

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce
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Event: 4th of July events
Event Date: July 4, 2024
Event Time: varies

Date: July 6, 2024

Press Release:

The Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 I RAN FROM THE COPS 5k and SWAT Challenge events held on the morning of July 4th at 6 am.

I RAN FROM THE COPS 5k Winners include:

Overall Male – Joel Smith

Overall Female – Kirsten Bevill

12 & Under:

Male: 1st place – Easton Smith

Female: 1st Place – Faith Smith

13-15:

Male: 1st Place – Joel Smith

2nd Place – Elijah Roberts

16-19:

Male: 1st Place – Carson Smith

2nd Place – Mason Aye

Female: 1st Place – McKensie Collins

2nd Place – Lizzy Hines

20-29:

Male: 1st Place – Jeremy Falkenbach

30-39:

Male: 1st Place – Tyler Pulley

2nd Place – Dillin Smith

Female: 1st Place – Kirsten Bevill

2nd Place – Amanda Smith

40-49:

Male: 1st Place – Lance Stehling

Female: 1st Place – Tracie Smeltzer

2nd Place – Twila Hiara

3rd Place – Dian Anderson

50+:

Male: 1st Place – Steve Hopkins

Female: 1st Place – Mary Aye

2nd Place – Ann Hines

Fun Run Youth completing the course were brothers Andrew and Matthew Bevill and they received certificates and gift bags from WSPD Chief Ellison.

Officer Ryan McGinnis with WSPD lead the 5k runners and then followed them throughout the course adding fun and excitement for all the runners! He did an amazing job watching out for everyone and making the run a truly fun RUN FROM THE COPS!

SWAT Challenge Winners include:

Youth Category (12 & under)

1st Place – James Hines

2nd Place – John Hines

3rd Place – Braylon Wake

Adult Category (13 & up)

1st Place - Johnathan Bevill

2nd Place – Caleb Hines

3rd Place – Jace Letterman

The winner of the MRAP ride was Jonathan Bevill but he was unable to attend, so Caleb Hines gifted it to his younger brother James Hines.

HCSO SWAT officers conducted and scored the SWAT Challenge and Sheriff Brett Campbell joined in to help encourage those who competed in this tough event.

Participants and onlookers had the opportunity to enjoy a pancake breakfast from the Willow Springs Lions Club and get their caffeine for the morning from Curtis & Carrie Good at the Coffee Deck!

The Annual Willow Springs 4th of July Parade was a huge success. There were 128 entries this year and everyone had a wonderful time. The line-up area at Booster Field was full to capacity and the air was electric with excitement, and fun times. Babycakes Cupcakery was there to provide cold refreshment as temperatures soared. Three area fire departments, WSFD, Pomona FD and Eleven Point FD participated as well as the WS Ambulance. The parade was lead by WSPD Chief Wes Ellison followed by the MRAP with SWAT Challenge participant James Hines as a passenger. Grand Marshall Jerry Gibbons was escorted by City Administrator Bev Hicks. The Howell County Area Fire Department Honor Guard carried the Colors and were followed by the WS High school band playing patriotic tunes. The reviewing stand was attended by Marty Spence & Larry Spence. The entire parade was full of political candidates, veterans, community groups, motorcycles, antique cars, clubs, churches, entertainers, horses, and of course the many historic characters organized by Jane Bailey. This parade is a long-standing tradition in Willow Springs spurred on and encouraged in large part by Jane & Wendall Bailey, who have worked tirelessly to grow it to what it is today, and it is a tradition we all look forward to every year and can't wait for next year!