

# Resolution Run gets Hermiston in step with the new year

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
STAFF WRITER

For some, the New Year's Resolution Run was a chance to test limits with a brisk workout. For others, it was a chance to get out with friends and family and start the year off right. Each person at Hermiston's annual first-of-the-year run had different goals, which they hoped would set the tone for the rest of the year.

About 200 runners and walkers spread out on the Oxbow Trail after their start at Riverfront Park, with some walking just a mile, and others completing a 10-kilometer trip.

The finish line beckoned with snacks and hot chocolate, as well as a raffle, for which the grand prize was a yearlong membership to Club 24.

The event is in its fourth year, and is organized by an informal group of neighbors and community members who started exercising together a few years ago. In the past, there was a Hermiston resolution run that was a fundraiser for the cross-country team, but it ended several years ago.

"A number of us met at that resolution run," said Tim Beal, one of the organizers. "We started meet-



Cydney Sanchez, who runs on the Hermiston High School cross-country team, was the first female runner across the line during the Resolution Run at Riverfront Park on New Year's Day. For more photos, see A15.

ing with each other outside of that to exercise. This is a way for helping people make connections outside of that."

Beal said they try to keep the event simple, and let people get whatever they want out of it.

Hermiston resident Can-

dice Chavez came to the run with her wife Jackie and their six-month old son Tarin, as well as her brother and sister-in-law.

"We thought, let's do something, it's going to be a great day," she said. "It's our first time on this path."

Erick Peterson was walk-

ing with his mother Betty, as his wife and stepsons walked up ahead.

"We have weight loss and fitness goals, and we're hoping this will start it off right," said Peterson, who is relatively new to Hermiston from Yakima. "It's a great way to see more of the

town."

For others, it was a way

to stay in shape for bigger goals to come. Hermiston High School junior Gregory Anderson quickly broke away from the pack, coming in first for the 5K run. Anderson, a cross-country runner, said his watch stopped halfway through, and he didn't know his exact time, but estimated it was somewhere around 18:30.

"My coach told me to do a workout aiming for a 6:10 to 5:50 pace per mile," he said. Anderson said one of his goals this year is to run a 16:30-minute 5K during cross-country season.

Jenelle Von Gunten, a Heppner resident, came to the run with her three sons, her daughter, and her friend.

She and her friend Kathy were starting an exercise regimen and a cleanse on New Year's Day.

"It sets a good pace for the whole year," she said.

Von Gunten said she and her family also have some financial goals for the year.

"We just want to pay attention, so we can enjoy more," she said.

## Price behind bars, facing federal court

By JADE MCDOWELL AND  
PHIL WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITERS

Jerome Martel Price of Hermiston faces his second criminal case in federal court in four years.

He took a plea deal in 2015 for trespassing on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, according to federal court records. This time, the U.S. District Attorney's Office of Oregon charged Price, 33, with one count of felon in possession of a firearm. The charge stems from Hermiston police arresting Price on Dec. 10, 2018.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said his office proceeded to prosecute Price on charges of felon in possession of a firearm, second-degree criminal trespass and criminal trespass while in possession of a firearm until the federal prosecutors stepped in. But Primus said this is not a case of the feds stepping on local toes.

"They really wanted to reach out and help Umatilla County," he said. "They know Umatilla County is a rural county with a volume of cases they can help with."

Primus said his office has a good relationship with the U.S. Attorney's Office and

he sees its assistance as a means to help make rural communities safer. He also said while it is hard as a prosecutor to give up a case, he has full confidence in the capabilities of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Hermiston police officer Riley Studebaker on Dec. 10 arrested Price on charges of second-degree criminal trespass and felon in possession of a firearm. According to the probable cause affidavit, a woman called about 2:40 a.m. to report her husband was holding an intruder at gunpoint in the alley behind their East Gladys Avenue home. Studebaker arrived to find Price and the caller's husband in the alley.

The man told the officer he heard his cellar door rattle and saw a motion-activated light turn on in his backyard. When he grabbed his pistol and went to investigate, he told Studebaker he saw the suspect in the alley near his travel trailer and pointed the gun at him, ordering him to lay down until police arrived. He also alleged that a gun on the ground at his feet, a loaded Springfield XDM 40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, had been handed to him by Price.

Hermiston Police Chief

Jason Edmiston said different states have different laws regarding their rights when someone intrudes on their property and Oregon's is "all based on reasonableness."

"What would a reasonable person think was reasonable force for a citizen to apply or an officer to apply in that case?" he said. "I can't speak for the property owner, but it's dark out, and the property owner doesn't know yet if they're missing anything."

Studebaker wrote in the affidavit that Price claimed the gun on the ground was the homeowner's. Price said he had been out for a walk when he knocked on the door of the home because he thought a friend lived there. When no one answered, he

said, he entered the backyard through a gate and knocked on the cellar door before exiting the yard.

The affidavit states security cameras at the home show Price entered the backyard, walked around and then entered the alley to inspect a travel trailer belonging to the homeowners before the confrontation. Studebaker also states in the document that the footage showed Price handing a pistol to the homeowner.

Edmiston said Price is well-known to police in the immediate area, and had 36 arrests and 63 citations by local law enforcement including the Hermiston Police Department and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

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