



Photo contributed by Michael Duffy

The Echo Kiwanis expressed appreciation to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center for its help over the years in support of Chester's Food Pantry and other projects.

Echo Kiwanis draft open letter of thanks

Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Hermiston has been very helpful over the years with in-kind and grant funds contributions to the efforts of the Echo Kiwanis. Recently, Kiwanis held their monthly Food Pantry at the Masonic Lodge building, which is operated by city of Echo. The pantry was named in honor of Chet Prior, who initiated the project in 2010.

Just days before the Christmas holiday, it was the Echo's largest Pantry ever with service to 44 households, including 124 individuals. In a town of about 700, over 17 percent were treated to food including a turkey for dinner at Christmas, by Chester's Food Pantry.

In 2016, Wal-Mart DC provided grant funds to purchase a commercial-quality refrigerator which has been in constant use by the pantry since first arriving. With about nine or so volunteers each month, the group packages large boxes of food, and sometimes other contributed items, for distribution to Echo residents.

idents. Agape House, RiverPoint, Amstad's, Echo second grade, Girl Scouts, FFA students, Echo Ridge Cellars as well as the local harvesters at JOB Enterprises have been among the dozens of local sponsors that keep Chester's Food Pantry going.

OktoberFest is a production of Echo Kiwanis. The group has also assisted with other events including Red2Red, Sage Trail Run, Memorial Day Car Show and the annual yard sales. This year, Walmart DC contributed grant funds to support traffic safety with which Kiwanis could purchase Uniform Traffic Code approved devices such as barricades and delineators which will be used in support of local events.

At this time of year, it is good to reflect with appreciation. We want to publicly say thank you to those who take the time to share; especially, Walmart DC of Hermiston — thank you for helping to make our community a better place to live.

Michael Duffy, past president Echo Kiwanis P.O. Box 91 Echo, OR 97826

This is your newspaper, Hermiston

Dear Hermiston Herald readers: Now that I've had a few weeks to settle into my official role as Hermiston Herald news editor (and get over the cold everyone has been fighting!) I wanted to share some thoughts with you.

First of all, thank you to our subscribers, single copy buyers and advertisers for your support of the Herald. We literally could not do this without you.

News products take a significant amount of money to research, write, edit, photograph, print and publish online. In communities that have lost sight of that fact, news outlets are shrinking and closing altogether. Research shows that where news coverage disappears, corruption and waste in government increase. Hermiston is lucky to have community members like you, who realize the importance of an informed citizenry and are willing to step up and support that.

In return, our staff want the Hermiston Herald to be a product that is worth supporting. Late last year, EO Media Group conducted a survey about what people find valuable in the Herald. There were a wide variety of responses (some of which directly contradicted each other), but one message I saw frequently was that people value community news. They want to be in the know about upcoming events, incoming businesses, new construction projects and what cool new things their friends and neighbors are up to.

The Herald has been adding more community-focused elements in recent years, including our Three Minutes With, Hermiston History, By The Way and pho-

tos of community events on the features page. Last week we announced a new Screen Time section that will come with the Herald each week starting Feb. 13, expanding and replacing the single-page TV listings that have traditionally been found inside the paper. The change will free up space inside the paper for more local content.

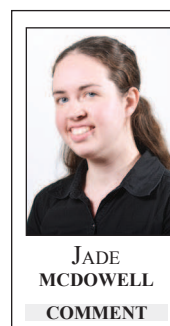
One change I would like to make right away is featuring regular guest columns. I'm working on getting the ball rolling there by reaching out to local pastors and talking to the school district about getting some students to participate. If you know an engaging writer in the greater Hermiston area whose thoughts you would love to read in the newspaper, send them my way.

I've also been throwing around plenty of other ideas with people in the newsroom — everything from a fact-checking-Facebook feature to including local student journalists' work.

While I've been proud to work for the Hermiston Herald all along, I am excited to make improvements to the paper and continue looking for additional ways to help our readers stay "in the know" about their community. This is your newspaper, and I want it to feel like your newspaper.

If you ever have news tips, questions, photos to submit, letters to the editor, rumors you'd like us to look into, results from your child's trip to a sports tournament, ideas for changes to the paper or (I suppose...) complaints, you can reach me at 541-564-4536 or editor@hermistonherald.com.

Jade McDowell is the news editor for the Hermiston Herald.



JADE MCDOWELL COMMENT

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Table with columns for days of the week (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday) and corresponding cooking times and programs.

Your weekly guide to onscreen listings for movies, sports, entertainment, TV series and much more!

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