

Man rides across country for 'violence awareness'

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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A 53-year-old Florida man has dedicated a third of the year to bicycle across the U.S., protesting against violence in our county.

Jack Cadwallader, who started in Key West, Fla., on May 9, found himself taking a break in Oberlin, underneath the shade of the shelter house in City Park.

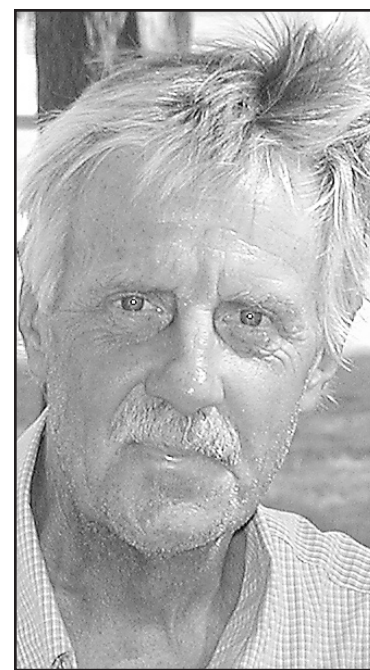
Sixty-six days into his trip, he said, he's already passed through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and now Kansas.

"I was inspired by the Boston Marathon bombing," Mr. Cadwallader said. "I'm disheartened by the amount of violence going on in the U.S. today."

Dedicating his trip to the victims in Boston, he said, he wanted to show courage and influence American youths to stand up for acts of kindness.

"It would help," Mr. Cadwallader said, "for parents to give six-month talks to their children about violence, and for teachers to have open forum discussions in class."

Mr. Cadwallader said he is doing



Jack Cadwallader

this trip alone, with only his bike and his backpack. He said he rides from 6 a.m. to noon every day, and then again from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to avoid the hottest parts of the day.

He said he travels 40 miles a day on average, with 86 miles being the

most he's logged.

"I try to travel town to town to eat dinner," Mr. Cadwallader said. "If that's not possible, I want to at least be able to pick up food on the go."

Retired after owning a construction company for 30 years, he said the strength in his legs and his health seem to have been better during the trip.

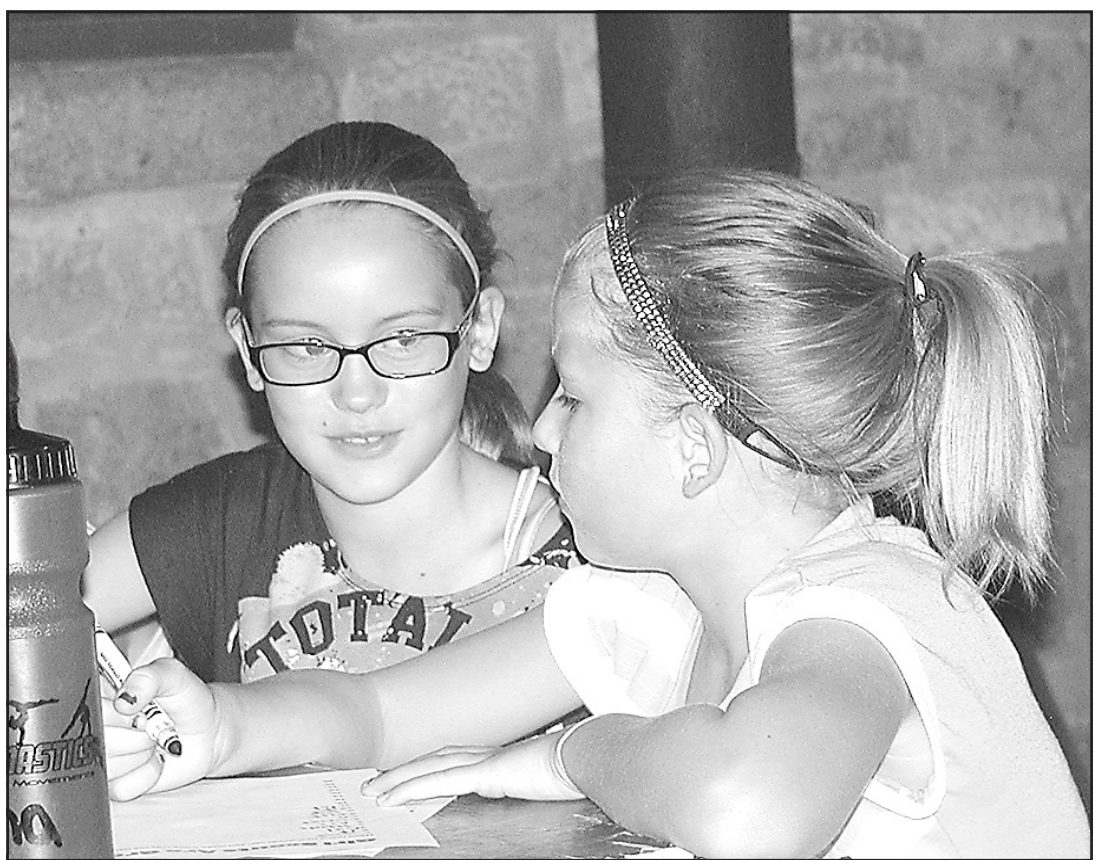
A diet of lots of carbs and fruit, Mr. Cadwallader said, has helped him get this far.

"I wrote letters to the big five bike companies in hopes to get sponsorships," he said. "I'm currently riding a \$45 used bike."

Surprisingly, weather has not been an issue during his trip, Mr. Cadwallader said.

"I've only been caught in rain once," he said. Mr. Cadwallader said he plans to end his trip in Seattle by Oct. 15. After that, he said, he plans to look for a job in the commercial fishing industry up there.

He said anyone who would like to make a donation to his cause could send donations to 5110 Smith Mountain Road, Penhook, Va. 24137.



GIRL SCOUTS Kaitlyn Howland (left) and Alana Raile worked on a word exercise as they waited for the other girls to eat lunch at a Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland Fun Day at Sappa Park last Wednesday.

— Herald staff photo by Ramell Taylor

Girl Scouts go to Sappa Park to play games, learn leadership

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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Girls from kindergarten to fifth grade gathered at Sappa Park to participate in a play day sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland last Wednesday.

Membership recruiter Laura Shoaff from Hays and volunteer Becky Ayers of Oberlin put the six girls through leadership exercises and games.

Registration started at 12:30 p.m. The girls brought sack lunches to eat while their parents filled out enrollment forms.

The Scouts played word games with each other while they ate their lunches. After lunch, the girls opened their meeting with the Girl Scout pledge.

Ms. Shoaff had the girls pulled "game tag" cards from her game basket. The cards had the name of a game and a list of supplies so the kids could identify which station to go to.

"The program," she said, "is big on teaching leadership skills, so we let the girls take turns leading the games."

The girls got to play games including "stack the apples," where they faced the challenge of stacking five apples on top of each other, and a marshmallow launch, where the goal was to sling shot a marshmallow in a cup.

After games, the girls had a snack of Girl Scout cookies and Crystal Light, and then Ms. Shoaff and Mrs. Ayers helped the kids in making crafts.

"We cut up sponges, Ms. Shoaff said, "and sewed them to a string. The kids can take them home, freeze them and then wear them



"GUMBALL HOUR GLASS" was one of the games Girl Scouts played during a "fun day" last Wednesday. Melody Koerperich tried to make all the gum balls at the top fall to the bottom bottle in 60 seconds.

— Herald staff photo by Ramell Taylor

throughout the summer to help keep them cool."

Ms. Shoaff said the purpose of the "fun day" was to recruit new members. She said the membership fee is \$12 and will increase to \$15 in the fall, which is the first time she recalls this happening in a long time.

"Girls who register early," she said, "will qualify to win tickets to see Taylor Swift perform in Wichita. Financial aid is also available"

For information, call Ms. Shoaff at (888) 811-8832, extension 4506, or go to kansasgirlscout.org.

Weed department director certification to be reviewed

The Decatur County commissioners heard from weed department director Gaylen Huntley last Tuesday about the status of his instructor coordinator certification after he had been told he might have to take the class again because his mentor didn't turn in paperwork on time.

Mr. Huntley said it took a year to complete the course, spending six months on an emergency medical technician class and four taking the instructor coordinator course.

Ambulance Director Linda Manning said Mr. Huntley was required to teach a training class under the supervision of a mentor, which he did.

After the evaluation, she said, the mentor has a deadline to submit paperwork for Mr. Huntley to be certified

Mr. Huntley said a member of

the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services told him that since the mentor missed the deadline, he might be required to retake the course, which he said he's not willing to do.

He said the county spent around \$1,000 in fees, mileage and lodging expenses for the course.

Mr. Huntley said that the situation will be reviewed by the state board. The commissioners said they will wait to hear the results before they start to discuss solutions.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard Mr. Huntley give an update on recycling. He said two loads have been sent off in the past two weeks.

- Agreed with Mr. Huntley to hire a company to help spray bindweed in farmers' fields and along county roads. He said the company will

spray at the same rate of \$7 per acre.

- Heard Mr. Huntley give an update on county vehicles. He said he replaced the rear camera on the commissioner's car. The public transportation bus, which was involved in a minor accident, had a small dent in the bumper which he could not take out.

- Heard Alejandra Juarez, group consultant for Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Hays, offer to consult with the commissioners and look into options of carrying a policy for the county in the future.

- Approved the purchase of \$998 for two laptop computers for the emergency medical department.

- Approved transfers for Bassettville, Finley, Logan, Oberlin, Olive, Sherman and Summit townships for road and bridge reimbursement.

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ON THE SCENE OF A FIRE near Danbury last Monday were fire crews from Norcat, Danbury and Indianola, Neb., working to extinguish a fire in fields two miles east of Danbury.

— Herald staff photo by Ramell Taylor

Fires ignites across Decatur County

The Jennings Fire Department fought a grass fire three miles west of town on the Cemetery Road around 11 a.m. Monday.

Fire Chief Kerry Green said the fire burned about 15 to 20 acres and an old farmstead.

"A vehicle that was having problems went by the field," he said, "and as it was sparking, it must have ignited the fields."

The fire started in the ditch and then spread to trees and brush, Mr. Green said. After a lot of mop-up work, firemen had the fire out by 3 p.m.

The Oberlin Fire Department extinguished a grass fire Sunday afternoon about 10 miles west of

town and five south of Rexford Road. Owner Roger May said the fire, started by lightning, burned about three acres.

The Norcat Fire Department worked on two field fires that together burned more than 100 acres last Monday.

Fire Chief Carl Lyon said the first fire happened in Nebraska, two miles east of Danbury. He said a farmer was checking cows on his four wheeler when the vehicle sparked a flame into the field. Norcat firemen were called to help Nebraska crews, as were trucks from Indianola, Neb.

The fire burned through close to 80 acres, Mr. Lyon said. The fire

started around 3 p.m. and firemen were able to extinguish the blaze by 6 p.m., he said

The second fire, Mr. Lyon said, happened in Norton County five miles north of Reager around 11 p.m. He said lightning struck a field, starting a grass fire.

Mr. Lyon said the fire spread through 30 acres before firemen were able to put it out.

"This fire had a lot of hot spots to contain," he said. "The Norton Fire Department had to come assist us."

The fire took over four hours to put out, Mr. Lyon said, and firemen were up until 3:30 a.m. putting out their second fire that day.