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Aua Elementary School Level 3 students pose for photo during a recent Samoa News visit of their campus.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Motion to reduce bail for LE AUTE owner denied

PX HEARING SET FOR NEXT WEEK, FRIDAY

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by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

District Court Judge Pro-Tem, Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde denied a motion to reduce bail for the owner of the LE AUTE Sports Bar during a hearing yesterday morning.

Tumuatasi Lefatia, also known as “Mama” appeared in District Court yesterday morning for a hearing to determine whether she wished to exercise her constitutional right for a preliminary examination (PX) hearing. During the PX, the judge decides whether there is enough evidence to force the defendant to stand trial.

When Lefatia’s case was called, Uiagalelei informed

the court that his client wished to go forward with her PX hearing, and asked it be set for Friday, Sept. 28, 2018.

Tauiliili-Langkilde granted the defense’s request and later scheduled Lefatia’s PX for Friday next week at 10:30 a.m.

On the issue of Lefatia’s bond, Uiagalelei requested his client’s bond be reduced from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

He told the court that after reviewing the arrest warrant, he feels that \$50,000 is a reasonable amount to release his client from custody and prepare herself for trial.

He told the court that his client is a long-time resident of American Samoa and has strong family ties to

her village, and is not a flight risk, given the fact that the government has already taken his client’s passport, so, there is no way his client can leave the territory. He noted that the government can also file a stop order against his client to make sure she does not leave American Samoa.

The defense attorney noted that his client is not a danger to the community.

Prosecutor Dunn strongly opposed the defense’s motion for bail reduction. She pointed out that given the nature of the charges against Lefatia, the government believes that \$100,000 is a reasonable amount for the defendant.

Dunn further told the court that the defendant has

(Continued on page 2)

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Seen here is Samoa Government’s Consul General to American Samoa, Auseugaefa M.F. Va’asatia Poloma Komiti (third from left) with friends during his farewell dinner last week. Komiti departs the territory the end of the month for his new overseas diplomatic post in Australia, starting Oct. 15th.

Auseugaefa has served as Consul General for American Samoa since March 2015, and will be replaced by the new Consul General, Fonoti Manogiamanu Etuale Ioane, who arrives next week. Auseugaefa has extensive senior leadership and management experience with over 30 years in the Samoa government’s Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Foreign Affairs Department. Prior to his diplomatic post in American Samoa, Auseugaefa had served in various posts including as Private Consultant and Immigration Adviser (Oct. 2009-Feb. 2015; chief executive officer of the Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet (May 1997-Sept. 2009) and as acting secretary to the government (March to May 1997).

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



Lauli'i Elementary School Level K 5 students posed for photo during a Samoa News visit of their campus.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP 076-2018
Issuance Date: September 20, 2018

Date & Time Due: October 12, 2018
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) Office of Procurement issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide the:

“Preparation and Delivery of Hot Congregated Meals for Senator Citizens”

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP: Preparation and Delivery of Hot Congregated Meals for Senior Citizens.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **October 12, 2018**:

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

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

DOCUMENT

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Friday, October 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement - Conference Room located at the Mosooi Business Center. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.

REVIEW

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

RIGHT OF REJECTION

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

LE AUTE Owner Denied...

Continued from page 1

violated conditions of her probation, and so, for the safety of the community, the bail amount the court has already set is a reasonable amount.

Uiagalelei fired back, saying that the government shouldn't bring up the issue of probation, because the case before the court is a separate case. If the government feels that his client has violated conditions of her probation, they can file a motion to revoke her probation with the High Court.

“Based on the nature of this case, \$50,000 is the reasonable bond amount for my client,” Uiagalelei said.

In delivering her decision, Tauiliili-Langkilde pointed to two things; not only has the court reviewed the defendant's case file very carefully, but has also considered the fact that the defendant is also on probation from a previous matter.

“After reviewing these files, the court has decided that Mr. Uiagalelei, your motion is denied. Cash bond for this defendant remains at \$100,000,” Tauiliili-Langkilde said.

Uiagalelei immediately asked the court whether bail for his client is cash or surety, Tauiliili-Langkilde responded that it was clear from the

defendant's initial appearance that bail is a cash bond.

Lefatia, who is remanded into custody until she posts her bond smiled after hearing the court's decision on her motion. Several family members including Lefatia's aunty were present inside the courtroom during her hearing yesterday morning at 11a.m.

BACKGROUND

Lefatia was arrested and charged for unlawful possession of meth and marijuana, as a result of a raid early last week Wednesday morning conducted by armed detectives from the DPS Vice & Narcotics Unit, along with other police officers from various DPS divisions.

The owner of Le Aute is the only individual charged as a result of the police raid.

She is charged with 4 felony counts, including unlawful possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine; unlawful possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine with the intent to distribute; unlawful possession of a control substance, marijuana; and unlawful possession of a controlled substance, marijuana with the intent to distribute.

Government seeks to overhaul current Consumer Protection Act

AG: A LOT OF CONSUMER COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AGAINST CAR REPAIR AND INSURANCE BUSINESSES

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale has told senators there are a lot of consumer complaints received by his office regarding businesses such as car repair shops and insurance, but didn't elaborate as to the type of insurance businesses the complaints are referencing. Talauega testified yesterday morning before the Senate Economic Development/ Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Sen. Tilo Vasaga, on an administration bill which seeks to overhaul the current Consumer Protection Act that includes expanding the powers of the director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, an entity of the Department of Legal Affairs overseen by the Attorney General.

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga said current laws designed to protect consumers are outdated and do not sufficiently project consumers. "Thus, it is in the public interest to update these laws to create causes of action, remedies and to establish procedures that help ensure fair and ethical business practices in commercial transactions with consumers," he explained.

And Talauega echoed this in his testimony before the committee, saying that the proposed law is to further protect consumers in their dealings with businesses. He says that there are still consumers — especially those from low-income families — complaining about unfair business dealings by local vendors.

Questions from some of the senators focused on stores, including those operated by Asians, and Talauega says this proposed law covers all types of businesses operating on island, and not just stores.

He said that there are a lot of complaints that have reached his office pertaining to insurance companies and car repair shops. For example, the consumer takes in his/ her car for repairs but after repairs, the owner finds that the car battery is missing. Another example, he said, a car is taken in to fix a

tire and afterwards the owner finds that other parts of their car are missing.

For insurance, he says that a person continues to pay for insurance but when a "fa'alavelave happens", it's then learned that the insurance had been cancelled for a long time. (The AG didn't specify the type of insurance he was referring to).

In these types of cases, Talauega says it's very difficult for the Consumer Protection Bureau to move forward with enforcement of the law because the Bureau lacks specific authority and responsibility to bring in owners of such businesses, but this proposed law would give the Bureau more authority to address such consumer problems.

Talauega repeated several times that many consumers continue to face various problems in dealing with local businesses.

Among the proposed amendments that would add new provisions to the current statute, according to the bill, which "shall be construed liberally to promote" the following policies:

- the protection of consumers from suppliers who commit deceptive, fraudulent and unconscionable sales practices; and
- the encouragement and development of fair consumer sales practices.

Definitions of "Deceptive acts and practices" and "unconscionable consumer sales practice" are described in the bill.

For example, among definitions of deceptive acts are: Goods have been used to an extent that is materially different from the fact; advertising the product with the intent of not selling it as advertised; and, engaging in any act or practice which is otherwise misleading, under false pretense, fraudulent, misrepresentative, or otherwise deceptive to the consumer.

According to the bill, an "unconscionable" act or practice is a question of law for the court. The bill then outlines how the court would determine such act or practice as unconscionable.



ROTARY CLUB OF PAGO PAGO

TSUNAMI MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 • 11:30am

Lion's Park Tsunami Shelter

The Rotary Club of Pago Pago and Hawaiian Air will host a Memorial Remembrance Service for the 34 Tsunami Victim's Immediate Family Members:

Date: Saturday, September 29, 2018

Place: Tsunami Memorial Family Picnic Shelter at Lion's Park in Tafuna, AS

Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm

Members of the Public are invited to join with the families of the 2009 Tsunami victims on this day.

A memorial service will be conducted and all are invited to give testimonials to their lost family and friends who died on September 29, 2009.

At the end of the service light refreshments and food will be provided by Corporate partners of the Rotary Club of Pago Pago.

This ad is paid for by ASPA / Tool Shop / NPI in the spirit of the community service

DPS officer testifies that based on evidence they found — Letasi is a drug dealer

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

The government revealed during the second day of Tautua Letasi's jury trial that based on the evidence they collected from the vehicle Letasi drove on the early morning of May 21, 2017, along with other evidence found at his home in Aoloau, they came to the conclusion that the defendant is a drug dealer.

Letasi, who is out on a \$60,000 surety bond, is charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; and unlawful possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, both felonies. He is also charged with two misdemeanor counts of possession of two unlicensed firearms.

A six-member jury — three females and three males — was selected this past Monday.

Prosecuting the case is Assistant Attorney General, Woodrow Pengelly, while representing Letasi is Assistant Public Defender, Ryan Anderson.

The government called to the witness stand several police detectives who worked together to compile all the information regarding this case, including the lead investigator, Det. Savelio Vaofanua.

When asked by the defense attorney during cross examination, Det. Vaofanua stated to the jury that there was no DNA test conducted nor were there fingerprints taken when the evidence was seized from the defendant's vehicle and home

in Aoloao.

In redirect, Pengelly asked Det. Vaofanua whether he knew, if there is a DNA forensic facility on island that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) could use to conduct such tests. The witness replied, "No".

Det. John Paselio, the third witness the government called to testify, who is a police officer of 20 years, and as been involved in many of the police raids of various places on island — where it was suspected illegal drugs were being dealt — told the jury that Letasi's case is a different case.

"The evidence that was collected from the vehicle and his home in Aoloau proves Letasi is a drug dealer," Paselio told the jury.

When asked by Pengelly how he knew that the defendant is a drug dealer, Paselio said, "In cases where people were found and charged for personal use [of drugs], we only find a glass pipe and one or two stamp size baggies containing methamphetamine."

"For the case against Letasi, we found 4 medium size baggies containing white crystalline substances, which were later tested positive for methamphetamine, along with 3 medium size baggies containing green leafy substance which later tested positive for marijuana, and drug paraphernalia including empty baggies, straws, scale, a pair of scissors and firearms."

Based on his training as

a police officer, Paselio told the jury the illegal drugs that were allegedly found in the Army backpack inside Letasi's vehicle was ready to be sold to other people.

According to the Paselio, it was Letasi's wife who gave police the authority to search their home on the same date the defendant was arrested by police.

During the search of the defendant's home, police found a 22- rifle inside his bedroom, along with drug paraphernalia, including a glass pipe that was inside a small plastic bowl.

Paselio told the jury that based on his training, it's common for drug dealers to have firearms — not only to protect themselves, but also as a result of an exchange for methamphetamine.

The government also called Det. Gaui Lavatai-Seanoa, who works at the DPS Identification Unit. In her testimony, she told the jury that she was the one who took photos of all the items that were discovered inside the defendant's vehicle and home.

After taking photos of all the evidence, she then placed them all inside the police unit she was using and transported them to the DPS Evidence Custodian, Officer Zenophia Jennings.

Photos of all the items seized from the defendant's vehicle and his home in Aoloau were accepted into evidence and were marked as exhibits in this case.

The trial resumes at 9:00am today.



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samoa news

OSHA closes investigation of Cape Ferrat death incident

PENALTIES REDUCED, OSHA SAYS DOES NOT HAVE JURISDICTION OVER CREW OF THE VESSEL

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has closed its investigation and reduced the penalty against a US based fishery company, Cape Ferrat Fishing Lp., following the death last year of a man who fell overboard a fishing vessel that was docked at the cannery side of Pago Pago Harbor, according to OSHA public records reviewed by Samoa News.

Samoa News reported last November on the death of the 62-year old captain of the US flagged purse seiner, Cape Ferrat, who died Oct. 28, while the vessel was in Pago Pago. Local police investigated the incident and recommended closing the case, after they determined no foul play was involved, and the incident was an unfortunate accident.

OSHA, a bureau of the US Department of Labor, conducted an investigation in the incident. On Mar. 26 this year, OSHA issued three proposed "serious" violations — each with a proposed fine of \$5,174 and a fourth violation, described as "other" with a proposed fine of \$3,696 — with total proposed fines of \$19,218, according to OSHA public records as of yesterday morning.

It also shows that the fines and violations were contested by the company on Apr. 19.

However, as of yesterday morning, OSHA public records show that the case was closed Sept. 19th and under the formal settlement, the three serious violations were deleted, while the "other" violation remains.

Therefore there is only one current violation, "other" and current total penalty is \$3,696, according to OSHA public records, which show a mailing address for the Cape Ferrat Fishing company in Bellevue, Washington

Responding to Samoa News questions, a USDOL spokesman first explained that Cape Ferrat Fishing Lp., had contested the citations and as a result, a stipulation and settlement agreement was signed on June 8, 2018.

According to the spokesman, it was determined that OSHA did not have jurisdiction over the crew of the vessel. And the serious violations cited and penalties associated with those citations to the company "were

withdrawn".

"The settlement did not affect the company's responsibility to notify OSHA of the fatality. The regulatory violation categorized as "other" was retained, along with the \$3,696 penalty," the spokesman notes.

OSHA public records reviewed by Samoa News show that the federal agency's Honolulu District Office opened its investigation on Nov. 2, 2017 against Cape Ferrat Fishing, regarding the incident, in which an employee fell from the ship's gangway and was killed.

According to the "accident investigation summary," it was around 8:45p.m on Oct. 28, 2017 that an employee was walking up the gangway onto the fishing vessel and appeared to have stopped at the top of the gangway.

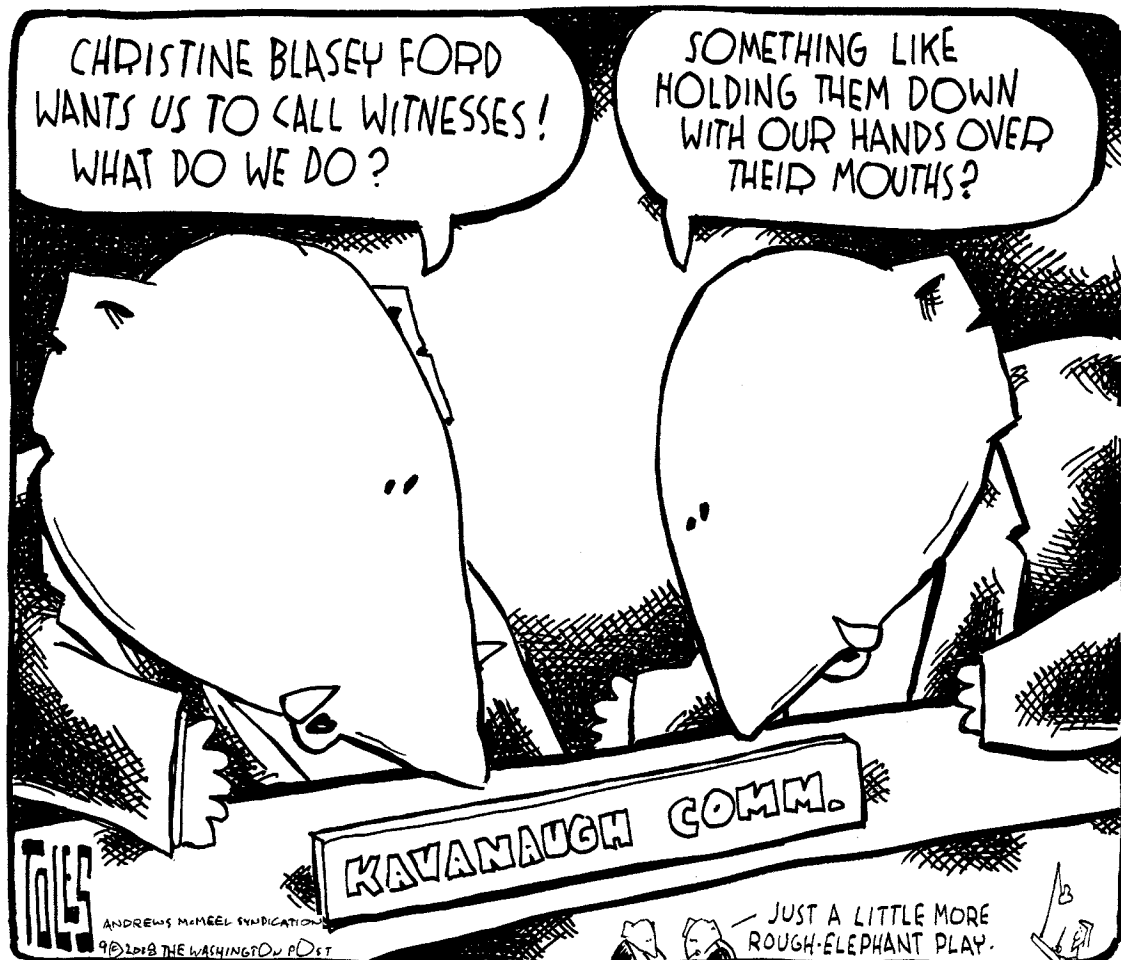
The employee "was in the process of coming off the gangway onto the steps when he fell overboard between the vessel and the pier and drowned," the summary states. "The employee had a large head wound and was unresponsive when removed from the water."

OSHA investigation found that a "stanchion on the gangway was not secure and there was no safety net provided between the vessel and the pier. The employee fell from the top of the gangway, hitting his head either on the side of the vessel or the pier and then into the water."

No other information was provided in the investigation summary about the employee.

Meanwhile, a High Court of American Samoa notice published in Samoa News — as a paid advertisement — on Sept. 14, and again Sept. 18 and two more publications next month shows the Cape Ferrat, the vessel, has been arrested in connection with the case of plaintiffs: Maren Miller, personal representative of the beneficiaries and estate of Michael Castaneda, deceased; and Tracey Castaneda, against F/V Cape Ferrat and two others.

The notice says that on Sept. 7th pursuant to a High Court, Trial Division order, the Marshal of the High Court of American Samoa arrested the F/V Cape Ferrat, cargo, freight, equipment, engines, tackle, masts, boats, anchors,, cables chains, rigging, skiffs, furniture and all other necessities.



Compiled by Samoa News staff FIRST STUDENT-ATHLETE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HELD IN SAMOA

The first Student-Athlete Leadership Conference began today, Sept. 20, at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel. Led by the Samoa Institute of Sport and funded by the United States Embassy in Apia Samoa, the conference will host over 30, Year 12 and Year 13 student-athletes from secondary schools around Samoa.

The two-day conference aims to increase the amount of high performing student-athletes in Samoa, and raise awareness about the benefits of sport on academic performance.

"Research shows the positive impact sports has on academic performance, and on future employability later in life. Often the challenge is that there are a lack of role models and sharing about how this happens in our community. We hope that by inspiring and equipping this first group of Student-Athlete leaders we can start to shift the way we think about young people pursuing excellence in both sports and academics." Say Philippa Te Hira-Matatia, Director of Samoa Institute of Sport.

Ten schools around Samoa have nominated their students to participate in the two-day

event. The conference will include sessions on goal setting, sportsmanship, media training, and feature guest speakers who work closely with young athletes in Samoa.

The conference is part of the Student-Athlete Leadership Program being launched by the Samoa Institute of Sport on Friday. The program is being supported by Toa Gas company and includes scholarships to support student-athletes with their education and sporting pursuits in the new year.

For more information visit: www.samoainstituteofsport.com/student-athletes

(Source: Samoa Institute Of Sport)

FUIMAONO OUT, STEVE JACKSON SET TO BE NAMED NEW MANU SAMOA COACH

Fuimaono Titimaea Tafua will not take the Manu Samoa to the World Cup in Japan next year, despite coaching the team through the qualification rounds.

The Samoa Rugby Union is instead set to name former Auckland Blues Assistant, Steve Jackson, as the new coach.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Rugby Union, Faleomavaega Vincent Fepulea'i, has reportedly confirmed the appointment.

He is quoted by RNZI as saying that more than 40 people applied for the position from all over the world including South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

He said it was narrowed down to a shortlist of four which included, the now former coach Fuimaono, who was the only local applicant.

When the Samoa Observer asked him about Jackson yesterday, Faleomavaega said: "I have no comment. The process is thoroughly being followed through. S.R.U will make an official statement when the process is completed."

(Source: Samoa Observer) INQUEST INTO TODDLERS' DEATHS ADJOURNED

The inquest into the death of two babies in Savai'i following their vaccination in July this year has been adjourned to October 3.

The adjournment will allow District Court Judge, Fepuleai Apeperosa Roma, to consider submissions by the prosecution and defense lawyers, before making a decision on whether he should adjourn the inquest until criminal proceedings against two nurses in the Supreme Court is completed.

Senior sergeant Richard Ah Chong, representing the pros-

(Continued on page 6)



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Please visit samoanews.com for weekend updates.

COOLstuff

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)

by Barry Markowitz
Special to Samoa News

COOL STUFF: MAVIC 2 PRO; NANUK 920 CASE

Nanuk makes the greatest cases in the Universe. Nanuk’s can take a bounce, they have integrated shoulder strap hook ups, and offer several roller versions. Lady Coolios now have a hot pink option for many models.

Hard to lose the radiant green version pictured above.

The hottest drones at the recent InterDrone 2018 were the DJI Mavic 2 Pro and Mavic 2 Zoom. Nanuk has redone their protective foam on their Nanuk 920 to accommodate the increased beef the Mavic 2 Pro/Zoom and batteries have over the original Mavic Pro.

... And yeah hooray, a current 20% discount and a shipping deal:
<https://www.plasticase.com/shop/extreme-duty/nanuk-920-dji-mavic-2-pro-zoom/>
Whatever drone, camera, firearm, collectible you might cherish...get a Nanuk. Nanuks are the best products out of Canada (alongside my 7 year Havana Club Cuban Rum and Cuban Robusto Cigars!)

Nanuk & Cuban Rum... yup... never miss a Vancouver Canada 7’s admittedly more for those goodies than our beloved Manu Samoa.



Nanuk cases protect my new DJI Mavic 2 Pro, DJI Osmo +, and DJI Spark. Special 20% discount for you Coolios now.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 9/18/18]



Tusipasi Suaunoa (far left) showing off what he won in the Lions Club of Pago Pago 2018 Golf Tournament and Raffle held earlier this month. He is seen in this photo with Lions Club president Chris King (middle) and board member Larry Sanitoa (right).

[courtesy photo]



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California district latest to modernize 'sexist' dress code

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — The relaxed new dress code at public schools in the small city of Alameda, across the bay from San Francisco, is intentionally specific: Midriff-baring shirts are acceptable attire, so are tank tops with spaghetti straps and other once-banned items like micro-mini skirts and short shorts.

As students settle into the new school term, gone are restrictions on ripped jeans and hoodies in class. If students want to come to school in pajamas, that's OK, too.

The new policy amounts to a sweeping reversal of the modern school dress code and makes Alameda the latest school district in the country to adopt a more permissive policy it says is less sexist.

Students who initiated the change say many of the old rules that barred too much skin disproportionately targeted girls, while language calling such attire "distracting" sent the wrong message.

"If someone is wearing a short shirt and you can see her stomach, it's not her fault that she's distracting other people," said Henry Mills, 14, an incoming freshman at Alameda High School who worked with a committee of middle school students and teacher advisers to revise the policy. "There was language that mainly affected girls, and that wasn't OK."

Dress codes have long been the territory of contention and rebellion, but the reversal in Alameda shows a generational shift that students and teachers say was partly influenced by broader conversations on gender stemming from the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct and a national resurgence of student activism.

Approved by the school board on a trial basis over summer break, the new dress code is stirring back-to-school discussions about what role schools should have in socializing children.

There are sharply critical voices of the new dress code.

Math teacher Marie Hsu said she's all for equity but that the new rules send an unintentional message that it's fine, even appropriate, to "sex it up."

"It's good not to punish girls for being distractions. I fully, fully get that," said Hsu,

who teaches at Lincoln Middle School and is an Alameda resident with two young children. "But I think it's extraordinarily misled."

Alameda mother Paula Walker says she may be "old school," but she didn't mind the bans against revealing clothing.

"They say kids are starting everything younger, and I'm like, well, that's because you're throwing it in their faces," Walker said.

Dress codes and their severity vary widely nationwide. Twenty-four states have policies that give local school districts the power to adopt their own dress codes or uniform policies, according to the Education Commission of the States, a nonprofit that tracks education policy.

Some have statewide policies, like Arkansas, which passed a 2011 law requiring school districts "to prohibit the wearing of clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female."

A Texas high school was recently criticized for a back-to-school video on dress codes that only featured girls. The video shown at Marcus High School in a Dallas suburb showed girls in short shorts getting reprimanded as the song "Bad Girls" by M.I.A. played in the background.

Students slammed it as sexist on social media, prompting the principal to apologize, saying the video "absolutely missed the mark."

Alameda's new dress code was modeled after a suggested policy by the Oregon chapter of the National Organization for Women, drafted in 2016 to "update and improve" dress codes, avoid rules that reinforce gender stereotypes and minimize unnecessary discipline or "body shaming."

Portland, Oregon's public school district adopted a new policy in 2016, followed by Evanston, Illinois, in 2017, both of which incorporated NOW's suggestions.

Portland's relaxed dress code is considered a success, said Carol Campbell, principal at Grant High School.

Campbell said students wear appropriate clothing most of the time and it was "a huge relief" that staff could now focus on teaching, rather than necklines and hemlines.

Pacific News in Briefs...

Continued from page 4

ecution when the inquest convened last week, made an application at the hearing for the inquest to be called together with the two nurses' criminal matter as they are related and concern the death of the two babies.

But Muriel Lui, counsel for the defense, argued that the criminal matter is not dependent on the inquest and the parents of the deceased had an interest in the handling of this matter early.

"I don't understand the reason why this matter should be transferred to be heard together with the criminal matter because they are two separate matters in two separate courts.

"And in any case we are not sure what the nurses are charged with and the findings there are not dependent on this hearing," she said.

The argument by Ms Lui compelled Judge Fepuleai to alert her to the Coroner's Act 2017 Section 30, which he said is clear when it came to such matters.

"Coroner's Act 2017 Section 30 states and that is very clear that when there are criminal charges arising out under circumstances, in the death of the two deceased the coroner will have to postpone the coronial inquiry until the criminal proceedings are concluded," said the judge.

However, Ms Lui in response submitted that she studied that particular section of the law and is of the view that the inquest should not be dependent on the criminal proceedings and the coroner should proceed.

Judge Fepuleai then ordered the defense counsel and the prosecution to submit their memorandums to support their arguments and adjourned the hearing to October 3 for decision. (Source: Samoa Observer)

SAMOA SEVENS PLAYER GORDON LANGKILDE PLEADS GUILTY TO MISDEMEANORS

Samoa sevens player Gordon Langkilde has pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges in a San Francisco court after attacking Welsh players in the tunnel after a game.

The charges were reduced from two criminal counts of battery and one of assault after he attacked Welsh players in the tunnel, following Samoa's 24-19 loss at the July World Cup.

Langkilde spent a week in custody and two months in the United States awaiting trial following his arrest.

The chief executive of the Pacific Rugby Players welfare group, Aayden Clark, said the 22-year-old would be back in Samoa in the

coming days.

"We've had the charges reduced to being misdemeanors. He's committed to a minimum of one year out of the game and will undergo anger management courses and counseling," Clark said.

"He's paid a fine to the US courts and also [written] apology letters to the Welsh players... He's very much aware of the implications of his actions and obviously very remorseful,"

In court, Langkilde had indicated he would step away from the game but was also prepared to undergo disciplinary proceedings from the sport's governing bodies, Clark said.

"What happens now is that World Rugby and also the Samoan Rugby Union were waiting on the outcome of the legal proceedings. Now that we have that - those [proceedings] will commence."

Contracted by Samoa for the 2017-18 World Series, Langkilde would not be available for the 2018-19 series but could yet return to the game, Clark said.

"It doesn't mean he can't train the house down. He's still a very young man and still wants to be a rugby player," he said. "As a players association we'll work with him now on what he's going to do with this year out."

But with Las Vegas an annual stop on the World Series, the prospect of Langkilde's future involvement in the tour could be compromised.

"As we know - these sorts of things, in terms of entering the United States, make it very difficult," Clark said. "We haven't crossed that bridge yet but that's obviously going to be a consideration around what sort of rugby path he takes."

(Source: RNZ)

SAMOAN MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER AFTER SON DIES

A 58-year-old father has been charged with the murder of his 35-year-old son in Samoa, after the younger man died as a result of a beating.

The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance but died on the way.

Police said preliminary investigations revealed that the victim had been drinking and was assaulted by his father.

Soon after the beating, the victim's wife noticed an alarming change in her husband's condition and called an ambulance.

The father has been named as Amituana'i Pesamino Kelemete Osa of Vaitele Uta.

(Source: RNZ)



New Manu Samoa coach Steve Jackson

[Photo: PHOTOSPORT]

Lawmaker: US Senate, staff targeted by state-backed hackers

Foreign government hackers continue to target the personal email accounts of U.S. senators and their aides — and the Senate’s security office has refused to defend them, a lawmaker says.

Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said in a Wednesday letter to Senate leaders that his office discovered that “at least one major technology company” has warned an unspecified number of senators and aides that their personal email accounts were “targeted by foreign government hackers.” Similar methods were employed by Russian military agents who leaked the contents of private email inboxes to influence the 2016 elections.

Wyden did not specify the timing of the notifications, but a Senate staffer said they occurred “in the last few weeks or months.” The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

But the senator said the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, which oversees Senate security, informed legislators and staffers that it has no authority to help secure personal, rather than official, accounts.

“This must change,” Wyden wrote in the letter. “The November election grows ever closer, Russia continues its attacks on our democracy, and the Senate simply does not have the luxury of further delays.” A spokeswoman for the security office said it would have no comment.

Wyden has proposed legislation that would allow the security office to offer digital protection for personal accounts and devices, the same way it does with official ones. His letter did not provide additional details of the attempts to pry into the lawmakers’ digital lives, including whether lawmakers of both parties are still being targeted.

Google and Microsoft, which offer popular private email accounts, declined to comment.

The Wyden letter cites previous Associated Press reporting on the Russian hacking group known as Fancy Bear and how it targeted the personal accounts of congressional aides between 2015 and 2016. The group’s prolific cyberspying targeted the Gmail accounts of current and former Senate staffers, including Robert Zarate, now national security adviser to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and Jason Thielman, chief of staff to Montana Sen. Steve Daines, the AP found.

The same group also spent the second half of 2017 laying digital traps intended to look like portals where Senate officials enter their work email credentials, the Tokyo-based

cybersecurity firm TrendMicro has reported.

Microsoft seized some of those traps, and in September 2017 apparently thwarted an attempt to steal login credentials of a policy aide to Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, the Daily Beast discovered in July. Last month, Microsoft made news again when it seized several internet domains linked to Fancy Bear, including two apparently aimed at conservative think tanks in Washington.

Such incidents “only scratch the surface” of advanced cyberthreats faced by U.S. officials in the administration and Congress, according to Thomas Rid, a cybersecurity expert at Johns Hopkins University. Rid made the statement in a letter to Wyden last week.

“The personal accounts of senators and their staff are high-value, low-hanging targets,” Rid wrote. “No rules, no regulations, no funding streams, no mandatory training, no systematic security support is available to secure these resources.”

Attempts to breach such accounts were a major feature of the yearlong AP investigation into Fancy Bear that identified hundreds of senior officials and politicians — including former secretaries of state, top generals and intelligence chiefs — whose Gmail accounts were targeted.

The Kremlin is by no means the only source of worry, said Matt Tait, a University of Texas cybersecurity fellow and former British intelligence official.

“There are lots of countries that are interested in what legislators are thinking, what they’re doing, how to influence them, and it’s not just for purposes of dumping their information online,” Tait said.

In an April 12 letter released by Wyden’s office, Adm. Michael Rogers — then director of the National Security Agency — acknowledged that personal accounts of senior government officials “remain prime targets for exploitation” and said that officials at the NSA and Department for Homeland Security were discussing ways to better protect them. The NSA and DHS declined to offer further details.

Guarding personal accounts is a complex, many-layered challenge.

Rid believes tech companies have a sudden responsibility to nudge high-profile political targets into better digital hygiene. He said he did not believe much as been done, although Facebook announced a pilot program Monday to help political campaigns protect their accounts, including monitoring for potential hacking threats for those that sign up.



In this Sept. 6, 2018 photo, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh reacts as he testifies after questioning before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. Official Washington is scrambling Monday to assess and manage Kavanaugh’s prospects after his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, revealed her identity to The Washington Post and described an encounter she believes was attempted rape. Kavanaugh reported to the White House amid the upheaval, but there was no immediate word on why or whether he had been summoned. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

RFQ No: RFQ-083-2018
Issuance Date: September 6, 2018

Date & Time Due: October 5, 2018
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) from qualified firms for the:

“American Samoa Airport Network - Airport Pavement Management System”

SUBMISSION
Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked; “RFQ- American Samoa Airport Network - Airport Pavement Management System”. Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **October 5, 2018:**

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

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

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

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

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


DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer



Tafuna High School's Teacher of the Year, Jodanna Maga (4th from left) along with THS officials, has been selected to vie for the Territorial Teacher of the Year 2018-2019. Judging starts from Sept. 24- 27th

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



Seen here are local substance abuse counselors of DHSS, CSS, EPIC, PYCD, their trainer, Cynthia Moreno-Tuohy of the Association of Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), and DHSS Director Muavaefaatasi John Suisala.

Cynthia Moreno-Tuohy, NAADAC Executive Director, conducted a 5-day training last week on counseling skills and theories to build the capacity of local counselors and prepare them for addiction counseling certification.

[Courtesy photo]

Bye bye bugs? Scientists fear non-pest insects are declining

OXFORD, Pa. (AP) — A staple of summer — swarms of bugs — seems to be a thing of the past. And that’s got scientists worried. Pesky mosquitoes, disease-carrying ticks, crop-munching aphids and cockroaches are doing just fine. But the more beneficial flying insects of summer — native bees, moths, butterflies, ladybugs, lovebugs, mayflies and fireflies — appear to be less abundant. Scientists think something is amiss, but they can’t be certain: In the past, they didn’t systematically count the population of flying insects, so they can’t make a proper comparison to today. Nevertheless, they’re pretty sure across the globe there are fewer insects that are crucial to as much as 80 percent of what we eat.

Yes, some insects are pests. But they also pollinate plants, are a key link in the food chain and help decompose life.

“You have total ecosystem collapse if you lose your insects. How much worse can it get than that?” said University of Delaware entomologist Doug Tallamy. If they disappeared, “the world would start to rot.”

He noted Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson once called bugs: “The little things that run the world.” The 89-year-old Wilson recalled that he once frolicked in a “Washington alive with insects, especially butterflies.” Now, “the flying insects are virtually gone.”

It hit home last year when he drove from suburban Boston to Vermont and decided to count how many bugs hit his windshield. The result: A single moth.

WINDSHIELD TEST

The un-scientific experiment is called the windshield test. Wilson recommends everyday people do it themselves to see. Baby Boomers will probably notice the difference, Tallamy said. Several scientists have conducted their own tests with windshields, car grilles and headlights, and most notice few squashed bugs. Researchers are quick to point out that such exercises aren’t good scientific experiments, since they don’t include control groups or make comparisons with past results. (Today’s cars also are more aerodynamic, so bugs are more likely to slip past them and live to buzz about it.)

Still, there are signs of decline. Research has shown dwindling individual species in specific places, including lightning bugs, moths and bumblebees. One study estimated a 14 percent decline in ladybugs in the United States and Canada from 1987 to 2006. University of Florida urban entomologist Philip Koehler said he’s seen a recent decrease in lovebugs — insects that fly connected and

coated Florida’s windshields in the 1970s and 1980s. This year, he said, “was kind of disappointing, I thought.”

University of Nevada, Reno, researcher Lee Dyer and his colleagues have been looking at insects at the La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica since 1991. There’s a big insect trap sheet under black light that decades ago would be covered with bugs. Now, “there’s no insects on that sheet,” he said.

But there’s not much research looking at all flying insects in big areas.

THE EVIDENCE

Last year, a study that found an 82 percent mid-summer decline in the number and weight of bugs captured in traps in 63 nature preserves in Germany compared with 27 years earlier.



Two of the hardest working employees of the Veterans Memorial Stadium – Satia Grey and Suifili Uliate posing for a Samoa News photo during their break from maintaining the stadium during the last Saturday’s high school football match ups.

[photo: TG]

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Terms & Conditions apply. MTV customers must have extended basic TV service to purchase NFL RedZone. Promotion only valid between August 20th, 2018 – February 4th, 2019. Customers must sign up in store or at the Fagatogo Kiosk. Promotion valid for both residential & business customers. Bluesky reserves the right to alter or end this promotion at any time. Call *722 for info.



FILE - In this Sept. 4, 2018, file photo, President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is sworn in before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. Both parties are grappling with tremendous political risks in the midst of an increasingly messy Supreme Court fight. Republicans risked alienating women, particularly in the nation's suburbs, by embracing President Trump's hand-picked nominee even after allegations surfaced of decades-old sexual misconduct. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

How 65 women came to Kavanaugh's defense in matter of hours

NEW YORK (AP) — It started as a series of phone calls among old high-school friends and ended up embroiling 65 women in the firestorm over a sexual assault allegation that could shape the Supreme Court.

In a matter of hours, they all signed onto a letter rallying behind high court nominee and their high school friend Brett Kavanaugh as someone who “has always treated women with decency and respect.” And they signed up, whether they anticipated it or not, for becoming a focus of scrutiny themselves.

The powerful strength-in-numbers statement, offered to bolster Kavanaugh’s denial of a claim that he attacked a girl at a party during their high school years, has drawn questions from journalists, social media skeptics, even Hollywood figures.

How well did the women know him? How could a statement and 65 signatures come together so fast after outlines of the allegation first surfaced publicly? And after subsequently hearing the details and learning that his accuser was a woman some of them knew, do they stand by their declaration?

Yes, say more than a dozen signers who have since spoken to The Associated Press or other media outlets.

“Brett wouldn’t do that in a million years. I’m totally confident. That would be completely out of character for him,” said Paula Duke Ebel. She said she interacted with Kavanaugh hundreds of times while they were students in a close-knit constellation of single-sex Catholic schools around Washington in the 1980s.

Christine Blasey Ford, 51, now a psychology professor in California, said a very intoxicated Kavanaugh cornered her in a bedroom during a party in the early 1980s. She said he pinned her on a bed, tried to undress her and clamped his hand over her mouth when she tried to scream. She escaped only when a friend of his jumped on the bed and knocked them all over.

The letter was released the morning after the allegation first got wide public attention. The letter and its roster of supporters seemed to come at supersonic speed and out of the blue.

Women who organized and signed it say it was a rapid response by a social network that endures decades after they graduated. They say it was easy to mobilize: a chain of friends calling, texting and emailing friends from a Washington-area world where many still live and see each other. Meanwhile, hundreds of alumnae of the secular private girls school that Kavanaugh’s accuser attended have signed a letter sup-

porting her and calling for an investigation of her allegations.

“We believe Dr. Blasey Ford,” they wrote.

One of the signers, Cristina King Miranda, tweeted Wednesday that the alleged attack “was spoken about for days afterward in school” and that Kavanaugh “should stop lying.” But in a Facebook post hours later, she said she had no firsthand knowledge of the matter and wouldn’t comment further amid a media “circus” and a barrage of interview requests.

While that letter is signed by a mix of Ford’s peers and students from before or after her time at her school, the letter backing Kavanaugh is from women who vouch that they knew Kavanaugh, now a federal appeals court judge, personally as a high school student.

Several said they interacted with him extensively through sporting events, dances, parties and other socializing or the phone calls that occupied teenage weeknights in the pre-texting era.

One worked with him at a summer camp. A second sought his help with homework. Two dated him. Some still see him at social functions.

At least one, though, hadn’t spent time or talked one-on-one with him but still felt comfortable attaching her name based on the social situations they shared.

Others who signed declined to comment or didn’t respond to inquiries. The AP left messages for all 65.

Some have been taken aback by the attention. Many have stayed mum to avoid “the media frenzy,” signer Maura Kane told Fox News, the outlet of choice for several who have given interviews. Julie DeVol told the AP she didn’t really anticipate the letter would provoke such intense interest, though she sensed Kavanaugh’s critics “would do anything” to delay his confirmation vote. Kavanaugh, 53, seemed to be cruising toward that vote before the sexual misconduct allegation became public.

Kavanaugh has called Ford’s allegation “completely false.” The Senate Judiciary Committee has invited him and Ford to testify at a hearing Monday, although Ford’s lawyers say she wants the FBI to investigate her allegation before she testifies. The Kavanaugh friend who she said was in the room at the party, conservative writer Mark Judge, has said he doesn’t remember any such incident. When word of a high-school-era sexual misconduct allegation against Kavanaugh emerged last Thursday afternoon, Meghan McCaleb and her husband, Scott, thought they and other high school friends of the nominee needed to speak out.

Trying to hold state Trump won, McCaskill feels pull to left

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The college students and neighbors gathered at a St. Louis coffee shop seemed like one of the friendlier crowds Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill might face campaigning in heavily Republican Missouri. But the audience on a recent night came armed with tough questions and unafraid to push back — or cast a side eye — at any answer they didn't like. Why did she support an immigration deal that increased funding for border security? (It was a compromise, McCaskill said, and "there's nothing wrong with having rules.") What did she think of NFL players kneeling during the national anthem? ("I don't think it's appropriate ... but I respect anybody's right to do it.")

Should Democrats run on impeaching President Donald Trump? "I don't think so," McCaskill replied, acknowledging it wasn't what some wanted to hear. "I'm authentically a moderate. For those of you who are already irritated with me, now you're going to be more irritated." The night summed up the double challenge facing McCaskill in a race that could decide whether Democrats take control of the Senate in November: The same liberal energy that's led to insurgent Democratic victories around the country is spurring voters she should be able to count on to demand that she move to the left, even as she has to attract some Trump voters to win in a state he carried by almost 20 percentage points.

The president has campaigned for her opponent, state Attorney General Josh Hawley, telling an audience this summer, "We need Josh badly." Trump is scheduled to return to Missouri for a rally Friday.

Hawley, a 38-year-old Yale and Stanford graduate elected to his first public office in 2016, says McCaskill supports a "radical left-wing agenda" that's at odds with what Missouri voters want. He's called on McCaskill to debate him across the state, holding campaign events alongside a trailer with two lecterns, bales of straw and a "Let's Debate" banner.

"It is no small thing that people of this state voted for this president by 20 points," Hawley said during a stop in Columbia. "Quite frankly I think she's forgotten where she's come from."

Republicans view the contest as one of their best chances of flipping a seat in the Senate, where the GOP has a slim 51-49 majority, and polls show it's a toss-up.

Democrats are hoping the enthusiasm that's put the GOP-led House in play will spill over to the Senate, though the map there is much tougher. McCaskill is among 10 Democratic incumbents seeking reelection in states Trump won — some by wider margins than Missouri. But the 65-year-old former prosecutor and state auditor has won tough races before, running as a moderate in an increasingly conservative state. She is one of only two Democrats elected statewide in Missouri. She narrowly defeated GOP Sen. Jim Talent in 2006 as part of a Democratic wave that saw the party win control of the House and Senate. In 2012, she was considered one of the Senate's most vulnerable incumbents until the GOP nominee, Todd Akin, said women's bodies can prevent pregnancy in cases of "legitimate rape." The comment drew a national backlash, and McCaskill won easily. Can she pull out another win this time around, in a political climate that's even more polarized? Polls show Trump's approval rating has fallen since the 2016 election, including in Missouri, and McCaskill is pitching herself as a check on the president and some of his administration's "worst instincts." She's stressed her support of health care coverage, noting Hawley joined other GOP attorneys general in a lawsuit seeking to throw out the federal health law without providing for a way to continue coverage of pre-existing conditions. Republicans expressed early concerns that Hawley, who was recruited by top GOP leaders including Vice President Mike Pence, wasn't living up to expectations.

Hawley declared his candidacy less than a year after taking office and was slow to begin campaigning, prompting former GOP Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, one of his early backers, to warn that he needed to "gear it up and get with it." Bond didn't respond to several phone messages and emails seeking comment over the past week.

Hawley said he hasn't pulled away in the polls because McCaskill is benefiting from the advantages of incumbency and of running in the first midterm election under the opposing party's president, when historically the president's party loses seats.



In this Sept. 12, 2018, photo, Missouri GOP Attorney General Josh Hawley speaks to voters during a stop in Columbia, Mo. Hawley is trying to unseat Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill. (AP Photo/Sara Burnett)

Employment Opportunities

Pala Lagoon Swimming Center is looking for qualified **SWIM INSTRUCTORS** and **LIFE GUARDS**. All individuals interested, please contact PLSC at 699-6940 or 258-8127 for more details.

Relatives: Women killed in Texas more than troubles endured

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — Janelle Ortiz dreamed of becoming famous. Melissa Ramirez imagined a day when the street wasn't home and drugs not her preoccupation. Claudine Luera just ached to see her children do better than she had.

All of these women, bound by difficulties in life, met an eerily similar death: They were shot in the head and left on rural Texas roadsides, allegedly by a Border Patrol agent who has been described as a serial killer. Relatives of the dead are now grieving for loved ones who, they say, were more than the troubles they endured.

"They had families. They were loved. They were someone. They were human," said Colette Mireles, a sister of Luera.

The suspect's motive remains unknown. Authorities said the three women and a fourth woman, Guiselda Alicia Cantu, whose name was released Wednesday, were sex workers, and that Border Patrol supervisor Juan David Ortiz knew some of them.

Each lived a life littered with hardship. Gracie Perez remembered her sister-in-law, 29-year-old Ramirez, telling her she was raped when she was 13. She dropped out of high school, experienced depression and eventually began living on the streets. Her five children were left in the care of others. She struggled with a drug habit. Despite all of that, her relatives remembered someone always trying to make others laugh. Ramirez liked pulling up funny videos on YouTube, devouring whatever food was before her and enjoying TV at full blast as she fell asleep on the couch.

Perez said her sister-in-law frequently returned home to her mother's house, where two of her children live, typically staying a few days, vowing to get off drugs and improve her life before returning to the streets.

"She wanted to be a better mom, a better person," Perez said. "She didn't want to be running the streets anymore."

Janelle Ortiz, 28, envisioned a future where her personality and gift for talking with nearly anyone transformed her into someone famous. Rosenda Ortiz, her younger sister, remembered the difficult childhood they shared, with them constantly being thrust into new homes. She said her sister was strong and had a big heart, always asking what others needed.

Rosenda Ortiz hoped that one day she'd be able to get a home of her own and invite her sister to come live with her.

"He was not known as a prostitute or a sex worker," she said, using pronouns she knows her transgender sister would have chided her for. "He was just a human being like the other victims. He was just living his life."

Mireles last talked to her 42-year-old sister two days before her body was found. She was "over the moon" upon hearing that one of her sons was doing well in school and was already ironing out plans for prom with his girlfriend.

As children, the sisters were at each other's throats. But Mireles marveled at her sister's ability to smile through her pain, even as her life spiraled downward the past few years. She always knew she might get a call with news of Luera's death, but she figured it would be an overdose. To hear she was found shot, clinging to life on the side of the road, was harrowing.

The suspect told police that Luera questioned him about being the last person to have seen Ramirez before her death, authorities said. Mireles takes some comfort thinking of her sister's bravery in confronting him.

"My sister was feisty, so I'm sure she put up a hell of a fight," she said.

Joey Tellez, the attorney for the 35-year-old suspect, released a statement saying he would not be commenting on the case. Ortiz is a Navy veteran who had been in the Border Patrol about 10 years.

Back at the modest home Ramirez frequented, an American flag is tied to a front window of a faded green trailer, and toys are strewn across the yard. Her mother, Maria Cristina Benevidez, steps haltingly as she places a photo of her daughter beside the wooden box that holds her ashes, hanging rosary beads and a gold cross necklace from the frame.

Roosters are crowing, a Chihuahua named Mia is barking and Benevidez stands solemnly, her head bowed. Two weeks before Ramirez was found, she sat at the kitchen table in this home and shared a frightening premonition.



Smita Depani, left, dumps out tea as her husband, Kishor, looks on while the family sorts through the damage of the motel they co-own and lived in which was destroyed in the flooding from Hurricane Florence in Spring Lake, N.C., Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)



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: Sept 24 - Sept 28, 2018
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’ALAUUA’ITELE

“A’oa’oga mo i latou o lo’o fa’aaogaina vaila’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: Setema 24 - Setema 28, 2018
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.

The longest week: Caro- linas worn out by Florence

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Hurricane Florence is still wearing out the Carolinas, where residents have endured an agonizing week of violent winds, torrential rain, widespread flooding, power outages and death. Frustration and sheer exhaustion are building as thousands of people wait to go home seven days after the storm began battering the coast. Florence is blamed for at least 37 deaths, including those of two women who drowned when a sheriff’s van taking them to a mental health facility was swept off a road.

“I’m just ready for this to be over, to be honest” said Evan Jones, a college student who evacuated from Wilmington and doesn’t know when he will get back. “I’m trying to get it all out of my head.”

With the remnants of Florence finally out to sea and skies bright over rivers still swelling with muddy water, President Donald Trump visited the disaster zone, riding through soggy neighborhoods and helping pass out warm meals at a church in the hard-hit coastal town of New Bern.

“How’s the house?” Trump told one person. “You take care of yourself.” There wasn’t any presidential fanfare 120 miles away in Fayetteville. There,

Roberta and Joseph Keithley had been sleeping on cots set up in a school classroom since Friday. They still didn’t know if their home was ruined.

“It’s getting a little frustrating, but you have to deal with it and roll with the punches,” said Roberta Keithley, 73. “It’s just another hurdle to get over in life.” To the south, daybreak brought a return of floodwaters to Nichols, South Carolina, which also was inundated by Hurricane Matthew two years ago. The flooding from Florence had subsided, only to get worse again.

Mayor Lawson Battle said that as far as he knew, everyone in the town of about 360 people evacuated as the water first started to invade town Monday. But Battle just couldn’t think about that anymore.

“I’m focusing on this disaster at hand,” he said. “I don’t have time to think. I’m just so tired.”

Access improved to Wilmington, a North Carolina port city of 120,000 that was cut off for days by high water. But officials said they don’t know when evacuees would be able to return home, and it may be next week before conditions improve drastically since the Cape Fear River isn’t expected to crest at the city until Monday or Tuesday.

Trump comforts storm-ravaged Carolinas with hot dogs, hugs

NEW BERN, N.C. (AP) — Eager to show heart in a moment of crisis, President Donald Trump handed out hot dogs, hugs and comforting words in the Carolinas on Wednesday as he surveyed the wreckage left by Hurricane Florence.

With residents still recovering from torrential rains that left widespread destruction and injury, Trump sought to strike a balance between comforter and cheerleader, mindful that he has been criticized in the past for not showing sufficient empathy in the face of tragedy.

During a packed day, a wind-breaker-clad Trump visited both North and South Carolina, distributed meals at a church, walked amid piles of sodden furniture in damaged neighborhoods, offered hugs and handshakes to residents and discussed the response efforts with local and state officials.

“America grieves with you and our hearts break for you. God bless you,” he said during a briefing at a marine base in Havelock, North Carolina. “We will never forget your loss. We will never leave your side. We’re with you all the way.”

The emotional words and comprehensive itinerary stood

in contrast with Trump’s trip to Puerto Rico last year after Hurricane Maria, when he drew criticism for tossing rolls of paper towels into the crowd. Or his initial visit to Houston after Hurricane Harvey, when he did not meet with any storm victims. There were still flashes of Trump’s outsized persona and unconventional style — he asked about the status of Lake Norman, where he owns a golf club, telling officials, “I can’t tell you why, but I love that area.” He also joked with a family who had a large yacht they didn’t own wash up against their house. “At least you got a nice boat out of the deal,” he told them. “What’s the law? Maybe it becomes theirs.”

And he was caught on camera telling a person to whom he had just handed food to “have a good time.”

Trump’s made his whirlwind tour through the Carolinas five days after the storm, which was blamed for at least 37 deaths in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. North and South Carolina both backed Trump in the 2016 election, and the president largely saw people who were happy to greet him. One man told the president he’d

named his dog after Trump.

After a briefing on the recovery effort in North Carolina, Trump helped hand out hot dogs and chips at a Baptist church in New Bern, a riverfront city that experienced severe flooding. The president leaned over and checked in with people as they drove through to pick up food.

“How’s the house?” he asked one person. “You take care of yourself,” he said.

Trump also praised the volunteers, at one point hugging a young helper and telling his parents, “You did a good job.”

Trump walked through a storm-damaged neighborhood where waterlogged sofa cushions, mattresses and downed trees were piled up along streets.

“How’s it doing?” the president asked after one woman pointed at a house. He chatted and shook people’s hands as he walked along a street strewn with trash, branches and wet furniture. Some people applauded as he went by.

Trump later traveled to Conway, South Carolina, where more flooding is expected still. He toured a neighborhood where a street was already submerged under water.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF American Samoa

DCAD Nos 36-18 & 37-18
IN RE: TWO CHILDREN
NOTICE/FA’AALIGA

TO: MR. SIOELI EDMUND LUUGA
Utulei Village
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named respondent that petitions for adoption have been filed before the District Court of American Samoa to legally adopt two female children, one was born on December 29, 2008 and the other one was born on November 18, 2010; said children were both born at LBJ Medical Center, Fagaalu, American Samoa.

Hearings 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 legalizing the adoption of said children by the petitioner. If you have any objections, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice and file objections or claims with the Court.

O LE FA’AALIGA UA TU’UIAN ATU ia te oe o lo’o ta’ua lou suafa i luga, ona ua iai ni talosaga ua fa’auluina i le Fa’amasinoga Fa’a-itumalo o Amerika Samoa, e fa’atamafai ai ni teineitiiti faapea sa fanau le teine matua i le aso 29 o Tesema 0208; a’o leisi teineitiiti sa fanau o ia i le aso 8 o Novema 2010 i le Falema’i i Faga’alu, Amerika Samoa. O nei talosaga o le a faia pe a tuana’i le lua masina ma aso e seguiu mai le aos o le uluai faasalalauga o lenei fa’aaliga. Afai e te tete’e, ia faaulu se talosaga tete’e i le Faamasinoga i totonu o le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le uluai fa’asalalauga o lenei fa’aaliga.

Dated: September 06, 2018

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 09/20/18

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

HCCA No. 34-18

In the Matter of the Petition of SHANDY MARIE DESMONA IVA for a Change of Her Name Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, by SHANDY MARIE DESMONA IVA of the village of Ilili, American Samoa, born October 5, 1998 in the American Samoa. Petitioner is requesting the Court to approve a change of her legal name to Shandy Marie Desmona Vigas Aguire.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on October 29, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa, at the High Court Building in Fagatogo, American Samoa.

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

Dated: July 18, 2018

CLERK OF COURTS

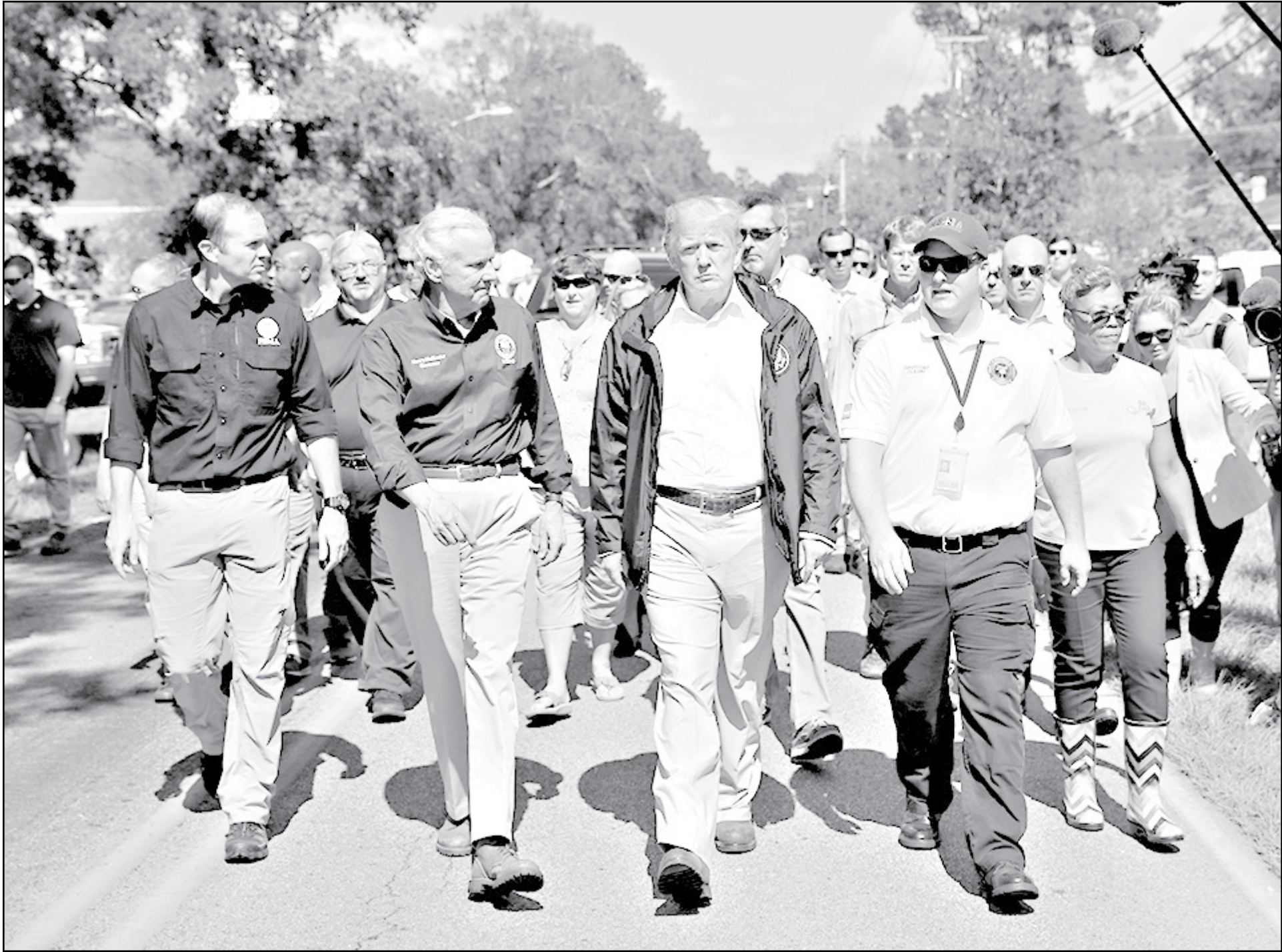
Published: 9/20 & 9/27/18



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President Donald Trump visits a neighborhood impacted by Hurricane Florence, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018, in Conway, S.C. At left is FEMA Administrator Brock Long and South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, second from left.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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Kim, Moon head to North Korea's sacred volcano on final day

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — The two Korean leaders took to the road for the final day of their summit Thursday, heading to a beautiful volcano considered sacred in the North and used in its propaganda to legitimize the Kims' three generations of rule. Their trip followed a day of wide-ranging agreements they trumpeted as a major step toward peace on the Korean Peninsula.

However, their premier accord on the issue most fascinating and worrisome — the North's pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles that can accurately strike the U.S. mainland — contained a big condition: Kim Jong Un stated he would permanently dismantle North Korea's main nuclear complex only if the United States takes unspecified corresponding measures. Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in flew separately to an airport near Mount Paektu on Thursday morning where they met up and drove to the mountain on the North Korean-Chinese border. Members of the Kim family are referred to as sharing the "Paektu Bloodline." The volcano topped with a deep crater lake is also emblazoned on the national emblem and lends its name to everything from

rockets to power stations.

Moon plans to return to South Korea later Thursday, but the leaders are still basking in the glow of the joint statement they settled Wednesday. Compared to the vague language of their two earlier summits, Kim and Moon seem to have agreed on an ambitious program meant to tackle soaring tensions last year that had many fearing war as the North tested a string of increasingly powerful weapons.

Kim promised to accept international inspectors to monitor the closing of a key missile test site and launch pad and to visit Seoul soon, and both leaders vowed to work together to try to host the Summer Olympics in 2032.

But while containing several tantalizing offers, their joint statement appeared to fall short of the major steps many in Washington have been looking for — such as a commitment by Kim to provide a list of North Korea's nuclear facilities, a solid step-by-step timeline for closing them down, or an agreement to allow international inspectors to assess progress or discover violations.

It also was unclear what "corresponding steps" North Korea wants from the U.S. to dismantle its nuclear site.

The question is whether it will be enough for President Donald Trump to pick up where Moon has left off. Trump told reporters Wednesday that the outcome of the summit was "very good news" and that "we're making tremendous progress" with North Korea. He didn't indicate in his brief remarks whether the U.S. would be willing to take further steps to encourage North Korean action on denuclearization.

Declaring they had made a major step toward peace, Moon and Kim stood side by side Wednesday as they announced their agreement.

"We have agreed to make the Korean Peninsula a land of peace that is free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat," Kim said. "The road to our future will not always be smooth and we may face challenges and trials we can't anticipate. But we aren't afraid of headwinds because our strength will grow as we overcome each trial based on the strength of our nation."

Moon urged unity for all Koreans in a speech he gave Wednesday night to the crowd gathered for North Korea's signature mass games. "We have lived together for 5,000 years and lived in separation for 70 years."

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South Korean President Moon Jae-in, second from left, his wife Kim Jung-sook, left, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, second from right, and his wife Ri Sol Ju, greet upon their arrival before the mass games performance of "The Glorious Country" at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018. (Pyongyang Press Corps Pool via AP)

Trump rips Sessions: ‘I don’t have an attorney general’

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump escalated his attacks on Attorney General Jeff Sessions, saying, “I don’t have an attorney general.”

Trump, in a Hill.TV interview released on Wednesday, said that he’s “so sad over Jeff Sessions,” whom he has repeatedly denounced for recusing himself from the Russia investigation.

“He was the first senator that endorsed me. And he wanted to be attorney general, and I didn’t see it,” Trump said in the Oval office interview. “And then he went through the nominating process and he did very poorly. I mean, he was mixed up and confused, and people that worked with him for, you know, a long time in the Senate were not nice to him, but he was giving very confusing answers. Answers that should have been easily answered.”

The president softened his stance slightly when talking to reporters on the White House lawn hours after the interview’s publication, saying, “I’m disappointed in the attorney general for numerous reasons, but we have an attorney general.”

Trump has repeatedly asserted that Sessions, a former U.S. senator from Alabama, did not need to step away from the Russia probe, a move the president believes in part led to the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating contacts between Trump campaign officials and Russians.

Trump, a Republican, suggested that Sessions’ rocky Senate confirmation hearings may have impacted his performance as attorney general.

“He gets in and probably because of the experience that he had going through the nominating when somebody asked him the first question about Hillary Clinton or something he said, ‘I recuse myself, I recuse myself,’” Trump said.

Department of Justice guidelines recommended the attorney general step away because of his own contacts with foreign government officials during his time with the 2016 Trump campaign. Sessions told Congress

that his decision was not due to any wrongdoing.

Trump also broadened his attacks beyond the recusal, saying he’s unhappy with Sessions’ performance on several issues.

“I’m not happy at the border. I’m not happy with numerous things, not just this,” Trump said in the interview.

Trump has repeatedly complained publicly and privately about Sessions, pushing him to curtail the Mueller probe, urging him to investigate Clinton and suggesting he should drop investigations into Republican congressmen until after the November midterm elections. He also said that he does not feel as though Sessions supports him like former attorneys general Eric Holder and Bobby Kennedy backed Presidents Barack Obama and John F. Kennedy, respectively.

Trump has repeatedly considered firing Sessions, the nation’s top law enforcement officer, only to be opposed by aides who think a dismissal would upend the Russia investigation, conservatives who applaud Sessions’ hardline stances at the Department of Justice and Republican senators who have said they would not confirm a replacement.

But there have been cracks in that blockade of late. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who once fought for Sessions, recently said that the president was “entitled to having an attorney general he has faith in” while other Trump allies have suggested that a move could be made after the midterms.

Sessions recently punched back against Trump, saying he and his department “will not be improperly influenced by political considerations.” And Sessions has made clear to associates that he has no intention of leaving his job voluntarily despite Trump’s constant criticism.

Trump said in the interview that “we’ll see what happens” with Sessions’ future.

“We’ll see how it goes with Jeff,” Trump continued. “I’m very disappointed in Jeff. Very disappointed.”



President Donald Trump listens to a reporter’s question during a news conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda, in the East Room of the White House, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



American Samoa Power Authority

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REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ)

RFQ No: ASPA18.061.ALL DIVISIONS

Closing Date & Time: Friday, September 28, 2018

Issuance Date: August 28, 2018

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

The American Samoa Power Authority issues this Request For Quotes (RFQ) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written quotes for the:

SUPPLYING CINDER LOADS FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Submission

An Original and one PDF of the Quote must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFQ No. ASPA18.061.ALL DIVISIONS SUPPLYING CINDER LOADS FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Friday, September 28, 2018:**

Procurement Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Ioana S. Uli, Procurement Manager

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

Document

The RFQ package outlining the quote requirements is available at The Procurement office at ASPA’s Tafuna Compound, New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

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

Approved for Issuance: **Utu Abe Malae**, Executive Director



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Thank You



SOLIALOFI AMEKO PATO

Sunrise: January 13, 1958 - Sunset: August 12, 2018.

FA'AFETAI TELE LAVA!

It is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that my children and I extend our fa'afetai to everyone for your love and support during our time of difficulty and sadness in the passing of our husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Ameko Pato. No words can ever express our gratitude for the love that you have shown us during this time.

Without your love and support shown in so many ways, we would not be able to make his final days and going home celebration a meaningful and lasting memory for all of us.

It is with this humble gratitude that I thank each and everyone of you for your kind words, your prayers, your comfort, and your assistance in preparing for Ameko's Memorial Service, Final Mass, and his Place of Committal Gravesite.

Please know that we will always hold you close to our hearts.

With humble hearts we thank you.....

- | | | |
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And a special thanks to our work family who have been the backbone of love and support during the past 6 years and during our most difficult time

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA- all divisions)

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And to all the many individuals, families, friends, and groups who we may not have mentioned above, please know that we love you and thank you endlessly for your support, love, prayers, and kindness...

Aloha and mahalo...Rosevonne, AJ (Lise), Chelei (Doug), Nyrese, Mariana, and Gabriel