



StarKist CEO applauds the governor's support Page 3

Fesiligia Sataua faai'uga ASTCA i tagata faigaluega Le Lali

Rotary Swimming Pool Project nearing completion Sports

Former Samoa News intern turned US Army soldier PFC Tauti, Sina pictured with Ms. American Samoa Antonina Lilomaiava during Samoa Flag Day celebrations in Washington state last week. PFC Tauti is currently stationed at Fort Lewis, WA and is the daughter of David and Fiti Danielson-Tauti of Aasu and Aoloau.

[courtesy photo]



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In an effort to keep kids busy during summer break and to help adults get the daily exercise they need, the folks at Fagaloa Basketball Development kicked off their annual summer basketball clinic earlier this month.

Fagaloa Basketball Development president Michael Pereira told Samoa News yesterday that the summer clinics, which are fully backed by the American Samoa Basketball Association (ASBA) — for which he is a board member — have been an annual event for about a decade and the program seems to gain popularity every year, evident with the growing number of participants.

This year, over 50 kids, as young as five years old, are at the Aua basketball court everyday learning the basics of dribbling, ball handling, shooting, and defending.

While the program was initially set up for kids to learn the game, build good sportsmanship, and develop friendships, Pereira said the clinics have expanded to include participation from adults - some of whom are over 40 years old - looking for a way to burn calories and stay fit.

"Some of the old folks are parents whose kids are in the clinics, and some are just adults looking to break a sweat," he said. "They asked for permission to play and we gave them the ok, as it is a great way to help in the fight against diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure."

The program concludes in two weeks and is free of charge.

It is not limited to kids and adults from Aua. As a matter of fact, a good number of participants are from other Fagaloa villages like Pago Pago, Leloalua, and Atu'u.

"Anyone who wants to play is welcomed to join," Pereira said.

The clinics are held everyday Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Pereira and four other coaches oversee the program which the kids describe as "awesome" and "fun".

On Saturdays, the clinics shift to the ASCC gymnasium where the kids take what they learned during that week and put it to the test by playing against their peers from the Central and West Side Divisions.

"We want the kids to play together and get a chance to use what they learn from the clinics, on the court," Pereira concluded.

Catch the action today by stopping by the Aua basketball court (across the street from the Aua Elementary School campus).

Pictured are some of the kids currently learning how to shoot hoops.

[Photo: courtesy]

Another American Samoan busted for filing fraudulent tax returns for locals in US

28-COUNT INDICTMENT IS HANDED DOWN BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN ALASKA

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A 54-year-old woman, whom federal prosecutors say is from American Samoa, was arrested Tuesday in Honolulu on charges of filing fraudulent tax returns with the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for local residents, who do not qualify to receive the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (or EITC).

Coriana Ifopo is charged under a 28-count indictment handed down on June 20 by a federal grand jury in Anchorage, Alaska, where the case is being prosecuted, according to electronic court documents with the federal court in Anchorage, which issued the arrest warrant for the defendant.

For her alleged crime, Ifopo is accused of causing more than \$1.3 million in lost money to the federal government.

Samoa News confirmed yesterday that the joint investigation into this case involved the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) — Criminal

Investigation Division, and the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security's Office of Territorial and International Criminal Intelligence and Drug Enforcement (OTICIDE) Division. Most of the investigation on the matter was conducted in American Samoa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aunnie Steward, who presented the case to the grand jury, said in a statement late Tuesday afternoon that Ifopo filed tax returns on behalf of over 200 other individuals living in American Samoa.

Ifopo is alleged to have falsely claimed that the individuals lived in the US, including Alaska, and falsely claimed that they were owed refunds when they were not.

However, the five-page indictment shows only 28 individuals, identified in court documents by their initials, with the dates of when the tax was filed with the IRS or when the IRS refund was issued — going back to May 20, 2014 with the

(Continued on page 6)



After months of waiting — the government is once again releasing tax returns. Yesterday, tax payers lined up at the EOB, on the first floor, to pick up their tax return checks. According to the Tax Office, \$2.44 million was released yesterday to people who filed their taxes from February 2-17, 2017

[photo AF]



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Some soft landings for Trumps, but rumblings at Fox

NEW YORK (AP) — Like his son the night before, President Donald Trump sought out a friendly face in the media Wednesday with the news still dominated by talk of Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with a woman tied to Russian leaders who offered campaign dirt on Hillary Clinton.

The president was interviewed in the White House by Pat Robertson, the 87-year-old founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network. It was his first non-Fox News Channel interview in several weeks. Robertson did not ask about the story involving the president's son, a spokesman said. It seemed to be on the president's mind, since he told Robertson that he doubted reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin would rather see him as president than Clinton. In the overture his son had received for the meeting last summer, Trump Jr. was told that Putin supported his father's candidacy. Trump also spoke Wednesday to Reuters, telling the news agency that he wished he had asked Putin whether he was actively supporting his candidacy when the two heads of state met last week. "It's really the one question I wish I would have asked Putin: Were you actually supporting me?" Trump said.

Wednesday's White House briefing was off camera, led by Sarah Huckabee Sanders. She was asked why the president had not had any public appearances in three days, and said he will appear at a news conference in France on Thursday.

Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity reached just under 2.9 million viewers for his interview with Trump Jr. on Tuesday, the most-watched program in a busy night on cable news, the Nielsen company said. That is 8 percent above his season average. The show was a soft landing spot for the young Trump; Hannity has repeatedly described himself as an opinion host and not a journalist, and preceded the interview by outlining stories critical to Democrats that he claimed were unjustly ignored by a mainstream media that has "zero credibility." Hannity missed opportunities. When Trump complained about how the story had slowly unfolded over four days in The New York Times, he didn't ask whether Trump could have sped things up by being more forthcoming.

Hannity walked Trump through a description of how

last summer's meeting with Natalia Veselnitskaya took place. His interview's enduring value may be in putting Trump on the record on several points, saying the meeting offered little of value, that there were no follow-up emails or meetings, he didn't fill in his father about it, that he felt it didn't represent collusion and that he'd cooperate fully with a special prosecutor looking into the Trump team's dealings with Russia.

Hannity said he'd asked Trump "every question I could think of." Although Trump supporters in the media had their defenses ready, there were signs that not everyone on Trump-friendly media were buying the talking points that the latest revelations were an overreaction from a hysterical media. In a statement about his son, President Trump praised his "transparency" in releasing the material. Fox News Channel anchor Shepard Smith reported that President Trump had praised his son's "transparency" in releasing an email exchange about last summer's meeting, noting wryly that "transparency is something that normally happens prior to learning somebody else is about to document-dump you." While on Monday Fox's Eric Bolling said the story "was an insult to nothing-burgers," several commentators subsequently suggested that it would be wrong to dismiss the story.

"We shouldn't get in front of our skis, either calling it a 'nothing burger' or collusion," said commentator Meghan McCain, on the Fox midday show "Outnumbered."

Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, just named Monday as a regular Fox contributor, said that where he doesn't think the story provided evidence of collusion, he said it was "deeply incompetent."

"When you get someone from a foreign government saying they want to be involved in an election, the reaction should be 'no, thank you,'" said Fleischer, making a "hands-off" gesture with his arms. He said, "I wouldn't have taken the meeting," and that it shows the difference between people experienced in politics.

and those who aren't. Another organization in Rupert Murdoch's media empire, the New York Post, published a blistering editorial on Wednesday saying,

"we see one truly solid take-away from the story of the day: Donald Trump Jr. is an idiot."

Governor addresses terrorism

LOOKING TO PROPOSE STRICT REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGNERS ENTERING AS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Concerned with American Samoa being used as a conduit for extremists to enter the United States, Gov. Lolo Mataslasi Moliga is looking at making recommendations to the Immigration Board on additional steps to be taken in the vetting process for foreigners entering the territory.

American Samoa is the only US territory that controls its own borders when it comes to immigration and customs.

The governor's revelation was one of the several issues he raised during his address (delivered in the Samoan language) on Monday before a joint session of the Fono at the Gov. Rex Lee Auditorium.

The governor explained that during the recent Governors Association meeting, and again during the recent stopover visit by US Vice President Mike Pence, the issue of the affect on Pacific Island nations of foreigners — from countries like the Philippines — entering their countries. Lolo said the reason the Vice President raised the issue was because of the many foreigners residing in American Samoa, some from the Philippines and other countries affected by the ISIS terrorist group. The Associated Press and other international news outlets had reported that a militant aligned with ISIS, seized and

took control of the lakeside city of Marawi in the Philippines in May. The Philippine military continues raids to retake control of Marawi, which is in the troubled Mindanao Province.

Speaking at the joint session, Lolo said he had discussions with local leaders and has come up with possible recommendations to the Attorney General and the Immigration Board on further improving the vetting process for foreigners seeking to enter the territory; and to fully enforce such requirements on foreigners from countries such as the Philippines, China, and other east Asian nations.

He said the current entry permit law only requires a foreigner to have a round trip ticket to and from American Samoa.

The governor said that recommendations for vetting would require foreigners to provide documents such as a police report, hospital report, a report on where the person was born and the types of job the person has had — so that "we know that the person traveling here" is not involved in any sort of terrorist activity.

Lolo made clear that "citizens of Samoa", and US citizens, would be exempt from such proposed strict requirements.

To expand on what Pence raised with the governor, a senior ASG official told Samoa News yesterday that infiltration of one of the Philippine Prov-

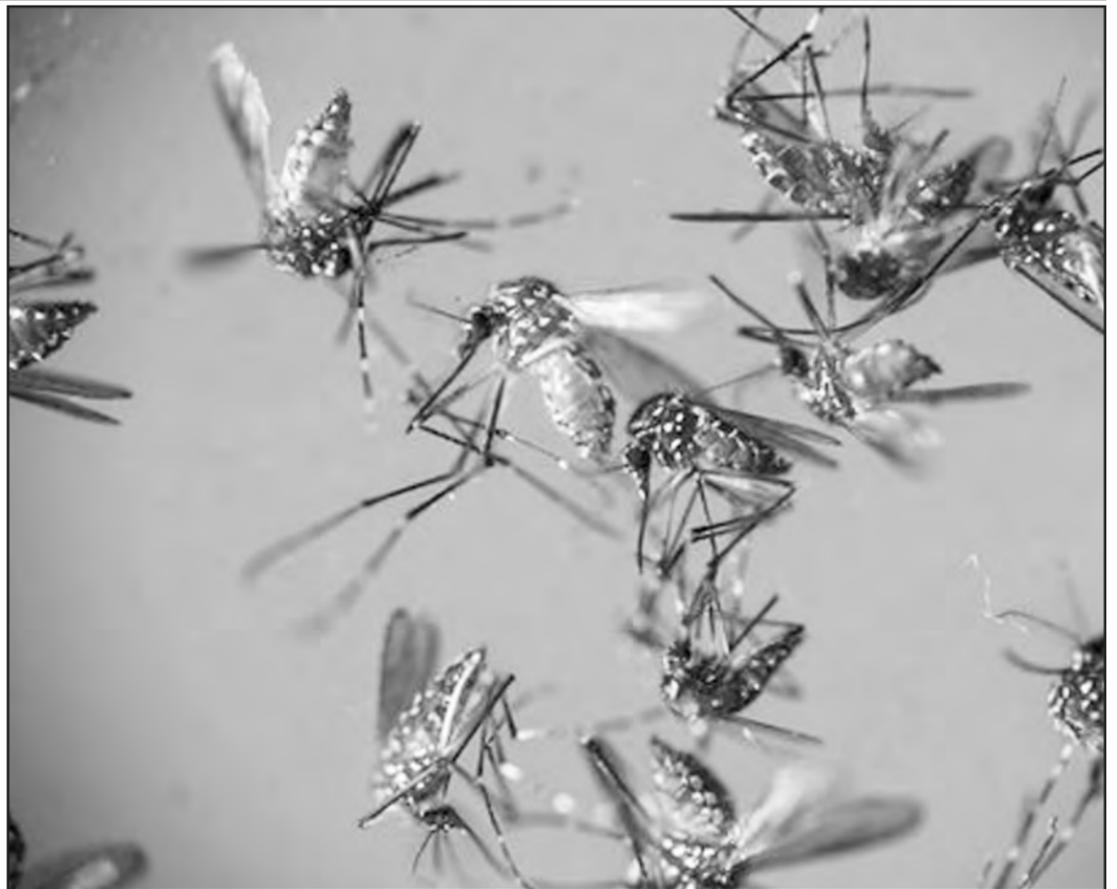
inces by ISIS is causing concern, due to terrorist activities.

Additionally, the issues mentioned by the governor in his Samoan address to the Fono reflect potential criteria to be used by the established Task Force to oversee drug and human trafficking along with deterring terrorist activities or ensuring that American Samoa is not used as the conduit through which terrorists enter the United States. Furthermore, Immigration will have to change its method of vetting visitors to the territory by requiring the submission of information by potential visitors to the territory. The senior ASG official, who agreed to discuss with Samoa News additional information on the governor's address, says American Samoa is also mindful of the possible backlash on local efforts to promote and develop the tourism industry.

Another ASG official added that there is a lot of ground work to be done to ensure that American Samoa obtains all relevant information to forge the development of policies to be reviewed and approved by the governor with subsequent submission to the Fono for the amendment or enactment of new laws to protect the territory's borders from drugs, human trafficking, and terrorist activities.



StarKist CEO applauds the governor's support



FILE - In this Sept. 29, 2016 file photo, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, responsible for transmitting Zika, sit in a petri dish at the Fiocruz Institute in Recife, Brazil. The Zika virus may not seem as big a threat as last summer but don't let your guard down, especially if you're pregnant. While cases of the birth defect-causing virus have dropped sharply from last year's peak in parts of South America and the Caribbean, Zika hasn't disappeared and remains a threat for U.S. travelers.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana, File)

BUT DOES NOT ALLAY FEARS OF THEIR LEAVING THE TERRITORY IN THE NEAR FUTURE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

StarKist Co. president and chief executive officer, Andrew Choe has applauded Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga's support of the canneries as well as his efforts to bring attention to challenges faced by the canneries in American Samoa, which impact the local economy.

However, Choe, in his letter, noted the global nature of the tuna business, where pennies matter and that these challenges continue to erode American Samoa's main advantages,

adding to the burden of StarKist's operation costs in the territory.

In his address to the joint session of the Fono on Monday, the governor said the Administration's five-year revenue generating plan assumes that StarKist cannery "might leave the territory in five years",

however, if the cannery leaves sooner, a financial crisis will occur and he explained the reasons why.

For example, the US Congress has taken away the federal 30(A) Tax Credit after the termination of the IRC Section 936 Tax Incentive.

The territories of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are facing the financial effects of this Congressional action, the governor said. (See Samoa News July 11 edition for details).

In his letter yesterday, Choe noted the governor's Monday address to the Fono and thanked Lolo "for your leadership and your hard work on behalf of the canneries" in the territory.

Choe wrote, "These are challenging times and we appreciate your leadership and ongoing attention to strengthen the economic foundation of American Samoa,"

and noted that StarKist appreciates the governor's support of the federal American Samoa Economic Development Credit, federal tax credit Section 30(A) and

for addressing a number of pressing issues including the minimum wage and fishing access in American Samoa.

"30(A) is a significant factor for our company which allows StarKist to maintain a competitive operation in American Samoa," he explained.

"Its dissolution would present a serious hurdle to our long-term growth and success in American Samoa."

He said StarKist has seen other companies come and unfortunately, have seen them leave.

Choe said this is a reality of the many challenges that were detailed in the governor's address to the Fono.

"The economic success of American Samoa is important to me and to the StarKist family," Choe tells the governor. "It is imperative that we stand together to confront the challenges that threaten American Samoa."

Choe reiterated that the tuna industry is a "globally competitive, largely commoditized business where profit and loss are determined by pennies."

He noted that American Samoa has historically been an attractive location from which tuna products could be manufactured as a result of a reliable and high quality supply of whole fish directly delivered to the canneries.

"These main advantages are being eroded, and that is adding additional burden and cost to our operation," said Choe.

"These are critical matters that are having a significant impact on our business."

"We applaud your efforts to bring attention to the issues that are facing the canneries, American Samoa and its economy," he wrote, adding that StarKist appreciates the opportunity to partner with the governor and the local leadership

"to ensure that American Samoa is an economically attractive place for StarKist and other companies to sustain a successful business."



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WHEN: Thursday, July 13, 2017

TIME: 8:30 AM

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FONO BRIEFS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A Senate Concurrent Resolution conveying the deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences of the Legislature and the people of American Samoa to Mrs. Wilhelmina Aigamaua as well as the Avegalio and Aigamaua families over the passing of the late former Sen. Avegalio Pesamino Aigamaua, is the first measure approved this week during the start of the Second Regular Session of the 35th Legislature. The resolution, which was approved by the Senate on Tuesday and endorsed by the House yesterday, also pays tribute to Avegalio's devoted and extensive service to the people of American Samoa. Avegalio, who passed away June 17 at the age of 80, first served in the House of Representatives, representing Fofu County for 12 years, and later served in the Senate from 2004 to 2016 for the same County. He was also a US military veteran and served in Vietnam, according to the resolution, which notes that Avegalio "was very proud of his military career" and he along with several local veterans, worked hard to bring the Veterans Administration to American Samoa.

"Avegalio was a family man," it says, adding that it's "with great pleasure for the... Legislature to recognize and honor High Chief Avegalio for his contributions to the people of American Samoa. May you have a blessed journey to your well-earned mansion in Heaven." The late senator, who served in the US Marines, and

was among the very first graduates of the American Samoa Community College, is survived by wife Wilhelmina, four children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"The Legislature and the entire Territory joins his family in celebrating his life," the resolution says. See yesterday's Samoa News for details of funeral arrangements as announced by the family. The Senate is set to convene today at 8a.m. instead of the usual time of 10a.m., so that lawmakers and Fono leaders are able to attend Avegalio's funeral service.

OTHER ISSUES

Committees in both the Senate and House are conducting hearings today as well as tomorrow, to address specific issues raised by lawmakers on Tuesday. In the Senate, the first hearing deals with concerns over freight fees being imposed on cargo shipped to Manu'a on the MV Manu'atele and the MV Sili. Port Administration issued a public notice several weeks ago about the fees, which has raised criticism from Manu'a residents, who have informed lawmakers.

According to the witness list, testifying at the Senate Port Administration/Airport Committee hearing at 9a.m. today is Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele and Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale. Taimalelagi is also scheduled to testify on the same issue tomorrow morning (Friday) before the House Port Administration/Port Committee. Vice Speaker Fetu Fetui Jr., told his

colleagues on Tuesday that the people of Tutuila probably take lightly the heavy burden faced by Manu'a residents, who pay about \$12.50 for a box of chicken, while on Tutuila the cost is only \$3.50

Another issue raised by the Senate and House on Tuesday are the driver's licenses, registration of vehicles and other matters pertaining to the Office of Motor Vehicles.

To answer questions from lawmakers, Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson and an official from OMV will first appear at 9:30a.m. today before the Senate Police Safety Committee and then later at 11a.m. before the House Public Safety Committee. Tomorrow, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee will hear from ASG Treasurer Ueligitone Tonumaip'e'a about concerns raised by senators on Tuesday regarding the taxing of lawmaker allowances.

For the House LBJ Committee tomorrow, there is an 11a.m. hearing regarding the cost of service at the LBJ Medical Center. With next Monday being an ASG holiday, Manu'a Cession Day, the Fono will take the day off, but lawmakers return next Tuesday with committee hearings in both the Senate and House on issues such as the school lunch program and local fishermen selling their catch on the roadside. Meanwhile, the Lolo Administration transmitted last Friday to the Fono proposed measures for consideration. The measures are now being put into bill format before they are introduced in both chambers.

Man held on \$5M cash bail amid search for 4 missing men

Associated Press

A 20-year-old man was arrested Wednesday on charges of trying to sell a car belonging to one of four missing Pennsylvania men,

and a prosecutor said he believed there would soon be "finality" in the search for the apparent victims of foul play.

Authorities got perhaps their biggest break with the discovery Sunday of one of the men's cars. In a subsequent search of Tom Meo's vehicle, investigators found his diabetes medicine, which his family said he never went anywhere without.

A judge ordered Cosmo DiNardo, whose family owns the farmland where a massive search has been underway since Sunday,

held on \$5 million cash bail on the stolen vehicle charges.

DiNardo was described as a person of interest in the investigation after he was first arrested Monday on an unrelated gun charge.

His father put up \$100,000 to bail him out Tuesday. District Attorney Matthew Weintraub said he wanted a higher bond to make sure he remained behind bars because he posed an even greater flight risk. DiNardo was described as a danger to the community.

The prosecutor said important evidence had been found both at the farm about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Philadelphia and other properties, but no human remains.

"The search at the scene is really intensifying," Weintraub said late Wednesday upon announcing the arrest. "I'm very encouraged ... that we're going to get some finality in this just prolonged ordeal."

Besides Meo, 21, the other missing men are Mark Sturgis, 22, and Dean Finocchiaro and Jimi Tar Patrick, both 19. Patrick disappeared last Wednesday; the other three vanished Friday.

According to a police affi-

davit, police found Meo's car Sunday on a DiNardo family property in Solebury, the town where the farm is also located. They said the keys and a title were hanging up in a garage. A witness said DiNardo offered to sell him the car on Saturday.

On the last night Meo and Sturgis were seen, a police license plate scanner picked up DiNardo's truck and Meo's car driving just seconds apart.

The location was within a couple of miles from where Meo's car was found and where Sturgis' vehicle was discovered, a short distance away.

An attorney for DiNardo's parents, Antonio and Sandra DiNardo,

issued a statement Wednesday saying the couple sympathize with the families of the missing men and are cooperating "in every way possible with the investigation."

The DiNardo farm alone covers 90 acres, much of it cornfields. They also own other nearby farm parcels, along with concrete and construction businesses based in Bensalem, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) away, where the son was arrested at the family home.

The FBI has been using heavy equipment to dig a deep ditch on the farm property, then sifting through each bucket of dirt by hand.

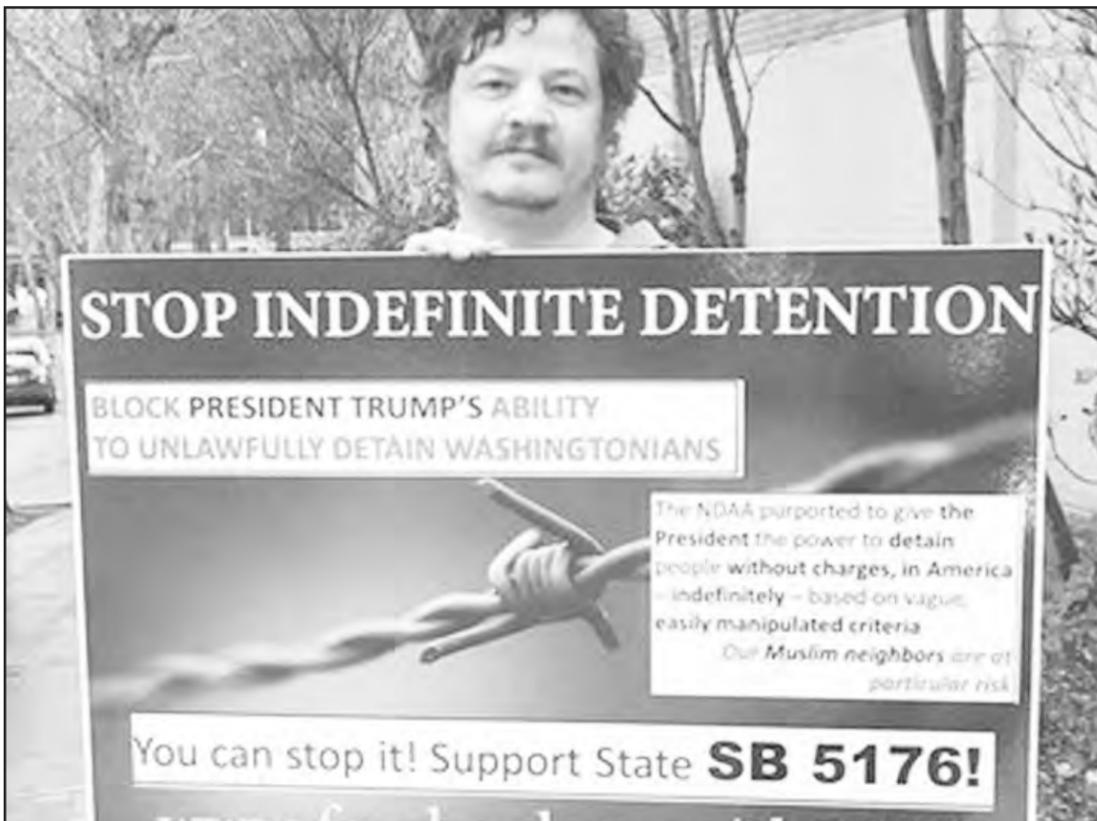
At a morning briefing, Weintraub said police would "continue digging and searching that property until we're satisfied that they are not there."

"This is just really, really rough on everybody involved because of the heat, the magnitude, the scope —

and the stakes are incredibly high, life and death," he said.

At least some of the missing men are friends, but it's unclear how well they knew DiNardo, if at all.

Online records suggest he attended the same Catholic high school as Patrick but was a year ahead.



In this Feb. 19, 2017, photo provided by lawyer Venkat Balasubramani, Richard L. Ryneanson III, of Bainbridge Island, Wash., poses while demonstrating in favor of a bill before the Washington state Legislature in Seattle. Ryneanson, a retired Air Force major, is asking a federal court to declare Washington state's cyberstalking law unconstitutional, saying he's been threatened with prosecution - and up to a year in jail - for repeatedly making online posts that criticize a community activist.

(Venkat Balasubramani via AP)

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Harvard proposal would ban fraternities and sororities

BOSTON (AP) — A proposal at Harvard University would ban all fraternities, sororities and single-gender clubs starting in fall 2018, a measure that's largely aimed at the school's exclusive, all-male social clubs that have been blamed for problems with sexual assault and alcohol abuse. The recommendation was announced Wednesday by a faculty committee that was created in March to examine the school's rules surrounding single-gender clubs and suggest improvements. The final decision on any change now falls to Harvard President Drew Faust.

In its 22-page report, the committee said it hopes to create an environment where clubs "cease to have a pernicious influence on undergraduate life." "In order to move beyond the gendered and exclusive club system that has persisted — and even expanded — over time, a new paradigm is needed," the committee wrote, "one that is rooted in an appreciation of diversity, commitment to inclusivity and positive contributions to the social experience for all students." For years, Harvard's administration has sought to crack down on secretive all-male social clubs that are known on campus as "final clubs." They include a handful of groups that have been around for decades, including the Porcellian Club, which dates to the 18th century and counts President Theodore Roosevelt among its past members. But the faculty committee said those clubs are a product of their times and "due to their resistance to change over the decades, they have lapsed into products behind their time."

A separate Harvard committee reported in March that members of the clubs have "deeply misogynistic attitudes" and a "sense of sexual entitlement." A school survey found that 47 percent of female seniors who interacted socially with the clubs had experienced non-consensual sexual contact during college. Students and alumni from some clubs have strongly denounced those accu-

sations and said they don't have problems with sexual assault. Messages left with several final clubs were not returned on Wednesday. The proposal would forbid students from joining final clubs, fraternities or sororities — even those that are co-ed — starting with incoming students in fall 2018. Students found to have violated the rule would face disciplinary action from the university. Although Harvard doesn't officially recognize fraternities or sororities, there are several local chapters open to Harvard students. One fraternity, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Massachusetts Gamma Chapter, posted a statement on its Face-

book page Wednesday saying the committee "has chosen to dismiss the concerns" of many Harvard College students who've benefited from membership in social organizations.

"Our chapter, like many other Greek organizations, is proud to foster an environment where people of different backgrounds, opinions, and identities may come together in authentic ways," the statement said. "Our open rush process and need-blind financial aid programs are cornerstones of who we are, and we take great pride in recruiting and accepting members of all races, creeds, religions, sexual orientations, nationalities, and socio-economic backgrounds."



FILE - In this May 25, 2017 file photo Harvard University President Drew Faust, left, and Facebook CEO and Harvard dropout Mark Zuckerberg, right, speak while standing for a photograph before the start of Harvard University commencement exercises in Cambridge, Mass. President Faust, who was the first woman to lead Harvard University, announced Wednesday, June 14 that she will leave her post after the upcoming academic year saying in a letter "it will be the right time for the transition to Harvard's next chapter, led by a new president." (AP Photo/Steven Senne, File)



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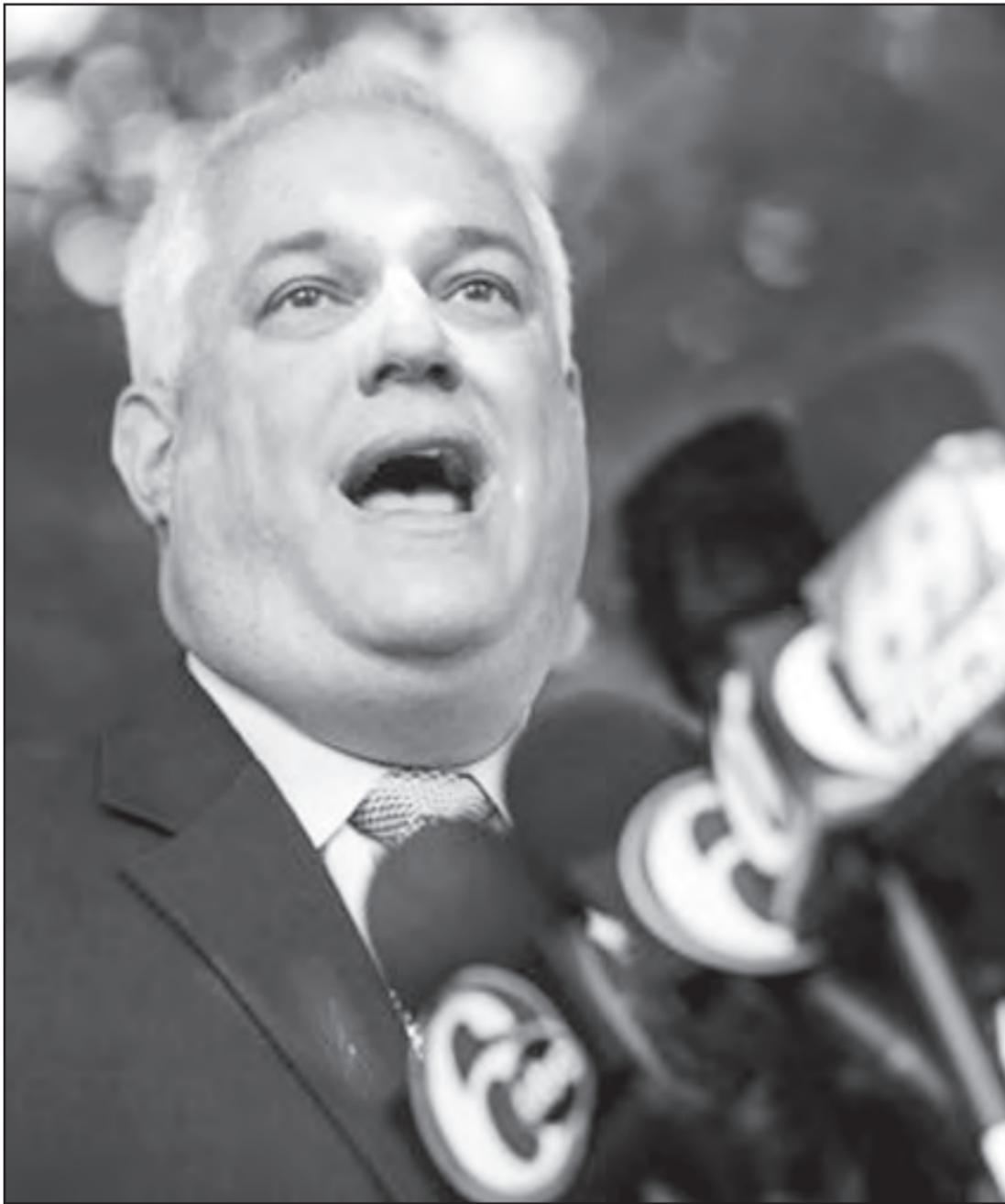
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Matthew Weintraub, District Attorney for Bucks County, Pa., speaks with members of the media, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, in Solebury, Pa., as the search continues for four missing young Pennsylvania men feared to be the victims of foul play.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

▶ Another Am. Samoan...

Continued from page 1

last one dated Feb. 20, 2016.

Documents also provide amounts of falsely claimed tax refund amounts, or the amount of the tax refund that was issued by the IRS. It shows that there were eight tax refund claims or checks issued that were more than \$8,000 with the highest tax refund in the amount of \$8,918 for "M.L." filed or issued around Mar. 2, 2015.

The smallest tax refund filed or check issued for a refund was \$1,043 on July 4, 2015, according to the indictment, which didn't specify whether Ifopo currently resides in Honolulu.

Ifopo made her initial appearance Tuesday afternoon at the federal court in Honolulu, where US District Court Judge Kenneth J. Mansfield set bail of \$25,000 unsecured bond and ordered the defendant to appear tomorrow, July 14th, at the federal court in Anchorage for arraignment.

The indictment alleges that Ifopo falsified more than 200 federal income tax return forms (Form 1040) for individuals living in American Samoa resulting in tax forms being filed with the IRS, netting over \$1.3 million in fraudulent refunds claimed.

It further alleges that Ifopo filed the fraudulent tax returns when in fact she knew that, among other things, the individuals did not earn wages outside of American Samoa, they did not have federal withholdings taken from their paycheck, and they were not eligible for the EITC.

According to the IRS, the EITC is a tax credit for working individuals with low to moderate income and is based in part on the number of qualifying children an individual has.

Instead of using American Samoa addresses, the indictment alleges the defendant primarily used addresses in Alaska and one Hawai'i address on the tax forms. Additionally, the defendant falsely claimed that the tax returns were prepared by the tax payer when in fact she prepared them.

After preparing the tax return, the indictment alleges that Ifopo would send them to an individual name "K.I. in Anchorage, Alaska, or brought them to Alaska herself, to have them filed from Alaska to make it look like they were filed by individuals living 'off-island' outside of American Samoa."

Local law requires tax payers

in American Samoa to file taxes with the ASG Tax Office, but in past years reports have surfaced regarding local tax payers filing taxes in the US with the IRS in order to get a larger amount of tax refund, by claiming the EITC.

This problem — of local residents filing taxes in the US — goes back more than 10 years, when it first surfaced. At the time, then Gov. Togiola Tulafono, as well as ASG officials, publicly warned tax payers that it's illegal to file local tax returns in the US.

The first known federal case against an American Samoan, who prepared and filed with the IRS tax returns for local residents, occurred in December 2014, when Pepe Anetipa was charged — also at the federal court in Anchorage — where she had a tax preparer business. She later moved to Washington state. In November 2015, Anetipa was sentenced to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution of more than \$200,000 to the IRS.

While Samoa News provided extensive coverage of the Anetipa case, there continues to be unconfirmed reports of local residents still sending their local tax returns to be filed in the US, in order to get large refunds by claiming the EITC.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, Melvin Joseph, the American Samoa Tax Office manager told Samoa News, "You cannot file in the United States to claim other federal tax refunds," and pointed out that some residents appear to think that, just because no federal charges have been filed against others who filed taxes off-island, it's also safe for them to do the same thing, although it is wrong.

"While the arm of justice may move slowly, it will get to those who violate federal laws," Joseph said.

Samoa News reported at the time that the IRS had launched an investigation into the issue more than four years ago, and that it continued to monitor W-2 forms out of American Samoa being processed in the U.S.

In 2010, the Bank of Hawai'i fired four employees in American Samoa for "inappropriate" tax filings with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. At the time, BoH District Manager Hobbs Lowson said the filings violated the bank's standards for employment, but he didn't elaborate.

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American Samoa Government OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1900, and July 16, 1904, the Chiefs of Tutuila and Manu'a respectively, by virtue of their offices as the hereditary representatives of the people of those islands, for and on behalf of the people, entered into agreements of cession whereby the islands of Tutuila, Aunu'u and Manu'a were ceded to the Government of the United States of America, with all sovereign rights thereunto belonging, to be annexed to said Government, and designated as Tutuila and Manu'a; and

WHEREAS, the Chiefs of Tutuila and Manu'a, for and on behalf of the people of their islands agreed for themselves, and their heirs and representatives by Samoan custom, to owe allegiance to the Government of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States agreed to establish a good and sound government, protect traditional rights and property of the Samoan people, and promote the peace and welfare of the people; and,

WHEREAS, the agreements of cession were confirmed by the raising of the Flag of the United States, at the United States Naval Station, Tutuila, and at Fale'ula, Ta'u; and

WHEREAS, our people have always believed that through the success of our children, the future of our people and our culture will be assured; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years many investments have been made in the future of our youth, including the creation of the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs, the building of the Pago Pago Community Youth Center, the Summer Youth Employment Program, the Adopt a School Program, the Boys and Girls Club of American Samoa, the Governor's College Apprenticeship Program, and more; and

WHEREAS, while we can provide them the tools to succeed, our future remains in the hands of our youth to determine; and

WHEREAS, this Flag, Day we celebrate and honor "Our Youth, Our Investment in the Future".

NOW, THEREFORE, in honor of these historical events, and in celebration of this year's theme, "Our Youth, Our Investment in the Future", I, LOLO M. MOLIGA, Governor of American Samoa, proclaim that Manu'a Islands Cession Day will be celebrated on Monday, July 17, 2017, for the observance of appropriate ceremonies, commemorating the raising of the Flag of the United States of America over Fale'ula, Ta'u, American Samoa. I further call upon the government and the people of American Samoa to join in a better future for the territory by vigorously supporting the efforts of our youth to achieve their goals and ideals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby affix my signature and seal of my Office on this 11th day of July, in the year of our Lord, two thousand seventeen.

POLOA'IGA FA'ALAUUA'ITELE

TALUAI, o Aperila 17, 1900, ma Iulai 14, 1904, o Matai o Tutuila ma Manu'a fa'aaloaloina, i lo latou tulaga o suli o tagata o ia Motu, ua fai ma sui o tagata e faia se malilie e tu'uina atu ai Motu o Tutuila, Aunu'u ma Manu'a i le Malo o le Iunaite Sitete o Amerika fa'atasi ma aia e pulea ai mea totino i lea lava Malo, ma fa'ailoa ai o Tutuila ma Manu'a; ma,

TALUAI, o Matai o Tutuila ma Manu'a e fai ma sui o tagata o latou Motu ua malilie mo i latou ma o latou suli, e ala i le fa'asamoa i le ta'utinoga o le fa'amaoni i le Malo o le Iunaite Sitete; ma,

TALUAI, ua malie le Malo o le Iunaite Sitete e atina'e se Malo lelei ma le saogalemu, puipui aia fa'aleaganu'u ma mea totino a tagata Samoa, ma taulamua i le tausiga o le filemu ma le soifua lelei o tagata; ma

TALUAI, na fa'amautuina lenei malilie e ala i le sisiina o le Fu'a o le Malo o Amerika, i le nofoaga o le Navy, i Tutuila, ma Faleula, Ta'u; ma

TALUAI, o le talitonuga o tatou tagata, a manuia a tatou fanau, ua mautinoa fo'i le saogalemu o lo tatou lumana'i ma a tatou aganu'u; ma

TALUAI, ua tele ni atina'e ua faia mo le lumana'i manuia o tatou tupulaga, e pei o le fa'atuina o le Matagaluega o Tupulaga ma Tama'ita'i, o le fausiaina o le Maota o Tupulaga, o le fa'afaigaluegaina o tupulaga i le taumafanafana, o le fa'atuina o le polokalama o le Fa'atamafai Se A'oga, ma le Boys and Girls Club o Amerika Samoa, polokalama e fa'afaigaluegaina ai i latou ua i'u ma le manuia mai taumafaiga i Iunivesite ma Kolisi i fafo, ma isi; ma

TALUAI, a'o mafai pea ona tatou tu'ulima atu i tupulaga fesoasoani ese'ese e manuia ai, ua i o latou 'aao fo'i lo tatou lumana'i, o i latou lava e sa'ilia; ma

TALUAI, i le fa'amamaluina o lenei aso, o le a tatou fa'amanatu ma taualoa ai a, "tatou TUPULAGA o a tatou teuga'oa mo le lumana'i."

O le ala lea, i le fa'amanatuina o lenei talafa'asolopito, ma le fa'amamaluina o le autu o lenei tausaga, "O tatou Tupulaga o a tatou teuga'oa mo le lumana'i", O a'u o Lolo M. Moliga, Kovana o Amerika Samoa, ou te fa'alauiloa atu o le a fa'amanatuina le aso ole Fu'a a Manu'a i le Aso Gafua, Iulai 17, 2017, mo le fa'atinoga o sauniga taualoa, e fa'amanatu ai le sisiina o le Fu'a o le Malo Tele o Amerika i Faleula, Ta'u, Amerika Samoa. Ma ou te vala'au atu fo'i i le Malo ma tagata o Amerika Samoa ina ia lagolago i taumafaiga uma a Tupulaga ina ia taunu'u manuia o latou fa'amoemoeaga aua se lumana'i manuia o lo tatou Teritori.

Ua fa'amaonia, i le tu'uina o la'u saina ma le fa'amaufa'ailoga o lo'u ofisa i le aso 11 lenei o Iulai, i le tausaga o lo tatou Ali'i lua afe sefulu fitu.

Lolo M. Moliga

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa



The “Children’s Cultural Maintenance Summer Program 2017” has begun and it is being held at the Jean P. Hayden Museum across from the Post Office. This program is a very productive and a fun way for children to spend the summer. Not only can the kids make new friends, they can also learn more about Samoan traditions and culture. Over the years, there has been a decline in the number of program participants, due to the availability of many other summer programs. However, this year’s program is still very much a success, as there are kids of different ethnic backgrounds who have decided to enroll, youngsters from places like Papua New Guinea, the United States, and other Pacific islands. During the month-long program, children will be introduced to the basics of Samoan culture: their way of life and the language. The kids are already learning the basic keys in ukulele playing and have also had a taste of Samoan Arts. Participants will get to hear all about Samoan myths and legends and learn how to create ‘elei printed material. The program kicked off on July 3 and will end July 28. Pictured is an ukulele instructor showing the kids the basic keys and how to play different notes. [photo: Mark Espiritu]

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US families seek to seize millions from ex-Gitmo prisoner

TORONTO (AP) — Lawyers for the widow of a U.S. soldier slain in Afghanistan have filed court papers in Canada formally seeking to take millions of dollars away from a former Guantanamo Bay prisoner who pleaded guilty to killing the soldier.

Omar Khadr was reportedly paid 10.5 million Canadian dollars (\$8 million) by Canada’s government last week under a court ruling that his rights were violated by Canadian officials while he was locked up at the U.S. military base on Cuba.

The Canadian-born Khadr was 15 when he was captured by U.S. troops after a firefight at a suspected

al-Qaida compound in Afghanistan that resulted in the death of U.S. Army Sgt.

First Class Christopher Speer. Khadr was suspected of throwing the grenade that killed Speer.

Tabitha Speer, the soldier’s widow, and former soldier Layne Morris, who was blinded in the 2002 firefight, won a wrongful death judgment of \$134.1

million against Khadr two years ago in Utah.

Lawyers for the pair filed a motion in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice this week asking that the judgment be enforced in Canada and that Khadr’s assets be frozen until payment of the Utah judgment is sorted out.



Man convicted in murder case freed after 21 years in prison



A look at the participants of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) who are currently getting on-the-job training and work experience with the Child Care Division of the Dept. of Human and Social Services (DHSS), based on the first floor of the Fagatogo Square building.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who spent 21 years behind bars for murder was set free Wednesday after prosecutors abandoned his conviction, saying their office improperly withheld information and allowed a mistaken impression that a wounded eyewitness implicated him.

“It was like a bad dream. It had to end someday,” Jabbar Washington, 43, said as he left court after a Brooklyn judge dismissed the case against him. “It was hard, but I kept the faith.

Washington had confessed but long since recanted in a deadly 1995 robbery at a drug-den apartment. Six other men also were convicted and remain so.

The case is the 23rd conviction that the Brooklyn district attorney’s office has disavowed in the last 3½ years, as it revisits over 100 convictions in one of the most sweeping reviews of its kind nationwide. Washington’s case is one of dozens involving a once prominent detective, now retired, whose tactics have come under scrutiny.

Prosecutors stopped short of saying they believe he’s innocent in the gunslinging holdup that killed Ronald Ellis and wounded five other people.

But prosecutors conceded that Washington’s trial was unfair and agreed to drop the case, saying they can’t retry it now. The eyewitness died in 2006. “Given the unresolved issues of credibility in this case, we cannot prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt,” Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said in a statement.

Washington’s lawyer, Ronald Kuby, called the case a reflection of “institutional failure” by the criminal justice system. The eyewitness, who’d been shot in the robbery, identified Washington in a 1996 lineup as one of the men involved. But before testifying at the grand jury, the witness clarified to a prosecutor that she just recognized Washington as a neighbor, not as one of the robbers, the prosecutor’s office said.

The grand jury prosecutor made a note of the eyewitness’ explanation, and the identification wasn’t repeated at the grand jury or trial. But prosecutors didn’t tell Washington’s then-lawyer that the eyewitness had backtracked, despite legal obligations to turn over exculpatory information, the DA’s office says. And the trial prosecutor

asked the eyewitness and then-Detective Louis Scarcella multiple questions about the lineup — questions the DA’s office now sees as intended to convey, “in a back-door sort of way, the impression that she had in fact made an identification,” Assistant District Attorney Mark Hale said.

Scarcella, at the trial, then answered a defense lawyer’s question by saying that “if he (Washington) didn’t get ID’d, it would have been” particularly important to get a confession.

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IN THE COMMUNITY



Pacific Island News in Brief

compiled by Samoa News staff
NEW SEVENS MAN-AGER WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY

Samoa Rugby Union — The Samoa Rugby Union has announced the appointment of Leuluaialii Theresa Passi as the new manager for the Samoa National 7's team.

Leuluaialii was educated at St Mary's Savalalo then St Mary's College and later migrated with her family to New Zealand in 1981. She moved back to Samoa in the beginning of 2017 to support her extended families and look for opportunities.

She is from the villages of Taufusi, Toamua, Salani, Poutasi and Sataua and comes with 20 years of administrative experience in the travel industry which will be hugely beneficial in this role.

"I am excited and I'm looking forward to the many challenges that will come my way. I am grateful to the Samoa Rugby Union for the opportunity to contribute to the 7's campaign," Leuluaialii said.

Sir Gordon Tietjens congratulated Leuluaialii on her appointment and is adamant that she is up for the challenge.

"The appointment of a female as part of team management is not new in the rugby arena. We look forward to her supporting the team achieving its objectives and goals in the upcoming HSBC 7's series," said Sir Gordon Tietjens, Samoa National 7's team Head Coach. *(Source: Samoa Observer)*

RUGBY WORLD CUP IS IN SAMOA

For local rugby fans planning on going to Samoa for the Rugby World Cup game happening this Saturday, there is also a chance to see the famous Webb Ellis Cup, which has made the trip to Apia, Samoa and will be on display for this weekend's crucial Rugby World Cup 2019 qualifier match between Samoa and Fiji.

The qualifier is the final match of the 2017 World Rugby Pacific Nations Cup tournament.

The cumulative results of the 2016 and 2017 Pacific Nations Cup (P.N.C.) will be used to determine two Oceania qualifying spots for Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan.

In 2016 Fiji won both of its P.N.C. matches to win the P.N.C. and last week Fiji beat Tonga 14-10 to secure the Oceania 1 R.W.C. qualifying spot. Samoa is one point behind Tonga going into the last match and their destiny is in their own hands.

In terms of the 2017 P.N.C. Tonga leads the tournament on five points after its two matches.

Fiji has four points after its win last week and Samoa one after a narrow loss to Tonga two weeks ago, so there is also all to play for in the final P.N.C. match.

Rugby fans in Samoa will have a rare opportunity to get up close to the iconic trophy as it goes on display before and during the match in Apia. The trophy will also make appearances at various rugby clinics in the lead up to the match on the weekend.

Samoa Rugby Union Chief Executive Officer Vincent Faleomavaega is delighted the Cup will be in Apia for his team's important match,

"The Webb Ellis Cup is a huge symbol of our sport and we do not see it in the Pacific Islands very often. I urge all rugby supporters to come and see the Cup and be at the match on Saturday to support Manu Samoa."

"To secure the Oceania 2 qualifying spot ahead of Tonga we have to be at our best and take the match to Fiji who have had some very good results over the last few weeks against Italy, Scotland and Tonga."

"Manu Samoa desperately wants to put on a good performance in front of their home fans and qualify for R.W.C. 2019 by defeating Fiji this weekend," Faleomavaega added.

Fiji will start favorites to secure victory and defend their Pacific Nations title but did not have it all their own way against Tonga last weekend. Samoa will have learnt from that match and will be keen to assert themselves and take the match to the visitors. A big crowd of ten thousand turned up to support Tonga last week in Nuku'alofa and a similar crowd is expected at Apia Stadium.

As Oceania 1 Fiji will be placed in Pool D in 2019 with Australia, Wales, Georgia and Americas 2. At the conclusion of the match in Apia, Samoa or Tonga will qualify as Oceania 2 for R.W.C. 2019 in Japan and will be placed in Pool C with England, France, Argentina and USA.

The third-place team, either Samoa or Tonga (Oceania 3) will play-off against the second placed team in the Rugby Europe qualifying process (Europe 2) for a place as fifth seed in Pool A with Ireland, Scotland, Japan and Europe 1. The loser of this play-off will go into the repechage tournament for the chance to win the final qualification position in Pool B, facing New Zealand, South Africa, Italy and Africa 1.

The repechage will comprise Oceania 3 or Europe 2, Africa 2 and Americas 3, plus the winner of a two-match series between Oceania 4 (2017 Oceania Cup winner: Cook Islands or Tahiti)

and Asia 1.

WEBB ELLIS CUP

Sometime at the beginning of 1987, a few months before the inaugural Rugby World Cup kicked off in Auckland and Sydney, the Webb Ellis Cup, a beautifully crafted piece of silverware, stood in the vaults of the Royal Jewelers, Garrard, in Regents Street, London.

The cup, made in 1906 by the Garrard silversmiths, was a reproduction of a trophy believed to have been made around 1740 by one of the leading artisans of the time Paul de Lamerie, a Huguenot silversmith.

Made of sterling silver, gilded in gold, the cup is adorned by a satyr head on one of the two cast scroll handles, while the other is decorated with a nymph head. The decorative pieces include a bearded mask, lion mask and vine.

The cup was selected by the Chairman of the Rugby World Cup 1987 organizing committee.

The committee decided that the cup should be named the Webb Ellis Cup after the Victorian schoolboy, William Webb Ellis who, legend has it, in a fine disregard for the rules of association football, picked up the ball and ran with it, thus creating the game of rugby.

The cup commenced its march towards legend on 23 May 1987 with the RWC opening match between New Zealand and Italy and acquired immortality on 20 June 1987 in Eden Park, when New Zealand captain David Kirk hoisted it in triumph above his head.

Since then, the trophy has travelled the world over. It has been touched by royalty and aboriginal bushmen, by Maori warriors and French farmers, by African children and Canadian Mounties.

— Information provided by Oceania Rugby.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

CNMI ENDORSES TRUMP REVIEW OF MONUMENT

A letter from the Northern Marianas Governor has backed the controversial US review of National Monuments.

The Governor sent a letter to the Interior Secretary supporting the move this week, just before the deadline for feedback on the review.

Earlier this year President Donald Trump signed an executive order to review National Monuments that had been created over the past 21 years, many of which were created for conservation purposes.

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument was established in 2009 and prohibits

(Continued on page 11)



► Pacific Brief...

Continued from page 10

fishing and mining in the area. The CNMI Governor's acting Press Secretary Kevin Bautista said promised benefits of such a designation had not been seen by the Commonwealth.

"Today the work remains unfinished for a management plan that is supposed to provide for public education programs, traditional access by our indigenous persons,

scientific exploration and research, consideration of recreational fishing that will not detract from the monument and programs for monitoring and enforcement," he said.

Kevin Bautista said the review was allowing the CNMI a chance to express their views. (Source: RNZ)

AMATA ANNOUNCES \$2 MILLION IN FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

Washington, D.C. — Wednesday, Congresswoman Aumua Amata was pleased to announce that the Federal Aviation Administration has awarded American Samoa three grants totaling \$2,000,000.

"This important funding will help ensure that our airports in Tutuila, Ofu, and Fitiuta will be preserved and rehabilitated," stated Amata.

"Our airports are important to our welfare as they allow

for people to travel not only to Hawaii and domestic U.S., but between islands as well."

The Pago Pago International Airport on Tutuila will receive \$1,000,000.

This grant will provide the necessary resources to revitalize 7,000 feet of Runway and to ensure airport stability and longevity.

The second grant, in the amount of \$500,000, will fund the project to revitalize 2,000 feet of Runway at the Ofu airport.

The third grant, also in the amount of \$500,000, will serve Fitiuta Airport in replacing the current aircraft rescue and fire-fighting vehicle.

The current vehicle in use is fifteen years old and requires constant maintenance. This vehicle assists the airport in meeting regulated safety requirements.

"I would like to thank the Federal Aviation Administration for recognizing the need for this critical funding. I also want to thank Ports Administration Director,

Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele and other local officials for their help in obtaining such vital funding for American Samoa's infrastructure," concluded Amata.

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata's Office- Washington D.C.)



New manager for the Samoa National 7's team: Leuluaialii Theresa Passi.

[Photo: Samoa Observer]



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"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6



Employees of the Child Care Division of the Dept. of Human and Social Services (DHSS) smiled for Samoa News yesterday, moments before conducting "Child Abuse" training sessions for local daycare workers.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

Brazil's once-adored ex-president convicted of corruption

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was found guilty of corruption and money laundering Wednesday and sentenced to almost 10 years in prison, the highest-profile conviction yet in the sprawling graft investigation that has jailed dozens of Brazil's elite.

The decision by Judge Sergio Moro was widely expected, even by Silva's own defense team, but was still stunning. The charismatic leader left office on Dec. 31, 2010, with sky-high popularity and is credited with pulling millions of Brazilians out of poverty and turning Latin America's largest nation into an important player on the world stage.

Brazil's first working class president will remain free while an appeal is heard, but he is now also the country's first ex-president to be convicted in a criminal proceeding at least since democracy was restored in the 1980s.

In many quarters, the man known to Brazilians simply as Lula remains revered — both for his economic policies and his role in fighting for democracy during the country's dictatorship. The 71-year-old has been considered a front-runner for next year's presidential election.

Silva's defense team issued a scathing statement after the ruling, calling the charges an attack on democracy and vowing to prove the former president's innocence.

"President Lula has been the victim of lawfare, the use of the law for political ends, the famous method used to brutal effect in various dictatorships throughout history," the lawyers said.

The case is part of the huge "Operation Car Wash" corruption investigation centered on state-run oil giant Petrobras that has led to the convictions of dozens of business executives and politicians, and threatens current President Michel Temer.

Silva was accused of receiving a beachfront apartment and repairs to the property as kickbacks from construction company OAS. Silva never owned the apartment, but prosecutors argued it was intended for him. Prosecutors also alleged that OAS paid to store Silva's belongings, but Moro dismissed that part of the case.

Silva also faces charges in four other cases. The former union leader has said all the charges are completely unfounded, and his defiant testimony in the case decided Wednesday was billed as a showdown between himself and

Moro. Both men are viewed as national heroes by some parts of Brazilian society.

"The present conviction does not bring this judge any personal satisfaction. Quite the contrary, it is regrettable that a former president be criminally convicted," Moro wrote in his decision. "It doesn't matter how high you are, the law is still above you."

Moro said he did not order Silva's immediate arrest because the conviction of a president is such a serious matter that he felt the former leader's appeal should be heard first. "This makes Lula's situation much worse since it is much more than a mere investigation," said Claudio Couto, a political science professor at Fundacao Getulio Vargas, a Sao Paulo-based university and think tank. "But now he will do something he likes: Until the appeal is decided, he will rally his allies and supporters against a decision that is controversial."

A few hundred supporters gathered in Sao Paulo on Wednesday night to denounce the ruling, while a smaller group of people took to the streets to celebrate Silva's conviction.

"It was an obviously political decision to prevent Lula from becoming president," said Armando Teixeira, an unemployed auto worker. "Everyone knows he will win if he runs."

The case now goes before a group of magistrates. If they uphold the conviction, Brazilian law says Silva would be barred from seeking office. In addition to sentencing Silva to 9 1/2 years in prison, Moro also ruled that the politician should be barred from public office for 19 years. The prosecutor's office that handled the case said it would appeal the sentence to ask for it to be increased.

Silva's presidency coincided with an economic boom fueled by high commodity prices and he used the profits to fund generous social programs that made him a hero among Brazil's poor. He left office with popularity ratings of up to 87 percent and Brazilians elected his hand-picked successor, Dilma Rousseff, to succeed him. But a subsequent fall in commodity prices and economic mismanagement by Silva and Rousseff led Brazil's economy to implode, and with it Rousseff's popularity. Rousseff was later impeached and replaced by Temer. The news of Silva's conviction took the focus off of Temer, who himself is accused of taking bribes from a meat-packing executive in exchange for helping the company.



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-081-2017

Issuance Date: July 13, 2017

Closing Date: August 10, 2017
No later than 2:00 p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide "Route 104 Hospital Road Reconstruction" 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), Thursday, August 10, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on July 27, 2017 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 any bid.

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Jailed Nobel laureate's condition life threatening

SHENYANG, China (AP) — Imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo's condition is life threatening with multiple organ failure and his family has opted against inserting a breathing tube needed to keep him alive, the hospital treating him said.

Liu, who has advanced liver cancer, is suffering from respiratory and renal failure as well as septic shock, the First Hospital of China Medical University said on its website Wednesday.

The hospital said doctors informed Liu's family of the need for a tracheostomy to keep him alive, but they declined. Liu and his family, who are being closely guarded in the hospital, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Liu, China's most prominent political prisoner, was diagnosed in May after his cancer had entered the final stages and was transferred to the hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang. He is accompanied by a small group of family members, including his wife, the poet and artist Liu Xia, but is kept out of the sight of supporters and the media.

Exiled Chinese dissident Yu Jie, a close friend of the couple, said he was "very sad and angry" at the deterioration in Liu's condition.

"In front of the world, Liu Xiaobo is being murdered by (Chinese President) Xi Jinping. Yet not a single Western political figure is condemning Xi Jinping," Yu said.

"This is a sign of the complete failure of Western human rights diplomacy," he said.

Liu's declining health has become the subject of international attention, with supporters and several foreign governments calling for him to be freed on humanitarian grounds.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, told reporters Wednesday that China should

allow Liu to leave the country for medical treatment. President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan tweeted a similar appeal on Wednesday, joining a chorus of pleas already made by the U.S., Britain, France and several other governments.

Two foreign doctors, one German and one American, reported Sunday after visiting Liu that he expressed a desire to leave for the West and said it would be possible to evacuate him safely — but that it needed to happen soon.

Beijing has rebuffed those calls, saying Liu is too sick to travel and is already receiving the best care possible. China has accused other countries of politicizing the writer's case and interfering in China's internal affairs.

"We hope relevant countries can respect China's judicial sovereignty and not use such individual case to interfere in China's domestic affairs," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a briefing Wednesday.

Liu, a former professor who helped negotiate with the military for the safe passage of students during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protest, was convicted in 2009 of inciting subversion for his role in the "Charter 08" movement calling for political reform and was sentenced to 11 years in prison. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize a year later while serving his sentence.

After Wednesday's hospital announcement signaling that Liu was near death, his supporters grappled with the news that his family had declined to put him on respiratory support.

Some said the family wished to spare him the suffering of throat surgery and the need to stay on a ventilator for the rest of his life, however brief. Others said the family may still be holding out hope that he could be moved overseas. Yet

others said Liu may simply be beyond rescue.

"Why the family made the decision is beyond the point, which is that this was a political murder," said Wu'er Kaixi, a Taiwan-based activist and one of Liu's former students in 1989.

Although the Chinese government has repeatedly said it has given Liu first-rate care since his diagnosis, his supporters and international human rights groups have questioned whether he received adequate care during his imprisonment. Chinese prisons are notorious for their harsh conditions, and it's common for released prisoners to return to society in a perilously weakened state.

China has in the past released high-profile dissidents on medical grounds and immediately exiled them to the U.S., notably veteran democracy campaigner Wei Jingsheng in 1997 and a leader of the 1989 student pro-democracy protests, Wang Dan, in 1998.

But Xi's government has adopted a considerably tougher line in such matters, forbidding many of its critics to travel abroad while it pursues a sweeping campaign against dissent.

Bao Tong, a former aide to top Communist Party officials who was ousted for showing sympathy for the Tiananmen protesters in 1989, said the government — not its critics — was effectively politicizing Liu's case.

"Corrupt officials can freely walk around for years even after they're convicted, but patriots must be persecuted?" Bao, who has been kept under various degrees of house arrest for decades, said by telephone.

"A sick person, in his dying moments, can't have some peace on free soil — that's a political decision in itself," he said.



FILE - In this Nov. 30, 2016 file photo, Shia LaBeouf arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Man Down" at ArcLight Cinemas Hollywood. LaBeouf has apologized for a racist tirade against officers who arrested him for public drunkenness over the weekend in Savannah, Ga. The actor wrote in a statement posted on Twitter Wednesday, July 12, 2017, that he has been publicly struggling with addiction for what he was said was "far too long."

(Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

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A protester displays portraits of jailed Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo during a demonstration outside the Chinese liaison office in Hong Kong, Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Liu is in life-threatening condition with multiple organ failure and his family has opted against inserting a breathing tube needed to keep him alive, the hospital treating him said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

Lawsuit: Washington cyberstalking law violates free speech

SEATTLE (AP) — A retired Air Force major is asking a federal court to declare Washington state’s cyberstalking law unconstitutional, saying he’s been threatened with prosecution — and up to a year in jail — for repeatedly making online posts that criticize a community activist.

Richard Lee Rynearson III filed the lawsuit against Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Kitsap County Prosecutor Tina Robinson in U.S. District Court on Tuesday. It’s within his free-speech rights to publish such criticism, he said.

One of his attorneys is Eugene Volokh, a University of California-Los Angeles law professor who in May challenged a similar law in Ohio.

“How can it possibly be constitutional to ban mean speech online?” Volokh said. “If someone is appalled by a local official and wants to embarrass them by posting things online, that’s a crime?”

Rynearson, of Bainbridge Island, has repeatedly written posts that criticize — but don’t threaten — Clarence Moriwaki, who founded a memorial there to the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

He insists that those who condemn the internment should also strongly speak out against the government’s indefinite detention powers in the war on terror, but that Moriwaki hasn’t.

After Moriwaki obtained a temporary restraining order and filed a police report last spring, saying he was being harassed by incessant text messages and Facebook posts,

investigators recommended that Rynearson be charged with cyberstalking. A deputy prosecutor in Kitsap County suggested in an email to Rynearson’s lawyer in that matter the office might file charges if his behavior continued, but he has not been charged.

“He just won’t leave me alone,” Moriwaki said Wednesday. “I told him to stop posting about me, to stop contacting me, and he won’t. He’s

a classic cyber bully.”

Washington’s cyberstalking law, passed in 2004, makes it illegal to send electronic communications repeatedly or anonymously with an intent to “harass, intimidate, torment, or embarrass” someone — whether the message is sent directly to the target or to someone else.

Representatives of the Washington Attorney General’s Office and the Kitsap County Prosecutor’s Office declined to comment.

Supporters of such laws say they’re needed to cut down on cyber bullying, but critics say the measures criminalize common online behavior, not to mention speech protected by the Constitution. Similar online harassment laws have been struck down in years past by state courts in New York and North Carolina, Volokh noted.

Rynearson wrote in a declaration filed in court that Moriwaki and the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Exclusion Memorial had done good work to preserve the history of internment as a reminder for present-day debates about civil liberties in war time. But, he said, he eventually became disillusioned that Moriwaki had not criticized Democratic politicians who supported the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. That law had been interpreted as allowing for the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens in the fight against terrorism.

He repeatedly posted that criticism on Facebook pages maintained by Moriwaki and by others, in text messages to him, and even on a Facebook page he initially titled

“Clarence Moriwaki of Bainbridge Island,” in which he wrote that Moriwaki “is unfit to be the President or board member for our memorial.” Some of the posts were made under the pseudonym Richard Lee.

He took the page down and has ceased criticizing Moriwaki in response to the temporary restraining order, he said in his declaration, but he would like to resume the online criticism.



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Donald Trump Jr. is interviewed by host Sean Hannity on his Fox News Channel television program, in New York Tuesday, July 11, 2017. Donald Trump Jr. eagerly accepted help from what was described to him as a Russian government effort to aid his father’s campaign with damaging information about Hillary Clinton, according to emails he released publicly on Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)



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Evacuees return home as wildfires across West calm down

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Nearly all evacuation orders have been called off for three major fires across California as dozens of wildfires throughout the West were coming under control.

A fire near the Northern California town of Oroville, which drove 4,000 people from their homes was 70 percent contained late Wednesday, allowing all residents there to return.

Many of the same people had also been forced to flee this spring from the possibility of major flooding from a damaged dam spillway.

The blaze, which broke out Friday, has destroyed 41 homes and damaged three.

To the south in Santa Barbara county, nearly all of the 3,500 people driven from homes by two large wildfires were able to return. A 45-square-mile (115-square-kilometer) fire was 70 percent contained, allowing for all evacuations

to be canceled. A few dozen homes remained under evacuation orders for the second fire in the area, burning near Lake Cachuma.

Crews were making similar progress against dozens of wildfires across the western U.S.

In Nevada, more than 1,500 firefighters continued to battle a half-dozen large wildfires, including several fueled by grass growth from an unusually wet winter.

One blaze forced the evacuation of a gold mine north of Interstate 80 in the north-central part of the state,

and another was threatening sage grouse and wild horse habitat near U.S. Highway 50 about 100 miles (161 kilometers) east of Reno.

Dozens of wildfires were burning across Arizona, but the arrival of monsoon rains has significantly reduced the threat they posed and most were coming under control.

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Trump says he'll be 'angry' if Senate health care bill flops

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Wednesday he will be “very angry” if the Senate fails to pass a revamped Republican health care bill and said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell must “pull it off,” intensifying pressure on party leaders laboring to win over unhappy GOP senators and preserve the teetering measure.

Trump’s remarks came a day before McConnell, R-Ky., planned to release his revised legislation to a closed-door meeting of GOP senators. The new legislation would keep most of the initial Medicaid cuts and makes other changes aimed at nailing down support, but internal GOP disputes lingered that were threatening to sink it.

With all Democrats set to vote no, McConnell was moving toward a do-or-die roll call next week on beginning debate, a motion that will require backing from 50 of the 52 GOP senators.

Conservative Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said Wednesday he would oppose the motion and moderate Republican Susan Collins of Maine seemed all but sure to do the same —

leaving McConnell with zero margin for error to sustain his party’s goal of toppling President Barack Obama’s health care law.

Several other GOP senators were holdouts as well, leaving McConnell and his lieutenants just days to win them over or face a major defeat.

In a White House interview conducted Wednesday for the Christian Broadcasting Network’s “The 700 Club,” Trump said it was time for action by congressional Republicans who cast scores of votes “that didn’t mean anything” to repeal the 2010 law while Obama was still president.

“Well, I don’t even want to talk about it because I think it would be very bad,” he said when network founder Pat Robertson asked what would happen if the effort fails. “I will be very angry about it and a lot

of people will be very upset.”

Asked if McConnell would succeed, Trump said, “Mitch has to pull it off.”

Trump has played a limited role in cajoling GOP senators to back the legislation. Asked Wednesday about the president’s involvement,

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters the White House was providing “technical assistance.”

McConnell’s new bill was expected to offer only modest departures from the original version.

Its key elements remain easing Obama’s requirements that insurers cover specified services like hospital care and cutting the Medicaid health care program for the poor, disabled and nursing home patients. Obama’s penalties on people who don’t buy coverage would be eliminated and federal health care subsidies would be less generous.

The new package would eliminate tax increases the statute imposed on the health care industry. But it would retain Obama tax boosts on upper-income people, and use the revenue to help some lower earners afford coverage, provide \$45 billion to help states combat drug abuse and give extra money to some hospitals in states that didn’t use Obama’s law to expand Medicaid.

Paul told reporters the revised measure didn’t go far enough.

“I don’t see anything in here really remotely resembling repeal,” he said.

Collins has long complained the measure will toss millions off coverage. Spokeswoman Annie Clarke said Collins would vote no next week “if the Medicaid cuts remain the same” as those that have been discussed.

Besides Paul and Collins, at least three other Republican senators publicly said they hadn’t decided whether to back McConnell on the initial vote:

conservative Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Utah’s Mike Lee and Tim Scott of South Carolina.

Cruz and Lee are chief authors of a proposal backed by other conservatives that would let an insurer sell low-premium, bare-bones policies as long as the company also sold a plan covering all the services — like substance abuse treatment — required by Obama’s law.

Their plan has alienated moderates worried it will mean unaffordable coverage for people with serious medical conditions because healthier people would flock to cheaper, skimpier plans.

Party leaders have not determined if the proposal will be in their measure, and there have been talks about altering it to limit premium boosts on full-coverage policies.

“If there are not meaningful protections for consumer freedom that will significantly lower premiums then the bill will not have the votes to go forward,” Cruz told reporters.

Lee has said he wants their proposal in the bill, or something else relaxing Obama’s coverage requirements, for him to support it.

Their proposal endured another blow when the insurance industry’s largest trade group, America’s Health Insurance Plans, said it would lead to “unstable health insurance markets” and said people with serious pre-existing medical conditions could “lose access” to comprehensive or reasonably priced coverage.

Scott said he was still trying to determine if the legislation would help families and consumers with pre-existing medical problems.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who has fought to ease the bill’s Medicaid reductions, has also yet to commit to back the measure next week.

McConnell withdrew an initial package two weeks ago in the face of Republican discord that would have spelled certain defeat.



House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., second from left, and others, participates in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, to say that his group wants to delay the traditional August recess until work is accomplished on health care, the debt ceiling and tax reform.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Evan Crawford of NZ Rugby (center) is flanked by Samoa Rugby's Salesa Seiuli (left) and Junior Si'itia (right).

[Photo: Inoke Bainimarama]

'This is Us,' 'The Crown' vie for Emmy nods; no 'Thrones'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With "Game of Thrones" off the Emmy battlefield this time around,

the likely beneficiaries will be streaming dramas and, in a reversal of fortune, a broadcast series.

Netflix's "The Crown" and "Stranger Things" and Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," all streamed shows,

could be among the nominees to be announced Thursday at the TV academy by Anna Chlumsky ("Veep") and Shemar Moore ("Criminal Minds," the upcoming "S.W.A.T.")

The NBC freshman series "This is Us," a hit with viewers and critics, has a chance to show network dramas can be Emmy worthy again.

A commercial broadcast network hasn't fielded a best drama series contender since CBS' "The Good Wife" was nominated in 2011. The last network winner was Fox's "24" in 2006.

HBO's "Game of Thrones," which dominated last year's Emmys with 23 nods and 12 trophies, including its second consecutive

best drama award, falling outside the eligibility window

for Emmy consideration this year.

"Orphan Black" isn't in the running for the same reason, depriving star Tatiana Maslany of the chance to repeat as best drama actress.

On the flip side, this could be the year of the sitcom auteur — those actors who star in their creations, and often write and even direct them.

That includes Aziz Ansari in "Master of None" on Netflix; Donald Glover's "Atlanta" on FX, and Issa Rae's "Insecure" on HBO.

Strong showings by them could indicate that Emmy voters are willing to embrace the achievements of women and people of color as they finally gain a foothold in the TV industry.

Other likely contenders are HBO's "Veep," which won its second straight top comedy award last year; ABC's "black-ish";

Amazon's "Transparent" and, for its sixth and final season, HBO's "Girls."

The Emmys are scheduled to air Sept. 17 on CBS, with Stephen Colbert as host.

