

Governor tells his cabinet DHSS food stamp issue is a "reminder..."
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Molia ave taxi 66 tausaga faia uiga mataga teineititi 9 tausaga
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O le vasega o tama ma teine a'au mo le fanau e i ai mana'oga fa'apitoa o le tino ma le mafafafau, o lo ua mafai ai nei ona maua le to'atolu lea ua agava'a e a'au i latou. E fa'aaogaina ai le vaitaele o le Faletalimalo Sadies by the Sea i Utulei i aso Tofi ta'itasi uma. Peita'i o lea o le a si'itia i le vaitaele fou Pala Lagoon Swimming Pool i le Paka Liona i lea vaiaso ma fa'auau ai nei a'oga aoga mo i latou. O le ali'i o Justin Lutu [tupito taumatau] ua masani i le maua o ana pine auro i tu'uga tamoe ae ua taumafai nei mo se pine i le tu'uaga a'au. See today's Lali for story.
[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

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REAL ID act puts traveling on CIs in jeopardy

HAL OFFICIAL SAYS CI HOLDERS WITH OTHER ACCEPTABLE ID WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ON FRIDAY

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Among the issues that American Samoa hoped to get cleared up with the US Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) during a conference call yesterday afternoon was allowing locally issued Certificates of Identify for US nationals traveling to Hawai'i.

Meanwhile, Samoa News understands that US Immigration officials in Honolulu have informed local authorities that they can accept CIs for US nationals entering Hawai'i from American Samoa; however, they say that the airline and the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) — which oversee the security check points at all US airports — have a different policy.

US Immigration and TSA are both bureaus of the USDHS, which continues to communicate with ASG to address American Samoa's full compliance with the federal REAL ID Act, pertaining to territory-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

Revelation of yesterday's conference call with the feds was made by local Homeland Security director Samana Semo Ve'ave'a during a Senate Public Safety/Homeland Security Committee hearing yesterday, called by chairman Sen. Fa'amausili Mau Mau Jr., pertaining to the CIs, issued by the Attorney General's Office, as well local driver's licenses no longer accepted for domestic travel effective Feb. 5 — next week Monday — in accordance with a Jan. 19 announcement by USDHS. (See Samoa News edition Jan. 30 for more details.)

Samana says ASG was informed of the Feb. 5 deadline and that locally issued CIs are not accepted by TSA. Additionally, American Samoa is working with TSA to allow CI holders to travel to the US. He said the CI issue as well as other pertinent matters relating to American Samoa's compliance with the REAL ID act were to be discussed in a conference call yesterday afternoon and thereafter, additional information — especially the use of the CI — would be released to the public.

Responding to a committee question, Samana explained that the REAL ID Act became effective in 2005 and that the USDHS awarded \$300,000 to American Samoa to comply with this federal law. But with several change orders later, the total amount awarded to American Samoa came to \$2.1 million but the territory — up to now — remains non compliant.

In the USDHS letter of Jan. 26 denying the governor's request for an extension beyond the Feb. 5 effective date, Samana said the federal agency also provided areas that the territory needed to address for full compliance.

He said ASDHS is handling this matter at this time, and once
(Continued on page 6)

More police irregularities at Juvenile Detention Center surface

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A new case about alleged misconduct involving a male DPS officer assigned at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) has surfaced.

The matter allegedly happened around October of last year, and a reliable source told Samoa News that a report from the JDC supervisor, provided details of alleged "illegal activities" including the officer allowing a male detainee to escape from JDC in the middle of the night has been handed over to the DPS Commissioner for his attention.

Efforts to obtain a comment from Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson this week were unsuccessful. Assistant Public Defender Kate Hannaher who is handling juvenile cases confirmed to Samoa News this week that she was aware of this alleged incident, and she also spoke to some attorneys from the AG's office about this case.

Sources told Samoa News that an investigation into this matter was conducted by Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) around November of last year. The victim in this case is a 17-year-old male detainee, who is also one of the key witness in the previous matter that was filed in District Court on April 2017, where four DPS officers assigned to JDC in Tafuna have been charged with various crimes.

The mother of the alleged victim is worried about the safety of her son, and she's asking DPS for a full and complete investigation into this matter.

It is alleged that around October of last year, a male police officer at the JDC allowed a 17-year-old juvenile, who was detained at the JDC, to open the gate of the JDC and go out to meet his girlfriend. This was not the first time this had happened.

Samoa News was able to interview three people about this case — the mother, an attorney from the PD's office and the police officer who is alleged to be involved in this matter.

According to the mother, the incident was brought to her attention when she visited her son at the JDC around November of last year. While she was talking to her son, a group of police officers and attorneys turned up at the JDC and wanted to talk to her son privately about an alleged incident that had happened a few weeks previously, when a police officer allegedly allowed her son to leave the compound.

After the interview with police, the young man explained everything to his mother, including the

time when the police officer allegedly gave him the key to open the JDC main gate late at night, and allowed him to go outside and bring in a lady who was waiting in front of the Office of Public Works compound.

The mother told Samoa News that she was "pissed-off" at the police officer, for allegedly allowing her son to walk freely outside of the JDC at night, while he was supposed to be locked his room.

"My only concern is the safety of my son. JDC was supposed to monitor my son and all other juveniles who are detained inside, but it seems to me that this police officer failed to comply with the law to perform his duties honestly. All I wanted is this police officer to be charged and face consequences for his action," said the mother.

According to the mother, she was told that this was not the first time this police office allegedly allowed her son to escape from the JDC at night. She said that her son provided a written statement to the police when he was questioned about this matter.

The mother said that after she talked to her son, she then requested a chance to speak to the
(Continued on page 6)



PET OF THE WEEK

Masi is a three-month old spayed female kitten looking for a home. She is available for a ten-dollar adoption fee at the ASG Veterinary Clinic. Please stop by or call 699-9445 if you would like to adopt her.
[Courtesy photo]



Trump infrastructure plan seeks to shift burden to states

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — When President Donald Trump called for a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure investment in his State of the Union address, he didn't pledge that the federal government actually would provide that much money for roads, bridges, rail and waterways.

To the contrary, Trump's plan counts on state and local governments working with private investors to come up with much of the cash.

Exactly how that would work remained unclear Wednesday, as state transportation officials noted that Trump's proposal could put more pressure on them to raise taxes, fees and tolls just to qualify for a share of his infrastructure program. Questions surrounding Trump's plan are likely to leave costly projects, such as plans for a new Hudson River tunnel connecting New York and New Jersey, in limbo.

"The Trump administration has issued a charge that sounds a lot like 'show me the money,'" said Missouri Department of Transportation Director Patrick McKenna, who is president of the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials.

In his speech Tuesday night, Trump called upon Congress to pass a plan "that gener-

ates at least \$1.5 trillion" for infrastructure.

"We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways and waterways all across our land," he said.

He did not provide a roadmap on how to achieve that or give specifics on how it would be funded. The Republican president said only that "every federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with state and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private-sector investment."

The federal government typically provides 80 percent of the funding for capital expenditures on highways, with state and local governments coming up with the rest. On transit projects, the federal share typically ranges from 50 percent to 80 percent, according to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. A six-page summary of Trump's plan, which was widely but unofficially distributed a week ahead of his speech, indicates that Trump is envisioning a significant shift of financial responsibility. Half his proposed federal money would go toward competitive grants for a wide range of infrastructure, including various transportation modes, hydropower,

and drinking and wastewater facilities. But the federal grants would cover no more than 20 percent of project costs while requiring applicants to commit to "new, non-federal revenue."

To participate in Trump's plan, Missouri likely would have to ask voters to raise taxes for transportation, McKenna said. That's because the state transportation department already is spending at a deficit of roughly \$80 million a year to meet its current federal highway match.

Neighboring Arkansas is in a similar predicament.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson's budget proposal seeks to transfer \$16 million from surplus general revenue to the transportation department in order to meet its current federal highway allotment. Qualifying for Trump's plan could require a new revenue source.

"We're shaking the couch cushions out to see where we can find the rest of it," said Republican state Rep. Dan Douglas, who has backed various unsuccessful transportation funding bills. Over the past five years, about three-fourths of the states have taken some sort of step to boost transportation funding, including 26 states that have raised motor fuel taxes.

Governor tells his cabinet DHSS food stamp issue is a "reminder to all of us as leaders"

SAYS THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LEADERS IGNORE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY...

by Fiti Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga cited the Department of Human and Social Service food stamp fraud case, as an example of problems occurring in a department or office if directors leave their leadership roles to someone else, while the cabinet member is off island for weeks.

The DHSS food stamp fraud issue was listed on the agenda of last Friday's cabinet meeting and Lolo explained that it "was not put on the agenda" as a specific topic for discussion but "as a reminder to all of us as leaders," that the reason these types of things happen "is when leaders ignore their responsibility or have someone else handle the leadership role."

No matter what "excuse" is made, it's "us as leaders" who shoulder the responsibility when these types of problems and issues occur in government, he said.

"And that's why Lt. Gov. Lemanu and I put this matter on the agenda as a reminder from us to you, that the reason problems occur is that the [director] ignored his/ her responsibility," Lolo said, and reiterated a few times more that the reasons problems and other issues arise is when leaders ignore their duties and responsibilities.

He says that there are many times cabinet directors are off island and are not at their post, leaving the leadership role to someone else. He pointed out that a director could be off island for two or three weeks and later return to work to find decisions made by others that are not in accordance with policies and regulations.

For example, overtime is incurred and then the director

tries to find justification, the governor said.

"We shouldn't be pointing fingers" to those who caused the problems in offices and departments, but instead 'point fingers to ourselves' for failure as a leader, who should be at the job instead of giving the leadership role to someone else," the governor declared.

He reminded directors that it's their responsibility as a leader to know what is happening in his/ her department as well as the government.

The meeting agenda also included "Director's Primary Responsibility" issues, in which Lolo pointed out that a director's responsibility is to respond to needs of the public.

For example, the recent case out of Amouli, where a family sought help, but was told to check with the Public Works Department.

"You are a government director and your responsibility is to pick up the phone and call the right person, responsible for the job to be done," he told cabinet members but didn't provide details of this matter.

He said, "We are all leaders in government" and should respond to public needs, whether the matter falls under the jurisdiction of another agency. He said the Amouli family went on for two weeks looking for help, adding that this is not acceptable when it comes to providing government services to the public.

"This is our whole responsibility to find ways to help ... the public," he said and recommended to cabinet members to expand their services to the public and not just matters pertaining to their own respective agency.



FILE- This April 17, 2014, file photo shows ongoing construction of a rail tunnel, left, at the Hudson Yards redevelopment site on Manhattan's west side in New York. Amtrak constructed a concrete box inside the project to preserve space for a tunnel from New Jersey to New York across the Hudson River. President Donald Trump called for a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure investment in his State of the Union address on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018. Questions surrounding Trump's infrastructure plan are likely to leave costly projects, such as plans for the new Hudson River tunnel. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews, File)



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-028-2018

Issuance Date: February 1, 2018

Closing Date: February 15, 2018

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

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide the "Department of Health-Tafuna Primary Health Center Repairs" located in the village of Tafuna, Territory of American Samoa.

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, February 15, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the Pre-Bid Conference.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Specifications may be examined or obtained at the Office of Procurement 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

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COURT REPORT...

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

MICHAEL AGASIVA SR

A 62-year-old man from Amaluia who was accused of sexually assaulted a 52-year-old, who is a relative — admitted to the court what happened. Michael Agasiva Sr. is scheduled to appear in High Court this Friday for sentencing.

Agasiva Sr, who holds a Master's degree in Education from the University of Hawaii was initially charged with three criminal counts, including sexual abuse in the first degree, a class D felony; and two misdemeanor charges, trespass and assault in the third degree.

Under a plea bargain with the government, Agasiva, who is being held on bail of \$10,000 since his arrest on January 01, 2017 pleaded guilty to the amended count one; sexual assault in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor, together with counts 2 and 3 as charged.

In his plea, Agavisa admitted that on January 01, 2017 in Amaluia, he unlawfully entered the house of the victim without permission for the purpose of committing a crime. When he entered the house, he saw the victim was sleeping on the couch in the living room.

Agasiva walked to the area where the victim was sleeping, pulled up her shirt and touched her left breast. The victim woke up when she felt a tickling sensation on her breast and she saw the defendant in a sexual act. The victim pushed the defendant away and swore at him to get out of the house. The victim then locked the house after the defendant left and called the police for assistance.

When asked by the court, Agasiva Sr admitted to the allegations against him; and the court accepted the defendant's guilty plea.

Acting Associate Chief Justice Elvis P. Patea then set the sentence for Agasiva Sr on February 28th at 8:30 a.m. After the court announced the acceptance of the defendant's plea of guilt, Agasiva Sr's attorney Joshua Rovelli asked the court

to release his client from jail to await his sentencing.

He pointed out that his client has been in jail for a year and 24 days, which is more than Agasiva Sr. can be sentenced for all the three charges for which he has been convicted.

Prosecutor Assistant Attorney General Woodrow Pengelly did not oppose the defense's motion for Agasiva Sr to be release from jail.

However, he said that if the court allows the defendant to be released from prison, he must be ordered not to set foot in the village of Amaluia and not try to have any physical contact with the victim.

"If he's not allowed to set foot back in Amaluia, so where is he going to stay?" Patea asked but there was no response from the government attorney.

The defense attorney said that Agavisa Sr is a registered Matai from Amaluia, and he has no other place to go to other than back to his home in Amaluia. The defense attorney told the court that his client is aware that he should not contact the victim in any way if the court releases him from jail.

Patea stated that because both attorneys have thrown a lot at the court to deal with, sentencing for Agasiva Sr would be set within 48 hours. He then ordered the Probation officer who was present in court to provide all the necessary information the court needs,

and it should be ready by this Friday.

Associate Judges Paepae I. Faiai and Suapaia J. Pereira accompanied Judge Patea at this proceeding.

RICHARD AFA

The government's case against a 24-year-old from Tafuna, who is one of the two defendants in an assault case that surfaced last year is going to trial after both sides failed to reach a solution.

Richard Afa is facing one felony count of assault in the second degree. He appeared in High Court this week for a pretrial conference where his attorney, Assistant Public

Defender Michael White said the defense has received discovery from the government.

However, he said, the defense is unable to reach an agreement with the government and therefore, his client will go to trial.

The government alleges that on Sept. 13, 2017, Afa assaulted another man using a rock, which caused injuries to the victim's head.

ETI VALOSAGA

A 29-year-old man from Iliili who is accused of using a rock to assault another man has been arrested and charged with second degree assault — a felony — and two misdemeanor charges; property damage and unlawful use of a weapon.

Eti Valosaga made his initial appearance in the District Court this week where he waived his right to a preliminary examination. His next court appearance will be this Friday at 9 a.m. in the High Court where he is expected to enter a not guilty plea.

According to the government, Valoaga and the victim got into a disagreement and the victim allegedly attempted to assault Valoaga but in the end, it was Valoaga who assaulted the victim with a rock.

Valosaga's attorney, Assistant Public Defender, Ryan Anderson, asked the court for a reduction of bail — from \$5,000 to \$1,000.

Anderson told the court his client is a hardworking man and he's the only member of his family who works to provide for his wife and two children. He said his client is not a flight risk, and he has no intention of leaving his family.

Prosecutor Jillian Sadler opposed the defense motion, saying bail set by the court is the appropriate amount for the offense the defendant is accused of committing.

District Court Judge Fiti Sunia denied the defense's motion and bail remains at \$5,000; and because he is unable to post bond, Valosaga remains in custody at the TCF.

Car Wash around 3 a.m. in Saltlick Township, a rural town about 55 miles (89 kilometers) southeast of Pittsburgh. Police said it was possible that the gunshot wound was self-inflicted.

Armed with a semi-automatic rifle, a .308-caliber rifle and a handgun and wearing a body armor carrier without the ballistic panels inserted, police said Smith killed 27-year-old William Porterfield, 25-year-old Chelsie Cline, 23-year-old Cortney Snyder and 21-year-old Seth Cline.

Police would not go into details about how Smith knew the victims, but Chelsie Cline's half-sister, Sierra Kolarik, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that Smith had developed an

(Continued on page 7)

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title SALANOA of the village of FAGASA by MICKEY R. SALANOA of the village of FAGASA, county of ITUAU, EASTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title SALANOA shall be registered in the name of MICKEY R. SALANOA in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: JANUARY 23, 2018 thru MARCH 26, 2018

SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga leni ua faasalalauina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o SALANOA o le nu'u o FAGASA e MICKEY R. SALANOA o FAGASA faalupega o ITUAU, falelima i SASA'E.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a le ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusutusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauloia ai leni fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o MICKEY R. SALANOA e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

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For any further details please contact Fatu Matamua.

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Correction: Deadly Car Wash Shooting story

In a story Jan. 28 about the shooting deaths of four people at a car wash, The Associated Press, relying on information from state police, misspelled the first name of one of the female victims. She was Cortney Snyder, not Courtney.

A corrected version of the story is below:

Police, family say jealous shooter killed 4 at car wash

Family members of the victims of a shooting at a Pennsylvania car wash say the suspect

was driven by jealousy

A shooter driven by jealousy opened fire and killed four people at a car wash early Sunday morning in Pennsylvania, while a woman hiding in the back of a pickup truck suffered only minor injuries, according to state police and family of the victims.

Police said Timothy Smith, 28, was on life support and not expected to survive after suffering a gunshot wound to his head during the attack at Ed's



Pharmacist in meningitis outbreak gets 8 years in prison



FILE - In this Sept. 19, 2017, file photo, Glenn Chin, supervisory pharmacist at the now-closed New England Compounding Center, leaves federal court in Boston. Chin, a Massachusetts pharmacist charged in a deadly 2012 meningitis outbreak, was cleared in October of second-degree murder charges, but convicted on dozens of other counts. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018. (AP Photo/Steven Senne, file)

BOSTON (AP) — A Massachusetts pharmacist convicted for his role in a deadly 2012 meningitis outbreak fought through sobs as he apologized to victims and their families Wednesday before being sentenced to eight years in prison.

Nearly 80 people died and almost 800 were sickened in what's considered the worst public health crisis in recent U.S. history. The fungal meningitis outbreak was caused by mold-tainted steroid injections produced by the New England Compounding Center.

Glen Chinn, who ran the so-called clean rooms where the drugs were made, sobbed as he struggled through his statement during his sentencing hearing in Boston's federal courthouse. Chin said he knows some victims will never forgive him, but he'll continue to pray that they will find some sort of peace.

"I realize these are just words and nothing will bring back your loved ones," the 49-year-old said, occasionally turning to look directly at the victims and their relatives seated behind him. "But believe me when I say that I am truly sorry that this ever occurred," he said.

Prosecutors wanted a 35-year-sentence for Chin, pointing to the devastating impact the outbreak had on families across the country. Chin's lawyers asked for about three years behind bars.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Strachan relayed how a victim's daughter said she heard her mother's scream of pain from floors below when the daughter visited her mother in the hospital. The daughter compared the sound of her mother's screams to the sound of the ship careening into the ocean in the movie "Titanic," Strachan said.

"That's the sound that she has in her head when she thinks about her mother's death," Strachan said. "It's the sound made by Glenn Chin's conduct."

Mary Beth Krakowski of South Bend, Indiana, whose aunt died at age 88 after being injected with the contaminated drugs, told Chin he had a chance to be a "hero" and blow the whistle on the pharmacy's dangerous practices.

"How did you get lost? How did you lose those ideals? How could you have fallen so far to become uncaring, cold and callous enough to put the patients' welfare behind your personal gain?" asked Krakowski, the niece of Alice Machowiak.

Chin was convicted in October of racketeering and mail fraud but was cleared of second-degree murder, which could have brought a life sentence. He had had been charged with the deaths of 25 people in Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Throughout his trial, prosecutors portrayed him as a callous employee who cut corners and ignored warning signs of unsafe production methods to boost production and profits.

Chin's attorneys argued that he didn't deserve more time behind bars than the pharmacy's co-founder, Barry Cadden, who's serving a nine-year sentence for his role in the outbreak. Cadden also was acquitted of second-degree murder.

Chin's attorneys said Cadden was the one calling the shots and that Chin just couldn't stand up to his boss. They said there was no evidence Chin caused the drugs to become contaminated.

"There is more to Glenn Chin than NECC," attorney Stephen Weymouth told the judge, pointing to the dozens of letters written by friends and family that described him as a mentor and loving father to his two young children.

"This will be Glenn Chin's own prison from which he will never be able to get out of for as long as he lives," Weymouth said.



Congresswoman Amata and President Trump immediately following the State of the Union speech just after she greeted him in the chamber of the House of Representatives. [Courtesy photo]



Compiled by Samoa News staff

AMATA REACTS TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

Washington, D.C. — Wednesday, January 31, 2018 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed the priorities President Trump outlined in his first State of the Union speech, particularly highlighting infrastructure development and bipartisan cooperation on shared preferences where a consensus can be reached, such as veterans and military funding.

"I welcome the President's objectives for infrastructure development and investment, and I also appreciate his support for VA improvements throughout the first year of his administration," said Amata. "I agree with the desire to see progress toward bipartisan cooperation on those priorities that many in Congress share, and I appreciate that President Trump made that a theme of his speech."

Historically, the State of the Union is based on a Constitutional directive that the President will periodically report to the Congress about the condition of the country and provide presidential recommendations. The first two Presidents, George Washington and John Adams, gave speeches. For decades, following Presidents then submitted a written Annual Message, then in 1913, Woodrow Wilson revived the practice of speaking in person to the Congress — the tradition of the century since.

"Right now, there's a lot of positive news in the U.S. economy and markets, and I hope to see that momentum and growth lead to good things for the territories," continued the Congresswoman. "I appreciate the President's commitment to keeping the country safe, strong and prosperous, and I look forward to seeing progress on these initiatives in the year ahead."

(Editor's note: Congresswoman Aumua and her husband Fred were on the train that crashed into a trash truck yesterday. Samoa News has heard from her that neither she nor her husband were injured.)

CONTRACT SIGNED BETWEEN SAMOA AND AM SUBMARINE CO.

APIA, SAMOA WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 — The signing of a contract between the American Submarine Company — TE Subcom with the Samoa Submarine Cable Company

(SSCC), promises a \$6 million tala injection into the economy per year and job opportunities for Samoa.

The contract means building a 4000sq meter warehouse at the Matautu wharf to house the undersea communication systems that will service the Pacific and the Oceania. It also will see a Submarine Maintenance Vessel home based in Samoa. The boat will maintain and service communication cables in the Pacific and will provide job opportunities for Samoa.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupa'i today saying that it required a lot of work from his ministry and stakeholders in attracting TE Subcom Company to Samoa.

"It wasn't easy, as there were other companies from the Pacific who attempted to win the contract," he said. "However, our main focus which aligns with our government vision is to improve connectivity to the outside world, generate job opportunities and financial benefits for the development of Samoa."

The submarine warehouse according to the minister will be selling all spare parts for undersea communication cables, and if it is required from any Pacific country, it will be transferred to the submarine maintenance vessel to carry out the service.

"Of course, we benefit from the fees. It is a one of its kind in the Pacific and because of our central location in the Pacific Ocean; it is accessible to our Pacific neighbors."

Currently, the maintenance vessel is in New Caledonia enroute to Samoa, with about 60 people — mainly Filipinos working on board.

"The Government aims at 50% of the crew to be our own people in the next 2-3 years," he said.

Afamasaga added that they are now looking at working together with the National University of Samoa Maritime School, in training and teaching the students with specific skills of servicing and maintaining undersea communication cables.

"Thus, providing employment opportunities and [we] will use their skills for overseas jobs," he said.

The submarine warehouse and vessel are all in line with the arrival of Tui Samoa Cable next week and the Manatua cable expected to land in

(Continued on page 11)

FBI clashes with Trump, has 'grave concerns' on Russia memo



President Donald Trump greets Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford after delivering his first State of the Union address in the House chamber of the U.S. Capitol to a joint session of Congress Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018 in Washington.

(Win McNamee/Pool via AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a remarkably public clash of wills with the White House, the FBI declared Wednesday it has “grave concerns” about the accuracy of a classified memo on the Russia election investigation that President Donald Trump wants released.

The FBI’s short and sharp statement, its first on the issue, laid bare a Trump administration conflict that had previously played out mostly behind closed doors in meetings between top Justice Department and White House officials.

“As expressed during our initial review, we have grave

concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo’s accuracy,” the FBI said.

Further complicating the memo’s release, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee said late Wednesday that his committee’s vote to release the memo was now invalid because it was “secretly altered” by Republicans who wrote it. California Rep. Adam Schiff said in a letter to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes that committee Democrats had discovered changes that were made after the panel voted Monday to

send it to Trump for review.

“The White House has therefore been reviewing a document since Monday night that the committee never approved for public release,” Schiff said in the letter.

Schiff did not detail the changes, and a spokesman for Nunes did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump has five days from the vote to review the document, and if he doesn’t object then Congress can release it.

Schiff called for Nunes to withdraw the memo from the White House and for the committee to hold a new vote next Monday.

The memo is part of an effort to reveal what Republicans say are surveillance abuses by the FBI and the Justice Department in the early stages of the investigation into potential ties between Russia and the 2016 Trump presidential campaign.

The FBI’s stance on the memo escalates the dispute and means Trump would be openly defying his hand-picked FBI director by continuing to push for its disclosure. It also suggests a clear willingness by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who in the early stretch of his tenure has been notably low-key, to challenge a president

(Continued on page 12)

Why did Melania wear white? Some see hidden meanings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twitter went wild with speculation when first lady Melania Trump showed up for her husband’s first State of the Union address in an ivory Christian Dior pantsuit.

Some suggested sarcastically her attire was a tribute to Hillary Clinton, her husband’s 2016 Democratic opponent, who favors pantsuits. Or, was she honoring the suffragettes, who made white their signature color? Others tweeted that Mrs. Trump looked “divine.”

Her suit was in contrast to the black worn by Democratic congresswomen and their allies.

Tuesday marked the first time Mrs. Trump was seen in public with her husband since The Wall Street Journal reported that Donald Trump’s lawyer paid porn star Stormy Daniels \$130,000 in 2016 to keep quiet about an affair they had. Daniels on Tuesday issued a statement denying the affair.



First lady Melania Trump arrives before the State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)




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Clinton regrets not firing adviser accused of harassment



FILE - In this Dec. 15, 2017 file photo, former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks to the Girls-BuildLA Leadership Summit in Los Angeles. Clinton is expressing regret about allowing a senior campaign adviser to keep his job after another worker complained in 2007 that he had behaved inappropriately. Clinton put out a lengthy Facebook post Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018 saying that she wouldn't have let adviser Burns Strider keep his job on her 2008 presidential campaign if she had it to do over again.

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

NEW YORK (AP) — Hillary Clinton says she should not have let a senior campaign adviser keep his job after a female staffer accused him of sexual harassment in 2007.

"The most important work of my life has been to support and empower women," Clinton wrote on Facebook Tuesday night. "So I very much understand the question I'm being asked as to why I let an employee on my 2008 campaign keep his job despite his inappropriate workplace behavior. The short answer is this: If I had it to do again, I wouldn't."

Clinton said that senior campaign staff and legal counsel confirmed that the behavior

by faith-based adviser Burns Strider had occurred after the woman came forward. Her campaign manager recommended that Strider be terminated, but Clinton said she instead demoted him, docked his pay, required counseling, separated him from the victim, and warned him that he'd be fired if he did it again.

Strider did not immediately respond Wednesday to a call and email requesting comment. Strider told BuzzFeed News that he didn't consider his behavior "excessive, but that doesn't mean it wasn't to" the woman.

Clinton said that there were no further complaints against

Strider during the rest of the campaign, but that she is troubled that he was terminated from a job leading an independent political action committee supporting Clinton for inappropriate behavior several years later.

"I believed the punishment was severe and the message to him unambiguous. I also believe in second chances," Clinton said in the post published shortly before the start of President Donald Trump's State of the Union address. "But sometimes they're squandered."

She said that the reoccurrence of the behavior "troubles me greatly" and leads her to question whether it would have been better if she had fired him.

"There is no way I can go back 10 years and know the answers. But you can bet I'm asking myself these questions right now."

Clinton said that her first thought after the New York Times reported on the incident "was for the young woman involved" and that she reached out to her "to see how she was doing, but also to help me reflect on my decision and its consequences."

"She expressed appreciation that she worked on a campaign where she knew she could come forward without fear," Clinton said. "She was glad that her accusations were taken seriously, that there was a clear process in place for dealing with harassment, and that it was followed. Most importantly, she told me that for the remainder of the campaign, she flourished in her new role."

► Real...

Continued from page 1

it's fully addressed, it will be returned to the Department of Public Safety, which handles the issuance of driver's licenses through the Office of Motor Vehicles.

Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson, another witness at the hearing, noted that the USDHS letter to the governor outlined two important issues and one of them deals with locally approved legislation for compliance with the REAL ID Act. He wondered out loud if such a proposal has been submitted yet to the Fono for approval. Samana points out that the AG's Office along with the Governor's Office are working on the proposed legislation for submission to the Fono to meet provisions of the federal law. Fa'amausili quickly urged the witnesses — which included Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale — to submit the measure as soon as possible for Fono review and expedited approval.

Hawaiian local station manager, Tuli Fruean — who was initially attending the hearing as an observer but ended up being a witness — testified that based on communication with the TSA, CIs are not accepted for travel to Hawai'i, but at the same time, Hawaiian is awaiting additional information from the federal agency.

Samana informed senators that he believes Hawaiian is not fully clear on the federal law,

which he says doesn't prevent residents from using CIs to travel to Hawai'i. He says the REAL ID Act states that American Samoa nationals cannot be prevented from traveling under the law, and there are ways to verify the identity of the traveler in accordance with the federal law.

"I think Hawaiian Airlines interprets the law incorrectly," Samana pointed out to which Fruean responded that the airline understands the law and that they are not wrong, and reiterated that TSA has informed Hawaiian that CIs are not acceptable.

Talauega pointed out that yesterday's conference call with the feds should provide more information on the use of CIs and that such information will be shared with the committee — which is calling another hearing tomorrow.

It was later during the hearing, in response to another committee question as to what will happen to a person who shows up with a CI to travel Friday, that Fruean stated that if a traveler checks in with a CI along with another acceptable form of ID that is allowed by the feds, that person can travel.

Here is the USDHS online link for the type of identify documents for passengers to bring to the airport for flying domestically: www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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police officer. During a brief meeting, the police officer allegedly apologized to her for what happened to her son and begged her to please not file a complaint at the DPS main office, because he doesn't want to lose his job. He said that this is the only job he has to take care of his family and children. When questioned by Samoa News, the police officer said via a telephone interview that nothing the mother of the juvenile stated happened.

"Nothing happened," the police officer said on the phone. "Why should I put my family and my job in harm by allowing this kid to go outside at night to meet his girlfriend. I never do that and all those allegations were wrong. I was never interviewed or questioned by police or police officers and I was never told that there is an investigation about myself in regards to any misconduct at where I am working. Those are only allegations, nothing happened," the police officer said. Assistant Public Defender Kate Hannaher confirmed to Samoa

News that she was present at the JDC when police officers and an attorney from the Attorney General's office interviewed the young man on Nov. 02, 2017. His mother was also present during the interview.

"My concern is the safety of juveniles detained at the JDC. I'm concerned about their health, their safety and I've been pushing the release of this juvenile for a while but was unsuccessfully. These are only allegations, but my main focus is to try and work with attorneys at the AG's office to make sure the JDC is much more secure for the safeguard of all the juveniles," said Hannaher.

"Juveniles must follow the rules inside the JDC if they want to get out early. They must behave themselves and comply with all instructions given by the JDC officials.

"For the JDC staff, their responsibility is to answer to the needs of the juveniles, care for them, protect them and make sure they are all in a safe conditions," concluded Hannaher.

Lava spreads more than 2 miles from Philippine volcano



The super blue blood moon sets before dawn as lava cascades down the slopes of Mayon volcano during a sporadic mild eruption as seen from Sto. Domingo township, Albay province around 340 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. It's the first time in 35 years a blue moon has synced up with a supermoon and a total lunar eclipse, or blood moon because of its red hue. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

— Lava flowing out a Philippine volcano has spread up to 3.6 kilometers (2.2 miles) since it began intense eruptions more than two weeks ago.

Streaks of red glowed atop the summit of Mount Mayon during a mild eruption Thursday morning as the moon set, hours after a blue moon and supermoon coincided with a lunar eclipse.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

said lava fountains and emissions of gas and ash have been sporadic. The eruptions fed lava flows in two areas that already exceed 3 kilometers (1.8 miles). The danger zone around Mayon extends 8 kilometers (5 miles), though authorities have struggled to keep villagers from returning to check on their homes and farms.

Scientists fear a more violent eruption could be imminent.

Correction...

Continued from page 3

obsession with Cline.

Cline shared a meme on her Facebook page last week that read, "After this week, I rly (sic) need to get taken out ... on a date or by a sniper either one is fine w me at this point." A Facebook friend of hers named Tim Smith replied, "I could do both."

Porterfield's pregnant wife, Jenna Porterfield, 24, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that a state police investigator told her that Smith was a jealous former boyfriend of Cline.

Porterfield said that she was told by family members of other victims that her husband and Cline had spent the past two days together after Cline ended a relationship with Smith. Porterfield said that she and her husband — who were married in November — had been "having some troubles" this month.

"I'm not holding that against Will. We weren't fighting. We were fixing. And if he was with someone else while we were having problems, honestly, I don't care what he did. I'm not going to hold that against him," Porterfield told the newspaper. "I'd give anything to have him back."

Smith was first to arrive at the scene and was parked on the side of the two-bay car wash when Porterfield and Cline arrived, police said. Smith shot

them when they got out and walked to the side of the car wash, they said.

Snyder and Seth Cline arrived at the same time and police said Smith opened fire on them. Another woman in the rear seat of the extended cab pickup truck only suffered injuries from broken glass.

Police said Smith had several magazines for the semi-automatic rifle and the handgun.

Cayleigh Myers said she was friends with Seth Cline, Chelsie Cline's half-sibling, and described the construction worker as "very outgoing, very funny and very smart."

"You always had fun when you were around him," Myers said. "He would give his shirt off his back for you, anything, it didn't matter what it was, what time it was, if you need him, you could call him. He was everything."

Ed Bukovac, who owns the car wash, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that a neighbor called him around 4 a.m. Sunday and said something was wrong at his business. Bukovac said police were on the scene by the time he arrived and that he had few other details about what happened.

A man who lives nearby told the newspaper that he heard about 30 gunshots over a span of several minutes.

Rose McGowan to Harvey Weinstein: There was no consent

NEW YORK (AP) — Rose McGowan says it's time for Harvey Weinstein to drop his story about a "consensual" relationship.

"He can fall off the planet," the activist said during an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "My statement is truth. My statement is reality. Stop saying it's consensual, you pig! You know it's not true."

Weinstein issued a statement Tuesday that quoted an alleged email from McGowan's former manager, saying that the actress had spoken of a consensual encounter with him. Weinstein is accused by multiple women of sexual misconduct, revelations that helped lead to allegations against Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and dozens of other men.

McGowan, 44, is promoting a trilogy (a "holy trinity without the 'holy,'" she calls it) of new projects this week, including the

album "Planet 9," the E! docu-series "Citizen Rose" and the memoir "Brave."

Her book includes a graphic account of being assaulted by the movie producer, whom she calls "the monster," in a hotel 20 years ago. Besides her comment to the AP, McGowan issued a statement Wednesday saying that his remarks were part of an ongoing effort to "smear" her.

"It is an affront not only to Rose but to the hundreds of women who have come forward with their stories of harassment, sexual abuse and rape perpetrated by Mr. Weinstein and those like him," the statement reads in part. "This is a sad, pathetic old-fashioned sexist attempt to undermine obvious truth and the gaslighting will no longer be tolerated."

McGowan signed a deal for "Brave" in 2016, well before the current #MeToo movement, but says she knew all along the

world would change — in part because she would change it. "Brave" describes her survival of what she calls a lifetime of attempted brainwashing, whether the Christian-influenced cult her family belonged to as a child to her years in Hollywood.

"This is not a tell-all," she writes. "This is a tell-it-how-it-is."

McGowan is known for such films as "Scream" and "Going All the Way," and for the TV series "Charmed." But she says she's done with acting and describes her time on screen as "just a job" and scorns the recent reboot of "Charmed" as an idea "so flaccid." She did enjoy directing "Dawn," a short film about an innocent girl's murder she has likened to her time in the movie business.

And she is anxious to work in other art forms. A fan of

(Continued on page 12)



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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Health, Safety & Environmental Officer I	Posting Date	January 30, 2018
Department	Support Services	Deadline	February 12, 2018, 4:00 pm
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$17.83/h4 - \$18.56/hr
Position Type	Career Service (12 months probation)	Job Grade/Status	K/2/A-K/3/A, Non-Exempt
Reports To	Managing Director		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

Responsible to provide vision, leadership and expertise for the success and sustainability of ASPA's health and safety programs and services that proactively protect employees and the public. This position provides overall leadership and direction to plan, integrate and evaluate ASPA's occupational health, safety, workers' compensation, disability management, injury and accident prevention and wellness programs. The purpose of this role is to provide strategic and managerial oversight, direction, and accountability for ASPA-wide safety services that include, providing corporate guidance and recommendations for development of best in class safety program improvements, metrics, public and contractor safety communication programs, and incident investigation programs/results.

Minimum Requirements

Education	BS/BA degree or equivalent experience from an accredited college or university majoring in safety, occupational health, environmental science, industrial hygiene, risk management engineering, physical/biological sciences, psychology, behavioral sciences, or related field.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least seven (7) years of progressively responsible relevant experience in the strategic development and implementation of a comprehensive workforce health and safety program and culture; with at least 5 years in managerial role leading a team of health and safety professionals. Proven knowledge & experience required of: U.S. Coast Guard & EPA requirements, regulations, utility safety policies & procedures, and management functions Occupational Safety and Health Rules (29 CFR 1910) Electric Power Generation Transmission/Distribution 1910.269 Proven, effective overseer in the execution of safety training, reporting policies, procedures, regulations and discipline.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of theory, leadership principles and best practices in the design and development of occupational health, safety, injury and accident prevention programs, strategy development and implementation Knowledge of principles and practices applicable to systemic organizational change interventions and improvement; OSHA and CalOSHA compliance, audits and record keeping, federal, state and local laws, regulations and court decisions applicable to the assigned areas of responsibility; research methods and analysis techniques; safety systems and programs (e.g., VPP, ISO18001, ANSI Z10) team management principles and techniques exercising leadership in a diverse, changing, and collaborative environment; project management Skills to design, plan and coordinate the implementation of comprehensive, effective systemic, strategic occupational health, safety, workers' compensation, prevention management, disability management and wellness programs; Ability to lead through influence; demonstrate honesty, integrity and respect for others; analyze and make sound recommendations on difficult and sensitive organizational issues; facilitate solutions to situations that involve conflicting and competing needs. Ability to understand, interpret, explain and apply, state and federal policy, law, regulations and court decisions applicable to health and safety programs Ability to present proposals and recommendations clearly, logically and persuasively; Ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive correspondence, reports, studies, and other written materials Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with all levels of management, employees, representatives of other governmental agencies, consultants, community and special interest groups, the public, and others encountered in the course of the work Ability to utilize computer systems and software relevant to the job; communicate effectively with enthusiasm and clarity verbally and in writing; a willingness to be flexible and open to change; and exhibit personal responsibility for safety. Confront, advise, & diplomatically handle violators within ASPA and public.

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by Barry Markowitz
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https://youtu.be/OS8r0xKT_IA

We need to build an apartment for Dave in the Library of Congress. Dave Canterbury is an American treasure that Mora Knives was very astute to connect with.

Dave is us. He comes from a working background, served

in the military, believes in God, family, loyal friends and straight talking... and he is really truly smart. Dave knows more about early pioneers, trappers and Daniel Boone kinda guys than any history professor Cool Stuff slept through at UCLA.

The difference between Dave Canterbury and we Coolio mortals is that we need stuff to help us in our day-to-day living and particularly when we are in survival mode. We need fire-starting gear, we need a tent, we need water purifiers, we need a stainless steel cup or pot, we need air conditioning, ice cubes, generators, and we need informative text messages from government (like last month's text telling me a North Korean missile was inbound to nuke me and my precious family).

Dave really doesn't need anything... but he chooses the new carbon Mora Garberg as his one must have on his hip.

Why is Dave's preference the new Mora Garberg Carbon over the Sandvik 14C28N stainless steel version Cool Stuff has been testing?

Dave's view is that a Garberg Carbon lets you spark a fire from a greater variety of natural rocks around you. A stainless knife requires a more iron based rock to spark. A carbon Garberg will also sharpen up in the field a little easier and stay sharp a bit longer than the stainless.

Smart Coolios, for a limited time, can pre-order the Garberg Carbon and heaps of his proven rugged gear, from Dave Canterbury's Pathfinder Store for \$99:

<https://www.selfrelianceoutfitters.com/>

Bottom line is Dave endorses both metallurgy Garberg's as they are the same knife design/dimension that operates well with a conventional, upside down or reverse grip. Wondering if Dave might tell we islanders that for our humid salt-water environment, the stainless steel Mora Garberg might be a better option?

Cool Stuff's solution... get both. The original stainless Garberg is immediately available direct from Mora's official distributor in a month or so, get the Garberg Carbon.

<https://www.industrialrev.com/garberg-knife-multi-mount-sheath-m--12642>

Life is simple. You know somebody is going to fix your car, hand you an airline buThursday, February 2, 2018 pass, or help you move with their pickup truck. When your Dave Canterbury influenced Garberg Carbon version arrives, just hand your buThursday, February 2, 2018 your stainless. That happy Coolio will be your bestest friend for life.

Or give it to your existing bestest friend — your Coolio wife or husband.

Highly regarded survival expert, David Canterbury, has teamed with Mora Knives to create the exciting Garberg Carbon knife for survival and your daily chores.

[Photo: Barry Markowitz]

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Newly confirmed Administrative Law Judge, Marie A. Ala'ilima (middle) with her husband, Commerce director Keniseli Lafaele (far left) and relative Leiataua Leuga Turner (far right) pictured yesterday at the Fono compound after her Senate confirmation hearing, which lasted about 15-minutes. She was later confirmed in a unanimous 18-0 vote. The ALJ appointee is subject to Senate confirmation only. Ala'ilima had been serving as ALJ Pro Tempore since 2007. She was asked during yesterday's hearing about her private practice, and Ala'ilima explained that for five years now, she has not accepted any new cases. According to local law, the ALJ shall devote full time to the performance of duties and shall not otherwise engage in the private or public practice of law during the term in office.

Responding to a committee questions, Ala'ilima — who has been a member of the American Samoa Bar Association since 1996, when she started practicing law in the territory — gave a brief explanation regarding the the duties of the Office of the ALJ, which is an independent entity of the Executive Branch. Many of the ALJ cases deal with challenges and appeals filed by an individual over decisions made by ASG boards and commission. It also hears cases filed by ASG employees, who challenge or appeal of decisions made by ASG directors. In his nomination letter Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga informed the Senate that Ala'ilima "is highly qualify for this position." She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she also received her Juris Doctorate degree. Lolo also said that it "would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the long and distinguished career" of Toetagata, whom as a former American Samoa Attorney General, Public Defender, and ALJ "has made significant contributions to the betterment of our legal community."

"We express our deepest appreciation for his years of faithful service to the administration of justice in American Samoa," the governor noted. According to Samoa News records, Alailima is now the third ALJ, since this office and post was established by law in year 2000. The first ALJ was the late former Attorney General and lawmaker, Sialega Malaetasi Mauga Togafau, followed by Toetagata.

[photo: FS]

US urges Poland to drop Holocaust bill angering Israel

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The United States asked Poland to rethink plans to enact proposed legislation regulating Holocaust speech that has sparked a diplomatic dispute with Israel, arguing Wednesday that if it passes it could hurt freedom of speech as well as strategic relationships.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Neather Nauert voiced her government's concerns as the Polish Senate was preparing to approve the bill, a step that would put it closer to becoming law. The measure would next need to be signed into law by the president, who supports it.

Poland's conservative ruling Law and Justice party authored the bill, which calls for up to three years in prison for any intentional attempt to falsely attribute the crimes of Nazi Germany to the Polish state or people. Law and Justice says it is fighting against the use of phrases like "Polish death camps" to refer to death camps operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II. Israel, however, sees the move as an attempt to whitewash the role some Poles played in the killing of Jews during World War II. Nauert said the U.S. understands that phrases like "Polish death camps" are "inaccurate, misleading, and hurtful" but voiced concern the legislation could "undermine free speech and academic discourse."

"We are also concerned about the repercussions this draft legislation, if enacted, could have on Poland's strategic interests and relationships — including with the United States and Israel. The resulting divisions that may arise among our allies benefit only our rivals," Nauert said.

"We encourage Poland to reevaluate the legislation in light of its potential impact on the principle of free speech and on our ability to be effective partners."

Nauert's statement came only days after U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited Warsaw, where he paid respects to Jewish and Polish victims of the war on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Earlier Wednesday, a U.S. congressional task force on combatting anti-Semitism said it was "alarmed" by the legislation and called on Polish President Andrzej Duda to veto it.

"We are deeply concerned that this legislation could have a chilling effect on dialogue, scholarship, and accountability in Poland about the Holocaust, should this legislation become law," the bipartisan group said.

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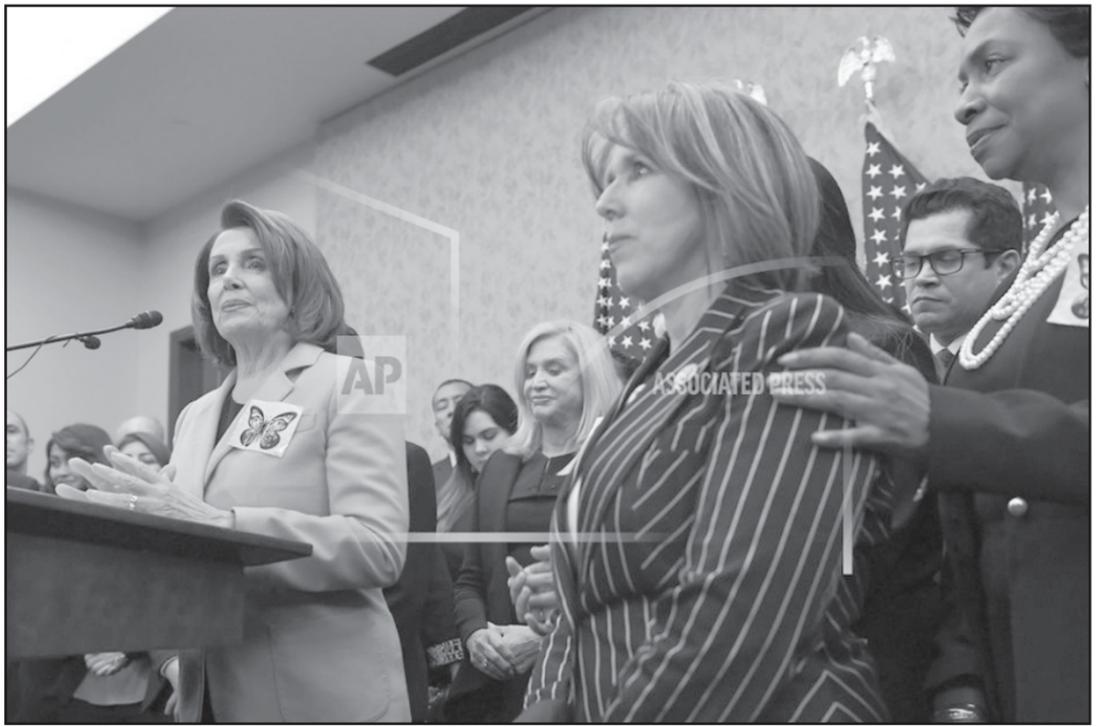
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IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018, about legislation to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program recipients. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., center, chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, listens (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

No immigration deal near as Trump speech, offer are panned

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s State of the Union offer of a “down-the-middle compromise” on immigration did nothing to move Republicans and Democrats closer to a deal Wednesday, as Democrats accused the president of lacing his speech with racially charged remarks and Republicans dug in on their demands.

The reaction to Trump’s high-profile overture suggested both parties were settling into a protracted tug-of-war. The standoff left serious doubt whether the two parties could reach an election-year pact to protect hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation, sharpen border security and take other steps to curb immigration. The two parties had not even settled on a deadline an agreement — a bad sign in an institution that rarely acts unless under pressure.

“If the deadline is Feb. 8, we’re not going to make it,” No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland said Wednesday, noting a looming deadline for approving government funding to avoid another shutdown.

“It’s going to take work for us to build a consensus,” Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., the House GOP vote counter, said in an interview Tuesday. Scalise noted that Republicans took “weeks and weeks” to craft tax legislation last year.

Earlier this month, Senate Democrats looking to pressure Republicans to reach an immigration deal forced a three-day federal shutdown. While many Democrats have little appetite to repeat that strategy, party leaders have yet to indicate if they’ll let future budget legislation move forward without an immigration accord.

The tone of the immigration debate, already testy, seemed to worsen after Trump asserted Tuesday night that “open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our most vulnerable communities” and let millions of immigrants “compete for jobs and wages against the poorest Americans.”

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Wednesday that Trump used “insulting words of ignorance and prejudice.” Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., who leads the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the remarks were “meant to enflame tensions about immigrants” and would stir up Trump’s conservative base but damage talks.

Republicans said Democrats are not making serious offers as they bargain over Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the Obama-era program that’s shielded “Dreamers” in the U.S. illegally who were brought here as children. Trump said last year he was ending the program, claiming executive overreach by President Barack Obama, but gave Congress until March 5 to enshrine it into law.

“If Democrats don’t figure out a way to negotiate, then the DACA program will end and that’s not an outcome I think anybody would like,” said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Senate GOP leader. “But they will be responsible for it.” Even that March 5 date was in doubt, according to No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland, who’s been meeting with other leaders. He said Wednesday that Republicans suggested Trump could extend that deadline, though a congressional GOP aide said he was unaware of that.

The urgency of the March 5 deadline was also blunted by a federal judge’s decision to temporarily block the end of the DACA program. As a result, U.S. immigration authorities resumed accepting requests to renew DACA permits, which provide recipients permission to live and work in the country. Trump has proposed a 10- to 12-year track to citizenship for around 1.8 million younger immigrants protected by DACA or eligible for its guarantees. That’s enraged GOP conservatives.

“The heartburn is the amnesty component,” said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., leader of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, referring to Trump’s offer of citizenship. He said that plan needs “a few adjustments that may be major” before it could pass the House.

Trump also wants \$25 billion for border security including his prized wall, a campaign pillar he promised Mexico would finance. He would end a lottery used to encourage immigration from diverse countries including African nations and redistribute some of those visas to applicants with high-skilled jobs.

He would also limit relatives that immigrants could sponsor for legal U.S. status to spouses and minor children. He calls that “chain migration,” a term immigration advocates find nearly as offensive as the idea of barring them from helping parents, siblings and other relatives.

“We will not reach agreement as long as he wants to attack the very underpinning of legal immigration. My sister is not a distant relative,” said Rep. Luis Guterierrez, D-Ill., a hard-line pro-immigration advocate.

GOP lawmakers were also wary of changes Trump would make, such as potential curbs on visas that allow temporary agriculture or seasonal workers into the U.S.

“I favor legal immigration, I want to eliminate illegal immigration,” said Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D. He said Trump’s proposal was “a good first step” and added, “Let each of the two houses do their work.” The conservative-leaning Cato Institute has called Trump’s proposals “draconian restrictions on legal immigrants” that would exclude nearly 500,000 legal immigrants annually, cutting their numbers by nearly 50 percent.



► Pacific...

Continued from page 4

June this year.

Tui Samoa cable will be launched on Friday 9 February, marking the government's promise of delivering the cable to provide high speed telecommunications with the outside world and locally.

The minister pointed out that the service will not be at full capacity at its start. "I must say that once it's launched, it is not going to be supersonic in its service, it will be gradual."

Both the Tui Samoa and Manatua cables according to Afamasaga, will act as backup for each other.

[Source: Talamua online] **SPC COMPLETES LATEST TUNA TAGGING VOYAGE**

Noumea, New Caledonia – Staff from the Oceanic Fisheries Program completed a significant tuna-tagging voyage in late 2017, releasing nearly 28,000 tagged tuna in the waters of PNG and Solomon Islands.

Pacific tuna fisheries produce over 60% of the world's tuna, and are an important part of the gross domestic product of most countries in the region. But threats such as overfishing and climate change put this vital natural resource at risk.

The collection of data through tagging will provide valuable information to assess fish abundance, movement and the impact of fishing. This information will help the WCPFC determine sustainable management practices and conservation measures of tuna in the region.

Tagging allows fisheries scientists to monitor mortality, movement and growth of tagged fish. On this voyage, the fish were caught using the pole-and-line fishing method. This allows the fish to be caught, measured, tagged and released in just a few seconds. Information on each tagged individual including species, length, fish condition and tagging quality is recorded using voice recorders. Some of the fish were over 60cm in length, and their powerful tails could bruise and scratch the fishers as they are caught for tagging.

The data collected from the tags over next months and years will help increase our under-

standing of tuna fisheries, and the impact of fishing activities on tuna fisheries throughout the Pacific. This data will help inform future sustainable management decisions that will help protect tuna stocks and the people who rely on them.

"The key highlight was obviously the number of tags the team released, with additional highlights being the development of new tagging technicians, the amount of biological sampling conducted, without forgetting that these good results would not have been possible without the support and efforts of the vessel crew", according to Neville Smith, SPC's Principal Fisheries Scientist.

Fishers can receive a reward for the return of tags to SPC.

Anyone who finds a tag, or would like more information, should contact the Oceanic Fisheries Programme via email: tagging@spect.int or visit www.spc.int/tagging to assist SPC with this important ongoing research.

No, that wasn't drool on his lips, Rep. Joe Kennedy says



In this still image taken from video, Rep. Joe Kennedy III, D-Mass., delivers the Democratic response to President Donald Trump's State of the Union, at Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fall River, Mass., Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018.

(US Network Pool via AP, Pool)

No, that wasn't drool on his lips, Rep. Joe Kennedy says WASHINGTON (AP) —

ChapStick.

Twitter lit up with jibes about the 37-year-old Democrat's response to President Donald Trump's State of the Union. In his televised speech Tuesday, Kennedy's lips appeared wet and glistening, leading to tweets about Kennedy's "drool."

Kennedy joked on ABC's "Good Morning America" Wednesday that he "decided to go a little bit light on the ChapStick this morning...which is probably a wise choice." He told CNN that Tuesday's ChapStick was "a little too much, apparently."

Other State of the Union responders have attracted similar unwanted attention. In 2013, GOP Sen. Marco Rubio's response to President Barack Obama's speech was mocked for Rubio's awkward off-screen reach for water.



American Samoa Power Authority

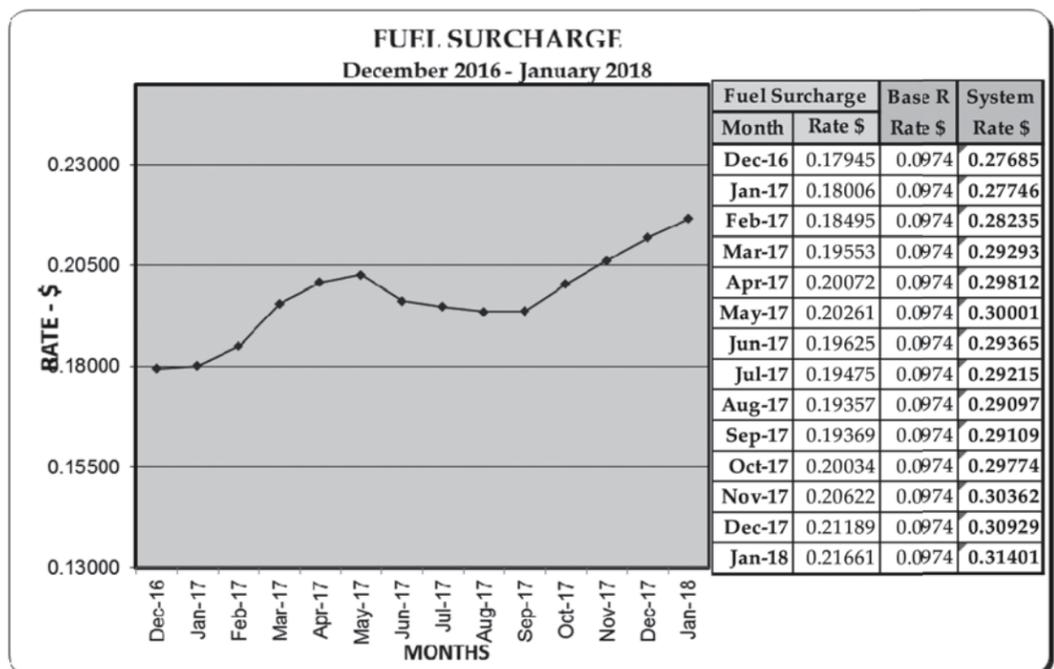
January 12, 2018

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the "base rate" and the "fuel surcharge rate."

The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA's operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a "pass-through" revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.



The fuel surcharge rate also includes the "Renewable Reduction" from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the "Renewable

Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for January 2018			
Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.22513	0.22513	0.22513
Renewable Reduction	-0.00852	-0.00852	-0.00852
Fuel Surcharge	0.21661	0.21661	0.21661
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.31401	0.32311	0.30621

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In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

HCPR NO. 54-17

In the Matter of the Estate of

MEAFUA KENISELI MATA'U,
Decedent

ESTHER FOUVALE,
Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Letters of Administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, Territory of American Samoa by ESTHER FOUVALE, for the Estate of MEAFUA KENISELI MATA'U, Decedent, who died on September 6, 2017 in American Samoa.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on February 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa, at the Court-house in Fagatogo, American Samoa.

All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date to respond to this Petition.

Dated: December 19, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 02/01 & 02/08/18

FBI...

Continued from page 5

who just months ago fired his predecessor, James Comey.

The FBI statement came the day after Trump was overheard telling a congressman that he "100 percent" supported release of the four-page memo.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer on Wednesday night placed the blame on House Speaker Paul Ryan, saying that if Ryan "cares about the integrity of the House or the rule of law, he will put an end to this charade once and for all."

Democrats have called the memo a "cherry-picked" list of GOP talking points that attempts to distract from the committee's own investigation into Russian meddling in the election that sent Trump to the White House.

The drama comes as special counsel Robert Mueller also is investigating whether the Trump campaign improperly coordinated with Russia during the campaign and whether Trump sought to obstruct the inquiry by, among other actions, firing Comey.

Under the House committee's rules, the president has five days to object to the memo's release, which the panel voted to authorize Monday. But Trump himself already has urged the release, and it could come sooner. By late Wednesday, it had not yet been settled whether the White House or the committee would handle the actual release.

Earlier this week, Wray and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein made a direct appeal to White House chief of staff John Kelly not to release the memo, warning that it could set a dangerous precedent.

But the president has been undeterred.

Television cameras captured Trump, on the House floor after the State of the Union address, telling South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan that he backed the release. When Duncan implored him to "release the memo," Trump said: "Oh yeah, don't worry. 100 percent."

White House spokeswoman

Sarah Huckabee Sanders told CNN Wednesday that a legal and national security review of the document was continuing. Trump had not read the memo as "as of last night prior to and immediately after the State of the Union," she said.

White House chief of staff Kelly said Wednesday on Fox News Radio that he expected the memo to be released "pretty quick."

Trump has been telling confidants in recent days that he believes the memo will validate his concerns that the FBI and Justice Department had conspired against him, according to one outside adviser familiar with those conversations but not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions.

The president also has told allies that he believes the memo bolsters his belief that accusations of collusion between his campaign and Russian officials are false and part of a conspiracy to discredit his election.

On Wednesday afternoon,

Nunes fired back at the law enforcement agencies, calling the FBI and Justice Department objections "spurious."

"It's clear that top officials used unverified information in a court document to fuel a counter-intelligence investigation during an American political campaign," Nunes said. "Once the truth gets out, we can begin taking steps to ensure our intelligence agencies and courts are never misused like this again."

Nunes stepped aside from leading the committee's investigation last April amid an ethics investigation into whether he had improperly disclosed classified information. He was later cleared and resumed his leadership role.

The White House counsel's office has been in possession of the memo, officials say. The National Security Council is leading a review, which will also involve the White House legal team.

The vote to release the memo was unprecedented in the committee's history. The panel usually goes out of its way to protect classified information in the interest of shielding intelligence sources and methods.

In the hours before the Monday vote, Rosenstein and Wray warned Kelly that releasing the memo could set a dangerous precedent, according to a person familiar with the conversation. Rosenstein also told Kelly the memo didn't accurately characterize the FBI's investigative practices, the person said.

The Justice Department had said in a letter last week that it would be "extraordinarily reckless" to release the memo without first giving the FBI and the department the chance to review it.

After those complaints, Wray reviewed the memo over the weekend. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who was with him when he reviewed the memo, said the FBI director did not raise any national security concerns. Gowdy said the memo doesn't reveal any intelligence methods but does reveal "one source."

Rose...

Continued from page 7

such authors as Isabel Allende and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, whose "Love in the Time of Cholera" she re-reads each year, McGowan says she's thinking about writing a "fiction-ish" story about an 11-year-old girl. During her interview, she also spoke of her love for visual art and music and of the liberating feeling of working behind a camera instead of front of it.

She also has some thoughts about the Time magazine cover story on "The Silence Breakers."

Here are highlights: **ON KNOWING 'BRAVE' WOULD COME OUT AMID THE #METOO MOVEMENT:**

"Of course I did. I'm the architect, how would I not know? My book was never meant to come out to deaf ears."

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GOP lawmakers put medical skills to work after train crash

CROZET, Va. (AP) — Republican members of Congress with medical experience put their skills to work after a train carrying dozens of them crashed into a garbage truck in rural Virginia, killing one person in the truck and injuring others.

The congressmen were on their way to a strategy retreat in the countryside when the collision occurred around 11:20 a.m. Wednesday in Crozet, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) southwest of Washington.

No serious injuries were reported aboard the chartered Amtrak train, which set out from the nation's capital with lawmakers, family members and staff for the luxury Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. At least two other people in the truck were reported seriously hurt.

Rep. James Comer of Kentucky said about 100 Republican lawmakers were on the train when the crash made him jump out of his seat.

"I looked out the side of the window and then I could see a truck, just in pieces out the side of the window," Comer said. He said Capitol police officers quickly jumped off the train but came back and asked for any doctors to help.

Florida Rep. Neal Dunn, a former Army surgeon, said he and other lawmakers who are doctors joined other passengers who are nurses or paramedics and jumped out with the basic medical gear they had. They broke into three teams to help the injured people in the truck, he said.

"The first gentleman was somebody who had really, really, really devastating injuries. We did try to resuscitate, but ultimately you had to realize it wasn't possible," Dunn said. He said another man in the truck was critically injured and a third was seriously hurt.

Rep. Phil Roe, a doctor from Tennessee, said the truck driver was killed instantly.

Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and his wife, both doctors, were among those who came to the rescue. He said he helped a man from the truck who was badly injured.

"My role was quite simple: I picked up his feet so the blood in his feet would go to his heart and his brain," Cassidy said.

Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona said seeing the lawmakers tending to the injured reminded him of the shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise at a GOP baseball practice last June.

"I thought then I never want to experience a day like this again," Flake said. "Unfortunately, it came too soon."

Authorities gave no details

on the cause of the wreck, which took place at a crossing protected by gates, flashing lights, bells and warning signs. The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team to investigate and would spend several days at the site, spokesman Earl Weener said Wednesday night.

Benny Layne, on whose property the truck landed, said the crossing arms had been known to malfunction, sometimes coming down even though no train was approaching. Sometimes, he said, they stayed down for hours.

He said motorists would get out of their cars to help guide other motorists around the malfunctioning arms so they could cross the tracks.

"A guy was up here just yesterday or the day before taking a look at them," he said.

Carrie Brown, human resources manager at Buckingham Branch Railroad, which leases the stretch of track and is responsible for maintenance, said she was unaware of any problems with equipment at the crossing. At a Wednesday night news conference, Weener said signal experts would be looking at the safety of the crossing.

Officials gave varying figures on the number hurt. But Amtrak said two crew members and three passengers were taken to a hospital with minor injuries.

Minnesota Rep. Jason Lewis' staff tweeted that the first-term congressman was among those taken to the hospital and was later discharged after suffering a concussion. Others aboard the train reported bumps, bruises and sore joints.

The GOP policy retreat, an annual event, was scheduled to last three days and feature speeches from President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. By early afternoon, lawmakers were boarding buses to resume their trip.

Later Wednesday, Pence told Republicans at the party retreat that he knows "it's been a harrowing day for all of you." Pence, a former House member, said he has fond memories of the retreat and the train rides back and forth. "Just know our hearts are with you," he said.

Pence was the featured speaker Wednesday night at the GOP retreat. Trump was to address lawmakers Thursday.

Other doctor-lawmakers who assisted included Reps. Michael Burgess of Texas, Phil Roe of Tennessee, Larry Bushon of Indiana and Roger Marshall of Kansas, according to those aboard.

House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin was on the train and was unhurt, aides said.



Emergency personnel inspect the lead engine of an Amtrak train that was carrying multiple Republican lawmakers that crashed into a garbage truck in Crozet, Va., on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018. A chartered train carrying dozens of GOP lawmakers to a Republican policy retreat in West Virginia struck a garbage truck in a rural Virginia town Wednesday.

(Zack Wajsglas/The Daily Progress via AP)



Emergency personnel work at the scene of a train crash involving a garbage truck in Crozet, Va., on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018. An Amtrak passenger train carrying dozens of GOP lawmakers to a Republican retreat in West Virginia struck a garbage truck south of Charlottesville, Va. No lawmakers were believed injured.

(Zack Wajsglas/The Daily Progress via AP)

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UN reviews 206 firms over their links to Israeli settlements

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. human rights office said Wednesday that 206 companies — mostly Israeli and American — are facing a review of their business practices involving Israeli settlements, which are considered illegal under international law. In a long-awaited report, the office said more resources were needed to handle the complex and unprecedented task of compiling what some critics call an unfair “blacklist” and a sign of anti-Israel bias at the U.N. Proponents insist that companies must be held accountable for their activities in the settlements, arguing that those actions can contribute to injustices against Palestinians.

The governments of both Israel and the United States criticized the U.N. effort.

The 16-page report, which does not cite companies by name, said the rights office still has work to do. The office said it had contacted 64 companies, but it would not identify any until all 206 companies had been contacted — and possibly not at all. Of those companies, 143 are based in Israel or the settlements and 22 in the United States. Of the 19 other countries linked to such companies, Germany is home to seven and the Netherlands to five.

Ultimately, the rights office’s review could lead to a public naming and shaming of companies for their activities linked to the settlements and give an U.N. imprimatur to efforts championed by the “BDS” movement (boycott, divest and sanction), which has been pri-

marily a grassroots campaign to pressure Israel through action against companies.

“The violations of human rights associated with the settlements are pervasive and devastating, reaching every facet of Palestinian life,” the report said, citing restrictions on movement, freedom of religion, education and land ownership faced by Palestinians in east Jerusalem and the West Bank. “Businesses play a central role in furthering the establishment, maintenance and expansion of Israeli settlements.”

“Business enterprises may need to consider whether it is possible to engage in such an environment in a manner that respects human rights,” it said.

Some 115 other companies were eliminated after an initial review. Israel and the United States have been sharply critical of a resolution passed by the 47-member Human Rights Council in March 2016 that paved the way for the review — the first of its kind. The resolution called on the rights office to create “database” of companies found to engage in any of 10 activities, either explicitly linked to the settlements or supportive of them.

“I urge all sides to avoid misrepresenting the contents of this report, which has been produced in good faith on the basis of the mandate laid down by the Human Rights Council,” said Zeid Ra’ad al-Husseini, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. He said he hopes the database “will assist states and businesses.

Minorities hear division in Trump call for unity



President Donald Trump deliver his State of the Union address to a joint session of U.S. Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018. (Jim Bourg/Pool via AP)

President Donald Trump’s call for American unity in his first State of the Union address struck an us-versus-them tone for many minorities, raising questions as to what extent Americans are put off by a leader who continually draws criticism as bigoted and xenophobic.

For many people of color, Trump’s address before Congress on Tuesday night hardly reflected a shift in his ideology or his bruising style of governance. To them, the president simply softened what he’s been saying all along, particularly when it comes to immigration, and sought to add a veneer of tolerance by using the stories of people of color to illustrate his points.

“After more than a year of toxic policies and attacks on marginalized communities, the time for hoping Trump might change is long over,” said Color of Change Executive Director Rashad Robinson. “Behaving like an adult for one speech doesn’t change those facts.”

In taking credit for a drop in black unemployment, Trump showcased a black welder’s journey from unemployment to a meaningful career. At one point, he reiterated his disgust for NFL players’ national anthem protests against systemic racism by praising a 12-year-old white boy’s act of patriotism. And he conflated immigration with urban gun violence by highlighting two Long Island families who were victimized by gang members who were in the country illegally.

The result was a rhetorical throwback to mean-spirited race baiting of the past, said Brookings Institute research fellow Andre Perry.

“You replace ‘immigrant’ with ‘black person,’ and you’re

talking 1950s rhetoric,” Perry said. “If you’re a person of color, it wasn’t a dog whistle — it was a direct attack. It wasn’t that long ago that blacks and women were not full citizens, but we were members of society denied rights under the law.”

While some praised Trump for staying on message and striking a more presidential tone, others pointed out that his tone contradicted his actions.

“President Trump can pause his Twitter habits long enough to deliver a prepared speech to a national TV audience, but isn’t doing anything real to bring us together or improve the lives of everyday Americans,” Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey said in a statement.

Reps. John Lewis of Georgia, Maxine Waters of California and Al Green of Texas — all Democrats who have criticized Trump — decided to skip the speech entirely.

“I’m part of those who decided that we would protest outside as a matter of principle to say to the president, ‘We disapprove of what you’re doing,’” Green said Tuesday night.

Others wore black to show their displeasure, and several wore sashes or ties made of African Kente cloth, a nod to the president’s reference to African nations as “shithole countries.” Some wore buttons bearing the name of Recy Taylor, a black Alabama woman gang raped by white men during the Jim Crow era; she died in late December at age 97.

“There was nothing to clap for, nothing to be happy about, nothing to smile about and nothing to be applauding about,” said Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, a New Jersey Democrat who ordered the Recy Taylor buttons. “He takes credit for things he has no right to take credit for. He really did

not speak to how racist he’s been or xenophobic he’s been or sexist he’s been, so he really didn’t speak to the things that I expected him to or would want him to have addressed.”

As Trump touted the low black unemployment rate, several black members of Congress sat stone-faced amid cheers from their Republican colleagues.

The speech, historically a list of priorities for presidents, was also about what Trump didn’t say. There was scant reference to hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, no mention of the racial violence that erupted last summer in Charlottesville, Virginia, nor of the evolving #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

The president has denied that he is a racist. However, soon after his inauguration, he signed an executive order banning people from several Muslim countries from coming to America, prompting protests nationwide. To kickoff Black History Month last February, he clumsily referenced 19th-century abolitionist Frederick Douglass as if he were still alive. He defended white supremacists after they rallied in Charlottesville, blaming “both sides” for deadly violence there. And he has repeatedly labeled immigrants as criminal and targeted so-called sanctuary cities who refuse to aid federal law enforcement.

Such actions, Perry said, can’t be covered by “platitudes of American togetherness that mask rabid, structural racism and really doesn’t include black people, Latinos, immigrants and others.”

“It’s outrageous that people aren’t seeing the hypocrisy,” Perry added.

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[l-r] Local Homeland Security Department director Samana Semo Ve'ave'a, Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson, and Hawaiian Airlines local station manager Tuli Fruean testifying yesterday in a Senate hearing on the Certificate of Identity and the federal REAL ID Act, involving territory-issued driver's licenses. [photo: FS]

AP confirms 5 previously unreported Myanmar mass graves

BALUKHALI REFUGEE CAMP, Bangladesh (AP) — The faces of the men half-buried in the mass graves had been burned away by acid or blasted by bullets. Noor Kadir finally recognized his friends only by the colors of their shorts.

Kadir and 14 others, all Rohingya Muslims in the Myanmar village of Gu Dar Pyin, had been choosing players for the soccer-like game of chin-lone when the gunfire began. They scattered from what sounded like hard rain on a tin roof. By the time the Myanmar military stopped shooting, only Kadir and two teammates were left alive.

Days later, Kadir found six of his friends among the bodies in two graves. They are among more than five mass graves, all previously unreported, that have been confirmed by The Associated Press through multiple interviews with more than two dozen survivors in Bangladesh refugee camps and through time-stamped cellphone videos. The Myanmar government regularly claims such massacres of the Rohingya never happened, and has acknowledged only one mass grave containing 10 "terrorists" in the village of Inn Din. However, the AP's reporting shows a systematic slaughter of Rohingya Muslim civilians by the military, with help from Buddhist neighbors — and suggests the presence of many more graves with many more people.

"It was a mixed-up jumble of corpses piled on top of each other," said Kadir, a 24-year-old firewood collector. "I felt such sorrow for them."

The graves are the newest piece of evidence for what looks increasingly like a genocide in Myanmar's western Rakhine

state against the Rohingya, a long-persecuted ethnic Muslim minority in the predominantly Buddhist country. Repeated calls to Myanmar's military communications office went unanswered Wednesday and Thursday. Htun Naing, a local security police officer in Buthidaung township, where the village is located, said he "hasn't heard of such mass graves."

Myanmar has cut off access to Gu Dar Pyin, so it's unclear just how many people died, but satellite images obtained by the AP from DigitalGlobe, along with video of homes reduced to ash, reveal a village that has been decimated. Community leaders in the refugee camps have compiled a list of 75 dead so far, and villagers estimate the toll could be as high as 400, based on testimony from relatives and the bodies they've seen in the graves and strewn about the area. A large number of the survivors carry scars from bullet wounds, including a 3-year-old boy and his grandmother.

Almost every villager interviewed by the AP saw three large mass graves at Gu Dar Pyin's northern entrance, near the main road, where witnesses say soldiers herded and killed most of the Rohingya. A handful of witnesses confirmed two other big graves near a hillside cemetery, not too far away from a school where more than 100 soldiers were stationed after the massacre. Villagers also saw other, smaller graves scattered around the village.

In the videos of the graves obtained by the AP, dating to 13 days after the killing began, blue-green puddles of acid sludge surround corpses without heads and torsos that jut into the air.



AMERICAN SAMOA
POWER AUTHORITY

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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST	Posting Date	January 30, 2018
Department	Procurement	Deadline	February 12, 2018, 4:00 pm
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$14.06/hr - \$15.38/h4
Position Type	Career Service (12 months probation)	Job Grade/Status	H/5/B-H/7/B, Non-Exempt
Reports To	Procurement Supervisor		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The Procurement Specialist is responsible for managing, administering, and maintaining contracts for ASPA. This position is responsible for assuring compliance with ASPA Contract Policy, drafting initial agreements as needed, reviewing and processing contracts from draft to final agreement, and maintaining a centralized contract database. The Procurement Specialist is also responsible for resolving any existing contract conflicts, serving as a liaison between internal and external parties during contract development and negotiation stages, performing legal research, and reviewing and making recommendations on outside contracts proposed to be entered into by ASPA. This position is also responsible for:

- Managing vendor relationships and overseeing order placement (including raw materials).
- Tracking overall spending and improving bidding processes.
- Performing price negotiations, purchase order creations, order tracking and management, and price dispute resolutions.
- Finding quality goods or services at an acceptable price that meets ASPA's needs.
- Soliciting bids to procure a variety of required goods and services.
- Assisting with contract termination procedures.
- Performing basic analyses for firm fixed-price or similar contracts.
- Participating as a team member on an acquisition management review team or on an equivalent assignment.
- Conducting basic procurement procedures and techniques; performing commonly used contract methods and types related to pre-award, post-award and/or price/cost analysis functions to perform well-defined and precedent contract actions.
- Analyzing business practices and market conditions to evaluate bid responsiveness, contractor responsibility, and contractor performance.
- Presenting factual information; composing memoranda, minutes, and reports; drafting contract provisions and supporting documents.
- Soliciting sources of supply and analyzing prices, discount rates, delivery dates, transportation charges, previous performance, commitments and indications of financial responsibility, and recommending the most advantageous offer.
- Assigning work in terms of objectives, priorities and deadlines and providing additional assistance with new or unusual assignments.
- Planning and carrying out recurring work using established procedures, conferring with the supervisor or higher-level specialists as necessary on technical problems.
- Reviewing purchase orders, contracts, change orders, addendums etc. for accuracy and for compliance with the ASPA procurement rules.
- Renewing, preparing, authorizing, and/or recommending contract extensions, approving and verifying invoices and contract pay applications to be paid.
- Analyzing and maintaining up-to-date knowledge of market trends, pricing availability, capacity, technology and supplier capability relative to products and parts.

Minimum Requirements

Education	Bachelor's degree preferred and/or paralegal certification by diploma from accredited institution.
Experience	Three to five years experience in contract draft, review and/or administration is preferred. Additional experience including legal research with a focus on corporate and contract work is a plus.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be proficient in Windows and MS Office Programs, including Word, Excel and Access. • Must be detail oriented, organized, have an ability to work independently and to multi-task • Must possess knowledge of organizational documents and have ability to perform legal research. • Must be personable, responsive, able to interact with attorneys and work with various other people in the Network including Senior Leaders, Department Directors and Administrators, as well as third parties.

Qualified applicants: Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA (address listed above) by the deadline. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on employment drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary.

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Meet A Spelling Champ!

The student at the right will represent Alataua II Elem. School in the American Samoa Spelling Bee to be held March 07, 2018. The winner of that Bee will represent American Samoa in the 90th annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held in Washington, D.C.



BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?
Uaealesi Satui
What is your school name?
Alataua Lua Elementary School
What grade are you in?
Grade 7
Who is your English Teacher?
Rosaline Aitui
Who are your parents?
Le'a & Fa'alolo Satui
What village are you from?
Se'etaga
What was your winning word?
PFEFFERNUSS

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.

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Pope's briefing system under scrutiny after Chile gaffe

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Just how well informed is Pope Francis about the goings-on in his 1.2-billion strong Catholic Church?

That question is making the rounds after the pope seemed completely unaware of the details of a Chilean sex abuse scandal, a failing that soured his recent trip there and forced him to do an about-face. It also came up after his abrupt, no-explanation dismissal of a respected Vatican bank manager.

And it rose to the fore when he was accused by a cardinal of not realizing that his own diplomats were "selling out" the underground Catholic Church in China for the sake of political expediency. Some Vatican observers now wonder if Francis is getting enough of the high-quality briefings one needs to be a world leader, or whether Francis is relying more on his own instincts and informants who slip him unofficial information on the side.

In his five years as pope, Francis has created an informal, parallel information structure that often rubs up against official Vatican channels. That includes a papal kitchen cabinet of nine cardinal advisers who meet every three months at the Vatican and have the pope's ear, plus the regular briefings he receives from top Vatican brass.

The Vatican this week issued a remarkable defense of Francis' information flow and his grasp of the delicate China dossier. The Holy See press office insisted that Francis followed the China negotiations closely, was being "faithfully" briefed by his advisers and was in complete agreement with his secretary of state on the topic.

"It is therefore surprising and regrettable that the contrary is affirmed by people in the church, thus fostering confusion and controversy," said Vatican spokesman Greg Burke.

Francis lives at the Vatican's Santa Marta hotel rather than the Apostolic Palace, where he can more easily keep his door open at all hours, and where a network of friends, informants and advisers provide back channels of information to him.

"The problem is he's the victim of the Santa Marta syndrome," said Massimo Franco, columnist for the Italian daily Corriere della Sera. "The pope wanted to live there because he didn't want any filter from the secretary of state. But the other side of the coin is that he's condemned to receive quite casual information, and not always very accurate."

At Santa Marta, the pope sets his own agenda, makes his own phone calls and arranges his own visitors' schedule, often without the knowledge of the Vatican's protocol office. He neither watches TV nor browses the internet but reads the Rome daily Il Messaggero and a selection of press clippings for his non-Vatican news.

Some of his information arrives in person, some of it on paper, left for him in a red leather-bound folder at the Santa Marta front desk, brought upstairs by a Swiss Guard and handed over to one of the pope's two private secretaries.

Francis has two main gatekeepers, Monsignor Yoannis Lahzi Gaid, an Egyptian Copt who used to work in the Vatican's secretariat of state, and Monsignor Fabian Pedacchio, an Argentine priest who worked in the secretariat of state, and dispatched to Rome in 2007.

He also has the prefect of the papal household, Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, who arranges official audiences and decides who gets to greet the pope after his weekly Wednesday general audience.

Sometimes popes suffer when their gatekeepers fail them: Pope Benedict XVI famously lifted the excommunication of a Holocaust-denying bishop, unaware that a simple Google search would have turned up the bishop's belief that the Nazi gas chambers were a myth. But more than his immediate predecessor Benedict, Francis still relies on a close circle of friends from his days in Argentina and as a high-ranking Jesuit to give him the pulse of what's going on.

And he can be fiercely stubborn once he has made up his mind based on information that does reach him, such as his recent dismissal of the respected No. 2 at the Vatican bank, Giulio Mattiotti, who was fired without explanation at the end of the year.

In his subsequent Christmas address to the Vatican bureaucracy, Francis blasted Vatican staff who have been sidelined, saying "they wrongly declare themselves martyrs of the system, of a 'pope kept in the dark.'" But with Chile's priest sex abuse scandal, Francis was forced to admit he had not only made a mistake, but maybe he was the one in the dark.

The Vatican announced Tuesday that Francis was sending the Vatican's top sex crimes investigator to Chile to look into a bishop accused of covering up for the country's most notorious pedophile priest. Francis had staunchly defended the bishop, Juan Barros, while in Chile and his about-face came only after "recent information" had reached the Vatican, Burke said.

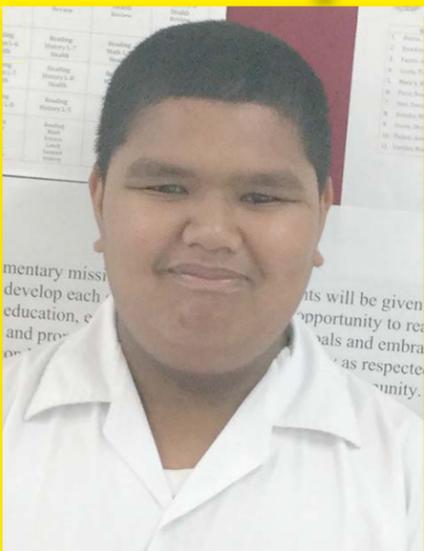
Francis seemed completely unaware that Chilean abuse victims of the Rev. Fernando Karadima had for years said that Barros knew of Karadima's perversions, had even witnessed them, and did nothing. One survivor, Juan Carlos Cruz, even testified to Chilean prosecutors.

But apparently that information never reached the pope — and that led to one of the greatest gaffes of Francis' five-year papacy.



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BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?
Troy Leota
What is your school name?
Le'atele Elementary School
What grade are you in?
Grade 7
Who is your English Teacher?
Epati Lili'o
Who are your parents?
Ethel Sokimi & Fa'asua Sokimi
What village are you from?
Fagasa
What was your winning word?
INCREDULOUS

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.

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