



The winners of the 2018 Samoa News Spelling Bee with its major sponsor representative — McDonald's American Samoa. (L-R) Micael Sun of SPA- 1st place; Kristina Timoteo of Tafuna Elem- 2nd place; Pitolua Sunia of Leone Midkiff and Hadrian Uili of Alofaui Elem both took 3rd place, and Carol Tautolo-Samuels, GM of operations for McDonald's American Samoa.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

SPA 8TH GRADER — MICHAEL SUN — IS TERRITORY'S TOP SPELLER

by Samoa News staff

South Pacific Academy 8th grader Micael Sun is the territory's top speller, after winning the 24th Annual Samoa News Territorial Spelling Bee yesterday by correctly spelling "joyous" in a nail-biting competition that went 24 rounds and included participation by 31 elementary school students from private and public schools in Tutuila, Aunu'u, and Manu'a.

Master of Ceremonies and Samoa News general manager Robin Annesley-Dalton said the competition was so tough, that they ran out of words from the initial list and therefore, had to start using the additional words that were on stand-by.

The Spelling Bee, the second most watched annual program, according to KVZK-TV, was held in partnership with major sponsor McDonald's American Samoa and the Department of Education.

Second place honor went to Kristina Timoteo (8th grader from Tafuna Elementary); third place went to two students — Pitolua Sunia (6th grader from Leone Midkiff) and Hadrian Uili (5th grader from Alofaui Elementary).

With his win, Sun will go on to represent American Samoa at the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee set to be held in Washington DC in May this year. The trip is paid in full — travel and accommodations — by the Territorial Bee's major sponsor McDonald's American Samoa for Sun and a chaperone.

In addition, it also puts South Pacific Academy in a tie with Laulii Elementary as first place with the most Spelling Bee winners: 4 each, followed by Manumalo Academy with 3; and Aua, Olomoana, Manulele Tausala, and Marist/St. Francis with 2 a piece.

Eighth graders overwhelmingly came out on top, winning 18 times. Girls however dominate the competition, winning 19 times (Debrina Su'a won back to back in 2015-16).

This year's Spelling Bee was a success, thanks to the generous donations from our sponsors, which included chairs & tables, food & drinks, kindles & covers, as well as cash — and a plethora of prizes for the participants: Merriam-Webster (Webster's Third New International Dictionary), Encyclopedia Britannica, the Samuel Louis Sugarman Award, TekConnec Inc., Paradise Pizza, Pago Pago Trading Company, Krispy Krunchy

(Continued on page 9)

It's on again: The 2018 Flag Day Fautasi Regatta

HOWEVER, NU'UULI, FAGASA AND LEONE WILL NOT RACE

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga has overturned the Flag Day Committee's decision to cancel this year's Flag Day activities such as the fautasi race and the Samoan cricket competition.

As a result, the Flag Day Committee and fautasi captains held a meeting this week and everyone is on board with the decision to allow the longboat competition to go on.

The fautasi race is set for Saturday morning, April 14th but if the weather is not favorable that day, the race will be postponed to Monday, April 16th.

As for cricket, the Committee is yet to decide whether they will move forward with the games. A senior official from the Office of Samoan Affairs told Samoa News that nothing has changed as far as the Committee's decision to cancel the cricket games.

CABINET MEETING

The decision to cancel the fautasi race was presented by Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Mauga T. Asuega during a Cabinet meeting last Saturday.

Sources told Samoa News that the governor was unhappy when he heard about the Committee's decision, and immediately advised Mauga that there must be a fautasi race for this year's Flag Day celebration.

Lolo told his cabinet the fautasi race is one of the main reasons why our people look forward to Flag Day. He said if funding is the main reason why the Committee decided to cancel the race, they should remember that there are funds already allocated for Flag Day expenses, the fautasi race included.

The governor told Mauga and the Committee that if the decision to cancel the race was something that all the villages with fautasi agreed to, then he will support the decision. However, it that isn't the case, he recommends that the fautasi race be held.

MEETING WITH FAUTASI CAPTAINS

After hearing what Lolo had to say, Mauga called a special meeting with fautasi captains on Monday to discuss the issue. Not all skippers were in attendance but those who were, embraced the governor's recommendation.

Soliai T. Fuimaono, on behalf of Manulele Tausala 1 & 2, did not attend this week's meeting but during an initial meeting to discuss the cancellation of the fautasi race, Soliai said Nu'uuli would not be competing because their priority is to help families within the village, devastated by Tropical Storm Gita.

When told that there will be a fautasi race, Soliai said the decision has already been made and nothing has changed for Nu'uuli.

"Our village in Nu'uuli has already made a decision — that our two boats will not compete in this year's fautasi race.

"So now there will be a fautasi race, but nothing has changed as far as the village's decision ... because we believe our people are suffering and we need to save money to help them.

Let us show the federal government that we care more for our people than spending money on social activities. Like what I said last week, we are leaders and we need to set good examples for our people to follow," Soliai said.

Sources told Samoa News that Fagasa has also decided that the Fealofani Samoa will not participate in this year's fautasi race.

During last week's meeting between the Committee and fautasi captains — before Lolo agreed to have the fautasi race — Mauga said it was the governor's recommendation to cancel the race, because the government needs to save money to help families affected by Gita.

A representative from Leone told the meeting last week that their village council had already reached a decision, that the Taema II will not compete this year, because most of the families in the village were affected by Gita, and the village council has instructed the aumaga to help out with cleanup efforts.

Gun legislation passes Florida House, goes to governor

By CURT ANDERSON, BRENDAN FARRINGTON and JOSH REPLOGLE, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida House passed a school safety bill Wednesday that includes new restrictions on rifle sales and a program to arm some teachers, sending the measure to the governor for his signature.

The vote of 67-50 reflected a mix of Republicans and Democrats in support and opposition. The measure, a response to the shootings at a Parkland high school that left 17 dead, is supported by the victims' families.

Andrew Pollack, who lost his 18-year-old daughter Meadow in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, and Ryan Petty, who lost his 14-year-old daughter Alaina, said there was enough good in the bill that it should pass.

"More needs to be done, and it's important for the country to be united in the same way the 17 families united in support of this bill," Pollack said after the vote. "My precious daughter Meadow's life was taken, and there's nothing I can do to change that, but make no mistake, I'm a father and I'm on a mission. I'm on a mission to make sure I'm the last dad to ever read a statement of this kind."

Democratic Rep. Jared Moskowitz, a former Parkland city commissioner, ended the eight hours of debate with an emotional account of seeing the high school after the shooting, attending victims' funerals and working with students and families while the House was forming the legislation. He broke down in tears after talking about how his 4-year-old son's writing teacher lost her daughter in the attack.

"You don't need to stand with me. I don't need you to stand with me. I need you to stand with the families," Moskowitz said.

Democratic Rep. Kristin Jacobs said she did not like the idea of arming teachers, but she voted yes. Republican Rep. Jay Fant said raising the minimum age to buy a rifle from 18 to 21 was unconstitutional, and he voted no.

"There is a cultural divide in this room, in this state and across the country. And there's a bill before us that is not perfect," said Jacobs, whose district includes Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The bill would raise the minimum age to buy rifles from 18 to 21 and create a waiting period on sales of the weapons. It would also create a so-called guardian program that would let school employees and many teachers carry handguns if they go through law enforcement training and if the school district decides to participate in the program.

Other provisions would create new mental health programs for schools; establish an anonymous tip line where students and others could report threats to schools, ban bump stocks and improve communication between schools, law enforcement and state agencies.

Bus driver faces multiple sex charges, including rape

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A 28-year-old bus driver accused of engaging in sexual activities with a 17-year-old girl has been charged with rape, kidnapping, sodomy, and first degree sexual abuse.

Michael Sene made his initial appearance before District Court Judge Fiti Sunia yesterday morning, and his preliminary examination (PX) is set for today.

His bail has been set at \$50,000

Sene is being represented by Assistant Public Defender Ryan Anderson while prosecuting the case is Assistant Attorney General Bianca Lherisson.

If he is able to post bond, Sene will be released on the condition that he make all of his court appearances, not leave or attempt to leave the territory; he has to surrender all his travel documents to the government, and he must not have direct or indirect contact with the victim. If he encounters her in public, he must walk away from her peacefully.

THE CASE

The matter was reported to police on Nov. 2, 2017 by a local resident seeking assistance for a teenage girl who was possibly raped.

The victim — the teenage girl — told police that on Oct. 31, 2017 after class at ASCC, she went looking for her friend and she couldn't find her, and that's when she (the victim) hopped on a bus heading towards Leone and recognized the bus driver as Michael Sene, who she knew through her friend (the one she

was looking for).

According to the victim, she allegedly asked the bus driver if he had seen her friend and the bus driver said no. She then sat down and began talking to the bus driver while the bus was heading to Leone.

The court affidavit states that Sene allegedly asked the victim if she could go with him to drop off other passengers, but she said no because her parents might look for her. Sene allegedly told her that he would drop her off afterwards, but she continued to refuse.

However, she finally agreed to ride with Sene after he persisted. After they passed her residence without stopping to drop her off, Sene allegedly told the victim to go to the back of the bus and stay there. He is alleged to have told her that he would drop her off later that night and that it was going to be fast.

According to the government, Sene drove the bus straight to Nu'uuli, after the victim closed all the bus windows, not stopping to pick up any passengers on the road. He allegedly took her into a shack in Nu'uuli.

Sene walked in first, called the victim to come in, and once she entered, he allegedly locked the door.

The victim told police that once they were inside the shack, Sene asked her if they could have sex but she said no because she has a boyfriend.

The government claims that after hearing the victim's response, Sene allegedly grabbed her hands, pulled her closer to him, and told her they

were going to make love — all the while, the victim says she continued to refuse and tried to push Sene away.

The two scuffled for awhile, and according to the victim, she told Sene that she was going to scream for help, but Sene continued to pull her closer until he allegedly raped her.

The government further claims that while Sene was allegedly raping the victim, the girl continued to fight back and told him she wanted to go home.

Sene, says prosecutors, was too strong and the victim was unable to stop him.

The court affidavit further says that after the alleged incident took place, Sene stood on a chair and laughed at the victim as she was trying to stand up. Later that night, Sene is alleged to have driven the victim home in his bus and dropped her off in front of a store close to her house.

Sene was pulled over by police on Nov. 3, 2017 and was escorted to the Tafuna substation for questioning.

Court documents say that during the interview with police, Sene echoed everything the victim had shared with investigators. He allegedly told police he knew the victim through her friend and on Oct. 31st, he picked up the victim from ASCC and took her to his house in Nu'uuli and raped her.

He also allegedly told police that the victim refused to have sexual intercourse with him, but he forced her to have sex with him because he really wanted to.



FOR SALE EXECUTIVE HOUSE AND 0.229 ACRES OF LAND

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 3 from 9:00am to 10:30am.

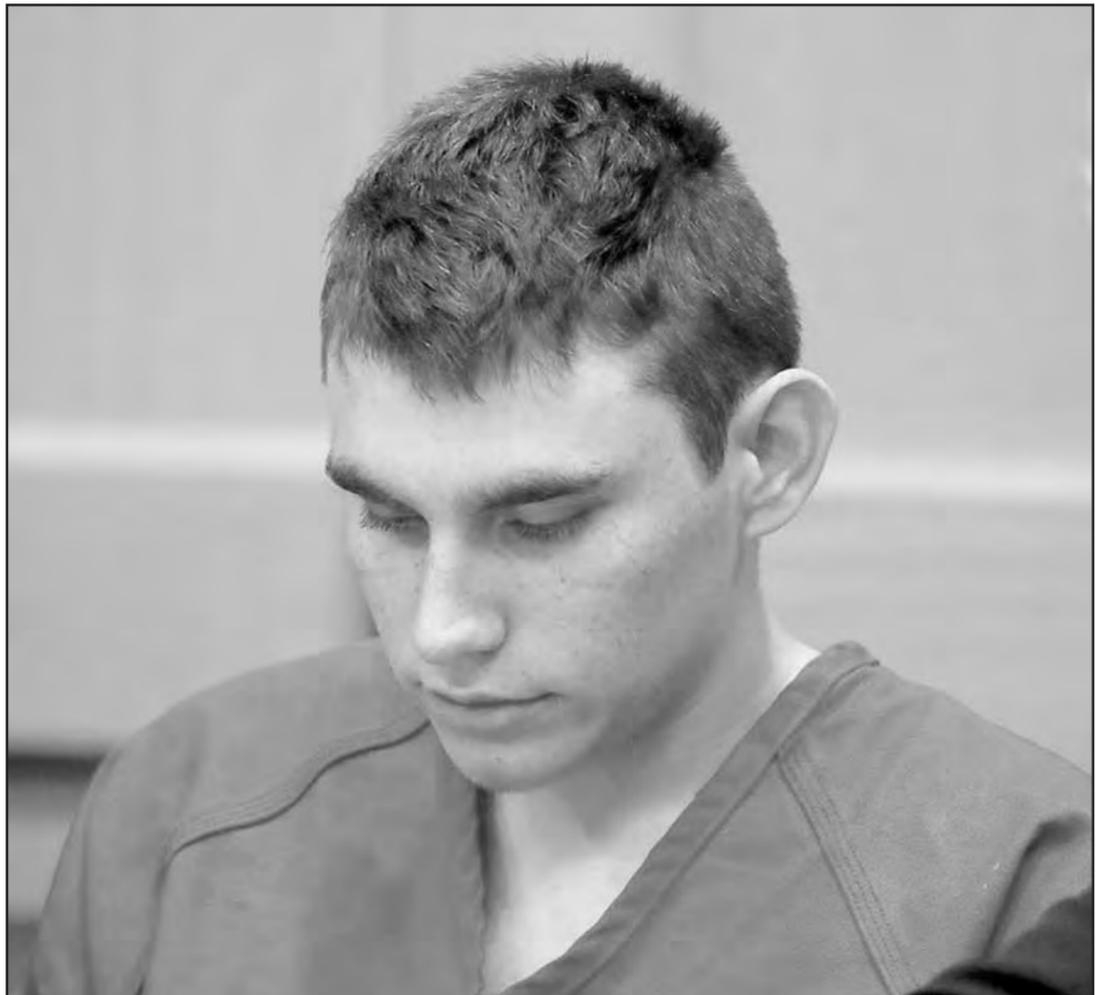
Wednesday, March 7 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Saturday, March 10 from 9:00am to 10:30am

Approximately ¼ of a mile up the road towards Aoloau and then follow the signs to the house.

- 6 split unit air-conditioners
- Refrigerator/ freezer
- Washing machine
- Dryer
- Stove / Oven
- dishwasher
- 3-piece lounge suite
- 1 dining room table and chairs
- Master bedroom dresser
- Display cabinet / living room
- Microwave

This house is offered for sale "as is". For questions or an appointment to view the house and property email: contact@mwsrose.com or call 699-2100.



FILE - In this Feb. 19, 2018 file photo, Nikolas Cruz, accused of murdering 17 people in the Florida high school shooting, appears in court for a status hearing in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Cruz was formally charged Wednesday, March 7, with 17 counts of first-degree murder, which could mean a death sentence if he is convicted.

(Mike Stocker/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP, Pool, File)



All semiautonomous and govt agencies required to participate in Flag Day parade

EMPLOYEES WONDERING WHETHER THEY'RE GOING TO GET PAID FOR IT

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has directed all government entities including semi autonomous agencies to “fully participate” in the 2018 Flag Day Parade on Apr. 17th at the Veterans Memorial Stadium.

This is according to a March 2 memo, “Participation of all ASG departments in 2018 Flag Day Parade,” from the Governor’s Chief of Staff, Fiu J. Saelua to ASG department directors and chief executive officers of semi autonomous agencies.

Such requirement — since the memo was released — doesn’t sit well with many government employees, who contacted Samoa News to comment. Some pointed to the impact faced by many families following Tropical Storm Gita while others argue that participation in

the parade should be voluntary.

“For ASG employees whose homes and personal property suffered major damage or were destroyed, where are these people going to get money to buy material for required uniforms to participate in the parade?” asked one long-time ASG employee.

Another employee added, “So the order from the Governor’s Office means storm- impacted ASG employees will have to choose — buy material for uniforms or use limited financial resources to buy necessities for the family.”

“Do we take care of our families first — which is a priority — or comply with what the director will tell us to do? March in the parade with a uniform or get in trouble?” were questions raised by other ASG employees.

“There must be exceptions to having to participate in the parade,” said some

of the employees, who all spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from their directors or supervisors for speaking to the media.

In his memo, Fiu explained that the Governor “has officially directed all ASG departments and agencies, including semi-autonomous agencies to fully participate in the Flag Day Parade.”

Fiu informed cabinet members to “ensure all your department staff and employees are well-informed on this directive, including other related logistics such as uniforms to alleviate any confusion.”

To assist Flag Day commentators and the Parade Committee logistics, cabinet members are requested to submit by Mar. 14th to both the Governor’s Office and the Parade Committee chairman, Motusa Tuileama Nua, who is also the Health director: the total number of employees,

and the names and total number of divisions within your department, according to the memo.

The biggest question raised by ASG employees that contacted Samoa News is whether government workers will get holiday pay for participating in the parade, since Flag Day is an official ASG holiday.

“I believe some of us will be raising this question with our supervisors,” said two ASG employees.

Based on ASG’s 2018 calendar of events released during January’s cabinet meeting, Flag Day, which falls on a Tuesday, will be a one-day only event.

In other Flag Day news, the fautasi race seems to be ‘on’ again, while the cricket league is still ‘off’ — not happening.

(See story else where in today’s Samoa News)

Once a rising star, Nashville ex-mayor freefalls with affair

By JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Before her sudden fall, former Nashville Mayor Megan Barry was a progressive, pro-business rising star among Tennessee’s struggling Democrats in a firmly red state.

She officiated the city’s first gay marriage before being elected in 2015. She pushed for tremendous growth, helping shape an ever-changing skyline of construction cranes and new high-rises.

When the Barrys’ only son died of a drug overdose in July, people across the country rallied to console her and her husband, Bruce. She was the face of a key ballot referendum coming up in May that will ask voters to shoulder tax increases to help build a \$5.4 billion transit system.

But Barry’s quick political ascent seemed to hit the dirt on Tuesday after a wild, five-week freefall, as she pleaded guilty to stealing thousands of taxpayer dollars to carry on an affair with her former bodyguard and resigned.

Barry stunned the city in late January when she confessed to the extramarital relationship, which began in spring 2016 and continued as her popularity and accomplishments grew. She said the affair ended, but hasn’t disclosed when.

“While my time today as your mayor concludes, my unwavering love and sincere affection for this wonderful city and its great people will never

come to an end,” the 54-year-old Barry said at a news conference shortly after appearing before a judge. She did not take questions.

In court, Barry didn’t say how she stole money from the city, but investigators have said they believe she engaged in the affair while she was on city-paid trips and Forrest was on the clock. The district attorney’s office later said the restitution Barry agreed to pay as part of her plea deal was for Forrest’s travel expenses while he was on personal time.

Barry and her former bodyguard, police Sgt. Robert Forrest, separately pleaded guilty to felony theft. Barry’s resignation was part of a plea bargain with prosecutors. She and Forrest were sentenced to three years’ probation.

Forrest will return \$45,000 that authorities said was paid to him in salary or overtime when he was not actually performing his duties as security chief.

A state investigation into the matter was closed after the pleas, essentially ending the case.

Authorities found two nude or partially nude photos of a woman that were taken by Forrest’s phone while he was on duty. The photos were shot last May and October, on days that Barry’s travel schedule shows she was on trips to Washington.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation did not identify the woman in the pictures, and Barry has said that if the photos

(Continued on page 10)



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP 036-2018

Issuance Date: February 28, 2018

Date & Time Due: March 16, 2018

No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) Issues & Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:

“E-Rate Year 21-ISP 50 Mb Services for the Department of Education”

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP: E-Rate Year 21 - ISP 50 Mb Services for the Department of Education.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **March 16, 2018:**

Office of Procurement
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened or considered and will be determined as being non-responsive.

DOCUMENT

The RFP Scope of Work outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa during normal working hours.

REVIEW

Request for Proposal data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement, ASG.

RIGHT OF REJECTION

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Government or the public.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

OP ED – International Women’s Day

Message by Aleta Miller, Representative of the UN Women Multi-Country Office (MCO) based in Fiji, for International Women’s Day.

International Women’s Day, every 8 March, is a time for people in Samoa and across the Pacific region to celebrate the progress made towards gender equality.

It’s a day to commit ourselves to redouble our efforts to achieve equal access for Pacific women to education, employment, health, leadership, prosperity and other opportunities – and to realize the rights and benefits that women’s empowerment brings to women and girls, to their communities and nations.

We celebrate the courage and determination of women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their Pacific countries and communities, including our women leaders who make a daily impact in their families, villages, businesses, workplaces, marketplaces, cities and nations.

And we acknowledge the strong commitment by Pacific governments, community organizations and the dedicated and talented women activists and leaders, who are all working to advance gender equality across the Pacific region – to ensure women enjoy the same rights and opportunities as men.

Although there is much to celebrate, 8 March is also a day to reflect and to recognize that we have a long journey ahead to realize empowerment, safety and equality for women in the

Pacific.

Notable achievements to close the gap in gender equality in the Pacific include the fact that there are now more girls than ever enrolled in schools and graduating. There are more women running businesses, and women taking up senior professional roles. Another big achievement in recent years was the passing of legislation to protect women and girls from domestic violence.

Despite these gains, there is still a lot of work ahead. The Pacific still has the lowest global percentages of women in leadership roles including the world’s lowest overall average of women in parliament at only 15%. And although women are now more protected by domestic violence laws passed in 10 Pacific States between 2008 and 2014, still, the Pacific still has twice the global average of violence against women. Violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights, which threatens to stop women achieving their potential and limits the development of their family, community and nation.

We have significant work to do to ensure women’s rights and improve gender equality across the Pacific region.

Today I am heartened to see that the commitment and dedication to this work in the Pacific continues to escalate with more new initiatives evolving to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), and increase access to quality response services for survivors.

VAWG is a significant barrier for women and girls in completing education, taking up professional roles and realising their goals. As such it is a key factor in closing the gender gap and improving the lives of not only women and girls, but their families, communities and nations.

And we know now that closing the gender gap is not only a basic human right, but it also makes the best economic sense. Research and statistics clearly indicate that improving gender equality not only improves the lives of women and girls but also generates significant economic benefits for nations and the Pacific region. Global data indicates that if we invested equally into women in the economy, the world economy could gain \$US28 trillion dollars by 2025.

As Pacific nations move progressively towards closing the gap in gender equality and ensuring all our population – both women and men – are able to participate and contribute equally to community decisions and development, then we’ll see commensurate improvements in the Pacific’s overall development and the quality of life for our wonderful women and our girls.

Let us use this International Women’s Day to reflect on our progress in the Pacific but to also prepare for the ongoing challenges ahead. There is still much work to be done to come close to achieving gender equality for the women and men of the Pacific. The time is now.

UK police: Russian ex-spy was attacked with nerve agent

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A Russian ex-spy and his daughter fighting for their lives in an English hospital were attacked with a nerve agent in a targeted murder attempt, British police said Wednesday.

The case has further strained relations between Russia and Britain, which has said it will respond strongly if the Russian government is linked to the attack. It has overtones of a 2006 fatal attack on a former Russian spy that was blamed on the Kremlin.

In that incident, a radioactive poison was used. The choice of a nerve agent in the latest case follows the use of the banned nerve agent VX to kill the estranged half-brother of North Korea’s leader last year.

Sergei Skripal, 66, and his 33-year-old daughter Yulia were found unconscious on a bench in the southwestern English city of Salisbury on Sunday, triggering a police investigation led by counterterrorism detectives. Baffled police initially said the pair had come into contact with an unknown substance.

“Having established that a nerve agent is the cause of the symptoms leading us to treat this as attempted murder, I can also confirm that we believe that the two people who became unwell were targeted specifically,” Metropolitan Police counterterrorism chief Mark Rowley said.

Police said the two “remain in a critical condition in intensive care after being exposed to the substance.”

Police have declined to speculate on who might be behind the attack. The Russian government has denied any involvement in the attack on Skripal, a former Russian agent who had served jail time in his homeland for spying for Britain before being freed in a spy swap. Rowley said a police officer who treated Skripal and his daughter at the scene was in serious condition. He did not provide the officer’s name or specifics about his condition.

Rowley didn’t say what nerve agent was suspected in the attack. Nerve agents are chemicals that disrupt the messages sent by from the nerves to the body’s organs. They can be administered in gas or liquid form, causing symptoms including vomiting, breathlessness, paralysis and often death. Officials have not offered a prognosis for Skripal and his daughter.

Sally Davies, the chief medical officer for England, said there was a low risk to the public.

Police and forensics officers continued to scour several sites in and around Salisbury on Wednesday. Police kept residents away from an Italian restaurant and a pub in the city, and cordoned off part of a business park about nine miles (14 kilometers) away, near the ancient stone monument of Stonehenge. Detectives appealed for information from anyone who visited either the Zizzi restaurant or the Bishop’s Mill pub in Salisbury on Sunday.

(Continued on page 9)



Students from Manu’a High School and Iakina Academy posing for a photo Tuesday morning at the Gov. Rex Lee Auditorium, before the start of the Territorial Math Competition, with results to be announced later this week.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Amata discusses health care with visiting VFW group

WELCOMES JOINT HOUSE/SENATE HEARINGS ON VA SERVICES



Congresswoman Aumua Amata listening to veterans' ideas and concerns

[photo: courtesy]

Washington, D.C. — Wednesday, March 7, 2018 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed the latest in an ongoing series of House/Senate Joint Hearings on veterans' issues, this one a Veterans Service Organization presentation, and on Tuesday discussed health care and VA services with a visiting group representing the VFW of Hawai'i.

"It was a pleasure to host these VFW representatives as they visited Washington, D.C. to discuss their concerns," said Aumua Amata. "Veterans everywhere deserve the best in services from the VA, and it's a major priority. Thank you to these VFW representatives for all they do, and thank you also to others who reached out to our office this week on behalf of our veterans, including the

Wounded Warrior Project, Disabled American Veterans, and High Chief Igafo Maria Brown Va'a of our own VFW in American Samoa."

The VFW group discussed access to health services in the Pacific with the congresswoman and her staff. Among those attending the meeting were Robert Toe-lupe, George Bartlett, Jonathon Hoomanawani, Norbert Enos, Stanley Fernandez and Nickolas Young. At the congresswoman's request, plans are proceeding for a Committee hearing this year directed at examining the accessibility of services in American Samoa and the Pacific.

Congress continues to set the stage for ongoing upgrades, reforms and funding priorities for veterans, building on a series

of veterans' bills passed into law in the summer and fall of 2017. The latest Senate/House Joint Hearings serve as effective listening sessions as Congress gathers facts for the next steps forward.

"Our veterans in American Samoa often make the long flight to Honolulu for services, and veterans all over the Pacific have challenges in getting accessible care," continued Congresswoman Amata. "I'm pleased that last week and this week, our House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees were able to combine for joint hearings on these matters. We continue to seek out better ways to give our veterans more options and access to services, and I'm encouraged by the attention Congress is paying to this important issue."



Amata and VFW representatives met to discuss VA services and health care

[photo: courtesy]

You'll Be Flown Away With These Amazing Deals!
Hurry Sale Ends Soon, Book Now.

Pago Pago-Fagalii from \$85 USD one-way
Apia-Auckland from \$224 USD one-way
Apia-Sydney from \$368 USD one-way

All fares for travel between Apia, Auckland and Sydney include:



SAMOA AIRWAYS

Call 699 9126 or 699 9127 | www.samoaairways.com

Terms and conditions apply. Fares are in USD, incl taxes/surcharges. Non-refundable. Non-transferable. Sales: Now until 28 Feb or until sold out. Ticketing: 72 hours from booking or immediate for bookings within 24 hours of departure. Limited seats available. Travel period: 01Feb-30Jun 2018. Changes/Cancellations: Subject to fee-fare difference. Not permitted inside 24 hours of flight departure. No-show results in forfeiture of ticket.

AUTO NATION

NU'UULI: (684) 699-7168 • FAX: (684) 699-7175

NEW ARRIVALS

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Car Tires starting at \$89</p> | <p>Battery \$9.99</p> | <p>Bluetooth Headphone \$5.95</p> | <p>Windshield Washer Fluid \$5.95</p> |
| <p>Room AC \$149</p> | <p>Heavy Duty Oil \$7.50</p> | <p>Engine Oil starting at \$4.00</p> | |
| <p>Axess Speaker \$49.99</p> | <p>We're now selling Tools, Room AC and Tires in a very low price. Please come and Join us.</p> <p>Business Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30am - 5:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 1:00pm</p> | | |

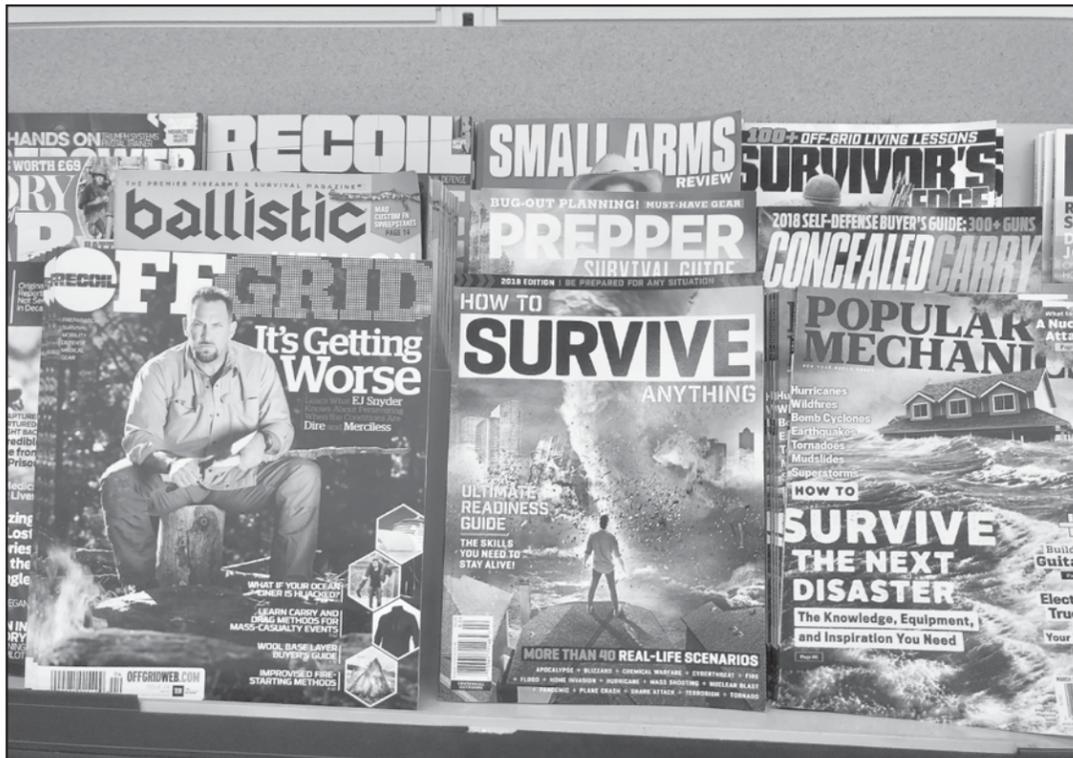




IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)

COOLstuff



Disaster Prep magazines abound the market now as "national fear of natural & manmade disasters" is perceived. [photo: Barry Markowitz]

Cool Stuff: Disaster Prep Mags, "Aftershock", SW Radio

by Barry Markowitz

Wayne Moors weed eater, gift shop, magazine store was always my first 1980's Pago visit... even before stops at Tepatasi (not Tumua Palace), The Bowling Alley, the Rainmaker Hotel Bar, and Evalani's. Wayne & Mrs. Moors still rock in Nuuli, but the impact on me then, the Savaii FOB with no TV no vids, was definitely more intense.

In Hawai'i, recently back from our Cyclone Gita drama, I visited our local supermarket only to be blown away by the heaps of disaster survival magazines. How/why did these pop up? Are publishers seeing an economic opportunity in our wide spread national fear of natural and manmade disasters? Is it that smart phones and social media provide better coverage than we had in the old days... thus heightened awareness and fear?

Along these lines I was also sincerely impressed by a New Zealand (2008) TV disaster movie called "Aftershock". This movie was so realistic that the NZ government had to continually warn viewers during broadcasts, that Wellington was still the Capitol and that an 8.2 earthquake and tidal wave did not kill 20,000 (Orson Welles' War of the Worlds radio broadcast revisited).

"Aftershock" was such a well-researched, well written movie Cool Stuff whole heartedly suggests that American Samoa's Governor, Lt Governor, Directors and Deputy Directors watch it together, take notes and brainstorm if the film presents any valuable concepts to be implemented in the Territory's proactive planning.

Since the Territory's Hon. Congresswoman is now good mates with the NZ Government, she could probably get a Kiwi to pop up a DVD next week. Aftershock is so thought provoking every Coolio should do a family viewing, with ample servings of Aveina Store popcorn... cheap & yummy.

Cool Stuff failed horribly in one aspect of Cyclone Gita. While I borrowed a portable weather radio that also featured am/fm, I did not have shortwave. Staying with family in the East-side, we all lost local radio early on... and a lot of valuable updates the stations are committed to providing.

Radio NZ and Radio Australia are the 'go to' back up on air resources when our 2AP's lose antenna towers or electrical power. I foolishly left my shortwave portables in Tulaele, Apia and in Hawai'i.

Icom makes the absolute best tiny compact shortwave portables (the size of a candy bar or a pack of smokes). Cool Stuff did Cyclone Ofa & Val with an Icom R-1... now we are up to an IC-R6 (with discounted prices averaging \$169... better and cheaper than the \$300 R-1 back in 1990).

My Tulaele, Apia home has a \$24 tala (yup WST) portable shortwave radio I bought from a Chinese owned local Apia store. My medium sized portable cheapy is mainly to listen to cousin Corey Keil's Radio Polynesia's classic rock... but it will step up for NZ/Oz shortwave reception when the pisupo hits the fan.

Your kids will blah blah blah, how the Internet can do it all... but with no power, no Internet... a voice via old fashion imperfect shortwave radio is a wonderful comfort.

Cool Stuff reached out to Larry Fuss and Joey Cummings at KHJ to inquire how they will deal in the future with the issues they faced with Cyclone Gita. Their answers were far better than my ideas... so wait for some potential future good news direct from them and your favorite US federal government (as KHJ is a designated emergency broadcaster).

Great public/private territorial teamwork overall. Yes, some hiccups, but progress and chilled Vailima seem to be normalizing matters so we can all get ready for the next big one.



Pacific Island News in Brief

Compiled by Samoa News staff
NINE SAMOANS AWAIT DEPORTATION FROM THE US

APIA, SAMOA — WEDNESDAY 07 MARCH 2018 — The Samoa Government has been informed by the United States government that nine people who have had trouble with the law there are to be deported back to Samoa.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi told Talamua that they have been informed by the US State Department about those on the list to be deported to Samoa.

“Yes we have been informed about them (deportees) but there are processes in place that need to be addressed first before such action is taken,” Tuilaepa explained.

Such processes include international protocols and having the assistance for the rehabilitation and security of the deportees locally.

“They need help and we need to find out if these people have families here, if not, then we have to find homes for them,” said Tuilaepa.

He cited an incident that happened 15 years ago, where the US government deported a Samoan citizen without notifying the Samoan government, and the man was left at the airport. A police officer noticed the man walking around and approached him but the man did not know who and where his parents were from.

Some young men later beat him up when the deportee ignorantly broke the village evening curfew. He died in the hospital weeks later.

The Prime Minister said these things need to be dealt with first especially information about the person and family.

“It is important to know information and everything about a deportee before he is sent back,” said Tuilaepa. “These are some of the many hurdles that need to be cleared first.”

It is not known what offenses the deportees committed but this is not the first time Samoans have been deported from the United States.

As a result, three years ago, the Samoa Returnees Organization was specifically set up and is now working with the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration providing support and rehabilitation for the deportees or returnees, to adjust to life in Samoa.

The Samoa Returnees Organization also provides a safety buffer as some of the deportees have committed very serious crimes that require protection both for themselves and the community at large.

(Source: Talamua-on-line)

GOVT CALLED

“HYPOCRITICAL”

A woman has called Prime Minister Tuilaepa Dr. Sa’ilele Malielegaoi’s administration a bunch of hypocrites.

Taranaki Mailei, of Moto’otua, lives across a construction site. She is disappointed about the continuous hard labor on Sundays.

She has also questioned why Samoa amended its Constitution to reflect that Samoa is a Christian State when there are foreigners working on Sundays.

“If the Prime Minister has declared Samoa to be a Christian country, then the Prime Minister must see to it that Samoa walks the talk,” she told the Samoa Observer.

“That includes all the Chinese and their heavy duty construction work on Sundays, which violates and disrespects Samoa’s observance of Sunday, our holy day of worshiping our God. “There are about three elders living right next to this construction site who are sick and are having to not only put up with this construction noise during the week, but now Sundays as well.

“This is downright rude and inconsiderate.

“The Government should consider proposing a law that prohibits hard labor on Sundays, reflecting that Samoa is a Christian State.

“They cannot say one thing and do another, that is hypocritical,” said Mailei.

She noted that it is common knowledge that Sunday is observed and no hard labor is conducted.

“If a Samoan works hard labor on Sunday, that person will be ridiculed, yet it is ok for a foreigner to come into Samoa and be allowed to work hard labor on Sunday.

“Do you see the hypocrisy in all of this?”

“I want the Government to fix this because it is a bad reflection on those who actually changed our Constitution and a bad reflection on all Samoans.”

Calls to the construction company for a comment have not been returned as of press time. Mailei joins a growing number of concerned Samoans who expressed frustrations about Chinese companies working on Sunday.

Last year, Tuilaepa Soiamoa Grey, raised similar concerns. She also accused the government leaders of being hypocritical and urged Samoans to wake up to what is happening.

“As a Christian country, our day of worship is on Sunday,” she said.

“I have nothing against the government’s decision to make Samoa a Christian state. I fully support it.

“But what I find contradic-

tory and hypocritical is when the Government changes the Constitution, yet allows foreigners to disrespect our day of worship by continuing to do hard labor on Sundays.

“There are six days they can do their work, but at least spare us the Sunday so we can worship peacefully.”The concerned citizen noted that Parliament should have made a note about this when they amended the Constitution. She added perhaps it’s time for the Government to forbid any labor work on Sunday. “Again, it goes back to when the Government moved to legalizing Samoa as a Christian state. Why is it that we are a Christian country, yet there are people who work hard labor on Sundays? These Asians clearly have no respect for our traditions.

“Each and every Samoan knows that we don’t do any hard labor work; what makes them any different? They are visitors to our country, whether they are citizens or not, they should respect our traditions.

“If our Prime Minister goes to church on Sundays, we should follow his examples.”

(Source: Samoa Observer)

SPA...

Continued from page 1

Chicken, Skyview Inc., Pasafika Youth Project, and Vai’s Flowers and Gifts.

Word pronouncers this year were: Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga, director of the Office of Political Status; and Dana Love-Ili, teacher and resource specialist at Nu’uuli Vocational Technical HS.

Judges were Annesley Dalton; Fua Fuatagi, health and transportation coordinator for Congresswoman Aumua Amata’s District Office; and Carol Tautolo-Samuelu, general manager of operations for

McDonald’s American Samoa, the Samoa News Bee’s major sponsor.

Coordinating the students for the competition was Evelyn Lili’o-Satele, director of the Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA), who has been with the Territorial Spelling Bee since its inception.

From Samoa News to all participants, sponsors, volunteers, viewers and the hardworking KVZK TV staff — fa’afetai, fa’afetai lava.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

UK...

Continued from page 4

Residents saw their usually placid town, famed for its 13th-century Gothic cathedral, turned into the center of a criminal probe with Cold War echoes. With nerves still on edge, ambulances and emergency vehicles rushed to a building beside the Zizzi restaurant, which remains cordoned off. Witness Toni Walker said emergency services escorted two women from the building. Police and ambulance services declined to comment and it wasn’t immediately clear if the incident had anything to do with the ongoing investigation.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd chaired a meeting of the government’s emergency com-

mittee, known as Cobra, to discuss the investigation, which is now in the hands of counterterrorism police.

“We need to keep a cool head and make sure we collect all the evidence we can,” Rudd said. “And then we need to decide what action to take.”

Moscow officials, angered by allegations of Russian state involvement, accused Britain of using the case to fuel an “anti-Russian campaign” and further damage ties with Britain.

“What happened to Skripal has been immediately used to further incite an anti-Russian campaign in Western media,” said Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman.



American Samoa Government DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
 Tel: (684) 633-5155 • Fax: (684) 633-4195



PUBLIC NOTICE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
Substantial Amendment to the Program Years (PYs)
2014 to 2017 Annual Action Plans
and
Reprogramming of CDBG Funds
From PYs 2014 to 2017

This Public Notice is posted to advise the community that a request will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development to reprogram funds listed below.

| From: | Amount | Status |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Fire Trucks for Manu’a & Aunu’u | \$6,580.00 | Existing Project |
| Fagatogo Playground | \$27,109.13 | Existing Project |
| Multipurpose Trades Building | \$1,283.66 | Existing Project |
| Land Acquisition HOME Partnership | \$229,219.89 | Existing Project |
| School Vans for Manu’a | \$13,402.00 | Existing Project |
| Manu’a HS Greenhouse | \$10,000.00 | Existing Project |
| Matatula Greenhouse | \$7,000.00 | Existing Project |
| Pago Pago Harbor Boardwalk | \$205,405.32 | Existing Project |
| TOTAL: | \$500,000.00 | |
| To: | Amount | Status |
| Debris Removal & Gita Disaster Relief Efforts | \$500,000.00 | New Project |
| TOTAL: | \$500,000.00 | |

In accordance with the American Samoa Government citizen participation plan the public is invited to comment during normal business hours for 30-days following the date of publication at the Department of Commerce, located on the 2nd floor of the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei. Comments must be submitted in writing to Lina Petaia-Suisala, CDBG Manager.

As a result of damages caused by Cyclone Gita and President Trump’s disaster declaration, ASG has requested a waiver of the 30-day comment period noted above. Should HUD approve the waiver, the comment period for this notice will be 7 days from the date of this publication. If HUD does not approve the waiver, the comment period will be the 30-day comment period noted above.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact the Department of Commerce at 633-5155, Ext. 271


Keniseli F. Lafaele
 Director of Commerce



Some of the parents and teachers of students from Matafao Elementary School's Special Education (SPED) Program were in the town area yesterday morning, heading towards the Fagatogo Market Place for a short visit, as part of the school's program activities for Special Ed students. [photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Once a...

Continued from page 3



This combination of photos provided by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department shows Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, left, and her former bodyguard, retired police Sgt. Robert Forrest. Barry resigned Tuesday, March 6, 2018, after pleading guilty to cheating the city out of thousands of dollars as she carried on an affair with Forrest. (Metropolitan Nashville Police Department via AP)

are of her, they were taken without her knowledge.

Vice Mayor David Briley, a fellow Democrat, said his car wouldn't work Tuesday morning, so he decided to take the bus. Soon after, he learned he was about to become mayor.

After he was sworn in Tuesday evening, his first words were: "I need some coffee."

He called Barry "a friend" and said he hoped she would be able to move past "a horrible moment" in her life.

Briley promised transparency and said he will work to restore the public trust.

A special election to choose a new mayor will be held Aug. 2.

Barry apologized when she revealed the affair in January. She denied breaking the law, rebuffed calls for her resignation, and said her husband remained committed to their marriage.

"This is a very bad day. And I'm going to have several more bad days. But this is not my worst day," Barry said then. "And I will tell you I know the

difference between a mistake -- I made a serious mistake -- but this is not a tragedy."

Barry had maintained a high profile in the city, appearing routinely at concerts and other events and spearheading a successful effort to bring professional soccer to Nashville.

Before becoming mayor, Barry earned an MBA from Vanderbilt University and was an ethics and compliance officer in the telecommunications and health care industries.

Forrest, who had spent more than 31 years with Metro Nashville Police and supervised the mayor's security detail over three administrations, has retired. His wife filed for divorce soon after the relationship became public.

Police records show Forrest's overtime more than doubled from 2014-15 to the 2016-17 budget year.

The new mayor, in a statement, called it "a hard day for Nashville" but said Barry's resignation "will enable us to regain focus on the important work of our city."

Back to school: West Virginia teachers return to classroom

By JOHN RABY, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — At Stonewall Jackson Middle School in West Virginia, students filed past a sign that read: "Welcome back, let's roll."

It's been nine school days without class. Students returned Wednesday to Stonewall Jackson and other schools across West Virginia, a day after the state's teachers wangled a 5 percent pay increase from their elected leaders. Their victory came after walking off the job in all 55 counties of this poor Appalachian mountain state to protest some of the lowest pay for their profession in the country.

Stonewall Jackson teacher Hannah Silverman said she was "pumped" to be back at work.

"I was like a kid on the first day of school last night, I literally couldn't sleep," Silverman said. "So, I was really excited, this is my passion. I want to be here and I've been excited since we found out yesterday."

After the long layoff, Stonewall Jackson student Angel Davis said she tried to persuade her sister that getting back to school was a good thing.

"I was happy," said Davis. "I said I want my education."

Despite losing the school days, the teachers had support from parents and students. Never mind the difficulties

(Continued on page 15)

ASTCA Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Title: MARKETING SPECIALIST
Department: Marketing Department

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist in day to day operations which include graphic designs, social media, branding, etc.
- Maintain calendar of graphics work to ensure that graphics are produced on a timely manner
- Monitor branding on FB page to ensure that graphics are switched out accordingly to calendar
- Clearly articulate designs to align with marketing objectives, campaigns, products, promotions, etc.
- Interact with other roles in Marketing to execute plans
- Provide support to other Departments as needed
- Work closely with Graphics designer on upcoming projects
- Must ensure all ASTCA information is kept strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to other outside of the ASTCA Marketing Department
- Directly reports to Marketing Manger

Skills and Specifications

- Bachelor's degree in graphics design or 1-3 years experience in a work related field
- Experience with graphics design software
- Proficiency in Adobe Suite and Microsoft office applications
- Sound understanding of Marketing design and or principles
- Effective project management and interpersonal skills
- Self-motivated, creative, and a team player
- Good problem solving, organizing and coordinating skills

Education and Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in graphics design or 1-3 years experience in a work related field
- Certificate in Graphics or Marketing

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Female candidates see early boost in Texas primary

By **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY**, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Predictions of a historic wave of female candidates on the ballot in November received an early boost after the nation's first primary this week in Texas, with a record number of women advancing in congressional and state legislative races.

Most of those candidates are Democrats, a national trend fueled largely by frustration over the election of President Donald Trump and actions by his administration and Republicans in Congress on issues such as health care and immigration.

What this will mean in states like Texas, where Republicans dominate at all levels of government, remains to be seen. But for now, the candidates are seeking to make history and improve on lagging numbers of women in public office.

"These women have the wind at their back right now," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. "Who knows what will happen."

Although women represent more than half the American population, they account for just a fifth of all U.S. representatives and senators, and one in four state lawmakers. Of Texas's 36 congressional districts, just three are represented by women.

"A big part of the problem is that we haven't had enough women running," Walsh said. "This year is clearly a change on that front."

In Texas, 50 women were on Tuesday's primary ballot running for the U.S. House. By comparison, 33 women ran in Texas' 2012 primaries for U.S. House, when there were also eight open seats, according to the center. That was thought to be the highest number of female candidates in U.S. House primaries in Texas before this year.

By early Wednesday, 14 women had advanced outright to the Nov. 6 general election. That number will grow to at least 17 after the congressional runoff elections in late May, and to as many as 26 depending on the outcomes of those races. Three of the runoffs feature two women battling for the Democratic nomination.

Women could play a crucial role in the Democratic strategy to retake control of the U.S. House. Nationally, Democrats see opportunities in the 23 congressional districts held by Republicans that were won by Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election. Three of those are in Texas, and at least one woman will be the Demo-

cratic nominee.

The nominees in the other two races won't be decided until May. One of those is Gina Ortiz Jones, who advanced to the runoff for the 23rd Congressional District.

"We are underrepresented and disproportionately affected," Ortiz Jones said in an interview Wednesday. "And folks are understanding that this is not a spectator sport and we all need to participate."

In addition, two Democratic women are on track to make history as the first Latinas to represent Texas in Congress. Veronica Escobar and Sylva Garcia will be on the November ballot seeking to represent two districts heavily favored for Democrats.

"Tonight, women spoke," Garcia, a state senator running in the 29th Congressional District, said in her victory speech. "Tonight, we voted and we voted loud and clear, and we said that elections can't be bought and what matters is people."

The numbers are even more impressive for the Texas Legislature, where just 20 percent of all current state lawmakers are women.

On the ballot in November will be at least 76 women, well above the general election record of 58 female state legislative candidates set two years ago, according to an AP analysis of election results and data collected by the Center for American Women and Politics. Of those, 35 are Democratic challengers to GOP incumbents.

Just 14 of the 76 candidates who have advanced so far are Republican women, but that includes nine incumbents.

A spokesman for the Republican State Legislative Committee, which works to elect GOP candidates at the state level, said the group was reviewing Tuesday's election results but noted that Republicans hold solid majorities in the Texas Legislature.

Democrats are eager to make gains in state legislative races after a considerable drop in their ranks during the presidency of Barack Obama. In most places, state legislatures play a key role in the redistricting process that sets boundaries for legislative and congressional districts. Both parties want to have an edge when that begins after the 2020 Census. Since the 2016 election, the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee has been aggressively working with state candidates across the country. Democrats have won 39 seats previously held by Republicans. Of those, 24 were won by women.



Senator Sylvia Garcia exits the polling station at the Montie Beach Community Center after voting Tuesday, March 6, 2018, in Houston. Texas Democrats turned out in force ahead of the first-in-the-nation primary Tuesday in what could be an early hint of a midterm election backlash against President Donald Trump, but their party remains a longshot to make much of a dent in Republican political dominance of the state.

(Godofredo A. Vasquez/Houston Chronicle via AP)



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-031-2018

Issuance Date: March 7, 2018

Closing Date: April 4, 2018

No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide "Route 104 Hospital Road Reconstruction (Rebid)" for the Department of Public Works.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa, 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Wednesday, April 4, 2018** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. PRE-BID MEETING

A **MANDATORY** Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on March 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Procurement-Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours, free of charge.

5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or my bid.

6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!

You Are All Winners!!!



1st Place

Michael Sun
South Pacific Academy



2nd Place

Kristina Marie Timoteo
Tafuna Elementary School



3rd Place

Hardrian Asofa'afetai Uili
Alofau Elementary School



3rd Place

Pitolua Savaliolefilemu Sunia
Leone Midkiff Elementary School



4th Place

Amber Leota
Manumalo Baptist Academy



Faapaia Vili
Coleman Elementary School



Aumau Ta'ala
Fagali'i Elementary School



Allyson Lalovimama Liusamoa
Faleasao Elementary School



Lilien Jonita Ve'e
Fitiuta Elementary School



Miracle Rachel Asiata
Iakina Adventist Academy



Christianna Florence Nu'usila
Kanana Fou School



Troy Leota
Le'atele Elementary School



Mariafaustina Lualua Faalogo
Laulii Elementary School



Wayne Arvin Aliilua
Afonotele Elementary School



Komisi Taupi
Lupelele Elementary School



Dora Amber Malila
Manulele Tausala Elem. School



Tafailagi Toelupe
Aua Elementary School



Josephine Elena Pereira
Marist St. Francis Elem. School



Lisa Maria Martinez
Masefau Elementary School



Heavenly Alofa Tuauu
Matafao Elementary School



Loretta Uiagalelei
Matatula Elementary School



Amazing Grace Malaefono
Mt. Alava Elementary School



Ruta Sua
Olomoana Elementary School



Cil-Darla Livi
Olosega Elementary School



Samantha Julia deSaulles
Pacific Horizons School



Maligi Latu
Pavaiai Elementary School



Danielle Magalasin
Samoa Baptist Academy



Ngaire Fuimaono
Siliaga Elementary School



Nafanua Nimoa'i
AP Lutali Elementary School



Mineva Seaga
St. Theresa Elementary School



Uaealesi Satui
Alataua II Elementary School

in conjunction with



Department of
EDUCATION

Major Sponsor



American Samoa

THANK YOU
to the following Contributors



THE SAMUEL LOUIS SUGARMAN AWARD



Le LALI

Manumalo Michael Sun tauvaga Sipela - Spelling Bee - 2018



Le tama'ita'i na tulaga lua i lenei tausaga i le tauvaga sipela Kristina Timoteo mai le a'oga a Tafuna Elementary lea ua ia mauaina le fa'ailoga lua ma ua tutu fa'atasi mai ma sui o pisinisi sa latou fesoasoani e fa'atupe le tauvaga sipela i lenei tausaga - Mrs Leota mai le Tec Connec ma Talaleu Carol Tautolo Samuelu o le McDonalds. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O i la'ua na tulaga tolu e to'alu, sui mai le a'oga a Midkiff i Leone o Pitoula Sunia ma le sui mai Alofau o Hardrian Uili fa'atasi ma le tama'ita'i Mrs Leota mai le TecConnec ma Talaleu Carol Tautolo Samuelu o le McDonalds. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

Ina ua lualuta le tai i loto popo'e ae naunau fo'i i le pale o le manumalo i le tauvaga Sipela i le Gagana Peretania - Spelling Bee - a le fanau a'oga tulaga muamua lea sa fa'atautaia ma maimoaina e le atunu'u atoa i luga o le KVZK-TV, na tula'i mai lava le to'atasi o atali'i mai le to'alima o le fanau e 31 na tauva, ma ave le manumalo i le laumua o South Pacific Academy.

O ia lea o Michael Sun mai le afio'aga o Vaitogi, ae o le fa'alua ai lea ona tauva o ia i lenei tauvaga. O lana sau muamua o le tausaga na vasega ono ai o ia, ae o lea ua vasega 8 ma o lona toe avanoa fo'i lenei, ae umia loa e ia le fa'ailoga - Sipela Numera Tasi.

O le upu na mua'i sipela e Michael ina ia mautinoa ua ausia e ia le siamupini a'ia'i o le "Stunner" ae tatau mai e tusa ma aiaiga o le tauvaga, i le isi upu fou lava e toe ausia ona sa'o i lana sipela, ma ia toe sipelaina ai le "joyous." O i'ina ua mautu ai, e le toe i ai se avanoa mo le tulaga lua ma le tolu e toe sipela ai nisi upu pe toe sofa'i ai le manumalo.

O le tama'ita'i na tulaga lua o le sui na avea ma sui o le A'oga Tafuna Elementary, Kristina Marie Timoteo ma o le fa'alua ai fo'i lea ona tauva o ia i le tauvaga sipela a le teritori. Ua o'o fo'i i lona toe tausaga, ma sa faigata tele ona taofia ona loimata, ina au sisi'i lima o le tama o Michael, ua mae'a ausia e ia le tulaga muamua i lenei tausaga.

O le tulaga tolu e to'alua na tutusa ai, o lona uiga e tasi lava le ta'amilosaga na sasi ai la'ua sipela ia la'ua upu na tu'uina atu e sipela. O i la'ua ia o le sui mai Midkiff Elementary i Leone, Pitoula Savaliiofilemu Sunia ma le ali'i sa loa o tula'i mai e sipela mo le a'oga a Alofau, Hardrian Asofa'afetai Uili.

O Hadrian o lo'o vasega lima o ia i lana a'oga, ma le tama'ita'i o Pitoula o lo'o vasega 6 o ia i lana a'oga i Leone, e mautinoa lava o lo'o ia i la'ua le fa'anaunauta'iga, e toe tauva i le tauvaga Sipela i tausaga o lumana'i a'o le'i mae'a la'ua vasega 8.

I lenei tausaga ua fa'ailoa mai, e le o toe faigofie ona fesasia'i tamaiti. O le aofaiga o taamilosaga e 24, peita'i mai le mae'a ai o le ta'amilosaga lona valu ua totoe mai le to'a 11 o le fanau o tauva. Alu le ta'amilosaga 9 se'ia o'o i le ta'amilosaga 14 fa'ato'a maua se tasi e pa'u mai i le tauvaga. O iina fo'i na toe vala'au ai le malologa pu'upu'u.

E mae'a atu lea malologa ae soso'o ma le ta'amilosaga 15 ae sasi ai le sipela a le sui mai Aua Elementary ona sau lea o le ta'amilosaga 16 e leai se isi na

sasi ai o le au tauva.

Uma atu o'o i le ta'amilosaga 17 ae sasi le sui mai le a'oga St Theresa i Leone, ae o le sasi lea sa le manatu o ia o sese lana sipela i le Upu "Vivac" na sipela e ia i le "Vivache."

I le ta'amilosaga 17 na sasi ai le sipela a le sui mai Pavaiai Elementary i le upu "Pefefernuss" e le'i maua e ia le sipelaga sa'o o lea upu.

I le ta'amilosaga 18 ua toe to'afitu o totoe mai ma sa iloga ona toe fa'alogoia ua aga'i ina faigofie upu, ma e tatau lava ona fesili fo'i le fanau i le uiga o le upu ma le gagana e afua mai ai lea upu ina ia mautinoa e le fanau, o sa'o lelei le latou sipela. O upu e pei o le "fluke" "enrich" "retail" "tally" ae sau loa le "sewn" ae sasi ai le sipela a le sui e to'atasi mai le Manu'atele na tauva i le vaega mulimuli o le tauvaga mai le a'oga Faleasao Elementary, le tama'ita'i o Allyson Lalovilama Liusamoa.

O le ta'amilosaga lava lea na soso'o ma le avanoa o Lauli'i Elementary as sasi fo'i ma ua le au ai le taumafaiga i lenei tausaga a le tama'ita'i o Mariafaustina Lualua Fa'alogo.

Ta'amilosaga lona 19 leai se tasi na sasi o e na totoe, ae o'o i le ta'amilosaga 20 ae sasi ai le sui mai le Manumalo Baptist Academy o Amber Leota. O le upu na sasi ai lana sipela o le "burly."

O le ta'amilosaga 20 na sasi ai le sipela a le ali'i pito i la'ititi na totoe i le tauvaga o Hardrian Asofa'afetai Uili i lana sipelaga o le "Bypass" ua sasi i le "bipass" ma soso'o mai ma le avanoa o le Midkiff Leone ae sasi fo'i ma ia, totoe loa na'o le sui mai Tafuna Elementary ma le ua manumalo mai le South Pacific Academy.

O le upu na sasi ai le sui mai Tafuna Elementary o le "Horse-raddish" ae o lona sipelaga sa'o o le "Horseradish" o se ituaiga mea'ai.

I lenei tausaga o le sui pito i la'ititi ua va'aia ua tauva ai o le tama'ita'i na malaga mamao mai Fitiuta Elementary, Lilien Jonita Ve'e, e vasega 4 ma ua ia fa'ailoa mai, "Ou te taumafai a le pale i lenei tausaga, ou te toe taumafai atili pe maua e a'u ae le'i o'o i lo'u tausaga vasega 8."

E laititi lona tino, ae o lona lagona fa'aalia, e iloga ai e soifua tauva o leni tama'ita'i. Ina ua fesiligia pe i ai se tasi sa fesoasoani malosi ia te ia i lenei tausaga, ae fa'ailoa mai e ia, "Na fesoasoani tele ia te au lou uso matua, Melody Vee, sa tauva fo'i i le tauvaga sipela ae o lea ua vasega 11 nei o ia i Manu'a High School, fa'atasi ai fo'i ma si o'u tuagane o Joe Vee na sau fo'i e fai ma sui o le matou a'oga i le tausaga ua te'a, ae o lea ua vasega 9 nei o ia i

(Faauauu itulau 14)





O se vaaiga i le fanau aoga a Samoa High sa auai e tauva i le Numera i le taeao o le aso Lua na te'a nei. Tau ina ia maua mai le manumalo! [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Suesue Ofisa Loia Sili se fa'asea fa'asaga ali'i Leoleo sinia se to'alua

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua tauaao e le afiga i le Loia Sili a le malo se tusi fa'asea mai se tagatanu'u, fa'asaga i le fa'aaoga le tatau e ni ali'i Leoleo sinia se to'alua o lo la malos i lalo o le tulafono, e faia ai uiga ma lafoga e ono taomia ai i lalo ona aia fa'aletulafono.

O le masina na te'a nei na tauaao atu ai e le tama'ita'i sa tusia lenei tusi le kopi o lana tusi i le afiga i le ali'i loia sili ia Talauega Eleasalo Ale, ma ia tofia ai se tasi o loia lagolago mai lona Ofisa na te su'esu'eina lenei mataupu. Sa faapea fo'i ona tauaao atu e le tama'ita'i le kopi o lana tusi i le Ofisa o le Komesina.

O le autu o le tusi fa'asea, o loo talosagaina ai e le tama'ita'i na tusia le tusi le tatau lea ona faia se suesuega fa'asaga i le auala sa fa'atino ai e ali'i Leoleo sinia e to'alua le la galuega i le aso na tula'i mai ai se fa'alavelave sa a'afia ai le tama'ita'i na tusia le tusi, o lona uso, ma se ali'i leoleo sinia sa laei savili i le aso na tula'i mai ai le fa'alavelave.

E pei ona taua i le tusi, o le fa'alavelave na tula'i mai i le vaega e paka ai ta'avale i le Kolisi Tuufaataasi i Mapusaga, ina ua fa'asea le ali'i leoleo sinia sa laei savili e ala i le fa'aece o le pu o lana ta'avale, ina ua poloka e le ta'avale a le tama'ita'i na a'afia le auala.

Na faamanino e le tama'ita'i sa tusia le tusi i totonu o lana tusi e faapea, e lei poloka e lana ta'avale le auala, sa lava ma tele le avanoa e ui ane ai le ta'avale a le ali'i leoleo sa laei savili, peita'i, sa fa'aaauu pea ona fa'aece le pu o lana ta'avale, ma ave ai ma itu na tula'i mai ai lagona

le fiafia ia te ia, ma ia faia ai loa se gaoiga e ala i le tuu atu i ai o lona lima ogatotonu.

O le le fiafia o le ali'i leoleo sa laei savili i le gaoiga a le tama'ita'i na tusia le tusi, na mafua ai loa ona ia valaauina ta'avale Leoleo e taofi le ta'avale a le tama'ita'i lea.

Na taua e le tama'ita'i na tusia le tusi e fa'apea, o luma o le paka i Fagaalu na taofi ai e Leoleo lana ta'avale e aunoa ma se mafua'aga tatau. Sa ia fesiligia Leoleo i le mafua'aga na taofi ai lana ta'avale, peita'i e foliga mai e le o malamalama tonu Leoleo i le mafua'aga na latou taofia ai lana ta'avale, se'i vagana ai lo latou fa'apea atu ia te ia, o le fa'atonuga mai le Leoleo sinia na mafua ai ona taofi lana ta'avale.

Na fa'ai'u le mataupu i totonu o le ofisa autu o Leoleo i Fagatogo. O iina lea o loo taua e le tama'ita'i na tusia le tusi, na alu atu ai le isi ali'i Leoleo sinia, o ia fo'i o se Kapeteni ma soona lafo atu ni fa'apuga ia te ia ma lona uso, ma folafola le loka o ia ona o lona le fa'aaloalo i le ali'i Leoleo sa laei savili.

Na taua e le tama'ita'i i lana tusi e fa'apea, e talitonu o ia e fa'aituau le faaiuga a le ali'i Leoleo Kapeteni sa faia i le aso lea, i lona lafo o tala ma folafolaga malolosi ia te ia ma lona uso, ae leai sana tala na fai i le Leoleo sa laei savili i le mafua'aga na ala ai ona ia valaauina Leoleo e taofi le ta'avale a le tama'ita'i i luga o le auala.

E talitonu le tama'ita'i lenei, ua fa'aaoga sese e ali'i Leoleo nei e toalua lo la malos i lalo o le tulafono e faia ai nei uiga le talafeagai ia te ia ma lona uso, ma e tatau ona i ai se faaiuga talafeagai e faia ia tei laua.

Amata le fa'amasinoga autu o Elijah Leasau

tusia Ausage Fausia

O le vaiaso nei lea na amata aloaia ai le fa'amasinoga autu o se ali'i o lo o tu'uuaia e le malo i lona umia fa'asolitulafono o vaega o le laau fa'asaina o le mariuana, e mafua mai i se fa'alavelave na tula'i mai i le 2 tausaga talu ai.

O lo o tu'uuaia e le malo le ali'i o Elijah Leasau i le moliaga mamafa e tasi o lona umia fa'asolitulafono o vaega o le laau fa'asaina o le mariuana. O lea solitulafono e mafai ona fa'asalaina ai se tasi i le toese pe afai ae fa'amaonia i le umi e le itiiti ifo i le 5 tausaga ae le sili atu i le 10 tausaga i le falepuipui, poo le fa'asala i le salatupe e le silia i le \$10,000.

O le tama'ita'i loia ia Christy Dunn mai le Ofisa o le Loia Sili o loo tula'i mo le malo, ae o le ali'i loia ia Marcellus T. Uiagalelei o loo tula'i mo le ua molia, ae lagolagosua i ai le ali'i loia ia David Vargas.

E pei ona taua e le malo i le latou tagi e fa'apea, o le po o le aso 31 Tesema 2015 i Tafuna na tula'i mai ai le fa'alavelave e pei ona molia ai Leasau, i le taimi ao fa'atino ai tiute masani a Leoleo mo le vaavaaia lea o ave ta'avale e feoa'i onana i luga o le alatele i taimi o aso fiafia.

Ao faagasolo ai tiute masani a le tama'ita'i leoleo ia Latara Ah See i luga o le alatele i Iiili, sa ia molimauina ai se Suzuki lanu mumu i luma o le Cost-U-Less, o loo aga'i i le itu i sisifo o le auala ae leai ma ni moli pito i luma o ola.

O tua o le ta'avale Suzuki lanu mumu e le o ola moli o loo mulimuli atu ai se ta'avale Leoleo. O le tama'ita'i Leoleo ia Ah See o loo i totonu o ia o le isi ta'avale Leoleo o loo aga'i i le itu i sasa'e o le auala.

Na fa'aaoga e Ah See le masini fa'aleo tele leo ma valaau ai i le ta'avale Leoleo o loo mulimuli atu i tua o le

Suzuki lanu mumu, e taofi le Suzuki lea ona e le o ola moli pito i luma. Na tu le ta'avale Suzuki ma iloa ai o Leasau o loo fa'afocina le ta'avale.

O le taimi na afe ai le ta'avale a le ua molia i le vaega e paka ai ta'avale i luma o se tasi o Faleloa i Iiili, o iina lea o loo masalomia ai e Leoleo sa ia togiina ai i fafo se afi penisini. I totonu o lea afi penisini sa mafai ona maua e Leoleo, sa maua ai i totonu se paipa, ae i totonu o le paipa o loo i ai vaega o le laau fa'asaina o le mariuana.

O ata sa mafai ona pu'eina mai le masini pu'e ata a le Faleoloa o loo faapipi'i i le pito i fafo, o loo taua ai e le malo le maua uma ai o gaoiga sa tutupu i lea po, e aofia ai ma le taimi o loo tuuaia na togi ai e Leasau le afi penisini i fafo mai le fa'amalama o lana ta'avale.

I le ulua'i folasaga a le ali'i loia ia Uiagalelei o loo tula'i mo Leasau, sa ia faailoa ai i le vaega iloilo iuga e fa'apea, tusa lava poo a ituaiga molimau e tuuina atu e le malo ina ia lagolago ai le latou tagi fa'asaga ia Leasau, o le itu taua e tatau ona matua manino, e le mafai e le malo ona tuuina atu ni mau e fa'amaonia ai le latou moliaga, sa umia fa'asolitulafono e le ua molia vaega o le laau fa'asaina o le mariuana.

O ni isi o molimau ua fuafua le malo e valaauina mo le lagolago ina o le latou tagi fa'asaga ia Leasau e aofia ai leoleo sa auai i le taimi o le fa'alavelave, faapea ai se sui mai le Ofisa e Suesueina Fualaau Faasaina a le Feterale (DEA), o ia lea sa faia le suega i mariuana na maua ma faamaonia ai, o vaega ia o le laau fa'asaina o le mariuana.

O le afiga i le Faamasino sili ia Michael Kruse o loo faafocina taulumaga o lenei mataupu, faatasi ai ma le lagolagosua a afiga i ali'i Fa'amasino Lagolago ia Faamausili Pomele ma Tunupopo Faleafaga.



South Pacific Academy students who took part in this year's Territorial Math Competition held this past Tuesday at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei. The official results are expected to be released later this week. [photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Tali mai...

Mai itulau 13

Manu'a High. O nei lea ua toe fo'i ai i Manu'a, ae ou nofo e tauva pe a mai sa'u taumafaiga."

O lo ua iloga mai o Michael Sun ma lona faia'oga e fesoa-soani ia te ia i le tauvaga sipela a le Iunaite Setete atoa o le a malaga i Uosigitone DC mo le tauvaga e faia i le vaiata o Me 27 se'ia o'o ia Iuni 1, 2018.

O le fa'afetai na fa'aalia e le tama'ita'i Pule o le Samoa News, Robin Annesley, i le vasega o pisinisi sa latou tofu

sao mo le fa'atinoga o le tauvaga Sipela i lenei tausaga. O le McDonalds American Samoa o le Kamupani lea ua nafa ma le tele o pasese ma tupe fa'aalu e sui o le a malaga ma le Siamupini o Sipela i Uosigitone ma nisi o kamupani sa foa'i fo'i e aofia ai le Carls JR, TecConnec ma Pacific Youth Development, fa'afetai i lo outou sao ua mafai ai le tatou tauvaga sipela a le fanau i lenei tausaga.



Parents and teachers, along with students attending Special Education (SPED) at Matafao Elementary School are seen walking along the main road in Utulei following their visit to the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center. [photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Democrats would reverse some tax cuts to fund infrastructure

By LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Senate Democrats, voting against the Republican tax cuts that President Donald Trump signed into law wasn't opposition enough. Now they have a plan to reverse some of the tax breaks for corporations and the wealthiest Americans and put the money instead toward a \$1 trillion infrastructure package.

The proposal, unveiled Wednesday, is more campaign theme than actual legislative agenda, since Republicans hold the majority in Congress. But it stands as an alternative to Trump's approach to both taxes and spending as his infrastructure blueprint has stalled on Capitol Hill.

"We want to roll back the Republican tax giveaways to big corporations and the very wealthy and invest that money instead in job-creating infrastructure," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said on Senate floor. "We say, take some of those tax breaks from the wealthiest Americans and put them into middle class jobs. Plain and simple."

Republicans are counting on the new tax law to boost their standing with voters ahead of what is expected to be a grueling midterm election that could threaten their hold on the majority.

It's their chief legislative accomplishment since Trump became president, and Congress has not announced plans to consider the president's infrastructure plan.

Americans had initially been cool to the \$1.5 trillion GOP tax cut bill, which Republicans say will pay for itself with economic growth and Democrats warn will pile onto deficits. But it has gained favor since becoming law late last year. Some workers are seeing increased take-home pay, and some companies have granted bonuses or wage hikes.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell dismissed the proposal, and said it's too bad Democrats voted against the tax plan, as its benefits are "percolating through every corner of our economy." "Repeal all these bonuses, pay raises, new jobs, and new investments?" McConnell said. "Talk about a non-starter."

Trump's infrastructure proposal has seen less interest in Congress. It relies mostly on private and local government funding, with about \$200 billion in federal investment.

Democrats warn that the president's proposal would result in "Trump tolls" to pay for new roads, bridges and other infrastructure across the nation. "We have a much better plan," Schumer said. Democrats would generate revenue for their \$1.022 trillion infrastructure plan by reversing some of the tax cuts.

They would reinstate the top income tax rate of 39.6 percent on the highest-earning households, couples earning more than \$600,000 a year, up from 37 percent under the GOP tax cuts bill.

The corporate rate, which was slashed from 35 percent to 21 percent under the GOP plan, would climb back to 25 percent under the Democratic proposal. Among other changes, the Democrats would restore the estate tax exemption at \$11 million for couples, rather than double that, as became law under the GOP bill, and revive the alternative minimum tax. It would also eliminate the so-called carried interest loophole, which was left in place in the GOP bill and allows some investment managers to have their income taxed at lower rates.

Democrats would put the fresh revenue to work making improvements to traditional infrastructure — roads, bridges, water and sewer systems — as well as new more modern investments in rural broadband, schools and airports.



In this March 6, 2018, photo, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., speaks with reporters following weekly policy luncheons on Capitol Hill in Washington. Senate Democrats have a plan to reverse some of the tax breaks and put the money instead toward a \$1 trillion infrastructure package. The proposal is more campaign theme than actual legislative agenda, since Republicans hold the majority in Congress. "The bottom line is very simple," Schumer told The Associated Press. "The vast majority of Americans would much prefer new, 21st century infrastructure than tax breaks for the wealthiest of people." (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

▶ Back...

Continued from page 10

some parents had arranging for child care and finding activities for their idle children.

Nannette Higginbotham had mixed feelings as she said goodbye to her daughter on her first day back at Andrew Jackson Middle School in Cross Lanes.

"I love having her home, but I'm glad they're getting back to school and getting it over with," she said.

At the Village of Barboersville Elementary School, teachers traded holding picket signs for ones such as "I Missed You" to welcome students back. The teachers stood outside as their charges arrived Wednesday.

"I'm sure not only was it stressful for us as educators, (but for) parents and the students," special education teacher Jamie Robinette told WSAZ-TV. "The students want to be here. We want to be here. I'm so glad that it's over."

West Virginia Gov. Jim Jus-

lice has asked county superintendents to be flexible as they decide how to meet the requirement of having 180 days of school, saying students "have suffered enough." He wants families to have time for summer vacation and doesn't want summer feeding programs placed in jeopardy if classes go too far into June.

Some superintendents are mulling whether to cut short spring break, typically in late March, although families often have vacations already scheduled during that time.

The paralyzing walkout shut 277,000 students out of classrooms, forced their parents to scramble for child care and cast a national spotlight on government dysfunction in West Virginia. These 35,000 public school employees had gone four years without a salary increase.

From outside the state, GoFundMe campaigns bought pizza for the striking teachers and raised hundreds of thou-

sands of dollars for their immediate needs such as lost pay and child care.

Embracing the hashtag "55strong" in a nod to the number of counties in the state, teachers and school service personnel gathered at the Capitol daily in the thousands, waiting in long lines in the cold and rain as they remained steadfast in their demands.

Their euphoria after winning the fight carried over with them into the schools on Wednesday.

At Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg, teachers lined up to greet students heading to their lockers.

"We were giving them high fives and chanting 'You matter to us!'" teacher Connie Buffey told The Exponent Telegram.

Associated Press writers Robert Ray in Charleston, West Virginia, and Michael Virtanen in Morgantown, West Virginia, contributed to this report.

Views of Trump's trade adviser carry the day at White House



FILE - In this March 31, 2017, file photo, National Trade Council adviser Peter Navarro waits for President Donald Trump for an event in the Oval Office at the White House. Navarro signed on with the Trump campaign as a trade adviser, only to see his contrarian views marginalized when he arrived at the White House. Now Navarro and his protectionist trade policies are on the rise as his chief ideological rival, Gary Cohn, heads for the exit. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

By **JILL COLVIN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the squabbling Trump White House, no insider is ever above rebuke and no one blacklisted beyond redemption. Trade adviser Peter Navarro, once barred from sending private emails and spotted skulking in West Wing hallways, has abruptly emerged from the chaos ascendant.

With his chief ideological rival, Gary Cohn, now headed for the exit, Navarro and his protectionist trade policies are taking center stage as President Donald Trump prepares to impose the steep tariffs on steel and aluminum imports that Navarro has long championed.

Navarro, a 68-year-old former economics professor whose ideas were once considered well outside the mainstream, joined the Trump campaign in 2016 after one of his books on China happened to catch the eye of Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner during an internet search.

From the presidential campaign, Navarro made the leap to the new administration to head a new White House National Trade Council. But he was quickly sidelined by chief of staff John Kelly and closely managed by former staff secretary Rob Porter.

As alliances shifted and staffers departed, though, Navarro made his move, encouraging Trump to embrace a plan that many economists, lawmakers and White House aides warn could lead to a trade war and imperil U.S. economic gains.

The president and the combative Navarro share the same hard-line views on trade that were a centerpiece of Trump's campaign. For decades, both men have accused China of unfair trade practices that have displaced American workers and hobbled the U.S. manufacturing base.

"Peter speaks the same language as Trump does on these issues," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser who is now a visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation. "He and Trump agree on an America First policy when it comes to trade and other issues, so he has emerged as a policy force in this administration."

Like Stephen Miller on immigration, Navarro has now become the face of Trump's trade plan. In interviews since Trump's surprise promise to impose the sweeping tariffs, Navarro has forcefully defended his boss and minimized any potential negative impact on the U.S.

"There's negligible-to-nothing effects," he said dismissively on CBS, later accusing the media of hyping prospects of a trade war.

Navarro had limited contact with Trump world until early in the campaign, when Kushner was drawn to his book, "Death by China," while researching China policy. Kushner reached out and Navarro quickly became an economic

adviser.

Despite his credentials as a Harvard Ph.D. and former professor at the University of California, Irvine, Navarro was less an academic focused on research than a master of controversy writing books such as "The Coming China Wars." He has professed views that go further even than academic peers who see China's emergence in the global economy as hurting many U.S. workers.

"Trump has unconventional views on many issues. And here was an economist of some acclaim who was validating those positions," Moore said.

Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, who has known Navarro for more than a decade, described him as "someone who certainly speaks his mind and is not afraid to present ideas and data that are contrarian. And I think way more often than not, he makes a very persuasive case."

Persuasive to like-minded Trump, perhaps, but not to many free-trade-loving Republicans.

"I think he's wrong on a lot of things," said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch of Utah, who opposes the tariffs.

"We urge you to reconsider the idea of broad tariffs to avoid unintended negative consequences to the U.S. economy and its workers," 107 House Republicans wrote in a letter to Trump on Wednesday.

A day away from the president's expected official action, his spokeswoman did say Mexico, Canada or other countries may be spared under national security "carve-outs," a possible move that could soften the tariff blow.

But Navarro is still riding high.

Early in Trump's term, Navarro at first was outmaneuvered by Cohn, the Goldman Sachs president-turned-Trump economic adviser.

Cohn-Navarro discussions sometimes turned into shouting matches, occasionally in front of Trump. Navarro, excluded from Trump's trip to Asia last fall, was sometimes seen walking the West Wing halls at night. In an especially personal blow, he was required to copy in Cohn on all his emails after being accused of trying to circumvent West Wing processes, according to two people familiar with the policy. They spoke only on condition of anonymity to discuss internal administration roles.

The White House regimen included a weekly trade policy meeting in the Roosevelt Room where aides with opposing views could talk through ideas to ensure recommendations brought to the president were fully vetted and legally sound. When Porter left, said one of the people, the process broke down and Navarro and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross made their move.

Storm moves up East Coast dumping snow, knocking out power

By **KAREN MATTHEWS and DAVID PORTER**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The second major storm in less than a week moved up the East Coast early Thursday, dumping heavy snow and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses from Pennsylvania to New England.

Some places saw more than 2 feet of snow by late Wednesday. Montville, New Jersey, got more than 26 inches from the nor'easter. North Adams, Massachusetts, registered 24 inches and Sloatsburg, New York, got 26 inches.

Major cities along the Interstate 95 corridor saw much less. Philadelphia International Airport recorded about 6 inches, while New York City's Central Park saw less than 3 inches.

The storm made traveling treacherous. Thousands of flights across the region were canceled.

It was not much better on the ground. Members of the Northeastern University women's basketball team pushed their bus back on course after it was stuck in the snow outside a practice facility in Philadelphia. The Huskies were in the city to compete in the 2018 CAA Women's Basketball Tournament. The team posted a video of the feat on its Twitter account.

Amtrak suspended service between New York City and Boston until at least 10 a.m. Thursday. New York City's Metro-North commuter railroad suspended service on lines connecting the city to its northern suburbs and Connecticut because of downed trees. It was not immediately known when service would be restored.

"It's kind of awful," said New York University student Alessa Raiford, who put two layers of clothing on a pug named Jengo before taking him for a walk in slushy, sloppy Manhattan, where rain gave way to wet snow in the afternoon. "I'd rather that it be full-on snowing than rain and slush. It just makes it difficult."

The storm was not predicted to be as severe as the nor'easter that toppled trees, inundated coastal communities and caused more than 2 million power outages from Virginia to Maine last Friday.

It still proved to be a headache for the tens of thousands of customers still in the dark from the earlier storm — and for the crews trying to restore power to them.

In New Jersey, the state's major utilities reported more than 300,000 customers without power by late Wednesday, with some left over from last week. Utilities across the Northeast also reported tens of thousands of homes and businesses without electricity.

The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning through Thursday for most of New England as the storm continued to make its way through.

In Worcester, Massachusetts, public works crews late Wednesday had a hard time keeping up with the snow.

"It's heavy. Well, it was so warm earlier that it just melted when it hit the ground and now it's heavy," said Jesse Nadeau. "It's the heaviest part of the storm right now for the next couple of hours. Heavy and wet."

In North White Plains, New York, 10 people were taken to hospitals with symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning after running a generator inside a home, police said. All were expected to survive.

In Manchester Township, New Jersey, police said a teacher was struck by lightning while holding an umbrella on bus duty outside a school. The woman felt a tingling sensation but didn't lose consciousness. She was taken to a hospital with minor injuries.



Residents on Mills Street dig out their car after a snowstorm dumped over a foot of snow around the area Wednesday, March 7, 2018, in Morristown, N.J. The storm carrying wind, rain and heavy snow was expected to continue into Wednesday night.

(Bob Karp/The Record via AP)

Lawmakers, business brace for rollout of Trump's tariff plan

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says Mexico, Canada and other countries may be spared from President Donald Trump's planned steel and aluminum tariffs under national security "carve-outs," a move that could soften the blow amid threats of retaliation by trading partners and dire economic warnings from lawmakers and business groups.

Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters the exemptions would be made on a "case by case" and "country by country" basis, a reversal from the policy articulated by the White House just days ago that there would be no exemptions from Trump's plan.

The update came as congressional Republicans and business groups braced for the impact of expected tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum, appearing resigned to additional protectionist trade actions as Trump signaled upcoming economic battles with China. Trump was expected to announce the tariffs Thursday afternoon.

The looming departure of White House economic adviser Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who has opposed the promised tariffs, set off anxiety among business leaders and investors worried about a potential trade war.

"We urge you to reconsider the idea of broad tariffs to avoid unintended negative consequences to the U.S. economy and its workers," 107 House Republicans wrote in a letter to Trump.

At the White House, officials were working to include language in the tariffs that would give Trump the flexibility to approve exemptions for certain countries.

"He's already indicated a degree of flexibility, I think a very sensible, very balanced degree of flexibility," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told CNBC. "We're not trying to blow up the world."

Trump signaled other trade actions could be in the works. In a tweet, he said the "U.S. is acting swiftly on Intellectual Property theft." A White House official said Trump was referencing an ongoing investigation of China in which the U.S. trade representative is studying whether Chinese intellectual property rules are "unreasonable or discriminatory" to American business.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said an announcement on the findings of the report — and possible retaliatory actions — was expected within the next three weeks.

Business leaders, meanwhile, continued to sound the alarm about the potential economic fallout from tariffs, with the president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce raising the specter of a global trade war. That scenario, Tom Donohue said, would endanger the economic momentum from the GOP tax cuts and Trump's rollback of regulations.

"We urge the administration to take this risk seriously," Donohue said.

The president has said the tariffs are needed to reinforce lagging American steel and aluminum industries and protect national security. He has tried to use the tariffs as leverage in ongoing talks to revise the North American Free Trade Agreement, suggesting Canada and Mexico might be exempted from tariffs if they offer more favorable terms under NAFTA.

Lawmakers opposed to the tariffs, including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have suggested more narrowly focused approaches to target Chinese imports. But members of Congress have few tools at their disposal to counter the president, who has vowed to fulfill his campaign pledge.

"I don't think the president is going to be easily deterred," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who has suggested hearings on the tariffs.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said Trump had listened to him and others who disagree with the direction of the trade policies. "I thank him for that and he's been a good listener. The difficulty is so far I haven't persuaded him," Alexander said.

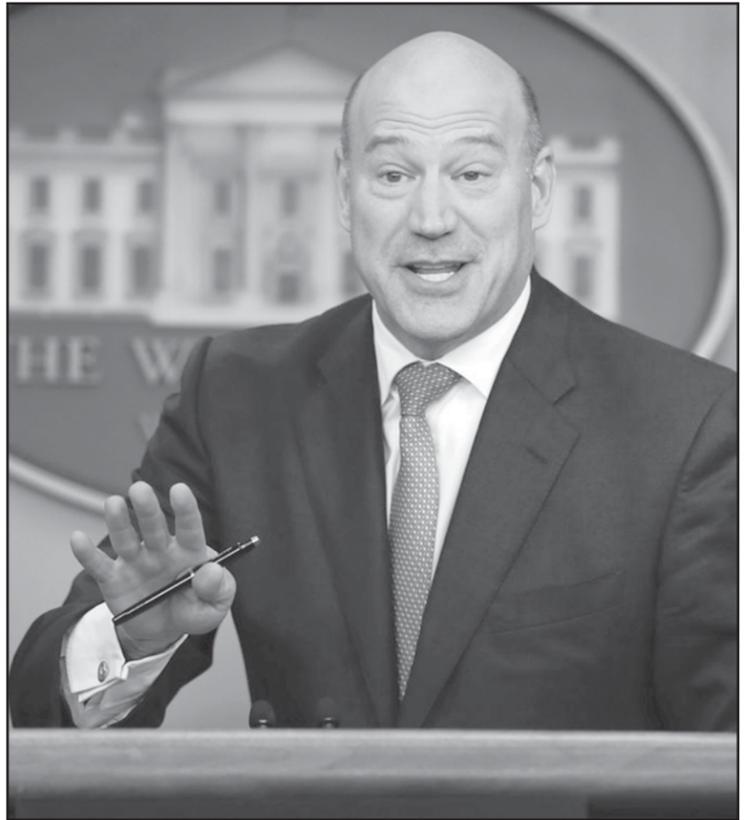
Republicans in Congress have lobbied administration officials to reconsider the plan and focus the trade actions on China, warning that allies such as Canada and members of the European Union would retaliate.

The EU said it was prepared to respond to any tariffs with counter-measures against U.S. products such as Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Levi's jeans and bourbon. EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said the EU was circu-

lating among member states a list of U.S. goods to target with tariffs so it could respond quickly.

The president plans to rally Republicans in western Pennsylvania on Saturday in support of Rick Saccone, who faces Democrat Conor Lamb in a March 13 special House election. Trump has told associates the tariffs could be helpful to the GOP cause in the election in the heart of steel country.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Matthew Daly and Alan Fram in Washington and Lorne Cook in Brussels contributed to this report.



FILE - In this Jan. 23, 2018, file photo, White House chief economic adviser Gary Cohn, speaks to reporters during the daily press briefing in the Brady press briefing room at the White House, in Washington. Cohn is leaving the White House after breaking with President Donald Trump on trade policy. Cohn, the director of the National Economic Council, has been the leading internal opponent to Trump's planned tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA
 P. O. BOX 9, Pago Pago A. S. 96799
 Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.
 Website: www.dbas.as

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Perform executive level administrative tasks of a confidential nature including but not limited to composing letters a must, reports, memorandums, make photocopies, files, distribute mail, etc.
2. Maintain President's appointment schedule by planning and scheduling appointments, meetings and conferences.
3. Receive and interact with visitors and clients with diplomacy.
4. Answers telephones, takes messages and answer inquiries within assigned scope of responsibilities.
5. Compile department reports for monthly board meetings and provide transcription and dictation of minutes.
6. Prepare conference room for board meetings and other conferences.
7. Maintain library of bank archival documents, policies and procedures.
8. Perform any other duties as assigned by the President.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Integrity, loyal and discrete personality
- Strong organizational skills that reflect ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks with excellent attention to detail and be adaptable to various competing demands.
- Proven ability to handle confidential information.
- Expert level written and verbal communication skills.
- Highly resourceful team-player with the ability to also be extremely effective independently with strong interpersonal skills and have a good understanding of cultural protocol.
- Proficient computer skills and in-depth knowledge of Microsoft applications.
- Demonstrate proactive approaches to problem solving and exhibit ability to constructively deal with conflict and afford effective resolutions.
- Time management skills.
- Proficient in English and Samoan.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

- Associate degree in business management or public administration or equivalent with five to eight (3 to 5) years of experience.

Applications available on the second floor of Development Bank Building located in Pago Pago. Please submit Resume and Application at the Development Bank Office; Deadline to apply: **March 16, 2018.**

No phone calls please.

Development Bank of American Samoa is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer



C
M
Y
K

O le vā'aiga i matua uma sa aofia ma faia'oga fa'atasi ai ma le vasega o le fanau na mauaina fa'ailoga o le tulaga muamua se'ia o'ò i le tulaga tolu i le tauvaga sipela. O l'ò ua fiafia fa'atasi i latou nei ona o se taumafaiga ua au a le fanau. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



 **Carl's Jr.**

Fish and Chips

Junior Carl Cod Fish with Cheese

Carls Catch Battered Pollock Sandwich

Carls Catch Delux Sandwich with Swiss Cheese

Lent Season



**Carl's
CATCH**

C
M
Y
K



O i latou ua mauaina tulaga muamua, lua ma le tolu ua fa'aulaina ma pu'e le latou ata ma i latou o lo'o suia kamupani sa foa'i mo le fa'amoemoe o le fanau, "Tauvaga Sipela 2018". L-R Ms Robin Annesley, Mrs Leota, tulaga muamua Michael Sun of SPA, Kristina Timoteo of Tafuna Elementary tulaga lua, tulaga tolu o Pitoulua Sunia mai Midkiff Elementary ma Hardrian Uili mai Alofau Elementary, ma le afioga Talaleu Carol Tautolo Samuelu mai le McDonalds American Samoa.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

S. Korea leader sees more obstacles ahead to disarm N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said Thursday that many "critical moments" still lie ahead to end the nuclear crisis despite North Korea's recent outreach to Seoul and Washington.

Moon Jae-in spoke before two senior Seoul officials left for the United States to brief officials about the outcome of their recent visit to North Korea.

The Seoul officials said North Korea offered talks with the United States over normalizing ties and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Seoul said the North also agreed to suspend nuclear and missile tests during such future talks.

Some experts question how sincere North Korea is about its reported offers, citing what they call its track record of using past disarmament talks to wrest aid and concessions while covertly continuing its bomb program.

According to the South Korean officials, North Korea said it has no reason to possess nuclear weapons as long as military threats against the country are removed and its security is guaranteed. That's the same position North Korea has long maintained to justify its nuclear program or call for the withdrawal of 28,500 U.S. troops and a halt to annual U.S.-South Korean military drills as a condition for scrapping its nuclear program. The North sees the allies' drills as an invasion rehearsal.

"We've overcome one critical moment. But there are many critical moments that we

(Continued on page 22)

C M
Y K

C M
Y K

+
⊗

What swamp? Lobbyists get ethics waivers to work for Trump



the White House and executive branch agencies.

Though the waivers were typically signed by McGahn months ago, the Office of Government Ethics disclosed several more on Wednesday.

One allows FBI Director Chris Wray “to participate in matters involving a confidential former client.” The three-sentence waiver gives no indication about what Wray’s conflict of interest might be or how it may violate Trump’s ethics order.

Asked about the waivers, Lindsay Walters, a White House spokeswoman, said, “In the interests of full transparency and good governance, the posted waivers set forth the policy reasons for granting an exception to the pledge.”

Trump’s executive order on ethics supplanted a more stringent set of rules put in place by President Barack Obama in 2008. Nearly 70 waivers were issued to executive branch officials during Obama’s eight years, though those were generally more narrowly focused and offered a fuller legal explanation for why the waiver was granted.

Craig Holman, who lobbies in Washington for stricter government ethics and lobbying rules on behalf of the advocacy group Public Citizen, said he was initially optimistic when Trump issued his executive order.

“I was very surprised and at the same time very hopeful that he was going to take his pledge to ‘drain the swamp’ seriously,” Holman said Wednesday. “It is now quite evident that the pledge was little more than

campaign rhetoric. Not only are key provisions simply ignored and not enforced, when in cases where obvious conflicts of interest are brought into the limelight, the administration readily issues waivers from the ethics rules.”

An analysis by the AP shows that nearly half of the political appointees hired at the Environmental Protection Agency under Trump have strong industry ties. Of 59 EPA hires tracked by the AP over the last year, about a third worked as registered lobbyists or lawyers for chemical manufacturers, fossil fuel producers and other corporate clients that raise the very type of revolving-door conflicts of interests that Trump promised voters he would eliminate.

Most of those officials have signed ethics agreements saying they would not participate in actions involving their former clients while working at the EPA. At least three have gotten waivers allowing them to do just that.

Erik Baptist, a top EPA lawyer, worked until 2016, as senior lawyer and registered federal lobbyist for the American Petroleum Institute, the national trade group for the oil and gas industry. According to disclosure reports, he lobbied Congress to pass legislation repealing the Renewable Fuel Standard, a program created more than a decade ago to set minimum production quotas for biofuels to be blended into gasoline, heating oil and jet fuel.

Baptist signed an ethics agreement pledging to recuse himself from any issues involving his former employer, including several lawsuits filed against the agency where he now works. But in August, McGahn granted him approval to advise EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on issues surrounding the renewable fuel law.

McGahn wrote that he was exempting Baptist from the ethics pledge because “his deep understanding of the RFS program and the regulated industry, make him the ideal person to assist the administrator and his senior leadership team to make EPA and its renewable fuel programs more efficient and effective.”

Pruitt, a Republican who was closely aligned with the oil and gas industry as an elected official in his home state of Oklahoma, proposed modest cuts last summer to production quotas for biofuels that include ethanol, despite promises from Trump to leave the Renewable Fuel Standard alone.

That triggered bipartisan outrage among members of Congress from major corn-growing states, who threatened last fall to block Senate votes on the administration’s environmental nominees unless Pruitt backed down.

Jeffrey M. Sands previously worked as a top lobbyist for Syngenta, a major pesticide manufacturer. Following a request from the EPA, McGahn determined it was “in the public interest” to allow Sands to work as Pruitt’s senior adviser for agriculture.

Dennis “Lee” Forsgren, the deputy assistant administrator helping oversee the EPA’s enforcement clean water regulations, was allowed to work on the EPA’s hurricane response efforts involving the Miccosukee, a Native American tribe in Florida for whom he was a registered lobbyist up until 2016.

“All EPA employees get ethics briefings when they start and continually work with our ethics office regarding any potential conflicts they may encounter while employed here,” EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said when asked whether the ethics waivers violate the spirit of Trump’s executive order.

The Treasury Department asked McGahn for three waivers. Anthony Sayegh, appointed as the assistant secretary for public affairs, previously worked as a Fox News contributor. His waiver allows him to “participate in matters involving his former client.”

Brian Callahan, the department’s top lawyer at Treasury, was granted a waiver concerning issues involving his former position as general counsel at Cooper and Kirk PLLC. The law firm represents Fairholme Funds, which recently filed a lawsuit against the Treasury Department and the Fair Housing Finance Agency.

McGahn’s waiver allows Callahan to participate in discussions about policy decisions pertaining to housing finance reform, even though “some of these discussions could at some point touch upon issues that might impact the litigation.”

The State Department got five waivers. The former law firm of Edward T. McMullen, the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, represented Boeing. The Swiss government recently announced its intent to purchase military equipment and accept bids from American companies.

Another waiver, which was heavily redacted before release, allows communications director Heather Norby to work with employees of Fox News even though she used to work as a broadcast journalist for the network.

At the Pentagon, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Randall G. Schriver got a waiver allowing him to “participate in any particular matter involving specific parties,” including his former client: the Japanese government.

FILE - In this Feb. 22, 2018, file photo, White House counsel Don McGahn gestures while speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), at National Harbor, Md. As a candidate, Donald Trump pledged to drain the swamp in Washington. But as president, records show he and his appointees have stocked federal agencies with ex-lobbyists and corporate lawyers who now help regulate they very industries rom which they collected paychecks. Records reviewed by The Associated Press show McGahn, has issued at least 24 ethics waivers to key administration officials at the White House and executive branch agencies.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, JULIET LINDERMAN and RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his appointees have stocked federal agencies with ex-lobbyists and corporate lawyers who now help regulate the very industries from which they previously collected paychecks, despite promising as a candidate to drain the swamp in Washington.

A week after his January

2017 inauguration, Trump signed an executive order that bars former lobbyists, lawyers and others from participating in any matter they lobbied or otherwise worked on for private clients within two years before going to work for the government.

But records reviewed by The Associated Press show Trump’s top lawyer, White House counsel Don McGahn, has issued at least 24 ethics waivers to key administration officials at



TRADEWINDS
HOTEL
AMERICAN SAMOA

VACANCY

RESTAURANT ASSISTANT MANAGER

Job Description:

1. Assist the Food and Beverage Manager with various duties.
2. Available to work evenings and the weekends
3. Excellent customer service, friendly and courteous
4. Good leadership qualities and a team player
5. Be able to supervise and oversee employees performing various tasks
6. Duties will include but not limited to:
 - a. Greet and seat customers
 - b. Assist in taking food orders and serving when necessary
 - c. Stock supplies and reorder
 - d. Assist employees with cleaning and resetting tables
 - e. Resolve customer food complaints and ensure customer satisfaction
 - f. Verify cashier shift takings are balanced against receipts.

Application forms are to be picked up from the Front Desk at Tradewinds Hotel.

Rallies in Asia kick off International Women's Day

By *The Associated Press*

Marches and demonstrations in Asia are kicking off rallies around the world to mark International Women's Day.

Hundreds of women activists in pink and purple shirts protested Thursday in the Philippines against President Rodrigo Duterte, who they said is among the worst violators of women's rights in Asia.

Protest leaders sang and danced in a boisterous rally in downtown Manila's Plaza

Miranda. They handed red and white roses to mothers, sisters and widows of several drug suspects slain under Duterte's deadly crackdown on illegal drugs. A rally for the rights of female workers was scheduled for later Thursday in central Seoul in South Korea, where a rapidly spreading #MeToo movement is galvanizing support for women's issues.

Other events are planned across Asia, the Mideast, Europe and the Americas.



Women bang pots and pans as shouting slogans during a protest marking the beginning of a 24-hour women strike at the Sol square in Madrid, early Thursday, March 8, 2018. Women in Spain have been called for a 24-hour feminist strike in their workplaces and also stop doing duties at home during the International Women's Day. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Reports: Syrian troops split rebel-held enclave near capital

By *PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press*

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government forces seized vast swaths of territory including farmland in the opposition-held suburbs of Damascus on Wednesday, effectively dividing the besieged enclave in two and further squeezing rebels and tens of thousands of civilians trapped inside, state media and a war monitor reported.

The government, determined to wrest the eastern Ghouta suburbs from the control of rebels after seven years of war, has resorted to extreme levels of shelling and bombardment to clear the way for its troops to advance on the ground. Hundreds have been killed in the past two weeks, including dozens reported Wednesday.

Doctors and residents reported intense shelling and cases of suffocation and difficulty breathing, accusing the government of using chlorine gas Wednesday night. Hamza Hassan, a surgeon working at one of the hospitals in eastern Ghouta, said that staff was overwhelmed with chlorine odor and that he had treated 29 children with difficulties breathing.

Such reports, which have been recurrent in the past weeks, could not be independently confirmed. The government has repeatedly denied using chlorine gas.

Earlier on Wednesday, the state-affiliated al-Ikhbariya TV station broadcast live shots from the region, showing dense columns of smoke rising above the town as explosions and rockets could be heard flying overhead. Syria's Central Military Media said troops took control of the town of Beit Sawa and most of Misraba, both rebel-held communities in the heart of the enclave.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that by nightfall, Syrian government troops and allied militias had seized half of the territory held by rebels in eastern Ghouta and split the enclave in two halves — a north and southern part.

By slicing the territory, the Syrian government succeeds in further squeezing rebels, making it more difficult for them to continue to hang on to the territory.

Dramatic videos released by the opposition's Syrian Civil Defense on Wednesday showed rescuers digging away hard-packed rubble to rescue a dust-covered little boy and a baby girl in the town of Arbeen. The Britain-based Observatory, which monitors the war through a network of activists on the ground, said more than 50 people were killed in the bombardment Wednesday.

In Geneva, U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein denounced what he said were attempts by Syria's government to justify indiscriminate, brutal attacks on hundreds of thousands of civilians by the need to combat a few hundred fighters in eastern Ghouta, calling it "legally and morally unsustainable."

"When you are prepared to kill your own people, lying is easy too. Claims by the government of Syria that it is taking every measure to protect its civilian population are frankly ridiculous," he said.

(Continued on page 21)



This photo released by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a member of the Syrian Civil Defense group helping a man who was wounded after airstrikes and shelling hit in Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, March. 7, 2018. Government forces carried out punishing airstrikes against an opposition-held suburb of Damascus, seeking to divide the besieged enclave in two and further squeeze rebels and tens of thousands of civilians trapped inside, state-run media and opposition activists reported. (Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets via AP)

NEED A CAR TO RENT?

\$120 Daily Rate
2013 Toyota Sienna Automatic (White Mini Van)

\$80 Daily Rate
2016 Toyota Corolla Automatic (White Car)

"WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR ANY CAR PARTS" WITH AFFORDABLE PRICE
SPECIAL for weekly rate
1 day FREE for every 7 days rental!

\$130 Daily Rate
2013 FORD F150 Automatic (Green Truck)

O&O INC. CAR RENTAL

PO Box 3897, Pago Pago, AS 96799
Located in Nu'uuli (O&O Inc. Wholesale)

Contact Information: Jiin Jang (258-4563) or Tafa Leaupepe
Office: 699-4484 • Fax: 699-2307
Email: Rentals@ooeinc.com

▶ S. Korea...

Continued from page 19



DELETED DISRELATED TRANSLATION - South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks during the Korea National Prayer Breakfast in Goyang, South Korea, Thursday, March 8, 2018. Moon said that many "critical moments" still lie ahead to end the nuclear crisis despite North Korea, "recent outreach to Seoul and Washington." (Hwang Kwang-mo/Yonhap via AP)

still have to go through before reaching the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and a permanent peace," Moon said in a meeting with church leaders.

Moon still described the outcome of his envoys' North Korea trip "a big step toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" that was possible with "a strong support" by the U.S. government.

It's unclear whether the United States would accept the North's reported offer for talks. President Donald Trump expressed both hope and skepticism, calling the North's move "possible progress" that also "may be false hope."

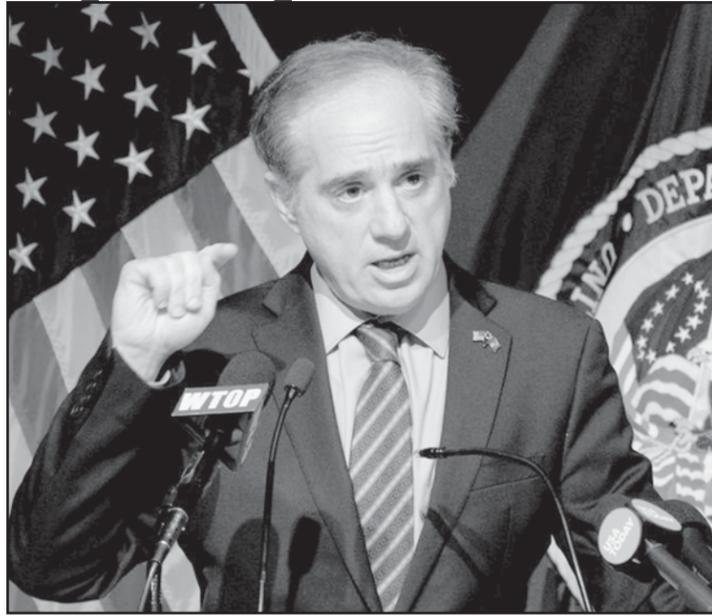
Seoul and Washington plan to kick off their delayed spring-time drills next month, and how sensitively the North reacts will affect the reconciliation mood revived by the North's participation in last month's Winter Olympics held in the South. The North responded to past joint drills by the allies with its own weapons tests and fiery rhetoric.

China, the North's most important ally, encouraged follow-up measures while noting the progress was in part due to the suspension of both North Korean nuclear tests and U.S.-South Korean military exercises during the Olympics.

"This proves that China's proposal of suspension for suspension was the right prescription for the problem and created basic conditions for the improvement of inter-Korean relations," Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters in Beijing. Wang said Pyongyang's security concerns should be addressed in return for denuclearization.

Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are to meet at a border village in late April, when the South Korea-U.S. drills would likely be still under way. If realized, the Moon-Kim meeting would mark the rivals' third-ever summit talks since their 1945 division, according to Moon's office.

Watchdog report: Failed VA leadership put patients at risk



ALTERNATE CROP OF DCAH102 - Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin speaks at a news conference at the Washington Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, Wednesday, March 7, 2018, in response to a VA inspector general audit being released today. A new government investigation finds that Shulkin took no action to fix longstanding problems of dirty syringes and equipment shortages that put patients at risk at a major veterans hospital when he was undersecretary of health under the Obama administration, saying he was never told of problems reported to the VA offices under his watch. The harsh report by the VA inspector general cites "failed leadership" and a "climate of complacency" for patient safety issues dating back to 2013 and cautions of continuing problems without strong oversight.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — "Failed leadership" at the Department of Veterans Affairs during the Obama years put patients at a major hospital at risk, an internal probe finds — another blow to Secretary David Shulkin, who served at the VA then and is fighting to keep his job.

The 150-page report released Wednesday by the VA internal watchdog offers new details to its preliminary finding last April of patient safety issues at the Washington, D.C., medical center.

Shulkin acknowledged to reporters that the problems were "systemic," but said he was not aware of the issues at the Washington hospital. He pledged wide-scale change across the VA. Painting a grim picture of communications breakdowns, chaos and spending waste at the government's second largest department, the report found that at least three VA program offices directly under Shulkin's watch knew of "serious, persistent deficiencies" when he was VA undersecretary of health from 2015 to 2016. But it stopped short of saying whether he was told about them.

Shulkin, who was elevated to VA secretary last year by President Donald Trump, told government investigators that he did "not recall" ever being notified of problems.

Among the changes he

promised — unannounced audits of its more than 1,700 medical facilities from health experts in the private sector, immediate hiring to fill vacancies at local hospitals and plans in the coming months to streamline bureaucracy and improve communication.

Shulkin pointed specifically to VA medical centers in the New England, Arizona and Washington D.C. regions that needed improvements to address patient safety. "Not to act when you identify systemic failures I think would be negligent," he said.

Shulkin has been struggling to keep a grip on his job since a blistering report by the inspector general last month concluded that he had violated ethics rules by improperly accepting Wimbledon tennis tickets and that his then chief of staff had doctored emails to justify his wife traveling to Europe with him at taxpayer expense.

He also faces a rebellion among some VA staff and has issued a sharp warning to them: Get back in line or get out. "I suspect that people are right now making decisions on whether they want to be a part of this team or not," he said last month. On Wednesday, the White House affirmed its continued support for Shulkin despite the controversies swirling around him, saying he has done a "great job" implementing changes at VA. "We're

proud of the work that we've done and we're going to continue to do everything we can to ... help veterans in this country," said spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The latest IG investigation found poor accounting procedures leading to taxpayer waste, citing at least \$92 million in overpriced medical supplies, along with a threat of data breaches as reams of patients' sensitive health information sat in 1,300 unsecured boxes.

No patient died as a result of the patient safety issues at the Washington facility dating back to at least 2013, which resulted in costly hospitalizations, "prolonged or unnecessary anesthesia" while medical staff scrambled to find needed equipment at the last minute, as well as delays and cancellations of medical procedures. The report also noted improvements made at the Washington facility since the IG's first report in April, when Shulkin replaced the medical center's director and pledged broader improvements.

Still, VA inspector general Michael Missal cautioned of potential problems without stronger oversight across the VA network of more than 1,700 facilities.

"Failed leadership at multiple levels within VA put patients and assets at the DC VA Medical Center at unnecessary risk and resulted in a breakdown of core services," Missal said. "It created a climate of complacency ... That there was no finding of patient harm was largely due to the efforts of many dedicated health care providers that overcame service deficiencies to ensure patients received needed care."

In the report, Shulkin responded that he had expected issues involving patient harm or operational deficiencies to be raised through the "usual" communication process, originating from the local level and regional office to VA headquarters in Washington — and that it apparently didn't happen.

While the IG did not make specific conclusions on whether Shulkin actually was warned by direct subordinates, it broadly faulted an "unwillingness or inability of leaders to take responsibility for the effectiveness of their programs and operations," and cited a "sense of futility" at multiple levels in bringing about improvements.

"It was difficult to pinpoint precisely how the conditions described in this report could have persisted at the medical center for so many years," Missal wrote.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Situation Vacant DRAIN LAYING SUPERVISOR

Preferred Qualifications:

- Drain laying Trade Certification
- Safety Supervisor Certification
- Confined Space Entry Certification
- Workplace Environmental Certification
- Minimum 20 years Pipe Laying and Supervision experience in all facets of underground services installation
- A working knowledge of critical path programming and the application of it to implementing and managing construction progress
- Proven ability to effectively manage and coordinate a drain laying work force
- Specific experience with the welding and installation of HDPE pipe
- Working knowledge of the use of trench shielding equipment

Please submit application in writing with copies of all relevant qualifications and previous job references to:

The Manager
PO Box 4179
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

EU ready for a 'stupid' trade war if Trump slaps on tariffs



European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstroem looks at her watch as she attends a meeting of the College of the European Commission at EU headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. The European Union will set out its strategy Wednesday on how to counter potential U.S. punitive tariffs on steel and aluminum. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

By **LORNE COOK**, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union says it's ready to retaliate against the U.S. over President Donald Trump's proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum — with countermeasures against iconic U.S. products like Harley Davidson motorcycles, Levi's jeans and bourbon.

The EU threat and Trump's insistence that the tariffs will go ahead escalate the risk of a trade war, in which countries try to punish each other by increasing taxes on traded goods. In the end, that tends to hurt all sides as exporting producers suffer but so do consumers who face higher costs, experts say.

There was some hope that free trade proponents in the White House, like economic adviser Gary Cohn, would dissuade Trump from going ahead

with the tariffs. But Cohn's resignation Tuesday dealt a blow to that expectation.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem said Wednesday that the EU is circulating among member states a list of U.S. goods to target with tariffs so that it can respond as quickly as possible.

The list so far includes U.S. steel and agricultural products, as well as other products like bourbon, peanut butter, cranberries and orange juice.

She did not say what level of tariffs the EU would set, leaving it unclear what the economic impact would be.

"This is basically a stupid process, the fact that we have to do this. But we have to do it," EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker had said Friday. "We can also do stupid."

The EU considers itself to be caught in the crossfire of

this particular trade dispute, in which Trump has mainly singled out China for being unfair in its commercial deals.

Trump last week said his government would levy penalties of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports, but did not say whether traditional allies like the EU and Canada would be exempt. On Wednesday, Cabinet members suggested Canada and Mexico might escape and that the announcement was due at the end of this week.

Once Trump officially announces the tariffs, they would start almost immediately, experts say.

So the EU has moved ahead with preparations for the worst.

Malmstroem said that the EU, the world's biggest trading bloc, rejects Trump's reasoning that the tariffs are backed by the international legal right to pro-

tect national security.

"We cannot see how the European Union, friends and allies in NATO, can be a threat to international security in the U.S.," Malmstroem told reporters. "From what we understand, the motivation of the U.S. is an economic safeguard measure in disguise, not a national security measure."

The EU itself already has tariffs on many imports. But Malmstroem said Trump's motives in this case do not appear compatible with World Trade Organization rules and that this means the EU can activate safeguards to protect its own markets.

The WTO said Wednesday that, so far, 18 members — including China, Australia, Brazil, the EU, India, Japan, Norway and Russia — have expressed concerns about Trump's proposed tariffs.

At the origin of the problem is overproduction by China, which has flooded world markets with steel and aluminum, driving prices down and intensifying pressure on producers in the U.S. and Europe. Nearly half the steel produced globally in December, for example, came from Chinese mills, according to the World Steel Association. China accounted for more steel production than the United States, Russia, Japan and 28 countries of the EU combined.

But the U.S. has already thrown up barriers to Chinese imports. As a result, China ranks only 11th in steel and fourth in aluminum imports to the United States. Trump's tariffs appear far more likely to hurt a staunch ally, Canada, which is No. 1 in both supplies of steel and aluminum to the U.S.

Chad Bow, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, estimates that Trump's tariffs would cost Canada \$3.2 billion a year and the EU \$2.6 billion. By contrast, they would cost China only \$689 million.

EU Council President

Donald Tusk, who chairs summits of presidents and prime ministers, said the bloc's leaders will discuss the issue at their next meeting on March 22-23.

He rejected Trump's assertion in a tweet that trade wars are good and easy to win. "The truth is quite the opposite: trade wars are bad and easy to lose," said Tusk.

Fragkiskos Filippaios, of the University of Kent's business school in England, says that the damage from a trade dispute will depend on whether the sides try to resolve their differences through the arbitration of the WTO, whose verdicts have so far always been accepted.

"Moving away from WTO dispute settlement means that retaliation can easily escalate and we might find ourselves in the middle of a trade war between the two most important trade regions in the world," he said. Malmstroem urged Washington to work with the Europeans to address the root causes of oversupply in the global market.

She recalled that similar U.S. action on steel in 2002 by then president George W. Bush "cost thousands and thousands of U.S. jobs" and said she hoped that Washington has not forgotten this.

At that time, the EU compiled a list of items for retaliatory tariffs that included steel products, but also orange juice, apples, sunglasses, knitwear, motor boats and photocopying machines. It represented \$2.2 billion in U.S. exports to the EU. Bush withdrew the steel tariffs and the list was never acted upon.

Putin praises Trump, says US political system eating itself

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin lavished praise on President Donald Trump, but added that he was sorely disappointed with the U.S. political system, saying that it has been "eating itself up."

Speaking in a series of interviews with Russian state television which were included in a documentary released Wednesday, Putin described Trump as a great communicator.

"I have no disappointment at all," Putin

said when asked about the U.S. president. "Moreover, on a personal level he made a very good impression on me."

The two leaders met on the sidelines of international summits last year. Putin praised Trump as a "balanced" man, who easily gets into the gist of various issues and listens to his interlocutor.

"It's possible to negotiate with him, to search for compromises," Putin added.

He also noted that he spent some time talking to Melania Trump when he sat next to her during an official dinner at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany in

July. The Russian leader said he told her and the wife of the Italian premier "about Siberia and Kamchatka, about fishing ... about bears on Kamchatka and tigers in the Far East." "I made some exaggerations," the action-loving Russian leader said with a grin. "When you talk about fishing, you can't help exaggerating."

Asked jokingly by the interviewer if he was trying to recruit the women, the KGB veteran responded by saying: "No, I stopped dealing with that a long time ago."

He added with a smile: "But I liked doing that, it was my job for many years."

In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS

FDA/JR No. 04-18

IN RE: A CHILD.

NOTICE/FA'AALIGA

TO: Mr. Meipo (unknown last name) Nu'uuli 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 male child born on August 27, 2004, 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 first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TU'UINA ATU IA TE OE, I UA TA'UA I LUGA, UA IAI SE TALOSAGA UA FAILAINA I LE FA'AMASINOGA MAUALUGA O AMERIKA SAMOA E ILOILO AI OU AIA FA'A-MATTA I SE TAMAITITI SA FANAU O IA I LE ASO 27 O AOKUSO, 2004, I LE FALEAMI I FAGAALU, AMERIKA SAMOA. O ILENEI ILOILOGA E FAIA PE A TUANA'I I LE LUA MASINA MA ASO E SEFULU MAI LE ASO O LE ULUA'I FA'ASALALAGA O ILENEI FA'AALIGA, MA E ONO TUNA ATU AI SE POLOA'IGA A LE FA'AMASINOGA E FA'AILOA AI UA LEAI NI OU AIA FA'A-MATTA I ILENEI TAMAITITI. AFAI E TE TETE'E, PE E TE FINAGALO E FAAMAONIA OU AIA FA'A-MATUA, IA E FAILAINA SE TALOSAGA TETE'E I LE FAAMASINOGA I TONONU O LE LUA MASINA MA ASO E SEFULU MAI LE ULUA'I FA'ASALALAGA O ILENEI FA'AALIGA.

DATE/ASO: February 07, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

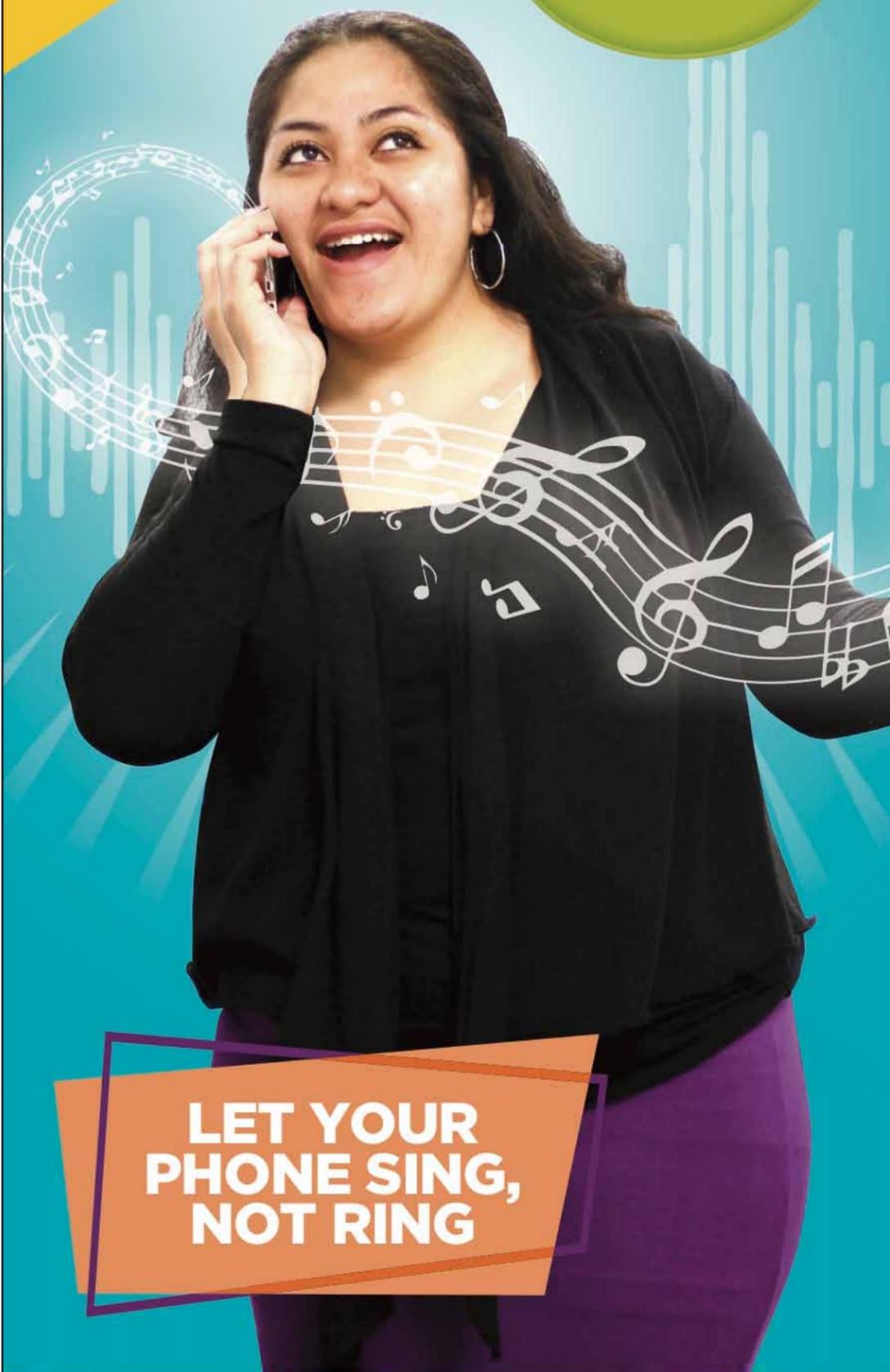
Published: 3/8, 4/9/2018



GREET YOUR CALLERS WITH MUSIC

Dial 350 to subscribe

TOP 20 HOTTEST HITS!
Dance, Local Jams, R&B, and more!

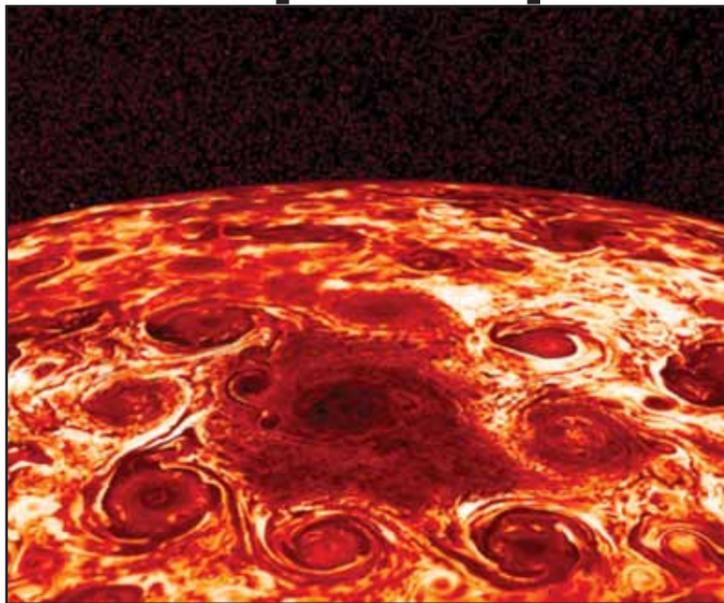


LET YOUR PHONE SING, NOT RING

www.bluesky.as blueskyAmericanSamoa @blueskyamsamoa

* Available for Prepaid & Postpaid Bluesky customers • Prepaid & Capped mobile customers must have sufficient credit in order to subscribe to a CBRT package • CBRT's are non-refundable • Calls to 350 are \$0.10 per minute • All CBRT's are \$2.49 for a monthly subscription • CBRT subscription will auto renew after 30 days for the amount of \$0.99. If prepaid customer has less than \$0.99 customer will be charged \$0.30 to resubscribe for 1 week. If customer has less than \$0.30 customer will be charged \$0.05 to resubscribe for 1 day • Bluesky reserves the right to alter to product at any given time.

Geometric clusters of cyclones churn over Jupiter's poles



This composite image provided by NASA, derived from data collected by the Jupiter-orbiting Juno spacecraft, shows the central cyclone at the planet's north pole and the eight cyclones that encircle it. Jupiter, Ås poles are blanketed by geometric clusters of cyclones and its atmosphere is deeper than suspected, scientists reported Wednesday, March 7, 2018. (NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/ASI/INAF/JIRAM via AP)

By **MARCIA DUNN**, AP Aero-space Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Jupiter's poles are blanketed by geometric clusters of cyclones and its atmosphere is deeper than scientists suspected.

These are just some of the discoveries reported by four international research teams Wednesday, based on observations by NASA's Juno spacecraft circling Jupiter.

One group uncovered a constellation of nine cyclones over Jupiter's north pole and six over the south pole. The wind speeds exceed Category 5 hurricane strength in places, reaching 220 mph (350 kph).

The massive storms haven't changed position much — or merged — since observations began. Team leader Alberto Adriani of Italy's National Institute for Astrophysics in Rome was surprised to find such complex structures. Scientists thought they'd find something similar to the six-sided cloud system spinning over Saturn's north pole. "We were wrong about it," he said via email.

Instead, they found an octagon-shaped grouping over the north pole, with eight cyclones surrounding one in the middle, and a pentagon-shaped batch over the south pole. Each cyclone measures several thousand miles (kilometers) across.

The fifth planet from our sun, gas giant Jupiter is by far the largest planet in our solar system. Launched in 2011, Juno has been orbiting Jupiter since 2016 and peering beneath the thick ammonia clouds. It's only the second spacecraft to circle the planet; Galileo did it from 1995 to 2003.

Another of the studies in this week's journal Nature finds that

Jupiter's crisscrossing east-west jet streams actually penetrate thousands of miles (kilometers) beneath the visible cloud tops. Refined measurements of Jupiter's uneven gravity field enabled the Weizmann Institute of Science's Yohai Kaspi in Rehovot, Israel, and his colleagues to calculate the depth of the jet streams at about 3,000 kilometers, or 1,865 miles.

"The result is a surprise because this indicates that the atmosphere of Jupiter is massive and extends much deeper than we previously expected," Kaspi said in an email.

By better understanding these strong jet streams and the gravity field, Kaspi said scientists can better decipher the core of Jupiter. A similar situation may be occurring at other big gas planets like Saturn, where the atmosphere could be even deeper than Jupiter's, he said.

Jonathan Fortney of the University of California, Santa Cruz, who was not involved in the research, called the findings "extremely robust" and said they show "high-precision measurements of a planet's gravitational field can be used to answer questions of deep planetary dynamics."

Using similar techniques, Juno could help scientists determine the depth of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, a colossal swirling storm, Fortney said in a companion article in the journal.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory researchers Glenn Orton and Fachreddin Tabataba-Vakili, who both took part in the cyclone study, said all these new discoveries "show Jupiter from a new perspective" unseen before Juno.

"We cannot say how many mysteries are left to uncover," they wrote in an email.

