

Trek

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2009, and expects to finish in a couple months at Los Angeles, Calif.

The trip has covered 6,812 miles to date, down the western and eastern coasts of the United States and through the southern states.

At the end of his ride, 11-year-old daughter Ivy will be waiting to start a new life in Oregon—the two do not want to return to the Michigan home in which they lived with Connie and Angela. The memories are too strong.

Ivy is living with relatives in Massachusetts, has joined her father at different points in the ride and will make part of the final passage with him.

"It was Ivy's idea for this trip," Alexander says.

He explains that after the death of his wife and oldest daughter, his youngest daughter became uncommunicative and had to be hospitalized. When she was released, the two released a balloon with words about Angela attached.

"It was her way of letting go," the 49-year-old says.

Next, the father and daughter took a 250-mile bicycle ride, and along the way visited with some people about Angela's death. That was the impetus for the year long ride.

"The things she said about her sister encouraged me," Alexander says.

He started the ride in northern Washington and worked his way down the Pacific coast and into Arizona and Nevada, got a ride to the east coast to work his way down to Florida, then started heading west through the southern states.

Originally, plans were for Ivy to also make the ride, but they decided it would be too dangerous for the 11-year-old. Alexander has had three crashes, one with an 18-wheeler that sent him to a hospital for

treatment of cuts and bruises.

The father also is on his seventh bicycle, which have been replaced by donors along the way when they broke.

And, in Philadelphia, Penn. his bicycle and a pull-behind cart were stolen.

Throughout the trek, Alexander has maintained journals in which he asks people to write—they express their support, offer words of encouragement and tell them how he has affected their lives.

He is now on his fourth journal.

"These are what keep me going, what people say," Alexander says.

A girl in South Carolina wrote: "Meeting you was a blessing. You made me change my whole aspect on life. I felt like you saved my life because I was heading down the path as your daughter."

In Connecticut, a police officer penned: "This is a tremendous cause and you are an inspiration to many."

The most inspiring notation was from a young woman Alexander met in Nevada who was considering suicide.

"She called me an angel because she said she was going to do what my daughter did," the 49-year-old recalls.

Alexander put her in touch with a suicide hotline, and two weeks later he got a telephone call from her with the report that she was doing better.

"That was the most amazing thing that has happened on this trip," he says.

In his travels, Alexander passes out brochures that tell a little about Angela and that list warning signs of suicide and risks.

The brochures cite Centers for Disease Control statistics showing 33,000 people in the country commit suicide every year, that

15 percent of high school students have serious thoughts of suicide and about 150,000 people are treated each year for self-inflicted injuries.

The grieving father reports that he started the trip with \$2,500, taken from his savings and checking accounts, but ran through those funds long ago. He may work an odd job along the way to make expenses, but many people have helped out with donations.

"I never ask anybody for anything. I just ask them to listen to me," Alexander says. "I don't want somebody else's child to die."

When the trip is over and he and Ivy settle into a new home, the father plans to compile the journal entries into a book as an inspiration to others.

"Am I making a difference? Yes," he declares.

Alexander may be reached along his route at bikerideforlife@yahoo.com

County

Cont. from p1-a

Limestone county has the second lowest unemployment rate in the area, 7.3 percent, which rose from 6.7 percent a month earlier. Out of a total labor force of 11,711, there are 856 workers without jobs.

In Leon county, the unemployment rate rose to 8.2 percent in January from 7.5 percent in December. There are 712 persons jobless out of a total labor force of 8,659.

Lowest unemployment rate in the state, 6.0 percent, is posted for the Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area, followed by Lubbock MSA and Midland MSA, both at 6.2 percent.

The McAllen-Edinburg-Mission area reports a January unemployment rate of 10 percent.

Police Report by Kenny Bulger



(A summary of recent activity of Fairfield Police Department.)

March 1

12:20 p.m.—Officer Frasier on report of theft of money.

2:51 p.m.—Officer Markham on suspicious vehicle.

4:55 p.m.—Officer Markham on minor wreck.

6 p.m.—Officer Gasaway to Love's Travel Center on minor wreck.

8:56 p.m.—Officer Gasaway on report of four subjects being intoxicated. Unable to locate.

11:29 p.m.—Officer Kindon arrested a subject on city warrants.

March 2

12:24 a.m.—Officer Gasaway to open door.

4:32 a.m.—Officers Kindon and Gasaway to report of possible prowler. Nobody located.

12:01 p.m.—Officer Frasier dispatched to NAPA Auto Parts in reference to a motor vehicle accident.

3:45 p.m.—Officer Frasier met with a complainant in reference to an accident that occurred in a parking lot.

4 p.m.—Officer Markham dispatched to Love's in reference to traffic problems.

6:20 p.m.—Officer Kindon dispatched to Commerce Street in reference to a business alarm.

9:15 p.m.—Officer Kindon assisted Fairfield EMS with a medical emergency.

March 3

1:26 A.M.—Officer Kindon, while on a traffic stop, arrested subject on outstanding warrants out of Anderson county.

12:55 p.m.—Sgt. Warren met with a complainant in reference to credit card abuse and burglary of a motor vehicle.

4:10 p.m.—Officer Gallegos assisted with an oversized load.

8:10 p.m.—Officer Tiner served outstanding warrants at the sheriff's office.

March 4

9:50 a.m.—Cpl. Green was advised by citizens about a fire on the west service road of I-45.

11:05 a.m.—Officer Gallegos assisted with loose cattle on Reunion Street.

5:10 p.m.—Officers attempted to locate a reckless driver at Texas 75 and U.S. 84.

7:52 p.m.—Officer Tiner responded to a 3-car motor vehicle accident at U.S. 84 and S. Fairway.

9 p.m.—Officer Tiner assisted a disabled motorist.

March 5

6:38 a.m.—Officer Frasier on report of major wreck.

7:45 a.m.—Officer Markham to alarm sounding. All okay.

8:05 a.m.—Officer Frasier on report of truck broken down in roadway.

10:11 a.m.—Officer Markham on suspicious vehicle.

11:36 a.m.—Officer Markham on report of minor wreck at Brookshire Brothers supermarket.

1:02 p.m.—Officer Frasier on report of man and woman fighting about income tax return.

3:43 p.m.—Officer Markham on report of a reckless driver. Unable to locate.

4:26 p.m.—Officers Markham and Frasier on report of a possible drunk

driver. Unable to locate.

10 p.m.—Officer Kindon and Sgt. Utsey on report of loud music on Bonner Street.

March 6

2:25 a.m.—Officer Kindon and Sgt. Utsey to suspicious vehicle.

9:47 a.m.—Officer Markham on report of alarm at business sounding.

12 p.m.—Officers Markham and Frasier provided funeral escort.

2:06 p.m.—Officers Frasier and Markham provided funeral escort.

3:04 p.m.—Officer Frasier assisted a deputy sheriff with runaway information.

5:47 p.m.—Officer Kindon on report of suspicious vehicle on S. Bateman Road.

7:44 p.m.—Officer Kindon on report of loud music.

7:53 p.m.—Officer Kindon and Sgt. Utsey on report of man being threatened with baseball bat.

8:24 p.m.—Sgt. Utsey

on report of problem with child custody battle.

11 p.m.—Officer Kindon and Sgt. Utsey on major wreck at Main and Dunbar streets. One subject jailed.

March 7

12:04 a.m.—Sgt. Utsey on report of loud music on Hail Street.

1:20 a.m.—Sgt. Utsey to business where two subjects were being fired and they were causing problems.

1:52 a.m.—Officer Kindon on report of alarm sounding at business.

8:45 a.m.—Officer Frasier investigated a suspicious vehicle in the park.

11:22 a.m.—Officer Frasier, while on a traffic stop, arrested subject on outstanding warrants and possession of marijuana charge.

12:27 p.m.—Officer Markham responded to a vehicle in the ditch on west U.S. 84. The vehicle was gone prior to arrival.

9:35 p.m.—Officer Kindon responded to loud music at the park.

Suspects nabbed in burglary cases

Two suspects were jailed in Houston county recently and charged in connection with a burglary there, and last week were charged in four Freestone county burglaries.

They are also being looked at by law enforcement officers with six burglaries in Leon County, Freestone county criminal investigator James Barrentine reports.

Arrested are Jimmy Prince, Jr., 26, and Joshua Johnson, 29, both of Oakwood.

May

Cont. from p1-a

Huffman for a full term in place one, John Scott Boyd and Garlan Steed are running for a full term in place three and three candidates, Terry W. Gibson, Tom Aderman and Rick Harris are seeking the unexpired portion of the place five term.

Candidates created a 6-way race for three at-large seats on the Wortham city council. Signed up for the election are incumbents Albert E. Hall, Cliff Nesmith and Frank McLellan, and challengers Judy Edwards, Scott Batts and Kelly Calame.

Wortham ISD has just one candidate each for two places on the board, but must hold an election because voters are being asked to approve a \$7 million bond issue to build a new high school.

On WISD ballots for school board are incumbents Brent Jones in place three and Scott Spencer in place four.

Wortham trustees plan to hire an architect for the new high school at their meeting this month, but will await the outcome of the May vote before getting into the nuts and bolts of the project.

Streetman has a contested race for two places on its city commission. Seeking those spots are incumbent Sherrill Minze, Carol North and Billy Godfrey.

Running unopposed for another term as mayor in Streetman is Johnny Robinson.

Their arrests came as a result of a joint investigation out of Freestone, Houston, Leon and Anderson counties, Barrentine says.

The Freestone county investigator for the sheriff's department reports the first break in a series of burglaries came when a motorcycle was recovered in the Wildwood housing subdivision west of Fairfield that was determined to have been stolen in Houston county.

"We started building a case from there," the investigator says.

He reports that Oakwood police noted the license plate of a vehicle from which two men were seen in Oakwood trying to sell a television and chain-saw, items that turned out to have been reported stolen.

From there, officers determined the identities of the two men and have recovered a number of items, including guns, pocket knives and electronics, reportedly stolen in Freestone, Leon, Henderson and possibly Anderson counties.

Warrants charging Prince and Johnson in connection with the Freestone county burglaries were served at the Houston

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