

CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL SUN!

Michael Sun of South Pacific Academy was one of the First Place winners in this year's Territorial Math Competition — there were five in total with perfect scores — that shared honors in the elementary division of the Math Comp. Paramount Builders, ASTCA, ACE, ASPA, Auto Nation, and Manu'a Store sponsored prizes and trophies for the event.

Michael Sun is also the winner of this year's Samoa News Territorial Spelling Bee — major sponsor McDonald's American Samoa — and will be competing at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May of this year, to be held in Washington D.C.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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Rev. Amaama tenders letter of resignation as CCCAS General Secretary

PENDING A VOTE OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JULY 2018

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

It's been almost a year since the matter between the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS) and their elected General Secretary Rev. Dr. Amaama Tofaeono was before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa; and while the case is still before the court, Amaama tendered his resignation to the Chairperson of the CCCAS General Assembly yesterday. However, according to Amaama, his resignation is pending a vote of acceptance by the General Assembly during its July 2018 meeting.

In March 2017, Committee of Elders of the CCCAS suspended Amaama from the position as an ordained minister for a period of three years. Amaama was then removed from his position as General Secretary of CCCAS, a position that must be held by an ordained minister, according to the CCCAS constitution.

The Elders Committee accused Amaama of committing adultery and physically abusing his wife and daughter, which Amaama continues to strongly deny.

According to his resignation letter obtained by Samoa News, yesterday, Amaama was elected as General Secretary for July 2016 - July 2020 by the General Assembly of the CCCAS, and was removed from his position. He was also stripped of his ordination by the Committee of Elders, something he still believes is "not correct".

"At this point in time, I have no intention of judging who is right or wrong on what has transpired while I served in the GS's capacity as well as the court case proceedings. Due to the inevitable fact that we, the executive officers of the CCCAS General Assembly cannot mend our differences and be reconciled as Christians, I have decided that it would be an honor as a humble employee and a professional theologian to step down with the permission of the General Assembly that elected me to serve," he wrote.

"I would also like to seek your pardon for not taking heed to the decision of the Committee of Elders suspending me,"

(Continued on page 10)

TERRITORIAL SCIENCE FAIR COMPETITION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Classmates Georgina Alofa and Kirsten De Lara claimed the Top 2 spots (1st and 2nd place, respectively) — overall — in the Level 6- 8 Division during the 2017-2018 Territorial Science Fair competition held at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium last week.

This year's competition, for both the elementary and high school levels, drew in dozens of projects in 14 categories including biochemistry, physics, botany, environmental science, marine science, technology, and mathematics.

For the elementary competition, Eliana Tapua'i of Iakina Seventh Day Adventist won first place overall in the K-2 division; followed by Alana Jose-rose of Manumalo Academy in 2nd place; and Lawrence Afu in 3rd place.

For the Level 3-5 division: JM Mirasol of Manumalo Academy took home first place while Julynn Aitui of Alataua II placed 2nd. Lisa Pedro of Pacific Horizons claimed the 3rd spot.

In the Level 6- 8 division, Manumalo Academy's Georgina Alofa placed first overall, followed by her classmate Kirsten De Lara in 2nd place. Sydney Clemens of South Pacific Academy rounded off the Top 3.

This year's overall winner for the high school division is Gloria Park of Pacific Horizons, the private school in Ottoville that took 3 of the Top 5 slots, although there are 6 students in the Top 5 because the overall second place spot was a tie and resulted in PHS and SPA sharing the honor.

The Top 5 include 3 winners from PHS, 2 from SPA, and one from Faasao Marist High School.

Initially, the names of the Top 5 were to be announced and afterwards, a panel would decide which 3 projects would be chosen to represent American Samoa at the national level.

But an announcement made during the awards ceremony last Friday at the Fale Laumei, quoted Director of Education Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga as

saying that everyone who made the Top 5 list will be heading to Pittsburgh later this year to compete against their peers from across the country.

This year's Territorial Science Fair participants and winners were showered with prizes, thanks to the generosity of sponsors that included Paramount Builders, ASTCA, ACE, ASPA, Auto Nation, and Manu'a Store.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



**In The High Court
of American Samoa
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL
COURT DIVISIONS**
FDA/JG No. 01-18
**IN RE: A CHILD.
NOTICE/FA'AALIGA**

**TO: MOTHER/TILOMAI AMITUANA'
UNNAMED FATHER/MO LE TAMA O LE
TAMAITITI**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa by Avapui Esekiele, a resident of Nu'uuli, American Samoa, for a minor female child alleged born to you on February 25, 2004, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Faga'alu, American Samoa. You have two months and ten days from the first publication of this Notice to answer or otherwise respond to this Petition by filing such response with the Clerk of the High Court of American Samoa at the Court-house in Fagatogo, American Samoa, and by serving such response upon attorney Frederick J. O'Brien at American Samoa Legal Aid, Inc., at the Letialua Building in Pago Pago, or by mail at P.O. Box 5984, Pago Pago, AS 96799. Your failure to respond within the time set forth above may result in granting by default the relief prayed for in the PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR.

Fa'amolemole, ia utagia mai, ua faauluina le talosaga mo le tofia o se tagata e tausia se tagata laitiiti tausaga i le Fa'amasinoga Mauuluga o Amerika Samoa e Avapui Esekiele, o tagata o lo'o alaala i Nu'uuli, Amerika Samoa, mo se tagata laitiiti na faapea na e fanaua ia Fepuari 25, 2004 i le Falemai LBJ, Faga'alu, Amerika Samoa. Ia le umi atu ma le lua masina ma le sefulu aso mai le fa'asalalauina muamua o lenei Fa'aaliga e te tali ai pe e te fa'aalioa mai sou manatu i lenei mataupu i le Failautusi o le Fa'amasinoga Mauuluga o Amerika Samoa i le Fale Fa'amasinoga i Fagatogo, Amerika Samoa, ma tauaao mai ai se kopi o lau Tali i le Ali'i Loia o Frederick J. O'Brien i le Ofisa Fesoasoani Fa'alelufano Amerika Samoa i le Fale o Letialua Pusa Meli 5984, Pago Pago, Amerika Samoa 96799. O lou le tu'uina mai o se tali i lenei mataupu i le taimi fa'atulagaina e mafai ai loa ona talia ai loa e le Fa'amasinoga Mauuluga o Amerika Samoa le TALOSAGA MO LE TOFIA O SE TAGATA E TAUSIA SE TAGATA LAITITI TAUSAGA.

DATE/ASO: January 31, 2018

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 02/27/18 & 03/27/18



COURT BRIEFS

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

ANDREW APELU

A 38-year-old man who was convicted of stealing — and later selling — a tool box containing tools belonging to a mechanic has been ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine as a condition of his 7-year probation sentence.

Andrew Apelu was convicted of stealing — a felony, punishable by a term of imprisonment of seven years, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

During sentencing, Apelu apologized to the court for what he did and asked for a second chance to return home to his family. He also apologized to the company that was affected by his actions and promised the

court he will never do it again.

His attorney, deputy public defender Michael White and the prosecutor, deputy attorney general Robert Morris asked the court for a probated sentence without any jail time.

Morris informed the court that the defendant stole the toolbox and then sold it to a third party who has since returned the toolbox to its owner, and the defendant has already paid back to the third party the money he received for the sale of the toolbox.

Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea told Apelu that in the year since this matter has been dragging on, it has presented unusual circumstances.

Patea said the court normally goes straight to sentencing after a 'change of plea' within a

month, but in this case, the one year period during which the case has been stalled, has been to his advantage because it has given the court the opportunity to see his behavior out in public, and he has done well, which tells the court he is someone who'll do well on probation.

The court sentenced Apelu to 7 years probation, under the condition that he serves 28 months in jail. The defendant was credited for the 69 days he served in prison last year, and the balance of his detention term is stayed, as long as he complies with all conditions of his probation.

He is also ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine within 6 months, and he is not to make contact with the company that was affected by his actions.

He is to remain a law-abiding citizen, and report to the probation office whenever he is ordered to do so.

ANESI FILITOGA

A 19-year-old male who is being accused of walking around his neighborhood peeking into family homes has been arrested and charged with public peace disturbance and underage drinking.

Anesi Filitoga made his initial appearance before District Court Judge Fiti Sunia last week, where he was ordered to pay a \$100 bond before he can be released from prison.

Once he pays up, he is ordered to stay away from the homes of the families that were allegedly affected by his actions.

According to the government, it was around 1:17 a.m. on Mar. 20th that a woman from Malaeloa called the Leone Sub-station regarding a kid walking around their neighborhood peeking into homes.

Officers who responded to the call noticed a young kid walking on the road near the area where the call came from. He was later identified as Filitoga

While police officers were talking to Filitoga, another male approached them aggressively and informed them that this was the guy who peeked into their home.

Filitoga was immediately placed in the police unit for safety reasons while police interviewed the witness who said it was his wife who called police for assistance, because the defendant followed his sister-in-law to their house.

The witness said Filitoga didn't leave but instead, was peeking into their house until he chased him away.

When asked by police how he knew the witness's sister-in-law, Filitoga said they met at

a party and the lady had asked him to come by her house to hang out.

When police questioned the woman, she confirmed that she saw the defendant at a party, but she didn't know where he's from or who he is.

She denied telling him to come over to the house to hang out.

During questioning, police detected a strong odor of alcohol on Filitoga, whose next court appearance is set for Apr. 12th.

TAVITA FA'AMANATU-FIDOW

A man suspected of burglarizing the home of an Asian couple in Nu'uuli has been charged for interfering with a police investigation.

Tavita Faamanatu-Fidow is facing two misdemeanor charges: public peace disturbance and interfering with a police investigation. He made his initial appearance in District Court last week, where Judge Fiti Sunia set bail at \$200.

If he's able to post bond, Faamanatu-Fidow is ordered to stay away from the home of the couple, and he is not to have any direct or indirect contact with the plaintiffs or any of the government's witnesses.

According to police, at around 11:23 p.m. on Mar 21st, the landlord — an elderly Samoan lady — contacted police about a burglary. An Asian couple rents the home in question. When police arrived at the scene, they spoke to the landlord and in the middle of the conversation, a male, later identified as the defendant, entered the house uninvited and yelled at the landlord's son saying, he didn't break into the house.

Faamanatu-Fidow, in the presence of police, then tried to pick a fight with the landlord's son, asking him, "What do you want?"

Even after police officers ordered him to get out of the house and leave the property, Faamanatu-Fidow continued to threaten the landlord's son, clenching his fists and telling him, "You'll see what I'm going to do to you!"

Police officers arrested the defendant for interfering with their investigation.

According to the police affidavit, before Faamanatu-Fidow was escorted out of the house, the Asian couple identified him as one of the people present when the Asian man was robbed two weeks before, while he was in possession of a bag containing \$1,980 cash, three personal phones, and multiple identification cards.

Faamanatu-Fidow is scheduled to appear in court on Apr. 12th for a pretrial conference.



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Department of Agriculture Community and Natural Resources (ACNR)

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Position Title: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN
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Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Analyze, install and administers the technical architecture of ASCC ACNR Local Area Network.
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- Set up and maintain workstation hardware and software, and understand and adhere to ACNR computer use policy.
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- Research, run tests, evaluate, and recommend solutions to network systems technical issues.
- Identify areas of operation that need equipment upgrades, such as modems, fiber optic cables, and telephone wires.
- Conduct inventory and surveys to determine user needs.
- Read technical manuals and brochures to find equipment that meets establishment requirements.
- Document work performed, technical configurations, and usage requirements.
- Perform other duties assigned by network specialist.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Associate of Arts/Science degree in an Information Technology-related field from an accredited community or technical college, or successful completion of a two year certificate program in a relevant area, or equivalent combination of relevant education and experience.
- Ability to recognize, analyze and resolve computer and network problems.
- Familiar with MS Windows 7, 8.1, 10; MacOS X up to current version; MS Office 2013 and later.
- Must be physically able to lift heavy equipment and flexible for network installation.

Salary: GS:13/03-10: \$ 17,560.00 - \$ 23,020.00 per annum.

Application Deadline: April 5, 2018 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by emailing Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

Math competition brings out the best and brightest

ABSENCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL REPRESENTATION IN THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION RAISES EYEBROWS



One of the First Place winners for the DOE's 21st Annual Elementary Mathematics Competition SY 2017-2018 is Jasmine Mondelo, an 8th grader at Manumalo Academy. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

by Blue Chen-Fruean

Samoa News Correspondent

The Fale Laumei in Utulei was full to maximum capacity with proud parents, family members, friends, and teachers as the local Department of Education hosted the awards ceremony for this year's Territorial Math and Science Fair competitions.

For the high school division, South Pacific Academy took first place overall, followed by Tafuna High School in 2nd and Manumalo Academy in 3rd place.

This year, awards were presented to the Top 5 students in each grade level.

Pacific Horizons took the Top 2 slots in the 9th grade division: Victor Chen placed 1st while Kevin Lo came in 2nd.

Tafuna High School claimed the 3rd and 4th slots, with the performances of Jade Kruse and Tavita Kuki.

The 5th spot went to Fengyun Chen of Manumalo Academy.

The following are the results for the Level 10-12 division:

LEVEL 10:

1. Evelini Suani (Manumalo)
1. Uelese Patu (South Pacific Academy)
2. Philip Liang (Manumalo)
3. Michelle Lo (Pacific Horizons)
4. Talofa Fe'a (Tafuna HS)
5. Take Masina (Tafuna HS)

LEVEL 11:

1. Dio Feng (South Pacific Academy)
2. HeYao Yang (South Pacific Academy)
3. Hewlett De Lara (Manumalo)
4. Aitulagi Alofa

- (Manumalo)
5. Akenese Saleutogi Marcelo Chen (Pacific Horizons)

LEVEL 12:

1. Taeyeon Bae (Manumalo)
1. Isek Kuki (Tafuna HS)
2. Timothy Guyapa (South Pacific Academy)
3. Karlinna Sanchez (Samoana HS)
4. Gayathri Murali (South Pacific Academy)
5. Mua Fiatoa (Tafuna HS)

One of the most glaring facts this year was the absence of competition from the local public high schools. Only Tafuna HS and Samoana HS showed up, with the Warriors coming in strong and performing well, with a second place overall finish, while one student from the Sharks placed in the Top 5 in the senior category.

Some of the parents in the audience were wondering if the other public high schools placed, or if they competed at all.

For the elementary division, coordinators decided to recognize the Top 10 students in this year's math comp. The results are as follows:

FIRST PLACE:

- Angela Chen (Pacific Horizons)
- Michael Sun (South Pacific Academy)
- Lily Feng (South Pacific Academy)
- Jasmine Mondelo (Manumalo)
- Elzira Noga (Manumalo)

SECOND PLACE:

- Georgina Alofa (Manumalo)
- Michael Iosefo (Pava'ia'i)

THIRD PLACE:

- Mavis Liang (South Pacific

- Academy)
- Georgia Cox (Pacific Horizons)

FOURTH PLACE:

- Audrey Rose Sevaetasi (Kanana Fou)

FIFTH PLACE:

- Ray Tulafono (Samoa Baptist)
- Sunia Sinisa (Siliaga)

SIXTH PLACE:

- Centennial Wulf (SPICC)
- Saipale Fuimaono (Kanana Fou)
- Ferila Vele (Coleman)
- Waiana Sila Tanielu (Leatele)

SEVENTH PLACE:

- Fa'apaia Vili (Coleman)
- Vaafuti Vaafuti (Siliaga)

EIGHTH PLACE:

- Caylene Tasi (Tafuna Elementary)
- Sherine Ortiz (Samoa Baptist)
- Opetaiia Chong Wong (Pavaiai)
- Eciladen Ulu (Samoa Baptist)

NINTH PLACE:

- Leilani Togi (Pavaiai)
- Anthony Savaiinaea (Tafuna Elementary)

TENTH PLACE:

- Lawrence Fautau (Fitiuta)
- Jenny Talavou (Coleman)
- Suli Faalogo (SPICC)

Every student who placed in the Top 10 this year is an 8th grader. The multiple winners indicate that competition is becoming stronger every year and there is much to look forward to next year, when these number crunchers compete at the high school level.

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Letter to the Editor

“OPEN APOLOGY TO HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SAVALI TALAVOU ALE, AND HONORABLE VICE SPEAKER, FETU FETUI JR.”



Lavea Fatulegae'e Palepoi Mauga Auauna Itumalo Vaifanua
[Courtesy photo]

Dear Editor,

It is said that “an apology cannot undo what has been done, but it can help ease the pain and tension of the aftermath. It gives hope for rebuilding and puts value on the relationship rather than the individual’s pride.”

With that being said, I wish to take this opportunity to offer my most sincerest of apologies to the Speaker of the House, the Honorable Savali Talavou Ale, Vice Speaker, the Honorable Fetu Fetui Jr., who is also the Chairman of the House Rules Committee, my fellow members of the House of Representatives especially my beloved constituents of the Vaifanua District

County. I make reference to an article published and carried by the Samoa Newspaper last week Friday, March 23, 2018 indicating that I have been admonished by leaders of the House chamber for violating a specific House rule.

I seek no self-justification nor make any excuses to defend myself but would humbly admit and apologize for not abiding by our House Rules.

I take full responsibility for my actions and I have resolved to have my phone completely turned off when in session.

E fa’apea se talitonuga ma se lagona, “e le toe mafaia e se fa’atoesega ona toe fo’ia se mea ua mae’a ona fai, ae e mafia ona fesoasoani i le fa’aitiitia o se mafatiaga ma se fa’atu mai se mea ua mae’a ona fa’atinoina. Na te aumaia se fa’amoemoe mo se toe fuataina, ma fa’atauaina mafutaga lelei nai i lo’o ni lagona fa’asausili o le tagata.

O lea ou te fa’atulou atu ai i ou paia, o le a nu’unu’u atu ia, au o paia e mai le vavau, sei’a o’o i le fa’avavau. Ae o le a vili tonu le ifi a Maina.

Atonu o se laolao lelei leni, a’o se avanoa fo’i ua ou maua e fa’aleo atu ai ma le agaga maualalo i le Afioga i le Fofoga Fetalaia o le Maota o Sui, Savali Talavou Ale, le Sui Fofoga Fetalaia, Fetu Fetui Jr. o ia fo’i o le Ta’ita’i Komiti o Tulafono o le Maota, ma sui mamalu o le Maota o Sui, ae tainane si o’u itumalo e pele i lo’u loto o le Vaifanua.

Ae o ni tusitusiga i le nusipepa o le Samoa News i le aso Faraile ua tuana’i, Mati 23, 2018 o lo’o fa’asalalauina ai le fautuina o lo’u nei sui e ta’ita’i o le maota ona o le le tausisia o se tasi o tulafono o le Maota.

Ou te le taumafai e su’e so’u alofaga pe tau saili so’u sa’o i leni mataupu, ae ou te fa’apa’i malu atu i finagalo poia ma ou ta’utino atu i so’u sasi, ma ou te fa’atoese atu i le agaga maualalo ona o se ela fo’i o leni sui le le mulimulita’ia o tulafono o le Maota.

E le fa’alataina oe i se upu po’o ni faiga, aua o paia o Maota, e sulu i ai se pagota ua ola.

Fa’afetai mo lou agaga malamalama. Fa’amanuia atu le Atua.

I lo’u ava ma le fa’aaloalo tele e tatau ai

Lavea Fatulegae’e Palepoi Mauga Auauna Itumalo Vaifanua.

OP ED: Marriage Bill — little research before being rejected by Senate

By Ipu Lefiti

Victims Advocate

The Senate rejected the House bill on Monday, in a vote of 7- 9. The bill needed at least 11 votes to pass.

I was speechless and in awe of the decision that was recklessly made at the spit of an asp’ to condemn our female children who are vulnerable to a life of domestic slavery, sexual rapes, physical and mental abuse.

Young girls barely out from the bosom of their parents who’ve been nurturing and teaching them by steps to prepare them for the next level. Girls being thrown into an arena they are mentally, emotionally, and physically unprepared and unfit to undertake.

Being abused by in-laws is a given. What does the 14-year-old bride bring to the family? Not only is she immature, she is uneducated and far from understanding her role. The child becomes a burdensome inconvenience and easy target for abuse.

The child is at risk of being victimized by the adult family members. She is fair game, easily threatened, coerced and manipulated. She is defenseless.

The senators damned these girls to this type of life at their tender age where there is no growing up, but a life of perseverance and survival by instincts.

Being a 14-year old immature wife and mother will trump promises of education and employment opportunities for her.

The law is spelled out in protecting our children against underage drinking, smoking, doping; and access to adult entertainment in bars, cinemas, gambling etc., are in place.

American Samoa has come a long way in prosecuting, convicting predators, pedophiles and throwing them in jail.

Sen. Satele Galu Satele Sr. claims that some parents have given up — “ua fiu matua”... How long do you think a child will tolerate rape and figure out ‘there’s something wrong’.

Can a 14-year-old walk out from a marriage when the honeymoon phase is over? Can a 14-year-old divorce an adult who has total mental and physical power over her?

Sen. Fonoti Tafa’ifa Aufata, the lone female senator, said she is very saddened with today’s youngsters, causing many problems. She claims that teenage problems stem from immoral and sexually motivated parental behavior.

Just reading these few comments that had the power to sway the Senate indicated the following to me:

The decision was based on

carnal and sexual knowledge instead of for the child’s well-being. There was no attempt to even get expert opinions. There was no senator concerned or convicted enough to demand loudly for open or public opinions/ forums from their constituents.

If there was deliberation there was no conscience. It was a bully decision to what? Solve the underage rapes? Sever the parental responsibility we have over our children, time constraints? This bill had lesser value and attention than the going rate on marketing pigs.

Have the senators forgotten the people’s struggles to save their children from drugs, alcohol, sexual abuse, neglect and sexual predators?

How about mentally challenged 14-year-old girls with the mentality of a 7, 10, or 11-year-old? Do they fall under this marketing strategy?

An afterthought. Are our 14-year-old sons whose sex genitals have way outgrown their young age and maturity, next on the block? They are easy targets for adult female predators. Look at the teachers in the US who preyed on young elementary boys... instead of prosecution, they can now marry these children.

Instead of blaming the youth; being seduced by predators, who breach all age groups with impunity. How can a child stand up against what they don’t understand?

Unscrupulous adults who send their children to the streets to sell and be sold, you senators have upped their value on the marriage market and the demand and easy access for children flesh.

An issue raised by senators during the hearing is ‘what happens to a female who is 16 years old or younger who becomes pregnant, and the parents of the girl give their consent for the girl to marry the father of her unborn child? Some senators claim this has happened before and will happen again, as parents want to “fa’amama”, or make clean, the young girl by marrying her off to the father of her unborn child.

Senate President Pro Temp Nuanuaoleafeagaiga Saoluaga Nua urged his colleagues to reflect on what the bill will

do and to consider that ancestors who fashioned the current law may have had justifiable reason to set the age for marriage at what it is now. Because of underage pregnancies he also urged his colleagues not to pass the bill.

This is 2018. Sex offenders, predators, pedophiles and child sex traffickers have only gotten fatter, smarter in avoiding the law and riper in perversion because of this attitude. It is time to reflect, be educated, and challenge unhealthy current laws.

In my line of work, I’m convinced an alarming increase of underage pregnancy was by premeditated rape. It appears the concerned is to camouflage the rape crime by selling our children to protect the honor of the family, church, culture, and tourism.

We expect no less from our Senators.

All these concerns should have deployed their staff on a fact finding mission to the one office that provides that info — Office of Vital Statistics.

A pool of professional resources; specialists from Mental Health, DOH-OBGYN, child psychologists, licensed social workers, DOE counselors, SPED-Special Ed counselors, parents. We have them, why were they not brought in as witnesses? They could have at least provided an intelligent, informed measuring system on child casualties, risks or potential fatalities.

The Pae Ma Le Auli is working on surveys and petitions as an outreach, to take to the villages. We hope to work with the Samoan Affairs Office to meet its protocol for entering their villages. We also invite any NGO or association that would like to collaborate with us on this matter. It is imperative that we go out to educate our people on this bill and its purpose. Our people must have a voice on this Health and Quality of Life issue, that will impact our families and communities.

Thank you for the bill introduced by Rep. Fialupe Felila Fiaui Lutu; the House of Representatives who carried it through and to those Senators who voted for H.B. NO. 35-21 “Increase the marrying age for a female from 14 to 18.”



Tristany Kupu of Peteli Academy won first place in the Biochemistry category for the Level 3-5 division at this year’s Territorial Science Fair competition, which was held last week at the Lee Auditorium.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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dba Samoa News is published Monday through Friday, except for some local and federal holidays.

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US gov't study warning against coconut oil based on faulty evidence

ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR AT ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A professor at the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines has taken issue with a US government study warning against the use of coconut oil, pointing out that a “recent study on Samoans, demonstrated that a coconut diet gives healthier outcomes than a western diet.”

Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit made the observation in a recent comment-letter to the US Department of Agriculture, which along with the US Department of Health and Human Services, sought public comments on the topics and questions to be examined in the review of scientific evidence supporting the development of the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Specifically, USDA and HHS

request comments in support or opposition of the proposed topics and questions available at www.DietaryGuidelines.gov, according to documents released on federal portal [www.regulations.gov]

Information in the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which is being used to gather public input for the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines, states that fat in some tropical plants, such as coconut oil, and palm oil, are not included in the oils category because they do not resemble other oils in their composition.

Specifically, they contain a higher percentage of saturated fats than other oils, it says, and notes that saturated fatty acids (saturated fats) are found in the greatest amounts in coconut and palm kernel oils, in butter and

beef fats, and in palm oil. They also are found in other animal fats, such as pork and chicken fats and in other plant fats, such as nuts.

But Dayrit disagrees with such an assessment of coconut oil, noting that from the first edition of Dietary Guidelines for Americans to its eighth edition, there has been a “consistent warning” against saturated fats in general, and coconut oil, in particular.

“This advice, however, is based on faulty evidence and an incomplete understanding of the nature of saturated fats and coconut oil,” said Dayrit, who is with the university’s Chemistry Department and earned his PhD in Chemistry from Princeton University.

“There is a fundamental mistake in putting coconut oil and

animal fat into the same category because coconut oil has a vastly different fatty acid profile and cholesterol content from animal fats,” he argued, and went on to explain the difference between coconut oil and animal fat. He cited several issues in which coconut oil shouldn’t be compared to animal fat.

The professor argues that two influential studies which have been used to link coconut oil with heart disease “have serious weaknesses: first, none of them actually studied coconut oil, and second, the presence of confounding factors, in particular, trans-fats.”

He said if coconut oil is indeed a significant heart disease risk, then there should have been an epidemic of heart disease in Asia and the Pacific where coconut consumption is significant.

“Coconut milk, which contains 20% coconut oil, is one of the most widely-used culinary materials in Asian and Pacific Island food,” he argued, adding that the “warning against coconut is a disservice to the Asian immigrant population in the US who are being advised to abandon this healthy tradition.”

In fact, he explained, all of the available evidence shows that a coconut diet is part of a healthy diet and there is no direct evidence that coconut oil increases the risk of heart disease.

“Coconut has been consumed by many people in the tropics for thousands of years with no evidence of ill effects, such as heart disease, cancer,

and metabolic diseases, until the introduction of the western diet,” Dayrit said.

“The recent study on Samoans demonstrates that a coconut diet gives healthier outcomes than a western diet,” he said noting that Samoa is divided into two regions, with American Samoans who shifted to a western diet showing greater obesity and higher risk for heart disease as compared with Western Samoans who retained their traditional island coconut diet.

He cited a World Health Organization (WHO) report, which states that Pacific islanders were “2.2 times more likely to be obese and 2.4 times more likely to be diabetic if they ate imported fats than if they ate traditional fat sources.”

“The imported fats included vegetable oils and margarine while the traditional fats included coconut oil,” he said, adding that in 2010, the American Heart Association issued a scientific advisory regarding the alarming rate of cardiovascular disease among Asian immigrants to the US.

“This study noted that ‘adoption of Western culture may result in unhealthy dietary practices’,” he said. “This warning against coconut may very well be one of the contributory factors to this avoidable American health problem.”

Details on Dayrit’s comment-letter, which also cites sources of his information, are found on www.regulations.gov along with the more than 40 comments received so far.

Judge rules against Pulse nightclub shooter’s widow

By TAMARA LUSH and JASON DEAREN, Associated Press

The revelation that the Pulse nightclub shooter’s father was an FBI informant for 11 years before the attack has little bearing on the trial of the gunman’s widow, a judge ruled Monday.

U.S. District Judge Paul Byron rejected a defense motion for a mistrial of Noor Salman, who is accused of helping her husband plan his June 2016 mass shooting at the gay nightclub in Orlando, where he killed 49 people.

Lawyers for Salman said that because prosecutors didn’t disclose that Mateen’s father, Seddique Mateen, was an FBI informant until halfway through the trial, her Fifth Amendment right to due process and Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial were denied.

The judge disagreed. “This trial is not about Seddique Mateen. It’s about Noor

Salman,” the judge said.

Salman, now 31 and the mother of a small child, is being tried in federal court in Orlando. Her defense is scheduled to wrap up this week and lawyers will give closing arguments.

In court on Monday, an FBI agent testified that they considered trying to develop Omar Mateen as an informant, like his father, after investigating him in 2013 and finding he didn’t have ties to terrorism.

Salman’s lawyers say the government’s belated disclosure about Mateen’s father and his ties to the FBI has prevented them from exploring the possibilities that Seddique Mateen was more directly involved, and that Salman may have been framed to hide the government’s mistakes.

The government’s “violations in this case have placed Ms. Salman, the jury, and this Court in a dark wood where the search for truth has been

(Continued on page 11)



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4. Assemble and compile documents for loan closing.
5. Record applications for loan and credit, loan information and disbursements of funds using computers.
6. Contact customers by mail, telephone or in person concerning acceptance or rejection of applications.
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March 30, 2018.

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Port Admin to conduct a captain's licensing certification program

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Port Administration Department is planning to conduct a captain's licensing certification program later this year in June and members of the community will be allowed to enroll in the courses that'll take about four-weeks, says Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele.

This initiative was reported two weeks ago during the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting in Honolulu, where Council staff Nate Ilaoa presented several local fishery issues, including a local fishermen's training program.

According to Ilaoa, he was informed that Port Administration "is planning to initiate a captain's licensing certification program" with the goal of increasing their capacity for captaining some of the ASG boats such as tugboats.

Ilaoa said he has inquired with Port Administration if the initiative will be open to fishermen and other people, but there was no word yet. "We're

hoping that other folks will be able to sign up as well," he said.

Responding to Samoa New inquiries, Taimalelagi explained that Port Administration plans to conduct the program for potential Maritime Captains in June this year. "We have about seven Seamen Able that would qualify to test for the next level which would be Captain," she said yesterday.

The two local instructors that are certified to teach the courses are Captain Lafoga Alovao — who is now the Master Captain of Tugboat Peggy H, which ASG purchased early this year and is en route to American Samoa — and Fifita Siua, who is a Master Journeyman.

Alovao and Siua have both completed certification programs in Hawai'i, Taimalelagi said, adding that Port Admin funds the training program and "it will probably take about 4 weeks for the course work."

"We will allow for members from the community to enroll in the program," Taimalelagi said when asked if others in the community will be allowed to enroll.



Mele Ah Ling of Manulele Elementary School won 2nd place overall in the Behavioral Science category for the Level 6-8 division of this year's Territorial Science Fair, elementary division.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

China's VIP security raises speculation of Kim Jong Un visit

BEIJING (AP) — The arrival of a special train in Beijing and unusually heavy security at a guesthouse where prominent North Koreans have stayed in the past have raised speculation that Kim Jong Un is making his first visit to China as the North's leader.

Kim has summits planned with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in late April and with President Donald Trump by May. While there has been no word of a similar meeting with Chinese leaders, China has been one of North Korea's most important allies even though relations have recently chilled because of Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

A vehicle convoy entered the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Monday evening and a military honor guard and heavy security were seen later. That followed reports from Japanese network NTV and public broadcaster NHK of a special North Korean train arriving in Beijing under unusually heavy security.

Shortly before 11 a.m. Tuesday, a convoy of official Chinese cars was seen leaving the east gate of guesthouse, heading in the direction of gov-

ernment offices and the city's two train stations.

City police and the paramilitary People's Armed Police stood guard in the area and unidentified men in plainclothes attempted to prevent photographers from taking pictures.

Cars in the convoy were identified by yellow stickers but carried no diplomatic license plates. The guesthouse had been the favored residence of Kim's father, North Korea's former leader Kim Jong Il.

A spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said she was not aware of the situation and had no further comment. North Korea's state-run media had no reports of a delegation traveling to China.

South Korea's presidential office said Tuesday it cannot confirm reports that the train carried Kim nor a separate report that Kim's sister was onboard.

South Korean analysts were doubtful the visitor is Kim Jong Un. Since succeeding his father as leader in 2011, Kim has touted an image of his country as diplomatic equal to China and it's unlikely he would sneak into Beijing for his first face-to-face meetings with the Chinese leadership, the experts

(Continued on page 13)



LBJ TROPICAL MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

March 20, 2018

The Department of Human Resources is accepting applications for the following position.

Job Title: Assistant Facilities (Civil Engineer)
Department: Plant Operation
Reports to: Director of Plant Operation
Salary: \$ 50,738 - \$ 58,109

Summary:

This position reports to the Director of Facilities and Engineering. Supports engineering projects by adapting and applying engineering techniques; conducting tests and inspections preparing reports.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Analyze survey reports, maps, drawings, blueprints, aerial photography, and other topographical or geologic data to plan objects
- Plan and design hydraulic systems and structures, following construction and government standards, using design software and drawing tools
- Compute load and grade requirements, water flow rates, and material stress factors to determine design specifications
- Inspect object sites to monitor progress and ensure conformance to design specifications and safety or sanitation standards
- Direct construction, operations, and maintenance activities at project site
- Direct or participate in surveying to lay out installations and establish reference points, grades, and elevations to guide constructions
- Estimate quantities and cost of materials, equipment, or labor to determine project feasibility
- Prepare or present public reports, such as bid proposals, deeds, environmental impact statements, and property and right-of-way descriptions.

1) Qualifications:

- Licensed as a Civil Engineer with a Bachelor's Degree in related field, and 5 years' experience in project management-building construction and renovations preferably at a Hospital facility.

2) Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Analytical skills and must be able to communicate effectively and collaborate with team members. Solve problems, manage multiple projects and use their time wisely and perform these skills with minimal supervision.

3) Core Skills

- Communicating technical ideas to non-technical audiences, such as residents or local government officials
- Determining project costs based on the bids submitted by vendors
- Preparing reports and proposals with Microsoft Word Excel
- Developing projects [plans according to local building codes
- Performing hand calculations to ensure the feasibility of project
- Experience with various computer assisted engineering and design software, such as AutoCAD and Civil 3D

4) Advanced Skills

- Rehabilitating existing buildings, such as historical structures
- Using CAESAR software to analyze the effects of stress on piping systems
- Analyzing the suitability of building materials for specific projects
- Understanding the physical and chemical properties of building materials

5) Physical Demands

- Physically fit to climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl
- Occasionally lift and/or move up to 50lbs
- Specific vision abilities required include close, distant, peripheral, depth and ability to focus
- Walk and sit for long periods.

Deadline for filing applications with the LBJ Office of Human Resources will be April 6, 2018 at 4:00 pm. Application forms are available at the Office of Human Resources.





Currently in Glasgow Scotland UK are Dr. Adrienne L. Kaeppler (center), Curator of Oceanic Ethnology for the National Museum of Natural History Washington D.C, and our very own local siapo makers Reggie Meredith Fitiao and Su'a Uilisone Fitiao who are attending a 10-day workshop in tapa making as part of a research project entitled "Situating Pacific Barkcloth in Time and Place" with the University of Glasgow School of Culture and Creative Arts under the leadership of Dr. Frances Lennard, Professor of Textile Conservation (not pictured). [courtesy photo]



2018-2019


McDonald's Scholarship

McDonald's American Samoa's \$36,000 Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship awarded to 4 High School Seniors continuing to ASCC and 1 Graduating ASCC student to continue to an accredited U.S University.

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- High School Seniors planning to attend ASCC
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- Cumulative GPA of at-least 3.50
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- Pick up at McDonald's Main Office in Nu'uuli
Monday to Friday (8am to 4pm)

Call us at 699-8686 or 8699 for more information.

DUE: April 27th at 4pm!

Experts: Prince toxicology report shows very high drug level

By AMY FORLITI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A toxicology report from Prince's autopsy, obtained Monday by The Associated Press, shows he had what multiple experts called an "exceedingly high" concentration of fentanyl in his body when he died.

Prince was 57 when he was found alone and unresponsive in an elevator at his Paisley Park estate on April 21, 2016. Public data released six weeks after his death showed he died of an accidental overdose of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 times more powerful than heroin. A confidential toxicology report obtained by the AP provides some insight into just how much fentanyl was in his system. Experts who are not connected to the Prince investigation said the numbers leave no doubt that fentanyl killed him.

"The amount in his blood is exceedingly high, even for somebody who is a chronic pain patient on fentanyl patches," said Dr. Lewis Nelson, chairman of emergency medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. He called the fentanyl concentrations "a pretty clear smoking gun."

The report says the concentration of fentanyl in Prince's blood was 67.8 micrograms per liter. The report explains that fatalities have been documented in people with blood levels ranging from three to 58 micrograms per liter.



Moana Taka Partnership expands recycling possibilities for Samoa

BASED ON PRESS RELEASE - The China Navigation Company (CNCo) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment (SPREP) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to address critical waste management issue in the Pacific islands.

Known as the "Moana Taka Partnership", this MOU allows for CNCo vessels to carry containers of recyclable waste from eligible Pacific island ports, pro bono, to be sustainably treated and recycled in suitable ports in Asia Pacific.

"This historic partnership will be of great benefit to our Pacific islands, and one for which we are very appreciative to The China Navigation Company," said Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

"Our Pacific Islands face an immense waste management challenge. With many geographical limitations, the Moana Taka Partnership can help us address the problem of taking our recyclable waste off island for proper recycling. This is a great step, or shall we say paddle, in the right direction."

James Woodrow, Managing Director of CNCo said, "China Navigation has provided sustainable shipping solutions to the Pacific islands for 80 years. Today, the communities in the Pacific islands are facing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time and CNCo is committed to being part of the solution."

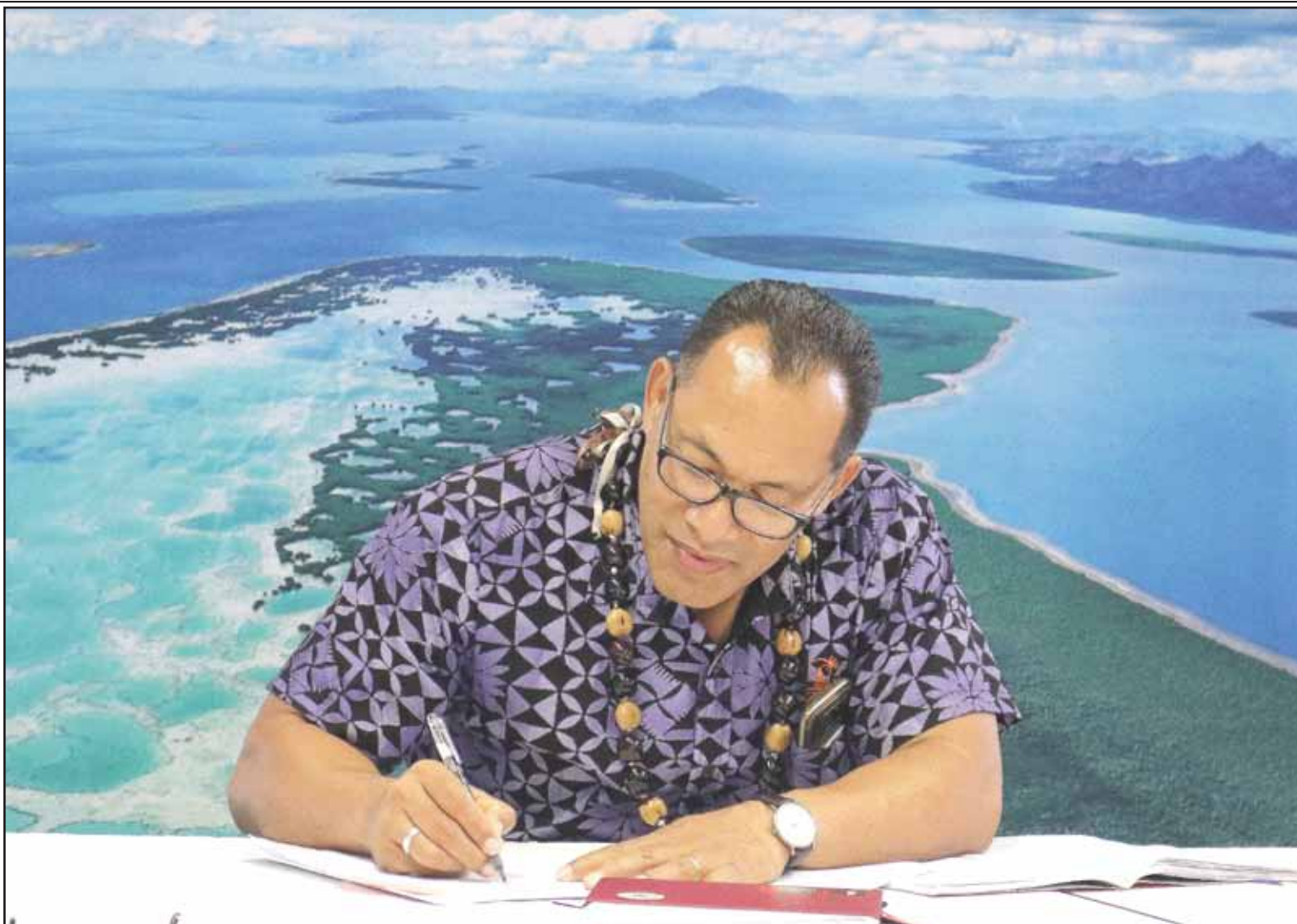
"As soon as we became aware of the critical need for sustainable waste management in the region, we worked urgently with the SPREP and UN Environment to put this partnership in place."

Under this agreement, Pacific island countries who have insufficient or inappropriate landfill space to store waste, have inadequate waste treatment facilities, and the financial inability to ship recyclable waste are eligible for this opportunity. The types of materials that are considered recyclable include plastics, aluminum cans, waste oil and ozone depleting substances.

The signing took place across Samoa and Singapore on March 20, 2018, to mark Global Recycling Day 2018.

"Better waste management is absolutely critical for Pacific island nations. Landfills should be the last option and throwing it all in the ocean is not an

(Continued on page 12)



SPREP Director General, Kosi Latu, signing the Moana Taka Partnership.

[photo: courtesy]



Congratulations to PACIFIC HORIZONS SCHOOL'S Terrific Team of Student Scientists and Mathematicians!



What a fantastic show at this year's ceremonies!

For High School Science:

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- Seamus Cleary 2nd Overall / 1st Marine Science
- Meida Lin 4th Overall / 1st Mathematics
- Ryan deSaulles 1st Technology tied with Michelle Lo 1st Technology
- Alia Tuiolosega 1st Behavior Science
- Ran Gao 3rd Behavior Science
- Grace Lee 3rd Earth and Space
- Esme Peck 3rd Marine Science

For Elementary Science:

- Lisa Pedro 3rd 3-5 Overall / 1st 3-5 Chemistry
- Liaina Cassens 1st 6-8 Medicine
- Angela Chen 2nd 6-8 Environmental Science
- Wayne Sola 3rd 6-8 Engineering
- Penaia Tinitali 3rd K-2 Medicine and Health

For High School Mathematics:

- Victor Chen 1st Ninth Grade
- Kevin Lo 2nd Ninth Grade
- Michelle Lo 3rd Tenth Grade
- Gloria Park 4th Eleventh Grade

For Elementary Mathematics:

- Angela Chen 1st
- Marcelo Chen 3rd
- Georgia Cox 4th

Thanks to our science and math teachers:

Karen Dizon, Jhoanna Dizon, Oliver Serrano, William Shanahan, Kendra Pinsker, Brittany Erickson and Trina Rovelli.

Malo lava, PHS! ❤️



▶ **Rev...**

Continued from page 1

Amama stated.

However, he continues, "The Chairman took me to court and has told the court that this suspension justifies the termination

of my work as General Secretary of CCCAS. With all due respect, I do not believe this is correct."

Amaama states in his resignation letter that he fully understands the CCCAS Constitution, which firmly states that the Church's 'sole authority' and 'finally decision-making body' rests on the Congregational Assembly, Fono Tele (General Assembly), and not on a single Committee.

He said he was ordained as a minister of the CCCAS by vote of approval by the CCCAS General Assembly; and, while he can be disciplined by the Elders Committee for his work as a minister, "only the General Assembly can remove my ordination as a minister."

He further stated that he was duly elected by the General Assembly as provided by the CCCAS Constitution to serve a four-year term, as General Secretary and only the General Assembly can authorize his removal.

"Structurally, Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, and all members that congregate as the Body of Christ make the 'final decisions' on matters pertinent to both the spiritual and physical life of its adherents, in spite of their differences and diversity. No one part of the Body of Christ shall endorse a final saying/ decision," Amaama points out in his letter.

According to Amaama, there appears to be mis-information being spread around that the court has made a final decision accepting his removal. He said that was not correct, because the decision of the court to remove him from the house that was given to the duly elected General Secretary is on appeal.

The issue he's raising is that under the CCCAS Constitution it is for the General Assembly, not the Elders or the Chairman, to make the decision — to remove his ordination as a minister, as well as to remove him as General Secretary.

"The Chairman has refused to bring this matter before the General Assembly at any meetings of the General Assembly. Based on what was said in the court in past hearings, it does not appear the Chairman is willing to bring this up in the upcoming meeting in July 2018," Amaama said.

"It was very irresponsible of the Chairman to bypass the General Assembly on these important matters of Church governance and minister ordination by going directly himself to court to remove me. His actions have taken the authority of the Church along with our ability to reconcile amongst ourselves with the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord, and put them into the hands of the law and the lawyers and judges. His actions have made all positions of faifeau and elected Church officers insecure."

He concluded, "As the Chairman is still refusing to bring this matter of my removal to the General Assembly, I am submitting this offer of resignation as General Secretary directly to the General Assembly in order to resolve this matter of my General Secretary position within the Church in accordance with its constitution and not in front of the court."

"I will consider my dutiful service to our Lord and the Church as General Secretary of CCCAS concluded immediately upon acceptance by the General Assembly of my resignation by vote at the July meeting," Amaama wrote.



FILE - This undated file photo, location unknown, shows Linda Brown. Brown, the Kansas girl at the center of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down racial segregation in schools, has died at age 76. Peaceful Rest Funeral Chapel of Topeka confirmed that Linda Brown died Sunday, March 25, 2018. (AP Photo, File)

Kansas girl at center of 1954 school segregation ruling dies

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Linda Brown, who as a Kansas girl was at the center of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down racial segregation in schools, has died at age 75.

Her father, Oliver Brown, tried to enroll the family in an all-white school in Topeka, and the case was sparked when he and several black families were turned away. The NAACP's legal arm brought the lawsuit to challenge segregation in public schools, and Oliver Brown became lead plaintiff in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the Supreme Court that ended school segregation.

Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel at NAACP Legal Defense and Educational

Fund, Inc., said in a statement that Linda Brown is one of a band of heroic young people who, along with her family, courageously fought to end the ultimate symbol of white supremacy — racial segregation in public schools.

"She stands as an example of how ordinary schoolchildren took center stage in transforming this country. It was not easy for her or her family, but her sacrifice broke barriers and changed the meaning of equality in this country," Ifill said.

Peaceful Rest Funeral Chapel of Topeka confirmed Linda Brown's age and that she died Sunday afternoon. No cause of death was released. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Her sister, Cheryl Brown Henderson, founding president of The Brown Foundation, confirmed the death to The Topeka Capital-Journal. She declined comment from the family.

The landmark case was brought before the Supreme Court by the NAACP's legal arm to challenge segregation in public schools. It began after several black families in Topeka were turned down when they tried to enroll their children in white schools near their homes. The lawsuit was joined with cases from Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that separating black and white children was unconstitutional because it denied black children the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. "In the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place," Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote. "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

The Brown decision overturned the court's *Plessy v. Fer-*

guson decision, which on May 18, 1896, established a "separate but equal" doctrine for black's in public facilities.

"Sixty-four years ago, a young girl from Topeka, Kansas sparked a case that ended segregation in public schools in America," Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer said in a statement. "Linda Brown's life reminds us that by standing up for our principles and serving our communities we can truly change the world. Linda's legacy is a crucial part of the American story and continues to inspire the millions who have realized the American dream because of her."

Brown v. Board was a historic marker in the Civil Rights movement, likely the most high-profile case brought by Thurgood Marshall and the lawyers of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in their decade-plus campaign to chip away at the doctrine of "separate but equal."

"Her legacy is not only here but nationwide," Kansas Deputy Education Commissioner Dale Dennis said.

Oliver Brown, for whom the case was named, became a minister at a church in Springfield, Missouri. He died of a heart attack in 1961. Linda Brown and her sister founded in 1988 the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research.

The foundation says on its webpage that it was established as a living tribute to the attorneys, community organizers and plaintiffs in the landmark Supreme Court decision. Its mission is to build upon their work and keep the ideals of the decision relevant for future generations.

"We are to be grateful for the family that stood up for what is right," said Democratic state Rep. Annie Kuether of Topeka. "That made a difference to the rest of the world."

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Individuals with access and functional needs affected by the storm, people with disabilities, seniors, children, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals and families who are transportation disadvantaged who are heads of household and still need to register should call the Crisis Hotline at (684) 633-9017.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams will come to your home to register you – you do not need to come to any registration sites. If it is hard for an individual to use the telephone (hearing loss), please ask a family member or a friend to make the call on behalf of that individual.

FA'ASILASILAGA

Mo i latou uma e le atoatoa le mafaufau po o le tino ma e iai ni manaoga fa'apitoa ua mafua ai ona le mafai ona o' mai i nofoaga o le tusigaigoa mo fesoasoani a le FEMA, fa'amolemole valaau mai ile 633-9017 e fa'ailoa mai ile au-faigaluega\lou suafa mo le resitala a le FEMA. Aua ete alu i nofoaga o tusigaigoa, ae lava mai le onosa'i e asiasi atu sui o le FEMA i o outou maota po o laoa e fa'taunu'uina le resitala.

Fa'asilasilaga: Afai o oe o se tagata matua po o se tasi e iai ni manaoga fa'apitoa, valaau mai i le numera 633-9017 E i ai le vaega fa'apitoa o le FEMA e o'o atu i lou maota po o lou laoa e resitala oe mo fesoasoani a le FEMA. Aua e te alu i nofoaga o tusigaigoa, e asiasi atu sui o le malo ma FEMA.

Afai e faigata ona e feso'ota'i mai i le telefoni, fai i se tasi o lou aiga e valaau mai i le numera mo le fesoasoani.

Porn star's claim she was threatened disputed by White House

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is disputing adult film star Stormy Daniels' claim that she was threatened to keep quiet over her alleged affair with Donald Trump and said the president continues to deny the relationship.

Daniels' detailed her allegations in a widely watched interview with "60 Minutes" that sparked new legal wrangling between attorneys for the porn star and the president's team. A lawyer for Michael Cohen, Trump's personal attorney, demanded that Daniels publicly apologize to his client for suggesting he was involved in her intimidation. Daniels responded by filing a revised federal lawsuit accusing Cohen of defamation.

Trump, who frequently takes on his foes in person and on social media, remained uncharacteristically quiet about the matter Monday. He sent a cryptic tweet saying "fake news" has "never been more voluminous or more inaccurate" but it was unclear what exactly he was referring to.

Instead, he left the denials to his White House staff. Spokesman Raj Shah declined to say whether the president had watched Daniels' interview, but said Trump did not believe any of the claims she made.

"The president strongly, clearly and has consistently denied these underlying claims, and the only person who's been inconsistent is the one making the claims," Shah said.

But Daniels was on Trump's mind this weekend in Palm Beach, Florida, where he had dinner Saturday night with Cohen at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Trump, according to one person who spent time with him, told guests that Daniels now owes him \$21 million for breaking her silence, and that every time she talks, she owes him a million more. Trump appeared in good spirits, laughing off the fact that Daniels will be bringing her "Making America Horny Again" strip show to a nearby venue next month, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to

disclose private conversations.

Mar-a-Lago member Chris RuTuesday, March 27, 2018, the CEO of Newsmax, told ABC Sunday that Trump told him "much of the Stormy Daniels stuff" is a "political hoax."

Trump returned to Washington Sunday night, though first lady Melania Trump stayed behind in Florida. A spokeswoman for Mrs. Trump said she is "focused on being a mom and is quite enjoying spring break at Mar-a-Lago while working on future projects."

In her interview, Daniels said she'd slept with Trump once, shortly after Mrs. Trump gave birth to the president's youngest son. She also said that a man approached her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011, when she was with her infant daughter, and threatened her with physical harm if she went public with her story.

In a letter late Sunday night, an attorney for Cohen demanded that Daniels publicly apologize to his client.

"In truth, Mr. Cohen had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with any such person or incident, and does not even believe that any such person exists, or that such incident ever occurred," wrote Brent H. Blakely. He said Daniels and her lawyer, Michael Avenatti, should "cease and desist from making any further false and defamatory statements about my client."

Daniels, in the revised lawsuit she filed Monday, alleges Cohen made a false statement that damaged her reputation when he released a statement in February that intimated she was lying.

In a round of television interviews Monday morning, Avenatti said he was holding back certain details of the alleged affair, including the contents of a CD or DVD he tweeted a picture of last week, for strategic reasons. "It would make no sense for us to play our hand as to this issue and we're not going to do it right now," he said on NBC's "Today" show.

Daniels received a \$130,000 payment days before the 2016 presidential election for her silence and has sought to invalidate a nondisclosure agreement she signed. Cohen has said he

paid the \$130,000 out of his own pocket while asserting Trump never had sex with the porn actress.

Previously, Cohen has said neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction with Daniels and he was not reimbursed for the payment.

During Monday's briefing, Shah said neither the White House nor Trump had violated campaign finance laws that restrict political contributions.

"The White House didn't engage in any wrongdoing," Shah said of Trump's behavior, adding that there was "nothing to corroborate" Daniels' intimidation claims.

In the interview, Daniels described a sexual encounter with Trump that began with him talking about himself and showing her an issue of a magazine with his picture on the cover.

She said she ordered him to drop his pants and, in a playful manner, "I just gave him a couple swats." At one point she said he told her: "Wow, you — you are special. You remind me of my daughter."

The interview gave "60 Minutes" its biggest audience in a decade, with slightly more than 22 million viewers tuning in, according to Nielsen Co. estimates.

Daniels is not the only woman accusing Trump. Former Playboy model Karen McDougal told Cooper in a CNN interview broadcast Thursday that her affair with Trump began at a bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel in 2006. McDougal said she ended the relationship in 2007 out of guilt concerning Trump's wife, Melania.

McDougal has filed suit in Los Angeles seeking to invalidate a confidentiality agreement with American Media Inc., the company that owns the supermarket tabloid National Enquirer. It paid her \$150,000 during the 2016 presidential election.

The lawsuit alleges that McDougal was paid for the rights to her story of an affair, but the story never ran. It also alleges that Cohen was secretly involved in her discussions with American Media.

information about Seddique Mateen," her email said. "Seddique Mateen was a FBI confidential human source at various points in time between January 2005 and June 2016."

This email was sent after jurors heard Shahla Mateen, Omar's mother, deny during cross-examination that her husband had any relationship with the FBI.

The email also revealed other details the prosecution didn't tell jurors, including the discovery in the hours after the shooting that "receipts for money transfers to Turkey

and Afghanistan" made in the days and weeks before the shooting were found at Seddique Mateen's home, and that in 2012, an anonymous tipster had accused Seddique Mateen of "seeking to raise \$50,000 - \$100,000 via a donation drive to contribute towards an attack against the government of Pakistan." Defense attorneys said had they known about this information in advance of her trial, they would have investigated "whether Mateen's father was involved in or had foreknowledge of the Pulse attack," they wrote.



Alana Joserose is this year's 2nd place overall winner in the K-2 division for the Territorial Science Fair competition, which was held last week at the Fale Laumei. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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Judge...

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thwarted," they wrote, paraphrasing and citing 15th Century Italian poet Dante Alighieri's The Divine Comedy.

Her lawyers' motion said U.S. Attorney Sara Sweeney sent them an email Saturday revealing some details of the FBI's involvement with Seddique Mateen's activities leading up to the Pulse attack.

"I have just received authorization to disclose the following



Sheriff: Michigan State official arrested amid Nassar probe

By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan State University official who oversaw Larry Nassar was arrested Monday amid an investigation into the handling of complaints against the former sport doctor, who is in prison for sexually assaulting patients under the guise of treatment.

William Strampel was in jail pending an arraignment Tuesday, Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth told The Associated Press. He declined to say what charges Strampel was facing because the probe is being led by the Michigan attorney general's office.

A spokeswoman for Attorney General Bill Schuette declined to comment. A news conference was scheduled for Tuesday, two months after Schuette appointed a special assistant attorney general to investigate.

Strampel, 70, is the first person besides Nassar to be charged in connection with the worst sexual abuse case in sports history. Nassar pleaded guilty to molesting patients and possessing child pornography. Strampel's arrest was first reported by the Detroit Free Press, and WILX-TV earlier reported that state police were seen outside Strampel's Lansing-area home.

Strampel was the dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which includes the sports medicine clinic, until he announced a leave of absence for medical reasons in December. He told police last year that he never followed up after ordering Nassar in 2014 to have a third person present when providing treatment to "anything close to a sensitive area." In letting Nassar resume seeing patients, he also said any skin-to-skin contact should

be minimal and needed to be explained in detail.

Nassar was fired in 2016 for violating the rule. His dismissal came less than a month after former gymnast Rachael Denhollander filed a criminal complaint saying Nassar had sexually assaulted her with his hands while treating her for back pain years earlier. Strampel told a campus detective and FBI agent in 2017 that he did not check to see if Nassar was following the guidance because Nassar had been "exonerated" in an investigation of a patient's complaint and the imposed guidelines were "health care 101." At least 12 reported assaults occurred after the probe ended, including many during which Nassar made ungloved skin-to-skin contact when no chaperone was present, according to a university police report.

The school has also come under scrutiny for not sharing the full conclusions of the Title IX investigation with Amanda Thomashow, the woman who complained. A campus police probe of Nassar that occurred at the same time resulted in no charges being filed. And a teen's 2004 complaint to Meridian Township police also led to no charges after Nassar offered an aggressive defense and insisted he was using a legitimate medical technique. In February, interim Michigan State President John Engler announced plans to fire Strampel, who still has tenure that protects his employment as a faculty member.

More than 250 girls and women have sued Michigan State, Strampel and other current and former university officials, USA Gymnastics — where Nassar also worked — and others. Roughly 200 women gave statements in two courtrooms over 10 day of proceedings.



FILE - In this Jan. 31, 2018, file photo, Larry Nassar appears for his sentencing at Eaton County Circuit Court in Charlotte, Mich. William Strampel, a high-ranking Michigan State University official, has been arrested amid an investigation into the handling of complaints against now-imprisoned former sports doctor Nassar. Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth told The Associated Press that Strampel was in custody at the jail Monday night, March 26, 2018.

(Cory Morse/The Grand Rapids Press via AP, File)



American Samoa Government DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Request for Public Comment on Special Education Funding Application

The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) Special Education Division (SPED) has for public review its application for funding under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the US Department of Education.

These funds are used to provide special education services to all school age children, ages 3 - 21 years, in the territory of American Samoa who have a disability that adversely affects their classroom achievements. As a condition for granting the funds, each State or Territory proposing the application must submit the application for public review and comment. The public must be afforded reasonable opportunities for comment 30 days prior to the submission of the application on May 14, 2018. The public hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2018 at the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Conference Room in Utulei at 2:00pm. The Department of Education must review and give due consideration to all comments and suggestions prior to the submission of the application for funding.

Copies of the application are available at the Special Education Office located in Faga'alu. All persons interested in the application are encouraged to pick up a copy between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. Written comments will also be taken during these hours. Comments and suggestions may also be made via email to faauifono Vaitautolu at faauitulu@yahoo.com or Dr. Teresa Le'iato Atuatasi at atuajjj_1999@yahoo.com or may be sent surface mail to Dr. Teresa Le'iato Atuatasi, Assistant Director Special Education Division, PO Box ASDOE-SPED, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

Talosagaina Finagalo Lautele mo le Tusi Talosaga mo Alagatupe Fuafuaina o le Ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa

Ua tu'uina mai e le Matagaluega o A'oga Amerika Samoa (ASDOE) Ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa (SPED) se avanoa e fa'alua ai finagalo fa'alau'itele a le mamalu o le atunu'u mo le alagatupe talosaga i lalo o le Maga B Tulafono mo Tagata o iai Manaoga Fa'apitoa (IDEA) ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa (OSEP) o le Matagaluega o A'oga a le Malo Tele o Amerika (USDOE).

O ia alagatupe ua fuafuaina e fa'atino ai a'oa'oga fa'apitoa tu'uina atu mo tamaiti a'oga uma, e amata mai i le 3 - 21 tausaga, i totonu o le Teritori o Amerika Samoa o lo'o iai manaoga fa'apitoa ua fa'afaigata ai taumafaiga tau'oa'oga i totonu o potu a'oga. O se tasi aiaiga mo le taliaina o le talosaga, e tatau i Setete ma Teritori uma o lo'o talosagaina ia alagatupe ona fa'asalalau a latou tusi talosaga mo se finagalo fa'aalia o tagata lautele. E tatau ona lava se avanoa e silasila lelei ai le atunu'u mo le silafia ma tu'uina mai so latou finagalo fa'aalia e tusa e 30 aso ae le'i tu'uina atu le tusi talosaga ia Me 14, 2018. O le a faia se fonu fa'alau'itele ia Aperila 12, 2018 i le potu fonotaga i le Ofisa ASDOE Early Childhood Education i Utulei i le itula e 2:00pm. O le a iloiloina e le Matagaluega a A'oga Amerika Samoa finagalo ma manatu fa'aalia a le lautele ma tu'uina atu ni fautuaga ae le'i o'o i le aso fa'atapula'aina o tusi talosaga.

O lo'o maua kopi o lenei tusi talosaga i le Ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa i Faga'alu. Mo i latou e mana'omia se kopi o le tusi talosaga, e avanoa le ofisa mai le itula 8:00am i le 4:00pm. O manatu fa'aalia e tauala mai i tusitusiga e mafai ona tu'uina mai i taimi ua fa'atulagaina. A iai nisi manatu ma fautuaga, e mafai ona imeli mai ia Fa'auifono Vaitautolu faauitulu@yahoo.com po'o Teresa Le'iato Atuatasi atuajjj_1999@yahoo.com pe tusi mai ia Teresa Le'iato Atuatasi, SPED Assistant Director, PO Box ASDOE-SPED, Pago

Moana...

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option. We need to innovate, and this kind of public-private partnership is the way forward. Only when we work together can we overcome one of the biggest environmental challenges of our time," said Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment.

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For more information visit the SPREP and CNC Co websites.

Grandmother of slain Sacramento man calls for police changes

By **DON THOMPSON**, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The grandmother of an unarmed black man killed by Sacramento police called Monday for changes in the way police confront suspects, such as sending in a police dog, using a Taser, or aiming for an arm or leg when shots are fired.

Sequita Thompson said at an emotional news conference that police didn't need to shoot at 22-year-old Stephon Clark 20 times, killing him in her darkened backyard March 18.

"They didn't have to kill him like that, they didn't have to shoot him that many times," she said through sobs, recounting the night of his slaying. She believes Clark was in the backyard trying to get into the house he shared with his grandparents and other family members when he was shot. He's the latest prominent face of young black men killed by police nationwide, said the family's renowned civil rights attorney, Benjamin Crump. He called it an "execution" of a man who

"chose nonviolence" and was found with only a cellphone and not the handgun police thought he was aiming in their direction. Members of the Sacramento Kings and Boston Celtics NBA teams took up his cause Sunday, wearing Clark's name on black warm-up T-shirts three days after protesters formed a human chain blocking entrances to the Kings' Golden1 Center and prevented all but about 1,500 fans from entering. Police said they were pursuing a suspect who had broken at least three car windows and a neighbor's sliding glass door.

They say the suspect fled from two responding officers and ignored commands to stop and show his hands. Video and audio recordings released by the department last week show the officers appear to genuinely believe Clark had a gun, and independent experts said they are unlikely to face criminal charges. Leaders of the NAACP want the Sacramento police department to change its foot pursuit policy to allow for options like waiting for

backup, sending in a police dog, backing off and maintaining surveillance or using less-than-lethal force like Tasers during confrontations. "We're always open to the conversation about how we can do things differently or better and this case is no different," said Detective Eddie Macaulay, a department spokesman. The NAACP also called for an independent investigation but said the two officers should be criminally charged. State NAACP President Alice Huffman said the organization has asked the U.S. Justice Department's civil rights division to investigate the killing. The group also wants California to create an inspector general to investigate police-involved shootings. It is rare for police officers to even be charged following a shooting and rarer still for them to be convicted. Often times it's because of the doctrine of reasonable fear: if prosecutors or jurors believe that officers have a reason to fear for their safety, they can use force up to and including lethal force.



(Photos: Blue)



China...

Continued from page 7



Chinese policemen stand guard at a road barricade in front of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Unusually heavy security at a Beijing guesthouse where prominent North Koreans have stayed in the past and media reports of a special train arriving have raised speculation that Kim Jong Un is making his first trip to China as the North's leader.

(AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

said. They said it's more likely Kim sent a special envoy, possibly his sister Kim Yo Jong, to appease a traditional ally ahead of his planned meetings with the presidents of South Korea and the United States. The envoy could potentially seek Chinese commitment for future support should North Korea's talks with rivals fall through, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

"North Korea doesn't want to send a message that China has been pushed to the back as it makes diplomatic approaches to the United States and South Korea," said Cha, saying that the visit could be part of the North's effort to gain leverage in the talks with South Korea and the United States. "If the talks with South Korea and the United States fall through, North Korea will surely try to demonstrate its nuclear weapons and missile capabilities again. The special envoy could discuss this possibility with Chinese officials, asking China not to press too hard with sanctions if that happens."

Heavy security was reported at the Friendship Bridge before the train passed from North Korea to China, and there were reports of it passing through several stations on the way from North Korea to Beijing.

NTV reported the green and yellow train appeared very similar to the one that former North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un's late father, took to Beijing in 2011 and has 21 cars.

A video that aired on NTV also showed a motorcade of black limousines waiting at the train station and rows of Chinese soldiers marching on what appeared to be a train platform. The video did not show anyone getting off the train.

White House spokesman Raj Shah said Monday the U.S. could not confirm reports that Kim was visiting China.

Shah reiterated Trump's plans to meet with Kim, saying the U.S.-led international pressure campaign against Pyongyang "has paid dividends and has brought the North Koreans to the table."



'Beginning of the end?' No new babies for endangered whales

By **RUSS BYNUM**, Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — The winter calving season for critically endangered right whales is ending without a single newborn being spotted off the southeast U.S. coast, a reproductive drought unseen for three decades that experts say brings the rare species a perilous step closer to extinction.

"It's a pivotal moment for right whales," said Barb Zoodsma, who oversees the right whale recovery program in the U.S. Southeast for the National Marine Fisheries Service. "If we don't get serious and figure this out, it very well could be the beginning of the end." Researchers have been looking since December for newborn right whales off the coasts of Georgia and Florida, where pregnant whales typically migrate each winter to give birth in warmer Atlantic waters. Trained spotters in airplanes who spend the season scouting the coastal waters for mother-and-calf pairs found nothing this season. They wrap up work when the month ends Saturday. Zoodsma said she doesn't expect any last-minute calf sightings. If she's right, it will be the first year whale spotters have recorded zero births since survey flights began in 1989.

The timing could hardly be worse. Scientists estimate only about 450 North Atlantic right whales remain, and the species suffered terribly in 2017. A total of 17 right whales washed up dead in the U.S. and Canada last year, far outpacing five births.

With no rebound in births this past winter, the overall population could shrink further in 2018. One right whale was found dead off the coast of Virginia in January.

"It is truly alarming," said Philip Hamilton, a scientist at the New England Aquarium in Boston who has studied right whales for three decades. "Following a year of such high mortality, it's clear the population can't sustain that trajectory."

Right whales have averaged about 17 births per year during the past three decades. Since 2012, all but two seasons have yielded below-average calf counts.

Scientists will be looking for newborn stragglers as the whales return to their feeding grounds off the northeastern U.S. this spring. That happened last year, when two previously unseen babies were spotted in Cape Cod Bay.

Right whale researcher Charles "Stormy" Mayo of the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Massachusetts, said he was hopeful some calves were born this season off the Carolinas or Virginia, where scientists weren't really looking.

Secretive group's leader charged with sex-trafficking

By **TOM HAYS**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The leader of a secretive group in upstate New York turned female followers into brainwashed "slaves" who were branded with his initials and coerced into having sex, authorities alleged on Monday in a criminal complaint charging him with sex-trafficking.

Keith Raniere, co-founder of the group called Nxivm, was arrested in Mexico and returned to Texas Monday, authorities said. He was to appear in court on Tuesday in Fort Worth on the charges filed by federal prosecutors in Brooklyn.

According to the complaint, Raniere — known within the group as "Vanguard" — oversaw a barbaric system in which women were told the best way to advance was to become a "slave" overseen by "masters." They also were expected to have sex with him and do menial chores for masters, and to keep the arrangement a secret or be publicly humiliated, the complaint says.

The name of Raniere's attorney wasn't immediately available on Monday. In a letter attributed to Raniere previously posted on a website related to Nxivm, he denied the practices were sanctioned by the self-described self-help group.

"These allegations are most disturbing to me as non-violence is one of my most important values," the letter said.

The complaint said that many victims participated in videotaped ceremonies where they were branded in their pelvic area with a symbol featuring Raniere's initials.

"During the branding ceremonies, slaves were required to be fully naked, and the master would order one slave to film while the other held down the slave being branded," the complaint says.

Investigators said Raniere preferred exceptionally thin women, so "slaves" had to stick to very low-calorie diets and document every food they ate. As punishment for not following orders, women were forced to attend classes where they were "forced to wear fake cow udders over their breasts while people called them derogatory

names," or threatened with being put in cages, court papers say.

Raniere left the United States late last year after The New York Times reported the stories of some women who defected from their secret sorority and the government began interviewing potential witnesses. He sought to cover this trail by using encrypted email and ditching his phone, court papers say.

He was ultimately found staying with several women in a luxury gated community in Puerto Vallarta where villas can run \$10,000 a week to rent, investigators say. After authorities took him into custody on a U.S. warrant, investigators said the women got into a high-speed car chase.

The website related to the group describes Raniere as a "scientist, mathematician, philosopher, entrepreneur, educator, inventor and author" who has "devoted his life to studying the human psychodynamic and developing new tools for human empowerment, expression and ethics."

Nxivm's Mexican affiliate is headed by Emiliano Salinas, a son of that country's former president. Several women who belong to the group in Mexico have traveled to Albany, where they were branded, two former Nxivm members told the Times.

Salinas has also denied that the sorority is affiliated with Nxivm.

Raniere and Nxivm have been the subject of criticism for years, dating back to at least 2012 when the Times Union of Albany published a series of articles examining the organization and allegations that it was like a cult.

Over the years, Nxivm has attracted a following that includes Emmy Award-winning actress Allison Mack. Authorities also say Raniere has been bankrolled by Clare Bronfman, an heiress to the Seagram's liquor fortune.

Bronfman gave millions of dollars covering expenses like private air travel costing \$65,000 flight, court papers say.

Pilot in NYC copter crash blames passenger restraint harness



FILE - In this March 12, 2018 file photo, a helicopter, which crashed the previous day, is hoisted by crane from the East River onto a barge, in New York. The pilot of the helicopter that crashed into New York City's East River told federal investigators that he believed the aircraft's fuel was cut off when a passenger's restraint tether tangled with an emergency fuel cutoff shift. The pilot told the National Transportation Safety Board that he went to flip off the switch because the craft was going down, but discovered that it was already off and that part of the harness was underneath it. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — The pilot of a helicopter that crashed into New York City's East River told federal investigators that he believed the aircraft's fuel was cut off when a passenger's restraint tether tangled with an emergency fuel cutoff switch, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a preliminary report on the crash released Monday.

The pilot, Richard Vance, told the NTSB that he went to flip off the switch because the craft was going down, but discovered that it was already off and that part of the harness was

underneath it.

Five passengers who couldn't free themselves from their harnesses drowned when the helicopter rolled over into the water. The pilot, who was not wearing a harness, escaped with only minor injuries.

Vance told the NTSB that the passengers had a safety briefing before the flight, and were told how to use cutting tools to slash the restraint harnesses if necessary.

The report also noted that the helicopter's pontoons didn't equally inflate, with the pontoons on the left skid more inflated than those on the right.

The NTSB has not issued any findings on the cause of the crash, and the report did not offer an opinion as to whether the pilot's observations were correct. A final report could be over a year away.

In his interview, the pilot said the helicopter, on an open-door flight, had been traveling over Central Park when the front-seat passenger turned sideways, slid closer to the pilot and leaned back, extending his feet outside the aircraft to take a photo. It was at that point that

(Continued on page 16)

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Russian shopping mall fire kills 64; no alarms reported

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Witnesses say fire alarms were silent and many doors were locked when a blaze at a Russian shopping mall packed with children and their parents on the first weekend of the school recess killed 64 people in Siberia.

The fire at the Winter Cherry mall in Kemerovo, a city about 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) east of Moscow, was extinguished by Monday morning after burning through the night.

Sixty-four deaths were confirmed after firefighters finished combing through the four floors of the mall, Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov told a televised briefing. Six of the bodies have not yet been recovered. Some of the dead were found inside a cinema, which one witness said had been locked shut.

Investigators said Monday that emergency exits were blocked and a security guard turned off the public announcement system when he received a call about the blaze, but they provided no information why that happened.

On Monday morning, Kemerovo residents were bringing flowers, candles and stuffed animals to a plaza outside the mall, and local hospitals reported an influx of people wanting to donate blood for the victims.

Out of 23 victims whose bodies have been identified, eight are children, the emergency officials said.

Thirteen people have been hospitalized. Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova, who visited the Kemerovo hospital where the victims were receiving treatment, said on Russian state television that the patient in the gravest condition is an 11-year-old boy who jumped out of a window from the fourth floor. The boy's parents and younger sister died in the fire, Skvortsova said.

Some 200 animals are also believed to have died in the mall's petting zoo. The zoo's manager told the Tass news agency that the animals included rabbits, turtles, pigs, goats and rodents.

Russia's top investigative body said Monday afternoon that they are searching for a security officer who appears to have turned off the PA system when he received a call about the blaze.

Four people have been detained in connection with the deadly fire, including one of the mall's tenants. The investigators did not give the cause of the fire but said they have obtained evidence proving "flagrant violations" that could have contributed to the heavy loss of life, including the fact that the fire escapes were blocked.

Some accounts indicated

that the blaze first erupted in a children's game room and spread quickly, filling the huge building with toxic fumes.

Witness testimony indicated that the fire alarms were not working, but it was not clear why. Eyewitnesses also said that staff did not arrange for the evacuation at the shopping mall, which was converted from a former confectionery factory in 2013. Some guards and other staff helped people to get out, but there was no organized rescue effort. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday it was too early to draw conclusions about whether local officials failed in Kemerovo.

Winter Cherry was one of Kemerovo's most popular entertainment centers for families with children, with its own indoor skating rink, petting zoo and trampolines and a movie theater with several screens. Kemerovo residents said the mall was packed with children and their parents.

Anna Zarechneva, who was on the top floor where the fire started, watching a movie with her husband and son, said they only found out about the fire when a man ran into the theater shouting.

"We didn't hear the fire alarm, they even didn't turn on the light during the show," she said. "That movie could have been the last for us, I've only just realized that."

The doors at another movie hall that was showing a cartoon were locked, according to some accounts from the scene, trapping children inside. Some theaters in Russia reportedly lock doors after the movie starts screening to avoid ticketless viewers.

Alexander Lilleviali lost three daughters — 11-year-old twins and a 5-year-old — who were in a cinema hall on the top floor watching a cartoon.

Lilleviali told the Meduza news website that one of his daughters called him, saying that they could smell the smoke but could not get out because the door was locked.

"I was shouting into the phone, telling her to get out but there was nothing I could do — the fire was in front of me," he said.

The Prosecutor General's Office on Monday ordered all shopping malls in Russia to be checked for fire safety features.

Russian companies routinely complain about excessive checks from various government agencies, which often abuse elaborate rules and regulations to pressure businesses. As a result, many companies prefer to pay bribes instead of complying with outdated and excessive regulations, including fire safety rules.

President Vladimir Putin late on Sunday offered his "deep

condolences" to the families of the victims. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev called for a moment of silence at a session of the government on Monday.

Pope Francis said in a telegram to Putin that he is "deeply saddened" by the loss of life. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor Angela Merkel both issued condolences to Russia, with Merkel quoted as telling Putin: "We grieve with you."

Local media named millionaire Denis Shtengelov who built his fortune through a company producing snack food as the owner of the mall. Shtengelov, however, insisted in an interview with the business daily Vedomosti that even though he was initially a majority owner of the mall, he now owns only a minority stake along with "many" other unnamed investors.



In this Russian Emergency Situations Ministry photo, taken on Monday, March 26, 2018, an aerial view of the multi-story shopping center after a fire, in the Siberian city of Kemerovo, about 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) east of Moscow, Russia. Russian officials say a fire at a shopping mall in a Siberian city has killed over 50 people. The Ekho Mosvki radio station quoted witnesses who said the fire alarm did not go off and that the staff in the mall in Kemerovo did not organize the evacuation.

(Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations photo via AP)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Agriculture Community and Natural Resources (ACNR)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: **COMPUTER LAB TECHNICIAN**
 Employment Status: **Full Time 12 months (Career Service)**

General Description:

Under the supervision of the ASCC ACNR Network Specialist, the Computer Lab Technician assists ACNR students who need access to a computer in order to fulfill course requirements and to keep current with the growing research and information resources found on the Internet. The successful candidate will be responsible for monitoring the daily operations of the ACNR Computer Lab as well as assisting students with its use. He/she will work with the Network Specialist on the procedural and operational functions of the computer lab.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Monitor the daily operations and functions of the lab, and use of the computers and equipment.
- Assist students in use and care of the computers.
- Keep daily records on the usage of the lab, write and submit reports, request forms, and provide feedback and evaluation on the operations and functions of the computer lab.
- Setup and maintain lab hardware and software. Familiar with MS Windows 7, 8.1, 10; Mac OS X up to current version; MS Office 2013 and later.
- Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Associate of Arts/Science degree in an Information Technology-related field from an accredited community or technical college or equivalent combination of relevant education and experience.
- Ability to recognize, analyze and resolve computer and network problems.
- Ability to support the technical architecture of ASCC ACNR Local Area Network.
- Must be physically able to lift heavy equipment and flexible for network installation.

Salary: GS:12/03-07: \$ 15,073.00 - \$ 17,673.00 per annum.

Application Deadline: April 5, 2018 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by emailing Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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Liaina Cassens of Pacific Horizons School won first place overall in the Medicine and Health category for the Level 6-8 division of this year's Territorial Science Fair competition.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



Manumalo Academy 3rd grader JM Mirasol was named the overall first place winner for the Level 3-5 division of this year's Territorial Science Fair competition. JM is pictured with his mother, Miriam.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



Carl Balauro of Faasao Marist High School was this year's first place winner in the Botany category for the high school division during the 2017-2018 Territorial Science Fair competition, which was held last week. Carl claimed third overall, placing him in the Top 5 and securing him a spot at the national science fair competition set to be held later this year in Pittsburgh. Carl is pictured with his proud sister Ninna.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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► Pilot...

Continued from page 14

the pilot began experiencing problems. The front passenger's restraint harness had already come off once before that during the flight, said the pilot, who recalled passengers on earlier flights also accidentally releasing their seatbelts.

The NTSB has previously raised safety concerns about the safety of the fuel controls on the helicopter model involved in the crash, the Eurocopter AS350. After one of the helicopters crashed in Alaska in 2008, killing four people, investigators determined that a passenger had likely bumped the aircraft's fuel flow control lever with either his foot or backpack. It noted that Canadian officials had blamed a non-fatal accident in 1994 on a similar accidental movement of the fuel control lever by a passenger.

"The NTSB is concerned that the FFCLs on Eurocopter AS350-series helicopters can be easily and inadvertently moved out of their detents by objects or persons, including the pilot and passengers, in flight or on the ground," the NTSB wrote in its report on the 2008 crash.

It recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration require modifications of the control system.