



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camp Polk Cemetery will be featured in remembrance program.

Cemetery selected for wreath program

National nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) announced that historic Camp Polk Cemetery outside of Sisters has joined in the effort to support the mission to “Remember, Honor, Teach,” as an official WAA location for 2016. This is the first year that the cemetery will be participating in this national event.

Since 1992, WAA founder Morrill Worcester has always asked volunteers placing remembrance wreaths to take time to read the name on the headstone aloud. During the escort of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery last December, WAA Executive Director Karen Worcester said, “A person dies twice: the first time, when they stop breathing, and a second time, when someone says their name for the last time.”

It is with this in mind that this year’s theme for National Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, December 17, is “Say Their Names.”

The goal for Camp Polk

Cemetery is to raise enough funds to place 33 remembrance wreaths on the headstones and say the names of all the local heroes laid to rest there, to ensure that the individuals who served to protect the freedoms of our country are not, and never will be, forgotten.

“Without the thousands of local volunteers across the country who give their time and energy to support the mission, Wreaths Across America would not exist,” said Karen Worcester. “All our supporters understand the value of remembering the fallen, honoring those who currently serve, and the need to teach the next generation about the sacrifices made for our freedom.”

Those interested in volunteering for Wreaths Across America are invited to visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org to learn more. National Wreaths Across America Day is a free community event open to all people.

LETTERS

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all I want to express my full support to the LGBTQ+ communities, women, minorities, and anyone who is experiencing fear around Trump’s victory. If anyone needs to reach out, find help, or is seeking support, I am here for you in whatever capacity I can be.

“This election has divided our nation in a way that myself and my peers have never seen. For many of us, this is the first presidential election we have been old enough to vote in, and it is very demoralizing to see a racist, hateful, misogynist rise to power. However, hope is not lost. Now, standing in the face of fear and hatred, is the time to love.

Love everyone. Love your neighbor, love the people you don’t agree with, love strangers, love your worst enemy. I’m writing this because this is the only thing I can think to say at this point. Be more generous with the love in your hearts than you’ve ever been. Be there for one another. Now is the time to come together.

I love you all.”

Neither of my children thought Hillary was a rock-star, and at the same time they knew progressive movements within this country would keep moving with their sense of acceptance and compassion as they grow into their generation.

I couldn’t have said it better myself.

Michael Valoppi

PONDEROSAS:

Keep an eye on tree health for safety

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three to seven.

Ponderosas average 100 to 160 feet in height, with some exceeding 200 feet. They range from two to five feet in diameter, with the rate of growth (13 to 24 inches a year) dependent on altitude, soil, temperature, and rainfall. Full sun is the ideal condition for the pondo, getting at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day. Once established, ponderosas are highly drought-tolerant, but don’t fare well in excessively wet or poorly drained sites.

When young, the tree is pyramid-shaped, but gradually loses lower limbs as it grows taller. Mature trees are tall, with a straight, thick trunk and a large, irregular evergreen crown. The flaky bark on a young ponderosa is a thin dark gray to blackish, giving it the nickname “blackjack” because of its dark color (black) and lack of reproductive abilities (jack) until it becomes a cone-bearer after 45 to 60 years. About that same time, the bark becomes reddish, more

furrowed, and thicker. As the ponderosa reaches 125 to 150 years of age, the bark becomes reddish-orange to yellow and has split into big plates, smelling like vanilla or butterscotch. The change of color gave rise to the nickname of “yellowbelly.” There are some amazing specimens of “yellowbellies,” left by the logging companies years ago, along the Fall River near Sunriver.

Ponderosa needles are four to eight inches long, in bundles of three. Male cones are orange or yellow and are located in small clusters near the tips of the branches. The more familiar female cone is oval, woody, three to six inches long, with a small prickle at the tip of each scale, usually necessitating gloves when cleaning them up.

A large number of our local birds, as well as chipmunks and squirrels, consume the seeds of the ponderosa, found in the cones. Grouse use the needles for

nesting materials and small rodents use the bark in their nests. The trees are also important to various birds for cover, roosting, and nesting sites. Ponderosa snags provide nesting and roosting sites to a large number of wild species.

The life span of a ponderosa can be 300 to 600 years, with most surviving for about 125 years before they are lost to natural causes such as rot, insect damage, fires, wind, or man-made causes like logging or construction. Last year at Creekside Park, a 300-year-old ponderosa (considered a legacy tree) had to be removed due to extensive decay in the trunk. Looking at the remaining stump, the growth rings are evident.

If you suspect that a ponderosa on your property has a problem, contact a certified arborist, the OSU Deschutes County Extension office in Redmond, or the Deschutes County forester for information on what measures to take.



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Thurs.....	Navy Bean with Ham	Sun.....	Mexican Chicken
Fri.....	Clam Chowder & Vegetable	Mon.....	Tomato Gorgonzola
		Tues.....	Chicken Barley

Orders to go welcome

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