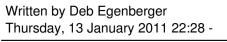
## Brady selected as host for 2011 BRAN kickoff



When Fred Jalass called Brady village clerk Pam Diehl and asked if the town would be interested in hosting the kickoff for this year's Bike Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN), all Diehl could say was, "Oh my gosh!"

"I just felt so honored that they would want to come to our little town," Diehl said.

She made a couple of phone calls and the next thing she knew Brady was officially named the starting point for BRAN 2011.

"I've been picking the route for BRAN since 1991," said Jalass, a co-chairman for the event in its 31st year. "Each year I try to give it a little different twist."

Jalass was attempting to make a "Killer B Tour" using all towns beginning with the letter B. He wanted the trip to start in south-central Nebraska and loop north, curving back to near Omaha.

"But that didn't work out," he said. "It was going to be too far between towns."

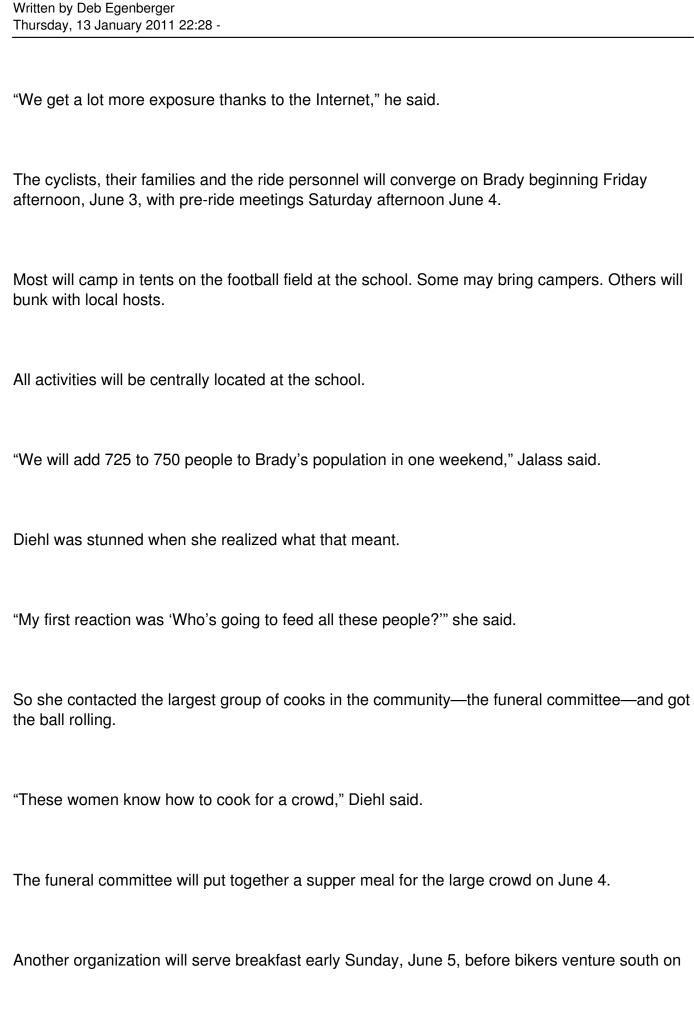
With a map on the wall and darts still marking all "B" towns, Jalass narrowed his choices for the starting point and landed on Brady.

"We like to get away from busy highways," he said. "North and south of the interstate is where you get to see the real beauty of the state."

The annual bicycle ride gathers roughly 600 cyclists from 35 different states besides Nebraska.

Riders also come from other countries.

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Written by Deb Egenberger Thursday, 13 January 2011 22:28 -

Banner Road toward Gothenburg. Concessions throughout the weekend will be provided by the Talon Power Booster Club.

"It's going to take a lot of coordination," Diehl said. "This is bigger, by far, than any Brady Days."

Jalass said the BRAN group prefers small towns for overnight stays because

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