

Student's wrongful-death trial begins

EUGENE (AP) — A lawyer representing the mother of a University of Oregon student who died during a meningococcal outbreak told jurors at a civil trial that the emergency room doctor who examined the young woman was too hasty in his decision to send her home to rest.

The doctor at the hospital near the Eugene campus diagnosed Lauren Jones with a flu-like illness on Feb. 17, 2015. Jones, 18, died later that day after being found unconscious in her dorm room.

During Wednesday's opening statements, attorney Dave Miller said expert witnesses will testify that Jones should have been given additional tests, especially since three other students had been diagnosed with meningococcal disease in the month before Jones fell ill. Moreover, he said the hospital should have given Jones antibiotics and kept her in the hospital for a longer period of time.

"The failure to do these things fell below the standard of care for doctors and hospitals, and was negligent," Miller told the jury.

Jones' mother, Dorian Sanders, seeks \$2 million in the suit against PeaceHealth, which operates the hospital, *The Register-Guard* reported.

Jeffrey Street, a lawyer for PeaceHealth, told jurors that the emergency room doctor shouldn't be blamed.

Beware of running-race scams and bad deals

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

There is an ever-growing number of running-related events throughout America, from 5k runs to triathlons and marathons. Many are long-standing reputable events. Others are organized to raise money for a local cause. A few are "for-profit" affairs that have little concern for the local community. Finally there are some that are downright fraudulent. Runners, as consumers, need to beware.

I have always preferred local events raising money for a cause, but when I have chosen more formal races I like to be sure I am getting the most bang for the buck.

A recent news article reported that a group posing as the organizers of one of those popular "Color Runs" had collected entry fee money from dozens of runners for an event that would never happen. This apparently happened in more than one state. While this is an extreme example, there are some guidelines to consider when looking at your next run:

1. Do some research. How many years has the event been put on? Are there indications that the race gets return customers? What is the cost compared to other similar races? How frequent and what is provided at the aid stations? Can you talk to someone who has done the race in a previous year?

2. Larger, more established races run by non-profits actually have a Better Business Bureau profile that you can check.

3. Even if the race website looks official, it may be fake

or misleading.

4. If you decide to take the plunge, pay with a credit card, which will increase your chance of a refund if things go haywire. However, even the most legitimate races may not offer refunds, but will typically say so in their terms of agreement on the registration form.

5. If the race is being conducted in support of a charity, it is wise to check the veracity of the charity, but it might also make you feel better to know if the charity uses its funds appropriately or uses most of the money to pay its CEO a six-figure salary.

6. If, despite your best efforts, the event turns out to be a bust, contact the Better Business Bureau in the state that the event took place and/or where the organization is headquartered.

In a related issue, I reflect back on the summer and compare two races that my daughter Erin ran in Central Oregon while she stayed with us. The first, the Hoodoo Challenge, sponsored by our local Kiwanis club, did everything right. For a reasonable price, she received a T-shirt, plenty of aid along the half-marathon course, friendly volunteers, and a veritable feast at the finish. In addition, she took home a very nice water bottle as a prize from the post-race drawing.

In contrast, she ran a marathon outside of Bend in August. Volunteers were few and far between, aid was Spartan, and after running 26.2 miles, the only fare left at the finish was an undercooked bean dish, bananas, lukewarm water, and beer.

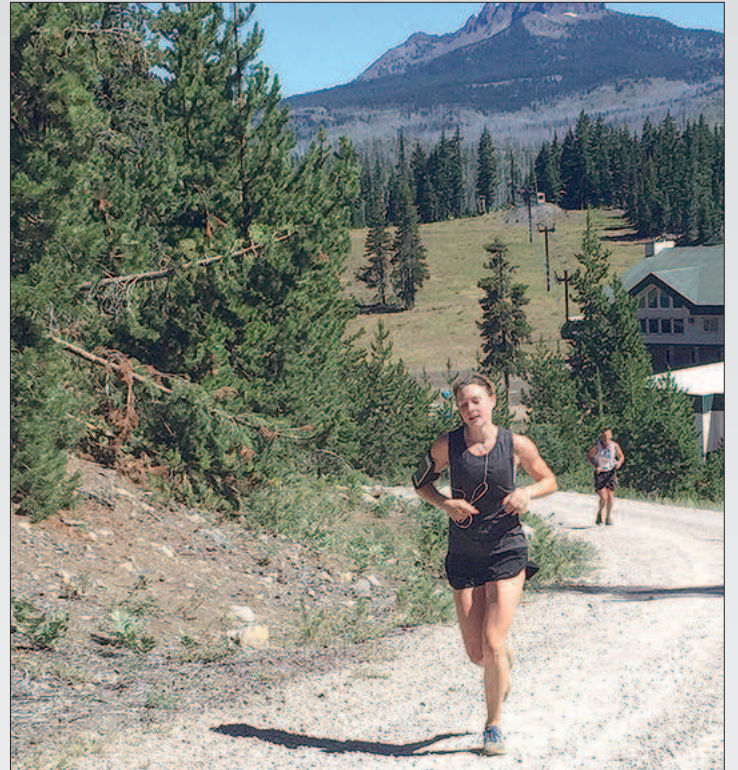


PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

The Hoodoo Challenge is an example of a running event run well and for the right reasons.

There was no place to sit in the shade, and no friendly volunteers checking on how finishers were doing. Awards were announced long before most runners finished. It was pretty tough to imagine why the race cost \$65.

In looking over all the races that I have run, volunteered for, and directed, there are actually very few that did not deliver good service. However, as more and more races spring up, it is wise to be a smart shopper.

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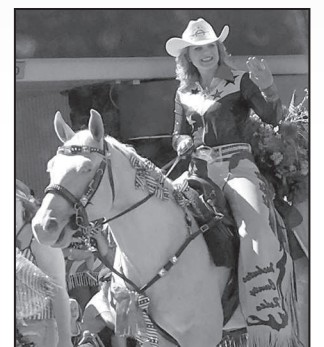
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- ★ Can you talk to and work with people of all ages?
- ★ Can you ride a horse?
- ★ Will you be 17 years old by January 1, 2018 and not yet 21 years old by July 25, 2018?
- ★ Do you live in Deschutes, Crook, or Jefferson county?
- ★ Things to consider: Application, Reining Pattern, Flag Run-in & Queen Run-in, Speech, Interview

Tryouts will be held Sunday, October 8 at 1:30 p.m.

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Deadline to apply is September 29 at 4 p.m.

For more information contact Carol Shull Zimmerman, Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo Queen Advisor, at 541-389-2529 / 541-480-2140 or cshull@ykwk.net

