

Lolo tells cabinet to follow the law with regards to hiring

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Local weight loss program promises to deliver immediate results

In Sports

Fesiligia e le Fa'amasinoga auala saili ai Leoleo fualaau fa'asaina

Le Lali B-9



One Thousand Ropes is in its second showing tonight at Fatu-o-Aiga Hall, at 7 p.m. Tickets are still on sale — contact numbers for more info are: 258-4197 or 258-5800.

Seen here is the lead character of the film, Tuiasau Uelese Petaia, who plays a baker and a Samoan taulasea, who tries to reconnect with his daughter, after she shows up with her child and a 'face beaten to a pulp'. The movie is in the Samoan language.

It is proudly presented by Talofa Airways with Up Media in support of Catholic Social Services, with all proceeds going to Catholic Social Services. [photo: SUGA Magazine]



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samoa news

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017

\$1.00

Death of a man on board purse seiner vessel being investigated

by Samoa News Staff

Members of the local marine safety detachment unit of the US Coast Guard are currently conducting an investigation into the death of a man on board a US flagged purse seiner vessel that arrived yesterday.

The Department of Public Safety was contacted about the situation Wednesday, after local USCG officials were notified of the issue prior to the vessel's arrival.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel were at the dock when the vessel sailed in, waiting to transport the man to LBJ Medical Center.

No other specific details could be obtained about the incident but Samoa News understands that the deceased is not Samoan.

The vessel is one of several US flagged purse seiners home ported here.

AG gives faipule something to ponder on

IS IT TIME TO FINALLY BROADCAST FONO SESSIONS AND HEARINGS?

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale has posed a challenge for faipule to think about: whether it is the right time for the Fono to have sessions and hearings broadcasted live on television and radio, so the public will know exactly what's being discussed, and to avoid the media from publishing wrong information.

Talauega was responding to a recommendation by Rep. Fagaoatua Dorian Salavea during a House Public Safety Committee hearing this week, that the only way the public will fully understand what's going on at the Department of Public Safety, especially the issue of arming police officers, is for the Commissioner to call a press conference with local media representatives.

If the Commissioner agrees, the Fono faipule recommends hosting a press conference once or twice a month, saying it is a good communication tool for the public and DPS to share information.

Fagaoatua's recommendation was a reaction to Commissioner Le'i's statement that a lot of people are posting negative comments on the Samoa News website about cops being armed.

Le'i said he's always emotional when people start talking negatively about cops being stupid, cops being out there shooting people, etc.

"This is an unprofessional response from those" posting comments on the Samoa News website, Le'i said, after which he told House members that he has to be very careful about what he says because Samoa News "is here, and I have to protect the lives and the safety of our local cops. All of your questions are being recorded by the newspaper, and they will put it in the paper tomorrow, and when people read it, it will create more anger."

Fagaoatua said there are a lot of issues the public needs to be aware of, and the only way for them to get the information is through the work of local media.

Fagaoatua said he fully understands the media's role in society - they are the ones who inform the public on what's happening in the territory.

He recalled an issue he raised in the House chamber a few weeks ago, regarding the closure of the Leone Substation which concerned him and the residents of Fofu District.

Fagaoatua asked Public Safety Committee chairman, Manumaua W. Wilson to look into what can be done to reopen the facility. He said he only found out that the substation had been closed down for two weeks after Emergency Medical Services (EMS) moved out of the facility.

Fagaoatua said that after he raised the issue, the committee chairman told him that perhaps one of the reasons why the Leone Substation closed was the lack of personnel to do the work.

The Fofu faipule said he was shocked when media reports that week stated that the committee chairman told the House that the reason why the Leone substation was closed was because of guns.

"I did not mention anything about guns, but the media reported that the chairman said that's the reason why the Leone Substation was closed down. This is why I highly recommend that the Commissioner host a press conference with local media. It will be a good way to get the right information out to the community," Fagaoatua said

Talauega referred to the English phrase, "lost in translation", saying he sees this as an ongoing problem for the both the Senate and House, when the community isn't getting the right message from what senators and faipule are discussing during hearings and sessions, because of how the media is delivering the information.

"I'm not trying to tell you what to do," Talauega said to faipule. "All I'm asking is for you to consider, is whether this is the right time for the Fono to have their daily sessions and hear-

(Continued on page 4)



William Spitzenberg and Pselio are inviting those who are serious about weight loss and healthy living to join the Slimmer Stronger You (SSY) program, which boasts a 100% success rate. No need for pills, juices, or gym memberships. See story in today's Sports section for details. [photo: courtesy]



**In The High Court
of American Samoa
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL
COURT DIVISIONS**
FDA/JR o. 32-17
IN RE: A CHILD
NOTICE/FA'AALIGA

TO: Mr. Iefata (unknown last name)
Taputimu Village
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named respondent that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to terminate your parental rights in a female child born on June 6, 2006, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Faga'alu, American Samoa. A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order that you have not acquired any parental rights to the minor child and place the child for adoption. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TUUINAATU ia te oe, le ua ta'ua i luga, ua iai se talosaga ua failaina i le Fa'amasinoga Maualuga o Amerika Samoa e iloilu ai ou aia fa'a-matua i se teineititi sa fanau o ia i le aso 6 o Iuni, 2006, i le Falemai i Fagaalu, Amerika Samoa. O lenei iloiloga e faia pe a tuana'i le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le aso o le ulua'i faasalalaua o lenei fa'aaliga, ma e ono tuuina atu ai se poloa'iga a le Fa'amasinoga e faailoa ai ua leai ni ou aia fa'a-matua i lenei tamaititi. Afai e te tete'e, pe e te finagalo e fa'amaonia ou aia fa'a-matua, ia e failaina se talosaga tete'e i le Fa'amasinoga i totonu o le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le ulua'i faasalalaua o lenei fa'aaliga.

Dated/Aso: September 17, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 09/27 & 10/27/17

**In The High Court
of American Samoa
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL
COURT DIVISIONS**
FDA/JR No. 35-17
IN RE: A CHILD
NOTICE/FA'AALIGA

TO: Mr. John Doe
Leone Village
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named respondent that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to terminate your parental rights in a female child born on July 24, 2017, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Fagaalu, American Samoa. A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order that you have not acquired any parental rights to the minor child and place the child for adoption. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of the publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TUUINAATU ia te oe, le ua ta'ua i luga, ua iai se talosaga ua failaina i le Fa'amasinoga Maualuga o Amerika Samoa e iloilu ai ou aia fa'a-matua i se teineititi sa fanau o ia i le aso 24 o Iulai, 2017, i le Falemai i Fagaalu, Amerika Samoa. O lenei iloiloga e faia pe a tuana'i le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le aso o le ulua'i faasalalaua o lenei fa'aaliga, ma e ono tuuina atu ai se poloa'iga a le Fa'amasinoga e faailoa ai ua leai ni ou aia fa'a-matua i lenei teineititi. Afai e te tete'e, pe e te finagalo e fa'amaonia ou aia fa'a-matua, ia e failaina se talosaga tete'e i le Fa'amasinoga i totonu o le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le ulua'i faasalalaua o lenei fa'aaliga.

Dated/Aso: October 25, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 10/27 & 11/27/17

Lolo tells cabinet to follow the law with regards to hiring

SAYS THE PROCESS IS DHR'S RESPONSIBILITY

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has directed his cabinet to "cease the practice of pre-selecting employees" to fill vacant positions in Executive Branch departments and agencies, and they must follow local law, meaning going through the Department of Human Resources (DHR).

The governor's directive comes amid new allegations that there have been new hires in the Executive Branch at the start of FY 2018 — which began Oct. 1, 2017 — with similar allegations that it's "who you know" in government, that will "get you a government job."

In an Oct. 24th memorandum titled, "Recruitment and Hiring Policy", Lolo reminded Executive Branch directors that DHR is "legally mandated to develop

and manage" the American Samoa Government's human resources — pursuant to local laws.

"Inherent in these responsibilities is the recruitment and hiring of all government employees," the governor wrote, adding that the law specifically states that any ASG agency wishing to hire someone to fill a vacant or new position "must transmit the request" to DHR.

The said position must be advertised with all applications received and directed to DHR for processing. The director of the requesting agency will make the final decision on the person to hire from five finalists provided by DHR.

Lolo reminded his directors that ASG "is an equal employment entity and advertising the position manifests our commitment in advancing this policy."

"It is also a prerequisite for our Career Service Program," he continued, noting that these "tenets are incorporated in our personnel rules and regulations" managing the recruitment and hiring of personnel for ASG.

According to the governor, the prevailing personnel rules and regulations preclude extension of any authority to any director, except for the DHR director, to recruit and hire government employees.

"Accordingly, please cease the practice of preselecting employees to fill your vacant position(s) and then send them to the Department of Human Resources to rubber-stamp," the

governor wrote. "Your authority lies with making the final decision on the person to hire based on the applicants transmitted to you for review and approval by Human Resources."

Lolo pointed out that it is the mandated responsibility of DHR to "ensure that the recruitment and hiring rules and regulations receive full compliance."

Samoa News learned yesterday from ASG officials that the governor's directive is a result of "agencies now sending their list of vacancies and the names of individuals to fill the positions" to DHR without advertising the positions to comply with ASG Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and the prevailing personnel rules and regulations contained in Title 7 of the American Samoa Code Annotated- local law.

The officials declined to identify the agencies that aren't following personnel rules and regulations, as they were only providing background information on the reason behind the governor's directive.

Two other ASG officials noted that in past cabinet meetings, Lolo had emphasized to directors ASG's hiring and recruitment policy, which must be followed in accordance to local law, and DHR "must be involved in the recruitment process".

Samoa News points out that there have been many public complaints regarding people being hired for government jobs that were never advertised.



5825 Fa'atamali'i Center, Suite 2B
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Office Phone: (684) 699-7923

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FULL TIME PROJECT MANAGER

The Empowering Pacific Island Communities, Inc. (EPIC) is seeking a qualified candidate to serve as a full time Project Manager for the American Samoa Youth Offender Reentry Program. EPIC is offering a two year contract (renewable after one year) for a local non-profit organization awarded to provide free civil legal services, behavioral health and transitional support services for youth offenders reintegrating into our community.

Summary:

The Project Manager is responsible for directing, organizing, and coordinating the daily activities of the federally funded project in accordance with its goals, objectives and timeline. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Project Manager ensures that all milestones are being met in accordance with the Management Plan and is responsible for the preparation of programmatic and financial reports to be submitted to the Executive Director at the end of every quarter and fiscal year.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Conducts client intake and assessment, creates a client profile and works closely with behavioral health services provider(s) to develop and monitor an individualized service plan for all project participants
- Coordinates identified services with health, education, social services, law enforcement, probation officials and other service providers in the community to ensure all participants have access to services and are able to navigate the various service systems
- Maintains and monitors Partnership Agreements with service providers and serves as a liaison with consultants/trainers
- Provides staff support for and coordination of the Multidisciplinary Team and its tasks related to case management, follow up and interagency referrals
- Plans, coordinates and directs all community outreach and education to raise awareness about the project and services available for youth offenders and their families
- Ensures proper tracking, filing, and maintenance of organizational records, both hard copy and electronic
- Administers and coordinates the collection of data, research, analytical studies directly related to the project
- Attends all professional development trainings and/or technical assistance meetings as required

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Excellent management, organizational, communication, project coordination and interpersonal skills including the ability to research and problem solve
- Knowledge and understanding of best practices in case management, care coordination and integrated service planning for at-risk youth and/or youth offender reentry services
- Knowledge of how to ensure all services are culturally responsive to the needs of very low income individuals and families
- Strong technology skills, including use of word-processing, e-mail, database, spreadsheets and power point presentation software
- A high degree of confidentiality, adherence to deadlines and timelines, attention to detail, and flexibility to adapt to change
- Fluent in both English and Samoan
- Inspires, motivates, and guides others toward accomplishing goals. Consistently develops and sustains cooperative working relationships and encourages and facilitates cooperation among partners from the public and private sector

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or Management or equivalent work experience
- At least three (3) years minimum of supervisory and management capacity or experience

Applications: The deadline for applications is October 30, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. although applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested candidates should submit the following via email to epic.samoa@gmail.com in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Hard copy submissions will also be accepted at our office located at the Fa'atamali'i Center, Suite 2B (2nd Floor).

Application requirements:

- Cover Letter addressed to: Toetasi Fua Tuiteleapaga, Executive Director.
- Completed Employment Application (request by email to epic.samoa@gmail.com)
- Resume
- Essay (250 words or less). The essay should describe why you feel you are an ideal candidate for this position and what skills and/or work experience you can provide that will benefit the youth and families we serve.

For more information, please contact our office at 699-7923 or via email at epic.samoa@gmail.com.

EPIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer



From left, Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and Defense Minister Song Young-moo attend a press conference at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Oct. 13, 2017. Australia's top diplomat visited the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas on Thursday and said her government hopes there will be no need for military action against North Korea over its weapons programs. Bishop made the comments in an interview with The Associated Press after her visit to the Korean border village of Panmunjom with Defense Minister Payne. The two are in South Korea for talks with top officials on Friday. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Compiled by Samoa News Staff

AMATA WELCOMES PLANS FOR PACIFIC TERRITORIES VETERANS HEARING

Washington, D.C. –Thursday, October 26, 2017 - Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed news that a veterans hearing will be scheduled sometime in the second session of the 115th Congress to examine the challenges of veterans in Pacific insular areas.

Congresswoman Amata led a bipartisan letter earlier this month, joined by her colleagues Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-CNMI) and Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), to Chairman Phil Roe and Ranking Member Tim Walz of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, requesting an oversight hearing to examine the challenges facing veterans residing in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and elsewhere in the Pacific.

The Representatives noted that these areas suffer from minimal involvement by the national Department of Veterans' Affairs. Chairman Roe replied today with his intention to move forward with plans for the requested hearing in the second session of the current Congress. "Ensuring that all of our nation's veterans have access to the health care and other services they need to live healthy, full lives is my top priority as Chairman. To that end, I would be pleased to work with you to schedule a hearing on Pacific insular area veteran access to care in the second session of the 115th Congress," states the Chairman in his letter.

"I look forward to working with you to address the issues Pacific insular area veterans face and I thank you both for bringing their concerns to my attention and for all your hard work and leader-

ship on behalf of America's veterans wherever they may reside," continued the Chairman in his reply. "This is great news for our veterans, and I look forward to examining these issues in a hearing dedicated to that purpose," said Aumua Amata. "I appreciate my colleagues, Congressman Sablan and Congresswoman Bordallo, who joined me in this request regarding these priorities that we share. I am especially grateful to Chairman Roe for caring deeply about our veterans, and his willingness to plan this hearing. I also want to thank Ranking Member Walz, and assure our veterans that we will continue to examine ways to improve access to health care in remote areas." (SOURCE: Congresswoman Aumua Amata's Office, Washington DC)

LOLO APPOINTS THREE NEW PAROLE BOARD MEMBERS

Two church ministers are among the three new members of the ASG Parole Board appointed early this week by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga.

Local law calls for a five-member Parole Board, not employed by the government, and appointed by the governor. The board selects one of its member to be chairperson. Parole Board members are not subject to Fono confirmation.

In an Oct. 24th memo, the governor appointed Rev. Fa'afetai Fuimaono, Mina Saifoloi and Rev. Sam Tinai as the new members of the Parole Board. Lolo said he is confident in the ability of these individuals to "exercise sound judgement, to provide counsel and direction and to carry out the statutory duties of the board".

The trio will join current board members, Father Vaiula Iulio and Tauaifaiva Suiuaono.

According to Lolo, each appointed member shall serve "an indefinite term" until such time his or her successor is appointed by the governor.

(Continued on page 6)



During a recognition ceremony last week, Library Cataloger Faailoa Afalava (center) was recognized for 20 years of service to ASCC. Afalava is pictured with ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato and Acting Human Resources Director, Silaulelei Saofaiga'ali'i.

[photo: J. Kneubuhl]



While the lead character is a man, his women are at the heart of #OneThousandRopes. Seen here from L-R: Gaby Solomon, Frankie Adams, Leiataua Afega "Ma" Si'ulepa, Lagi Farani, Vaele Sima Urale and Atina Lipa Patau.

One Thousand Ropes is in its second showing tonight at Fatu-o-Aiga Hall, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Contact numbers for more info are: 258-4197 or 258-5800. The movie is proudly presented by Talofa Airways with Up Media in support of Catholic Social Services, with all proceeds going to Catholic Social Services. Other sponsors of the event include 93KHJ and V103, the Airport Inn and the Pago Print Shop. The film stars Samoan award winning actor Uelese Petaia, Frankie Adams, Beulah Koale, Ene Petaia, and Sima Urale; and is in the Samoan language. [photo: SUGA Magazine]



Compiled by Samoa News staff

US AMBASSADOR'S SAMOA COMMENTS INVESTIGATED

The US ambassador to New Zealand has revealed he was investigated for remarks he made at a government event in Samoa.

Scott Brown said that he did not know his comments in Samoa, where he is also the US ambassador, would be deemed offensive.

He called guests at a Peace Corps event in July "beautiful" and told one woman she could "make hundreds of dollars" as a waitress in the US. Brown suggested that the complaints may have been politically motivated.

New Zealand media report that the State Department sent investigators to Wellington.

Brown said in a video statement released on Wednesday that he wanted to address "rumor and innuendo" reports of an "administrative investigation" into his comments in Samoa, an independent state in the Polynesian islands.

He said the reason he had commented on the guests' appearances in Samoa was because people he had seen prior to the event "were all dirty and grungy, and when we walked in, they were all dressed to the nines; they looked great."

"Apparently someone took offense to that," he told the news website, seated beside his wife. "Fine. I did say that." The former Republican senator from Massachusetts added the comments to about 250 Samoan dignitaries were meant as a compliment.

One guest told a New Zealand news channel that the ambassador had behaved "obnoxiously". "Would I say it again? Probably not," Ambassador Brown said on Wednesday.

He said he was told by US government employees to be more "culturally aware of dif-

ferent cultures' and he "welcomed" the advice.

Brown, who was among the first lawmakers to endorse US President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, has served as ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa since June.

In his statement he suggested that there was a political element to the complaints, as some members of the crowd did not like the US president.

"Sadly its politics and it is what it is," he said, adding, "Politics is a blood sport".

The US embassy in Wellington said they had nothing to add to the ambassador's statement.

(Source: RNZI)

SAMOA M.P. CALLS ON A.G. FOR AN INVESTIGATION

The alleged violation of border control is a serious matter that should not be taken lightly by the government. As such Member of Parliament, Olo Fiti Vaai, is calling on the Attorney General to step in to investigate the release of five containers under falsified documents.

The Ministry of Revenue later confiscated the containers.

"This deals with border security breaches in our country, an issue the Attorney General, Lemalu Herman Retzlaff, should definitely look into," he said.

"Having the A.G. step in is a clear indication to the business community that this type of (alleged) criminal activity will not be tolerated by this government.

"It's clear from the Ministry of Police they have not been asked to investigate this matter. So now is the time for the Attorney General to step into this relatively important issue.

"Up until now, we have not heard anything solid from the said Ministry aside from their

(Continued on page 6)



▶ **Continued...**

Continued from page 1

ings broadcasted live on television and radio - so the community will get the chance to hear your voices and understand exactly what you're discussing everyday."

Talauega said he isn't trying

to make the media look bad, he's only trying to offer his help so the community will fully understand what exactly senators and faipule discuss every time the Fono is in session.

Some faipule told Samoa News the AG has a good point, but they feel the final say will come straight from Fono leaders.

Attorney: Mom lost baby for 14 months over unpaid court fees

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A Mississippi judge resigned Wednesday after an attorney said the judge prevented a mother from seeing her baby for more than a year because of unpaid court fees. John Shirley resigned as youth court judge in the Jackson suburb of Pearl. The mother, whose name wasn't released, has regained custody of her now 18-month-old child.

Cliff Johnson, an attorney who directs the MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Mississippi, said he started representing the mother last week. He said the mother and her then 4-month-old baby were passengers in a car that was stopped for a traffic violation in August 2016. Johnson said Shirley gave

the grandmother custody of the baby after learning the mother had misdemeanor charges pending, which included court fees.

As a civil rights lawyer in Mississippi, I am no stranger to injustice, but for a judge to prohibit an impoverished mother from having any contact with her baby until monetary payments are made is shocking and repugnant," Johnson said in a news release. "Such orders are tantamount to judicial kidnapping." Shirley said in a statement Thursday that the MacArthur Center news release contained "lies," though he didn't specify what they were. Shirley said he has tried to protect children.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email news.room@samoatelco.com

Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599



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**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

PROCLAMATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Oketopa 2017

WHEREAS, anyone can be a victim of domestic violence regardless of age, sex, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or religion; and

WHEREAS, many victims and survivors of domestic violence find it difficult to report incidences of violence, as victim blaming is extremely prevalent; and

WHEREAS, the impact of domestic violence on the family can lead to lifelong trauma for not only victims, but the children who witness domestic abuse; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for the people of American Samoa to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims; and

WHEREAS, advocates, professionals, volunteers and community members concerned with domestic violence will devote the month of October to raising awareness about the causes, interventions and prevention of this devastating crime; and

WHEREAS, during the month of October, also known as **NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**, the American Samoa Alliance against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and its partners reaffirm their dedication to lifting the veil of silence on domestic violence in American Samoa.

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that I, Lolo Matalasi Moliga, Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2017 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month", and endorse the commitment to ending domestic violence in the community. I call on all citizens of the Territory of American Samoa to speak out against domestic violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my signature on this 27th day of September 2017, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen.

POLOA'IGA FA'ALAUUA'ITELE

MASINA E FA'ATAUAINA AI LE TETE'E ATU I SAUAGA FA'ALOTOIFALE

October 2017

TALUAI, so o se tagata lava e mafai ona a'afia i sauaga fa'alotoifale, tusa lava po o le a le tausaga, itupa, agava'a, tagatanu'u, tulaga taualoa o le tamaoaga, po o le ekalesia; ma

TALUAI, o le to'atele o tagata Samoa ua sauaina i sauaga fa'alotoifale, e fa'afaigata ona ripotia tulaga tau sauaga, aua e faitioina lava le ua a'afia nai lo o le sa fa'ataunu'uina sauaga; ma

TALUAI, ona o a'afiaga o sauaga fa'alotoifale i se aiga, e mafai ona avea ma mafatiaga umi o le olaga, e le gata ia i latou sa a'afia, a'o le fanau sa molimauina sauaga fa'alotoifale; ma

TALUAI, o le fa'atauaina o le masina e tete'e atu i sauaga fa'alotoifale, o se avanoa lelei tele mo tagata o Amerika Samoa e a'oa'o atili ai i le fa'aitiitia o sauaga fa'alotoifale aemaise o le lagolagoina o fa'alapotopotoga eseese ma tagata ta'ito'atasi, o e o lo'o faia galuega fa'afaufautua, auaunaga ese'ese ma le fesoasoani i e ua a'afia; ma

TALUAI, ua fa'apitoa le masina o Oketopa ia i latou o lo'o avea ma fautua mo nisi, o i latou o lo'o iai tomai fa'apitoa, o i latou o lo'o ofoina fua le latou tautua, faapea ma le lautele o lo'o popo'e i tulaga o sauaga fa'alotoifale, e avea ma masina e fa'atupula'ia ai le silafia o mafua'aga, fofo, ma puipuiga mai leni solitulafono mata'utia; ma

TALUAI, i le masina o Oketopa, ua ta'ua o le masina e fa'atupula'ia ai le silafia o tulaga i sauaga fa'alotoifale, o le a fa'apena ona toe fa'amalosia ai taumafaiga a le Mau mo le tete'e atu i sauaga fa'alotoifale ma fa'afeusua'iga, ma o latou pa'aga, ina ia ave'esea le ufimata o lo'o pupunia ma taofiofia le fa'a'ailoa mai o sauaga i totonu o Amerika Samoa, a'o tatou taumafai e fa'amalosia aia tatau o tagata uma e saoloto mai ai i sauaga ma le fa'atauma'oi.

O LEA, IA FA'AMAUIINA, O A'U O LOLO MATALASI MOLIGA, KOVANA o le teritori o Amerika Samoa, ua ou poloa'iina ai le **Masina o Oketopa 2017, o le Masina o le fa'atauaina o le tete'e atu i sauaga fa'alotoifale**, ma fa'amaonia le ta'utinoga ina ia fa'amutaina sauaga fa'alotoifale i le tatou atunu'u. Ou te vala'au atu i tagata nu'u uma o Amerika Samoa, ina ia fa'atalanoa, fa'a'ailoa, ma tete'e atu i sauaga fa'alotoifale, ma sapaapaia uma galuega ma 'au'aunaga ese'ese i totonu o tatou laufanua, o lo'o fa'atinoina e fesoasoani ai ia i latou ua afaina i nei soligatulafono, ina ia latou maua le fesoasoani, to'omaga, ma le fa'amalologa o lo'o latou mana'omia.

I LE MOLIMAUINA AI, o lea ua ou fa'amauiina la'u saina i le Aso 27 o Setema 2017, i le tausaga o lo tatou Ali'i, Lua Afe Sefulufitu.

Lolo M. Moliga

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa

Community...

Continued from page 3

Lolo calls on all ASG departments and agencies to support and, where appropriate, assist the Parole Board in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

DMWR CONFIRMS THERE WAS PALOLO IN MANU'A

Disappointed that no palolo was found in local waters earlier this month, as predicted by the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), local residents are hopeful that the slimy delicacy will swarm in large quantities on Nov. 11th, the next predicted date for a palolo rise. DMWR's creel manager, Tepora Toliniu-Lavata'i told Samoa News yesterday that no palolo was found locally, but they were able to confirm that some palolo was caught in Manu'a, specifically in Ofu, Ta'u, and Olosega.

She said reports only indicated that palolo was scooped up and consumed, but they have been unable to determine exactly how much of it was found. Toliniu-Lavata'i and her crew have a mission. That is, to

collect data of the annual palolo rise. The goal is to find out how much is caught, and how long it took to do it. Villagers in Malie, Samoa made off with a big haul earlier this month, with buckets, coolers, and containers full of palolo. Toliniu-Lavata'i emphasizes that predictions of the palolo rise are a 'hit-and-miss game' and "we never know if there will be palolo or not."

The next predicted date for a palolo rise is the late evening hours of Nov. 10th, early morning hours of Nov. 11th which is also a federal holiday - Veterans Day. Expect to see palolo lovers out in the water the night before and the night after the predicted date. The next full moon is set to appear on Nov. 3rd, putting the predicted rise of the palolo at Nov. 10th, seven days after the full moon, which is generally when swarms of the worm make their presence known. Some people who spoke to Samoa News are skeptical that there will be palolo next month, saying the worms will be making their way here from neighboring Samoa. We'll see!

Pacific Island news...

Continued from page 4

internal investigation that was publicly announced by the Minister of Revenue Tialavea Tionisio Hunt, who has been gone for the last three weeks.

Items were successfully smuggled into our country under false documents and this cannot happen.

"By the time the Revenue Officials got a hold of the whereabouts of the containers there was only one left.

"Who knows what was in the other containers that were not found?" said Olo Fiti.

The containers were released on the Green Lane list, where the containers are not inspected at Port but released based on trust between the Company and the Customs Office.

"This practice contends border vulnerability and it leaves the country susceptible to even greater national security challenges if it continues," said Olo Fiti.

Efforts to get a comment from the Attorney General

whether he will entertain the call from Olo Fiti proved futile as of press time.

It was also not possible to reach the Minister of Revenue. (Source: Samoa Observer)

CHANGE OF PLAN FOR SAMOA'S CHAMP

Samoa's W.B.O world heavyweight champion, Lupe-soliai Joseph Parker has opted against fighting again this year.

Contrary to what he told the media while he was in Samoa last week, he is now unlikely to return to the ring until 2018.

Duncan Johnstone of Stuff reported that had been hopes of Lupesoliai squeezing in another title bout in December following his mandatory defense win in Manchester against Hughie Fury in September.

His promoters at Duco Events had advanced negotiations with Japan's WBO No 9 Kyotaro Fujimoto. But struggles to get a satisfactory TV deal in place on such a short time frame have made that too difficult.

They considered other options, including fighting in New Zealand or Russia, but have decided to instead allow Parker a longer break, though he will continue training with an eye to resuming his fight schedule early next year.

The Japanese were very good and solid. They were very respectful and real in their wish to stage a fight there," Duco Events boss Segiali'i David Higgins told Stuff.

"But their feedback in sounding out their broadcasters and sponsors, was that because Fujimoto's profile is still building there and boxing hasn't really been big since Buster Douglas beat Mike Tyson there, they couldn't quite put enough money on the table."

Higgins said alternatives, like heading to Russia to take on Alexander Povetkin also had obstacles.

"So for us, it was do we rush something at short money and risk that world title or do we take our time and mount a something on our terms? Everyone in the team is quite comfortable with this decision.

"... At this stage, realistically, we are looking at doing something on our terms in February or March.

"It certainly won't be Anthony Joshua though. Eddie Hearn is dreaming with what he put out in the media."

Hearn, Joshua's promoter, had talked of the possibility of a unification fight with Parker in Britain in February with the Kiwi camp only getting 20 per cent of the deal, something Higgins scoffed at.

In a break from tradition, and to allow Parker to spend more time at home, the next training block will be done in Auckland with trainer Kevin Barry flying in from Las Vegas to oversee that.

"One thing we have agreed on is that we want Joe to stay fit between camps, not just during camps," Higgins said.

Barry said the latest developments had been "a team decision" and one they felt was best after what he described as "a messy year".

While talk continues to ramp up of a fight with Joshua, Barry said a clash with Wilder shouldn't be discounted. "We have options and that (Wilder) is definitely one of our options," Barry said.

"I could make the Deontay Wilder fight tomorrow if I wanted to. We have an excellent relationship with their team. Jay Deas (Wilder's coach) is a classy guy, a guy I have a lot of respect for as a manager/trainer. Al Haymon, I've had several conversations with over the last twelve months also."

(Source: Samoa Observer)



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved to issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Fa'atili; DBAS President
Date of issuance: August 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: October 30, 2017
No later than 2:00 pm local time

DBAS requests proposals for financial audits and the related single audits for a period of three years, beginning with the audit of fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2019. Fiscal and calendar years are coincident at DBAS.

DOCUMENT

Requests for proposal packet outlining requirements will be available for pick up at DBAS on Friday August 18, 2017 or emailing charmaine@dbas.as for information regarding the RFP. It can also be accessed through the DBAS website: www.dbas.as (click public notice)

The Request for Proposals (RFP) describes the specifications for the services to be provided in sufficient details to permit competition and allow the interested party to properly respond to the RFP.

This RFP is issued under Title 28, Chapter 1, of the American Samoa Code Annotated.

DBAS invites the submission of proposals to include pricing and other details as indicated in the specifications. Attachments will be provided as an aid in presenting a comprehensive proposal consistent with the requirements of DBAS.

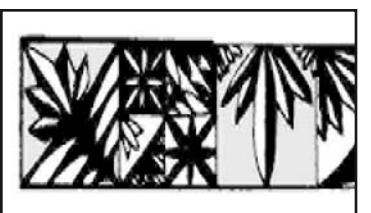
DBAS will select a contractor who best meets the needs of DBAS. The factors for selection will include, but not be limited to the following: understanding of the requirements of the financial and single auditors; verifiable ability to perform well; good reputation; flexibility, including ability to respond quickly to needs of a small client in a remote location and throughout the year; and reasonability of costs.

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from DBAS management and board. The committee may request interviews with potential contractors after reviewing the proposals before the final selection is made.

Submission: Proposals must be received by DBAS no later than 2:00pm local time on October 30, 2017. They may be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:

Development Bank of American Samoa
 PO BOX 9
 Attention: Charmaine Faleaana
 Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

They may also be emailed to charmaine@dbas.as, as an attachment in Word Format with a confirming email required to confirm receipt; or faxed to DBAS at (684) 633-1163 with a confirming fax to confirm receipt. The original is to follow by airmail first class.



Pentagon chief in South Korea amid North Korea nuke threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Pentagon boss Jim Mattis arrived in South Korea on Friday to meet with the nation's top defense officials and American military commanders on the front line in countering North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Mattis is emphasizing the Trump administration's push for a diplomatic solution to the problem. But he also has said the U.S. is prepared to take military action if the North does not halt its development of missiles that could strike the entirety of the United States, potentially with a nuclear warhead.

Making his second trip as defense secretary to the U.S. ally, Mattis will meet with South Korean officials as part of an annual consultation on defense issues on the Korean peninsula. He'll be joined in Seoul by the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford. President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit the city next month.

Two other developments Thursday showed the U.S. intention to continue building diplomatic and economic pressure on Pyongyang. The Trump administration imposed sanctions on 10 North Korean officials and organizations over human rights abuses and censorship, including a diplomat in China accused of forcing North Korean asylum seekers home.

Meanwhile, a rare military exercise involving three of the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier strike groups was being planned for next month in the Asia Pacific, a U.S. official said. The likely exercise would happen around the time that Trump travels to the region.

Trump entered office declaring his commitment to solving the North Korea problem, asserting that he would succeed where his predecessors had failed. His administration has sought to increase pressure on Pyongyang through U.N. Security Council sanctions and other diplomatic efforts, but the North hasn't budged from its goal of building a full-fledged nuclear arsenal, including missiles capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

If Trump sticks to his pledge to stop the North from being able to threaten the U.S. with a nuclear attack, something will have to give - either a negotiated tempering of the North's ambitions or a U.S. acceptance of the North as a nuclear power.

The other alternative would be U.S. military action to attempt to neutralize or eliminate the North's nuclear assets - a move fraught with risk for South Korea, Japan and the U.S.

Michael Swaine, an Asia defense analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, sees little chance the

North will cave in to international pressure and give up its nuclear weapons.

"I just think the United States is far away from coming to grips with this problem in North Korea," Swaine said in an interview last week.

The U.S. has about 28,500 troops based in South Korea and has maintained a military presence there since the Korean war ended in 1953.

The sanctions aimed at North Korean officials and organizations was announced in conjunction with a new State Department report on dire human rights conditions in the isolated nation said to include extrajudicial killings, forced labor, torture, prolonged arbitrary detention and rape. The report, required by Congress, highlights abuses the U.S. says underwrite the North's nuclear weapons program, including revenues it derives from overseas laborers. Thousands of North Koreans are sent abroad every year to work in "slave-like" conditions, it says.

Among the seven officials and three entities put on the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control blacklist Thursday were the commander of the Military Security Command, Jo Kyong-Chol; minister of labor, Jong Yong Su; and director of the external construction bureau, Kim Kang Jin. The bureau is the government agency that manages the construction firms that send laborers overseas. Also sanctioned was Chol Hyun Construction, a North Korean company that exports workers, primarily to Gulf states and Africa.

"We aim to send a signal to all DPRK government officials, particularly prison camp managers and mid-level officials, that we can and we will expose human rights abuses and censorship in the DPRK and that these individuals will suffer consequences for such actions," said Scott Busby, a senior official in the department's human rights bureau. DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

Those designated are blocked from holding any U.S. assets, and people in the U.S. are prohibited from having dealings with them. Busby could not confirm whether any of the designees have significant U.S. assets.

During a Pentagon briefing Thursday, Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, director of the Joint Staff, raised the prospect of the three carriers operating together at some point, but he provided no details. A U.S. official confirmed the plans for an exercise, but wasn't able to discuss the matter publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jurors in Arizona see video of officer killing unarmed man

PHOENIX (AP) — Jurors at the murder trial of a former Arizona police officer were shown a video Thursday of the lawman killing an unarmed man who sobbed and begged not to be shot, marking the first time the full body-camera footage has been shown in public.

The video aired in the case against Philip Brailsford shows Daniel Shaver of Granbury, Texas, laying face-down in a hallway outside his Mesa hotel room in January 2016 as police responded to a call that someone was pointing a gun out of a window.

A police supervisor can be heard shouting commands at Shaver, who disobeys some of the orders but doesn't voice any threats toward officers.

"Please do not shoot me," Shaver said.

Brailsford opened fire when Shaver, who had been ordered to crawl toward officers, reached toward the waistband of his shorts. The officer believed Shaver was reaching for a gun.

Authorities have said it looked as though Shaver was pulling up his loose-fitting basketball shorts that had fallen down as he crawled.

"Daniel Shaver drew his last breath on his hands and knees," prosecutor Susie Charbel told jurors, pointing out that none of the other officers in the hallway fired a shot.

Brailsford, 26, is one of the few police officers in the U.S. to be charged with murder after an on-duty shooting.

Brailsford attorney Michael Piccarreta told jurors his client had to make a difficult, split-second decision about protecting himself and others.

"Mr. Shaver wasn't going to get shot until he moves his hand behind his back," Piccarreta said.

Piccarreta also noted the dangers of the call to which officers were responding — someone pointing a rifle out of a fifth story of a hotel. "They have no idea who the person is, their intentions," Piccarreta told jurors.

Shaver's widow cried as the video was shown, and his parents left the courtroom shortly after it started playing.

A previously released portion of the video showed officers taking cover in doorways and crouching down on their knees as they waited for Shaver to exit his room. But that edited version ended when someone walks out of the hotel room and didn't show the shooting.

The portion played for jurors shows Shaver being shot.

Judge George Foster barred news organizations from broadcasting the shooting video, agreeing with Brailsford's argument that it could hurt his fair-trial rights. The Associated Press and other news organizations objected to the request, arguing the public has a First Amendment right to see the video.

No weapons were found on Shaver's body, but two pellet rifles related to his pest-control job were later found in the room.

The prosecutor said a pellet rifle was pointed out the window for 30 to 45 seconds because Shaver wanted to show another man in his hotel room how far the rifle's scope allowed him to see.

"No shots had been fired. No one had been threatened," Charbel said.

Brailsford served as a Mesa



Former Mesa police officer Philip Brailsford, left, and his attorney, Mike Piccarreta, stand for the jury, at the start of Brailsford's murder trial at Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017. Opening statements were postponed at Brailsford's murder trial in the fatal shooting of Daniel Shaver of Granbury, Texas, after his attorney asked a judge to forbid news organizations from broadcasting video of the deadly encounter. (David Wallace/The Arizona Republic via AP)

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October 20, 2017

Re: Hope House 30th Jubilee

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On behalf of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago and the Hope House board, I take this opportunity to thank each and every one who contributed in making the Hope House 30th Jubilee Celebrations a memorable event during the week of September 24th to 30th 2017.

The overwhelming outpour of well wishes, generous donations and kindness during the Jubilee celebrations, to participation at the annual fundraising Golf tournament and raffle is indeed an expression of your faith in God and love for one another. The selfless giving is an inspiration to the management and staff especially the residents of this special place we call Hope House - the less fortunate, the elderly and our children with special needs.

I am humbled and most grateful for what you have done for Hope House. May the grace and peace of our Lord be with you always.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Peter Brown
Bishop of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago
American Samoa



THANK YOU!

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- - Lea'e Pito, Aasu
- ICS - 55" Flat Screen TV
- - Lealofitaute, Pago Pago
- Tools Inc-Echo Trimmer & Blower
- - Lina Scanlan, Fagatogo
- Rattan Set, SEPP's Furniture - Pa-Nette
- RT Ticket to Apia - JP #0342, Leone
- RT Ticket Talofa Airways
- - MLT #2048, Tafuna
- Table Top 2 Burner Origin Gas
- - Amyra Ti'a, Leone
- Cs l'apana-Panamex - Raymond, #6386
- \$50 Gift Cert. Lalelei - Peter Filipo #4219
- \$40 Gift Cert. Lalelei - Sialega, Nu'uuli
- \$30 Gift Cert. #6103, Nu'uuli
- \$30 Gift Cert. Lio Nofoa, Futiga
- Cs l'apana-Panamex - T. Steffany, Tafuna
- 1yr Membership TJ's Gym - #0050, Leone

SPECIAL THANKS

- Sr. Sheila - Nazareth Sisters
- Monsignor Viane Etuale, Vicar General
- Samoa Ford Motors - David Yakim
- Taotasi Archie Soliai
- Willie Teleso

Our sincere apologies if we have missed listing any agency or individual. E silafia e le Atua mea uma...Fa'afetai



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Evaga)



In this photo provided by the United Nations, the U.N. Security Council meets on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, at U.N. headquarters, Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017. Experts from the U.N. and the chemical weapons watchdog are blaming the Syrian government for an attack in April 2017 using the nerve gas sarin that killed over 90 people. (Kim Haughton/The United Nations via AP)

Experts blame Syria for chemical weapons attack in April

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Experts from the U.N. and the chemical weapons watchdog are blaming Syria's government for a sarin nerve gas attack that killed over 90 people last April. Their report, obtained Thursday by The Associated Press, says leaders of the expert body are "confident that the Syrian Arab Republic is responsible for the release of sarin at Khan Sheikhoun on April 4, 2017."

The report supports the initial findings by the United States, France and Britain that a Syrian military plane dropped a bomb with sarin on the town. Syria and Russia, its close ally, have denied any attack and have strongly criticized the Joint Investigative Mechanism, known as the JIM, which was established by the U.N. and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to determine responsibility for chemical weapons attacks in Syria.

The attack in Khan Sheikhoun sparked outrage around the world as photos and video of the aftermath, including quivering children dying on camera, were widely broadcast.

The United States blamed the Syrian military and launched a punitive strike days later on the Shayrat air base, where it said the attack was launched.

Responding to the report, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said: "Today's report confirms what we have long known to be true. Time and again, we see independent confirmation of chemical weapons use by the Assad regime."

Clearly referring to Russia, she said: "In spite of these independent reports, we still see some countries trying to protect the regime. That must end now."

The Security Council should make it clear that "the use of chemical weapons by anyone

will not be tolerated," Haley said.

A fact-finding mission by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons reported June 30 that sarin was used in the Khan Sheikhoun attack and "sulfur mustard" in Um Hosh. But the JIM experts had the task of determining who conducted the attacks.

The JIM experts said Thursday they are "confident" the Islamic State extremist group was responsible for an attack in Um Hosh in Aleppo on Sept. 15-16, 2016, that used "sulfur mustard," the chemical weapon commonly known as mustard gas.

In addition to blaming the Syrian government and the IS group, the JIM report says, "The continuing use of chemical weapons, including by non-state actors, is deeply disturbing."

"If such use, in spite of the prohibition by the international community, is not stopped now, a lack of consequences will surely encourage others to follow — not only in the Syrian Arab Republic but also elsewhere," it warns. "This is the time to bring these acts to an end."

The report was issued two days after Russia vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution to extend the mandate of the JIM investigators for another year after it expires Nov. 17.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Moscow wanted to wait for the JIM report. "We can meaningfully negotiate the renewal of JIM after we have seen the report," he told reporters Thursday before it came out.

Russia's U.N. mission had no immediate comment on the report. Haley said countries that don't support the JIM experts "are no better than the dictators or terrorists who use these terrible weapons."

The investigators determined last year that the Syrian government was behind at least three attacks involving chlorine gas and that the Islamic State extremist group was responsible for at least one involving mustard gas. Louis Charbonneau, U.N. director for Human Rights Watch, said: "The question now is whether Security Council and OPCW members, including Russia, will move to protect a key international rule and hold Syrian authorities accountable as they said they would."

The report said the JIM experts talked with 17 witnesses in addition to those interviewed by the OPCW fact-finding mission and collected and reviewed material the OPCW did not have. It said the experts also obtained "substantial information" on activities by the Syrian air force on April 4.

The experts determined sarin was released from a crater in the northern part of Khan Sheikhoun between 6:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. April 4.

Based on photos, videos and satellite images as well as studies of munition remnants by forensic institutes and individual experts hired by the JIM, the experts "assessed that the crater was most probably caused by a heavy object traveling at a high velocity, such as an aerial bomb with a small explosive charge," the report said.

The possibility that an improvised explosive device caused the crater "could not be completely ruled out," but the experts determined that was "less likely" because an IED "would have caused more damage to the surroundings than had been observed at the scene." The report said the investigators received information that Syrian air force planes "may have been in a position to launch aerial bombs in the vicinity" of the town.

Hammers, axes will help test Trump border wall prototypes

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. government announced Thursday that prototypes for President Donald Trump’s proposed border wall with Mexico have been completed and will be subjected to punishment to test their mettle — by workers wielding sledgehammers, torches, pickaxes and battery-operated tools.

The testing lasting up to two months could lead to officials concluding that elements of several designs should be merged to create effective walls, said Ronald Vitiello, U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s acting deputy commissioner. That raises the possibility of no winner or winners.

Results of the testing will dictate future wall construction, which has not yet been funded by Congress.

The testing won’t start for at least a month because some concrete in the wall prototypes still needs to dry.

Vitiello told reporters that workers during the 30-60 day testing period will try to answer basic questions: “Can it be climbed? Can it be dug under? Can it withstand cutting tools?”

Here are some questions and answers about the border wall project.

WHY WERE THE PROTOTYPES BUILT?

The U.S. currently has 654 miles (1,052 kilometers) of single-layer fence along the 1,954-mile (3,143-kilometer) border, plus 51 miles (82 kilometers) of double- and triple-layer fence. This summer, the government picked six companies to build models to guide future construction.

Each model is spaced about 30 feet (9.1 meters) apart a few steps from a fence made from old steel airstrip landing mats separating San Diego from Tijuana, Mexico.

Contractors were awarded between \$300,000 and \$500,000 for each model and had a month to build them.

W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Co. of Philadelphia, Mississippi, and Caddell Construction Co. of Montgomery, Alabama, built one concrete model and one of other materials.

Texas Sterling Construction Co. a unit of Sterling Construction Co., and Fisher Sand & Gravel Co. of Tempe, Arizona, did concrete designs.

ELTA North America Inc., part of state-run Israel Aerospace Industries, and KWR Construction Inc. of Sierra Vista, Arizona, built models from other materials.

WHAT DO THE PROTOTYPES LOOK LIKE?

Each reaches the maximum allowed height of 30 feet (9.1 meters) or close — significantly higher than existing walls. Vitiello said the height was what struck him most on his tour Thursday.

The concrete walls are solid, preventing agents from seeing through them and into Mexico. Others are made of thick metal poles. Some are topped by round tubes, which are less vulnerable to grappling hooks than sharp edges.

One requirement is for the walls to be “aesthetically pleasing” from the U.S. side. ELTA’s solid metal wall features six light blue squares with white trim on the bottom third, topped by dark blue beams and metal plates.

Texas Sterling’s has a gray surface stamped with patterns of different-sized bricks, like driveways or sidewalks for upscale homes. There is a steel plate on top with prongs that feature three metal spikes, resembling an agave plant.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Trump has asked Congress for \$1.6 billion for the first installment of his wall. It would replace 14 miles (22.4 kilometers) in San Diego and build 60 miles (96 kilometers) in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for illegal crossings.

It’s unclear to what extent Trump will weigh in on the selection, and Vitiello said he didn’t know if the president will visit the site. Trump has expressed interest in including solar panels, which are not part of any of the prototypes.

Three lawsuits — one filed by California’s Democratic attorney general, Xavier Becerra — seek to block construction, claiming the administration overstepped its authority by waiving environmental reviews and other laws.

A hearing on the administration request to dismiss the lawsuits is scheduled Feb. 9 before U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel, a target of Trump’s enduring scorn for his handling of complaints against the now-defunct Trump University.



People look at prototypes of a border wall Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017, in San Diego. Contractors have completed eight prototypes of President Donald Trump’s proposed border wall with Mexico, triggering a period of rigorous testing to determine if they can repel sledgehammers, torches, pickaxes and battery-operated tools.

(AP Photo/Elliott Spagat)

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All Public and Private Elementary Schools in American Samoa can now register for the 2018 Samoa News Territorial Spelling Bee slated for March 7, 2018.

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FILE - In this Aug. 11, 2016 file photo, author and producer Mark Halperin appears at the Showtime Critics Association summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif. Halperin, 50, publisher has canceled the book he was to co-write about the 2016 election. Penguin Press announced Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017, that the decision was made after learning of allegations of sexual harassment.

(Photo by Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP, File)

NBC News takes Mark Halperin off air after harassment claims

NEW YORK (AP) — MSNBC says journalist Mark Halperin has been suspended from his role as network contributor following charges from five women who claimed he sexually harassed them while he was an ABC News executive.

The network said Thursday it found Halperin's conduct as described in a CNN story "very troubling" and that the veteran political reporter will be off the air until questions about his past are fully understood.

Later Thursday, Penguin Press canceled a planned book by Halperin and John Heilemann about the 2016 election and HBO called off a miniseries that would have been based on the book. Halperin and Heilemann had collaborated on two previous books, including

"Game Change," a best-seller about the 2008 race that almost single-handedly revived the campaign book genre and was the basis for an award-winning HBO adaptation.

"HBO has no tolerance for sexual harassment within the company or its productions," the company said in an emailed statement.

The planned book had no title or official publication date, but had been expected to be released in early 2018.

Halperin has apologized for what he termed inappropriate behavior, and ABC said Thursday that no complaints were filed against him during his tenure, which ended more than a decade ago.

The women, who asked to remain anonymous, said they

didn't report Halperin's conduct because they feared retribution or were embarrassed.

But Emily Miller, a former ABC employee who is now a reporter at One America News Network, retweeted the Halperin story on Thursday with the hashtag "#MeToo."

She gave no details of her alleged incident, but tweeted that she did not report Halperin to ABC "because I thought I was the only one, and I blamed myself, and I was embarrassed and I was scared of him."

CNN international correspondent Clarissa Ward, who also used to work at ABC, tweeted that Halperin's behavior was "an open secret" at the network. She saluted the women who came forward in the CNN story.

Records: Tentative deal reached on deadly 'cyanide bombs'

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. officials have reached a tentative deal with wildlife advocates trying to stop the use of predator-killing traps, including devices called "cyanide bombs" that earlier this year injured an Idaho teenager and killed his dog, according to court documents filed Thursday.

Government attorneys asked U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen to put on hold for 60 days a lawsuit over the poisoned traps pending final approval of the agreement by senior officials at the Interior Department.

Terms were not disclosed. One of the devices named in the lawsuit, called an M-44, is partially buried and baited to attract predators. It sprays cyanide into the mouths of animals that trigger it.

M-44s are meant to protect livestock but sometimes kill pets and injure people.

The traps drew increased scrutiny after The Associated Press reported that the injuries to the boy near Pocatello, Idaho, in March came months after a decision to halt use of the devices on federal lands in the state.

Another device at issue is a type of collar filled with pesticide and placed onto livestock so the pesticide will be ingested

by attacking predators.

The Humane Society, WildEarth Guardians and two other groups filed suit over the devices in April. They say the traps kill thousands of predators every year — primarily coyotes but also foxes, raccoons, opossums and other animals.

The lawsuit said the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service has not consulted with the Environmental Protection Agency on whether the poisons could harm federally protected species and their habitat.

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Justice, which is defending the case, and the Interior Department did not immediately respond to emailed messages from AP requesting comment.

Bethany Cotton with WildEarth Guardians declined to provide any specifics on the agreement. She said the goal was to stop the use of traps she described as "totally indiscriminate and incredibly dangerous."

In June, federal officials said they would undertake an expanded review of cyanide traps, which continue to be used in other states. They also issued guidelines requiring federal workers to notify nearby residents of the placement of M-44s.



FILE - In this March 17, 2017 file photo, Canyon Mansfield, 14, holds the collar of his dog, Casey, who was killed March 16, 2017, by a cyanide-ejecting device placed on public land near his Pocatello, Idaho, home by federal workers to kill coyotes. U.S. officials have reached a tentative deal with wildlife advocates trying to stop the use of predator-killing, poisoned traps known as "cyanide bombs" that injured an Idaho teenager and killed his dog.

(Jordan Beesley/Idaho State Journal via AP, file)



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Mother of Hawaii woman lost at sea for months never gave up

HONOLULU (AP) — Two women and their dogs have been rescued after being lost at sea for months while trying to sail from Hawaii to Tahiti.

The U.S. Navy rescued the women on Wednesday after a Taiwanese fishing vessel spotted them about 900 miles southeast of Japan, well off their planned course, and alerted the U.S. Coast Guard.

The USS Ashland arrived early the next day, the Navy said in a statement released Thursday.

The women, identified by the Navy as Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiaba, both of Honolulu, lost their engine in bad weather in late May but believed they could still reach Tahiti using their sails.

“They saved our lives,” said Appel through the Navy release. “The pride and smiles we had when we saw (U.S. Navy) on the horizon was pure relief.”

Appel’s mother told The Associated Press Thursday that she never gave up hope that her resourceful daughter would be found.

Joyce Appel, 75, who lives in Houston, said she got a call from her daughter early Thursday morning more than 5 months after they had last spoke.

She answered the phone as she always does, wondering who wanted to sell her something, when she heard her daughter’s voice on the other end of the line.

“She said, ‘Mom?’ and I said, ‘Jennifer!?’ because I hadn’t heard from in like five months,” she said. “And she said ‘yes mom,’ and that was really exciting.”

Jennifer Appel departed on

May 3, her mother said, but her phone was lost overboard the first day she was at sea, and she hadn’t heard from her daughter since.

“Various things on her boat broke, the mast broke and the engine wouldn’t start when she needed power. So she had several problems that caused her to end up drifting in the ocean,” the elder Appel said.

Joyce called the U.S. Coast Guard about a week and half after her daughter left Honolulu, she said. “The Coast Guard, in Hawaii, did a search and rescue effort,” she said. “I waited and waited and waited to see when I would hear from her.” In that time, the elder Appel moved and got a new phone number and was worried her daughter wouldn’t know where to call. “I knew she didn’t even know the phone number here,” she said.

“I had hope all along, she is very resourceful and she’s curious and as things break she tries to repair them, she doesn’t sit and wait for the repairman to get there, so I knew the same thing would be true of the boat.”

The mother said the pair’s water purifier had stopped working and they were down to their last gallon of water when Jennifer got it fixed.

Two months into their trip, well after they were scheduled to arrive in Tahiti, the women began making distress calls, but there were no vessels close and they were too far out to sea for the signals to be detected on land.

They told the Navy that they survived because they had packed in a water purifier and enough food for a year, mostly dried goods like oatmeal and pasta.

A photo provided by the Navy shows Fuiaba smiling as a Navy sailor greets her dog, Zeus aboard the USS Ashland.

The women received a medical assessment, food and beds aboard the Navy ship, where they will remain until the next port of call, the Navy said.

“The U.S. Navy is postured to assist any distressed mariner of any nationality during any type of situation,” said Cmdr. Steven Wasson, the commanding officer of the USS Ashland.

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In this Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017 photo, a sailor greets Zeus the dog with his owner Tasha Fuiaba, left, on the boat deck of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland after she and one other Honolulu woman and their dogs were rescued after being lost at sea for several months while trying to sail from Hawaii to Tahiti. The U.S. Navy rescued the women on Wednesday after a Taiwanese fishing vessel spotted them about 900 miles southeast of Japan on Tuesday and alerted the U.S. Coast Guard. The women, identified by the Navy as Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiaba, lost their engine in bad weather in late May, but believed they could still reach Tahiti.

(Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jonathan Clay/U.S. Navy via AP)

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Release Date: October 25, 2017
Contact: AS-EPA Water Program at (684) 633-2304
The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on October 24, 2017, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
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| Aua Stream Mouth | Afono Stream Mouth |
| Aua-A&M Stream Mouth | Fagasa-Fagatele Stream Mouth |
| Laulii Stream Mouth | Fagasa-Fagale'a Stream Mouth |
| Alega Beach | Fagaalu Beach |
| Alega Stream Mouth | Leone Pala |
| \$2 Avaio Beach | Asili Stream Mouth |
| Auto Beach | Amouli Beach |
| Fagaitua Stream Mouth | Aganoa Beach |

AS-EPA beach advisories inform the public about current water conditions. When a beach advisory is issued, it is because water samples indicate that the American Samoa Water Quality Standard for Enterococci has been exceeded. This advisory is in effect until further sampling and laboratory analyses indicate that Enterococci concentrations are within acceptable water quality standards.

The presence of Enterococci in the water indicates contamination by human and/or animal wastes. Swimming in water with high levels of Enterococci may cause stomach problems, skin rashes, and ear, eye, and wound infections. To reduce your risk: avoid swallowing beach water, be sure to rinse or towel off after a swim, and shower once at home. If you are ill, or think you may be ill, AS-EPA advises that you consult a physician before making any water contact in the beaches cited above.

Note: AS-EPA monitors the water quality of 44 recreational beaches on Tutuila, the wharf in Aunu'u, and five beaches on Manu'a. Tutuila advisories are issued weekly on Wednesdays. Aunu'u and Manu'a advisories are issued monthly. Advisories are issued when bacteria concentrations exceed levels determined safe for human exposure. Should you have any questions, please contact the AS-EPA Water Program at 633-2304.

Man drives into immigration rally; minor injuries reported

BREA, Calif. (AP) — A motorist drove his car through marchers Thursday at an immigrant rights rally in Southern California, but only minor injuries were reported, authorities said. The driver was arrested and later released.

Brea police Chief Jack Conklin said none of the demonstrators sought first aid. He said he did not know why the man drove through the intersection where people were gathered.

The demonstrators were marching to urge Republican Rep. Ed Royce to support an existing temporary immigration program for citizens of several Central American

countries, said Andrew Cohen, a spokesman for Unite Here Local 11, a union representing hotel, food service and airport workers.

A video released by Cohen showed the car push through a line of demonstrators marching in a crosswalk.

A marcher pounded on the hood of the car as it pushed her back and another demonstrator jumped on top of the vehicle as it continued to move.

Police rushed in, stopped the car in the middle of the intersection and ordered the marchers to get away from it.

Police arrested 56-year-old driver Daniel Wenzek for inves-

tigation of assault with a deadly weapon, said Lt. Adam Hawley. Wenzek was later released pending the investigation.

"I think he was trying to get through the crowd," Hawley said. "We don't have any indication he was trying to harm somebody."

Cohen said the man said nothing as he drove toward demonstrators in the Orange County city 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

A woman who answered a phone number linked to Wenzek refused to allow an Associated Press reporter to talk to him and hung up.



		SOUTHBOUND ARRIVAL							SOUTHBOUND ARRIVAL					
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Cap Taputapu	034	TBA	SAILED	SAILED	10/26	---	10/31	10/31	Cap Taputapu	034	10/26	---	10/31	10/31
New Guinea Chief	490	TBA	10/29	10/31	11/11	---	11/16	11/16	New Guinea Chief	490	11/11	---	11/16	11/16
Cap Taputapu	035	TBA	11/14	11/16	11/27	---	12/02	12/02	Cap Taputapu	035	11/27	---	12/02	12/02
New Guinea Chief	491	TBA	11/30	12/02	12/13	---	12/18	12/18	New Guinea Chief	491	12/13	---	12/18	12/18
Cap Taputapu	036	TBA	12/16	12/18	12/29	---	01/03	01/03	Cap Taputapu	036	12/29	---	01/03	01/03

Note: All Schedule dates are estimated



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| Afoa, Oganu | Gaoteote, Tupouamoa | Maluia, Tiresa | Salaivao, Bernie | Taumua, Pago Pago |
| Afualo, Tuli | Gasetoto, Gasetoto Jr | Mapu, Loreta | Salanoa, Segia | Tautala, Paoivaoese Jr |
| Afusia, Easter | Grey, Mark | Mapu, Siaumau | Salausa Tuaato | Tautala, Paoivaoese Sr |
| Agatonu, Tony | Hun Fen, Fagaalofa | Mapu, Sineti | Salueletaua, Lemo | Tautalafua, Tufatu |
| Ah Hing, Sherry | Husseini, Judy A | Mapu-Togiola, Tuaillevaoola | Samuelu, Amiogalelei | Tautua, Alo |
| Ah Mu, Johnny | Ianu, Maanaema | Mapu, Vitale | Sao, Koreta | Taylor, Joe |
| Aho, Tagiilima | Iavai, Siale "Cece" | Mareko, Tairoto | Sao, Kuini | Tavake, Loveni |
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| Alalamua, Danny | Ieremia, Faaloloi | Masoli, Brien Epeni | Sasa, Simoe | Teve, Fa'olaina |
| Alasi, Patric | Ieremia, Mamere | Masui, Junior | Sasala, Isapela | Thiel, Mathew Vincent |
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| Aliivaa, Taumasina | Iliili, Laki | Matamua, Fitulua | Satele, Uaea | Tiapula, Raymond |
| Allen, Lidwina | Ilimaleota, Leveleveli | Matamua, Lei | Satui, Lea | Tili, Benjamin |
| Alo, Tautua | Ilimaleota, Mikaele | Matau, Esau | Sauaso, Joyce | Tini, Timena |
| Alosio, Saline Ana | Ioapo, Calvin | Matau, Ramona | Saufoi, Lauina | Tinoifili, Kanana |
| Alosio, Tuloto | Isaia, Monte | Matau, Tikeri | Sauia, Tanya | Titialii, Millie |
| Aporosa, Bridgette | Iosefo, Makerita | Mauga, Palepoi Ernie | Saunoamalii, Maliliga | Tiumalu, Nafanua |
| Atanoa, Soliga | Itulauifi, Bryan | Mauigoa, Seepa | Sauta, Paul | Tiumalu, Saimua |
| Atonio, Atonio | Iupeli, Pepelini Filemu | Maulupe, Roanna | Savaiinaea, Aukuso | Toala, Suilefaiga |
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| Brown, Eric | Kuresa, Faavela | Mika, Utumoeaau | Seafa, Panini | Tolo, Salevalasi Vaiula |
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