



Four members of Team Misericordia get ready for the Hospice Hundred Ride for Dignity in support of Hospice St. John. Shown in the photo are, from left, Dr. Karen Walker, Connie Havir, Frank Velde and Skip Sensbach.

Team members not pictured are Kirsten Sensbach, Tom Swartwood, Jerry Bradford, Marnetta Bradford, Lynn Aldrich, Donald Francis, Tricia Hoff, Jim Schappert, Susan Graves, Sharon Rose, Cindy Nardi, George Nardi, Ken Nardi and Kris Nardi.

## Misericordia fields a large, diverse team

They number 14 at the moment but are still combing the college community for more recruits: In their jobs, they teach, they study, they offer health care, they manage and they administer. Their athletic conditions vary greatly from just coming off the injury list to logging 100 plus miles per week with the "A" riders of the Wyoming Valley Bicycle Club.

Nevertheless on Sunday, July 30, whether it is with relish or with a "how did I get myself into this?" attitude, this group will all jump on their bicycles at Dallas High School in the Hospice St. John Ride For Dignity and head for the hills. They will ride under the banner of Team Misericordia and will be sporting team t-shirts to prove it.

Organizers of Team Misericordia - Karen Walker from the Biology Department, Skip Sensbach from College Relations and Deborah Fries from the Office of Continuing Education - want it known that this group will do more than ride two-wheelers over the countryside. The team will re-form in September and include participants in the Susan G. Comen Race For the Cure - a woman's run/walk against breast cancer (male team members will work as support crew).

The idea to form an ongoing team consisting of participants in the Hospice 100 Ride and/or the Race For the Cure and seek official college sponsorship, came about as an effort to match the athleticism and service orientation of these events with the mission of the college - service, justice and mercy. Karen and Skip are cycling enthusiasts and Deborah is a runner who has found participating in the annual Race For the Cure to be an emotionally moving experience.

The college readily agreed to cover the registration costs of participants associated with the institution and provide team t-shirts. Team Misericordia was born.

The task at hand for these first 14 members is to raise over \$3,000 in sponsorship required for the bicycle ride plus train for their 12, 31 or 62 mile effort.

According to one team member, Connie Havir, many people contribute because they have had a personal experience with Hospice St. John, an organization that provides care for the terminally ill regardless of their ability to pay. "I hope I never require their services but it is a comfort to know that the Hospice is there," she said.

Connie, who works with the Alternative Learning Project at the college, blew out her knee playing racquetball in the spring. It required surgical repair. She took up cycling for the rehabilitation effects and is training for the 12-mile loop. She was last seen having one of those healthful recovery breakfasts at McDonald's in Shavertown with a teammate after an early-morning training ride around Harveys Lake.

Sharon Rose graduated with honors from College Misericordia in the spring. She's one of only two team members who rode the Hospice 100 last year - all 62 miles - and raised a sum well over the \$250 sponsorship goal. This voice of experience says she's definitely in search of a lighter bike to manage those hills. The other second-time participant is Susan Graves who works at Wilkes University.

Karen Walker confesses she was the teammate chowing down a sausage biscuit with Connie. "It's the only way I can get my 8-year old daughter to ride around the lake with us. I bribe her with

breakfast at McDonald's," she claims.

She says the weight of her bike is not her problem - she has one of the lightest road bikes around. "I still struggle with the hills. I guess the extra weight is somewhere else. But I'm really fast in the descent!"

Skip Sensbach and his wife Kirsten, who is a physical therapist at John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, are both experienced riders and signed up for the 100 K (62 miles). Kirsten helped recruit two student teammates, Tricia Hoff and Donald Francis.

The team has another husband and wife pair aiming at the full 100 K - Marnetta and Jerry Bradford. Jerry is a professor of mathematics at the college and Marnetta is a nurse practitioner employed by Hospice St. John. Marnetta was already registered for the ride when Team Misericordia lured her to their group.

The strongest rider on the team is a physical therapy student, Jim Schappert, who can be found out hammering the hills on a regular basis with members of the local bicycle club. It's felt that he may have time to go home and shower before applauding the finish of the rest of his teammates.

Lynn Aldrich a professor of physics, is squeezing the Hospice ride in between work on the "Rails To Trails" project aimed at converting old railbeds to bicycle pathways, Sierra Club activities, golfing, plus numerous other concerns.

As the fledgling team strives toward greater sponsorship, lighter bikes, lighter bodies and better fitness, there's a lot of work involved. But there is also a sense that they are getting all the health benefits from an activity they already enjoy while contributing to the welfare of others. Ride on!

## Hospice ride

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College Misericordia is fielding a team of 14 people, according to Bob Kelley, Hospice Hundred Ride Coordinator and a Dallas resident. In addition, Explorer Scout Troop 281, of Dallas, whose scoutmaster is Dr. Paul Kutish, is also manning a team.

Metz Associates, owned by John Metz, operator of TGIFriday's, will host the pre-ride dinner Saturday evening at Wilkes University. In addition, the Dallas Rotary, the Dallas chapter of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, along with many other civic groups and dedicated individuals will be serving as volunteers," said Kelley.

The cause, as well as the unique nature of the tour, attracts cyclists. Hospice Saint John, a program of Lutheran Welfare Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania, serves more than 120 patients daily in the eight counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania, including Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna.

Patients often do not have insurance or insurance benefits. Hospice Saint John relieves that financial burden by caring for all, regardless of their ability to pay. Hospice Saint John never sends a bill to a patient or their families for in-home hospice care.

"It is an exhilarating ride that will leave you with the warm feeling that you are helping your friends and neighbors live out their lives with dignity," said Kelley, an avid cyclist and member of the United States Cycling Federation.

"Hospice Saint John provides patients and families with special care during difficult times. These times ultimately touch us all. Because of the dedicated people at Hospice Saint John, the pain is eased. That makes this bicycle

ride special to many of the participants," said Diane Myers, Dallas, Director of Development for Lutheran Welfare Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

All Hospice Saint John asks is for the riders to make a commitment.

"Join us and make a commitment to set and meet a challenging goal - cycling 62, 31 or 12 miles. Also, we ask that you make a commitment to raise a minimum amount in donations in order to participate," said Kelly. "We take care of all the other details - you ride, enjoy the people and scenery and enjoy as much food as you can eat at breakfast, three aid stations, and at lunch after the ride," Kelley said.

Also on hand will be emergency medical staff, support vehicles, advanced communications systems and a full team of people on the road.

Festivities begin the night before, with a special dinner at Wilkes University. Sunday will begin with an ecumenical sunrise worship service at 7:30 a.m. The 100 km bike begins at 8 a.m. Riders cycling a shorter route begin later, so everyone will be able to finish around the same time.

While the riders are pushing their pedals, preparations will begin for the other activities, including a special "Team Kids" free ride for children. Children ages 4-7 and 7-12 will be able to ride their bikes through a small obstacle course and a limited route. All children will receive a prize as well as a Wendy's gift certificate. The Children's Ride, which begins at 2 p.m., is free.

"Team Kids is a perfect way to get children involved in a good cause. The children are not being

asked to raise money, but they feel better because of their participation, especially if a family member, such as a parent or grandparent, had been a patient of Hospice Saint John," explains Mark Hoffman, Dallas, Director of Communications for Lutheran Welfare Service.

"So many people want to help Hospice Saint John, but some don't necessarily have the ability to ride 62 miles," said Myers. "We encourage them to come up to the Dallas High School campus and join in some of the other activities. Perhaps watch the kids take their turn on the pedals. We will be offering a moderately-priced barbecue chicken dinner. Visitors can also buy some commemorative gifts, come up and make a pledge in support of our stationary bike riders, listen to our strolling musicians, or visit the live remote broadcast from the folks at WZMT. Clowns will be roaming the grounds and there will also be free face painting."

Hospice Saint John has made the Hospice Hundred-Ride For Dignity even more interesting by offering incentives to help raise pledges.

With a minimum of \$250 in pre-collected pledges, you will receive some remarkable gifts - the ride, a four color commemorative t-shirt, and a \$25 gift certificate. The more pledges you collect, the more valuable the additional prizes, including water bottles, tool kits, or other gift certificates and special recognitions.

For more information about the Hospice Hundred or for a free registration form please call 823-2114 or fax at 823-6438.

## Lehman Twp. school taxes mailed

Lehman Township tax collector Peggy Moyer announces that the 1995 Lake Lehman School District real estate and per capita taxes were mailed July 10.

Anyone who did not receive their tax bill should notify the tax collector. Responsibility to receive the tax bill rests with the property owner or resident. For those homeowners having an escrow account, promptly forward only the property bill on to the bank or mortgaging company for payment. Per capita taxes are issued to all residents of Lehman Township 18 years and older.

Anyone mailing in their payments and would like a receipt should enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Office hour information appears on the tax bills.

Rebate value ends September 8th.

## Molester

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was mean if he didn't get his way," she added.

The alleged molestations occurred whenever she and her brother were left with Eaton while her mother and grandmother went to play bingo. The last incident was on Thanksgiving Day of 1993 in the children's home at Boulevard Townhouses in Wilkes-Barre, she said.

She didn't tell her mother until an adult female friend told her to, she testified. "I thought my mother might get upset," the girl said, hanging her head, biting her lip and hiding behind her long bangs. During the girl's testimony, Tupper ejected several of Eaton's relatives from the courtroom because they mumbled rude words.

The step-grandson, eight years old, testified he saw Eaton touch his sister "in a bad way" on many

occasions. Eaton also touched him "in private places," he said in a high, soft voice, pointing to the "private places" on himself.

On Thanksgiving, 1993, Eaton "kicked me three or four times in the butt with his foot" when he went upstairs to the bathroom, the boy continued. "It hurt."

Two charges each of indecent assault without another's consent, indecent assault on a child under age 14 and corruption of minors were bound over to Luzerne County court. Charges of endangering the welfare of children were dismissed.

Eaton is being held in the Luzerne County Prison in default of a total of \$80,000 bail, which Tupper refused to lower out of concern that Eaton might flee authorities before his trial.

## Plant

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is Ranunculus Trachophyllus.

The council has been working with the DEP since April, 1994, after several families of beavers built lodges and dams, which caused the creek to rise and flood a road and the back yards of several homes at the Outlet. Although the beaver dams were opened last year to allow the water to drain, the borough may not dredge the creek bed until it obtains the state permit.

Council members also accepted a plaque containing the names of the donors of 44 flowering cherry trees planted around the Rte. 415 entrance to the borough from Harveys Lake Protective Association members Joseph Shaver and

Guy Giordano.

The council unanimously voted to contact the state Department of Community Affairs to find out what services are available for a study of the police department, at the suggestion of Mayor Rick Boice.



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