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Vol. 122, Issue 36
1 section • 16 pages
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

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A much deserved honor

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The village of Coal City is filled with outstanding citizens—volunteers, community organizers, humanitarians, business leaders and public servants—and this year the mayor and town trustees honored one such individual with the Community Service Award.

This year's recipient is a person deserving recognition for their outstanding contributions to Coal City and the surrounding communities. The support afforded to so many organizations, programs and events is just a small part of what makes the 2023 honoree deserving of the town's acknowledgment.

Bob Davis goes above and beyond for his community, a town full of people he considers friends.

"Bob always shows kindness, empathy, compassion, dependable, professionalism, patience, resilience," said Rick Vota, who nominated Davis for the award.

"Bob is very humble, and he does everything with a smile on his face," Vota added.

Davis is truly humble and according to him, such recognitions are not necessary.

"I do what I do because it's the right thing to do," Davis said.

In 2010, Davis opened his own auto repair business, Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire, Inc. Since

that time he has built a solid business based on professionalism, dependability and quality of service. Bob and his team, treat their customers as friends.

Over the years, he and his wife, Debbie, have supported numerous local organizations including Grundy County Explorers, Small Town Theatrics, Grundy County Heroes & Helpers and youth athletic organizations. Bob's even taken time out of his schedule to pickup props for the school theatre department.

This year they established two scholarships to assist local high school students achieve their educational goals.

Davis' interest in car racing led him to purchase and modify vehicles so the Coal City Police Department and Grundy County Sheriff's Office could be a part of the Five-0 racing program to benefit Special Olympics Illinois.

The couple annually supports the town's Fall Fest, allowing the village use of their parking lot while hosting the opening night kick-off event with free food and entertainment for the entire community.

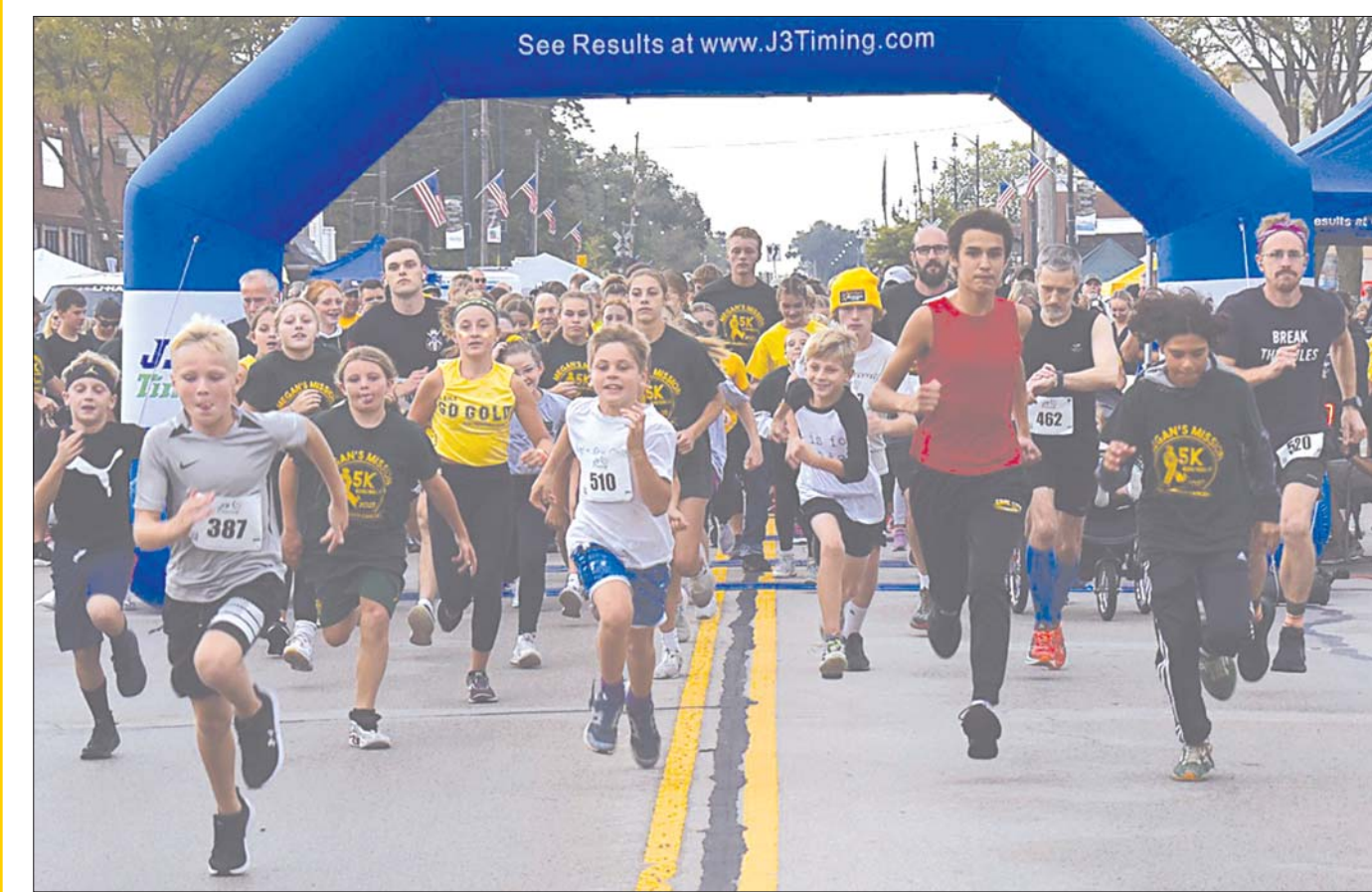
The list of contributions Davis has made to the village and its residents goes on and on.

As many would note, there is not much Bob and Debbie wouldn't do for their community, so the honor bestowed by the Village Board is most deserving.

SEE DAVIS, PAGE 2



COAL CITY RESIDENT and business owner Bob Davis [center] was selected as the 2023 Community Service Award recipient. The award was presented by Mayor Dave Spesia [left] and Village Administrator Matt Fritz [right] during the village of Coal City's Fall Fest on Saturday, Sept. 16.



THE STREET WAS packed with runners, walkers and supporters of the Megan's Mission Foundation who came to downtown Coal City on Saturday to take part in the annual 5K run/walk to support Megan Bugg's mission to end childhood cancer. Around 300 people registered for 3.1 mile race downtown South Broadway. The first runner back crossed the finish line in just over 17 minutes and the entire group of participants completed the event in one hour.

Running to end childhood cancer

STAFF REPORT

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, 30 days set aside to advocate for kids. Megan Bugg's mission was not only to boost awareness, but to raise funds for research.

Through her efforts and those of the Megan's Mission Foundation, close to \$2 million has been raised to support childhood cancer research. A majority of those funds is supporting the work taking place at the Megan Bugg Global Rhabdomyosarcoma Research Lab at

the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute.

So it was only fitting that on a Saturday evening in September hundreds of people gathered in her hometown to carry on her mission.

The Megan's Mission 5K run/walk was held Saturday, Sept. 16 in conjunction with the village of Coal City's Fall Fest. Around 300 people registered for the run that provided both an in-person and virtual option.

The 3.1 mile course took participants south to Reed Road and back with

everyone finishing within an hour.

Ryan Peters, 34, of Braidwood, was the first to cross the finish line with a time of 17:33.

Tim VanDuyne, 33, of Braceville, followed with a time of 19:13 and taking third was Colten Lynn, 13, of Coal City, with a time of 20:33.

The top three female finishers were 13-year-old Olivia Ferrari, of Coal City with a time of 22:50. Maddie Castle, 14, of Coal City, finished second with a time of 23:06 and Shannon Male, 34, of Coal

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Remembering a community minded man

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Straight forward and honest, two words used to describe a man who gave so much of himself to the community.

As his obituary notes, Philip "Leo" Middleton was, "very civic minded."

Middleton, 68, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 9, his service to the community recognized by those he served and served with.

Middleton spent more than a decade as a village trustee, mayor and village administrator.

"He loved his community, he was deeply rooted here and loved serving it," said Trustee Pam Noffsinger, who served as the village clerk during Middleton's time as mayor, administrator and for a portion of his time as a trustee.

In fact, Middleton was among the trustees who appointed Noffsinger to the position of clerk.

"I'll never forget the night I was interviewed by a mayor and trustees to see if I wanted to be a village clerk, and Leo was one of them," Noffsinger said.

During his time as trustee, Middleton oversaw

the town's Finance Committee, and Noffsinger recalls how well he kept track of town funds.

Trustee Dan Greggain also served with Middleton and he too recalls just how community minded he was throughout his life.

Middleton was raised and educated in Coal City, graduating from Coal City High School with the class of 1973.

At its meeting last week, Mayor Dave Spesia offered his condolences to the Middleton family on behalf of the village.

"He was a great guy. Leo and his wife, Pam, were always welcoming to me and my family," said Village Administrator Matt Fritz, who succeeded Middleton in the post.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m., Friday Sept. 29 with visitation beginning at 5 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City.

Middleton is survived by his wife, Pam and their daughter, Tina Middleton, and three grandchildren, Aidan, Reganne and Eathen.

"HE LOVED HIS COMMUNITY, HE WAS DEEPLY ROOTED HERE AND LOVED SERVING IT."

PAM NOFFSINGER
COAL CITY VILLAGE TRUSTEE



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