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Around Town

A HEARTBEAT AWAY ... Palo Alto's plan to install automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at busy hubs throughout the city took a leap forward this week, when the City Council unanimously agreed to expand the existing network of life-saving devices. The push to buy and install more AEDs was jumpstarted by Stephanie

Martinson, whose nonprofit group Racing Hearts works to promote ways to address sudden cardiac arrest. The city began installing AEDs in 2013 and now has nearly 80 in community facilities, local parks and emergency-response vehicles. This week, the council voted to spend \$50,000 to buy and install 25 more AEDs. Three of these would be installed at Mitchell Park, Greer Park and the Cubberley Community Center playing fields. The remainder would be placed in city vehicles. The item was somehow left out of the proposed 2016 budget during the Finance Committee's review last month but was added to the budget on Monday by overwhelming consent. Martinson noted that the existing devices had been used nine times since installation. Councilman Greg Scharff strongly supported the purchase, noting that response times are a critical issue during heart attacks. "If an AED is next to you, you're going to be alive. If it's not, you're probably going to die or have permanent damage. ... Frankly, if it saves one person's life ... it's just the right thing to do and we should do it."

FINISH-LINE CELEBRATION ... Palo Alto stroke survivor Sean Maloney's Heart Across America team of cyclists is nearing the finish line in New York City despite the unexpected death of one cyclist and a fall that seriously injured Maloney. Maloney, who was sidelined by a devastating stroke in 2010, organized the cross-country bike ride to raise awareness about strokes. Maloney and his team left Palo Alto on March 22, but Maloney encountered a setback when he hit a large bump on a steep incline and was thrown off his bike in Boulevard, California, in April. While he recovered, his riding companions carried on with the ride. That was followed by the sudden death of teammate Don Brennen, 60, on April 25. Brennen was a retired AT&T database administrator from Pleasanton. The team is scheduled to complete its journey on Sunday, June 14, in New York City. Maloney is traveling in a van and may ride the final mile on a special bike. Andrea Brennen, the widow of Don Brennen, will also join in the final lap. Two days after the team arrives, the American Heart Association will hold its 100th anniversary Heart Ball, where Maloney is to be honored.

A WORLD WITHOUT T1D ... Palo Alto resident Charlie Glenwright has been selected by JDRF, a global organization funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research, to represent California at the 2015 Children's Congress, which will be held from July 13-15 in Washington D.C. Glenwright, 16, will join 160 other children — ages 4 to 17, and representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia — to remind members of Congress the "vital need to continue supporting research that aims to reduce the burden they all share of living with T1D, until a cure becomes available," according to JDRF.

WORLDLY VIEWPOINTS ... Eleven Stanford University students and alumni will spread across the world to pursue special projects funded by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program