

Carepackages remain a wartime must

By RACHEL HAWKINS

Herald Staff Writer

Gale Hoyt has seen it all when it comes to sending care packages.

Hoyt, who works at the front window at the Ottawa Post Office, 401 S. Hickory St., said she has seen people bring in food, candy and even a case of Mountain Dew.

"A lady was trying to send it to her husband," Hoyt said. "I guess he hadn't had any since he had left, and she wanted to send it to him. She was able to send him almost the whole case."

Hoyt encourages those who want to send a care package to a service member to use the flat-rate boxes, which range in size.

"They are good for sending stuff to military men and women," she said.

She said there is a \$2 discount for those sending care packages to service members.

"People usually want to get as much stuff into the boxes as they can," she said. "It really is a good bargain."

For Ottawa High School journalism teacher Michelle Wilmes, sending her first care package hit close to home.

"This is for Don Brown," she said. "He's one of the business teachers at the high school."

Wilmes started organizing the package by e-mailing the rest of the faculty and Brown's wife to see if they wanted to send anything to him. She received magazines, microwave popcorn, a mug with hot chocolate, gum and oatmeal cream pies from about 15 to 20 other faculty members.

"I know some others are thinking of books, and I'm going to bake him some goodies," Wilmes said. "I'm also trying to get some gloves and HotHands. Apparently it's really cold over there."



Photo illustration by Elliot J. Sutherland/
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Care packages are a way to send your love to friends or relatives in the military. Care packages can include a wide range of items, from gum to hand warmers.

One of Wilmes' students is filming other students and faculty members who have messages for Brown, called a "We miss you" DVD.

"I think that'll be really heart-warming," she said. "I know I'll cry for sure."

Ottawa High School journalism teacher Michelle Wilmes recently started organizing a package by e-mailing the rest of the school's faculty to see if they wanted to send anything to a fellow teacher serving in the military. She received magazines, microwave popcorn, a mug with hot chocolate, gum and oatmeal cream pies from about 15 to 20 other faculty members.

Wilmes is planning to send the package in a flat-rate box — she just hopes it will fit.

"I'm just hoping all the food will still be good by the time he gets it," she said.

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