

Bikers take a break at Stonebridge

◆ By LIZ DUDLEY
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The guests were early. Pennsylvania Perimeter Riders Against Cancer began pulling into Stonebridge Health and Rehabilitation Center about 6:30 a.m., Aug. 5, while recreation director Linda Staron was still at the end of the driveway decorating the light posts with welcome balloons.

The riders, about 36 in all, are

traveling 533 miles to raise money for the American Cancer Society (85 percent) and Dreams Come True (15 percent), through pledges.

A rider is required to have pledges totaling at least \$1,000 to qualify for the ride.

They began the six-day ride in Waynesboro and ended in Palmerton, near Allentown. A stop for the night in Duncannon, where Susquehanna High School

hosted them, was day four of the trek, and the 50 riders turned the gym into a huge bedroom.

With inspiration from the weatherman, riders pushed their start time up to avoid the thunderstorms predicted for Friday afternoon.

Not rattled in the least by the early arrival, the welcome committee at Stonebridge had assorted juices and other beverages, fruit, bagels, hard-boiled

eggs and muffins ready.

"But the thing they like best are the smiley dudes," Staron said, referring to little yellow finger faces. Riders collect odd and curious stuff, she said, with the authority of being a rider herself.

The heat took a toll on several of the riders and a fall, on the back roads they prefer to travel, resulted in a broken collarbone.

Stonebridge got involved because Sodexo, its dietary company, is a sponsor of the ride.

The riders' goal was to raise at least \$125,000 and on Friday they surpassed that at \$130,848.

Readers wishing to donate to the cause may do so at pprac.net.



PEDAL PUSHERS — Riders from the Pennsylvania Perimeter Ride Against Cancer were guests at Stonebridge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Penn Twp., Aug. 5, on day five of a 500-plus mile benefit ride.

