Extending a city's Urban Growth Boundary is a complicated process, according Monroe City Administrator Steve Martinenko. It requires compliance with state and county regulations and full participation from land owners and local residents. State Land Use Codes allow an option for cities to exchanges property within the UGB, for an equal amount of property outside the city's UGB. Recently, the City of Monroe agreed to investigate this option by removing 14 acres of property within the city's UGB on the north side of the city, with limited development possibilities, and add the 14-acre parcel adjacent to Red Hills.

Martinenko noted the first step is to confirm if property owners and Benton County support the changes and to make sure state land use codes permit the UGB modification.

There will be multiple opportunities for public input and comment to help inform the final decision. Opportunities for public comment will be posted on the city's webpage as the process moves forward.



Friend us on **Facebook@SouthBentonAdvisoryCommittee** and send us email at **sobac.info@gmail.com**. We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas for future community news stories.

