



One of the local head coaches of the ASBF, Leilua Aoao (left) with some of the future fighters of American Samoa, now ready for the "2Samoa Battle" this weekend at the Maliu Mai Beach Resort. Read story in today's sports section of Samoa News. [photo: AF]

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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

WEDNESDAY MAY, 10 2017

\$1.00

Le LALI

Falepuipui mo le 5 tausaga faia uiga mataga teineititi 9 tausaga

tusia Ausage Fausia

E 5 tausaga lea ua fa'asala ai e le fa'amasinoga maualuga le susuga a Lolani Tamalemai e taofia ai i le toese i Tafuna, ina ua ta'usala o ia e le fa'amasinoga i le moliaga mamafa o lona faia o gaioga fa'afeusuaiga fa'asaga i se teineititi e 9 tausaga le matua i le masina o Aperila 2015.

Na ulua'i tu'uaua e le malo le ua molia i moliaga eseese e aofia ai moliaga mamafa e tolu e pei o lona tagofia o itutinoso o se teineititi e le i fa'aipoipo i ai (sexual abuse 1st degree), faia o amioga fa'asotoma (sodomy), atoa ai ma lona faia o uiga mataga fa'afeusiaiga (sexual assault), atoa ai ma le moliaga mama e tasi o lona faia lea o ni gaioga e ono lamatia ai le saogalemu o fanau e laiti i lalo o le tulafono.

Ae i lalo o se maliliega na sainia e le ua molia ma le malo, lea fo'i na talia e le fa'amasinoga, na talosaga ai le malo ina ia tali

(Faaauau itulau 3)



MCDONALD'S AMERICAN SAMOA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT GRADUATES

Lina Allele Su'a, a recipient of the McDonald's American Samoa Scholarship, graduated this semester, Spring 2017, with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Hawaii- West Oahu. Lina graduated from ASCC with an Associate of Science in Business Administration and Associate of Science in Accounting, before attending the UH.

She was awarded the \$25,000 scholarship in 2015, the year the company celebrated its 25th anniversary in American Samoa. McDonald's American Samoa usually awards \$20,000, but in honor of its anniversary, that year their scholarship award was \$25K.

Lina extends her thanks and appreciation to the McDonald's Scholarship Committee

and Board Members for the tremendous help, with a special "Faafetai Tele" to HTC Tautolo Agaoleatu C. Tautolo and wife Meleane and family for the financial assistance. Without their financial support, she says she would not have made it through the two years.

Lina would also like to acknowledge her instructors from ASCC Business Department Dr. Fa'atoafe, Professor Lam Yuen and Taua'i for their help while she was a student at ASCC.

The graduate encourages other students, who are now attending ASCC to take advantage of McDonald's scholarship.

She is the daughter of Tofa Galumalemana Su'a and Katerina Ameperosa Su'a.

[Courtesy photo of Su'a Family]

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The crew, known as the Hawaiians — kept the pressure on, creeping up the ranks in last week's 18th Steinlager I'a Lapo'a Game Fishing Tournament, to come in 3rd. Captain, Clayton 'Boom' Manuka and his Kee-Jamm fishing teammates pose for a team photo during the closing of the tournament this past Saturday evening at Sadie's by the Sea. Mahuka and his team racked up 469.2 points. [photo: TG]

Bumble Bee to plead guilty to conspiracy to fix prices of shelf-stable tuna fish products

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

For its conspiracy role to fix the prices of shelf-stable tuna fish, such as canned and pouch tuna, sold in the US, the San Diego based Bumble Bee Foods LLC has agreed to plead guilty to the charge and also pay a \$25 million criminal fine, according to the US Justice Department.

Last December two Bumble Bee executives — Walter Scott Cameron and Kenneth Worsham — were charged in separate indictments handed down by a federal grand jury sitting in San Francisco for conspiring to fix the prices of packaged sea-

food such as canned tuna sold in the United States.

The pair also agreed to plead guilty and their next court appearance is later this year.

For Bumble Bee, a major competitor to StarKist Samoa's canned and pouch tuna products — the company was charged Monday at the federal court in San Francisco under a four-page information complaint.

The USDOJ alleges that beginning as early as the first quarter of 2011 and continuing until at least the fourth quarter of 2013, the defendant and its co-conspirators knowingly entered into and engaged in a

combination and conspiracy to fix, raise and maintain the prices of shelf-stable tuna fish sold in the U.S., according to the complaint.

It further alleges that various business organizations and individuals, not made defendants in this information complaint, participated as co-conspirators.

Means and methods of the conspiracy include among other things:

- Engaged in conversations and discussions and attended meetings with representatives of other major packaged-seafood-producing firms;
- Agreed and reached mutual

understandings during these conversations, discussions and meetings, to fix, raise and maintain the prices of packaged seafood sold in the U.S.; and

- Negotiated prices with customers and issued price announcements for packaged seafood in accordance with the agreements and mutual understandings reached.

In announcing the complaint, USDOJ says that in addition to agreeing to pleading guilty on the one-count charge, Bumble Bee has agreed to pay a \$25 million criminal fine, which will increase to a maximum criminal fine of \$81.5 million, payable by a related entity, in the event of a sale of Bumble Bee subject to certain terms and conditions.

Bumble Bee has also agreed to cooperate with the USDOJ Antitrust Division's ongoing investigation. The plea agreement is subject to court approval.

Specific details of the plea agreement have not yet been made public on federal online court records.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries, Bumble Bee's senior vice president of general counsel, Jill Irvin said the company through a plea agreement, has reached resolution with the USDOJ in regards to its federal antitrust investigation.

"The Company has taken this matter very seriously and fully cooperated with the DOJ from the start of the investigation," she said via email yesterday. "We have established strong guidelines and new internal policies for our path forward, which is being overseen by a chief compliance officer that we hired last fall."

"We accept full responsibility for needing to earn back any lost trust in our Company

and will do so by acting with integrity and transparency in every way we operate our business," she said.

Asked as to what efforts have been made by the company to ensure that this type of action does not occur again in the future, Irvin said, "We have established strong guidelines and new internal policies for our path forward, which is being overseen by a chief compliance officer that we hired last fall."

Acting Assistant Attorney General Andrew Finch of the USDOJ's Antitrust Division said in a national news release that the charge Monday is the third to be filed — and the first to be filed against a corporate defendant — in the Antitrust Division's ongoing investigation into price fixing among some of the largest suppliers of packaged seafood.

"The division, along with our law enforcement colleagues, will continue to hold these companies and their executives accountable for conduct that targeted a staple in American households," he said.

Special Agent in Charge John F. Bennett of the FBI's San Francisco Division said in the joint USDOJ news release that companies "small and large hold a great deal of the American peoples' trust and this type of unfair, greedy behavior will not be tolerated."

Anyone with information on price fixing, bid rigging or other anticompetitive conduct related to the packaged seafood industry is encourage to contact the Antitrust Division's Citizen Complaint Center at (888) 647-3258, visit www.justice.gov/atr/contact/newcase.html, or call the FBI tip line at (415) 553-7400.

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Fishermen from the different teams who competed in the 18th Steinlager I'a Lapo'a Game Fishing Tournament – with their awards. They were mingling last Saturday evening at the Sadie's by the Sea during the official closing celebratory event of the tournament. [photo: TG]

► Falepuipui mo le 5 tausaga faia uiga mataga...

Mai itulau 1

ioe le ua molia i le moliaga o le faia o uiga mataga fa'afeusiaiga (sexual assault), ae solofua ai isi moliaga o lo o totoe i le pepa o tagi sa latou fa'aulu.

I le tali ioe ai o Tamalemai i le moliaga e pei ona ta'usala ai o ia e le fa'amasinoga maua-luga, sa ia ta'utino ai e fa'apea, i se taimi o le tausaga e 2015 i Amerika Samoa, sa ia faia ai ni uiga mataga fa'afeusuaiga i le teineititi e 9 tausaga le matua na a'afia, ona o le manatu ina ia fa'amalieina ai lagona tu'inaanu sa ia te ia. Sa ia ta'utino fo'i e fa'apea, o le gaoiga sa ia faia sa le tusa lea ma ala o le tulafono.

Ao le i tu'uina atu le fa'asalaga a le fa'amasinoga maua-luga fa'asaga ia Tamalemai i le vaiaso na te'a nei, na maua le avanoa e fa'atoese ai o ia i luma o le fa'amasinoga e tusa ai o lana solitulafono sa faia. E le gata sa ia fa'atoese i le malo ma tagatanu'u o Amerika Samoa, ae sa ia fa'atoese fo'i i le aiga o le teineititi na a'afia, ina ia fa'amagalo lana solitulafono sa faia.

Sa ia ta'utino e fa'apea, o le umi lea na taofia ai o ia i le toese talu mai le masina o Aperila 2015, ua ia a'oa'oina ai se lesona taua mo lona olaga, ma ua ia manatu ai ua avea lea ma auala e mafai ai ona toe fuata'i lona mafaufau mai le mea sese sa ia faia.

I le fa'aiuga o lana fa'atoese, sa ia talosagaina ai le fa'amasingoa mo se isi avanoa mo ia, se'i toe fo'i ai i tua e tautua le aiga, ekalesia ma le nu'u, lea fo'i na lago-lagoina e lana loia ia Michael White i lana fa'afinauga mo se fa'asalaga fa'anofovaavaia.

Na taua e White e fa'apea, e ui i le tulaga matuia o le moliaga e pei ona ta'usala

ai Tamalemai, o lea ua manino i fa'amauga a le fa'amasinoga o lana ulua'i solitulafono lea i luma o le fa'amasinoga, ma ua lagona fo'i lona salamo moni e tusa ai o le mea sese sa ia faia.

Na finau White ina ia fa'asala le ua molia i se fa'asalaga fa'anofovaavaia, ina ia mafai ai ona maua le avanoa e toe fo'i ai i tua i lona aiga e fa'aaoga aso o loo totoe o lona ola e fai ai se isi mea aoga mo lona olaga ma lona aiga.

E lei taliaina e le loia a le malo ia Jedidiah Bigelow le talosaga a le itu tete'e mo se fa'asalaga mama, ae sa ia finau i le fa'amasinoga ina ia fa'asala Tamalemai i le fa'asalaga pito sili ona maua-luga o lo o fa'atulaga mai e le tulafono, ona o le matuia o le gaoiga sa ia faia.

Na taua e Bigelow e fa'apea, o le tele o gaoiga mataga sa faia e le ua molia aga'i i le teineititi na a'afia, e le gata ua a'afia ai lona mafaufau, ae o le a avea pea fo'i lea ma tulaga e le mafai ona toe galo i lona loto i aso uma o lona olaga.

Na taua atili e Bigelow e fa'apea, ina ua taumafai le latou Ofisa e fa'afeso'ota'i le teineititi na a'afia e tusa ai o lenei mataupu, sa atagia mai ai i lana fa'amatalaga le tele o se a'afiaga o lona mafaufau ua i ai, e mafua mai i uiga mataga ma gaoiga fa'afeusuaiga sa faia e le ua molia ia te ia.

I le fa'aiuga o le fa'afinauga a Bigelow, sa ia toe talosagaina ai ali'i fa'amasino ina ia fa'asala Tamalemai i le fa'asalaga pito sili ona mamafa e pei ona fa'atulaga mai e le tulafono, ina ia mafai ai ona ia a'oa'oina se lesona taua mai le matuia o lana gaoiga sa faia.

Na taua e le afioga i le

ali'i fa'amasino ia Elvis P. Patea le matua fa'ateia o le fa'amasinoga ina ua latou iloilo ina mau fa'amaonia o lenei mataupu, aemaise ai lava gaoiga mataga sa faia e le ua molia i le teineititi na a'afia.

I le fa'aiuga o le saunoaga a Patea, sa ia fa'asalaina ai loa Tamalemai ina ia taofia i le toese mo le umi e 5 tausaga, o le fa'asalaga pito maua-luga lea o lo o fa'atulaga mai e le tulafono. Ua poloaina fo'i o ia ina ia lesitala lona igoa i le lisi o tagata ua ta'usala i le faia o uiga mataga i fanau tama'ita'i, ma ia faia se suega i lona tino ina ia iloa ai poo ia tauaveina le siana o le fa'ama'i o le HIV.

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Winner's Photo will be printed in the Samoa News' Mother's Day Edition, Friday, March 12, 2017.



Two American Samoans offered Appointments to U.S. Naval Academy

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — Washington, D.C. — Tuesday, May 9, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata, sent out her heartfelt congratulations to two American Samoan students who were offered fully qualified offers of appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Her office was notified on Tuesday by the Naval Academy. “I am very proud of Mr. Hyun-Duck Oh and Miss Kalala Jennings for this outstanding achievement. It is extremely tough to get into any

of the five service academies and only the cream of the crop are offered the opportunity” said Amata. “Their acceptance into the United States Naval Academy is a testament to their hard work, the support of their parents and their teachers,” she concluded.

Mr. Oh and Ms. Jennings were both nominated to the academy by the Congresswoman and they will be graduating from the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island later this week.

This summer, they will enter the U.S. Naval Academy and

begin their four-year journey to become officers in the United States Navy. After successfully completing four years of school, they will graduate with Bachelor of Science degrees and commissions as ensigns in the Navy or second lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

The Naval Academy is a fully funded federal academy; all students are on full scholarships and in return, they will serve in the Navy for at least five years of active duty following graduation.

Kalala Jennings is the daughter of Philo and Epenesa

Jennings. She was the valedictorian for the class of 2016 of Fagaitua High School.

Hyun-Duck Oh is the son of Shi-Yeong Oh and his wife Jin Sook Lee and is a 2016 graduate of South Pacific Academy.

“Kalala and Hyun have made all of American Samoa very proud and I wish them well as they begin this tough journey. I also want to thank their parents, teachers and their community for the outstanding job that they did in raising and molding these two young people to be successful,” concluded Amata.

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COURT REPORT...

Translated by Samoa News staff
MUKESH CHAND

A 53-year-old man, whom court documents show was born in Fiji in 1963, has pled not guilty to three felony counts in connection with a sex case involving a 17-year-old victim.

According to the government’s case, Mukesh Chand, who is out on a \$20,000 bond, is charged with one count each of sodomy, a class B felony, punishable by not less than 5 years and not to exceed 15 years imprisonment; deviate sexual assault, a class C felony, punishable by imprisonment of not to exceed 7 years and/or a fine not exceeding \$5,000; and first degree sexual abuse, a class D felony, punishable by imprisonment of not to exceed 5 years and/or a fine of not exceeding \$5,000.

Chand was arraigned in High Court recently and enter a not guilty plea to the charges.

According to court documents, a police lieutenant walked into the Tafuna police substation around 10a.m. on Apr. 9th with a man, who wanted to file a police report regarding his daughter who he alleged as being sexually assaulted by the defendant.

About 45 minutes later, the victim and her mother showed up at the police station.

Court documents say the defendant’s daughter is a friend of the 17-year-old female victim and the alleged sexual assault occurred in the early morning hours of Apr. 6th, when the victim was at her friend’s home.

The affidavit supporting the arrest warrant details what the victim told police of what the defendant allegedly did to her, including inserting his finger into her private parts

and touching her in a sexual manner.

LOLANI TAMALEMAI

A man accused in 2015 of having sexual contact with a 9-year-old has been sentenced to serve 5 years in prison.

Lolani Tamalemai, 39, was initially charged with three felony counts — first-degree sexual abuse, sodomy and sexual assault — and one misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of a child.

But under a plea agreement with the government and accepted by the court last month, the defendant pled guilty to sexual assault and the remaining charges were dismissed. For the guilty plea, the defendant admitted that in 2015 he had sexual contact with a nine-year-old girl.

Tamalemai was in High Court late last week for sentencing, where he apologized to the court, the people of American Samoa, and the victim’s family for his crime.

The defendant has been in custody since his arrest in April 2015 and he told the court that his time in jail has been a learning lesson for his life. He sought leniency, which would allow him to return home to his family and village.

Tamalemai’s attorney assistant public defender Michael White sought a probative sentence saying that this is his client’s first time before the court. While the defense acknowledged the seriousness of the crime committed by the defendant, White said his client is remorseful.

However, assistant attorney general Jedidiah Bigelow argued for the maximum sentence allowed by law, saying that the defendant committed multiple sex crimes against the

nine-year-old who will be traumatized for a long time. He also told the court when the government tried to contact the victim for information, she was in an emotional state due to what the defendant did to her.

Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea said the court is disturbed with the defendant’s crime and gave the maximum five-year imprisonment as allowed by law.

The defendant was also ordered to register as a sex offender and take the HIV test.

Chief Associate Judge Mamea Sala Jr., and Associate Judge Tunupopo Alalafaga flanked Patea on the bench.

VILIAMU SOU

The government has charged Viliamu Sou with felony second-degree assault and misdemeanor public peace disturbance following an incident early last week in which he allegedly assaulted a 16-year-old, resulting in the victim suffering injuries. The extent of the injuries was not immediately clear from court information.

The alleged assault took place during an incident between the defendant’s son and the victim.

As of late last week the defendant remains in custody unable to post a \$5,000 bail. If he is able to post bail, the District Court has ordered him not to make contact with any of the government’s witnesses in this case, as well as with the victim.

Sou’s preliminary examination hearing is set for tomorrow (Thursday) in District Court.

(Original Samoan stories were published in yesterday and today’s Lali sections of Samoa News.)

Governor recommends all ASG entities have an office in Manu'a, including Amata

by Samoa News staff

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has made a recommendation for all ASG entities to have an office in Manu'a, including offices for the Legislature and Congresswoman Aumua Amata.

Last Thursday, the governor along with other VIPs from Tutuila attended the official dedication and opening of the "Afioga Misaalefua Tausulu Palega Executive Office Building" on Ofu Island, next to the Ofu airport.

In his remarks at the opening of the Ofu building, Lolo says it would be very good to have all ASG entities have offices — including the other two branches of government be represented in both Ofu and Ta'u islands.

Lolo says he has recommended to Public Works director Faleosina Voigt to build a structure in Manu'a to house the office of Congresswoman Aumua Amata, to make it easy for her when visiting the island group because it's not easy to achieve the work that needs to be done without an office.

Lolo's statement prompted applause from the audience, which included the Congresswoman's chief of staff for her District Office in Fagatogo, Pulu Ae Ae Jr.

Samoa News notes that prior to last month's 2017 Flag Day, the Congresswoman held town hall meetings in Manu'a to hear from Manu'a residents as well as share with them developments in Congress for American Samoa.

During his remarks, Lolo said it's also important to have offices for the other branches of government in Manu'a — for example, the Legislature.

Lolo says that the importance of these developments, such as

having offices in Manu'a, will allow for easier contact by representatives and officials from all sectors of government to look at ways for improvements, as well as for Manu'a residents to have a place to visit with things they want to share with their lawmakers.

Lolo said the establishment of the EOB in Ofu that started in 2014 is the government's response to questions as to where the government is spending money for economic

development.

Since taking office in 2013, Lolo made a promise to set up ASG offices on both Ofu and Ta'u islands. The EOB on Ta'u Island was dedicated more than a year ago.

Sen. Misaalefua J. Hudson, who was Manu'a District Governor when the Lolo Administration took office, was emotional when expressing appreciation to what the administration has done for Manu'a.

Misaalefua says that the gov-

ernor has bought in a new vessel for Manu'a, the multi million MV Manu'atele, has dedicated a new solar power park for Ofu, which was also commissioned last Thursday — and now the official opening of the new ASG executive office on Ofu serving the villages of Ofu, Olosega and Sili.

Current Manu'a District Governor, Laolagi F.S. Vaeao also expressed appreciation to the administration for the developments for Manu'a; and supported the governor's recommendation for all other ASG offices including the other two branches of government to open offices in Manu'a, including one for the Congresswoman.

Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Mauga T. Asuega was also supportive of the governor's recommendation saying whatever benefits are received by residents of Tutuila, should also be received by residents of Manu'a. He pointed out that there are two separate Deeds of Cession — the 1900 Deed for Tutuila and Aunu'u and the 1904 Manu'a islands with the United States.

The EOB on Ofu was funded with local revenues and constructed by DPW.



Members of the Samoana High School football team during a gathering at the school cafeteria last week Friday where members of the Booster Club presented the new uniform to the football team.

[photo AF]

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of American Samoa
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL
COURT DIVISIONS**
FDA/JR No. 16-17
IN RE: A CHILD.
NOTICE/FA'AALIGA

TO: Mr. Tasi Tifaga
Nu'uuli Village
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named respondent that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to terminate your parental rights in a female child born on June 9, 2015 at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Fagaa-lu, 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 iloiloi ai ou aia fa'a-matua i se teineititi sa fanau o ia i le aso 9 o luni, 2015, i le Falemai i Fagaa-lu, Amerika Samoa. O lenei iloiloga e faia pe a tuana'i le lua Masina ma aso e seguiu mai le aso o le ulua'i fa'asalalauga o lenei fa'aaliga, ma e ono tu'uina atu ai se poloaiga a le Fa'amasinoga e fa'a'ailoa ai ua leai ni ou aia fa'a-matua i lenei teineititi. Afai e te tete'e, pe e te finagalo 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 faasalalauga o lenei fa'aaliga.

DATE/ASO: April 04, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 05/10/17 & 06/12/17



In this Saturday, May. 6, 2017 photo, Iraqi Interior Minister Qasim al-Araji speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, in Baghdad, Iraq. Just over 10 years ago, al-Araji was being arrested for the second time by American forces in Iraq. The charges were serious: smuggling arms used to attack U.S. troops and involvement in an assassination cell at the height of sectarian violence that engulfed Iraq following the 2003 toppling of Saddam Hussein. Now, he heads of one of Iraq's most powerful ministries.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

Human Resource Department, Tafuna
PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
Phone No: (684) 699-3033
Fax No: (684) 699-3046
humanresource@aspower.com

PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Senior Engineer	Posting Date	May 3, 2017
Department	Wastewater/Water	Deadline	4:00 pm May 16, 2017
Division	Engineering Services Division	Pay Rate	\$75,000 - \$105,000/annual
Position Type	Contract (2 years)	Job Grade/Status	~Exempt
Reports To	Division Manager		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The primary objective of the Environmental Engineer position is to manage the Engineering sub-division of the American Samoa Power Authorities Water and Wastewater Division under the direction of the Chief Engineer and Division Manager. This position requires advanced professional engineering, project management and functional operations knowledge with respect to civil, sanitary and environmental works. The Senior Engineer will perform and oversee complex engineering tasks by subordinate Engineering staff to ensure quality and timely completion of both federally-funded and in-house operations projects. The Senior Engineer is also responsible for the budgeting of monies for each project. The Senior Engineer is responsible for assisting in the maintenance of federally sourced grants and meeting the standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Minimum Requirements

Education	Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental or Civil Engineering, AND Current registration as a Professional Engineer (P.E.) in a U.S. state.
Experience	Eight (8) years of related experience in environmental engineering work including project management (planning, design and administration) OR Six (6) years of related work experience in Civil or Environmental engineering work including project management (planning, design and administration) and a Master of Science Degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering AND Two (2) years experience working in a managerial/supervisory role in Civil or Environmental Engineering
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	Perform advanced professional engineering and project management work on a variety of civil projects. Plans, designs, inspects and administers municipal construction projects and on-going maintenance plans Ability to successfully manage complex projects in an independent manner Practical experience with environmental engineering principles, practices and methods as applied to the planning, design, administration and construction of a landfill, sanitary sewer collection, treatment, and discharge systems Knowledge of real world design principles as they pertain to structures, building codes, ordinance, laws, regulations and standards related to the design, construction, operation and maintenance of civil wastewater and water infrastructure Inspect works of subordinate engineers, including field inspections, to ensure that all projects are completed in proper and efficient manner. Oversee Construction Management duties to include QA/QC of water and wastewater projects and oversee day to day work of field engineers and inspections Establishes work priorities and allocates tasks based on individual skills and abilities of available staff. Experience in performing civil & environmental studies, analyses and design as well as the ability to develop plans and programs responsive to current mandates and needs while managing multiple projects simultaneously Coordinates/rotates staff leave to ensure that designated projects are uninterrupted. Ability to identify problems and develop recommended solutions which ensure adherence to engineering specifications as established Verifies adequacy of designs, cost estimates, and other factors where required. Approves all project construction work and final testing prior to facility commissioning and transfer to operational crews. Ensures resources are expended responsibly within the Engineering Division. Prepares engineering plans, specifications and cost estimates for specific environmental and sanitary public works projects. Ability to identify problems and develop recommended solutions which ensure adherence to engineering specifications as established. Ability to clearly express technical information to non-engineering, construction and maintenance personnel. Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office components Ability to complete multiple projects on time and within budget Exhibit excellent verbal and written skills Ability to develop and maintain cooperative working relationships with others Coordinate public works activities with other ASPA divisions and departments as well as with outside agencies Create and monitor project budgets. Demonstrate ability to manage and review performance of staff

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

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Former US prisoner now leading Iraq's Interior ministry

BAGHDAD (AP) — Just over 10 years ago, Qasim al-Araji was being arrested a second time by American forces in Iraq. The charges were serious: smuggling arms used to attack U.S. troops and involvement in an assassination cell at the height of sectarian violence that engulfed Iraq following the 2003 toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Now, he heads of one of Iraq's most powerful ministries.

With credentials that include training from Iranian special operators known as the Quds force and time spent as a guerrilla and militia commander, Iraq's Interior Minister al-Araji is now trumpeting his respect for human rights and support for the U.S.-led coalition in the fight against the Islamic State group. But the forces he now commands have a long history of Shiite domination and abuse, factors that partially contributed to the rise in support for IS in Iraq.

Back in 2007, al-Araji was held by the United States for 23 months. He spent most of his captivity at Bucca prison, including long periods in solitary confinement.

Today, at the head of one of Iraq's most powerful ministries, al-Araji laughs off questions about lingering hostility toward U.S. forces.

"That's life," he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press, his manner boi-

terous and unpolished as he shuttled between meetings at a small Interior Ministry office inside Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone. "I was their prisoner and now I meet with their ambassador."

Al-Araji's office confirmed that he met with the U.S. ambassador to Iraq within days of taking office to express his support for the U.S. role in the fight against IS and to request additional support for his ministry and forces.

Following a controversial March 17 strike in Mosul that killed more than 100 civilians, al-Araji took a rare public position for an Iraqi politician: he defended the U.S.-led coalition and the use of airstrikes in Mosul on the floor of Iraq's parliament.

"My most important goal is to bring security to Iraq," al-Araji said, "and (to achieve that) Iraq is in need of the friendship of the Americans."

Under al-Araji, the Interior Ministry has already received more support from the U.S.-led coalition.

In the fight for Mosul, greater coalition air and ground support for Iraq's federal police — who fall under the command of the Interior Ministry — have allowed them to take a lead role in the city's west.

The U.S.-led coalition is also training and arming local and border police across Iraq, other

(Continued on page 9)

Oregon timber counties struggle as federal support dries up

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP) — So much timber money once flowed into this rural Oregon county that its leaders set up committees to find ways to spend it.

Today, Douglas County's library system is on life support, and its sheriff's department is on track to lose funding.

Nearly 30 years after environmental protections slashed logging in federal forests, Oregon counties like this one that thrived on timber revenues for decades are struggling to provide basic services. These so-called timber counties received hundreds of millions of dollars during logging's long heyday, and since then the federal government has continued to pour money in to make up for timber's downfall.

Now the money has dried up and people are reluctant to tax themselves, leaving leaders scrambling and public institutions in free fall.

Commissioners in Douglas County, which once received \$50 million in annual profits from logging on federal lands, have slashed health services, cut nearly 300 jobs and started charging for landfill use and parking at parks. The county's main library will close June 1 because voters rejected a tax, and voters in nearby Josephine County must decide May 16 whether to restore limited tax dollars to libraries and fund county response to 911 calls.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden recently joined other Western lawmakers in a last-ditch effort to restore federal assistance — but local officials aren't optimistic.

"Most of the citizens have become accustomed to receiving that outside money, and now that that money is gone, we have to be self-sufficient — or at least more self-sufficient," Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel said.

Yet anti-tax sentiment is strong here, where President Donald Trump dominated in November.

Voters in these counties have rejected tax levies for public services nearly a dozen times before, including for public safety and libraries. Many residents feel county leaders are quick to come to voters and must do more to bring back timber dollars, said Jim Rafferty, who opposes raising taxes in Josephine County.

"I'm not saying that we're opposed to public safety. That's not the message," he said. "The message is for the county commissioners to roll up their sleeves and fund the sheriff when they can, rather than give us this rhetoric."

The economic spiral playing out in western Oregon is interwoven with themes that have emerged across the American West: Anger over federal land policy, debate about the limits of environmental regulation and the question of who has the right to benefit from federal lands. Communities across the American West have long received revenues from logging on federal land, but a quirk of history made the timber wealth of more than a dozen counties in Oregon even greater — and makes their current plight unique.

These 18 timber counties stretch from Portland to

the California line. They contain 3,281 square miles (8,498 square kilometers) of densely forested territory that is the central character in a tale of rapid Western expansion and century-old corruption.

The Oregon & California Railroad got the lands in the 1860s for a rail line. The project spurred growth in Oregon but also inspired large-scale land fraud that led to the indictment of a U.S. senator and two congressmen.

In the scandal's wake, the federal government in 1916 took back the land, but locals argued that cheated them of

(Continued on page 10)



In this April 7, 2017, photo, children's librarian Chere Brown reads to toddlers during a story time at the main Josephine County library branch in Grants Pass, Ore. The library system in Josephine County has been operating as a nonprofit on donations and volunteer hours since it lost public funding, but a measure on the May 16, 2017, ballot could restore limited tax dollars by creating a special library tax district. (AP Photo/Gillian Flaccus)



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Hunts Ketchup	13.5oz	\$ 1.30/pc
Wesson Oil	48oz	\$ 3.99/pc
Wesson Oil	64oz	\$ 7.50/pc
Armour Vienna Sausage	4.6oz	\$ 0.80/pc
Hills Bro Coffee	33.9oz	\$ 9.95/pc
Cereal Mix	18oz	\$ 6.55/pc
Cereal Cheerios	12oz	\$ 5.15/pc
BF Mayo	30oz	\$ 4.85/pc
Skyflakes		\$ 4.99/pc
Joy	12.6oz	\$ 1.39/pc
Joy	14oz	\$ 1.45/pc
Joy	30oz	\$ 3.65/pc
Starkist Tuna	12/5oz	\$13.99/cs
Starkist Pouch Tuna Creation	12/4.5oz	\$ 6.95/dz
Starkist Albacore White Tuna	12/2.6oz	\$ 6.95/dz
Starkist Chunk Light Tuna	12/2.6oz	\$ 4.95/dz
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Smart Milk	10/946ml	\$14.99/cs
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Bigloaf	50lb	\$22.95/ble
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Pork Ribs	20lb	\$21.95/cs
Pork Feet		\$ 1.75/lb
Shrimp 313-40	2lb	\$13.99/pk
Fries Straight Cut	5lb	\$ 4.99/pk
Swaii Fillet		\$ 2.35/lb
HL Chopped Ham	10lb	\$18.99/pc
Turkey Tom Wing	30lb	\$19.99/cs
Lumpia Wrapper		\$ 1.50/pc
Chicken Thigh BNLS/SKNLS		\$ 1.40/lb
Lamb Flap		\$ 2.99/lb
Lamb Neck		\$ 2.20/lb
Boneless Beef		\$ 3.45/pk
Swaii Steak		\$ 4.40/pk
Crab Stick	2.5lb	\$ 4.50/pc
Pocino Meatball	10lb	\$ 4.15/lb
Milk Fish		\$ 1.55/lb
Whole Mackerel		\$ 1.50/lb
Baby Tuna		\$ 1.45/lb
Tilapia G&S		\$ 1.45/lb
Mussel Meat	1kg	\$ 7.95/pk
Bar S Bacon	16oz	\$ 3.75/pk
Ground Beef	2lb	\$ 4.35/pc
Yellow Croacker 400-500GR		\$ 3.95/lb
Ikan Mas Cleaned		\$ 2.25/lb
Chicken Nuggets	5lb	\$11.30/pk
Frozen Peas & Carrots	5lb	\$ 8.05/pk



▶ The next OSAMA...

Continued from page 6

forces that now fall under al-Araji's command.

But Iraq's police are some of the same forces who were accused of using excessive force, carrying out mass detentions of Sunni males and routinely torturing detainees in the lead-up to the summer of 2014, according to human rights groups and a 2013 State Department report on human rights practices in Iraq. The abuses contributed to Sunni resentment of central government rule and fueled support for IS extremists in Iraq's Sunni north and west.

Al-Araji, who spent years in exile in Iran, first traveled there as a teenager in the 1980s and was trained by Iranian special forces as a guerrilla fighter to resist Saddam Hussein's regime. In the Iran-Iraq war, he fought on Iran's side. Al-Araji describes his years in Iran as a fighter as formative.

After the fall of Baghdad in 2003, al-Araji and thousands of other fighters poured across the border into Iraq. "We didn't have any military activities," he said of his first days back in Iraq, "but we were supporting the overthrow of the regime. The Americans didn't understand, we were both working for the same end." On April 19 that year he was arrested by U.S. forces on suspicion of commanding militia forces, held for 85 days and then released on insufficient evidence. In 2004, following the fall of Saddam, al-Araji said he fully transitioned to politics, running for local office in Baghdad's Wasit province.

But three years later he was arrested again by U.S. forces. A secret cable from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Jan. 19, 2007 published by WikiLeaks stated that U.S. forces "had good information based on multiple sources," that al-Araji was "involved in smuggling and distribution" of explosives that were being used to target U.S. forces and that he was "also suspected in involvement in an assassination cell."

After nearly two years, al-Araji was again released on insufficient evidence.

"I believe every difficult stage leaves something inside a human being," al-Araji said. "Being a prisoner taught me patience, it made me stronger."

Al-Araji returned to local politics, rose through the ranks of the Badr organization and became a parliamentary bloc leader. After the fall of Mosul, Badr's military wing — closely supported by Iran — racked up a string of high profile victories against IS in 2014. In the months that followed, Badr and the group's leader Hadi al-Amiri rode the wave of those victories for political gain in Baghdad and secured de-facto control of the country's Interior Ministry.

Badr member Mohammed al-Ghabban was appointed to lead the ministry in October 2014, but was forced to resign in July 2016 amid mounting anger following a massive truck bombing claimed by IS in cen-

tral Baghdad that killed more than 300 people.

Al-Araji — appointed in January — takes over the ministry at a critical time for the country's security forces who are under increasing pressure to eliminate the last pockets of IS control, prevent an insurgency from bubbling up in the wake of territorial victories, and repair their reputation in Iraq's Sunni heartland. British Ambassador to Iraq Frank Baker told the AP he talks to al-Araji regularly. He described him as an "an Iraqi patriot" who "faces many challenges but is doing a very good job for Iraq and the Iraqi people."

Looking back at his career, al-Araji says some things about him have changed.

"With my current position comes great responsibility," he said, explaining that because of that he considers the choices he makes carefully.

"But as a person, I have not changed, I'm the same."

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**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

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

▶ Timber counties struggle...

Continued from page 7

a tax base on land ripe for logging.

Federal legislation tailored to compensate the counties created a cash cow: 75 percent of the logging receipts from those lands go to the counties, with no restrictions.

During the 1980s, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management was selling 1 billion board feet (2.4 million cubic meters) of timber a year, producing so much money that some of the counties did not assess property taxes. Most also get 25 percent of timber receipts from national forests within their borders under a separate program.

But in the early 1990s, conservation groups won lawsuits to protect spotted owl and salmon habitat, and logging on federal land dropped by 90 percent. Federal dollars to ease the counties' transition has been shrinking for years and was not renewed this year.

The adjustment has been whiplash in communities where unemployment rises to 8 and 9 percent.

Kate Lasky, executive director of Josephine Community Libraries Inc., runs a non-profit foundation that has kept the libraries open with donations and volunteers.

The May 16 ballot measure would add 39 cents per \$1,000 in taxes for voters in a special district of the precincts around

the library's branches. A previous county-wide levy failed.

"I have to focus on those people who want to support their community," Lasky said. "We need to do that for generations, not just for next year."

A public safety levy on the same ballot asks for 93 cents per \$1,000. If that fails, residents who call 911 won't get any help from sheriff's deputies, said Daniel, the county sheriff, who handed out 17 lay-off warnings last month.

The Oregon State Police, which has been providing limited patrol coverage, says it can't help more of the measure fails.

"We're just bracing ourselves for the impact," Daniel said.

In Douglas County, officials in the 1990s realized there would be a drop-off in funding and started building up reserves, but those funds are almost gone.

"Literally, and I'm not kidding, we had committees that just sat around and figured out how to spend the money. That's no joke. That was their job," Douglas County Commissioner Gary Leif said of timber's peak.

"What I fear — what I know — is going to happen, is that we will have to go to the people and say, 'We've cut everything down to the bones. There's nowhere else to cut.'"

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Officer who fatally shot teen had once been suspended

DALLAS (AP) — Records show that a white Texas police officer who was fired for fatally shooting a black teenager was briefly suspended in 2013 following a complaint about his conduct while serving as a witness in a drunk-driving case.

Personnel records from the Balch Springs, Texas, Police Department obtained Thursday by The Associated Press show former officer Roy Oliver was suspended for 16 hours in December 2013 after the Dallas County District Attorney's Office filed the complaint. Oliver also was ordered to take training courses in anger management and courtroom demeanor and testimony.

The Dallas County attorney's office now is investigating the shooting Saturday night in which Oliver fired a rifle at a car of teenagers leaving a party, striking and killing 15-year-old Jordan Edwards.

About 200 people attended a vigil in Balch Springs on Thursday night to honor the teen's memory and protest his death.

Messages left with a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office, a police spokesman and a lawyer for Oliver were not immediately returned Thursday.

The personnel records also included periodic evaluations that noted at least one instance when Oliver was reprimanded for being "disrespectful to a civilian on a call." That evaluation, dated January 27, 2017, called the reprimand an isolated incident and urged Oliver to be mindful of his leadership role in the department.

The complaint from the prosecutor's office said the office had a hard time getting Oliver to attend the trial, he was angry he had to be there, he used vulgar language that caused an assistant district attorney to send a female intern out of the room, and he used profanity during his testimony.

"In an email from one of the prosecutors he states you were a 'scary person to have in our workroom,'" then-Balch Springs Police Chief Ed Morris wrote in the suspension findings.

Oliver joined the Balch Springs department in 2011

after being an officer with the Dalworthington Gardens Police Department for almost a year. A statement from Dalworthington Gardens officials late Wednesday included some details of that and previous intermittent employment as a dispatcher and public works employee between 1999 and 2004.

The statement said he received an award for "meritorious conduct" as a dispatcher and there were no documented complaints or disciplinary action in either his work as a public safety officer or dispatcher. Between his employment as a dispatcher and officer in the Dallas suburb, he was in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of sergeant while serving two tours in Iraq and earning various commendations. He served for two years in the Texas National Guard reserves through 2012.

After the Dallas County Attorney's Office complained about Oliver's behavior, Morris suspended the officer for 16 hours, which Oliver completed by forfeiting two sick days.

Heath Harris, the former first assistant district attorney under Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins, said he did not remember the incident or which of the many courts might have been involved.

"I don't think that it will impact this investigation at all, other than the fact that it's something that clearly the defense will try to use," Harris said. "But DA (Faith) Johnson has already stated that the investigation by the public integrity unit will be independent and based solely on the facts of the shooting."

Edwards and his two brothers and two other teenagers were driving away from an unruly house party in Balch Springs late Saturday night when Oliver opened fire on their vehicle with a rifle. The bullets shattered the front passenger-side window and struck Edwards. Oliver was fired Tuesday for violating department policies.

It took a few moments for Edwards' 16-year-old brother, who was driving, and other passengers to notice that he was slumped over in his seat.



Saaniya Alhassan shields her candle from a breeze as she stands with a few hundred supporters listening to speakers during a vigil for Jordan Edwards in Balch Springs, Texas, Thursday, May 4, 2017. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)



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IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



This undated photo provided by the Eye and Ear shows Dr. Lina Bolanos, who was found dead with Dr. Richard Field on Friday, May 5, 2017, by police at the Macallen Building in South Boston. Police said they believe the man suspected of their deaths knew them.
(Courtesy of Eye and Ear via AP)

Police: 2 doctors found dead in penthouse likely knew killer

BOSTON (AP) — Two engaged Boston doctors found dead this weekend inside the penthouse of a luxury condominium building most likely knew their killer, police say.

Dr. Lina Bolanos and Dr. Richard Field were found dead Friday night by police at the Macallen Building in South Boston and police say they believe the man suspected of their deaths knew them. Boston police have not said how the couple were killed or provided a motive in the case.

Bolanos, 38, was a pediatric anesthesiologist at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, according to its website, and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. Field, 49, also an anesthesiologist, worked at North Shore Pain Management.

Police had gone to the building on a report of a man with a gun. Police Commissioner William B. Evans said the suspect opened fire when officers confronted him at the door. He said police fired back and hit the man several times.

After the shootings, the suspect was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries. The officers weren't hurt.

Authorities expect to file multiple charges against 30-year-old Bampumim Teixeira, of Chelsea. His arraignment is scheduled for Monday.

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office said Teixeira has a pair of larceny convictions on his record. In June of last year, Teixeira passed a note demanding money at a Boston bank. He committed the same crime two years earlier.

The office didn't know Sunday if he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

On its Facebook page, North Shore Pain Management called Field "instrumental in the creation of this practice" and that his death "leaves an inescapable void in all of us."

Bolanos' godfather, Michael Gibbs, told The Boston Globe that she and Field were "good, kind, gentle people."

"Hopefully, this guy that they caught will be able to say who he is and why this was done," Gibbs said. "That's all we're hoping, is to get some kind of information. Why did this happen?"

On behalf of Massachusetts Eye and Ear, CEO John Fernandez expressed sadness over the deaths of both doctors.

"The entire Mass. Eye and Ear community is deeply saddened by the deaths of Dr. Lina Bolanos and her fiance," he said on the practice's website. "Dr. Bolanos was an outstanding pediatric anesthesiologist and a wonderful colleague in the prime of both her career and life."





This photo published on the front page of the Monday, May 9, 2017, edition of "The Australian" newspaper shows a 6-year-old Australian boy making an Islamic State movement salute in front of a human body hanging from a cross somewhere in the Middle East, in Canberra. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Monday such children who returned from the battle fields of Syria and Iraq would be subjected to "the closest attention" to ensure Australian are safe.

(AP Photo/Rod McGuirk)

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Prime minister says IS fighter's son can return to Australia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A 6-year-old Australian boy photographed making an Islamic State movement salute in front of a human body hanging from a cross somewhere in the Middle East was entitled to return to Australia with his siblings, Australia's prime minister said on Monday.

But such children who returned from the battlefields of Syria and Iraq would be subjected to "the closest attention" to ensure Australians were safe, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said.

"We will be utterly resolute in keeping Australians safe, and that applies to anyone who returns from the conflict zone, whether they are an adult or a child," Turnbull told reporters.

Australian media on Sunday published the photograph posted on social media by Sydney-born convicted terrorist Khaled Sharrouf of his youngest child. The smiling boy holds up his right index finger in a salute in front of an apparently lifeless body suspended from a cross with plastic cable ties. A sign hanging from the body said the capital crime was collaborating with Christians.

Sharrouf's Muslim-convert wife Tara Nettleton took their five children from Sydney to Syria to join their father in February 2014.

Nettleton died of surgery complications in September last year, but her mother Karen Nettleton continues to lobby governments for help to bring the children home.

Turnbull criticized Sharrouf, 35, over the picture, saying such behavior demonstrated

why Australia is committed to destroying the Islamic State movement.

"The despicable conduct of Khaled Sharrouf in using his child to promote the barbaric, terrorist activities of the organization of which he is part, is almost beyond belief," Turnbull said.

"All of the children that are being exploited in this way, if they are Australian citizens, of course, would be able to return to Australia. But under the closest possible supervision," he added.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin said his officers were working with foreign partners toward prosecuting Sharrouf. The image of the child "says a lot more about Khaled Sharrouf than it does about his children," Colvin said.

Sharrouf horrified the world in 2014 when he posted on social media a photograph of another son clutching the severed head of a Syrian soldier.

Then-U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry described that image as "one of the most disturbing, stomach-turning, grotesque photographs ever displayed."

The U.S. State Department in January announced sanctions against two Australian militants, including Sharrouf.

Sharrouf was among nine Muslim men accused in 2007 of stockpiling bomb-making materials and plotting terrorist attacks in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia's largest cities. He pleaded guilty to terrorism offenses in 2009 and served less than four years in prison.



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Watchdog says Vietnamese officials bribed by log smugglers

BANGKOK (AP) — An environmental watchdog has accused Vietnamese government and military officials of taking payoffs to ignore vast smuggling of lucrative lumber from neighboring Cambodia.

Millions of dollars in bribes have been paid by Vietnamese timber traders to both Vietnamese and Cambodian officials, the report issued Monday by the U.K.-based Environmental Investigation Agency alleges.

It says the Vietnamese officials are paid off in exchange for granting import quotas for the timber and Cambodians are paid to open up logging areas and smuggling routes. The logging itself in Cambodia is often illegal, taking place in protected areas such as national parks.

Cambodia has banned the export of logs and since early 2016 has closed its border with Vietnam to timber as well. However, Vietnam has official quotas for such imports, which are also taxed.

Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not respond to AP's request for comment on the report. Sear Ra, deputy chief of Cambodia's Forestry Administration, noted that such exporting was stopped 2016, and if it had happened since then, it would have been done secretly and illegally.

Cambodia has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world, much of it due to illegal logging and corrupt land deals.

Much of the timber trade is protected by military units that profit from deals with the loggers.

Vietnam's official quotas

facilitate the smuggling from Cambodia and even allows Vietnam to profit by taxing the smuggled logs, the report says.

"Approximately 300,000 cubic meters of logs have been smuggled out of Cambodia and laundered in Vietnam under these quotas," it says, estimated the kickbacks have totaled more than \$13 million since the beginning of November 2016.

The watchdog says Vietnam and the European Union are expected to sign an agreement to try to ensure only legal timber is exported from Vietnam.

"This is the single largest log-smuggling operation that we have seen for years," the group's senior forests campaigner, Jago Wadley said in a news release. "Vietnam must address this weak approach to any agreement with the EU to combat illegal logging and the associated trade."

The report points out that the illegal trade comes as Vietnam is working hard to protect its own forests, even as Vietnam's government "has promoted the rapid expansion of an export-oriented wood processing sector, which has become the sixth largest in the world."

It says Vietnamese exports of wood products are projected to total \$8 billion this year, while imports account for at least 80 percent of the raw materials consumed by its factories.

Cambodia and Laos, another neighbor of Vietnam, together provided Vietnam with illicit timber worth almost three quarters of a billion dollars in a single year, says the report, noting that a crackdown in Laos has shifted the smugglers' attention to Cambodia.



FILE - This Tuesday Sept. 27, 2016 file photo shows Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Roger Gregory during an interview in his office in Richmond, Va. Gregory will preside over the full 15-judge court will hear the a lawsuit challenging President Trump's travel ban. (AP Photo/Steve Helber)

Appeals court to weigh challenge to revised Trump travel ban

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — After a series of stinging legal defeats, President Donald Trump's administration hopes to convince a federal appeals court that his travel ban targeting six-Muslim majority countries is motivated by national security, not religion.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday will examine a ruling that blocks

the administration from temporarily barring new visas for citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. It's the first time an appeals court will hear arguments on the revised travel ban, which is likely destined for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Pointing to the Republican's promises on the campaign trail to bar Muslims from entering the country, a federal judge in Maryland found in March that the policy appeared to be driven primarily by religious animus.

Attorneys for the U.S. Justice Department say the court shouldn't rely on Trump's statements, but on the text of the policy, which they say is necessary to protect the country from terrorism. The banned countries represent just a fraction of the predominantly Muslim countries worldwide, they note.

"The court should have focused on official acts, not perceived subjective motivations," the attorneys say in court documents.

The American Civil Liberties Union and National Immigration Law Center say Trump wants the courts to "blind themselves to the ample, public, and uncontested evidence" that the policy targets Muslims.

"The basic question in this case is whether the mountain of evidence that exists as to the improper motive is going to be looked at by this court or swept under the rug," said Omar Jadwat, director of the

ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, who will argue the case Monday.

In an extraordinary move signifying the importance of the case, the 4th Circuit decided to bypass the three-judge panel that typically first hears appeals and go straight to the full-court hearing.

While the 4th Circuit was long considered one of the most conservative appeals courts in the country, it moved to the center under President Barack Obama, who appointed six of the 15 active judges.

Now, nine judges are Democratic appointees and five judges are Republican appointees. Chief Judge Roger Gregory was given a recess appointment to the court by President Bill Clinton and was reappointed by President George W. Bush.

It will likely be weeks before the 4th Circuit issues a decision. And even if the court sides with Trump, the travel ban will remain blocked unless the president also wins in another appeals court.

A federal judge in Hawaii has also blocked the six-country travel ban as well as the freeze on the U.S. refugee program. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will meet next Monday to hear arguments in that case.

Audio of the 2:30 p.m. EDT 4th Circuit will be broadcast live on C-SPAN. The court will also provide a link to the audio feed on its website.



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The 'WHO, WHAT, WHY' of Trump's swift firing of Comey

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's swift firing of FBI Director James Comey amid the bureau's investigation into allegations his campaign had ties to Russia raised a lot of questions and reaction, with Democrats calling for an independent prosecutor and at least one Republican welcoming the news as a chance for a fresh start. Still others were mystified by the decision to fire a director once lauded by both parties for his independence and integrity.

WHAT DID THE PRESIDENT SAY?

Trump told Comey in a letter that he was following the recommendations of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his deputy, Rod Rosenstein, who criticized Comey's controversial handling of an investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server.

"It is essential that we find new leadership for the FBI that restores public trust and confidence in its vital law enforcement mission," Trump wrote.

Clinton has blamed that investigation in part for the election result that put Trump in the White House.

ANYTHING ELSE?

Trump in his letter also said Comey repeatedly told him that he was not part of the probe into Russia contacts, something that has not been publicly stated before and which would be extremely unusual for an FBI director to say.

"While I greatly appreciate you informing me on, on three separate occasions, that I am not under investigation, I nevertheless concur with the judgment of the Department of Justice that you are not able to effectively lead the Bureau," Trump wrote. When asked last week during a Senate hearing whether the president was part of the probe, Comey declined to answer.

WHAT WAS THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S JUSTIFICATION?

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein wrote a scathing three-page memo titled, "Restoring Public Confidence in the FBI," that slammed almost every aspect of Comey's handling of the Clinton probe. He said the director broke with longstanding tradition and protocol by holding a news conference in July where he announced Clinton would not be charged but denounced her sloppy handling of classified information. Comey should not have made his own conclusions about the "nation's most sensitive criminal investigation" without the Justice Department's express approval. But instead he "laid out his version of the facts for the news media as if it were a



The White House is seen in Washington, Tuesday night, May 9, 2017. President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey on May 9, 2017, ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of an investigation into whether Trump's campaign had ties to Russia's election meddling.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

closing argument, but without a trial," Rosenstein wrote. He called it "a textbook example of what federal prosecutors and agents are taught not to do."

Then the closing days of last year's election, Comey announced the FBI was reopening the probe based on newly discovered emails, saying "concealing" that information would be worse. Rosenstein called that a "loaded term" because federal law enforcement officials have a longstanding practice of not speaking publicly.

"In that context, silence is not concealment," he wrote. "The way the Director handled the conclusion of the email investigation was wrong. As a result, the FBI is unlikely to regain public and congressional trust until it has a Director who understands the gravity of the mistakes and pledges never to repeat them."

The memo is also significant because Rosenstein is overseeing the Justice Department's investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia, after Sessions recused himself.

WHAT DID DEMOCRATS SAY?

Democrats decried the firing, comparing it to President Richard Nixon's "Saturday Night Massacre" decision to fire the independent special prosecutor overseeing the Watergate investigation, prompting the resignations of the Justice Department's top two officials. They expressed deep skepticism about the stated reasons of the firing, publicly raising the prospect of a White House effort to stymie a pressing investigation.

"This is Nixonian," Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., declared on Twitter. "Outrageous," said Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, calling for Comey to immediately be summoned to testify

to Congress about the status of the Trump-Russia investigation. Rep. Adam Schiff of California said the White House was "brazenly interfering" in the probe.

WHAT DID REPUBLICANS SAY?

Some lawmakers welcomed news of the dismissal.

"Given the recent controversies surrounding the director, I believe a fresh start will serve the FBI and the nation well," said Republican Lindsay Graham of South Carolina, chairman of a Senate Judiciary subcommittee investigating the Russian campaign interference.

Republican Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri said Comey served the country well, but "many,

including myself, have questioned his actions more than once over the past year. I believe new leadership at the FBI will restore confidence in the organization and among the people who do the hard work to carry out its mission."

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said Congress must form a special committee to investigate Russia's interference in the election.

WHAT DID FBI AGENTS SAY?

The head of a professional association of FBI agents said it appreciated Comey's leadership and support.

"He understood the centrality of the Agent to the

Bureau's mission, recognizing that Agents put their lives on the line every day," FBI Agents Association President Thomas O'Connor said in a statement. He said Comey worked to ensure the FBI's investigations were constitutional and that agents "performed their mission with integrity and professionalism."

And the association wants a say in who will be the next director.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Trump will now appoint Comey's successor. The White House said the search for a replacement was beginning immediately. Comey's deputy, Andrew McCabe, has been named interim director.

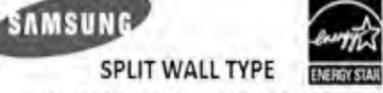
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Family sues Texas officer, department in 15-year-old's death

DALLAS (AP) — The family of a black 15-year-old shot and killed by a white suburban Dallas police officer has sued the officer and his department, accusing the department of inadequately training the officer and ignoring warning signs that he was prone to erratic behavior.

Jordan Edwards' funeral was Saturday, one week after he was shot dead in a vehicle leaving a house party in Balch Springs, Texas. According to the Edwards family's lawyers, Officer Roy Oliver fired his rifle at the vehicle as it was driving away, piercing a passenger-side window and striking Edwards.

Oliver was fired last week and arrested on a murder charge. The lawsuit, filed Friday, says police should have

known Oliver had "exhibited a pattern of escalating encounters with the public," including a prosecutor's complaint about his aggressive behavior detailed in personnel records. The complaint said prosecutors had a hard time getting Oliver to attend a trial and used language vulgar enough that one prosecutor sent an intern out of the room. Oliver received a 16-hour suspension over the complaint.

But the lawsuit also blames Balch Springs Police Chief Jonathan Haber and the department for having "failed to provide adequate training to Oliver on appropriate methods and techniques to control situations similar to the one" that occurred on the night of April 29, when police were called to investigate underage drinking at a chaotic house party with dozens of teenagers.

"There was no reason that any person in America — not just a black person — should ever have to bury their 15-year-old child who was doing everything right in life," Jasmine Crockett, one of the family's attorneys, said Sunday.

Crockett said attorneys filed the lawsuit to preserve the legal rights of the teenager's father, Odell Edwards. The lawsuit broadly seeks damages for Edwards' wrongful death, but does not list a specific amount of money. No hearings have been scheduled.

Even with the quick action to fire and arrest Oliver, as Edwards' family and people protesting the shooting had demanded, "people are still nervous and expecting to be disappointed," Crockett said.

"That's what we expect from our system time and time again," she said.

The day after the shooting, police issued a statement saying the vehicle was reversing toward officers "in an aggressive manner." Haber would correct that statement Monday after reviewing police video footage, saying the vehicle was actually driving away from the officers when Oliver fired his rifle.

Balch Springs' use of force policy — in line with national recommendations — instructs officers to avoid shooting at moving vehicles unless their lives or others' are in imminent danger. But the lawsuit says officials had the responsibility to determine whether Oliver knew how to respond.

"Oliver's inadequate training resulted in the death of Edwards," the lawsuit said.

A spokesman for police and an attorney for Oliver, Cindy Stormer, did not return messages Sunday seeking comment on the lawsuit.



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