

THE LEADER-NEWS

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Forever funding

Permanent endowment created to maintain cemetery

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
REPORTER

The River View Cemetery Association has created a permanent endowment fund with the North Dakota Community Foundation to support the long-term maintenance and improvement of the historic cemetery.

The fund will be invested, and a portion of its annual earnings will be distributed to the association to help cover upkeep, repairs and future enhancements. Dwayne “Dewey” Oster, president of the River View Cemetery Association, said the endowment will provide a stable, reliable source of support for a site that has served the community for more than a century.

Oster said the decision was overdue but important for the cemetery’s future.

“The over 100 year history of Washburn River View Cemetery — first plat-
ted in 1903 — has seen many changes,” Oster said. “An endowment fund is a means of assisting the local city of Washburn cemetery to be self-sustaining in the years lying ahead. It is probably a piece of business that should have been undertaken decades ago. But there is no time like the present.”

Oster said the cemetery holds deep meaning for the community.

“Our relatives, friends, neighbors and ultimately all of us Washburn-ites, need a beautiful, rural setting resting place to carry us into eternity,” he said.

The North Dakota Com-



PHAIDRA YUNKER | THE LEADER-NEWS

An angel statue tops a weathered headstone at River View Cemetery in Washburn. A new permanent endowment created by the River View Cemetery Association and the North Dakota Community Foundation will help fund long-term care for markers like this one, along with other maintenance and improvements at the historic site.

munity Foundation, found-
ed in 1976, manages chari-
table funds across the state
and assists nonprofit orga-
nizations with administra-
tive and financial oversight.
The foundation has offices
in Bismarck, Dickinson,
Larimore and Wahpeton
and manages endowment
accounts for nearly 40 cem-
eteries statewide.

River View Cemetery As-
sociation leaders were fa-
miliar with NDCF’s work,
including its management

of the Washburn Volunteer
Ambulance Service Endow-
ment. After the cemetery as-
sociation obtained its 501(c)
(3) status, board members
determined an endowment
was the next step.

“NDCF has shown it does
the job when assisting state-
wide community organiza-
tions,” Oster said. “So why
not sign up and preserve our
future local cemetery exis-

RIVERVIEW cont. on 5

Veterans gather

Legion members share festive spirit

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
REPORTER

Victor B. Wallin Ameri-
can Legion Post 12 in Wash-
burn celebrated Christmas
on Dec. 16 with a social
hour, steak dinner and door
prize drawings ahead of its
monthly meeting. During
the meeting, members an-
nounced that the Legion
has raised \$56,000 toward
its \$150,000 goal for the
planned Clint Hill memorial
monument. The Washburn
caroling group stopped by
during the dinner and pro-
vided Christmas music as
part of its community route.
During the event, the Legion
Auxiliary displayed items
collected for donation to the
McLean Family Resource
Center.



PHAIDRA YUNKER | THE LEADER-NEWS

Legion members dish up holiday cheer as they serve a Christ-
mas steak dinner to fellow veterans during the Victor B. Wallin
American Legion Post 12 celebration Dec. 16 in Washburn.



Washburn carolers fill the basement hall with Christmas music
as they stop in to serenade diners during the Victor B. Wallin
American Legion Post 12 holiday dinner Dec. 16.