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College students biking for a cause

By KODEE BRINEGAR THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE
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In honoring a tradition that started with an Hardin County student, 12 Western Kentucky University students are taking to the road Wednesday to raise money for Alzheimer's research.

The students will make a stop in Elizabethtown during their cross-country trek as they honor the man for whom the trip was founded.

The group, Bike4alz, started in 2010, after founder and WKU student Tyler Jury's grandfather died with the disease. Jury, who was a fraternity member of Phi Gamma Delta, wanted to ride his bike across the country with friends and fraternity brothers to help raise awareness.

"He wasn't expecting it to get this big as it has," said Lori Jury, Tyler's mother and community relations at Willow Creek Senior Living. "He just wanted to ride his bike across the country to raise awareness and funds."

Since that inaugural ride, more than 100 riders have participated and the group has raised more than \$500,000 in the past 14 years for Alzheimer's research.

This year marks the 12th journey for the group.

"Some joined just for the cause," Lori said.

Bike4alz will be making their way from San Francisco and ending in Virginia Beach, Virginia. They will be making stops along the way to help spread awareness of how the disease impacts patients and families.

"The Elizabethtown police will be escorting them from Elizabethtown Memorial Garden at 3 p.m. to Flywheel (Brewery)," Lori said. "There they will have a ceremony to help encourage and say thank you to the riders for what they have done. I invite everyone to come out and enjoy themselves."

A breakfast and old school bike parade is at 9 a.m. Thursday at Willow Creek Senior Living, 108 Diecks Drive in Elizabethtown. The breakfast is sponsored by The Wright Legacy Group. The bike parade will be from Willow Creek Senior Living and end at Governor's Manor shopping center.

Bike4alz will ride through Elizabethtown to Louisville and finish their journey to Virginia.

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