



Nearly \$30,000 worth of damage done to local cemeteries

Wanda English Burnett - Editor

Damage estimates are in for two local cemeteries that were vandalized last week in Ripley County.

According to Donald Nealis of Nealis Monument Service, the Pleasant Hill Cemetery sustained the most damage with 144 monuments and markers damaged with the repair bill estimated at \$21,855.34.

In the same area just off State Road 129 near County Road 200 N, the Smith Cemetery, which is also referred to as the Universal Cemetery, had 34 monuments and markers damaged by vandals. Nealis set the damage estimate at \$6,875.48.

Nealis noted the work will consist of restoring foundations and repairing the broken monuments by pinning broken parts with polyester adhesives, re-setting monuments with monument setting compound and pinning sections where needed.

According to Detective David Pippin of the Ripley County Sheriff's Department, officers are aggressively pursuing the vandalism cases in both cemeteries.

Anyone with information concerning the damage done at either cemetery is asked to contact Det. Pippin at 812-689-5558.



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