

# Bay area leaders strive to protect speech, prevent violence

## Dueling rallies pose challenges

By PAUL ELIAS and JANIE HAR  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Police and civic leaders in the cradle of America's free speech movement will struggle to balance liberty of expression with safeguards against violence as demonstrators with varying political viewpoints travel to the San Francisco Bay Area for dueling rallies throughout the weekend.

On Saturday, a politically conservative group called Patriot Prayer will host a "freedom rally" near the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, over the vociferous objections of San Francisco's Mayor Ed Lee and other Democratic leaders who say the group invites hate. On Sunday, a transsexual supporter of President Donald Trump plans a "No to Marxism in America" event in a downtown city park in nearby Berkeley.

Opponents will mobilize too, including clowns and drag queens as well as an anti-Trump organization that has sometimes supported violent tactics.

The challenge for law enforcement comes after an Aug. 12 rally of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia that turned deadly, killing one counter-protester and two state troopers. Police in both California cities traditionally have given demonstrators a wide berth, even when rallies in recent years turned violent as protesters from both the left and the right have punched people, destroyed property and engaged in violence.

But the deaths and injuries in Charlottesville have police, civic leaders and civil rights groups in the San Francisco area and across the United States rethinking how to respond to hate speech and how to manage competing protests.

The American Civil Liberties Union said it will no lon-



Pepper spray is used as anti and pro-Donald Trump protesters clash during competing demonstrations at Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park in Berkeley, Calif., in April.



Crissy Field is the site of a rally Saturday by the conservative group Patriot Prayer. Northern California police and civic leaders are hoping for calm, but bracing for violence this weekend when hundreds, possibly thousands, of demonstrators of all stripes flock to the San Francisco Bay Area for dueling political rallies.



A demonstrator guards the speakers area during a rally for free speech in Berkeley, Calif., in April.

ger represent hate groups that demonstrate with weapons after it was criticized for persuading a judge to let the Charlottesville protest go forward. In Boston last weekend, police successfully separated tens of thousands of people shouting anti-Nazi and anti-KKK slogans who showed up to protest a much smaller conservative "free speech" rally — but drawing some complaints that the

speakers didn't get to be heard. "We're in an interesting situation no question about it, where the Bay Area, known for its protection of speech is also known for how much it deplores discrimination and hate speech," said Julie Nice, a constitutional law professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law. She said police are in a tough spot because they are

constitutionally obligated to protect even hateful speech until the point that speech crosses the line into violence. In the San Francisco area, protesters this weekend will face more restrictions and beefed-up police powers than in the past. The Berkeley City Council has expanded the authority of police to confiscate eggs, sticks and other perceived weapons, a posi-

tion defended by Berkeley's mayor despite the politically liberal city's reputation as the birthplace of the free speech movement and a bastion of tolerance. Mayor Jesse Arreguin said this week he is tired of his city being targeted by people who show up in military wear and support positions that he calls anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, and anti-gay.

"We have gone above and beyond to facilitate the right for all voices to be heard. What we don't stand for is violence, what we don't stand for is vandalism and we don't stand for thuggery," he said. "What we don't tolerate is people using the concept of freedom of speech to commit violence."

Student activism was born during the 1960s free-speech movement at Berkeley, when thousands of students at the university there mobilized to demand that the school drop its ban on political activism. More recently, the University of California at Berkeley has come under criticism for what some have characterized as suppression of unpopular views.

In February, officials at the University of California at Berkeley were forced to cancel a talk by right-wing provocateur and Trump supporter Milo Yiannopoulos after black-clad protesters hurled smoke bombs and sparked a huge bonfire.

Amber Cummings, who is organizing the rally against Marxism, said racists and hate groups are not invited to her Sunday event. But the anti-Trump group By Any Means Necessary has vowed to shut down the Berkeley rally and authorities worry the two sides could clash.

In San Francisco, the park service issued a permit for the Portland, Oregon-based Patriot Prayer gathering, but banned more than two dozen items, including guns, helmets and tiki torches. They're also working on a plan to keep rally-goers and opponents separated at Crissy Field.

San Francisco cannot block the event because the park is on federal land. But Mayor Ed Lee has urged people to stay away.

"I ask that people avoid going to Crissy Field and engaging with members of Patriot Prayer because that is precisely what they wish us to do and I don't want to dignify their message of hate and their mission of division in our city of love of compassion," Lee told a Wednesday news conference.

# Oregon Coast

# Real Estate

WWW.OREGONCOASTREALESTATE.COM

**45 NW Birch Avenue, Warrenton**

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 10AM TO 1PM**

- Perfect family home, close to shopping, schools, fishing and the beach!
- 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, spacious living room and fenced back yard
- New stainless steel appliances included
- New furnace and new hot water heater

\$189,900

**TERRY MISTOFSKY**  
909-633-9886

**1165 A Avenue, Seaside**

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 11AM TO 1PM**

- This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is in very good condition.
- Newer cedar shingle siding and vinyl windows.
- Property is fenced, with an care yard and spacious tool shed.
- Conveniently located near the library, pool, park, Safeway, Community Center and American Legion

\$239,000

**GEORGE STACEY**  
503-717-3700

**89565 Manion Drive, Warrenton**

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY AUGUST 26TH, 4PM TO 6PM**

- Great Value!
- Spacious 4 bedroom home in Surf Pines
- Featuring quality finishes, jetted tub
- Fenced backyard, separate dog run & 12x16 shop/storage building

\$449,900

**DANA WESTON**  
503-738-2839

**1460 S. Columbia Street, Seaside**

**OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH, 11AM TO 2PM**

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1,728 sq.ft.
- 2 blocks to beach, low maintenance yard w/fish pond
- Attached one car garage, lots of off street parking
- Vacant land, ready to see

\$279,900

**LINDAMAY WOOSLEY**  
541-490-4360

**4650 Cedar Street, Astoria**

- Beautifully renovated two-level mid-century 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home
- Open floor plan, large landscaped yard with views of the Columbia River
- Gas fireplace, formal dining room, spacious updated kitchen with eating nook
- Lower level includes sauna, utility room and bonus room, perfect as an office, studio, work out room, etc., loads of space for storage

\$319,000

**DEBRA BOWE**  
503-440-7474

**711 Madison Avenue, Astoria**

- Great South slope location with commercial zoning.
- Subject has been a salon and office in the past
- Currently a one bedroom rental with lots of paved parking
- Close to market, tennis courts, park and school

\$169,500

**VICKY RUTHERFORD**  
503-338-2116

**4809 Leif Erickson Drive, Astoria**

**NEW LISTING**

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath Riverview home
- Private backyard on oversized lot
- Newer windows, tile shower, stainless appliances
- Large master bath with jetted tub

\$265,000

**MEAGAN LEWIS**  
503-440-0155

**33581 Ocean Home Farm Lane, Gearhart**

- Art & Architecture define this one of a kind 3 bedroom, 2 bath, East Gearhart home
- Nearly 2,800 sq.ft of living space in this custom-built home by Russ Taggart
- Featuring open floor plan, tall ceilings, skylights, stone and tile floors, 2 fireplaces, tile roofing, two decks, and many updates throughout.

\$379,000

**DEBRA BOWE**  
503-440-7474

**35242 Orchard Lane, Astoria**

- Great home on oversized, corner lot in desirable Lewis & Clark
- Move in ready with new carpet throughout, new paint inside and out
- Newer roof, some new windows, attic finished for extra storage
- 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 car garage

\$225,000

**VICKY RUTHERFORD**  
503-338-2116

**92757 Claremont Road, Astoria**

**NEW LISTING**

- This is your 3 bedroom, 2 bath country dream home.
- Nestled in a private, park-like setting comprised on 3 tax lots, totaling 1.04 acres.
- Beautifully remodeled with hardwood floors, tile, designer painting and so much more.
- Double bay detached garage, large shop building and bonus third outbuilding.

\$289,000

**DEBRA BOWE**  
503-440-7474

**3134 N. Hwy 101, Gearhart**

- This beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom log cabin is located close to everything you need.
- Detached 3 bay garage is perfect for storing your cars, toys and a workshop.
- Vaulted ceilings allows the natural light and the open floor plan is perfect for the entertainer in us all.
- Set back from the road with a great yard for the gardener in you.

\$279,000

**HILARY HERMAN**  
503-791-4718

**850 7th Avenue, Seaside**

- This beautiful 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in Seaside is the home you and your family have been waiting for!
- Features a wrap around deck, fenced yard, and a huge garage
- Close to the beach, outlet mall and downtown Seaside
- Come add your personal touches to this property and call it home!

\$359,000

**HILARY HERMAN**  
503-791-4718