

Adventure racers coming to Oregon area Aug. 27-28

Thunder Rolls race begins at Camp Lowden

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

Adventure racers will run through area state parks and forests and navigate local waterways during the Thunder Rolls Adventure Race Aug. 28.

The race is a 12-hour, 50-mile or 24-hour, 100-mile course that will challenge teams in a test of ultra endurance.

"This is one of the largest races in Illinois," said event organizer Gerry Voelliger, Bettendorf, Iowa. "We had 73 teams last year and we will exceed that this year."

The 24-hour race begins at midnight Aug. 27-28 Friday night into Saturday. The 12-hour race begins at 6 a.m. Both races leave from Camp Lowden, Boy Scout Camp, located southeast of Oregon.

"Almost the entire race will be held in Ogle County, but we may go south into Lee County for a segment of the race," said Voelliger. "We are going to hit many of the parks, forests, and historic sites in the area."

Voelliger said adventure races were big in the late 1990s, and included global events like the Eco-Challenge.

Following in the spirit of past races, the participants will not throw anything out along the trail. All items must be accounted for.

The teams need to be prepared for anything.

"One of the axioms is to expect the unexpected," said Voelliger. "We run in any weather, no matter what. We do have a plan B if the river is closed."

The annual race started eight years ago at the Black Hawk site in Rock Island.

"We organized that race as a fundraiser for a museum," said Voelliger. "From the start, I wanted to focus on the beauty of the region and make a people aware of the Native



Teams during this years adventure race in Ogle County will have a variety of challenges to overcome. Here, a racer from last year's race goes hand over hand over a stream while pulling his bike. Photo submitted by Greg Boll.

American heritage."

Every year the course has followed a different path the Black Hawk made when he was alive.

"This year the race is in Oregon and Ogle County," said Voelliger.

"Part of the race is historical perspective. Each team gets a race guidebook and it has a history lesson incorporated."

The race is open to all ages.

"The youngest we have had was 16 years old and her team won the 12-hour race," said Voelliger. "Typically the age range is 20s to 60s."

Anyone who would like to support teams are encouraged to be at Camp Lowden at the start of the race.

Spectator viewing locations at various race locations are not available until all racers are on the course.

Adventure racing is an evolution for race enthusiasts, Voelliger said.

"You go from running 10ks, marathons, and tri-athlons," he said. "Adventure races are different because it is an unmarked course. It is a thinking man's sport. You are

How to Register

Any interested teams are encouraged to register for The Thunder Rolls. Registration forms need to be received no later than Aug. 26 to be eligible to compete.

To learn more information about the costs of the race and to register visit the race website at www.thunderrolls.org or call 563-370-5235.

not following the team ahead of you."

During the race teams may have multiple options to get to the next checkpoint.

They might have a two mile smooth hiking trail or a shorter one mile path that requires teams to forge a path through natural terrain.

"Adventure racing is about getting out into the wild," said Voelliger. "Oregon has incredible natural features."

Safety is stressed throughout the race. Volunteer medically trained staff are available along the course. The local police, and ambulance will be notified that a race is being held.

"All teams are required to have mandatory safety equipment," said Voelliger. "Teams need to be self sufficient for injuries or getting lost. Teams will have a cell phone if they have a medical emergency."

Being prepared is important for any racer.

"Racers need to eat well and stay hydrated to successfully complete any ultra endurance race," said Voelliger.

Fair official happy with turnout for the 157th Ogle County Fair

From A1

for three years now and the word is getting around."

More parking this year proved to be a plus in light of the fair's popularity.

"We had five additional acres for parking this year. That was a big help," Holm said.

Participation in both the Junior Open and 4-H Shows was good this year, he said. Judging started two days before the fair opened and went on through Friday.

Many exhibits remained on display throughout the five days of the fair.

"Entries were up in some categories and down in others. Overall it was about average," Holm said.

He expressed appreciation to the approximately 100 volunteers who helped out with everything from set-up and tear-down to taking tickets, directing parking, and preparing the track in the grandstand.

"Putting on a fair is very labor intensive," Holm said. "If it wasn't for the

volunteers it wouldn't happen. They're the people behind the scenes that no one knows about."

For more information about the Ogle County Fair, visit www.oglecountyfair.com.



Kaylee and Naysh Johnson, ages 8 and 6, enjoy their snos while checking out the food court at the Ogle County Fair July 30. Photo by Earleen Hinton



Hay Day

The unveiling and dedication of Making Hay, the latest statue in the Community Art Legacy's effort to place 10 sculptures in the Oregon area over 10 years, took place July 29 at Stillman Bank in Oregon. Above, the new sculpture is pictured along with a Community Art Legacy sign. At right, from left to right, are Pat Donahue of Stillman Bank, sculptor Daniel Ingebrigtsen, and Community Art Legacy committee member Jeff Adams. Photos by Jason Hickman



U of I Extension officials are still in midst of restructuring offices

By Vinde Wells
Editor

University of Illinois Extension officials are in the midst of restructuring county offices and personnel due to state budget cuts.

"We're now in what we call Phase 2 of the reorganization," said Ogle County Extension Director Vicky Broos Tuesday. "We're in the process of determining what types of educators we will need in our unit. It appears we will have four educators in our unit."

In response to the \$7 million slashed from its budget, the Extension officials announced in mid-May that the state's 102 counties would be reconfigured into multi-county units.

The Ogle County Extension office will be part of a new multi-county unit with Boone and DeKalb Counties.

The next step, Broos said, will be determining where the main and satellite offices will be located with each new unit.

After that, staffing needs at the offices will be decided,

she said. "The civil service staffing will be completed in the spring of 2011," Broos said.

She said the restructuring is going well and will be completed by July of 2011.

"It's looking very positive. I'm especially pleased with the professional educators it appears our unit will have," Broos said. "I think we'll have a good variety of professional support."

The Extension offers educational programming in all of Illinois' 102 counties, including 4-H.



Ogle County 4-H Ambassador Linda Zack, Stillman Valley, declares Rachel Sealby, Byron, the official winner of the "Minute to Win It" contest held at the Ogle County Fair July 30. Sealby, a member of the By-Badgers 4-H Club, won top prize at the event which was organized by the Forrester Friskies 4-H Club. Zack was the emcee. Photo by Earleen Hinton

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