

Residents running and rocking into 2020

By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

The first morning of the decade was a quiet one across the streets of Hermiston, but the hustle and bustle of Riverfront Park before the annual Resolution Run was a welcome exception for the more than 200 people who showed up decked out in exercise gear.

Runners, cyclists, dogs and even babies tucked safely into their strollers gathered around the Oxbow trailhead to kick-off the start of the choose-your-own-distance run. The longest route, according to organizers, is 10 kilometers.

“Since there’s no timing or registration, it’s open for anybody at any levels,” said organizer Tim Beal.

Beal, an avid runner and cyclist, didn’t join the crowd but said that he’d already got some miles in on his bike.

2020 marked the sixth year in a row of the Resolution Run being a free event.

“No one benefits from



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

More than 200 people participated in last Wednesday morning’s Resolution Run at Riverfront Park.

this except the people coming to run,” Beal added.

He added that attendance

seemed especially high, likely due to the sunshine and 50 degree weather.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Greg Anderson, a member of the Hermiston High School cross-country team, was the first 5-kilometer runner to finish last Wednesday morning’s Resolution Run at Riverfront Park.

For Ashlynn Beenblossom and her young son, Oliver, who sat excitedly in

his stroller, participation in the run was a first.

“I want to be more posi-

tive this year,” she said.

Beenblossom added that while her mom pushed her to come out and walk the course with Oliver, she was excited to see so many people in the community showing up to run and walk into the new decade.

“This is a way to start the day out good,” said Heather Demos, who was ready to take on the Resolution Run with her friend Karen Eddy. “We’d be lazy the rest of the day otherwise.”

The pair had attended the run in previous years, and planned to attend a yoga class downtown following the event. Returning participants enjoyed complimentary snacks and hot chocolate.

A special perk this year, Hermiston Rock Hunt—a local group that paints and hides stones along the Oxbow Trail—hid 15 colorfully painted “Resolution Rocks” along the course for kids to find and keep.

On Facebook, organizers of the run stated that 14 of the rocks had been located along the trail by children that day.

Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics wraps up fall sports season

HERMISTON HERALD

In celebration of a successful fall sports season, Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics Local Program #510 recently gathered for an awards banquet.

The Dec. 2 event, held at The Arc Building in Hermiston, featured an awards ceremony. Hermiston VFW Post #4750 presented the colors and led the pledge of allegiance.

In addition to bowling and swimming athletes, special guests included several members of the Hermiston Police Department and the Hermiston High School Key Club. Both groups provided assistance during the Regional Bowling Competition, held Nov. 8 at Desert Lanes Family Fun Center in Hermiston. With assistance from the special guests, head bowling coach Doris Boatright presented awards,

including medals to Jillian Smalley (gold), MaryAnn Wright (silver) and Shirley Fell (bronze).

Also, results from the Fall Bowllathon were announced and the top three fundraisers were presented with prizes. First place honors went to Smalley, followed by Michael Downing and David Andrews. With more than 80 athletes participating in fall sports, the group was able to raise over \$5,000 for the local program, said communications manager Kristi Smalley.

The gathering featured a spaghetti dinner served by volunteers from The Gems and Gents Cheer Program. The group also presented a short demonstration of their cheerleading and dancing skills.

The winter sports season, which includes basketball and powerlifting, begins the week of Jan. 6. For more information, call Angela Schneider at 541-314-0166.



Photo contributed by Kristi Smalley

Top fundraisers for the Special Olympics Bowllathon were David Andrews (third), Jillian Smalley (first) and Michael Downing (second, not pictured).



Photo contributed by Kristi Smalley

Special Olympians Shirley Fell, MaryAnn Wright and Jillian Smalley received medals for the recent bowling season during a Dec. 2 awards banquet at The Arc Building in Hermiston.

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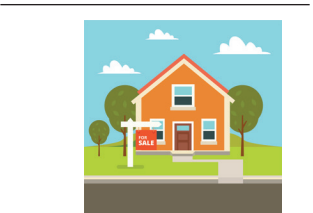
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