



Vol. 18 No. 3
October 11, 2018

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Police Blotter Page 9

All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



HOMETOWN NEWS

Great Pumpkin Page 4

Huge gourd delivered to downtown produce stand.

7	1	6	3
4	8	2	5
6	9	8	1
3	2	7	4
1	5	4	9
2	7	3	8

THE PUZZLES PAGE

Sudoku & more Page 4

Sharpen your pencils for that newspaper tradition!



ISLAND ARTS

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Two new exhibitions open at mid-Island gallery.



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A recap of all the stuff that just opened on the West End.

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:13	18:39
Oct. 12	7:14	18:37
Oct. 13	7:15	18:36
Oct. 14	7:16	18:34
Oct. 15	7:17	18:33
Oct. 16	7:18	18:32
Oct. 17	7:19	18:30

Article Targets Island's Mayor

Staff claims mayor took city money

Eric J. Kos

Alameda Mayor Trish Spencer whose re-election campaign is currently underway, was the subject of an article in the *East Bay Express* titled "Alameda Mayor Trish Spencer Has Yet to Return Missing Funds." Spencer describes the story as "incomplete, at best." Spencer came to the *Alameda Sun* last week to share documentation and refute the allegations in the article.

At the crux of the matter are two \$50 checks dated February and August 2017 intended to pay for the mayor's ticket to a dinner at "The League of California Cities." City staff claims that Spencer, or her husband, deposited the checks, but never paid the League.

Spencer said that she has tried several times to resolve this matter with staff over the intervening year and a half, by having them meet at her bank, and has been unable to have the staff do so.

"My staff won't work with me," she said. "It's like a hostile work environment."

Staff requested security camera footage from Wells Fargo to attempt to prove the Spencers' wrongdoing, but bank searches of her account using the check numbers and time frame in question produced no results. Copies of the checks from the bank show no endorsements on their backs.

Spencer says that she has attended thousands of events in the years she has served as mayor and a school board member. "Do you think [Oakland Mayor] Libby [Schaff] has to go to events carrying \$50 checks?" asked Spencer. "Her staff takes care of that for her."

Spencer informed staff last year to put stop payments on the checks as she believes they may have been lost.

"My bank could find no record of any \$50 checks being negotiated in the entire year of 2017," wrote Spencer in a statement on social media. "I went back to the office, staff and I called my bank and my bank confirmed that to staff. I emailed staff confirming that my bank couldn't find the checks and offered to meet staff at my bank so that they could resolve the issue directly. Staff declined. The city was made whole by their bank and closed the issue."

That was the last anyone had heard of the matter until the Sept. 18 City Council meeting (which also happened to be Spencer's birthday) when the author of the *Express* article, Steven Tavares, confronted Spencer. "As I was leaving the meeting he told me he'd received a package with documents and that, 'campaigns get nasty.'"

According to Spencer, documents were somehow delivered to Tavares, not in the normal course of business via a Public Information Request. "There have only recently been Public Information Requests for these documents and staff has not yet responded," she stated.

Her supporters questioned the timing of the story's release when the issue had apparently been resolved. Detractors cite the irony of how Spencer frequently scolds people about "the people's money" at Council meetings, but cannot see the ethical issue of depositing City of Alameda checks and forgetting about them.

Board Approves Moving Forward on Cove Project

Ekene Ikeme

The City of Alameda Planning Board has recommended that the zoning designation for a site housing a 78,000-square-foot former federal government facility on Central Avenue be amended to create a wellness center for homeless seniors. The recommendation was made at the Monday, Oct. 8, Planning Board meeting.

Currently, the land has a zoning designation of Administrative-Professional (A-P) District, with a Special Government Combining District (G) Overlay, according to a city memorandum. The proposed project will remove the G Overlay designation. Also, there will be a General Plan amendment to change the land-use designation from Federal Facilities to Office. The A-P district designation allows for medical facilities and clinics, rest homes, nursing homes, convalescent homes and sanitariums — all consistent with future plans for the property.

The property, which is owned by the federal government, was constructed in 1942 to support a training facility and barracks for the U.S. Maritime service during World War II. The building is being leased by Alameda Point Collaborative (APC) to create the McKay Wellness Center.

APC Executive Director Doug Biggs said the center would consist of 90 housing units for formerly homeless individuals including some with "complex and chronic medical and psychosocial condi-

tions." The facility will also include a 50-bed medical respite center, a resource center to help recently homeless Alameda residents locate housing and a 7,000-square-foot primary care clinic for outpatient services.

City staff supports the plan because it satisfies some of Alameda's General Plan Housing Element goals. Goal number two of the plan aims to "provide housing that meets the City's diverse housing needs, specifically including affordable housing, special needs housing and senior housing." The center also received approval from residents and the City of Alameda Social Service Human Relations Board at the meeting.

However, members of Friends of Crab Cove — a collaborative organization consisting of persons representing neighborhoods, businesses and schools adjacent to the main entrance to Crab Cove Regional Park — disapprove of the center, which will be located at 620 Central Ave. down McKay from the Crab Cove Visitor Center. Members who spoke at the board meeting cite safety concerns for their disapproval. Members are gathering signatures to get a measure on the ballot to change the zoning designation to Open Space, which will prevent the formation of the wellness center. Biggs told the board that he believes the facility will be safe.

City Council will vote whether to approve the project in December.



Mike Rosati

Community Organizer Amos White (with bullhorn) addresses the crowd outside Alameda City Hall that rallied to oppose the appointment of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Local Activists Hold Vigil to Oppose Judge

Alamedans gather to send message to U.S. senators

Sun Staff Reports

Local activists, concerned constituents and community leaders gathered at City Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 3, to send senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein a clear message: Vote "no" on Brett Kavanaugh's nomination. The activists cited that his "hostility toward women and lack of credibility make him unfit to serve a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court."

Protestors also brought to attention his record against women's health and workplace protections, sexual assault allegations against him and the anger he displayed to female U.S. senators.

"The vigil was a success," said Lynn LaRocca of All Rise Alameda who helped organize the event. "There was amazing solidarity and community spirit of all genders and races and creeds there who came together, as Alameda always does." The group sang and shared stories.

About 75 local residents, men and women equally, came out to City Hall to share their own stories of sexual violence and to speak out against the confirmation of Kavanaugh. Alameda resident Rosemary Jordan spoke about why men need to come forward, support the movement and believe women and the survivors of sexual assault and violence.

"[Men] need to be part of this conversation!" Jordan told the crowd. She invited five volunteers to come forward and hold signs of the five U.S. Senators' names and office numbers, each of a different state, who were uncommitted in their support against the Kavanaugh confirmation at the time of the vigil.

A father of school-aged children in Alameda schools came forward to speak about his own experience with sexual assault when he was a young child and how it affected him. "This is why I support the #BelieveWomen movement," he said.

The vigil was sponsored by local Alameda community groups that included: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) People Power — Alameda, All Rise Alameda, Alameda Nasty Women and Solidarity Sundays Bay Area. National partners included the ACLU, Center for Popular Democracy Action, CREDO, Indivisible, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Mom's Rising, MoveOn, NARAL, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood and UltraViolet.

Organizers also planned a Black Friday walkout last Friday, Oct. 5, in response to the Senate's anticipated Friday Cloture vote. They say they will also organize Alameda women and other groups to action should the Senate vote to confirm Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh was sworn in Saturday, Oct. 6.

His opposition plans to show the country that women will hold Republicans accountable for the appointment on Tuesday, Nov. 6.



Fred Breckenridge, 29, Oakland railroad employee, is shown as he walked into the Bay at Alameda today for an eight-mile swim to Treasure Island. Four hours and 35 minutes later he reached the island to become the first person to swim to the Fair. In the boat which accompanied him are Jack Owens (left), his trainer, and Henry Johnson. —Tribune photo.

Swim Feat Leads to More Swim Research

John Berg

Craig Coombs' record-breaking swim around Alameda ("Local to Attempt Setting Record for Swimming around the Island City," Sept. 6) prompted me to investigate my grandfather's record swims. As I looked through my grandmother's belongings, I came upon several newspaper clippings documenting my grandpa's records.

In the fall of 1939, America was emerging from the Great Depression and the Bay Area had two newly constructed iconic suspension bridges, the Golden Gate Bridge and the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge. To celebrate, Treasure Island had been created in the middle of the San Francisco Bay to serve as the venue for the 1939 World's Fair, the Golden Gate International Exposition.

A young man named Fred Breckenridge, who happened to be my grandfather, became the first person to swim from Alameda to Treasure Island on Sept. 8, 1939. He was 29 years old. At the time, the Bay Area was getting a great deal of national attention, Grandpa

decided to attract a little publicity for Alameda's Washington Park Beach where he swam daily. "It's a swell place for swimming," he said.

The difficult eight-mile open-water swim took Grandpa just four hours and 35 minutes, though he had to contend with very strong currents and saltwater burning his eyes. Grandpa's coach, Jack Owens, and official time keeper, Henry Johnson, followed him in a row boat. When Grandpa climbed onto the dock at the Port of the Trade Winds on Treasure Island, a welcoming committee from the World's Fair was on hand to greet him. After chatting with fair officials and reporters, Grandpa took a brief break and showered at the Treasure Island fire house.

When Grandpa returned to the row boat for the trip home, he saw that Owens and Johnson "looked a little tired" so Grandpa rowed back to Alameda. "That's what made me tired," Grandpa said.

In addition to several swims to Treasure Island, on Sept. 9, 1940, Grandpa swam from Pier 35 in San

SWIM: Page 9



Courtesy photo

Car Show Coming Up

Sun Staff Reports

Downtown Alameda will host the Silver Anniversary Classic Car Show this coming Saturday, Oct. 13. Hundreds of classic cars will line Park Street all day. Merchants will offer specials and DJs will spin the oldies. Find out all the details in special features about the show on pages 5 and 11.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Food Waste Meeting Set

Wasted food is one of the biggest contributors to climate change. More than 40 percent of food produced in the United States is wasted. In fact, if wasted food was a country, it would be the third-largest producer of carbon dioxide in the world, after the U.S. and China.

To address this issue Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) will show the award-winning film *Just Eat It*, celebrate local organizations that are working to reduce food waste and hear from a panel of experts about what can be done to stop wasting food.

The film screening is set for Wednesday, Oct. 17, in the Grand Ballroom at the Alameda Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Ave. Tickets cost \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door or \$10 for students with scholarships available.

Find out more at casa-alameda.org/event/casa-movie-night-fundraiser or write to info@casa-alameda.org.

City's Annual

Retail Job Fair is Today

The City of Alameda is co-sponsoring its fourth annual Retail Job Fair for permanent and temporary holiday-season positions available at the Alameda Landing and South Shore shopping centers, and other nearby locations. The fair will be held today, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the South Shore Shopping Center.

The fair will have hiring representatives from regional and local employers on site. Currently, 19 businesses have registered with more than 250 open positions. Job seekers should come prepared with resumes and dressed in interview-appropriate attire.

Register at 18alamedajobfair.eventbrite.com.