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HD spurs rider to pedal the gulf

BY DEAN SHIPLEY
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It's two months away from "Pedal the Gulf" so Gary Heiman is back in the saddle again.

On a clear, but still cool early Spring Day, Heiman, of West Jefferson, rode his blue multi-speed bike to *The Madison Press* to begin training for the 1,000-mile, 12-day event.

Heiman rides every spare moment he can spin a crank.

He will Pedal the Gulf in an effort to raise awareness and money for the fight against Huntington's Disease (HD). The ride, which will be held June 8-20, travels from Galveston, Texas to Jacksonville, Fla.

Heiman's connection to HD comes through his wife, Barb. She is a social worker with the HDSA Central Ohio Chapter and the Ohio State University Center's Center of Excellence.

Because of that connection, Heiman said he has learned about HD.

"The more I learn about this disease, the more I feel the need to do something," he said. "I see people afflicted with this disease. You see how it affects

WEST JEFF MAN TO RAISE FUNDS TO FIGHT HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

them. It's debilitating."

Huntington's Disease is a neurological, genetic disease passed from parent to child through a mutation on the fourth chromosome. Each child of an HD parent has a 50-50 chance of inheriting the gene. It causes degeneration of brain cells, resulting in the loss of the ability to walk, think, talk, reason and swallow.

Onset generally appears in midlife.

A famous person with the disease was Woody Guthrie. An author, singer and songwriter, and hero of the folk movement of the '60s, HD robbed him of his talent and eventually took his life at age 55 in 1967.

Rides of this nature are fundraisers and Heiman is looking for sponsors on this his third ride for HD. He can be reached at gheiman2@juno.com



BY DEAN SHIPLEY/THE MADISON PRESS

Gary Heiman, of West Jefferson, will take his third fund-raising ride for Huntington's Disease cure in June. Just now he's seeking sponsorship. He can be reached at gheiman2@juno.com.