

Supporters start working in cemetery

By Rob Ruth

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — It was supposed to be a strong first demonstration of people's willingness to really pitch in and help at Enterprise Cemetery, and so it was: around 20-25 people of various ages shoveling dirt into rodent holes, raking, operating weed-eaters, and performing other tasks as immediately needed.

Enterprise resident Judy Wortman, one of several Friends of the Enterprise Cemetery members who helped organize the Saturday, May 9, grounds cleanup day, said they hadn't included a sign-up sheet, but the turnout was obviously good, enabling goals to be met. "We'll get everything weed-eated," she said. "The main thing is to fill in holes and rake and, as much as we can, weed-eating."

A second cleanup day is scheduled Saturday, May 16, beginning at 10 a.m. In the interim,

Wortman said, Friends would be sending out letters to current and former Wallowa County residents requesting donations to the cemetery district, which will need an estimated \$80,000 to \$90,000 to finally install an underground irrigation system. Most of the cemetery's grounds were without water service the past four years, but service was restored a few months ago with an appropriate connection to the city water system.

"We're just proud that after four years we have water in here," Wortman said.

It apparently didn't take much coaxing to get people to attend the May 9 work session. Although most of those who took part have family members buried at Enterprise Cemetery, a few others simply thought it was important to support local friends who do. "We don't have family here. We're just helping," said Julie Todd, speaking for herself and her work partner for the day, fellow Enterprise resident Gail Tally.



Rob Ruth/Chieftain

Roger Hall, of Pendleton, fills rodent holes at Enterprise Cemetery on Saturday, May 9, the first of two volunteer work days scheduled there. The trailer filled with soil belongs to Hall, who brought it and other equipment from Pendleton for the work day.

Meanwhile, Joseph resident Bud Sanders was in another part of the cemetery removing small rocks and other debris from a

rectangular patch of bare-dirt ground where he had recently scattered grass seed. The nearest row of graves held members

of his immediate family. "I was very angry that this wasn't taken care of," Sanders said, referring to the cemetery's unwatered

condition in recent years. "I've traveled all over the United States and I've never seen a worse one."

Sanders liked what he was witnessing on Saturday, however. "We've got a lot of love here," he said of the volunteers.

Not every helper was a local. Paula and Roger Hall, of Pendleton, arrived Saturday with Paula's nephew, Ethan Colvard, and Tori Bowman, both also of Pendleton, along with Roger's two 4x4's with trailers so the group could form a couple of small crews to transport dirt and other materials.

Paula's parents are formerly of Wallowa County and her sister, Donna Chavez, who died at 29, is buried in the cemetery, as are other family members, summamed Chavez, Hammack, Tippet and Prince. Roger and Paula plan to be buried there someday too. "You couldn't ask for much more of a view," Roger remarked as he gazed across the valley at the Wallowa Mountains.

State funds to fix two Joseph streets

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Anyone familiar with the pothole-ridden byways that pass for streets in the city of Joseph and the equally treacherous road to get funding to repair those same streets will rejoice to know grant funding will repair two of the worst streets. According to Joseph mayor, Dennis Sands, the city recently received a \$50,000 Special City Allotment grant. The grant funds street repair for cities with a population of less than 5,000.

Joseph has a population between 1,000 and 1,100. The city applies for the grant yearly, and is awarded the grant every 5-6 years.

Earlier this year, the city council and public works determined that both Joseph



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Joseph Street showing its age and need for repair.

Street and 1st Street will receive repair as the grant application stipulates that streets must be in poor repair and have high-volume traffic. Joseph Street runs past both the city hall and library, while the 1st street portion runs by the Joseph Community Center.

Sands said both streets will have a portion of their repairs done wider than the standard 22-foot width. In the case of Joseph Street, the wider width will accommodate the farmers market as well as vendors during the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo. First Street is already wider

than the standard.

Joseph received two bids from road construction companies to do the repair work. Hampton Paving LLC received the nod from the city for its \$1.88 per square foot bid. Wallowa County Public works bid \$2.25 per square foot for the project.

Sands said the project will start around June 1, and hopefully before the farmers market opens. He also said that the city hall is sending out letters to market and rodeo vendors informing them they can no longer drive stakes in the pavement to hold tents or canopies down. "It allows water to seep down underneath the asphalt, and that's where the problems can start," Sands said. He added the city hasn't heard from Hampton Paving on which street the company plans to repair first.

FSR 39 to close for 2 days

Forest Service Road 39 aka Loop Road will be closed approximately 300 feet south of the junction between FSR 39 and FSR 3915/3920 near Salt Creek Summit Snow Park on Monday, May 18, and Tuesday, May 19, to install a cattle guard.

The detour will begin at the junction of Hwy 350 and County Road 4602 (Little Sheep Creek). Travelers will then head east on Hwy 350 to the town of Imnaha, and turn right (south) on County Road 727 (upper Imnaha River Road), which becomes FSR 3955 at

the Forest boundary. The detour will end at Gumboot Creek on the 39 Road.

Construction continues on the southern 18 miles of FSR 39. This section will remain closed and gated until June 15 from the junction of FSR 39 and FSR 66 to Highway 86.

FSR 66 is currently clear of snow and ice to Twin Lakes. Beyond Twin Lakes the road is blocked by four feet of deep snow. FSR 39 is clear of snow and ice, but is not maintained until June 15. Rocks remain in the roadway.

Traffic delays planned between Wallowa, Joseph

By Stephen Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Unless you know all the back roads between Joseph and Wallowa, expect traffic delays between the two cities starting June 1 and extending the following three weeks. Oregon Department of Transportation's John Linder, a civil engineering specialist, said that ODOT is chip sealing the highway between the two towns from about MP 46 to MP 71.

The project will start in Joseph and work toward Wallowa. ODOT prepared for the project by posting road signs in Joseph, working their way toward Wallowa. Linder said more than 100 road signs will be installed for the project.

Some of the project entails removal of durable paint from the highway in both Enterprise and Joseph and will start the week of May 18. This is because the striping in cities is very thick and does not mix with the oils in the chip seal. Linder expected that project to last about a week. ODOT says that both Wallowa and Lostine will have their crosswalks removed and redone also.

"I just want people to be

aware, because there will be traffic problems and flaggers and whatnot during the operation," Linder said.

People with businesses in both Joseph and Enterprise can probably expect a loss of store traffic during the two days it will take to micro-seal the road surface. "We'll even have to block side road traffic because there won't be traffic allowed for several hours. There'll be a day of interruption for cleaning the streets another day of interruption when applying the micro-seal. That's two days

in each town," Linder said.

The state is allowed to delay traffic for up to 20 minutes and that'll probably happen on this project, according to Linder. Motorists can also expect lower posted speed limits.

Local residents with driveways connecting to OR 82 may also experience temporary impacts as the operation moves past their property. ODOT encourages travelers and local residents to slow down, be patient and plan extra travel time along this route.

According to Linder, Highway 3 from Highway 82 out to Les Schwab will also be chip-sealed during the project.

AROUND ENTERPRISE

MANY THANKS
to the students of Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Christman, Miss Neil, Mrs. Yanke, and Mrs. Knifong for taking part in our first annual Clean-up Enterprise event. We had so much fun! Many thanks too to the City of Enterprise and Bank of Eastern Oregon for helping direct all those eager hands!

Wallowa Mountain Quilters' Guild

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Nick Lunde
Deputy IC, Oregon IIMT4
Retired USFS Fire Management Officer

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- Scenarios for the upcoming fire season

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