

Volunteers... Continued from A-1

The first Daughters of the American Revolution plaque in Southern Oregon was affixed to Lyvia Stephens Briggs' grave, who was buried in Laurel Cemetery in 1871. Briggs, the daughter of veteran Isa Stephens, had accompanied her daughter-in-law and four grandchildren to Oregon so she could live with her only son, who headed west in 1850, ahead of his family.

"This cleanup effort is making a difference," said Lyn Stanger, with the IV Funeral Directors. "This helps the cemetery look like it's not a forgotten place. And that not only honors the pioneers of an earlier era, but also brings comfort to those who are currently grieving their loved ones."

The Laurel Cemetery Association, ultimately responsible for grounds maintenance, is hurting financially, as more people now choose cremation, which is less expensive than burial.

"The association only survives by donations and burial fees," said Keith Webb, President of the Laurel Cemetery Association. "Most of the old-timers who used to donate to the cleanup fund have passed away."

Webb added that many people wrongly assume that the

city, county or state help fund the cemetery.

"I don't think people realize just how fast all that brush grows back," Webb said.

Webb explained that most years he works with one or two volunteers for about a month and a half before Memorial Day to clear all the brush and that the cost is about \$2,500 to do the whole job.

Webb wants people to know that there are openings on the Laurel Cemetery Association's board, as many former members have died or resigned. To be eligible, one must own a plot or have a close relative buried in the cemetery.

"It'd be great if people would come to a few meetings and consider joining the board," Webb said. "Then they'd see what all the issues are."

Gill said her organization provides information on available grants, resources, training materials and programs for working with volunteers in historic cemeteries. The annual grant process opens at end of July. Gill hopes to see a completed grant application from the Laurel Cemetery Association.

A new cemetery clerk is currently in training at Laurel, with funds provided by the Oregon Job Council. That position is 20 hours per week and this person may spearhead the grant application process. Webb's mother, Kathy Webb, held the clerk position for many years and retired, though she's continued to do the job as a volunteer in recent years.

"The clean up tasks are not funded by the association," Webb said. "And we're ripped off over here so often. It seems like it never ends. People break into the cemetery's maintenance shed and steal the tools. That also hampers grounds maintenance." She added that, "We bring our own tools from home now."

Warner, who started a Facebook page for the cleanup effort, wants people to know that anyone can get involved in the current campaign. "We get started on Fridays at 8:00 a.m. People can just show up," she said. "And make sure they bring rakes and weed-whackers. We have a lot of fun. We talk about all kinds of stuff and laugh a lot. Someone is always cracking a joke."

For more information call Warner at 541-415-2063.

Awards ... Continued from A-1

The cohort selected this project over 75 other ideas due to the group's interests in youth development, educational opportunities and community beautification. IVSWD Manager Kevin O'Brien and staff agreed to act as fiscal agents for this project.

Since 1949, IVSWCD has served citizens who garden, farm, ranch, live, and work in the Illinois Valley. The district offers free, non-regulatory services and consultations to landholders in the Illinois Valley. Grant funding and assistance may be available for projects to conserve, restore and enhance the natural environment.

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Restrictions ... Continued frmo A-1

No debris burning; including piles and debris burned in burn barrels is prohibited.

Campfires will be allowed in designated campgrounds only; charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires are prohibited except at designated campgrounds.

Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed in some locations.

Mowing of dead or dry grass with power-driven equipment will not be allowed between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. This restriction does not

include mowing of green lawns, or when equipment is used for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

Chain saws may not be used between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. During other hours, chain saw users must have an ax, a shovel and an 8-oz or larger fire extinguisher at the job site, and a fire watch is required for one hour after the saw is shut down.

Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is permitted

at all other hours, if conducted in a cleared area and if a water supply is present.

Blasting is prohibited, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Blasting is permitted at all other hours, if conducted in a cleared area and if a water supply is present.

Use of motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and all terrain vehicles, is prohibited, except on improved roads.

Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, and on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high-water marks that are free of vegetation.

Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required while traveling, except on state highways and county roads and driveways: one ax, one shovel, and one gallon of water or one 2-½ lb. or larger fire extinguisher.

Use of exploding targets and tracer ammunition, or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base, will be prohibited.

Use of sky lanterns is prohibited.

Any electric fence controller in

use shall be: 1) Listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services; and 2) Operated in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.

In the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial, the following fire prevention restrictions will remain in effect:

A shovel and a one-gallon or larger bucket are required of all travelers.

Fireworks are prohibited.

These additional restrictions will remain in effect in the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial:

Open fires will be prohibited, including campfires, cooking fires and warming fires. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels, and charcoal fires for cooking and built in raised fire pans, will be allowed on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high water marks which are free of vegetation. Ashes must be hauled out.

For more information about the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire season regulations, please call or visit the Southwest District Unit office nearest you or visit www.SWOFire.com:

Need an excuse to get out of the house?

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