

# PARADISE

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Recreation Department, however, Radford discovered the Historic Cemetery Grant — an effort on behalf of the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries to promote the upkeep and beautification of the state's listed historic grave sites. In order to be considered a historic cemetery under state law, cemeteries must have at least one burial of a person who died before Feb. 14, 1909. Some of the earliest headstones in Paradise Cemetery date back to the mid-1890s.

Radford received \$5,985 in grant money toward restoring, leveling and creating bases for the headstones, which Heritage Memorial completed on site July 20-22. Along with the construction portion of the restoration, she and other volunteers removed decades' worth of stains and moss from headstones, landscaped overgrown portions of the cemetery and laid new dirt and gravel in certain locations. In addition, she matched the grant

with another \$6,485, which, per grant regulations, could be contributed through any combination of cash, donations and volunteer time.

While Radford received some donations, she shouldered a portion of the costs herself in conjunction with volunteer time and materials. Though the project is rooted in reverence to all who are buried there, it's also personal. Many of her family members, including her parents and brother, are buried in Paradise Cemetery, and her great-great-grandparents owned the property the cemetery now sits on.

"(My mom) used to mow it and get it ready for Memorial weekend when I still (lived) at home, and I'd go up and help her," Radford said. "(After she passed) I kind of felt like it was still my job, and I didn't want to give up on it."

Mowing the cemetery on Memorial Day weekend is a tradition the family continues to this day. Radford's grandson, Jaylyn, now mows and also adopted the restoration initiative as part of an FFA project. The cemetery remained in Rad-



Sue Radford courtesy photo

Jaylyn Radford (left) and Tyler Grey lay fresh dirt around some of the rebased headstones at historic Paradise Cemetery, 40 miles north of Enterprise, as part of a restoration project spearheaded by Jaylyn's grandmother, Sue.

ford's family until 2011, and though its new owners didn't want to monetarily invest in the property's upkeep, they encouraged Radford to continue her mission.

"I think it's a worthwhile project.

We're just trying to pay respect and took it on as a public service," she said. "I don't want these people to be forgotten, and so I set forth to get (them) the respect they deserve. I just wanted to pay it forward."

# ELECTION

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cal agencies to consider expanding their services to a level that allows them to procure federal funding for development," he said. "That's why the recent grant that La Grande received to study (the lack of housing) is so important."

O'Toole, who is member of the Union County Chamber's board of directors and also sits on the city's budget committee, believes the URA needs to be restructured.

"The URA currently has too significant of an impact on how the rest of the city's budget is written," he wrote. "We need to identify a long-term solution to balancing the city's budget while streamlining the way in which URA is organized and administered — and keep the two entities truly independent."

He hopes that, at the very least, his campaigning will get more voters talking about local issues.

"My favorite part of the campaign so far has been seeing how many citizens are starting to pay attention to the issues that affect us here at a local level," O'Toole said. "As distracting as the drama at the federal level is, people are realizing that it doesn't have much to do with which sewer lines are scheduled to be replaced or how much this year's URA under-levy will be. If anything, I want my campaign to be about getting people more in tune with local policies, and I think we're seeing that start to take shape."



Sam Delaney courtesy photo

Reese Delaney (right) of Cove, OR races Emily Fernandez of Stanwood, WA at the 2018 Arrowhead Summer Classic in Camano Island, WA. Delaney hopes to bring soap box derby racing to the streets of Cove in October.

# COVE

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confirmation of the Oregon Soap Box Derby Club's insurance. Lastly, Delaney was tasked with contacting the Union County Sheriff's Office to ensure he would not need any special permission from the county or the Oregon Department of Transportation to close the road for the weekend.

On Sept. 4 at the Cove City Council meeting, Delaney reported he got a 100 percent positive reaction from the homeowners on Haefler Lane. He also brought an example of what information the club's insurance would need from the city. He reported he spoke with Union County Sheriff

Boyd Rasmussen and told him the lane was a city road not a county one. Rasmussen told Delaney he would give approval to close the road as long as the city approved the closure. Delaney said he also spoke with Earl Pettit, superintendent of Cove School District, who gave him permission to let attendees and participants use the high school parking lot.

The Cove City Council asked Delaney a handful of questions and then approved the road closure for the event Oct. 13 and 14.

Delaney told The Observer he has been helping his children compete in soap box derby races for four or five years, ever since his son, Reese, now

11 years old, began racing. His 9 year old daughter, Caitlin, has been racing for about a year. Delaney grew up in Salem, where there is a track specifically dedicated to soap box derby races. He said that attracted him to the sport, even though he never competed as a child. While visiting his parents, who still live in Salem, Delaney took his kids to a soap box derby race.

"We went and checked out a race and it just started from there," he said.

Since his son began racing, Delaney and his family have traveled to San Francisco, Sacramento and Seattle to compete in soap box derby races. Delaney said he is excited to bring the racing to Cove. "The big hope is to just

give kids here an opportunity to do something they can do with a parent, guardian or mentor," Delaney said. "It's just a chance to try something different."

Children hoping to participate do not need to have their own soap box car, as the Oregon Soap Box Derby Club will provide those. The races will be open to all skill levels.

# Greater Hells Canyon council files another corridor appeal

By Katy Nesbitt  
For The Observer

After two Oregon federal judges denied Greater Hells Canyon Council's lawsuit to stop the Lostine River Corridor Safety Project in Wallowa County, the group is trying one more time to appeal the judges' decisions.

In June, Patricia Sullivan, district magistrate in Pendleton, found in favor of the U.S. Forest Service and its plan to clear trees, create safety zones and a helicopter landing site near the end of the Lostine River Road, a popular access point to the Eagle Cap Wilder-

ness. Two weeks ago Judge Michael Simon upheld Sullivan's decision.

The council filed a Notice of Appeal with the District Court on Sept. 4.

Darilyn Parry Brown, the council's director, said, "We believe our case is strong and remain committed to protecting the Wild and Scenic Lostine River Canyon. We have never opposed the true public safety aspects of this project. But the heavy industrial logging will not improve public safety in the Lostine."

The Wallowa Mountains Office designed the Los-

tine River project using an expedited environmental policy analysis called a categorical exclusion. The 2014 Farm Bill allows the Forest Service to use the authority on timber harvest projects of less than 3,000 acres. The Lostine Project calls

for thinning and hazardous tree removal across 2,100 acres.

District Ranger Kris Stein signed off on the project in March 2017. As of the afternoon of Sept. 4, she had not seen the notice and was unable to comment.

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# MILITARY

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City, Portland and Forest Grove, according to biographical information provided by Lou Gerber, an organizer of the reunion.

In 1977, Aney came to La Grande to serve as Northeast Region Supervisor for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He served in this position until retiring in 1989. The following year, he moved to Portland and later was appointed staff historian of the Oregon National Guard. Aney retired from the National Guard in 1996 at age 60 but continued to serve as leader of the Oregon State Defense Force's Military History Team and as a military consultant for the Oregon Military Department.

The reunion, which is open to the public, will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Aney will speak after the dinner. Tickets are \$12. To RSVP and arrange to purchase tickets, call 541-963-4221.

Gerber, a member of the 3-116th for 38 years before retiring four years ago, helped found the reunion along with Col. Brian Dean. Gerber said the purpose of the reunion is to get past and present members of the 3-116th together so they can renew old friendships.

"People who have been in the military understand camaraderie. It is alive and well in the 3-116th," Gerber said.

The unit's service includes two deployments to Iraq.

"The community should be proud of their warriors," Gerber said.

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