

Local dealership hits 70 year mark

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
Staff Writer

Sherrell Chevrolet is celebrating its 70th anniversary this week with food, giveaways and tours of the dealership.

"We want people to come in and just look around," said business development manager Kari Christiansen.

Christiansen's grandfather, Al Sherrell, started the car dealership in Arlington in 1945, then moved his business to Hermiston in the early 1960s after the completion of the John Day Dam

forced Arlington businesses to relocate to higher ground.

Her grandparents passed the business onto her parents, Rich and Donna Sherrell, who then passed the business on to Christiansen and her husband Dave.

She said Hermiston has been a welcoming community and a good place to run a car dealership.

"It's just kind of full circle," she said. "We do a lot of things for the community and they do a lot for us. We've seen a lot of loyalty."

The business moved from Main Street to North Highway 395 almost two years ago, and Christiansen said it has been a great location and allowed for some much-needed expansion room. She said she hoped community members would take the opportunity during the anniversary celebration to come in and check out the building.

On Thursday, the dealership will have appetizers, desserts and wine tasting with Sno Road Winery from 5-9 p.m. On Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

there will be coffee and donuts in the morning and hot dogs and soda in the afternoon, along with prize giveaways including Trail Blazer tickets.

On Saturday the dealership is hosting a muscle car cruise. Owners of Cameros and Corvettes are invited to bring their car to display starting at 9 a.m., take a group photo at 10 a.m. and then depart for a five to eight mile cruise together at 10:45 a.m.

Sherrell Chevrolet is located at 2258 N. First St. in Hermiston.



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Sherrell Chevrolet, as it looked story after the ribbon-cutting ceremony at its 2258 N. First St. location in Hermiston in 2014.

Smitty's used to mean soft pancakes not hardware



By **GARY L. WEST**
Herald Editor

In September 1970 a new restaurant opened in Hermiston. Gilbert "Gib" Gettmann, then proprietor of Hermiston Drug, opened a restaurant behind the drug store on the corner of Highway 395 and East Hurlburt Avenue.

Smitty's Pancake House held its grand opening on Sept. 4, 1970. The restaurant was part of a chain of restau-

Gib Gettmann, owner of the Smitty's Pancake House, receives an award for Pacific Power's Chuck Bailey for the electrical specification the new building met when it opened in September 1970.

rants that started in Seattle in 1957 by J. William "Smitty" Smith who attended the opening.

The story in the Hermiston Herald at the time said: "The \$145,000 restaurant covers 3,100 square feet and seats 150 persons, including 30 in the private dining room." The story reports that the restaurant featured all custom-built appliances and 18 stoves of various types to allow "many simultaneous instant-service cooking operations."

Smitty's was located where the Golden Palace restaurant is located today. The Seattle-based restaurant chain did leave a legacy. There is a Smitty's

Pancake and Steak House in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and a Smitty's Pancake House in Wenatchee, Washington, that still carry the name but are independently owned. There is a Smitty's family restaurant chain in Canada, which takes its name from Smith's Seattle restaurant. Smith was the founder of what is today know as Perkins Family Restaurants, and some of the early restaurants were franchised under the Perkins name, for Mat and Ivan Perkins, who took Smith's recipes to the Midwest, where the two restaurant businesses — Smitty's and Perkins — were separately operated.

The Smitty's name is gone

from Hermiston now, unless you count Smitty's Ace Hardware, but some of us still remember things like pancakes for lunch after church on Sundays. For us Smitty's meant pancakes long before Shari's or Denny's came to town.

Hermiston History is a regular feature in the Hermiston Herald. If you have something to share about the history of the

greater Hermiston area, send your submission to editor@hermistonherald.com with "Hermiston History" in the subject line. If you have a question about the area's history you would like the Herald staff to look into, you can send your questions to the same email address with "Hermiston History question" in the subject line.



Gary L. West | Editor • gwest@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4532
Tammy Malgesini | Community Editor • tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4539
Sam Barbee | Sports Reporter • sbarbee@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4542
Kim La Plant | Multi-media consultant • klaplant@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4530
Jade McDowell | Reporter • jmcowell@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4536
Sean Hart | Reporter • smhart@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4534
Jeanne Jewett | Multi-Media Consultant • jjewett@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4531

To contact the Hermiston Herald for news, advertising or subscription information:
 • call 541-567-6457
 • e-mail info@hermistonherald.com
 • stop by our offices at 333 E. Main St.
 • visit us online at: hermistonherald.com

The Hermiston Herald (USPS 242220, ISSN 8750-4782) is published weekly at Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838, (541) 567-6457, FAX (541) 567-1764.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Delivered by carrier and mail Wednesdays
 Inside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$42.65
 Outside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$53.90

Periodical postage paid at Hermiston, OR.
 Postmaster, send address changes to Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838.

Member of EO Media Group Copyright ©2015

BRIEFCASE

Session provides free financial info

A curriculum that teaches economic empowerment skills and financial knowledge is being offered in Umatilla this fall.

Cornerstones of Financial Literacy assists participants in creating a spending plan, improving debt to income ratios, build a good credit rating and exploring consumer protection. There are no fees, and child care is provided

Conducted in both English and Spanish, the sessions are Thursdays beginning Oct. 8 from 5:30-8 p.m. at McNary Heights Elementary School, 120 Columbia Boulevard. It runs for four weeks.

For more information or to register, call 541-922-5574.

GEODC hires new executive director

Tillman Carr has joined the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation as executive director.

Carr, who started in the position Aug. 3, will oversee the activities of GEODC. He has a long career in banking, including 13 years as a bank

examiner, 14 years with the Farm Credit System, three years with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle and three years as commercial credit administrator at Spokane Teachers Credit Union. In addition, Tillman was a private business owner and a financial consultant.

GEODC is a nonprofit organization that provides a variety of economic development assistance and services for private sector businesses and public sector government agencies in Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties.

For more information, contact 541-612-7090, tillman.carr@geodc.net or visit www.geodc.net.

Irrigon chamber announces luncheons

Marc Garst, manager of the Irrigon Fish Hatchery, is the featured speaker of the upcoming Irrigon Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The no-host luncheon gathering is Wednesday, Oct. 14, at noon at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$8 for members and

\$10 for non-members.

In addition, Phyllis Danielson, chamber director, encourages people to plan now for the Veterans Day chamber luncheon Wednesday, Nov. 11. Bud Costello, a World War II veteran from Irrigon is the featured guest. He recently traveled to Washington, D.C., as an honored veteran and will share his experiences and show pictures. All veterans are urged to attend.

For more information, contact Phyllis Danielson at irrigonchamber@irrigonchamber.com or 541-922-3857.

Business owner answers questions

Carol Frink, owner of Real Business Solutions, will answer business questions during an upcoming event sponsored by the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center.

Coffee with Carol is Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Umatilla School District office, 1001 Sixth St. Frink is a nationally recognized expert in assisting people with starting and keeping

businesses.

Space is limited to 10 people. To RSVP, contact karen@umatillachamber.net or 541-922-4825.

Chamber plans orientation for trip

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce will host an orientation meeting for a trip to Ireland it is offering next year at 4 p.m. Oct. 13 in the board room at Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

The trip April 14 through April 22 costs \$2,695, including airfare, lodging, meals, transportation and tour guides.

For more information, contact Debbie Pedro, 541-567-6151.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

October 5th - 11th, 2015

Did you know that 1 in 5 adults will experience mental illness in a given year? That is nearly 44 million adults who suffer from anything from depression or anxiety, to bi-polar disorder or schizophrenia. Unlike a physical condition that is apparent to bystanders, Mental Health illnesses are not often noticeable from the outside, and are left for the individual to deal with alone. If you or someone you know is suffering in silence, speak up. Call Lifeways at 541-889-9167 to schedule an appointment with one of our clinicians, we are here to help.

Let us be the one that helps!

Pendleton: 331 SE 2nd St. • Pendleton, OR 97801 • 541-276-6207
 Hermiston: 595 NW 11th St. • Hermiston, OR 97838 • 541-567-2536
 Crisis Phone: 866-343-4473 • WWW.LIFEWAYS.ORG

McKay Creek Estates presents:

SAFETY FIRST

SafetyMan says
 "Always be Safe to Ensure an Active & Independent Lifestyle"

Join us as we host a lecture series to increase safety awareness on fall prevention, common home injuries and provide solutions to keep you and your loved one safe!

The Truth Behind Senior Moments - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 3:30 PM

Learn what's normal and what is not when it comes to short-term memory loss. Learn the early signs of Alzheimer's and other related dementias. We will discuss tips on brain health and keeping your memory sharp.

Staying Active to Prevent Falls - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 3:30 PM

Staying active reduces your risk of a fall and improves your overall health and wellbeing. Learn what activities are best, how to improve your strength and balance and simple exercises to implement at home today.

Don't Let the Blues Get You Down

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 3:30 PM

Learn how to identify and manage depression. Life's changes can have adverse effects. Proper planning and coping skills can help ease these stressors. Making simple lifestyle changes can boost your mood and help alleviate many of your symptoms.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!

McKay Creek Estates
 1601 Southgate Place
 Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.
www.PrestigeCare.com