

Rouzerille is ready for Odyssey Relay

Transition point is part of the run through history

BY MATT McLAUGHLIN
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ROUZERVILLE — The second annual American Odyssey Relay Run Adventure is days away, and Rouzerville will be alive with food and fun.

The relay's Rouzerville transition point, located in Rouzerville Commons, is more than a place for runners to pass the baton. The popular transition point is a festival — open to the public — celebrating both American Odyssey runners and the local community.

"It's not just for runners, it's



for everybody," said Don Baldwin, area coordinator for the relay.

Runners are expected to arrive in Rouzerville between 2 and 8 p.m. and festivities will run throughout that time, according to Baldwin.

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Rouzerville: Ready for relay

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The second annual American Odyssey Relay Run Adventure — a 36-leg, 24-hour relay race for 12-member teams running from Gettysburg to Washington, D.C. — will be held Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24.

More than 1,500 runners from 38 states and four foreign countries have signed up for this year's race, which passes historic monuments and locations, including Antietam National Battlefield, where the bloodiest single-day battle of the Civil War occurred, and Harpers Ferry, W.Va., site of abolitionist John Brown's raid on the federal arsenal.

Rouzerville Commons

Rouzerville Commons established itself as a popular stop for runners, during last year's inaugural relay and it is featured on this year's American Odyssey T-shirt. It also will serve as a transition point for an additional leg of the race.

Last year, runners passed the baton at Rouzerville Commons and continued into Maryland. This year, runners will run a loop through Washington Township and pass the baton again at Rouzerville Commons before going to Maryland.

Food and fun

What really stands to set Rouzerville apart from other locations along the relay's route are the food and attractions, which volunteers have expanded upon this



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Waynesboro's CFAR running group has two teams in this year's American Odyssey Relay Run Adventure. Runners are, from left, front: Dr. Stephen Bui, Sheila Wright, Ashlyn Shockey, Mary Shull-Miller, Diane Wilson, Erica Price and Wayne Buhrman. Row two: Vicki Stinebaugh, Pamela Scott and Angie Fuss. Row three: Harry Morningstar, Dr. Greg Lyon-Loftus, Bob Correll, Steve Long, Mark Scott, Rod Teach, Wayne Driscoll, David Wilson and Fred Skroban. Not pictured: Misti Jesson, Quang Tran, John Kelley and Shannon Kelley.

year.

"Everything you look at is at least a 30 percent increase from last year," Baldwin said. "It's better than it was last year."

Food vendors this year include Rita's, Italian ice; Bricker's Famous French Fries; Royal Siam Catering, Thai food; Rouzerville Business Association, water and soft drinks; Blue Ridge Summit Fire and Rescue Squad, hot dogs, sausages and burgers; C.C. Funnel Cakes; and Antietam Dairy, ice cream.

Attractions this year include race cars and midget cars, a helicopter, fire trucks and other emergency services vehicles.

Also at the transition point will be displays by local businesses, the RBA, the Greater Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin County Visitors Bureau, as well as seated massages by Synergy Healing Arts Center and Massage School.

The visitors bureau also will bring a Ben

Franklin impersonator.

"Come on out and bring your kids," Baldwin said. "This year we have lots of stuff for them to see."

"If you can have something that involves the whole community, that doesn't cost anything, that's good," said Ann Backer, an RBA member who organized the vendors.

On the Net

www.americanodyssey-relay.com