

Students hike home

Truman students attempt to walk to St. Louis from Kirksville

BY SCOTT HENSON
Staff Reporter

While many Truman State students will load up their cars and put their feet to the gas pedal after finals week, junior Daniel Schake will be putting his feet to the Highway 6 pavement, walking from Kirksville to his home in St. Louis during the course of seven days.

Schake will depart between May 15 and 20, taking with him a sleeping bag, a water canteen, a backpack full of food, first-aid and Advil. Before he goes, he will ask friends and co-workers at Chariton Valley Residential Center for donations to the Sierra Club, an environmental protection organization. For Schake, the trek will test his ability to achieve the "seemingly impossible," a notion he said he always is trying to challenge.

Curious about whether or not he could actually accomplish the feat, Schake attempted the 188-mile trek during mid-term break of fall semester last year. Before he began, he canvassed door-to-door, collecting donations from fellow residents in Centennial Hall, and accumulated \$214 for the Sierra Club.

After collecting donations, he left at around 6 p.m. the evening before break. He stopped each night in public areas to nod off in a sleeping bag. Encountering scenic vistas and peaceful country roads, Schake said he often was reminded of why he chose to donate to an environmental conservation charity.

"It just seemed very appropriate that you would walk through all this really beautiful landscape, and then say, 'Let's help preserve it,'" he said.

In addition to scenic views, he encountered his share of bumps along the way. While on the road, he came across a band of rock-throwing children and a few trailing dogs that smelled food in his backpack.

He said some of his biggest hurdles the first few days of his journey were the long stretches of time it took him to refill his canteen and the painful, growing blisters on his feet.

He became exhausted by the time he reached the 100-mile mark, having walked for five days, sometimes for 12 hours straight. He then called his parents, who picked him up in New London, Mo., worried about his worn condition and reproachful



Rose Sparks/Index
Juniors Daniel Schake and Elizabeth Oliver practice for their 188-mile walk Tuesday at Thousand Hills State Park. This is Schake's second attempt at walking to St. Louis from Kirksville.

about his decision to walk home.

Schake said he's determined to make it the full 188 miles this time, and he will put more effort into planning and training beforehand. He currently is running two to five times a week to increase his endurance, and plans to take one or two 20-mile hikes before he commits to the daily routine of 35 miles a day.

He also doesn't want to make the trip alone. Junior Elizabeth Oliver expressed interest in going with him last semester. Oliver said she began to see the hike as feasible after carefully planning with Schake.

"The idea just seemed kind of appealing," she said. "When I think of being able to walk to St. Louis, I can imagine myself bragging about it afterwards."

Schake said he and Oliver will leave Kirksville earlier in the day than he did last time, and they will pop their blisters more regularly. He also will be recording his second attempt in a documentary. Senior Sean Galvin, one of Schake's co-workers at Chariton Valley Residential Center, agreed to capture footage of his departure from Kirksville and edit the shots that Schake records along the way.

Galvin was looking for more filmmaking experience during the summer, and he said Schake's journey provided him with that opportunity.

"When he asked me to be involved my reaction was, 'yeah, I'd be completely willing to help with that,'" he said.

Galvin said part of the documentary's focus will be unplanned details of the journey, like the rock-throwers of Schake's previous attempt. Galvin wants his film to be devoid of unnecessary seriousness.

"I don't think he views this as some grand gesture or journey," he said. "I think he's going to have fun with it, and that's what I really want to capture."

Schake also has thought of another way to record his accomplishment. Before leaving Kirksville, he said he will make a footprint on a sheet of parchment with green paint. When he arrives at St. Louis, he will make a similar footprint with red paint on another sheet. After that, he said he will frame them, pop a bottle of champagne and take a much-needed visit to the doctor to treat his blistered feet.

See the full story online at trumanindex.com.

Adair library offers classes

Library teaches elderly residents to use modern technology

BY KAITLYN DANIELS
Staff Reporter

To educate older generations about skills like surfing the Internet, sending messages and blogging, the Adair County Public Library is offering classes about common computer skills that benefit local residents' daily lives.

The library started offering the classes during the summer last year. It currently offers six computer classes: Computer Basics, Computer Maintenance, Downloadable eBooks and Audiobooks, Blogging, Making Websites, and Skype and Messaging.

Richard Nations, Missions for the Thousand Hills Baptist Association director, said he takes the classes to help Missions for the Thousand Hills Baptist Association increase its online presence.

Nations said along with the association's website, he wanted to have a blog that was quick, easy and simple and would redirect people to the website's home page so people received information from both.

Nations was a student in the blogging class and said it helped him to create such a blog.

"When I have a quick announcement to get out to folks about church activities or training, I can just push that information out to people [through the blog] quickly rather than putting it on a website and hoping that someone stumbles across it," Nations said.

Nations said this is the direction the world is moving toward and there have been a lot of changes that have occurred during the past 10 years. Twenty years ago when

he started working in church leadership, people had just begun to use email to communicate, he said.

Blake Barks, a volunteer teacher at the library and a computer technician at Pro-Tech Co., an office technologies company, said it is important to be tech-savvy in today's world. The classes open attendees up to more information that expands what they can do for themselves using the computer, he said.

"By using the Internet, you can connect with people around the world and people in the local community," he said.

Barks said he wants to help people to learn skills they will use on a day-to-day basis, such as scanning computers for a virus and knowing how to run software. He said he wants to make sure people learn as much as they can about the technology they use every day.

Barks said one of his major goals is to help people become comfortable communicating with others online.

"That's one of the reasons I wanted to teach the Skype and Messaging class," he said. "We wanted to get them comfortable with talking to people, especially people that are overseas or connecting with their loved ones that are out of touch in military bases all over the world."

Kara Drury, administrative assistant at the Adair County Public Library and one of the Computer Basics teachers, said a lot of people had been asking about the classes, but until recently the library couldn't provide them because they didn't have the computers or the \$14,268 grant they received during Feb. 2011.

"One of the major reasons we started these classes was to try to stay viable for the community," Drury said. "These are not just classes for anyone that has library cards. These are classes for everybody."

Classes held at 6:30 p.m. every first and third Wednesday at the Adair County Public Library


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