

**Siuslaw News**

**P.O. Box 10**

**Florence, OR 97439**

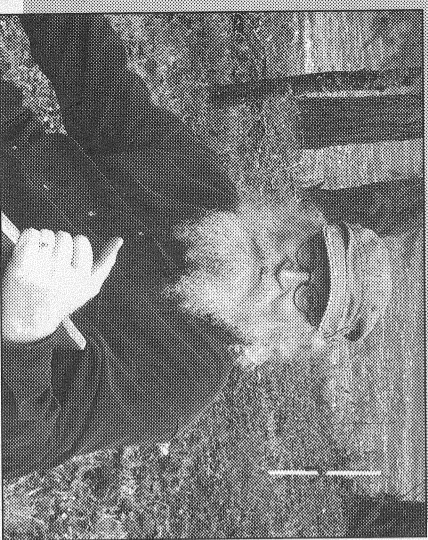
# Opinion

**DEAR READERS:**  
New letters policy

Please take a moment to review our revised policy for letters to the editor at the bottom of this page. —Editor

## VIEW FROM UPRIVER

### Fitting memorials, renewal in Deadwood



WESLEY VOTH  
For the Siuslaw News

shown by landowners or family members of the person buried.

Many of these are tended rarely if at all. Some area cemeteries are larger, like

Pacific Sunset and Mapleton Pioneer, and better maintained. Deadwood Pioneer Cemetery until recently has been in the former category, but major efforts are now underway to change that, as most of the rest of this column will discuss.

There is a new state highway cemetery sign on Highway 36 at the junction of Deadwood Creek Road; just a few feet up that road is the large rock placed by Don Wilbur and

carved by Michael Johnson, known as "Mic" (a Mapleton man of many talents, who also restored the mural

here). I am told that although it looks like this rock might fall or roll away, there is a section of it that is buried and extends down to bedrock.

If you have never been to Deadwood Cemetery, or haven't been for a while, it is well worth the time. On a recent sunny afternoon, I was the only one there while a warm breeze stirred the gorgeous azaleas

and wild iris, the hair along the back of a browsing pregnant doe, and flags newly placed on several graves.

On my way there I noticed the repainted Freedom Rocks, just beyond Swishhome, which sport a new RIP message, and also stopped by to marvel at the much transformed Deadwood Country Market and Tavern. The market is where the bar used to be, and the now huge bar

area with pool tables is where the market used to be.

I received the following information from Meg Gerber on behalf of Don Wilbur and the Trustees. In the past year they have accomplished a lot, but also need the public's help:

- Researched our deeds and history, and taken steps toward resolving our boundary and easement questions, and are in the process of completing new fencing;
- Started a website, [www.DeadwoodCem.org](http://www.DeadwoodCem.org) and a Facebook page;
- Mapped, catalogued and photographed every headstone which can be read;
- Applied for a grant to buy headstones where they're missing or badly degraded. There are almost 40 names with unknown locations, and about 30 stones/temporary markers that can't be read. Can you help?

Call 541-964-3345 or toll-free at 877-964-3345;

- Plan a work day (May 16) to clean headstones, prune overgrown shrubbery, add signage and trash cans and level a few spots; upcoming projects include adding a gazebo and a Scattering Garden.

They add:  
Join us on Memorial Day. Enjoy free hot dogs and other goodies at noon; activities will follow. Hear "pioneer" storytellers and see historic displays and more. Bring your own chairs and enjoy the day.

You will also have a chance to give your opinion on the progress at the cemetery, discuss plants, plans, ideas for a gazebo, scattering ashes and learn the best ways to clean old headstones.

Of course, you can still visit the graves of your ancestors and place flowers or flags; after all, it is Memorial Day.

In the time that I have lived here, I have visited many small cemeteries in the area. Some, like Linslaw and Indian Creek, are away from major roads; some are single family burial plots; and then there are the many single graves scattered wherever people have lived or at places of meaning to them or those left behind. Some of these latter I have come across on my own in my wanderings, others I have been