



Konstandinos Goumenidis / Daily News

Despite losing his primary sponsor earlier this month, Palo Alto resident Martin Krieg, 55, is leaving Sunday on the seventh Mayors' Ride.

## BICYCLE RIDE

From page 1

But Krieg now finds himself without the thing he needs the most: financial support. The economic recession has claimed his sponsors, leaving him to cobble together the \$10,000 he estimates he'll need to make the trip, set to kick off Sunday.

Krieg has a lot riding on the line. The trip through 25 cities represents the seventh Mayors' Ride to drum up support for the National Bicycle Greenway concept, which envisions a country-wide network of bike paths linking bicycle-oriented cities. It's also a chance to make history, as there are no records of anyone riding an Eagle hiwheel bicycle from the West Coast to the East Coast.

"This is a Lewis and Clark-like expedition where I will be taking data collected from our six previous national Mayors' Rides and forming what will become the National Bicycle Greenway in the same way the Lincoln Highway first

connected New York with San Francisco in 1914 as a red line drawn on a map," Krieg said.

In years past, Krieg has coordinated the Mayors' Ride from his Palo Alto home, guiding relay teams from city to city and arranging meet-ups with mayors. This is the first year he has physically participated in one from start to finish, which has made raising funds especially critical. To manage the '09 Mayor's Ride on the road, Krieg says he'll need a support vehicle and mobile Internet access.

"I can't do that out of a sleeping bag," he joked.

As of Monday, Krieg had collected \$1,300 from family, friends and colleagues who support the greenway concept. That should cover the first 13 days of the 91-day trip, he said. Krieg is also hoping to fund the trip through sales of his 397-page Internet book "How America Can Bike and Grow Rich."

"It's an awesome challenge to ride across America on a hiwheel. Most of us couldn't get on one, let alone across America," said Palo Alto City Council Member Yoriko Kishimoto, who is sponsoring a couple of days and plans to join Krieg on the opening leg of the trip — Palo Alto to San Francisco. The ride concludes in Boston.

Once he hits the road, Krieg is counting on the oddly proportioned Eagle, with its 50-inch rear wheel, both to draw attention to his cause and spur more people to open their pocketbooks.

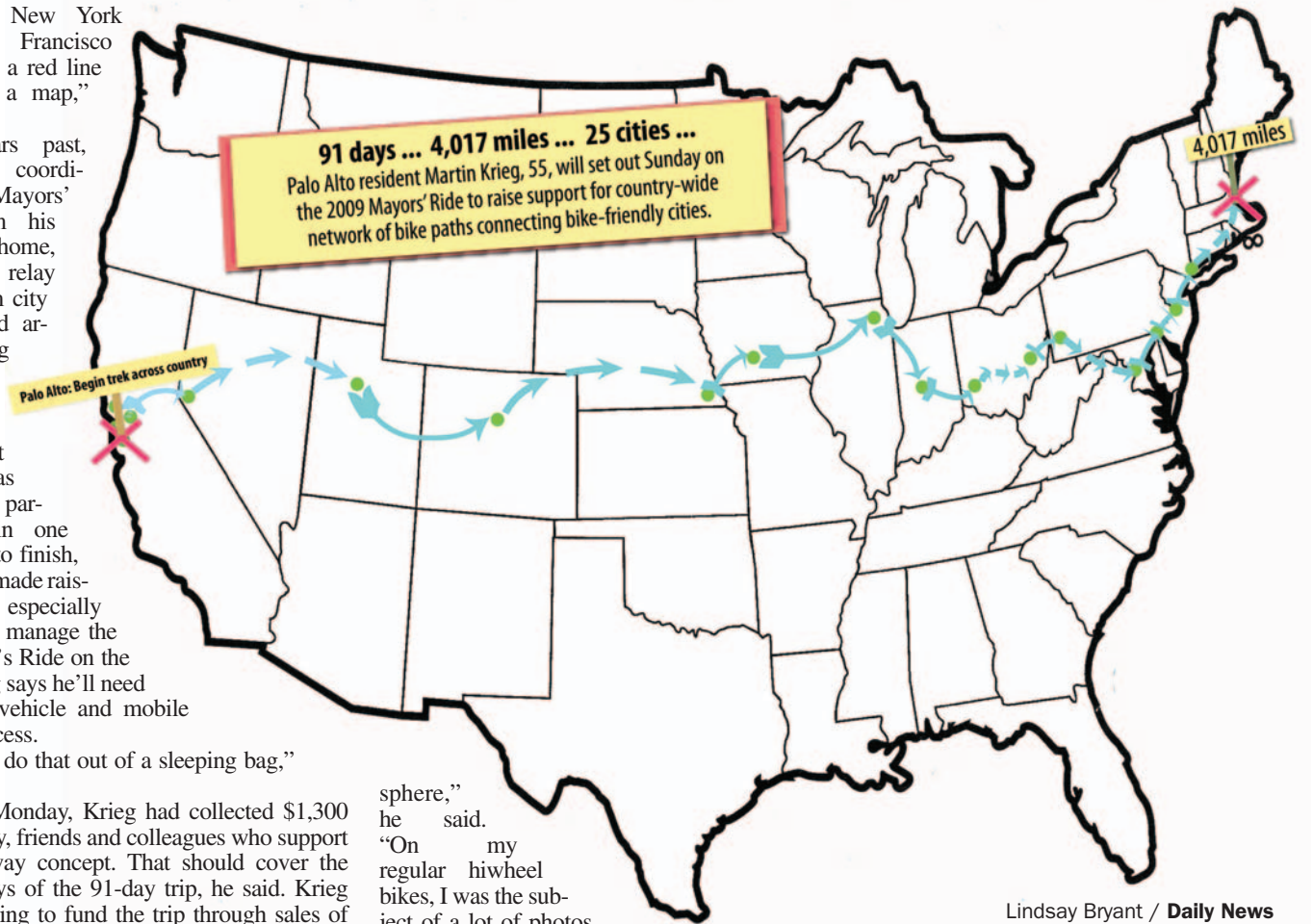
"It is the only one in use in the Western Hemisphere,"

he said.

"On my regular hiwheel bikes, I was the subject of a lot of photos and videos. However, everywhere I go on the Eagle, there are probably three times as many cameras and cell phone cameras aimed at me."

The bike also turned heads in 1890 when it debuted, said Jim Spillane Sr., 87, who built Krieg's Eagle to mark the design's 100th birthday. It allowed cyclists to climb grades, had a brake, and wasn't nearly as dangerous to ride as a front-heavy, conventional hiwheel.

"You couldn't take a header on one," Spillane said in a telephone interview from his Connecticut home. "If you fell off, you hit the back of your head so you could have an open coffin."



Lindsay Bryant / Daily News

Still, Spillane couldn't think of a better old-fashioned bicycle to take on a cross-country trip.

"It might break down, but I doubt it," he said. "I don't know if (Martin) will make it, but he deserves a pat on the back for even attempting it. ... He's going to be doing a lot of pedaling."

For more information about the Mayors' Ride and how to sponsor Krieg, visit [www.nationalbicyclegreenway.com](http://www.nationalbicyclegreenway.com).

E-mail Jason Green at [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com).

## College Terrace Centre and JJ&F need your support



### College Terrace Centre includes:

- JJ&F returns to a bigger and better store
- New neighborhood serving retail and office space to enliven an outdated block
- Creation of 14 townhouses rented at below market rate

**City Hall needs to hear your voice! Please come out and support the JJ&F family and the College Terrace Centre proposal.**

**Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 PM**

Project Briefing w/ Refreshments and Planning and Transportation Commission Hearing  
Palo Alto City Hall -- Council Chambers  
250 Hamilton Avenue

## Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection

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Take back your used fluorescent bulbs to these Retail Recycling Partners:

Fluorescent tubes also contain mercury. To recycle tubes, please call San Mateo County's Household Hazardous Waste Program for recycling options at 650-372-6200. View drop-off locations online, or make an appointment to dispose of other household hazardous waste at: [www.smhhealth.org/hhw](http://www.smhhealth.org/hhw).

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