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NEWS



A Truck Full

Donations for tornado survivors headed to Kentucky Dec. 17. / 3

NEWS



Made for TV

A movie partially filmed in Oregon aired on Dec. 11. / 13

County Board ZBA findings will now go to a committee first before the full board sees them. / 4

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Earleen Hinton/Shaw Media

Avery Burke, 9, of Oregon gets ready to place a wreath on a veteran's grave at Daysville Cemetery during the Wreaths Across America program on Saturday. Troop 81 Scouts helped place 199 wreaths on veterans' graves during the afternoon event, which was organized by the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Story on page 7.

Wreaths put on veterans' graves at Daysville Cemetery

BY EARLEEN HINTON
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One hundred and ninety nine wreaths were placed on the graves of veterans at Daysville Cemetery south-east of Oregon on Dec. 18 as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America.

The afternoon event, coordinated by the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Oregon VFW Post 8739, was made possible by donations which exceeded expectations.

"The community's response when asked to help was so incredible that we not only met the goal of honoring all veterans at Daysville but have also been credited with wreaths for next year," said Laurie Perry, regent of the Rochelle Chapter of the DAR who spoke at the afternoon event.

Perry said Wreaths Across America

announced a matching program where any wreaths sponsored between Dec. 18 and Jan. 14 will be doubled for 2022's Wreaths Across America Day.

She urged people to visit wreathsacrossamerica.org/IL0136P and select sponsored cemeteries. The cost to sponsor a wreath was \$15, two are \$30, five are \$75 and 10 wreaths are \$150.

"It's such an honor to bring WAA to more cemeteries in our community," Perry said.

Oregon VFW Post 8739 helped lay wreaths on the graves of veterans buried at Daysville Cemetery in Oregon and sponsored the cost of 10 wreaths.

Special wreaths for each branch of the U.S. military and one for Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Two were also placed at graves of

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Earleen Hinton/Shaw Media

Jeff Lehrke places a ceremonial wreath for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action soldiers during the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Wreaths Across America program held at Daysville Cemetery.

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unknown veterans.

There are 199 veterans buried in Daysville Cemetery, including a Revolutionary War veteran, Perry said.

Scouts from Troop 81 in Oregon helped place the wreaths and Troop 289 Girl Scouts gave the Pledge of Allegiance to open Saturday's event.

National Wreaths Across America Day was held at 3,136 participating locations across the country. More than 525 truckloads of wreaths were delivered and placed on 2.4 million veterans' headstones.

According to a news release from Wreaths Across America: "Each live, balsam veteran's wreath was a gift of respect and appreciation, sponsored by an individual or organization and placed on a headstone by volunteers as a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy. For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military and their families."



Earleen Hinton/Shaw Media

ABOVE LEFT: Sawyer Benton of Oregon places a wreath on a veteran's grave at Daysville Cemetery during the Daughters of the American Revolution's Wreaths Across America program held at Daysville Cemetery southeast of Oregon. Wreaths were placed on 199 known veterans' graves during the afternoon program. **ABOVE:** Arlene Sangmeister of Oregon places a wreath on the grave of veteran Benjamin Stitzel. **LEFT:** Laurie Perry, regent of the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, speaks at the program.