

'Bike Across Kansas' provides special memories for father, sons

Some kids may have whiled away the summer playing video games or mowing lawns, but Jay Cotter pedaled his way to some life-long memories.

Jay, a seventh grader at Grant Junior High School and his father Rob were among more than 850 cyclists who rode the length of the state in this year's "Bike Across Kansas" June 5-12.

The event is a recreational and social rally for cyclists, organizers say, not a race or endurance contest. The cyclists start out from the Colorado border and head east to the Missouri border. The trip takes eight days and covers about 470 miles. The group averages about 60 miles a day.

Cyclists usually spent the night at a facility with showers in the city where they stopped, usually schools. There they can rest, eat, make repairs and bed down for the night or pitch a tent if room inside was not available. Personal gear is transported for the cyclists and available to them each night.

This year, the ride started on U.S. 40 near Mount Sunflower and spent its first night in Sharon Springs. The next day, the cyclists went to



Oakley, from there they took U.S. 83 north then headed east on U.S. 24, stopping for their third night in

Hill City. The next day, the bikers stayed on U.S. 24 to Osborne. From there, the



Rob Cotter (right in left photo) stopped for a break with his son Jay during the 2004 "Bike Across Kansas" event in June. Cotter and his oldest son Tom (right in above photo) did the rally together in 1997. Cotter has cycled in every rally since 1996, except for 2003 when he was involved with Tom's graduation from high school.

group headed south on U.S. 281, turning east on K-18 and stopping in Lincoln. The next morning, they continued east on K-18 then south on K-15, crossing under I-70 then headed east again to Chapman.

The group headed northeast through Fort Riley and Manhattan, spending the next night in St. Mary's. From there it was U.S. 24 east to Lawrence, then on the final day northeast to Leavenworth, fin-

ishing on the banks of the Missouri River.

This was the 30th year for "Bike Across Kansas" and the eighth for Rob, whose first trip was in 1996. This was Jay's first trip. In 1997, his older brother Tom made the trip with their father.

"It was a real special treat to be able to do with both sons," said Rob. "It was a chance to be alone with the kids and have a lot of fun."

Rob said he started cycling after he stopped smoking about 10 years ago. He said he finds it relaxing and now does it for fun.

For the past 19 years Rob, a 1982 graduate of the University of South Dakota, has been a social worker at the Good Samaritan Center in Goodland.

Tom is a 2003 graduate of Goodland High School, where he played football and ran track for the Cow-boys. He will be a sophomore at Kansas State University this year studying kinesiology. Rob said Jay plans to play football for the Grant Mustangs this season.

Registration for the 2005 rally starts next January; for information go to www.bak.com.

Residents off to Florida to help with relief

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Red Cross Chapter's emergency response vehicle is on its way to Florida to help with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley that struck over the weekend.

This time, though, Molly and Jim Oliver of Colby aren't the drivers.

Molly Oliver said two new drivers trained earlier this year — Frank Powers of Gove and Amanda Schmidt of Colby — are on their way to Tallahassee for three weeks of volunteer efforts. They will help feed relief workers and people affected by the storm. The two were part of a group that trained to help

with disaster relief around the country.

She said the truck left early Saturday morning for Montgomery, Ala., but they were told to go on to Florida because the new relief headquarters are now in Tallahassee to be closer to the coast. Once there, Schmidt and Powers will be assigned an area to work.

"They could go anywhere, and they'll work out of that disaster site," she said.

This is the first disaster in quite some time the Olivers haven't had to respond, but Molly Oliver said they're glad the area has more volunteers qualified to drive the emergency response vehicle.

"We have mixed emotions," she said. "We are elated and excited for them and grateful more people in the community came forward."

She said Schmidt called Sunday night and asked her if it would be possible to stay longer than three weeks to help.

Se said their supervisor might let them because the hurricane is one

of the biggest disasters since the call up for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

Because of the scope of the disaster, she said more volunteers from the area might be called up to drive emergency response vehicles already in Florida. If they are needed, she said, they'll have to fly.

"Good Start / Comenzando Bien" Parent Program



The Hispanic Advisory Board will provide this free bilingual program for teen parents / parents to be (ages 13-19), created by the March of Dimes.

The course will be given in an 8 week period of 1 1/2 hours each week.

Door prizes and giveaways at each session with 2-\$100 gift certificate drawings to

the infant/child section of any local business, for those 'graduating' after all 8 sessions. To register and get dates/times contact Cris at 899-3848 or stop at 109 W. 11th. (Made possible by a grant from the American Legacy Foundation)

McCracken Peaches
will be at Short & Son
8 a.m. - ?
Aug. 21 - 22 (Sunkist, Rosa)
Sept. 4, 5 and 6 (Albertas)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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CLUES ACROSS

- Gentle
- Genus of trees having edible nuts
- Picasso's mistress
- State clearly
- Daniel —, French composer
- A way to look
- Party offering
- Word element meaning ear
- Mauna —, Hawaiian volcano
- First Chinese dynasty
- Mutilated
- Protective outer layer
- Debate
- Arrived
- A flat cushion or mat
- A tributary of the Mobile River
- Capital of Yemen
- Irrelevant
- Harelike rodent of the pampas of Argentina
- Braids
- Macaws
- Brewed from malt and hops
- In a way, altered
- Northwest German river
- Flop
- Chance
- Possess
- Brother
- Bing Crosby song
- Used esp. of vegetation
- Roadway
- Lot
- Social gatherings
- Caught sight of
- Ivan the Terrible, for one

CLUES DOWN

- Washington city
- A visible personification of an abstract quality
- 7th longest river in Asia
- Before
- Type of outrigger
- Wild sheep of northern Africa
- Baseball stat
- Expresses contempt or disgust
- Area units
- Units of metrical time
- The length of time something (or someone) has existed
- Flower petals
- Radioactivity unit
- Hereditary gene
- Advance evidence for
- Fruit tree
- Traverse
- Chinese dynasty (618-907)
- Oklahoma city
- Pole (Scottish)
- Iowa city
- Netherlands river
- Wager
- Diameter of a tube
- A plant fiber
- Hurry
- Macaw genus
- Part of the eye
- Yap
- Two-masted vessel square-rigged on both masts
- Civilian dresses
- Print errors
- Costlier
- Sea eagles
- Andrew —, Union commander
- With bristles
- Gentlemen
- Door handle
- Sino-Soviet block, abbr.
- Used informally; very small
- Anger
- Visual metaphor (computers)
- Very fast airplane

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