



ABOUT TOWN

## Columbia Bank names Hermiston manager

Chris Bettencourt has been named a vice president and branch manager for Columbia Bank's Hermiston location.



**Bettencourt**

Bettencourt has more than 30 years of banking experience, including 18 with Columbia Bank. In her new position she will "focus on garnering new connections and business for the branch while overseeing daily operations of the branch and team management," according to a news release from the bank.

The release states that Bettencourt is also involved in the community as a member of the Hermiston High School Advisory Council, a volunteer for Hermiston Relay for Life and a previous United Way volunteer. She attended Blue Mountain Community College and the Oregon Bankers Operations School.

Columbia Bank is headquartered in Tacoma, Washington, and has 145 locations throughout the Northwest.

## City clarifies Service Line Warranties letter

A letter being sent to Hermiston residents by Service Line Warranties of America is causing some confusion.

The letter bears the city of Hermiston logo on the envelope and the top of the letter but is not being sent by the city. The company does have permission to use the city's logo, however, after the city council voted to officially endorse the company last year.

Service Line Warranties offers insurance against the cost of replacing water lines between a home and a public utility connection, which is the homeowner's responsibility if the line leaks or bursts. Customers can pay \$5.75 per month or \$64 per year for repair coverage of up to \$4,000 with no deductibles.

The letter is signed "City of Hermiston" but also includes a disclaimer which notes that the city is "not responsible for administration of the program and no public funds are used in the marketing or administration of the program."

After a concerned citizen brought the letter up at Monday's city council meeting, noting that some people thought the letter was coming directly from the city, city manager Byron Smith said that the city had merely endorsed the company at the recommendation of the League of Oregon Cities to offer residents protection against what can be a very expensive bill if the water line to their house breaks.

"The city is just saying this is a good program if you want to use it," he said. Smith said adjustments had been made to an earlier version of the letter to make it more clear that it was not a city program, and the council was welcome to withdraw its endorsement if it was not happy with the letter's current form. The council did not take any action.

—Jade McDowell



# RATTLING THE CHAINS

STAFF PHOTOS BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Anthony Fernald of Kennewick follows through while putting on the second hole during a recent doubles tournament at the McNary Golf Disc Golf Course.

## DISCS FLY AT THE MCNARY DAM COURSE

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
Community Editor

Ginger Wilkinson credits disc golf with motivating her to get off the couch after becoming somewhat sedentary following foot and knee surgeries.

Introduced to the sport several years ago by friends, the Hermiston woman was instantly enthusiastic about exercising and having fun at the same time.

"I love being outside," she said. "I wasn't getting much exercise and I thought walking would be a good thing for me." In addition to rattling chains at area courses, Wilkinson serves as secretary-treasurer of the Umatilla Disc Golf Club.

She regularly plays at the McNary Dam Disc Golf Course, which was developed in 2013 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Earlier this year, the course was expanded to 18 holes.

David McDermott, natural resources manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said they were looking at additional ways to bring people to the dam's facilities and parks. After tossing around several ideas, someone suggested a disc golf course.

Starting with just nine holes, McDermott said it provided an opportunity to gauge the public's reaction before sinking too much money and resources into the project.

"With the popularity of the sport, we didn't know what the response would be," he said.

See GOLF, A12



Above: Jorge Cuevas of Boardman watches as his disc skips off the top of the fifth basket while doubles partner Ginger Wilkinson of Umatilla looks on at the McNary Golf Disc Golf Course.

Left: Donny Ballew of Spokane follows through while putting on the 11th hole during a recent doubles tournament at the McNary Dam Disc Golf Course.



Left: Ginger Wilkinson of Umatilla leans in while putting on the third hole during a recent doubles tournament at the McNary Golf Disc Golf Course.

## Love's Travel location now open near Boardman

Hermiston Herald

Road warriors crossing Eastern Oregon on Interstate 84 have a new place to stop and fill up their tanks.

Love's Travel Stops officially opened its newest location Thursday morning on Tower Road west of Boardman. The center includes a 24-hour convenience store, fuel pumps, tire repair shop and Carl's Jr. restaurant.

"We are very excited to expand our presence in Oregon and especially thrilled to become a member of the Boardman community," said company founder and executive chairman Tom Love. "This location gives us a great opportunity to serve members of the community, travelers and professional drivers."

Based in Oklahoma, Love's Travel Stops has more than 380 stores in 40 states nationwide. The



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY WEST

Love's Travel Stops officially opened its Boardman location on Thursday.

chain has two other locations along I-84 in Oregon, in Ontario and Troutdale.

The 11,000-square-foot Boardman center has 16 fuel pumps, 95 truck parking spaces and seven showers available for professional drivers. Spokeswoman Kealey

Dorian said the facility cost roughly \$11 million, and has hired a staff of approximately 40 employees.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 15. Love's will also donate \$2,000 to the Boardman Community Development Association.

