

Pay, benefits jump in city's proposed budget

BY BREENA KERR
Daily Post Staff Writer

Palo Alto would spend \$10 million more on salaries and benefits in the coming fiscal year than it did the year before if a new budget proposed last night is approved by City Council.

Among other things, the 500-page budget proposes a 7% increase in employee compensation for the fiscal year that starts July 1. The budget proposes spending \$150.3 million on [See BUDGET, page 30]

Daily Post

Locally owned, independent

228 ELEANOR DRIVE
WOODSIDE

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:00-5:00PM



Ken DeLeon
DeLeon Realty
(650) 543-8500
ken@deleonrealty.com



Mountain lion prowls streets

Tranquilizer dart finally stops him

BY JERAMY GORDON
Daily Post Associate Editor

A game warden used a tranquilizer gun to subdue an adult male mountain lion who was holed up in the garage of a Mountain View apartment complex last night.

Mountain View police received two

911 calls at around 6:45 p.m. yesterday from residents who said they saw the adult male cougar prowling around Rengstorff Park in the 200 block of S. Rengstorff Avenue.

Police from Mountain View, Palo [See LION, page 30]

CAT NAP — A mountain lion was knocked out by a tranquilizer dart after finding his way to a Mountain View garage last night. Photo courtesy of Mountain View police.



THE UPDATE

Dow -129.53 16,401.02	Nasdaq -57.30 4,080.76	Oil +0.02 99.50
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------

Gold 1,308.30 **-0.70** NY COMEX close
courtesy of Mish Int'l (650) 324-9110

WARRIORS FIRE COACH: Mark Jackson, who coached the Warriors to their two best seasons in 25 years, was fired yesterday in what observers said was his inability to mesh with the team's management. Jackson, a fundamentalist Christian minister in his off hours, was less than supportive when Jason Collins came out as the NBA's first gay player, which may not have set well with Warriors president Rick Welts, who is openly gay.

KILL SWITCH: After the California Legislature voted down a bill that would require kill switches in smartphones to prevent thefts, San Francisco Supervisor London Breed is proposing the same law in that city. The Legislature will reconsider its decision on the kill switch tomorrow.

NIGERIAN KIDNAPPINGS: Nigeria yesterday defended its response to the kidnapping of hundreds of schoolgirls [See THE UPDATE, page 4]

Hooker issue dogs sheriff

BY ANGELA RUGGIERO
Daily Post Staff Writer



MUNKS

Mark De Paula, who is running for San Mateo County supervisor, said he keeps hearing the same question as he goes door to door seeking votes — was Sheriff Greg Munks ever exonerated when he was caught in a prostitution sting in Las Vegas seven years ago?

question, "Have you been exonerated by the FBI regarding Operation Dollhouse?" referring to the name of the sting operation.

Candidate confronts him over prostitution sting in Las Vegas

So on Monday, when De Paula was at an event at the College of San Mateo, he spotted Munks and decided to ask the sheriff about it face to face.

De Paula asked him if he could simply respond "yes or no" to the

De Paula said Munks looked at him, said he would not answer the question and walked away. Munks then went to sheriff's Capt. Mark Wyss and said, "This guy probably doesn't belong here," according to De Paula.

De Paula said that he and Wyss [See SHERIFF, page 30]

Whose street is it anyway?

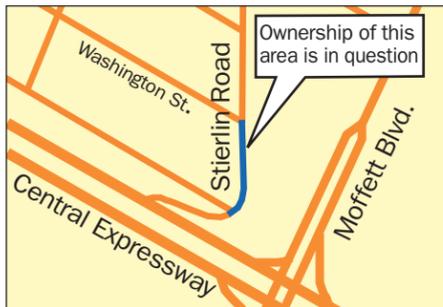
Successors of early settler named in suit

BY ANGELA RUGGIERO
Daily Post Staff Writer

The survivors of one of the earliest settlers of Mountain View have been named in a lawsuit filed by the city to settle the question of who owns a one-

block section of a street where the city wants to build a bike path.

Stierlin Road has been used as a Mountain View street for more than 100 years. But recently city employees discovered they didn't have a deed for a portion of the street that's behind the North County Social Services building and near the Central Expressway-Moffett [See STREET, page 30]



BEFAST

Know the signs of stroke

Stroke is a medical emergency. For any sign of stroke **CALL 911!** Every minute counts.



Hospital & Clinics

To learn more about Stanford's Stroke center, please visit stanfordhospital.org/strokemonth or call 650.723.6469



Google Shopping Express

When you can get delivery from all of your favorite stores in 24 hours or less, relief is never more than a few clicks away. google.com/expressT

BUDGET

those expenses from July to June 2015. In the current fiscal year, which ends in June, the city will spend \$140 million on those same employees. In the previous year, the city spent \$134.5 million.

Other than a few brief questions, council members didn't have much to say about the budget, in large part because they received the massive binders during their meeting and had only a few minutes to prepare for questions. But the council will review the budget and vote to approve it in the coming weeks.

Salaries and benefits for Palo Alto's 1,036 employees will cost taxpayers an average of \$157,088 each, according to the budget.

Contract negotiations

Last month, City Council approved raises for the city's 582 SEIU employees ranging between 4.5% and 14.3%.

The next largest employee group, with 213 members, is the city's managers and professionals. The city also employs 99 firefighters, 83 police officers, 46 utilities department managers, seven police department managers and five fire department managers.

The police and fire unions are in the midst of negotiating new contracts.

Police managers would make the most on average of all city employees, with \$179,136 in salary next year, not including benefits. Utilities Department management professionals would make the second most, on average, netting \$133,139 without benefits. The SEIU employees would make the least, netting \$70,659 without benefits, according to the proposed budget.

Thousands in overtime

For overtime work, police and firefighters would make the most. On average, each firefighter would take home \$14,388 annually in OT while police officers would get an average \$13,815 annually.

The city budget shows taxpayers are going to spend a lot of money contributing toward the pensions of city workers. Police and fire pension contributions are the highest on a per-employee basis.

The city's pension contribution for police managers will be \$59,903 on average, according to the proposed budget. Police officers' pensions are the next most expensive, costing \$42,688 each, followed by firefighters pensions at an annual average cost of \$42,289, and fire chiefs' pensions at \$41,828.

Firefighters and police officers would also cost the most in workers' compensation, between \$12,146 and \$12,887 each, on average. The same is true of

medical benefits. Medical benefits for police managers would cost the city \$19,392 each next year while medical benefits for firefighters and police officers trail close behind at around \$18,500 for each employee.

LION

Alto and Los Altos responded, evacuated the park and surrounded the area with officers to search for the big cat. Residents were told to stay in doors.

The mountain lion headed west a couple of blocks and crossed California Street.

Cornered in a garage

At about 8:45 p.m., police found the mountain lion in the garage of the Casa del Rey apartment complex at 2035 California St., west of the park.

Police cornered the cougar in the garage while scores of residents watched. The Department of Fish and Wildlife was called in to remove the cat.

"They've had it cornered down there for quite a while," said Tori Valencia, who lives in an apartment across the street.

At about 11:15, a game warden shot the mountain lion with a tranquilizer dart. It sounded as if he fired four shots, though that couldn't be confirmed.

Territory dispute

Police said the reason it took so long to shoot the tranquilizer at the cat was because the game warden was missing a part of his tranquilizer gun.

"They got it," one onlooker shouted as the crowd cheered.

"The mountain lion is safe as is our community," police said in a statement last night.

Police suspect the mountain lion may have been pushed out of the rural hills in a territory dispute with another mountain lion.

The mountain lion was wearing an electronic-monitoring collar from the UC-Santa Cruz's mountain lion habitat study. The tag identified the animal as "46-M."

Palo Alto episode recalled

The situation ended much differently than an incident a decade ago in Palo Alto when police shot and killed a mountain lion that had climbed into a tree in a residential neighborhood, setting off a public uproar.

On May 17, 2004, in a quiet Palo Alto neighborhood, police received several calls from residents who saw a 99-pound male mountain lion roaming the street. After searching for hours, police found the cougar in a tree on Walnut Drive near Walter Hays Drive.

Police cited "public safety" when they opted to shoot the mountain lion with a high-powered AR-15 assault rifle rather than a tranquilizer gun, a decision then-police chief Lynn Johnson defended, saying people's safety should come before animals.

SHERIFF

Went outside the auditorium to talk, and De Paula explained why he was asking his question. He gave Wyss his card and asked that the sheriff contact him. He hasn't heard back.

The Post contacted Munks' office to get his side of the conversation. Wyss said Munks was in a meeting yesterday and was unable to respond. But Wyss confirmed that he spoke with De Paula. Wyss said he does not remember the sheriff saying that De Paula did not belong at the event, and said he did not know exactly what Munks and De Paula said to each other.



DE PAULA

Wyss said to his knowledge, the sheriff never was officially investigated in connection with Operation Dollhouse. Munks and Undersheriff Carlos Bolanos were in Las Vegas on April 21, 2007, to participate in a foot race for law enforcement. Afterward, they visited a massage parlor about 2 miles off the Las Vegas strip. While prostitution is legal in many parts of Nevada, it's against the law in Clark County, where Las Vegas is located.

No charges

When police raided the massage parlor, Munks and Bolanos were detained, identified and released without being charged.

Munks held a brief news conference following the incident and said, "I believed I was going to a legitimate business - it was not. (I won't) be answering any more questions or talking about this anymore in the future."

He has declined to be interviewed about the incident since then. In 2009, when a Post reporter, during an interview about other law enforcement subjects, asked Munks about the incident, he clammed up and refused to talk about it.

Questions keep coming

But the questions keep coming up. In February, at a "Stop Human Trafficking" press conference where several officials were on hand including Munks, a woman in the audience asked Munks if he should be involved in such an event since human trafficking victims are often forced into prostitution. Munks did not respond.

De Paula, who is running for the San Mateo supervisor seat against incumbent Carole Groom in the June primary, pointed out that he and Munks are Republicans. De Paula said his fellow Republicans wanted to know if Munks had ever been exonerated. De Paula said he has heard the same question from voters as he campaigns.

The encounter Monday was at an event called "Beyond Newton," where the mother of a child killed in the Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012 spoke.

Capt. Wyss said Munks asked him to handle the situation with De Paula on Monday because the sheriff was about to speak to the group. Wyss said the

music had just been turned off, signaling the time for Munks to go on stage.

"If an individual who holds the highest law enforcement position in the county reacts the way he did when I asked them that question discreetly" he shouldn't be in office, De Paula said.

De Paula said he will ask Munks for his resignation.

Munks is running in the June election unopposed except for write-in candidate Juan Lopez, a 26-year veteran deputy sheriff. Lopez would have been on the ballot except that he was six minutes late filing his signatures at the county elections department.

STREET

fett Boulevard intersection.

The land in question was a small part of what was known as Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas, a vast estate that the Mexican government granted to Francisco Estrada in 1842. Estrada built the first permanent residence in Mountain View at what is now the intersection of Central Expressway and Rengstorff Avenue.

When Estrada died in 1845, the land was then transferred to the parents of his wife, Maria Trinidad Peralta de Castro and Mariano de Castro. Castro Street was named after the family.

After Mariano died, the property passed Maria, who is believed to be the last person to own the property. She died in 1872.

MARIA TRINIDAD PERALTA de CASTRO

Calling all successors

The lawsuit filed Friday in Santa Clara County Superior Court names the successors, if any, of Maria Trinidad Peralta de Castro.

City Attorney Jannie Quinn said the city has been operating under the assumption that the property was city property and have maintained it as a public road. In 1949, the city even purchased land to widen the road there.

Now the city wants to build a bicycle and pedestrian pathway on the road. But while researching the project, city employees discovered the city doesn't have the title to the 4,718 square feet in question.

Apartments going up nearby

City Council also approved of a nearby 184-unit luxury apartment project at 100 Moffett Boulevard and Central Expressway by the Prometheus Real Estate Group.

As part of the lawsuit, Quinn said the city will place a public notice in a newspaper asking that any potential heirs of Castro come forward.

The suit identifies Crisanto Castro IV, of Placer County, and Suzanne Laurier-Castro Vinal, of Foster City, as descendants of Castro.

With the suit, the city is asking a judge to rule that the street belongs to the city, so the bike and pedestrian path can be built.

Seniors to double by 2050

The number of people age 65 and older in the U.S. will double by 2050, the Census Bureau said yesterday. By 2056, the number of seniors will be larger than the number of those 18 and younger.

How much is your **good driving record** worth?

YOU COULD SAVE \$395*



Auto and home insurance from

Call for a **FREE** consultation
(650) 752-6720

*Savings amounts are based on information from The Hartford's AARP Auto Insurance Program customers who became new auto insurance policyholders between 7/1/12 and 6/30/13 and provided data regarding their savings. Your savings may vary.



Kelsi Gordon

kgordon@BrashearsInsurance.com
CA License #0H06816

Brashears
A SYNCHRONIZED APPROACH TO INSURANCE