

Sisters assist with Odyssey

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KEEDYSVILLE — A year ago during the inaugural American Odyssey Relay run from Gettysburg, Pa., to Washington, D.C., sisters Amy Simmons and Wendy Price made it a family event by monitoring the transition point in front of Keedysville Town Hall.

During the second annual race on April 23 and 24, the sisters will again help monitor transition points for the relay teams, but this time they are splitting up.

The “Sister To Sister” leg, which is leg 20 of 36, will have Simmons in front of Town Hall again and Price at her Keedysville Road home, where relay team members will hand off their bracelets — used instead of batons — at the end of her driveway.

“We met people from all over the country,” said Simmons, 35, of Keedysville. “They had people flown in from all over the United States to run the race. It was fun. We had a good time.”

Twenty-seven of the legs pass through Washington County, down the east side into southern Washington County, where three of the legs are in the immediate Boonsboro area before proceeding to Keedysville.

Runners will probably go through the sisters’ leg around 12:30 to 3 a.m., said Bob Fleshner, race director.

Fleshner said he mentioned to Simmons that race organizers wanted to make a Keedysville leg shorter, but they were having difficulty finding a transition area where team vans could park. Simmons, who was Keedysville town clerk at the time, suggested her sister’s farm, Price & Price Farming.

“My sister, she tends to, she gets big ideas and then I’m involved, too,” said Wendy Price, 40, who owns



By Kevin G. Gilbert/Staff Photographer

Amy Simmons, left, and her sister, Wendy Price, will monitor transition points for the teams participating in the American Odyssey Relay in April. Simmons will be in front of Keedysville Town Hall and Price will stand outside her Keedysville Road home.

the farm with her husband, Dale.

Last year, some of their children stayed with them as runners passed through Keedysville, Price said.

“A couple of them went along and were asleep on the bench before the evening was over,” she said.

At Simmons’ post, runners will be given a number or trinket bearing the team design to carry to Price’s post, Fleshner said. A drawing will be held at Price’s post, with the picked team getting an iPod shuffle.

Once again, Boonsboro High School will host an “oasis” for the event, Fleshner said.

Runners will be able to shower, eat, mingle, get a massage and catch some sleep at the Boonsboro

school campus, said Fleshner and Boonsboro High Principal Martin Green.

Students can earn student service learning hours by helping out during the day, while parents will lend a hand at night, Green said.

The Boonsboro Athletic Boosters are heading up the oasis, raising money for the group by selling food and providing massages, Green said. They will donate a portion of the proceeds to The Wellness Community, a Washington, D.C., cancer support charity the overall race is benefiting.

Green expects the place to be packed, just like last year.

“Getting in and out of here was almost a nightmare,” Green said.

IF YOU GO ...

WHAT: American Odyssey Relay

WHEN: Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24. Relay teams of up to 12 people per team are expected to come through Washington County from around 6 p.m. April 23 to mid-morning April 24.

WHERE: Race starts in Gettysburg, Pa., and ends in Washington, D.C.

COST: To participate in the race, the registration fee is \$1,260 per team. Registration deadline is April 9, unless the relay hits its cap of 175 teams earlier.

MORE: For more information, go to www.americanodysseyrelay.com; send e-mail to bob@americanodysseyrelay.com; or call 301-706-2266.