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In today's paper

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Faculty 'not surprised' by foundation fraud risk, union says

BY ERIK GALICIA
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Leadership with Fresno State's faculty union was "not surprised" to find out the non-profit that controls hundreds of millions of dollars for the university — including student scholarship and professor research money — employed prac-

tices that put the organization at risk of fraud, according to a CSU review.

Andrew Jones, president of the Fresno State chapter of the California Faculty Association, told The Fresno Bee on Friday that professors have been concerned for decades with how the Fresno State Foundation administers the money they secure for the university through research

grants.

He said as far back as 2007, when he started working at university, faculty were complaining that they had to use their grant money for lab maintenance and clean-up instead of the foundation revenues carved out for that purpose.

"Even back then, we were asking, 'Where's all this money going?'" Jones said. "Now,



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Debbie Adishian-Astone, former Fresno State vice president for administration and CFO, gives the welcome message during the grand opening of The Square at Campus Pointe on July 17, 2015.

we're seeing there's some real shenanigans going on with all the money that we've been deriving from writing grants."

The foundation's current executive director, Brady Crook,

SEE UNION, 3A

High-Speed Rail Authority suggests a new site for Merced train station

BY AYSHA PETTIGREW
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Merced residents will have to wait a while longer for clarity on whether and where they can expect to see a high-speed rail station in the city.

On Monday, the City Council heard updates on the plan for a Merced station.

Peter Whippy, chief of external affairs for the California High-Speed Rail Authority, asked the City Council to consider a Southeast Merced site rather than the original proposed location in downtown Merced.

It is the most recent update since a report in September suggested Merced might be cut from the high-speed rail track entirely.

The HSRA proposed the new

SEE RAIL, 2A



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Fresh Monkee and Wickersham Company are two of the newest tenants at the Park Place shopping center located at Palm and Nees avenues in Fresno. Fresh Monkee offers healthy shakes and smoothies while Wickersham offers fine Rolex watches and more.

Rolex dealer, 'truly healthy' shake shop open at Park Place

BY ERIK GALICIA
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The Park Place shopping center on Palm and Nees avenues in north Fresno has added a health-focused protein shake shop and a luxurious jewelry store that is the only official Rolex dealer in the city.

The high-end store, called The Wickersham Company, moved to Park Place from its previous location at the River Park shopping center less than a mile away. Wickersham sells various types of fine jewelry in addition to Rolex watches and other Rolex products.

John Tutelian of Tutelian & Co., the firm that owns Park Place, told The Bee in a statement that the craftsmanship and materials used to build the new Wickersham location "reflects a level of quality and detail that has never been seen in this market before."

"The opening of the Rolex store at Palm and Nees sets a new benchmark for luxury retail in Fresno," he said Wednesday. "It's a statement



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Fresh Monkee is a new tenant offering healthy shakes in the Park Place shopping center located at Palm and Nees avenues in Fresno.

investment in Fresno and a clear signal of the city's continued growth and sophistication." Wickersham owner John

Abrams was not available for an interview this week. He told The Bee in late 2024 that he planned to relocate the store,

adding that moving from River Park to Park Place would allow

SEE SHOP, 3A

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