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UPDATES

Hermiston Herald wins 2020 General Excellence award

The *Hermiston Herald* was notified shortly before its print deadline on Tuesday, Sept. 29, that the newspaper has won the 2020 General Excellence Award for its category in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

The *Herald* placed first over newspapers in size category D, while the *Hood River News* came in second and the *Newport News-Times* came in third.

The annual contest for newspapers in Oregon looked at a sample of newspapers in February, July and November of 2019 to determine the winners.

The *Herald's* sister paper, the *East Oregonian,* also won first place for General Excellence in its size category, beating out the *Daily Astorian* and *Grants Pass Daily Courier.*

Newspapers also submitted samples of articles, photos, special sections and front page designs for judging in individual categories. The *Hermiston Herald* placed third for Best Coverage of Business and Economic Issues, plus second and third for Best Spot News Coverage. It was unknown as of deadline which articles qualified the paper for those awards.

The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association is a trade association of newspapers in Oregon, organized to promote issues of common interest to print media.

For more information and results from the contest, see next week's *Hermiston Herald.*

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Volunteers pick up litter along the railroad tracks in Hermiston during the I Love My City event on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020.

Spreading the love

'I Love My City' event rallies volunteers for good deeds

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

It's been a rough year, but members of several area churches were determined to make it a brighter one for Hermiston residents on Saturday, Sept. 26.

"A lot of folks are just struggling mentally so much because of the quarantine, and this is just our small way to bring some sunshine," said New Hope Community Church Pastor Chris Hankel.

Volunteers spread out across the city, doing good deeds as they went. Some cleared weeds out of the landscaping along Highway 395 or picked up litter along the railroad tracks through town. Others held a free car wash, set up drive-thru prayer booths, paid for peoples' laundry at local laundromats or paid for meals in the McDonald's drive-thru.

The day of service was part of a larger movement called I Love My City, which local churches partnered to form in 2016 to bring hope to people after acts of violence rocked the town. They have held several events since then, including free gift-wrapping outside of Walmart during the Christmas season and an annual spring cleanup. The spring cleanup was canceled due to the pandemic, but Hankel said they decided to bring back a smaller version of it this month.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Volunteers wash a car for free in the Ace Hardware parking lot in Hermiston during the I Love My City event on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020.

"PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL AND HAPPY AND THAT'S BEEN THE BIGGEST BLESSING, SEEING PEOPLE HAPPY."

— **Claudia Meza**, who washed cars during the I Love My City event

GET INVOLVED

To get information about future events or to sign up to participate, go to www.ilovehermiston.com.

He didn't know exactly how many people ended up volunteering on Saturday, but said he knew there were about 100 that came from New Hope.

Other involved churches included Hermiston Assembly of God, Faith Presbyterian, Rekindle, Hermiston Seventh-Day Adventist and Templo Fe Esperanza Y Amor.

"We love Hermiston and we want people to know God loves Hermiston," Hankel said.

On Sept. 26, while helping wash cars for free in the parking

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Photo contributed by Kara Campbell

Mary Doherty is pictured in her classroom in Bahrain during her tenure there.

'Not your typical 90-year-old'

Hermiston woman celebrates birthday with former students around the world

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Teachers come and go throughout a student's career, but many people have that one special educator who shaped their life in a way they'll never forget.

Mary Doherty is one of those teachers.

On Sept. 23, hundreds of Doherty's former students living in more than 30 different countries joined a virtual party over Zoom for her 90th birthday. She spent two hours greeting students by name and reminiscing with them about their time in her classroom decades ago.

"She remembered every student," Yen Sullivan, a former student, said. "I was shocked."

Doherty was raised in Hermiston and returned after her retirement in 1995, but in between, she spent most of her time teaching overseas, in countries including Venezuela, France, Belgium, Japan, Spain and Bahrain.

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