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**Strong opening weekend on Twitter and FanDuel for WNBA**  
Sports

**LOLO: O le galuega a le Leoleo e fa'avae i le Alofa ma le Aganu'u**  
Le Lali



Tafuna High School JROTC group, who competed in the 8th Annual ROTC Brigade and took first place for the LET I division of the 8th Annual Academic Challenge. See story inside. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TAFUNA HIGH SCHOOL JROTC GROUP!  
[photo: Tafuna JROTC staff]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

TUESDAY, MAY 16 2017

\$1.00

## Majority of public comments oppose re-designation of marine monuments

7,000+ PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ONLINE SINCE LAST WEEK FRIDAY

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

There are already many public comments opposing any move by the federal government to remove previous presidential designation of the five marine monuments in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, such as the Rose Atoll in American Samoa.

"Rose Atoll must be protected as an uninhabited wildlife refuge, as it is home to an immense fish population, is a critical nesting site for two species of threatened turtles, and is home to a vast majority of the seabird population of American Samoa," wrote one commenter, who was not identified by name, on comments filed online. "Rose Atoll is also the site of the last remaining Pisonia forest in Samoa."

Also been reviewed by the US Interior Department is the Pacific Remote Islands Marine Monument (PRIMM) in the Pacific Ocean. Restrictions on PRIMM have been criticized by the US fleet, which argued that this has been traditional fishing grounds for many years.

However, the comment on the Rose Atoll argued that PRIMM is "one of the most remarkable areas in the Pacific Ocean and home to a number of unique species found nowhere else."

US President Donald J. Trump issued an executive order on Apr. 26 directing the Interior Secretary to review land and marine monuments throughout the US and its territories that were

(Continued on page 3)

## Last Am Samoan cadets graduate from Wentworth Military Academy

THE ACADEMY CLOSES ITS DOORS AFTER 137 YEARS OF SERVICE



The 7 cadets of Wentworth Military Academy from American Samoa who graduated last Saturday. It was the school's final graduation, school officials announced last month they were shutting down after 137 years of service. Congratulations soldiers and best wishes on your next success!  
[photo courtesy]

By Leiloa Ese Malala  
Samoa News Staff Writer

Last weekend seven of our American Samoan cadets graduated from one of the well-known military academies in the states — Wentworth Military Academy. Sadly, they are in the last class to graduate from this school, which has been around for

137 years.

Last month officials announced that Wentworth was shutting down through the news media; and the news went out to those cadets from over the years to come back to see the final commencement and dress parade, to watch the flag come down one last time, and be together

with all those they had worked with during their years at the school.

Wentworth Military Academy and College was a private two-year military college and high school in Lexington, Missouri, part of the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Wentworth was one of five

(Continued on page 2)





Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga (at podium) during special remarks yesterday at the Malae o le Talu (Fagatogo malae) for the official opening of Police Week in American Samoa. On stage, at the Fagatogo Pavilion, [l-r] former police commissioner Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean, current Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson, Lt. Gov. Lemanu Pelepoi Peleti Mauga, and local Matson shipping company official Moeipologa John Pereira.

Police, fire bureau, DPS personnel and cadets with the Police Academy participated in a mini parade yesterday morning at the Fagatogo malae before the governor delivered brief remarks saying that police officers are responsible for protecting the safety and welfare of the community. And that such responsibility should ensure that the public and the overall community places the trust on police officers.

Lolo called on the community to stand together with police officers in support of police work. He also called on the community to take time out to thank police officers — men and women in uniform — for their hard work.

The governor then called on police officers to do their work with love and honesty as well as making sure that respect is always shown towards the public. He said American Samoa joins the United States and its territories in honoring the hard working men and women in police forces across the country.

“The job you are faced with today is the protection of the freedom of the community and to ensure they are safe,” Lolo told the gathering, adding that the US Constitution guarantees the freedom of people in every community.

Last week US President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation which proclaims May 15th as Peace Officers Day, honoring the men and women who died last year in the line of duty. Last year, 118 officers died in the line of duty, and of those, 66 were victims of malicious attacks, according to the president.

In American Samoa, there was no police officers lives lost last year.

In the same proclamation, the president declared May 14- 20 as Police Week in states and territories. “Police officers are the thin blue line whose sacrifices protect and serve us every day, and we pledge to support them as they risk their lives to safeguard ours,” Trump said.

Among local activities for Police Week in the territory, is the two-day of booths set up at Fagatogo malae, starting today. The booths will showcase the different divisions of Public Safety Department and the work they are involved in — such as fire bureau, police service and traffic.

On Thursday, at Su’igaula o le Atuvasa Park at Utulei Beach is “family day” and on Friday at 6p.m. is the Police Ball at the Tradewinds Hotel (instead of the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium).

[photo: AF]



FAGAITUA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Saturday, May 27, 2017

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## ► Last Am Samoan cadets...

Continued from page 1

military junior colleges in the United States.

A mother of one the graduating cadets, Leilani Tuamoheloa Tilo said to Samoa News, “When I received an email from the school that my son’s school was closing down I was so surprised, and it is too bad — this is such a good school because it has disciplined these kids and has shaped them to become better and focused in life.”

According to cadet Nathan Tuamoheloa, they were told that the school has struggled financially for some time and finally it was decided it was time to close down.

“After 137 corps of cadets, I am proud to be part of the final 2. It saddens me because not only all faculty and staff members lose their jobs but the first year cadets have to look for new opportunities to further their education or commission as a 2nd Lieutenant,” he said.

He added, “I will continue to share this great experience with others who may never get

to experience how great this school was in my life. Great memories and friends were definitely made here.”

The graduates from American Samoa are 5 boys and 2 girls, Schey-Xyong McMoore, Onosa’I Pule, Iafeta Vou, Kealoha Schuster, Valerie Pu’a, Lina Kava and Nathaniel Tu’amoheloa.

A fellow cadet, Anthony Collazo, who graduated with our Samoan soldiers said, “I will miss this school because this is where I experienced one of the best cultures in the world, American Samoa. These guys can make anyone feel like family and I feel blessed just knowing these are my friends and what I consider my brothers.”

Wentworth college officials said in a news release last month that remaining students are being helped to find another school to attend to complete their education, and military requirements.



# THS JROTC cadets take first in LET I division of 8th Annual Academic Challenge

by Samoa News staff

Education director Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga has congratulated Tafuna High School JROTC cadets who competed in the recent 8th Annual Academic Challenge and took first place for the LET I division.

There were 46 teams from across the nation, Asia and territories that competed in the Academic Challenge, according to a DOE statement yesterday morning.

Tafuna High School cadets competed against their counterparts from Washington, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Hawai'i, Guam, Korea, Japan and American Samoa.

The Warrior Battalion send

two teams of 4 cadets — Let I, Let II-IV. The academic challenge answer question relating to college entrance material (SAT, ACT) current events and JROTC curriculum — 50 questions total and answered within an allotted timed.

In the Academic Challenge, Tafuna High School JROTC LET I Team won first place, Yerba Buena High School from California took second place and third place went to Oakhill High School, also from California.

The participating cadets from Tafuna High School were Maj Emla solaita; 2LT Vini Sipili, SGT Akenese Saleutogi, SGT Kuki Isek, SGT Logoai and CPL Fepulea'i Jada. According

to their instructors SFC Solaita and MSG Bryant these students sacrificed their lunch breaks, weekends and after school studying for the competition.

SFC Solaita and MSG Bryant also want to recognize the support of Tafuna High School Principal Beauty Tuiasosopo, THS Vice Principals, Teachers and Math Instructor Jordanna Maga for their support.

Matagi-Tofiga, congratulates the Warrior Battalion for accomplishing this feat, great recognition for the JROTC program and American Samoa. The director challenged the whole High School JROTC Program to step up, take charge and maintain the level of academic success.

## Majority of public comments oppose ...

Continued from page 1

designated by previous presidents going back to 1996.

In a separate executive order on Apr. 28, 2017, titled "Implementing An America-First Offshore Energy Strategy", it directs the US Commerce Department to lead the review of Marine National Monuments in consultation with the Interior Secretary.

"Implementing An America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" executive order encourages energy exploration and production, including on the Outer Continental Shelf, in order to maintain the Nation's position as a global energy leader and foster energy security and resilience for the benefit of the American people, while ensuring that any such activity is safe and environmentally responsible.

Early this month, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the opening of the first ever-formal public comment period for review of 22 land monument and 5 marine monuments including Rose Atoll and PRIMM.

The comment period official opened May 12th on federal portal [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) until July this year.

As of yesterday morning more than 7,000 public comments have been submitted online, with a vast majority of them voicing their opposition to the re-designation of both

land and marine monuments.

About 10 comments specifically mentioned PRIMM and Rose Atoll including another commenter, who identified herself as "Joan Hearing", who stated that she has been visiting America's national monuments beginning as a child in the 1950's.

"In particular I have a concern regarding Rose Atoll, American Samoa. America can no longer foul the waters of this planet's oceans seeking short term gain," Hearing says. "The thought of having even part of any of these monuments destroyed in order to extract minerals, oil, gas, timber, etc. shows short sighted greed of those who would suggest this idea."

"Americans must leave our fossil fuel dependent lifestyle behind, instead embracing renewable energy sources, which currently are employing many more people than oil and gas, without polluting our world and leaving it capable of sustaining life," she says.

Other commenters urge Zinke to keep not only the land monuments but the marine monuments as they are right now.

"Our marine monuments must be protected for future generations of scientists, tourists, and others. An America-First energy strategy should be focused in the renew-

able energy sector instead of threatening the most awesome natural areas our world has to offer," said another commenter.

### IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A COMMENT — CLOSES IN JULY 2017

Comments may be submitted online at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering "DOI-2017-0002" in the Search bar and clicking "Search," or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Major | AGES 11 - 13  
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PLACE: Old ASNOC Building  
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**For Registration and More Information**

Louis Solaita	733-1317	Sana M. S.	733-4212
Nick King	258-7233	Tuna Mae	733-7907

email [americansamoasoftball@gmail.com](mailto:americansamoasoftball@gmail.com) or follow American Samoa Softball Association on Facebook for updates.



Mrs. Elinor Lutu-McMoore (center), an ASCC alumnus who is currently Acting Meteorologist-In-Charge with the National Weather Service, will give the keynote address at the 66th ASCC Commencement Ceremony, which takes place this Friday, May 19th. She is a proud graduate of ASCC who stood at ASCC 20 years ago as the Valedictorian of the College's first fall graduating class in 1997. Commencement is set for this Friday, May 19 at 10 a.m. at the Gymnasium. [Courtesy Photo]

# National Weather Service Meteorologist to give ASCC Commencement Speech

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will hold its 66th Commencement Ceremony this Friday, May 19, beginning at 10 a.m. in the College's Gymnasium. As always, the ASCC Student Services Division has invited a distinguished member of the community to give a keynote speech sure to inspire the young men and women who have completed their degrees and certificates in the spring of 2017. This semester's keynote speaker is a proud graduate of ASCC, who stood there 20 years ago as the Valedictorian of the College's first fall graduating class in 1997.

Born and raised in American Samoa, Elinor Matuaifaleese Lutu-McMoore is the daughter of High Chief Afoa Leulumoega Lutu and Etenauga Lam Yuen-Lutu.

Presently, Elinor serves as Acting Meteorologist-In-Charge (MIC) with the National Weather Service office in American Samoa, where she began as a Meteorological Technician in 2005. Elinor attended elementary school at Iakina Seventh Day Adventist Elementary, and graduated in 1996 from Samoana High School. Immediately after graduation, she enrolled in ASCC at age 16, where she joined the Student Government Association, and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. After ASCC, Elinor attained her first Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego, and then served as an intern for the late Congressional Delegate of American Samoa, Faleomavaega Eni Fa'auaa Hunkin.

While working at the weather station, in 2008 Elinor received an opportunity to become a Meteorologist, but only if she completed a four-year program in two years. Motivated by

the need for Samoan meteorologists and by the National Weather Station's mission of saving lives and property, Elinor accepted the offer and attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

She received her Bachelor's degree in Meteorology in 2010 and was chosen as the student speaker for the commencement ceremony, alongside former President Obama's sister, Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, the keynote speaker. A Proclamation signed by former mayor of Honolulu, Mr. Muliufi Hanneman, was given to Elinor for being the first Samoan in the history of the state's university to earn a degree in Meteorology. In December of 2012, she obtained her Master of Public Administration degree, also from UH Manoa, graduating with honors and as a member of the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration - Pi Alpha Alpha.

Elinor and her husband David McMoore have four children — Byron, Darius, Daniel and Kireina-Netanayah. Aside from her many family and village obligations, she loves to spend time with her family and children, immersing them in the Samoan culture and teaching those important values and beliefs that were ingrained in her. She credits God, her Samoan culture, the support of her family and everyone she has met in her life for all of her accomplishments.

"Elinor represents a fine example of the diversity of talents among our local youth," said ASCC Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i. "Her accomplishments should be of particular interest to our students with an interest in entering the science professions, and we look forward to her joining us for this special occasion." For more information on the 66th ASCC Commencement Ceremony, contact the Division of Student Services at 699-9155, ext. 376.



## RUGBY UNION AGM NOTICE

THE ASRU WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND ELECTIONS ON JUNE 15, 2017, AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION. DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

- DATE:** THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017  
**TIME:** 12:30PM to 2:00PM  
**PLACE:** FAMOUS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT  
**DIRECTIONS:** BEHIND TRIPLE "S" SERVICE STATION AT THE FAGAIMA 'ROUNDABOUT'  
**DETAILS:** A DETAILED NOTICE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON OR BEFORE MAY 15, 2017 OR YOU CAN OBTAIN A COPY FROM THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

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**Email: moli.falefata@doc.as**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:**  
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Police officers stand at attention, at the start of the official opening yesterday morning at the Fagatogo malae — Malae o le Talu — of Police Week in American Samoa. Last week US President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation which proclaims May 15th as Peace Officers Day, honoring those who died in the line of duty last year. [photo: AF]



# AMERICAN SAMOA SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

## WEEK #38 - MAY 15TH - 19TH, 2017



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LUNCH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Grain Meat Fruit /Veggie Milk Extra Condiments	Brown & White Rice Teriyaki Meatballs  Grapes Steamed Mixed Vegetables 1% Low Fat Milk	Brown & White Rice Loco Moco  Ripe Banana Cucumber Salad 1% Low Fat Milk	+Baked Wheat Bun Turkey Ham Sandwich Papaya Steamed Green Beans (can) 1% Low Fat Milk Mayo	Brown & White Rice Teriyaki Meatballs Grapes Banana 1% Low Fat Milk	+Bake Wheat Bun Cheese Hamburger Orange Steamed Mixed Vegetables 1% Low Fat Milk Mayo



Senior police officers, who lead the mini parade yesterday morning at the Fagatogo malae — Malae o le Talu — to officially open Police Week in American Samoa. [photo: AF]

Translated by Samoa News staff  
**TITIFALAU SIAUMAU**

⊗ An employee of the Customs Office accused of importing marijuana, with a street value of \$20,000, was arraigned last Friday in High Court after his case was bound over from District Court on Wednesday.

Titifalau Siaumau, who is out on bail, is faced with one count each of import of a controlled substance — marijuana and conspiracy to distribute controlled substance, marijuana.

During his arraignment hearing, the defendant, through



# COURT REPORT...

his attorney Sharron Rancourt, entered a not guilty plea and the court has since scheduled a pre trial conference hearing for July 14th this year and trial is set for Oct. 1, 2018. (Since late last year, it has been the new practice with the court to schedule a trial in advance on the calendar and cancel it later if both sides reach a plea.)

Rancourt requested the court for an order directing the government to provide as early as possible all discoveries in this case so the defense can start reviewing all evidence. The defense is concerned with the government waiting until the last minute to submit discovery, including the police report.

Chief Justice Michael Kruse sought a response from the government regarding Rancourt's request and concern, to which assistant attorney general Gerald Murphy said he will do his best to get the police report and other discovery to the defense as early as possible.

However, Kruse responded that the prosecutor doing his best is not good enough. The CJ said it's important that police provide their report as soon as possible and give it to the defense. He also told the prosecutor to remind police that there will be a time when the court no longer has patience in waiting for police reports.

(There have been several past criminal cases where defense complained to the court about still waiting for a police report and/or all discoveries in a case.)

The felony charges against Siaumau stem from an incident on the evening of Mar. 27th this year, when a package arrived unaccompanied on the Hawaiian Airlines flight and the package contained a speaker, which allegedly had about 5 pounds of marijuana hidden inside it, with the government claiming a street value of \$20,000.

The package was not addressed to Siaumau, who had allegedly sought out the help of CSL Cargo employee Felix Penerosa, whose name was on the package. Penerosa alleges that he used his name after agreeing to a request by the defendant. (See Samoa News edition May 12th for details).

## MALIEO MAUI

The High Court last Friday sentenced 24-year-old Malieo Maui to 12 months in the Territorial Correctional Facility after amending his convicting in 2013.

During the probation hearing, the defendant apologized to the court before sentencing was handed down. Maui sought leniency that would allow him to remain out of jail to find a job to care for his family. He also asked the court for forgiveness.

Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea read in court the defendant's record. For example, in 2013, the defendant was convicted in High Court for second-degree burglary and was sentenced to 5 years probation under several conditions, which includes that he serves 20 months imprisonment.

However, the court waived 12 months and the defendant served 8 months behind bars, giving the defendant a chance for release from jail early. He was also warned that any violation of his probation would send him back to jail.

However, in 2015 during the probation period after serving the 8-month jail term, one of the defendant's random drug tests

came back positive for marijuana. And this is a clear violation of the many provisions of the defendant's 5-year probation, according to the court.

Early this year, the defendant was charged in District Court with misdemeanor public peace disturbance and the crime prompted the Probation Office to file a motion seeking to revoke probation after the defendant was later convicted by the District Court on the PPD charge.

At last Friday's hearing, Maui's attorney, assistant public defender Michael White argued that his client had complied with many provisions of his probation except for provision which called that he does not commit any crime.

However, Patea said the court does not understand as to why it's difficult for the defendant to comply with "not to commit any crime" during probation period.

White and assistant attorney general Gerald Murphy were in agreement in seeking a probative sentence, which would allow the defendant out of jail to find a job to care for himself and his family.

In the end the court decided not to hand down a sentence on the defendant's probation violation but instead amended Maui's 2013 sentence in which he serves out the remaining 12 months in jail that was waived at the time.

During the hearing, Patea was assisted on the bench by Chief Associate Judge Mamea Jr. Jr. and Associate Judge Muasau T. Tofili.

(Original Samoan stories were in yesterday's Lali section of Samoa News)



## SIGHT N SOUND

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# IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Evaga)



Rep. Gary Alejano gestures as he tries to defend the impeachment complaint he filed against Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during a Justice Committee hearing at the House of Representatives in metropolitan Manila, Philippines on Monday, May 15, 2017. Philippine lawmakers have killed the impeachment complaint accusing President Rodrigo Duterte of crimes against humanity for the thousands of people who have died in his anti-drug crackdown. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



## ‘This is a democracy’: Int’l court may be next for Duterte

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged Tuesday that allegations he induced extrajudicial killings in his war on drugs could be raised to the International Criminal Court after an impeachment case failed in the House of Representatives.

“Yeah, he can go ahead. He is free to do it. This is a democracy,” Duterte said in reaction to a lawmaker saying he was considering bringing a case against the Philippine leader to the court in The Hague, Netherlands.

The impeachment complaint killed by a House committee Monday accused Duterte of multiple murders and crimes against humanity for adopting a state policy of inducing police and vigilantes into killing more than 8,000 suspected drug users and dealers outside the rule of law. The complaint also accused him of corruption, unexplained wealth, and taking a “defeatist stand” against China’s in the territorial row in the South China Sea.

“It is true that there are deaths — is there a drug war where no one is killed?” Duterte said. “But not in the character and kind that I was dished out, including ordering the killing of a child.”

The dismissal of Rep. Gary Alejano’s complaint was widely expected since the House is dominated by Duterte allies. But the president’s critics hope the procedure could bolster a lawsuit filed against him by a Filipino lawyer before the ICC for alleged extrajudicial killings by

showing that domestic efforts to stop Duterte have failed.

The dismissal of the complaint, filed in March, bars any new impeachment case against Duterte until next March.

Since taking office in June, Duterte’s war on drugs has killed 7,000 to 9,000 suspected drug dealers and addicts, according to human rights groups. The government refutes that, releasing data on May 2 showing nearly 4,600 people have been killed in police anti-drug operations and homicides found to be drug-related.

During Monday’s hearing, Rep. Rodolfo Farinas, the majority floor leader, asked Alejano repeatedly if he had personal knowledge of allegations he made in his complaint.

Alejano said he had no personal knowledge as a witness, but that he had personal knowledge as a complainant based on official records, affidavits of witnesses and Duterte’s public pronouncements. Several lawmakers pointed to that distinction to say Alejano’s allegations were hearsay.

Forty-two of 49 committee members then voted to declare the complaint insufficient in substance.

A frustrated Alejano told reporters that he’ll discuss with his colleagues from the Magdalo party whether they should file their own complaint before the ICC.

He said it was clear that the impeachment procedure “was railroaded” and that the House “is not independent.”





# FA'AFETAI TELE LAVA THANK YOU

The 117th Flag Day Anniversary Week-long Celebration “Tupulaga mo a Taeao” was an overwhelming SUCCESS because of YOU, Amerika Samoa! Your participation, support and unselfish giving is a testimonial to the success and spirit of community oneness in supporting our “Youth For The Future”. On behalf of the Honorable Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga, the Office of Local Government, the 2017 Flag Day Event & Activities, (Cabinet, Public & Private Sectors) Committee, it is with a humble heart that we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to ALL in our community that generously donated (monetary & in-kind), participated and supported in various ways in response to our request for community partnership assistance. Words are insufficient to express our Fa’afetai, Fa’afetai, Fa’afetai Tele Lava... Our prayer is that, May Our Heavenly Father Bless you TENFOLD in return for your contribution and generosity.

**Fa’afetai, Fa’afetai, Fa’afetai Amerika Samoa – O lau pule lea mo le fa’amanuiaga o le 117 tausaga le Mafutaga Mafana a Tutuila ma Manu’a ma le Malo Tele o le Iunaite Sitete o Amerika.**

Respectfully,

**Honorable Lemanu P. Mauga**  
Lt. Governor – American Samoa  
Co-Chairman / 2017 Flag Day Committee

**Afioga Ma’oputasi Mauga T. Asuega**  
Secretary of Samoan Affairs  
Co-Chairman / 2017 Flag Day Committee

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# Epati H. Malauulu files appeal on drug conviction

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

A Samoan man, described by federal prosecutors as a “career drug dealer”, who was sentenced late last month at the federal court in Sacramento, California for a drug conviction, has filed notice to appeal his conviction and sentence.

The 42-year old Epati Herbert Malauulu of Suisun City, California was sentenced Apr. 26th to serve 240 months — or 20 years — in prison after he pled guilty early this year to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute at least 500 grams of methamphetamine, according to his plea agreement and court records, which shows that the defendant has been in federal custody since his arrest in 2015.

According to court documents, Malauulu, who was initially faced with eleven counts, operated a methamphetamine distribution business that purchased “high quality crystal methamphetamine” in Northern California and distributed it in Hawai’i where it sold at a large profit. Between August 2014 and June 2015, Malauulu was responsible for mailing over 15 pounds of methamphetamine to Oahu. (See Samoa News edition May 1, 2017 for details.)

Last week Thursday, Malauulu’s defense team filed a one-page notice, saying that the conviction and sentence imposed by the lower court on Apr. 26th will be appealed to the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco.

No indication as to when the defense will file the official appeal documents with the appeals court.

On May 2nd, the Sacramento federal court released via federal electronic records the court’s “sentencing statement of reasons” regarding Malauulu, whom federal prosecutors argued had a drug criminal record going back to 1992.

In the statement, the court says it accepted the parties’ agreement to downward sentence for the defendant, whose defendant had sought 13 months jail term, including time served, in light of the sentencing factors applicable to Malauulu.

Those factors include that the defendant:

- has a significant criminal history reflecting his career of involvement in dealing controlled substances;
- the amount of highly addictive crystal methamphetamine for which he is held responsible in this case is large, with resulting negative effects on the community and public health generally;
- he played a lead role in orchestrating distribution;
- he has previously been sentenced to multi year sentences in the state criminal system, after which he continued to engage in the criminal behavior admitted at the time of his guilty plea.

The court also took into consideration, for the sentence, Malauulu’s childhood experiences of being raised in a community where he and associates were subjected to acts of violence, his significant family support and responsibilities, and his complex of health issues, noting also his self-surrender following execution of the search warrant in his case in 2015.

Newly released court information states that during sentencing, the court recommended that the defendant be incarcerated at an institution in Lompoc, California and that he be allowed to participate in the Bureau of Prisons Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

Upon release from jail, the defendant will serve 60 months of supervised release.

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In this May 7, 2017 photo, visitors to the Invest in America Summit talk with exhibitors at a hotel in Beijing. At least two dozen countries offer a new home to people willing to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in a business, real estate or government bonds. And there's no bigger market for many of them than China. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

# Chinese spent \$24B on US, other 'golden visas'

BEIJING (AP) When the sister of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner promoted investment in her family's new skyscraper from a Beijing hotel ballroom stage earlier this month, she was pitching a controversial American visa program that's proven irresistible to tens of thousands of Chinese.

More than 100,000 Chinese have poured at least \$24 billion in the last decade into "golden visa" programs across the world that offer residence in exchange for investment, an Associated Press analysis has found. Nowhere is Chinese demand greater than in the United States, which has taken in at least \$7.7 billion and issued more than 40,000 visas to Chinese investors and their families in the past decade, the AP found.

The Chinese investors flocking to these programs are people like Jenny Liu, a doctoral student in the eastern city of Nanjing, who sold her

apartment two years ago and moved in with her parents. She used the money from the sale to invest \$500,000 in a hotel project in the United States. If the project creates enough jobs in two years, she'll get a prized "green card" and a pathway for a less stressful education for her 9-year-old son.

"My son has a lot of homework to do every day, but I don't think he has learned a lot from school," Liu said. "I hope he can actually pick up some useful knowledge or skills rather than only learn how to pass tests."

The flood of investors reflects how China's rise has catapulted tens of millions of families into the middle class. But at the same time, it shows how these families are increasingly becoming restless as cities remain choked by smog, home prices multiply and schools impose ever-greater pressure on children. They also feel insecure about being able to protect

their property and savings.

Their money goes toward government bonds, businesses, mountain ski resorts, new schools and real estate projects, including a Trump-branded tower in New Jersey built by the Kushner Companies, once run by Jared Kushner, now a White House senior adviser. But the industry is murky, loosely regulated and sometimes fraud-ridden in the U.S., federal regulators have linked the EB-5 visa program to fraud cases involving more than \$1 billion in investment in the last four years.

Despite criticism from Congress, Trump signed a spending bill that included a renewal of the program through September, although federal authorities have proposed more than doubling the minimum investment. Just one day later, Kushner's sister, Nicole Meyer, was in Beijing courting Chinese for a new project funded by EB-5. That's raised complaints about conflicts of interest and new calls to revise or even end the program.

"It is a growing industry and we do need more oversight," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, an expert on the program and a professor at Cornell Law School. "EB-5, when it is done properly, can and does benefit the economy."

## THE LURE OF A GOLDEN VISA

The number of Chinese using investment migration programs worldwide tripled between 2010 and 2015, the AP found among the countries in its survey. In the last decade, Chinese have taken 75 percent of the investor visas issued by the United States, 70 percent for Portugal and 85 percent for Australia. China also remains the top recipient of investor visas in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Spain, Hungary and Malta.

To be sure, those migrating make up only a small fraction of the around 18 million households that could be considered upper-middle-class or wealthier in China, but they echo the laments of many better-educated, urban Chinese.

"Middle-class investors' choosing to leave shows that their confidence in their future, their dreams and the regime in China is fading," said Zhang Lifan, an independent political scholar in Beijing.

China's "golden visa" investors are part of a wave characterized not by poverty, persecution or war, but by people with steady jobs and homes who are pursuing happiness that's eluded them in their homeland.

After decades of economic mismanagement and political upheaval, the ruling Communist Party reversed some of its most destructive policies and unleashed a four-decade-long economic boom in the 1970s. That growth lifted 500 million people out of poverty and vaulted generations of Chinese from peasantry into relatively well-paying manufacturing or service jobs. More than 3 million households in China now have an income of more than \$34,000 a year, according to the consultancy McKinsey & Company.

Key to their spending power is China's real estate boom. Real estate prices in China's largest cities have more than tripled in the last decade, with prices in Beijing rising by an average of 25 percent a year during that time. Since late 2015 alone, Beijing's home prices have jumped 63 percent, making a 1,300 square-foot (120 square-meter) apartment worth more than \$1 million.

A family that gained ownership of an ordinary apartment more than a decade ago can now sell it for the price of a "golden visa." And as their dissatisfaction with China's problems grows, more families are choosing to do so.

Like Liu, many of about a dozen investors or prospective investors interviewed by the AP say they don't want their children to struggle in China's rigid and intensely competitive education system, which emphasizes rote learning and can stifle creativity.

Cherry Deng, the mother of a 10-year-old boy in Sichuan province, invested in a port construction project in North

Carolina through the U.S. EB-5 program. Deng, who used funds from her car dealership business, said she wants her son to learn from the American emphasis on self-reliance. Deng said she sees Chinese parents supporting their children even after they've graduated from college securing for them homes, jobs and, sometimes, even spouses.

"I don't want to take care of my children forever," Deng said. "I want them to learn how to live independently and to create wealth on their own."

Urban Chinese have also been disgusted by scandals ranging from tainted baby formula to toxic running tracks, and alarmed that even the most prosperous cities are not safe from deadly factory explosions and other man-made disasters.

Despite her success running an online clothing business in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, Peng Jie isn't confident in her future in China. She sees the prices of property and schools rising and the value of the yuan falling, and fears that success could be taken away.

"In China, we have family and friends, and daily life is convenient," Peng said. But, she added, "someone in the middle class can become poor in one second."

## WOONG CHINESE INVESTORS

China is central to the success of almost every major investment migration program in the world, so many countries are going out of their way to court Chinese investors.

Ads for investment programs pop up on Chinese cellphones and websites, full of promise and intrigue. In crowded hotel ballrooms, foreign officials with pamphlets and flashy presentations tout the same message: Start a new life in a country with better education, clean air and a stable future.

Agents selling U.S. projects to Chinese take great pains to prove their expertise on the states, the EB-5 program and perceived ties to American leaders. Some marketing materials include photos of Chinese posing with former President

(Continued on page 15)



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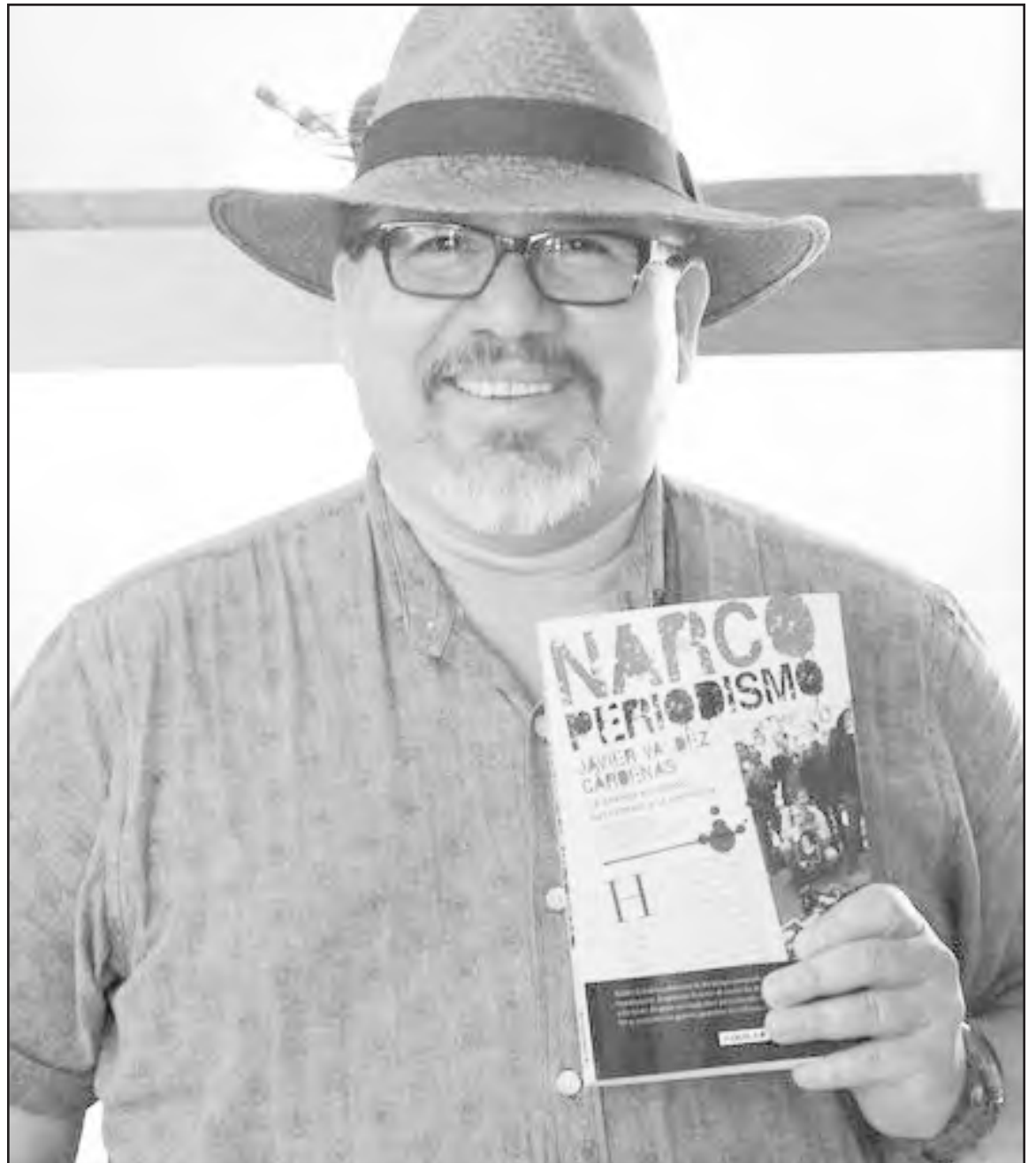
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# Journalist Javier Valdez shot to death in Mexico drug state



In this photo released by Riodoce, journalist Javier Valdez poses for a photo at an unknown location in Mexico. Valdez, a veteran reporter who specialized in covering drug trafficking and organized crime, was slain Monday, May 15 2017, in the northern Mexico state of Sinaloa, the latest in a wave of journalist killings in one of the world's most dangerous countries for media workers. A Sinaloa state government official said Valdez was shot dead in the early afternoon in the state capital, Culiacan, near the offices of the publication he co-founded, Riodoce. (Riodoce via AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Javier Valdez was driving in broad daylight down a street he must have known well, just a block from his office, when he became the latest victim of a wave of journalist killings that has hit Mexico.

Masked gunmen forced Valdez from his red Toyota Camry, shot him dead and left his body in the middle of the street Monday, said Riodoce, the publication he helped start.

The car was found later in the afternoon on a sidewalk next to an elementary school, wedged between a utility pole and a wall with the motor still running and the gears engaged.

Valdez, an award-winning reporter who specialized in covering drug trafficking and organized crime, was slain in the northern state of Sinaloa, long a hotbed of drug cartel activity.

He is at least the sixth journalist murdered in Mexico since early March, an unusually high number even for one of the world's deadliest countries for media professionals.

Reporting on Valdez's killing, Mexican media posted images showing a body lying in the street covered by a blue blanket and surrounded by 12 yellow markers of the kind typically used to flag evidence such as bullet casings. Riodoce said Valdez's laptop and cellphone were missing. Prosecutors announced they were investigating whether the killing may have been due to Valdez's work or a carjacking turned deadly. President Enrique Pena Nieto condemned what he called an "outrageous crime." Valdez, also a correspondent for the national newspaper La Jornada, was an internationally recognized journalist who authored several books on the drug trade. He was considered a rare source of independent, investigative journalism in Sinaloa, said Jan-Albert Hootson, the Mexico representative for the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

"And for that same reason, he and his magazine and his co-workers were always under threat of violence," Hootson said. According to CPJ, in 2009 unknown attackers threw a grenade into the Riodoce offices days after it published an investigation on drug trafficking. No

one was hurt. By the group's count, some 40 journalists have been killed in Mexico for reasons confirmed as related to their work since 1992. An additional 50 were slain during the same period under circumstances that have not been clarified. Journalists targeted in Mexico are most often local reporters in places where the rule of law is tenuous, but there have also been killings of journalists with national profiles such as Valdez and Regina Martinez Perez, who was slain in 2012. The recent spate of slayings includes Miroslava Breach, correspondent for La Jornada in the northern state of Chihuahua, who was gunned down in March.

Sinaloa has long been a drug trafficking center and is home to the Sinaloa Cartel headed by notorious kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who is in a New York prison awaiting trial on multiple charges. Experts say Guzman's arrest last year and extradition in January have led to upheaval in the area as rival factions war for control of the gang. "Drug trafficking there is a way of life," Valdez said in an October interview with Rompeviento TV. "You have to assume the task that falls to you as a journalist — either that or you play dumb. I don't want to be asked, 'What were you doing in the face of so much death ... why didn't you say what was going on?'"

Hootson described Valdez as a warm, friendly man, well-liked by other journalists who frequently sought his help to navigate and understand the complex, dangerous state.

"His door was always open. ... Everybody always deferred to his knowledge," Hootson said. "And in that sense, it's a huge loss for everybody."

Valdez was recognized with the International Press Freedom Award in 2011 by CPJ, which released a report this month warning that widespread impunity leaves journalists vulnerable to attacks in Mexico.

Last Wednesday, the federal Attorney General's Office replaced the head of its division responsible for investigating journalist killings. Ricardo Sanchez Perez del Pozo, a lawyer with a background in international law and human rights, took over the post.



## AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT "PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING"

ASCC Land Grant Program will be conducting a Pesticide Applicator Safety training for those who handle farm chemicals. If you are using farm pesticides, or you are planning to use chemicals in the near future, this is a good opportunity for you to attend this important training. The training schedule is as follows:

**Date:** May 22 - 26, 2017  
**Time:** 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** ASCC Land Grant Training Room

Registration is FREE. To confirm your participation for this training, please call Joyce or Helen at 699-1575/2019.

Thank You.

### FAAALIGA FA'ALAU'ITELE

#### "A'oa'oga mo i lā tou o lo'o fa'aaogā ina vailā'au o'ona"

'O le a faia se a'oa'oga mo i latou o lo'o fa'aaogā vailā'au o'ona i fa'atoaga. A fai o lo'o 'ē fa'aaogā vailā'au o'ona, po o 'ē faamoemoe fo'i e te fa'aaogā i se taimi o i luma, o lou avanoa lelei lenei e te 'auai ai i lenei a'oa'oga tāua. 'O taimi la nei mo lenei vasega:

**Aso:** Me 22 - 26, 2017  
**Taimi:** 12:00 - 4:00 i le afiafi  
**Nofoaga e fai ai:** Potu mo A'oa'oga, a le Vaega o Laufanua ma Atina'e a le Kolisi Tu'u Faatasi ma Alaalafaga a Amerika Samoa

'E leai se totogi o le resitala. A fai e te fia 'auai i lenei a'oa'oga, fa'amolemole ia fa'afeso'ota'i mai Joyce po o Helen i le telefoni 699-1575/2019.

Fa'afetai.

# New South Korean president will visit US next month

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — New South Korean President Moon Jae-in will visit the White House next month for a summit with President Donald Trump amid worries over North Korea's progress in building a nuclear and missile arsenal, Seoul's presidential office said Tuesday.

The agreement for the leaders to meet in late June followed a meeting in Seoul between Chung Eui-yong, Moon's foreign policy adviser, and Matt Pottinger, U.S. National Security Council director for East Asia, said Moon's spokesman Yoon Young-chan.

The announcement came days after North Korea successfully tested a powerful new missile that analysts believe could reach Alaska when perfected.

Yoon said Chung and Pottinger in their meeting reaffirmed that Seoul and Washington shares a common goal

in the "complete discarding" of North Korean nuclear weapons and will pursue "all methods, including sanctions and dialogue" to reach the goal. The allies agreed that dialogue with North Korea could happen under the "right conditions," Yoon said.

A date and other specifics of the summit are still to be decided, Yoon said. "We will prepare the summit meeting so it could serve as an opportunity for both leaders to develop their personal bond and friendship."

Liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in favors a softer approach to North Korea than his conservative predecessors and has offered to visit Pyongyang if the circumstances are right.

But Washington is Seoul's closest ally and military protector, and the North's rising nuclear and missile tests make close coordination crucial.



FILE - In this Oct. 24, 2016 file photo, the HealthCare.gov 2017 web site home page is seen on a laptop in Washington. After five consecutive years of coverage gains, progress reducing the number of uninsured Americans stalled in 2016, according to a government report that highlights the stakes as Republicans try to roll back Barack Obama's law. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 28.6 million people were uninsured last year, unchanged from 2015. The uninsured rate was 9 percent, not a significant change from 9.1 percent in 2015.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

# Gov't report: Progress reducing US uninsured stalled in 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — After five consecutive years of coverage gains, progress reducing the number of uninsured Americans stalled in 2016, according to a government report Tuesday that underscores the stakes as Republicans try to roll back Barack Obama's law.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 28.6 million people were uninsured last year, unchanged from 2015. The uninsured rate was 9 percent, an insignificant difference from 9.1 percent in 2015.

The numbers suggest that the two main components of the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, were reaching their limits in Obama's final year as president. Premiums for private insurance were about to jump, and 19 states continued to refuse the ACA's Medicaid expansion. The number of uninsured could start climbing again under some of the policies now being considered by President Donald Trump.

The politically unpopular GOP bill passed by the House would limit Medicaid financing and curtail subsidies for many consumers buying their own private policies. Republicans also would repeal the requirement that most Americans carry health insurance or risk fines. The legislation would lead to an estimated increase of 24 million more uninsured people within 10 years, according to congressional analysts. Under "Obamacare," there are 20 million fewer uninsured since 2010.

"It's disappointing that it's stalled out," said health economist Gail Wilensky, a Republican. "The real question is, will we be able to keep the gains that we have made?" Critical of the ACA and co-author of an alternative plan by GOP policy experts, Wilensky nonetheless supports the goal of expanding coverage. She's concerned about the impact of the House bill on Medicaid, the federal-state program for low-income and disabled people.

The latest numbers come from CDC's National Health Interview Survey, which is considered an authoritative source, and publishes findings earlier than the Census Bureau. The survey's estimates for 2016 were based on data for nearly 97,500 people.

The report validates a trend other major surveys have noted. For example, the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index found that the uninsured rate for U.S. adults edged up slightly during the first three months of this year, a period for which

there's yet no publicly available CDC data.

"It looks like we are kind of sticking a landing and holding on to the gains," said Katherine Hempstead, who directs research on health insurance at the nonpartisan Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "To increase coverage, you would have to see more states take up the Medicaid expansion, and some reforms to increase takeup in the individual (private) market."

Could the number of uninsured start rising again? Absolutely, say both Wilensky and Hempstead.

"This release is really timely because it just helps everybody focus on what's at stake," said Hempstead.

The report found a significant increase in the percentage of people under age 65 covered last year through government-sponsored insurance markets like HealthCare.gov. About 11.6 million (4.3 percent) had marketplace insurance in the last three months of 2016, compared with 9.1 million (3.4 percent) in same period the previous year.

States that expanded Medicaid were more effective at reducing the number of uninsured. Of the 16 states with adult uninsured rates significantly lower than the nation as a whole, 15 expanded Medicaid. In that group, only Wisconsin had not extended coverage for low-income people.

Conversely, of the nine states that had significantly higher uninsured rates, only New Mexico expanded Medicaid.

The CDC numbers do not reflect any changes directly attributable to Trump, who took office this year on Jan. 20.

During the campaign and since then, the president has made some expansive promises about health insurance, talking of coverage for everybody and much more affordable premiums and deductibles. But Trump has also embraced a GOP bill that would make more people uninsured, even if it fulfills his campaign promise to stop paying subsidies that reduce out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles for people with modest incomes.

Hillary Clinton, who Trump defeated, had promised to increase government assistance for private insurance costs, and also work to convince holdout states to expand their Medicaid programs.



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, right, talks with Matt Pottinger, Special Assistant to U.S. President Donald Trump and National Security Council (NSC) Senior Director for East Asia, during a meeting at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

(Yonhap via AP)

**In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS**  
 FDA/JR No. 49-16  
**IN RE: A CHILD. NOTICE/FA'AALIGA**

TO: Mr. John (unknown last name)  
 Fagatogo Village  
 Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVNE to the above-named respondent that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa of American Samoa to terminate your parental rights in a female child born on May 25, 2015 at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Fagaalu, American Samoa. A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order that you have not acquired any parental rights to the minor child and place the child for adoption. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TUUINA ATU ia te oe, le ua ta'ua i luga, ua iai se talosaga ua failaina i le Fa'amasinoga Maualuga o Amerika Samoa e iloilo ai ou aia fa'a-matta i se teineitiiti sa fanau o ia i le aso 25 o Me, 2015, i le Falemai i Fagaalu, Amerika Samoa. O lenei iloilo e faia pe a tuana'i le lua Masina ma aso e sefulu mai le aso o le ulua'i fa'asalalaga o lenei fa'aaliga, ma e ono tuna atu ai se poloa'iga a le Fa'amasinoga e fa'ailoa ai ua leai ni ou aia faa-matua i lenei tamaitiiti. Afai e te tete'e, pe e te fina galo e faamaonia ou aia faa-matua, ia e failaina se talosaga tete'e i le Fa'amasinoga i totonu o le lua Masina ma aso e sefulu mai le ulua'i fa'asalalaga o lenei fa'aaliga.

DATE/ASO: November 16, 2016

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 4/12/17

**In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION**  
 PR NO. 007-2017  
 IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LAUTOGIA TAULA  
 Deceased  
 PITONE LAUTOGIA JR. TAULA  
 Petitioner

**NOTICE OF HEARING: TO PROBATE THE ESTATES FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Probate the Estates, For Letters of Administration and For Appointment of an Administrator for this estate has been filed and that a Hearing on said petition has been scheduled on June 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa at which time and place all persons interested in said estate may appear and be heard if they so choose.

Dated: February 27, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 5/9, 5/16, 5/23

# REPORT: President Trump shared secret info about IS with Russians

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump revealed highly classified information about Islamic State militants to Russian officials during a meeting last week, The Washington Post reported Monday, prompting strong condemnation from both Democrats and Republicans.

Three White House officials who were in the May 10 meeting strongly denounced the story, saying no intelligence sources and methods were discussed — but they didn't deny that classified information was disclosed.

Citing current and former U.S. officials, the Post said Trump shared details about an Islamic State terror threat related to the use of laptop computers on aircraft with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak.

The anonymous officials told the Post that the information Trump relayed during the Oval Office meeting had been provided by a U.S. partner through an intelligence-sharing arrangement. They said it was considered so sensitive that details have been withheld from allies and tightly restricted even within the U.S. government.

"I was in the room, it didn't happen," H.R. McMaster, Trump's national security adviser, told reporters outside the White House late Monday.

"The president and the foreign minister reviewed a range of common threats to our two countries including threats to civil aviation," McMaster said. "At no time, at no time were intelligence sources or methods discussed and the president did not disclose any military operations that were not already publicly known."

He said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Dina Powell, deputy national security adviser for strategy, remember the meeting the same way. "Their on-the-record accounts should outweigh those of anonymous sources" in the news report, he said.

Tillerson said Trump discussed a range of subjects, including "common efforts and threats regarding counter-terrorism."

He said that during that exchange the nature of specific threats were discussed, but they did not discuss sources, methods or military operations.

Powell said: "This story is false. The president only discussed the common threats that both countries faced."

The Post story — which was later confirmed by The New York Times and BuzzFeed News — does not claim that Trump revealed any specific information about how the intelligence was gathered. Still, it will only heighten Trump's strained relations with intelligence workers and former officials, who view



*This handout photo released by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shows President Donald Trump meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 10, 2017. The Washington Post is reporting that Trump revealed highly classified information about Islamic State militants to Russian officials during a meeting at the White House last week. The newspaper cites current and former U.S. officials who say Trump jeopardized a critical source of intelligence on IS in his conversations with the Russian foreign minister and the Russian ambassador to the U.S. They say Trump offered details about an IS terror threat related to the use of laptop computers on aircraft.*

(Russian Foreign Ministry via AP)

Russia as an adversary.

Even before he was inaugurated, intelligence professionals worried about sharing classified information with Trump, who often shoots from the hip.

If true, the breach was ill-timed, coming a day after Trump fired former FBI Director James Comey, who was leading an investigation into Russian meddling in the presidential election. Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, was fired after he misled Vice President Mike Pence about conversations he had with Kislyak.

It's unlikely that Trump has broken any law. As president, Trump has broad authority to declassify government secrets.

The Post said the intelligence partner had not given the United States permission to share the material with Russian officials. By doing so, Trump would have jeopardized cooperation from an ally familiar with the inner workings of the Islamic State group, and make other allies — or even U.S. intelligence officials — wary about sharing future top secret details with the president.

Afterward, White House officials took steps to contain the damage, placing calls to the CIA and the National Security Agency, the newspaper said.

The CIA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence declined to comment Monday evening.

Congressional Republicans and Democrats expressed concern about the report.

GOP Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters the Trump White House "has got to do something

soon to bring itself under control there's a really good national and order." "The shame of it is security team in place and there

are good, productive things that are under way through them and through others," Corker said. "But the chaos that is being created by the lack of discipline — it's creating an environment that I think makes — it creates a worrisome environment."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that if the story is true it would be "deeply disturbing."

Reaction from Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence committees was full-throated.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California called the story "deeply disturbing" and said if it's true, the disclosure could jeopardize sources of very sensitive intelligence and relationships with key allies.

"That the Russians would be the potential recipients of this intelligence and may be able to determine its source is all the more problematic, since the Russian interest in Syria and elsewhere is, in many respects, deeply antithetical to our own," Schiff said. He added that he wants the House intelligence committee fully briefed on what, if anything, was shared with the Russian officials.



**American Samoa Government  
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-060-2017

**Issuance Date: May 10, 2017**

**Closing Date: June 21, 2017  
No later than 2:00 p.m. (local time)**

**1. INVITATION**

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide 'Route 001 Atu'u to Lauli'i Road Embankment & Shoreline Protection' for the Department of Public Works.

**2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS**

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

**3. NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room.

**4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

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

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

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

**DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON**  
Chief Procurement Officer

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# Fidget spinners, the hit toy that spun out of nowhere

NEW YORK (AP) — Stores can't keep them in stock. Parents are scrambling to find them. And some schools have banned them.

The mania for fidget spinners — the 3-inch twirling gadgets taking over classrooms and cubicles — is unlike many other toy crazes. They're not made by a major company, timed for the holiday season, or promoted in TV commercials. They're more easily found at gas stations or 7-Eleven than at big toy chains.

"It just took off," says Richard Gottlieb, a consultant at Global Toy Experts in New York.

Fidget spinners have been around for years, mostly used by kids with autism or attention disorders to help them concentrate. But they exploded in popularity this spring.

Shannan Rowell, a sixth-grade special education teacher, says that after a week-long break in late April more than half of her 25 students suddenly had one.

"They seem to be taking over classrooms," says Rowell, who lives in North Grafton, Massachusetts. Gottlieb thinks it's likely a kid brought one to a playground and the craze spread from there.

Recent YouTube videos of people spinning them on their noses, foreheads and shoes also helped. Helen Holden heard about fidget spinners last month when her 7-year-old twins demanded she stop at a 7-Eleven to buy them.

"I thought it was a drink," says the bank vice president



In a Tuesday, May 9, 2017, photo, fidget spinner toys are displayed at a 7-Eleven convenience store, in Warren, Mich. Stores can't keep them in stock and parents are going crazy trying to find them. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

and blogger from Los Angeles.

That store was sold out, and so were several other 7-Eleven locations that she called. The chain says spinners have "been flying off the shelves" since they went on sale in March.

Holden's kids said they needed them before school on Monday so they could practice spinning them. So she signed up for Amazon Prime, paid \$5.99 for one-day shipping and had two \$15 fidget spinners delivered on a Sunday.

"I totally got suckered by my kids," she says.

At Funky Monkey Toys,

owner Tom Jones says he got a phone call about the fidget spinners in April. About 30 minutes later, another person called. "I said, 'Whatever they are, I need to get them.'"

Now, the phone has been ringing 20 to 30 times a day with people checking if they're in stock. His shop in Oxford, Michigan, can sell up to 150 in a day. "We run out of them frequently," says Jones, who recently got a shipment of 2,000. On Amazon.com, 18 of the top 20 best-selling toys and games were fidget spinners, ranging from ones that

cost just a few dollars to \$12 versions touting stainless steel bearings.

Five Below, which sells items for \$5 or less, says on its website that customers can only buy two fidget spinners at time.

Toys R Us flew fidget spinners in this month from China, rather than wait for ship transport. It says Rubik's Cubes, yo-yos and other toys to occupy restless hands have been hot sellers since the beginning of the year. It also started selling \$12.99 fidget cubes — the items that made up the rest of the Amazon best-sellers — which fit in the palm of a hand and have clickers, wheels and switches on the sides.

Unlike hot toys at the holiday season, which are often made by one company, manufacturers — mostly in China — are making the fidget spinners as fast as they can. Jim Silver, the CEO and editor-in-chief of toy review website TTPM, expects the fad to last into the summer and then fade as more of them flood into the market.

"Demand starts to waver," he says.

Engineer Catherine Hettinger says she came up with a toy that was similar but not exactly the same in the early 1990s, but a patent expired more than a decade ago after she stopped paying the maintenance fees. Hettinger, who lives in the Orlando suburb of Winter Park, Florida, says she is not making any money from the craze.

"No one has contacted me. Nobody has sent me a check," she says. "But once a patent expires, it's public, so I wouldn't expect anything at this point."

Despite being marketed as a concentration aid, some teachers say fidget spinners have become a distraction.

Rowell, the sixth-grade teacher, says students twirled them too fast, banged them against desks or tried to whirl them on top of each other. She lets students bring them into the classroom, but only if they spin them under their desks and follow the rules she hung on the wall: "YOU MUST BE LOOKING AT THE TEACHER," "YOU MUST BE LOOKING AT YOUR WORK" and "YOU MUST BE DISCREET."

Some schools have banned them. A middle school in Williamstown, New Jersey, wrote that spinners needed to stay in backpacks because they were a distraction in classrooms, hallways and during lunch periods. An elementary school in New York told parents to keep the gadgets at home because they were twirling into children's faces.

It's not just kids spinning them. Gottlieb thinks adults are reaching for spinners because they are more stressed out. "People don't smoke as much, so they have to figure out a way to work out their stress," he says.

Kim Juszczak, a lawyer from New York, whirled her red-and-black spinner on the subway or while she's thinking up legal arguments for a case.

"I'm naturally kind of fidgety," says Juszczak, who used to bend paperclips in her hand.

She first saw a spinner on Instagram, and got hers for about \$6 on Amazon. Then she bought six more for friends and relatives. "They're addictive," she says.

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## ▶ Chinese spent \$24B ...

Continued from page 10

Barack Obama. Now, they're competing directly against the current president's relatives.

Meyer, Kushner's sister, appeared this month at events in Beijing and Shanghai to promote One Journal Square, a New Jersey tower project planned by the Kushner family that would be partially funded through EB-5 investment. The presentation included a photo of Trump and vague promises that the project had "government support" and was "founded by celebrity developers." The company later apologized for any implication that her brother was supporting the project, and Meyer pulled out of a presentation to Chinese investors scheduled for this past weekend.

Trump's name already appears on another New Jersey residential tower, Trump Bay Street, built with the help of EB-5 funding. And one month before the November election, an ad appeared on a Chinese website catering to foreigners seeking a "white American to join our team" for a new project: "A 200 million dollar hotel developed by The Trump Organization in Austin." A brochure posted online described Trump as the "king of real estate" and included a photo of him giving a speech.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer this month said Kushner would follow government policies on potential conflicts of interest, and that Trump and Congress would review "all the various visa programs and whether or not they are serving the purpose that they were intended to."

The AP obtained data from officials in 13 countries on how many Chinese have used their investor programs since 2007. To estimate money spent, the AP multiplied the numbers of Chinese investors in each country by the minimum investment required, making the figures an undercount.

The market leader is the United States' EB-5 program, which gives green cards to anyone who invests \$500,000 in a business that creates or saves at least 10 jobs. Several others market themselves as cheaper or quicker alternatives.

Portugal has drawn at least \$1.7 billion over four years from Chinese investors willing to buy property to support its faltering real estate market. Spain and Greece offer similar programs. Chinese have bought the most visas in all three countries.

Five Caribbean nations offer passports for as little as \$100,000. Chinese are the top buyers in Antigua and Barbuda, according to government statistics.

Australia goes the more expensive route, requiring an investment of 5 million Australian dollars (nearly \$3.7 million). Despite a price nearly eight times as high as the EB-5 program, Australia is estimated to have attracted more than \$6 billion in Chinese investment in just four years.

But problems in the industry worldwide are rife.

### FRAUGHT WITH RISK

The U.S.'s EB-5 program has been heavily criticized by government watchdogs and targeted by lawmakers of both parties in Congress, who say it promotes fraud and helps developers building megaprojects more than struggling communities. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat who has introduced legislation to end the program, has called EB-5 a "Ponzi scheme." Her Republican counterpart, Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, has said EB-5 "poses significant national security risks" and "may be facilitating terrorist travel, economic espionage, money laundering and investment fraud."

Federal investigators said in April they found that at least three Chinese investors who obtained green cards through the program were fugitives wanted by Beijing. And the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has opened more than a dozen civil cases since 2013 alleging fraud in projects involving around 2,000 investors and more than \$1 billion in funds.

Defenders of the EB-5 program say it creates jobs and provides vital funding for projects across the United States, from massive developments in New York to hotels, restaurants and small businesses in the Midwest and on the West Coast.

"That's the program working as it should, and more often than not, it is working as it should," said Matthew Galati, a Philadelphia-based attorney who helps Chinese investors migrate to the U.S.

Canada's program drew an estimated \$2.4 billion through Chinese investors over the past decade, but the national government ended it in 2014, saying that it "significantly undervalued" Canadian residency and created little economic benefit. The province of Quebec has kept in place its separate program, which has drawn at least \$1.9 billion from Chinese investment.

And a former Portuguese interior minister and other senior government officials have been on trial since February for corruption, influence-peddling and misconduct in handling "golden visa" applications of investors linked to three Chinese businessmen. Hungary suspended its program selling visas for government bonds earlier this year after opposition parties and watchdogs accused it of corruption.

Ironically, calls to end investment migration programs often end up as marketing tools for the hundreds of agents selling them in China. One agent made note of proposals to change the EB-5 program by saying, "Do not hesitate, and act quickly!"

Du Juan attended a seminar in Beijing held by an investment group pitching ski resorts and other projects. She knows the potential danger of investing



Matafao Elementary School 8th grader Telesia Eddieliz Atafua is the second place winner for the island wide writing competition [Tauvaga Tusigatala - Gagana ma Aganuu Samoa] sanctioned by the local Department of Education. Telesia, pictured with her mom Val, is from Lau'ii and Fagaalu. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

through the U.S. program, but she's willing to bear the risk as long as she can get her 10-year-old daughter enrolled soon in an American school.

"I don't worry about the \$500,000, but I worry about the loss of time," Du said. "I am afraid that we'll be unable to get the visa when we need it."

### SLOWING THE FLOW

There are signs that China is trying to slow down the migration. These investors are among the category of people China hopes will buy its domestically

made rice cookers, electric cars and energy-saving light bulbs to fuel a new chapter of consumer-led growth. Research by McKinsey shows that the upper-middle class already accounts for a fifth of China's private consumption in cities.

Articles critical of investment visa programs have appeared in China's state media, often highlighting fraud cases or stories of Chinese who faced trouble after going abroad. China has also tightened controls on how much money individuals and

companies can move out of the country as part of broader efforts to stop the currency from further weakening.

Banks are expected to enforce more strictly the yearly limit of \$50,000 that individuals are allowed to take out of the country, and will be required to report any transfers above \$10,000. Still, Chinese have typically worked around such controls by slowly moving money or using friends and family members to help them amass an overseas account.



## American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

# INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2406-17

Issuance Date: May 11, 2017

Closing Date: May 24, 2017  
No later than 10:00am (local time)

### 1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide **Printers** for the Department Education.

### 2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 10:00a.m. (local time), Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

### 3. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Bid documents, including Specifications, may be examined at the Office of Procurement or obtained there from free of charge during normal hours of operation.

### 4. CONDITIONS

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

- not accept the lowest or any bid.
- reject all bids and reissue and amended IFB.
- request additional information from any bidder submitting a bid.
- waive any informalities in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

**DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON**  
Chief Procurement Officer

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