

Large Crowd Enjoyed First Chamber Crawl

By Cathy Hoots Abell, Contributor

Early on Saturday morning, April 26, a large crowd started to gather on the campus of the Adair County Schools to take part in the first Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce Chamber Crawl, a 5K Fun Run/Walk. In front of the Adair County Elementary School, Stacey Biggs, Connie Devore, and Beth Owens were waiting eagerly to greet everyone, register individuals as needed, and hand out goody bags that included a T-shirt, race bibs with a unique identifier number, logo coaster, and other treats.

Around 8:00 a.m. Ellen Zornes, Chamber Executive Director, starting asking everyone to gather at the

starting line to receive directions and information about the course. Mayor Pam Hoots was onsite to give the signal to start the race. Once this occurred, the racers were off and running/walking. Many anxiously awaited the first runner to come back in sight and cross the finish line.

The first to cross the finish line was Bill Hillock, Adair County High School Girl's Head Track Coach. Following Mr. Hillock, was Liam Hillock. The third runner to cross the finish line was Carter Albrektson.

Ms. Zornes provided an official list of the overall and medallion winners for each category. These included:

- Overall winner men's division: Bill Hillock
- Overall winner women's division: Elizabeth Dudley



Sharon Jessie marks the starting line for the course.

Age bracket medallion winners:

- Age 10 & Under: Mia Montoya
- Age 11-25: Liam Hancock, Carter Albrektson, Karla Manjarrez
- Age 26-49: Zack Proffitt, Elizabeth Madewell
- Age 50-69: Mike Everett, Donna Young
- Age 70 & Over: Phillip

Grant, Judy Good

Forty-four individuals registered for the race. Stacey Biggs, TJ Health, who is a Chamber Board Member, said they were "thrilled" with the number of people that registered. She said it was a "great turnout for the first time". Ms. Biggs said they have already starting talking about plans for next year.



Left to right: Eli, Ethan, and Evan Franklin wait for their dad, Eddie Franklin, to finish the race.

All 36 sponsor names were noted on the back of the logo T-shirt for the event.

Ms. Zornes noted "Our inaugural Chamber Crawl was all we'd hoped for...and more! The weather was perfect and all our runners and walkers were so patient and

complimentary. They also shared valuable suggestions for future races. Next year's Chamber Crawl will be even better and we can't wait." The proceeds from the event will assist the Chamber in planning and executing various community events.



Left to right: Stacey Biggs, Connie Devore, and Beth Owens were present at the registration table.



Mike Keltner and Raena Steele, Adair County Ambulance Service, were on standby.



Chief Evan Burton helps with the event.



Left to right: Alex Scholl and Zack Proffitt are ready to begin the race.



Left to right: Carlos Manjarrez, Vicente Santiz, Victor Dearra, Guadalupe Manjarrez, and Karla Manjarrez were getting ready for the race.



Left to right: Emily Hill and Tammy Edelen, representatives from KORT Physical Therapy, attended the event and provided water, bananas, lip balm, and bags.



Dwayne Barnett warming up for the race. Dwayne is a School Resource Officer in Monroe County. He is a retired State Police Officer from Post 15 in Columbia. He said he tries to run a race "once a month".



Bill Hillock, overall male winner, was the first to cross the finish line.



The overall female winner was Elizabeth Dudley. Pictured with Sharon Jessie. (Photo provided by Chamber.)



Time is drawing near to register to run for offices in the May 2026 primary. My new slogan coming up is Progress for Adair (YES) Status Quo (NO)!

I have always been pro (EDA) without my Magistrates help, I might add. Seeds have been sown and some are sprouting. This is one reason I plan on running for Judge Executive again and am not freely willing to walk

off until I see things in full bloom.

Yes we have new glamorous bathrooms hopefully with all the latest automation (lights and auto flushing and polished brass fixtures) or should be for the astronomical cost. I had a quote for \$47,000.00 for basic bathrooms but told the contractor to requote it from the basic bathroom I had originally quoted so we could use the split-face blocks like Mr. Coffey

wanted. He requoted it with the same features awarded to another contractor (for a lot more) for \$60,000.00. The picnic shelter and bathroom would have been joined with a rustic park look in my original plan.

At the next Fiscal Court meeting Mr. Humphress stated we had talked about the bathrooms long enough and awarded it to Malone's (Campbellsville) for \$130,000.00. My opinion was this was \$70,000.00 of wasteful spending that we could have used to update the Jim Blair building. Currently new ceiling insulation, led lights, and possibly a small kitchen on the gym side as needed.

I am afraid this luxurious bathroom facility will attract drug dealers and serve as a homeless shelter. Why didn't we just go

ahead and put showers as an added attraction...by the way ARPA money/interest on ARPA (money that just fell out of the sky) was used for this playground project at the Jim Blair Center. Upon receiving this money the previous administration could not wait to spend it for election time in hopes of gaining votes.

Allison Ball, our own Kentucky State Auditor advised against wasteful spending and she knows about the \$70,000.00 excess that was spent on the glamorous bathrooms. I will be keeping the 20,000 Adair Countians informed of the negligence the Magistrates ignore! Like the almost three and half pallets of blocks that were over ordered and mysteriously walked off from the Jim Blair Center

they don't want anyone to know about.

Again, it is time to start looking for common sense and progress for Adair County in this next election. I am still upset about Magistrate Flatt, Magistrate Reeder, and Magistrate Coffey wanting me to fire my Deputy Judge Executive Bridget Compton, who also takes care of solid waste for the county as Solid Waste Coordinator, and Road Administrative Assistant. She also takes all requests that come in by phone and has helped step in to help the County Treasurer to fill the void of the Finance Officer with purchase orders.

Deputy Compton and I received word just this week from James Comer's office that Adair County has received a \$50,000.00

in federal grant money to rewire the Annex building that would have eventually come out of the taxpayers pocket. A lot of hard work was put into obtaining this grant with almost a year of training, zoom meetings, classes, and many hours of work completed on weekends and after work hours by Ms. Compton to get this grant for the County. What would have happened if I had fired her? They did not want any help for me or for me to succeed at anything.

I will talk in the next article about the other half a percent occupational tax that is needed for Adair County and its residents that was shot down by the Magistrates at the last meeting.

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