



Both experienced with local bike tours, RABRAI and Tour de Nebraska, Sheryl Taylor and Barb Mellema have already begun training and fundraising for this summer's transcontinental tour Sea-to-Sea 2008, which makes a stop in Sioux Center on August 5.

Cross country bicycle ride will feature Sioux Center flavor

By Kirbee Tagney

Sioux Center will have a unique role to play in a 3,750-mile cross-country bike tour this summer.

Director of Annual Giving Barb Mellema and Director of Library Services Sheryl Taylor, both employed at Dordt College, will participate in Sea-to-Sea 2008. In addition, the tour will make a stop in Sioux Center on August 5.

If you ask these two women why they will be participating in the

nine-week-long bike tour across America this summer, you'll get a notable response.

"We're doing it for poverty."

Sea-to-Sea begins on June 28 in Seattle, Washington, and ends in Jersey City, New Jersey, on August 30.

Mellema is traveling for the entire nine-week trip, while Taylor is taking a three-week leg of the trip. Despite busy schedules, both women, "believe enough in the

cause to make it work," said Taylor.

This trip is certainly, as Mellema said, "a no-frills tour." The tour will average about 68 miles per day. Participants will camp out each night in tents, exposed to whatever weather they might encounter. From previous experience crossing the Cascades, Mellema knows to expect a

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Council rates, sh

By Steve Hoogland

The budgeting process for the 2008-09 year continued last Friday afternoon for the Sioux City Council as the council again visited proposed budget items and looked at potential rates, setting a public hearing on the budget on February 29.

The council has talked of an increase in the 2008-09 fiscal budget several times during the budgeting process and during Thursday's meeting seemed to in with a tax rate asking for \$14.24980, an increase of about 1 percent from the 2007-08 rate. The rate in the present year is \$13.97244. For residential homes on average, that increase will translate into a slight decrease because of rollbacks.

Finance director Bra

Kids read i



Trans-U.S. bike tour has international focus

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chance of frost in her tent in the morning for the first leg of the trip.

Nevertheless, both women remain enthused and upbeat about the trip. Mellema joked that they would be stuck in tents every night, "unless I can play enough Dutch bingo!" she said.

So what has compelled these two women to leave behind the comforts of home for the rigors of a bike tour across the United States? Simply the purpose of the ride.

"The focus is so different," Mellema said. Both Mellema and Taylor have successfully gone on bike tours, such as RAGBRAI, in the past. Mellema notes that this trip is unique. Instead of being self-driven, the ride is born out of "love for fellow man. We're doing it to raise money and awareness for poverty," she said.

Sea-to-Sea's goal is "ending the cycle of poverty," and the program will work toward that goal with the largest cross-continental tour ever.

Sea-to-Sea is partnered with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Christian Reformed World Missions, Partners Worldwide, and the Reformed Church of American Global Missions in connection with the RCA.

As she begins her fundraising, Mellema appreciates the subtle name-dropping she can use. "I've started dropping Bono and the

ONE campaign," she said of the tour's recent endorser.

Taylor appreciates that this tour is a universal cause. "The point is to promote awareness of poverty," Taylor said. "It's very important to have partnership."

Mellema added that this is a cause "that goes beyond denominational boundaries."

In addition to denominational and organizational partnership, Sea-to-Sea has joined with corporations around the United States to sponsor the costs of the tour. This means that all money raised by participants will go directly to fighting the cycle of poverty.

Sea-to-Sea will put the money into established programs that use a three-part approach to fighting poverty by developing businesses, communities and leadership within impoverished regions.

By building and educating a network of community members and enabling them to begin small businesses, the programs help stop the cycle of hunger and want. In addition, these programs educate the community on better health and agricultural methods that protect village members and their environment.

Those interested in helping support are encouraged to contact Mellema at 722-4658 and Taylor at 722-2878 and to visit the website www.seatosea.org.



..., (back) Pat Hauswald, Paul Kleyer, David ... and Coach Dan Dickes.

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