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ATHERTON EAST PALO ALTO LOS ALTOS LOS ALTOS HILLS MENLO PARK MOUNTAIN VIEW PALO ALTO PORTOLA VALLEY REDWOOD CITY SAN CARLOS STANFORD WOODSIDE

MENLO PARK
Fire district sued for overtime

■ Firefighters demand to be paid for time spent picking up uniform, gear

BY BONNIE ESSLINGER
 Daily News Staff Writer

Menlo Park firefighters say they deserve overtime pay for the time they spend picking up uniforms and other gear before their shifts actually begin, according to a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court on Thursday.

The federal labor lawsuit brought against the Menlo Park Fire Protection District alleges the agency has refused to compensate firefighters for the time they spend before their shifts driving to one station to pick up equipment and then driving to a second station where they are assigned to work. The firefighters say they should be paid one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for the effort.

A total of 82 Menlo Park Fire Protection District firefighters are listed as plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which seeks relief under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

According to the lawsuit, the firefighters do not have access to their work records and are "unable to state at this time the exact amounts owing to them."

The lawsuit also charges that the fire district has refused "to include annual leave payout in the calculation of the regular rate" of pay, so as to be factored into overtime calculations. This "wrongly deprives the plaintiffs of the premium overtime compensation due to them," the suit states.

The firefighters want "monetary damages in the form of full back pay compensation, liquidated damages equal to their unpaid compensation, plus interest," according to the lawsuit.

The attorney who filed the lawsuit on behalf of the firefighters, Duane W. Reno, of San Francisco-based law firm Davis & Reno, was not immediately available for comment. A representative for the Menlo Park Firefighters Association was also unavailable Thursday night.

In an e-mail to The Daily News, **LAWSUIT**, page A5



Kirstina Sangsahachart / Daily News

Lilly DeJesus, center, talks to reporters during a rally outside the home of Republican gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman in Atherton on Thursday. Hundreds of nurses rallied outside the Edge Road residence in "response to a decision by candidate Whitman to mount an offensive attack directly against the" California Nurses Association, union officials said.

Bringing the issues to the front door

■ Nurses against Whitman rally outside her Atherton residence

BY SHAUN BISHOP
 Daily News Staff Writer

The tree-lined Atherton street where Meg Whitman lives was overrun Thursday afternoon by roughly 1,000 nurses clad in red scrubs, who staged a rally and political skit in front of the Republican gubernatorial candidate's home to demonstrate their opposition.

As curious neighbors watched, nurses from around the state arrived in dozens of buses and marched along Edge Road for a 1 p.m. demonstration organized by the California Nurses Association.

Whitman wasn't home — she was at a campaign event in Southern California — but the rally still attracted local print and TV media and three dozen police officers from around San Mateo County, who kept an eye on the peaceful protest.

"We gotta beat back the Whitman attack!" the nurses chanted as they walked down the street flanked by multimillion-dollar residences while a plane circled overhead with banner reading, "Nurses say no to Whitman." The union supports Whitman's Democratic rival, state Attorney General Jerry Brown.

Speaking with reporters, union leaders criticized Whitman, a billionaire and former eBay CEO, who they said is trying to buy the governor's office by spending millions of dollars of her own money on the campaign.



Elain Burn plays "Queen Meg" during a political skit in front of the Atherton home of Republican gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman.

As the crowd of nurses gathered in front of Whitman's white, two-story home, an actress portraying "Queen Meg," complete with a formal dress and a crown, confronted a person wearing a costume shaped like the state of California.

"You are mine, all mine! I'm buying you fair and square!" said Queen Meg, flanked by two bodyguards in suits wearing "Goldman" and "Sachs" sashes, as she pushed the California state actor to the ground.

In a statement released by Whitman's campaign, Alice Hansen, a retired nurse and member of the newly formed Nurses For Meg Whitman Coalition, pointed to a survey commissioned by the campaign that found

WHITMAN, page A5

HP plans campus closure

■ Thousands to move from Cupertino offices to Palo Alto

BY BRANDON BAILEY
 Bay Area News Group

Computer giant Hewlett-Packard said Thursday that it plans to close its longtime campus in Cupertino, while transferring several thousand workers to its Palo Alto headquarters over the next two years.

The announcement is a blow to the city of Cupertino, said Mayor Kris Wang, who added that the city gets tax revenue from HP's operations in her city.

The 100-acre campus has been home to some of HP's personal computer division as well as some of HP's commercial software and hardware units. It's also the site of a high-tech "customer briefing center," where HP holds meetings and shows off some of its wares to corporate clients.

"Closing the Cupertino site is a big change, and we recognize that the transition will touch all Bay Area employees in some way," said Pete Bocian, HP's chief administrative officer, in a memo sent to employees Thursday.

By consolidating operations in Palo Alto, he added, HP "will create a more productive, flexible, ecological and highly energized work environment."

HP, which has more than 300,000 employees worldwide, has gone through several waves

HP, page A5

PALO ALTO

Report offers next steps to prevent more teen suicides

BY JESSE DUNGAN
 Daily News Staff Writer

A community task force created in response to a series of teenage suicides on the Caltrain tracks in Palo Alto issued a report this week recommending that the city and school district each assign a senior-level employee to steer youth mental health and suicide prevention efforts.

The Project Safety Net Task Force also urges the Palo Alto Unified School District to bolster the mental health aspect of its K-12 health education curriculum.

Rob de Geus, a Palo Alto city recreation services manager and co-chair of Project Safety Net, said the report is a "description of what we've experienced last year as a community and how we as a community responded to that." He said it also addresses "where do we go from here."

The task force hopes the report will be used in policy making and community decision

MENTAL HEALTH, page A5

LOCAL

Gun activists seek discipline for cop

Group to rally Tuesday to protest response to East Palo Alto detective's Facebook comments / A3

BUSINESS

Restrictions on Wall Street pass

Congress OKs major financial oversight bill; Obama could sign into law by Wednesday / A9

FUSION

Author appearance

Writer and artist Belle Yang speaks at Kepler's Books / B6



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