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Reporter James Carlson discusses the stories buzzing around the early hour Internet

BY [JAMES CARLSON](#)



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[More cemetery news?](#)

Joke around the newsroom lately is that we're the official media for cemetery news.

We've written four stories about cemeteries - three of them on Westlawn Memorial Gardens and another on Mount Hope.

How about I add one more mention?

Something I didn't write in my [story today](#) about the possible regulations to buffer against someone's prepaid burial services not being honored...

Mack Smith, head of the state's mortuary arts board, said funeral homes have to keep a trust fund filled with 100 percent of the *retail value* of prepaid services bought at those facilities. That's more stringent than requirements for cemeteries, which have to maintain a trust fund with 110 percent of the services' *wholesale value*.

Before you ask if that's a possibility, Ren Newcomer at Penwell-Gabel cemeteries and funeral homes said there's one big difference between the two industries, and that's this.

When a funeral is completed, the funeral home's business is completed for that contract. No more action needed.

When a person is buried in a cemetery, the cemetery's responsibility continues on in perpetuity. That is to say, it has to maintain the grounds around the grave. Their financial responsibility continues, Newcomer says.