

Cemetery Board directors needed

By D.P. “Perry” Davis
Guest Comment

Elections for the Cemetery Board are coming up this next May. There will be four board positions on the ballot. To keep the positive momentum for cemetery improvements rolling, we need some folks to step up and commit to serving a term on the board. Closing date for filing is March 16, 2017. To be eligible to serve on the board, you must be an elector in the Cemetery District. Visit the County Clerk’s Office in the Wallowa County Courthouse to file.

As is well known from previous articles in The Chieftain, the Cemetery Board fights a continuing battle to adequately maintain the cemetery with available funding.

Current projections assume extensive volunteer hours and substantial cash donations from the public to supplement income from taxes and sale of lots, and we still fall short of making ends meet (with an estimated annual deficit of nearly \$3,000).

One way to close this gap between operating expenses and available funding is for board members to do some of the jobs that are otherwise paid positions. For example, I’ve done the sexton’s job for the past two years, and Jim Butner and other volunteers have done much of the groundskeeper’s job, allowing us to cover expenses and to free \$10,000 from the district General Fund for the irrigation system project.

State law (ORS 265) provides that a Cemetery District Board may be comprised of three or five members. In 2015, the existing board of three voted to increase the number of members to five, reasoning that the “working board” idea has a better chance of succeeding if the load can be shared among more workers. Our contract secretary-treasurer of many years, Joyce (Anderson) McKenzie, who has been an important source of stability as board members come and go, is looking forward to retirement in the not-too-distant future. After Joyce retires, We anticipate a future board member performing the secretary’s job, another the treasurer’s role, still another a part-time groundskeeper, perhaps yet another a part-time sexton.

This approach can work if there are four concerned citizens out there willing to commit a few hours each month to cemetery business.

We’ve come a long way the past two years. Let’s make the next two just as good.

Note: Questions about the board jobs may be directed to any of the current board members:

- Jim Butner 541-426-3787
- Pat Willis 541-263-0092
- Perry Davis 541-426-3826
- D. P. “Perry” Davis, is a director on the Enterprise Cemetery District board.

ANNUAL OPERATIONS BUDGET			
Item Description	Unit Cost	Units	Total
Sexton Salary - Loaded (1.25) Monthly Salary	\$625.00	12	\$7,500.00
Summer Groundskeeper Pay - Loaded (1.25) Hourly Wage *	\$15.65	576	\$9,014.40
Secretary/Treasurer Contract - Monthly	\$300.00	12	\$3,600.00
Secretary/Treasurer Bond - Annual	\$275.00	1	\$275.00
City Water Flat Rate - 5 Months	\$300.00	5	\$1,500.00
Garbage Pick-Up - Annual Cost	\$450.00	1	\$450.00
Electricity - Annual Cost	\$750.00	1	\$750.00
Gas and Oil - Annual Cost	\$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00
Equipment Maintenance - Annual Cost	\$1,500.00	1	\$1,500.00
Irrigation System Service & Repair - Annual Cost	\$400.00	1	\$400.00
Herbicides - Annual Cost	\$200.00	1	\$200.00
Animal Pest Control - Annual Cost	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
Seed & Fertilizer - Annual Cost	\$600.00	1	\$600.00
Topsoil & Gravel - Annually	\$450.00	1	\$450.00
Tree & Shrub Trimming & Maintenance - Annually	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
Landscape Materials (Mulch, Weed Barrier, Edging) - Annual	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
Building Maintenance - Prorated to Annual Basis	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund - Annual Set-Aside	\$4,000.00	1	\$4,000.00
Liability and Property Insurance - Annual Cost	\$525.00	1	\$525.00
Public Notice Publication - Annually	\$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00
Secretary/Treasurer & Sexton Supplies - Annual Cost	\$450.00	1	\$450.00
Filing Fees & OMCB Certification - Prorated to Annual Basis	\$125.00	1	\$125.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	1	\$0.00
Projected Total Operating Expenses			\$35,339.40
ANNUAL INCOME			
Tax Receipts - \$0.1091 per \$1,000 AV	0.1091	192000	\$20,947.20
Sale of Columbarium Niches - Annual Total	\$500.00	5	\$2,500.00
Sale of Gravesites - Annual Total	\$300.00	12	\$3,600.00
Sale of Second Right Privilege - Annually	\$100.00	5	\$500.00
Open/Close Urn Interments - Annual Totals	\$125.00	18	\$2,250.00
Pledge Donations to General Fund	\$2,600.00	1	\$2,600.00
Projected Total Income			\$32,397.20
Projected Annual Operations Deficit			\$2,942.20

**Budgeted Groundskeeper hours assume volunteer labor will be available for off-season and busy season help (Pruning, mowing, trimming, pest control, clean-up after Memorial Day). Approximately 300 volunteer hours.*

MIGRANTS

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Wallowa County swelled in the 1970s, and shrunk in the YUPPIE (Young Urban Professional) 1980s.

In 2007, Austin, Texas, journalist Bill Bishop came to Fishtrap and told us that the country had been sorting itself ideologically for the past 30 years. College grads had gravitated to some tech, education and financial industry cities; people who felt they had few choices, or liked the life they had, stayed in mining and timber towns, where automation and politics were changing the natural resource economy; county by county American elections became landslides one way or the other, and moderate elected officials were fast disappearing.

In 2008, Bishop published The Big Sort, with big fears about what this was doing to America.

Bishop was right, and for me, the troubling thing about the new administration’s immigration policy is that migration is getting mixed up with immigration. We’re “sealing” borders when new immigrants — migrants moving here because of high-tech jobs, family ties, or escape from war and persecution — fill many entry level jobs and account for a lopsided percentage of new companies. Meanwhile, emigrants from the US — foreign-born citizens and green card holders and asylum seekers — are taking education and entrepreneurship out of the country to British Columbia, and braving winter snows and cold to walk across the border from Minnesota to Manitoba. Canada, realizing that its own birth replacement rate is shrinking the country, has embraced immigration. Some Europeans see the same problem and solution.

(P.S. Maybe this continuous migration is why we misunderstand American Indians, whose sense of place is palpable, who made their major migrations over centuries and well before European immigrants landed in their lands?)

Columnist Rich Wand-schneider lives in Joseph.

LABELS

Continued from Page A4

By buying certified natural beef, you get gristle and anti-

biotic-free meat.

Beef cattle are relatively healthy, largely because of their environment and diet, so even if the beef is not certified natural, chances are pretty

good the animal has been illness free.

I think it is time for the beef industry to distinguish itself from the dairy industry and make the media and public

aware that we are not associated with the inferior product that dairy beef has become.

A little known fact – Holsteins produce more beef than any other single breed. Hard

to believe, till you think of all the dairies in the country, some of them over 50,000 cows.

Barrie Qualle is a local columnist for the Chieftain.



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Standing Rock and the History of Resource Extraction on Native American Lands

Thursday, Feb. 16th • 7pm

Joe Whittle

Indigenous Photojournalist and Writer



Joe will present photos and stories of his experiences at Standing Rock and other places witnessing instances of resource extraction based destruction of Native American land, water, people, and culture.

Discussion of the history and precedent of these practices and how that ties to the relationships government and industry have today with indigenous nations, will feature prominently.

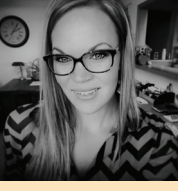
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Hailie is a capable, people savvy agent. We at Bennett Insurance and Simmons Insurance congratulate her and are fortunate to have her on our team.

Hailie invites you to give her a call at 541-426-4208 or stop by the office at Bennett Insurance Agency, 616 W. North Street





Hailie Hillock
Bennett Insurance Agency LLC



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