

Gov. Lolo's letter to DOI
cites Trump's "America
First" policy **2**



Samoan girl named to
US Women's Junior
National Team **B1**

Interior provides
American Samoa
with about \$400K **4**

A welcoming Ava ceremony for the off island guests who arrived in the territory for the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) Conference was held last Saturday afternoon, in the Fale Samoa at the Suigaula o le Atuvasa Beach-Park in Utulei. Registration for the conference starts today.
[photo: TG]



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American Samoa's Womens' Under 17 Beach Handball team notched hard earned victories in their pool play and are now qualified for the Oceania slot in next year's Youth Olympic Games in Argentina. From July 11- 16th, 2017, the world's best U17 beach handball teams met in Mauritius, an island nation in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa, to compete in the first edition of the Men's and Women's U17 Beach Handball World Championships, which was at the same time the qualification event for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
[Courtesy photo]

Senate calls on Treasury to stop federal deductions from Fono allowance checks

IT'S NOT INCOME AND IT'S LOCALLY FUNDED — IRS SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

During a Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing last Friday morning, Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie called on ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaiepa to immediately halt taking federal deductions from allowance checks for senators.

The committee hearing followed complaints and concerns voiced by some senators early last week regarding their allowance checks, which are released every two weeks for all lawmakers — both the Senate and House.

The allowance checks show federal deductions have been made: FICA, which is 6.2%, and Medicare at 1.45%. The deduction has reduced the take home allowance check amount for lawmakers.

Under local law, a lawmakers' office allowance — \$30,000 annually for each lawmaker and \$40,000 annually

for the Senate President and the House Speaker — is to defray expenses relating to or resulting from the discharge of their official duties. The law also states that an accounting of the expenditures incurred by the member is not required.

While the allowance is not considered income and therefore is not taxed, the lawmaker can — if he/ she chooses to — designate the allowance as income, making it taxable.

During the hearing, Tonumaiepa explained that the US Internal Revenue Service, years back, had questioned why FICA and Medicare were not being deducted from checks issued to lawmakers for their allowance, which is not subject to income tax by local law.

He explained that under federal law, if the person has "additional income" FICA and Medicare must be paid by deductions from the additional income. A lawmaker's office allowance is considered additional income

by the IRS.

Therefore, according to Tonumaiepa, a decision was made that it would be best to apply the federal law to lawmakers' allowance, and this is to protect senators and House members from the IRS.

He said that if the IRS came down to conduct an investigation on the "additional income" source and found that the FICA and Medicaid deductions have not been made, it could mean a lawmaker can be fined for a "tax evasion" violation.

The Treasurer explained that the FICA and Medicare deductions from allowance checks are also to protect lawmakers so they don't have to file an expense report at the end of every year as required by federal law for these types of additional income earned.

Gaoteote reminded the committee that local law states that a lawmaker's allowance is "tax free" — that means no

(Continued on page 10)

Couple allegedly played around with a Taser and a handgun, which they both thought was not loaded

by Samoa News Staff

It has been nearly two weeks since a Samoan man in Federal Way, WA allegedly shot his girlfriend — also Samoan — to death. Chris Tavita of Aoa has been charged with first degree manslaughter for the shooting death of his girlfriend, 21-year-old Faavale Aiga Muipu of Aua, a 2013 graduate of Samoana High School.

According to news reports from the Evergreen State, King County prosecutors believe

the young couple had been playing around with a Taser and a handgun, which they both thought was not loaded.

Muipu was shot in the face and killed by a round that remained in the handgun's chamber. Her death has been ruled by the King County Medical Examiner's Office as a homicide.

The shooting occurred at the Club Palisades apartment complex on South Star Lake Road.

Tavita remains in custody in

(Continued on page 3)

Gov. Lolo’s letter to DOI cites Trump’s “America First” policy as hope for our tuna industry

SAYS US MUST OPEN PACIFIC MARINE MONUMENTS TO FISHING TO SAVE OUR ECONOMY

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga is encouraged by US President Donald Trump’s “desire to put American first” and he hopes that this “applies to American Samoa and our tuna industry,” according to the governor’s letter to US Secretary of Interior, Ryan Z. Zinke.

Lolo was responding to Zinke’s separate letters earlier this year in May to the governors of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) seeking input on national marine monuments in the Pacific - Rose Atoll in American Samoa, Pacific Remote Islands is the Pacific, Papahānaumokuākea in the Hawaiian islands, and the Marianas Trench in waters of the

CNMI and Guam.

That same month, the Interior Department issued a public notice seeking public comments on land and marine monuments after Trump in late April this year, signed an executive order calling for the review of all monuments designated by previous US Presidents going back to 1996.

LOLO’S REPLY

In his letter, Lolo informed Zinke that over 30% of US waters in the Pacific area is closed to fishing because of marine monuments. “The trend of closing areas to the US fishing fleet must be stopped and if possible reserved,” Lolo urged Zinke, who was also informed that the tuna industry accounts for nearly 80% of the local economy and until recently - there were two can-

neries that were the backbone of the territory’s economy.

Lolo explained that the closure of the Samoa Tuna Processors Inc. cannery last December layed off some 700 employees, equated to 5% increase in unemployment, and the “ripple effect of this closure” is still being felt in the territory.

He noted that the central reason for this closure is the lack of fish supplies and that in recent years marine monuments in the Pacific were created and later expanded - which greatly reduced fishing grounds in the Pacific.

A specific example, cited by Lolo, of how these monuments affect American Samoa is the Pacific Remote Islands monument which was expanded in 2014.

“These areas are traditional

fishing grounds for U.S. flagged tuna vessels operating out of American Samoa and Hawaii,” said Lolo, who noted that it’s his understanding that the US fishing industry was not even consulted before the expansion. “These unilateral decisions are hurting an already suffering industry.”

Lolo argued that these monuments are not established after a thorough scientific process, but instead were created through a Presidential designation.

In addition to fishing restrictions because of national monuments, Lolo said the US fishing fleets must adhere to restrictions on fishing in the high seas and catch quotas.

“In recent years the US purse seine fishing fleet has fought for an economically reasonable South Pacific Tuna Treaty to gain access to foreign fishing grounds, but talks have proved difficult,” the governor explained. “To make matters worse we have been made aware that international groups are pushing harder to further restrict fishing on the high seas.” “Foreign countries charge our boats \$12,500 dollars a day to fish in their waters,” he said adding that the US National Marine Fisheries Service “has cut back our ability to fish on the high seas and with these monuments in place we struggle to even fish in our own backyard.”

Lolo also pointed to what he calls “prohibitive federal policies” that have “hampered our only industry.”

For example, the federal mandated minimum wage, which contributed to the 2009 closure of COS Samoa Packing and Samoa Tuna Processors in 2016 “and continues to negatively impact our only remaining tuna processing company: StarKist.”

Furthermore, the withdrawal of federal incentives such as the IRC Section 936 and recently Section 30(A) Tax Credit along with the drastically watered down Headnote 3(a) “have further corroded our canneries’ competitive advantage.”

“If the federal government wants the demise of the US tuna industry, then we are on that path. However, please realize that at this time the economy of American Samoa is tied to that fate,” the governor pointed out.

“In short, the trend of closing areas to the US fishing fleet must be curtailed,” he said. “While conservation is important it must be balanced with the economic needs of the Pacific Island Territories and Hawaii. If the US fishing industry is to survive in the Pacific, there must be ocean to fish.”

The governor is requesting the federal government that marine monuments designation in the Pacific be removed to

allow US fleets to fish in these lucrative areas. “If total removal is not an option, then I ask that all fishing restrictions in all Marine National Monuments be removed,” Lolo wrote. “If neither of these options is available then the United States must find a way to compensate American Samoa for the use of its waters.”

He continued, “If we cannot benefit from the use of these waters then we must find another way to help our economy become more sustainable.”

The governor’s letter was dated June 7th and was publicly released last Friday through federal portal <www.regulations.gov> which was accepting public comments on monument designations until the closing date of July 10th.

GUAM AND CNMI

Also last Friday, the federal portal publicly released Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo’s July 5th letter to Zinke regarding the monuments in the Pacific.

Calvo’s letter focused on the Marianas Trench, saying that removal of the marine monument designation “will allow our island communities to access these marine resources for food security, sustain cultural fishing practices, and promote economic development opportunities now and for generations to come.”

In addition, Calvo said “we extend and advocate our continued support to American Samoa...for the removal of the Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll fishing restrictions.”

“I trust the information provided will secure Guam’s position and the U.S. Territories of American Samoa and CNMI to improve the livelihood of our communities while sustaining effective management of our fisheries and ocean resources,” he said.

Calvo informed Zinke that he, along with the governors of American Samoa and CNMI, had in March this year wrote to US President Trump to remove fishing restrictions on marine monuments in the Pacific.

Samoa News has confirmed that CNMI Gov. Ralph D.G. Torres had also written a letter to Zinke but has been unable to obtain a copy through public online records.

CNMI Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, in a July 9th letter to Zinke, said he joins Gov. Torres in requesting to remove the Marianas Trench fishing prohibition and returning rights to the people of the Marianas archipelago.

Samoa News notes that there are thousands of comments from all over the Pacific region and the US in support of maintaining the marine monument designation for Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench and Pacific Remote Islands.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) RE-BID

IFB No. Re-Bid ASCC# 005-2017

Due Date and Time: July 24, 2017

Date of Issuance: July 5, 2017

No Later than 2:00p.m. Local Time

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) issues an Invitation for Bids (IFB) from qualified firms to submit bids for the following:

“FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT (FF&E) FOR ASCC NEW MULTIPURPOSE CENTER BUILDING”

SUBMISSION:

An original and one (1) copy of the Invitation for Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “ASCC IFB#004-2017 Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment for new Multipurpose Building” Bids are to be sent or email to the following address and will be received no later than 2:00p.m. Local Time; **Monday, July 24, 2017:**

ASCC Procurement Office
Mapusaga Campus,
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Jessie Su’esu’e, Procurement Officer
Email: j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

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

DOCUMENTS:

The IFB complete package detailing requirements is available at the ASCC Procurement Office, Mapusaga Campus during normal working hours and may also be obtained by emailing j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

RIGHT OF REJECTION:

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted bid proposals that are not in the best interest of the college or the public.

Approved for Issuance by;

Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato

President, American Samoa Community College (ASCC)

Pacific port authority reps and officials in town for regional conference

“BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC”

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoa is playing host this week to more than 60 guests, which includes officials and representatives from 11 ports throughout the Pacific region — from Washington state to Tonga — for a one-week conference to network and discuss challenges faced by each port authority in the Pacific.

The conference is also a boost to the local economy, according to ASG officials.

Off island delegates and representatives, along with their companions started arriving last Friday for the 104th Association of Pacific Ports (APP) Conference, under the theme ‘Building Partnerships Throughout the Pacific, with the Port of Pago Pago as the host. Responding to Samoa News inquiries, APP president Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele, who is also ASG Port Administration director, said the “conference will give us the opportunity to network with other Ports. We can discuss our challenges and hear and learn about successful practices in Ports.”

According to AAP, its mission is to, among other things, “foster a better understanding and relationship among port authorities in the Pacific region.” Asked about the importance of the territory hosting this conference, Taimalelagi told Samoa News last Friday that, “it gives American Samoa the opportunity to showcase our beautiful harbor and the Port of Pago Pago. A few of the other Port members have never heard of Pago Pago.” She said there will be approximately 68 guests that will be on Tutuila island and are staying in local hotels “and will be contributing to our economy.

Restaurants will benefit from their participation in this conference.” Hosting the conference is also “a boost to our tourism development,” she said adding that the Port of Pago Pago has a clean and attractive appearance, as “our guests descend on our shores.” American Samoa Visitors Bureau executive director David Vaeafe agreed that such conference is a boost to tourism, as the Lolo Administration has been pushing for these types of events to be hosted in American Samoa and ASG entities have been encouraged to work with the Visitors Bureau to bring these conferences to Pago Pago.

“This conference event is very valuable to our tourism development. This type of event falls under the category of ‘Meeting, Incentive, Conference and Event’ in our tourism master plan,” Vaeafe said over the weekend responding to Samoa News questions. “We have been working on these types of events over the years — American Samoa has been able to attract such conferences in the past.”

Vaeafe said the Visitors Bureau worked with Port Administration on the tourism side to pitch the Port of Pago Pago as host of this year’s conference, by working with the local tourism industry on tour packages. “We’ve always said over years that ‘Tourism is Everybody’s Business’ involving everyone in our community,” he said and noted that these types of conferences “will help grow our tourism and economy.” In preparation for the conference, Port Administration compiled a 3-minute promotional video encouraging AAP members and others in the industry to participate in the

conference in American Samoa. The video shows sights of Pago Pago Harbor and Pago Pago International Airport, as well as other scenes from Tutuila.

There are several aerial shots of the dock, as well as a fautasi passing in front of the new MV Manu’atele as it sailed into the harbor on the morning of Jan. 4, 2017. Four Port Administration employees are on the video with open arms, saying “Welcome, Afio Mai”, according to the video upload early this month to YouTube.

“There will be enough networking time to learn what’s new and build stronger working partnership with your Pacific port colleagues,” said the voice-over in the video. “We welcome you to join us in beautiful American Samoa and experience the heart of the Pacific.”

The conference will be held at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium, which is also where the official opening ceremony is set to begin at 9a.m. tomorrow.

Last Saturday afternoon was the traditional welcoming Ava ceremony at the Fale Samoa at Utulei Beach, carried out by the Office of Samoan Affairs. Registration for the conference starts today. Besides the Port of Pago Pago, other port authorities being represented at the AAP conference include five from California -

Port of Stockton, Port of Hueneme, Port of Umatilla, Port of Redwood City, and Port of Long Beach; two from Washington state - Port of Benton, and Port of Longview; Ports Authority of Guam; Ports Authority Tonga;

Marshall Islands Ports Authority; and the Commonwealth Ports Authority of the Northern Mariana Islands.

► Couple allegedly played...

lieu of \$750,000 bail.

Initially, police were called to the scene to investigate a report that a woman had accidentally shot herself in the eye.

According to the Seattle Times, “Tavita allegedly convinced his younger sister and brother to tell police Muipu accidentally shot herself while spinning the gun around on her finger. His younger brother later called a detective and explained what really happened, prompting Tavita and his sister to do the same.”

Afterwards, based on reports from Washington state, Tavita allegedly told detectives that his girlfriend had a Taser and playfully teased him with it, saying

she was going to use it on him.

“He said that he would shoot her if she did,” the Seattle Times reports. The magazine had been removed from the handgun but a single round was already in the chamber and it struck Muipu in the face when Tavita pulled the trigger. The gun, according to news reports, was recovered by police from a kitchen counter and the weapon allegedly belonged to Tavita’s older sister’s boyfriend.

Muipu was rushed to Seattle’s Harborview Medical Center with life-threatening injuries that same day. Sadly, she didn’t make it.

Senior Deputy Prosecutor Jason Simmons, in the charging

papers wrote, “This tragedy is a direct result of Tavita’s willingness to engage in incredibly dangerous conduct and disregard the lethal consequences.”

Samoa News has received — from family members — photos of Muipu during her final moments at the hospital, where she is surrounded by loved ones and family members saying their final farewells to someone they describe as a ‘loving person’ who always ‘smiled’ and was filled with ‘positive’ energy.

Messages of condolences for Muipu’s family have flooded her Facebook page since the news of her passing earlier this month.

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Miss American Samoa Antonina Lilomaiaava performing the traditional Samoan Ava ceremony to welcome the guests of the 104th Annual Conference for the Association of Pacific Ports. See story for full details.

[photo: TG]



Interior provides Am Samoa about \$400K to help combat the Lopa Tree

U.S. TERRITORIES RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY \$4MIL OVERALL TO ERADICATE INVASIVE SPECIES

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — WASHINGTON, D.C. — July 14, 2017 — This week Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula has made available approximately \$4 million for several invasive species prevention and control initiatives in the U.S. Insular Areas. The funding includes around \$400K to combat infestations of the Lopa tree, *Adenanthera pavonina*; to reduce impacts of invasive birds and restore wetland areas in Nuū’uli, American Samoa.

Funding has also been provided to continue support in controlling the brown tree snake (BTS), *Boiga irregularis*, on Guam and prevent its spread to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Hawai’i, and the larger Micronesian region, as well as combat infestations of the little fire ant (LFA), *Wasmannia auropunctata*, on Guam.

“Invasive species, of which the brown tree snake is the most widely known in the Pacific region, have had damaging effects on the fragile ecosystems in the islands,” said Pula. “It is critical to protect, build resilience, and restore natural resources that provide the foundation for people’s livelihood and stability in these islands.”

In order to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species as well as to protect and restore natural and cultural resources from the effects of invasive species, the Governors of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands all signed a Memorandum of Understanding last December with the Office of Insular Affairs creating the U.S. Territories Invasive Species Coordinating Committee (USTISCC).

Each territory has appointed an official to the USTISCC and has published a territorial invasive species management plan.

The Office of Insular Affairs also collaborates closely with the National Invasive Species

Council (NISC) Secretariat. The NISC, an inter-departmental body comprising senior Federal officials, provides the high-level vision and leadership necessary to sustain and expand Federal efforts to safeguard interests of the United States by preventing, eradicating, and controlling invasive species, as well as restoring ecosystems and other assets impacted by invasive species.

On behalf of the Department of the Navy and other relevant Federal agencies, the NISC Secretariat is coordinating an update to the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii, which is due in March 2018 and every three years thereafter. The RBP update will take the new territory invasive species plans, as well as a recently released Hawaii biosecurity plan, into careful consideration.

According to the DOI press release the Lopa Tree eradication project in American Samoa has been awarded \$397,362.

It said, “The American Samoa Government and the National Park of American Samoa are collaborating to completely eliminate the Lopa tree from approximately 3,058 acres on Ofu and Olosega Islands.

“This is the final phase of a project that has involved village leaders, community members and youth and has been successful in removing more than 31,454 Tamaligi and Lopa trees across the Tutuila and Ta’u Islands reclaiming over 14,000 acres of rainforest in American Samoa,” it said.

It continued, “The native forests provide critical food and medicinal resources, protection for native plants and animal species, and protection against storms.

“Funds will also be used to curb spread of the non-native Myna and Bulbul,

birds intentionally introduced to control insects but which have since overtaken native bird popula-

(Continued on page 7)

GOVERNOR INQUIRES ABOUT “GREEN SUBSTANCE” IN PAGO HARBOR

by Samoa News staff

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga wants to know more about the green substance floating on the waters at Pago Pago Harbor.

The Governor’s concerns were outlined in a July 13th letter to Ameko Pato, the director of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA), and Lt. Tanner Stiehl of the United States Coast Guard’s (USCG) local Marine Safety Detachment.

“On three separate occasions in the past two weeks, I have seen a green substance floating in the waters of Pago Harbor,” Lolo wrote, adding that other individuals have reported to him that they have witnessed the same disconcerting substance.

“I want to bring this to your attention so that you can investigate this matter to ensure that the substance is not harmful to the environment or people,” Lolo wrote to Pato and Lt. Stiehl, explaining to them that they are both receiving a letter

from him about the matter, “so that both ground and marine sources are investigated properly.”

Lolo continued, “I would like to know the source, if it is harmful, how long it lasts in the water; and if it is an approved chemical, if it is being used properly, and if there are alternatives.”

The Governor told Pato and Lt. Stiehl that if they have any information, he “would like to ask for a report as soon as possible.”

Lolo concluded, “If an investigation is required, I request that you start one immediately.”

Earlier this year in May, the ocean waters on the east side of the canneries became the talk of the community when passersbyers noticed that the sea was fluorescent green in color.

Some worried that it was a result of harsh chemicals washing into the ocean and causing major damage to sea life in the area; but investigations later determined that the

(Continued on page 7)

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American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

“NATIONAL PASSENGER SAFETY INITIATIVE”

JULY 17 - JULY 28, 2017

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of passengers and motorists in our Territory is a critical part of our government’s public safety mission; and

WHEREAS, Law Enforcement Officers, Motor Carrier Inspectors and Public Safety Officials throughout the Nation, will join forces to increase awareness of transportation safety rules and regulations during the National Passenger Safety Initiative (aka National Passenger Carrier Strike Force); and

WHEREAS, in American Samoa, the Department of Public Safety’s Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) and Law Enforcement Officers will work together to strengthen our Territory’s transportation safety efforts in observance of this National Passenger Safety Initiative. In addition to the various informative and educational activities, MCSAP Officers/Inspectors will be conducting inspections of all Buses utilized for the purpose of transporting students to and from school, and privately owned buses transporting the public on the highways of our Territory to ensure they meet the safety standards as required by both federal and our local laws; and

WHEREAS, these information events will enhance the safety of our roads as our public safety agencies increase their presence throughout the Territory and conduct inspections to enforce driver and vehicle compliance with federal and local law.

NOW THEREFORE, I, LOLO MATALASI MOLIGA, Governor of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim **July 17th through July 28th, 2017, NATIONAL PASSENGER SAFETY INITIATIVE**. In so doing, I urge the people of American Samoa to do their part in helping save lives by adhering to federal and local transportation rules and regulations. Furthermore, I commend the individuals, government entities and community organizations, who dedicate their time and efforts to ensuring that transportation safety laws are enforced and followed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the Territory of American Samoa to be affixed on this 13th day of July, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seventeen.

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa



Pacific Island News in Brief

Compiled by Samoa News Staff

VIRGIN'S APPLICATION DOES NOT SURPRISE PM TUILAEPa

The intention by Virgin Australia to continue flights to Samoa after its Virgin Samoa joint-venture with the Samoan government concludes in November comes as no great surprise to Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesolai Sailele Malielegaoi.

Virgin Australia has applied to Australia's International Air Services Commission (IASC) for 880 seats of capacity a week between Australia and Samoa after the Virgin Samoa Joint Venture concludes.

The airline intends to commence five services per week between Australia and Samoa from Nov. 13, 2017. The flights will be operated with Boeing 737-800 aircraft configured with 176 seats. "From the start we had made it crystal clear that there is huge potential in our tourism industry to accommodate more flights," said the Prime Minister.

"And Virgin's application also reaffirms what we have insisted that they were deliberately scaling down flights to Samoa to increase airfares," he said.

In his weekly live radio program with Radio 2AP, Tuilaepa recalled that when the Poly-Blue joint venture between Virgin Airlines and Polynesian Airlines was in place, flights between Australia and Samoa were limited to two flights a week. And since then government have been trying time and again to add more flights but was rejected by Virgin Australia on the grounds that there was not enough demand to justify more. "After crunching the numbers, we had justification for added flights but not according to Virgin Airlines," recalled

the Prime Minister.

"And it's fair to note that even Air New Zealand is looking at adding more flights to Samoa using their bigger 777 aircraft," he continued. "To me, it shows that both Virgin and Air New Zealand are scrambling, and it could have a lot to do with our intention to re-launch our national carrier."

As for Virgin's application, the Prime Minister indicated that it won't be easy for the Australians to return, reiterating that Samoa will play a deciding role on Virgin's application. "I am waiting to see what they bring to the negotiating table but it would be stupid for Government to say yes again and again," Tuilaepa concluded.

(Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary)

FOREIGN INVESTMENT ACT UP FOR REVIEW

Government will be reviewing the Foreign Investment Act 2000 as a direct result of public concerns that businesses regulated by the Act exclusively for Samoans have been exploited by non-Samoan investors. Among one of the amendments which will reviewed and amended is the Reserved and Restricted Lists, which identifies the kind of business exclusively for Samoans as mandated by the Act.

Currently businesses off-limits to non-Samoans include bus transport services for the general public; Taxi transport services for the general public; Rental vehicles; Retailing; Saw milling; Traditional elei garment designing and printing; Fishing; Manufacturing; and, Services.

"But the list could be extended to include other businesses to be regulated exclusively for Samoans,"

added the Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour, Lautafi Fio Sela Purcell. For example, "We are also looking at regulating owners of wholesales from the running of retail stores."

Since the beginning of the year, Government has stopped issuing licenses to foreign investors as it reviews the provisions of the Act and to come up with policies to address the many issues emerging.

And Lautafi says that the issue has been complicated by locals who are in partnership with Asian businesses but are not addressed by the current legislation.

He further said that many locals see opportunities and are quick to lease their buildings and land to Asian owned businesses and these have impacted on locally owned small stores around the country. On his desk is a MCIL policy paper which contains the pros and cons including the the rapid expansion of the Chinese outside urban Apia, by taking out long term leases on small shops in the outer villages.

But instead of bowing to the wish of the local community he has to tread carefully too. "We have to consider also the concerns by the Chinese investors about being discriminated against," Lautafi cautioned. "We don't want to appear to be discriminating against foreign investors. After all we wanted foreign investors." An added restraint by the Minister is not to scare off other foreign investors, by any unreasonable reaction.

"The government wants to attract foreign investors to provide services and employment but at the same time we don't want to develop an environment where local business or entrepreneurs just cannot compete."

(Continued on page 7)



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

► Interior...

Continued from page 4

tions in numbers and harbor disease and parasites.

“A third component of the project is to conduct stream and wetland restoration and clean up — restoring native plants and removing non-native weeds. Restorations will restore the wetland and rain-forest canopies,

reduce soil erosion, restore food and habitat, as well as prevent runoff from damaging coastal resources.”

The other two projects received the following — the Brown Tree Snake Control and Prevention project, \$3,548,057 and the Little Fire Ant Infestation project on Guam, \$250,000.

► Gov inquires

Continued from page 4

source was a bucket of green marker dye, the type used by purse seiners to mark their nets.

The dye is non-toxic and had washed into the ocean off a vessel following wet weather conditions.

► Pac Briefs...

Continued from page 6

tLautafi is determined to give a fair assessment of the complaints by the local business community so as not to be seen to favor any side over the other.

“What have to work out is a fair playing ground for everyone so we can all benefit. We need to consider that our local business community is not likely to fill in any leftover gap, if foreign investors pull out. “I’m seriously looking into the issue.

(Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary)

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

Probate No. 20-2014

IN RE: ESTATE OF INITA T. AFO,

Deceased,

Fa’ailoilo Lauvao,

Petitioner

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Fa’ailoilo Lauvao has been duly qualified to act as the Administratrix for the Estate of Inita T. Afo.:

All creditors with a claim against the Estate of Inita T. Afo are required to submit their claims to the Administratrix of this Estate within 60 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submit all claims to: Estate of Inita T. Afo c/o Matailupevao Leupolu, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 5007, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Date: June 09, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 07/17 & 07/21

Some residents couldn’t hear alarms in deadly Honolulu blaze

HONOLULU (AP) — As flames raged through a Honolulu high-rise building, killing three people and injuring a dozen others, some residents didn’t even realize a blaze had broken out until they opened their doors or saw firefighters racing to battle the inferno.

Several Marco Polo high-rise residents told The Associated Press the sirens are located in the hallways and they had trouble hearing them when the blaze started. There were also no flashing alarm lights or public announcements about the deadly fire, they said.

Britt Reller was in the shower when the fire started and didn’t realize the building was ablaze until smoke began billowing through his apartment, his brother said. He rushed out to try to save his 85-year-old mother, but he couldn’t reach her and sought refuge from the smoke and flames under a bed.

His brother, a local pastor, was on the phone with Reller at the time. He never heard from him again, and police later told

him that both Reller and his mother, Melba Jeannine Dilley, were among those killed.

“He said the smoke was very, very thick, and I heard him calling for my mother and then the phone went dead,” Reller said. “I drove about 12 miles from my office to his apartment and then I just had to watch from outside. I’m still in shock. It is just surreal.”

Joanna Kuwata, 71, who was single and lived alone on the 26th floor of the building, was also killed in the fire, her sister told The Honolulu Star-Advertiser. Jayne Matsuyama said her sister’s apartment was not damaged by fire, and she suspects she died of smoke inhalation.

Fire officials have not released any information about a possible cause for the blaze. A fire department spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for additional information on Sunday.

“It didn’t sound quite like a normal traditional fire alarm,” said Air Force cyber technician Cory La Roe, who didn’t know the building had no sprinklers when he moved in in May.

LaRoe, who is from Florida but living in Hawaii while serving in the military, said there were no announcements or flashing lights when the fire broke out.

“I just heard a loud ringing, which is what caused me to look outside. I actually thought it was something from the street that was making the noise. After I saw people running out and went out the hallway myself, that’s when I knew it was a fire alarm going off.”

Gordon Kihune, who has lived in the building for about 12 years, said he hasn’t seen any fire extinguishers or hoses in the building that he can remember. He didn’t hear the alarms going off when the fire broke out, Kihune said.

He said he “only recognized the fact that there was something wrong when I saw the firetrucks pull up, and then I poked my head out, then I could hear the alarm.”

Kihune said he has a “bit of a hearing problem” with high-pitched sounds. But because the alarm is in the hallway and not close to his apartment, he could not hear it,

(Continued on page 9)



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Two of the seven interns from the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) who are working with the crew in the Child Care Division of the Department of Human and Social Services.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

China's economic growth holds steady despite slowdown fears

BEIJING (AP) — China's economic growth held steady in the latest quarter, boosted by unexpectedly strong trade and consumer spending, despite fears tighter lending controls aimed at cooling a surge in debt are weighing on commercial activity.

Output rose 6.9 percent in the three months ending in June from a year ago, data showed Monday. That was in line with the previous quarter and better than many forecasts.

Communist leaders are eager to keep growth steady as they head into a ruling party congress at which President Xi Jinping is

due to be reappointed as leader later this year. But the economy faces headwinds as Beijing clamps down on lending to rein in a surge in debt that has fueled fears it might harm the financial system or drag on growth.

Forecasters expect the economy to cool as those controls depress investment, the biggest component of growth in recent years.

"The economy appears to have ended Q2 on a strong note," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

"This strength seems unlikely to last, however," he wrote. "The recent crackdown on financial risks has driven a slowdown in credit growth, which will weigh on the economy during the second half of this year."

The International Monetary Fund has forecast China's full-year growth for 2017 to hold steady at last year's level of 6.7 percent. The IMF raised its outlook twice this year, citing strong government spending.

The government's growth target is 6.5 percent "or higher if possible."

Consumer spending and trade growth both accelerated during the second quarter, helping to offset softening investment in factories, real estate and other fixed assets.

Retail sales rose 10.4 percent in the first half of the year, up 0.1 percentage points from the first quarter's rate, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Factory output rose 6.9 percent in the first half, up 0.1 percentage points from the first quarter rate and 0.9 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Trade data released earlier showed export growth accelerated in May and June, at least temporarily averting concern about possible politically dangerous job losses in trade-related industries that employ millions of people.

Investment rose by 8.6 percent in the first half of the year, but that was down from 0.6 percent from the first quarter's expansion.

Private sector analysts cite surging debt as the biggest potential risk to China's long-term economic stability.

China has relied on infusions of credit to prop up economic growth since the 2008 crisis. Total nongovernment debt rose from the equivalent of 170 percent of annual economic output in 2007 to an estimated 260 percent last year, unusually high for a developing country.



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Contractors clean the walls outside the Marco Polo residence, Saturday, July 15, 2017, in Honolulu. A deadly fire started on the 26th floor of the building and quickly spread to others killing at least three people Friday. Residents were allowed back in the building early Saturday morning and they, along with many contractors spent the day cleaning up the mess left from the fire.

(AP Photo/Marco Garcia)

deadly Honolulu blaze...

Continued from page 7

he said.

“For people that have that disability, it could be a reason for not hearing it,” Kihune said.

Angela Kim, a 30th-floor resident, said she can only hear the sirens if her apartment door is open. She recalled an earlier fire alarm test that she missed entirely. “I slept through it, it’s so soft,” she said.

The fire broke out in a unit on the 26th floor, where all three of the dead were found, Fire Chief Manuel Neves said.

The building known as the Marco Polo residences is not required to have fire sprinklers, which would have confined the blaze to the unit where it started, Neves said. The 36-floor building near the tourist mecca of Waikiki was built in 1971, before sprinklers were mandatory in high-rises. It has over 500 units.

Douglas Hesley, branch president of Associa Hawaii, the management group that runs the Marco Polo building, said in a brief statement Saturday that there will be an emergency board meeting to discuss recovery efforts.

Hesley said he could not comment on past fire drills or safety plans that were in place

at the time of the fire.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said the city needs to look at passing a law requiring that older buildings be retrofitted with sprinklers.

In 2005, a previous mayor made a similar plea, creating a task force to investigate the costs and arguments for retrofitting older buildings with fire prevention measures including sprinklers. The rule was never implemented.

Tyler Takahata said he owned a unit on the 28th floor until 2015, when he sold the apartment to an elderly woman who was downsizing. He said he was never worried about fire during the five years he lived there because the building had water hoses and extinguishers.

“The fire suppression system seemed adequate. There were hardly any false alarms,” he said.

His former apartment is just above the unit where the blaze started and is now completely destroyed. He doesn’t know the whereabouts of the woman who moved in.

“Looking at what we’re seeing now, I believe they definitely needed sprinklers,” Takahata said.

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Woman killed as Venezuelans vote in opposition referendum

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans lined up across the country and in expatriate communities around the world Sunday to vote in a symbolic rejection of President Nicolas Maduro’s plan to rewrite the constitution, a proposal that’s raising tensions in a nation battered by shortages and anti-government protests.

A 61-year-old woman was killed and four people wounded by gunfire that erupted after government supporters on motorcycles swarmed an opposition polling site in a church in the traditionally pro-government Catia neighborhood of western Caracas.

The opposition mayor of the Caracas borough of Sucre, Carlos Ocariz, said pro-government paramilitary groups attacked voters outside the Our Lady of Carmen Church around 3 p.m. The chief prosecutor’s office said Xiomara Soledad Scott, a nurse, had been killed and four others wounded in the incident.

Video posted to social media showed massive crowds outside the church, then hundreds of people running in panic outside the church as motorcycle-riding men zoomed past and shots rang out.

Maduro made no mention of the incident in comments on state television shortly after the official close of opposition polls at 4 p.m., but he called for an end to violence that he blamed

on the opposition.

“I’m calling on the opposition to return to peace, to respect for the constitution, to sit and talk,” Maduro said. “Let’s start a new round of talks, of dialogue for peace.”

Late Sunday Foreign Minister Samuel Moncada said on Twitter that he was declaring former Mexican President Vicente Fox persona non grata and banning him from the country for conspiring to promote violence and foreign intervention.

Fox traveled to Venezuela Saturday with a group of Latin American former presidents to show support for the opposition referendum. Moncada offered no evidence to support his accusations.

In what appeared to be smaller numbers in many parts of the capital, government supporters went to polling stations in a rehearsal for a July 30 vote to elect members of the assembly that will retool Venezuela’s 1999 constitution.

The opposition says that vote has been structured to pack the constitutional assembly with government supporters and allow Maduro to eliminate the few remaining checks on his power, creating a Cuba-style system dominated by his socialist party.

The success of the opposition’s symbolic referendum will be measured by how many millions participate. Democratic Unity, a coalition of some 20

opposition parties, has printed 14 million ballots for voters inside and outside the country of 31 million people.

Few expect turnout that high but analysts say participation by more than 8 million people would significantly hike pressure on the government.

Participation appeared to be high, with large crowds of people lining up at tables in churches and parks across the capital. Ballots were still being counted late Sunday.

“Since we opened at 7 a.m. the line hasn’t let up,”

said Pedro Garcia, organizer of a voting station filled with hundreds of people in the south Caracas neighborhood of El Valle, a stronghold of government support that has been weakening in recent years.

Juan Madriz, a 45-year-old insurance company employee, said he didn’t object to rewriting the constitution per se,

but rejected Maduro’s decision to do so without putting that decision to a vote, as his predecessor Hugo Chavez did.

“If they’re forcing us, it isn’t democracy,” Madriz said.

Isabel Santander, a 67-year-old retired auditor,

said she was voting against the constitutional assembly as a protest against the country’s economic collapse.

“I signed because there’s no medicine, no food, no security,” she said. “There’s no separation of powers, no freedom of expression.”



Opposition members dance outside of a poll station during a symbolic referendum in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, July 16, 2017. Venezuela's opposition called for a massive turnout Sunday in a symbolic rejection of President Nicolas Maduro's plan to rewrite the constitution, a proposal that's escalating tensions in a nation stricken by widespread shortages and more than 100 days of anti-government protests.

(AP Photo/Jesus Hernandez)

9 dead, boy missing in flash flood in Arizona swim hole

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST, Ariz. (AP) — Nine people died and a 13-year-old boy was missing Sunday after their group of family and friends was swept away while cooling off in a creek that suddenly turned treacherous when a rainstorm upstream unleashed floodwaters in Arizona's Tonto National Forest.

Gila County Sheriff's Detective David Hornung told The Associated Press that the group from the Phoenix and Flagstaff areas had met up for a daytrip along the popular Cold Springs swimming hole near Payson in central Arizona and were playing in the water Saturday afternoon when muddy flood waters came roaring down the canyon.

The group, ranging in age from 2 to 60, had set out chairs to lounge on a warm summer day when miles upstream an

intense thunderstorm dumped heavy rainfall on the mountain.

Disa Alexander was hiking to the swimming area where Ellison Creek and East Verde River converge when the water suddenly surged. She was still about two miles away when she spotted a man holding a baby and clinging to a tree.

His wife was nearby, also in a tree. Had they been swept downstream, they would have been sent over a 20-foot waterfall, Alexander said.

Alexander and others tried to reach them but couldn't. Rescuers arrived a short time later.

"We were kinda looking at the water; it was really brown," she said. "Literally 20 seconds later you just see like hundreds of gallons of water smacking down and debris and trees getting pulled in. It looked like a really big mudslide."

Video she posted to social media showed torrents of water surging through jagged canyons carved in Arizona's signature red rock.

"I could have just died!"

Alexander exclaimed on the video, which shows the people in the tree and then rescuers arriving on the scene. A boy Alexander described as the couple's son was on the rocks above the water.

Search and rescue crews, including 40 people on foot and others in a helicopter, recovered the bodies of five children and four adults,

some as far as two miles down the river. Authorities did not identify them.

Four others were rescued Saturday and taken to Banner hospital in nearby Payson for treatment of hypothermia.

Rescuers got to the four victims quickly after the crew heard their cries while they were nearby helping an injured hiker.

Daniel Bustamante, 16, sat on a bench with his friend Daniel Rodriguez outside the local mortuary in Payson where victims were brought. He said he came from Phoenix after getting a Snapchat message from a friend.



LBJ TROPICAL MEDICAL CENTER DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Department of Human Resources is accepting applications for the following position.

Job Title:	RESPIRATORY THERAPY TECH (2)
Department:	Cardiopulmonary Services
Reports to:	Manager
Salary:	\$ 11,387.00 - \$ 12,975.00

Summary:

This is the entry level. The employee works in a learning capacity performing a range of respiratory therapy technician assignments under close supervision. Able to perform clerical and clinical tasks and reports to the Manager/Clinical Coordinator.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

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- Performs electrocardiograms and arterial blood gases
- Places monitors, and removes patients from ventilators according to physician orders
- Assists in ordering, maintaining and monitoring inventory of supplies and equipment needed to administer respiratory therapy treatment
- Disassembles, cleans, and sterilizes respiratory therapy equipment according to policies and procedures
- Able to read and understand physician orders prior to the initiation of any respiratory therapy order and for precisely following physician orders pertaining to respiratory therapy
- Reports to his/her Supervisor, the physician and nursing personnel his/her assessments of changes on patient's condition or response to respiratory treatments as appropriate
- Responsible for documentations of all care performed on patients pertaining to respiratory therapy.
- Restocks respiratory therapy equipment on the wards and clinics
- Performs related work as assigned

Minimum Qualifications/Requirements

- Associate of Science Degree and preferably on Allied Health
- Valid and Current BLS Certification
- Physically and mentally capable to perform assigned duties
- Must have good communication and technical skills
- Committed to supporting hospital mission and core values

Deadline for filing applications with the LBJ Office of Human Resources will be at July 21, 4:00 pm. Application forms are available at the Office of Human Resources.

Senate calls on Treasury...

Continued from page 1

tax deduction. While he agrees with Tonumaiepa regarding federal law, the Senate President pointed out that the federal government does not spend one penny on lawmakers' salaries or allowances — these are all funded by local revenues.

Gaoteote, who had served in the House for many years, explained the FICA and Medicare deductions policy was made several years ago, when the late former Sen. Velega Savali, was the ASG Treasurer and the policy was made at that time without any input or explanation to the Fono.

He said these federal deductions require the employer to provide matching funds. "So whose money will be used to match these deductions?" he asked, and noted that it's "local government funds."

Gaoteote emphasized that local revenues pay lawmakers allowances and reiterated that ASG is forced to identify money for the FICA matching from the employer.

At least three times, the Senate President requested the ASG Treasurer to stop the federal deductions on allowance checks for lawmakers — effective immediately. He said if the deductions provided financial support for ASG that would be great.

Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean also pointed to the added expense for ASG — in terms of the matching funds, and stressed that the allowance is not income.

Tuaolo recalled that when he was a cabinet director, each

director was given a \$300 cell phone allowance to cover the cost for cell phone usage. Tuaolo then asked Tonumaiepa if this \$300 "allowance" is currently being taxed. The ASG Treasurer revealed that directors no longer get this allowance, but didn't say when it was discontinued.

"How about in the past, was this \$300 allowance taxed?" Tauolo asked, to which Tonumaiepa said "no".

The senator also asked if the Treasurer was going to halt these federal deductions and Tonumaiepa replied that he will have to consult with the Attorney General.

He said he sides with the views of senators on this matter and noted it should be up to senators to file their expense reports (at the end of the year) and deal with the IRS.

Tuaolo responded that the allowance is not "income" and the IRS shouldn't get involved. He strongly supported Gaoteote's call to halt the practice.

Samoa News understands that there are lawmakers who have agreed to claim their allowance as income. Allowance checks are released every two weeks, during non-pay week for ASG. For example, this week is not pay week for ASG so allowance checks are being released for lawmakers this week.

Under local law, the annual salary of the Senate President and House Speaker is \$30,000 each and other lawmakers earn \$25,000, with the Swains Island Delegate getting \$20,000



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Maelyn)



FILE - In this Oct. 1, 2015, file photo, horror film director George Romero, who directed “The Night of The Living Dead” waves a Terrible Towel before an NFL football game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens in Pittsburgh. It was the anniversary of the film that was made in the Pittsburgh area. Romero, whose classic “Night of the Living Dead” and other horror films turned zombie movies into social commentaries and who saw his flesh-devouring undead spawn countless imitators, remakes and homages, has died. He was 77. Romero died Sunday, July 16, 2017, following a battle with lung cancer, said his family in a statement provided by his manager Chris Roe.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File)

George A. Romero, father of the zombie film, is dead at 77

NEW YORK (AP) — George Romero, whose classic “Night of the Living Dead” and other horror films turned zombie movies into social commentaries and who saw his flesh-devouring undead spawn countless imitators, remakes and homages, has died. He was 77.

Romero died Sunday following a battle with lung cancer, said his family in a statement provided by his manager Chris Roe. Romero’s family said he died while listening to the score of “The Quiet Man,” one of his favorite films, with his wife, Suzanne Desrocher, and daughter, Tina Romero, by this side.

Romero is credited with reinventing the movie zombie with his directorial debut, the 1968 cult classic, “Night of the Living Dead.” The movie set the rules imitators lived by: Zombies move slowly, lust for human flesh and can only be killed when shot in the head. If a zombie bites a human, the person dies and returns as a zombie.

Romero’s zombies, however, were always more than mere cannibals. They were metaphors for conformity, racism, mall culture, militarism, class differences and other social ills.

“The zombies, they could be anything,” Romero told The Associated Press in 2008. “They could be an avalanche, they could be a hurricane. It’s a disaster out there. The stories are about how people fail to respond in the proper way. They fail to address it. They keep trying to stick where they are, instead of recognizing maybe this is too big for us to try to maintain. That’s the part of it that I’ve always enjoyed.”

“Night of the Living Dead,” made for about \$100,000, featured flesh-hungry ghouls trying to feast on humans holed up in a Pennsylvania house. In 1999, the Library of Congress inducted the black-and-white masterpiece into the National Registry of Films.

Romero’s death was immediately felt across a wide spectrum of horror fans and filmmakers. Stephen King, whose “The Dark Half” was adapted by Romero, called him his favorite collaborator and said, “There will never be another like you.” Guillermo del Toro called the loss “enormous.”

“(‘Night of the Living Dead’) was so incredibly DIY I realized movies were not something that belonged solely to the elites with multiple millions of dollars but could also be created by US, the people who simply loved them, who lived in Missouri, as I did,” wrote James Gunn, the “Guardians of the Galaxy” director, who penned the 2004 remake of “Dawn of the Dead.”

Romero’s influence could be seen across decades of American movies, from John Carpenter to Edgar Wright to Jordan Peele, the “Get

Out” filmmaker. Many considered “Night of the Living Dead” to be a critique on racism in America. The sole black character survives the zombies, but he is fatally shot by rescuers. Peele on Sunday tweeted a photo of that character, played by Duane Jones, and wrote: “Romero started it.”

Ten years after “Night of the Living Dead,” Romero made “Dawn of the Dead,” where human survivors take refuge from the undead in a mall and then turn on each other as the zombies stumble around the shopping complex.

Film critic Roger Ebert called it “one of the best horror films ever made — and, as an inescapable result, one of the most horrifying. It is gruesome, sickening, disgusting, violent, brutal and appalling. It is also ... brilliantly crafted, funny, droll, and savagely merciless in its satiric view of the American consumer society.”

“He really was what you didn’t expect. He was incredibly gentle,” said Gaylen Ross, who starred in “Dawn of the Dead” and 1982’s “Creepshow.” “He had this optimistic purity about friendship and honor. No matter how insane the demands were on the film, I never saw a crew that was so willing to do whatever they needed for George.”

Romero had a sometimes combative relationship with the genre he helped create. He called “The Walking Dead” a “soap opera” and said big-budget films like “World War Z” made modest zombie films impossible. Romero maintained that he wouldn’t make horror films if he couldn’t fill them with political statements.

“People say, ‘You’re trapped in this genre. You’re a horror guy.’ I say, ‘Wait a minute, I’m able to say exactly what I think,’ “ Romero told the AP. “I’m able to talk about, comment about, take snapshots of what’s going on at the time. I don’t feel trapped. I feel this is my way of being able to express myself.”

The third in the Romero’s zombie series, 1985’s “Day of the Dead,” was a critical and commercial failure. There wouldn’t be another “Dead” film for two decades.

“Land of the Dead” in 2005 was the most star-packed of the bunch — the cast included Dennis Hooper, John Leguizamo, Asia Argento and Simon Baker. Two years later came “Diary of the Dead,” another box-office failure.

There were other movies interspersed with the “Dead” films, including “The Crazies” (1973), “Martin” (1977), “Monkey Shines” (1988) and “The Dark Half” (1993). There also was 1981’s “Knightriders,” Romero’s take on the Arthurian legend featuring motorcycling jousters. Some were moderately successful, others box-office flops.

LAPATA'IGA MO MATAFAGA



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ASEPA

Aso o le Fa'asalalauga: July 12, 2017
Fa'afeso'ota'i: AS-EPA Polokalama a le Vai – 633-2304

Fa'asilasilaga mai le Ofisa o le Puipuiga o le Si'osi'omaga mo le mamalu o le atunu'u: sa faia su'esu'ega o gataifale ia **July 11, 2017**, ma fa'amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

- Afono Stream Mouth
- Fagasa-Fagalea Stream Mouth
- Nuuuli Pala Spring
- Leone Pala
- Asili Stream Mouth
- Aua Stream Mouth
- Fagaitua Stream Mouth
- Alega Stream Mouth
- Aoa Stream Mouth

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu'u o lo'o fa'aaogaina ia ogasami mo ta'elega ma fagotaga: talu ai ona o su'esu'ega o ia vaega o ogasami sa faia i le vaiaso ua mavae, sa molimauina ai le maualuga o le faitau aofa'i o siana (Enterococci) mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina i le tulafono i ia vaega o ogasami. O nei siana e afua mai otaota po'o suavai lafoa'i o tagata ma meaola. Afai ae o'o atu le faitau aofa'i o siana mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina, o lona uiga, e i ai le avanoa e ono afaina ai lou soifua maloloina ini fa'ama'i e pei o le manava-tatā, o fofoga fa'apea fo'i ma manu'a o le tino pe a sao i ai le siana. Mo lou saogalemu: 'aua le inuina le suasami, ia fa'alanu lelei, ma fa'amālū pe a mae'a ta'elega. O le fautuaga mai le Ofisa o le AS-EPA, fa'afeso'ota'i muamua se foma'i, a'o le'i fa'aaogaina ia ogasami, auā le puipuiga o lou soifua maloloina.

Fa'amolemole, fa'autagia mai nei fautuaga. O le a toe maua atu se isi ripoti, pe a mae'a nisi o su'esu'ega mai le Potu Su'esu'e a le AS-EPA i le vaiaso fou. O lo'o i lalo o le va'ava'aiga a le AS-EPA matafaga mo tafaoga e 44 i le motu o Tutuila, e 5 i Manua ma le uafu i Aunu'u. O fa'asalalauga mo fautuaga mo le motu o Tutuila o lo'o auina atu i vaiaso ta'itasi, ae o Manu'a ma Aunu'u e fa'asalalau atu i masina ta'itasi. Mo ni fesili pe fia malamalama atili, fa'amolemole, vala'au mai i le telefoni (684) 633-2304.

Trump lawyer says nothing illegal in son's Russia meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's attorney insisted Sunday there was nothing illegal in the meeting Trump's eldest son had with a Russian lawyer during last year's presidential campaign. Donald Trump Jr.'s willingness to meet with the lawyer in the expectation of receiving incriminating information about Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has raised new questions about possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. The information had been described as "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump."

The president's attorney, Jay Sekulow, defended Trump and his son in a series of appearances Sunday on five television networks.

"Nothing in that meeting that would have taken place, even if it was about the topic of an opposition research paper from a Russian lawyer, is illegal or a violation of the law," Sekulow said on "Fox News Sunday," a point he repeated several times. He said the president did not

attend the meeting and was not aware of it.

The attorney's focus on the law appears aimed at moving beyond the shifting accounts of the meeting given by Trump Jr. At first, the June 2016 meeting was said to be about a Russian adoption program. Then, it was to hear information about Clinton. Finally, Trump Jr. was compelled to release emails that revealed he had told an associate that he would "love" Russia's help in obtaining incriminating information about the Democratic nominee.

The number of people known to be at the meeting also changed over time. As recently as Friday, Rinat Akhmetshin, a Russian-American lobbyist and former Soviet military officer, confirmed his participation to The Associated Press.

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Sunday that he wants everyone who attended the meeting to appear before his committee, one of several in Congress investigating Russia's interference in

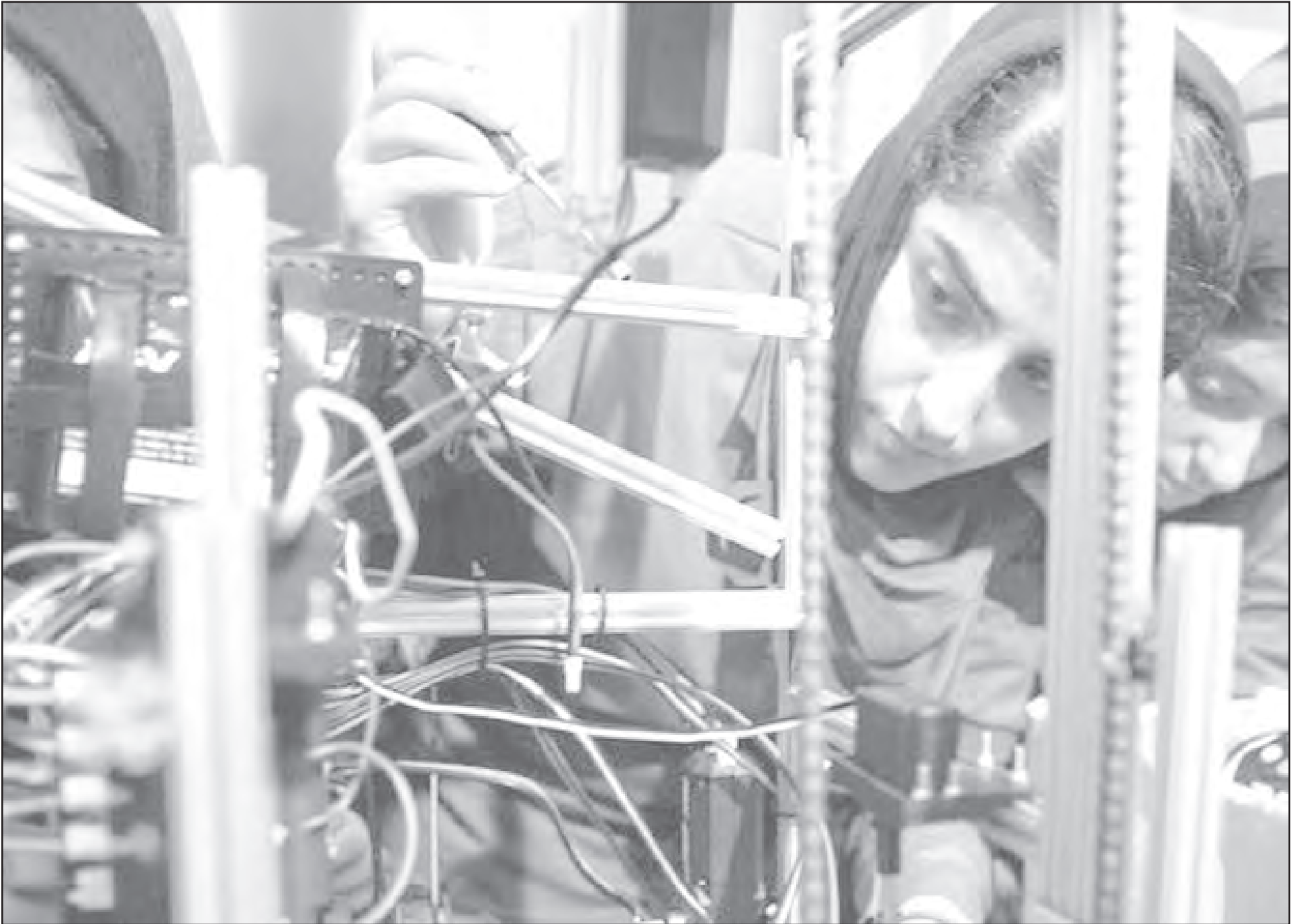
the 2016 election and potential coordination with the Trump campaign.

In addition to Trump Jr. others in the Trump Tower meeting included Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Paul Manafort, both of whom played major roles in the campaign.

"I want to hear from everyone in that meeting and get their version of the story, as well as I think we may find out there may have been other meetings as well. We don't know that yet," Warner, D-Va., said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Sekulow said he was not aware of any other meetings involving Russians. "I represent the president of the United States, but Donald Trump Jr. said not in the context of formal meetings. He said he may have met with Russian people, as a lot of people meet with Russian people, so that's not unusual," Sekulow said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Trump himself came to the defense of his son, who he said "is being scorned by the Fake News Media."



Afghanistan team member Lisa Azizi troubleshoots the team's robot entry prior to the opening ceremony for the FIRST Global Challenge in Washington, Sunday, July 16, 2017. They will be competing against entrants from more than 150 countries in the international competition. It's the first annual robotics competition designed to encourage youths to pursue careers in math and science.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

FBI's liaison to Congress cited for misconduct in Nevada

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The former top federal prosecutor in Nevada has been cited for misconduct in an 8-year-old sex discrimination case.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determined earlier this year that a former female prosecutor was subjected to sex discrimination and retaliation while Greg Brower was in charge of the U.S. attorney's office in Nevada from January 2008 to October 2009, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2tgYgdn>) Thursday.

Brower is currently the FBI's top liaison with Congress during its investigation in Russian election meddling. He was also a former Nevada legislator.

The eight-page decision by the commission issued May 19 was obtained by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. It supports an administrative judge's opinion that Brower acted hostile toward the prosecutor after she complained that he made a sexist remark.

It also criticized the office for being slow to transfer her after she made the report.

"While acts of discrimination and retaliation are no doubt common within the federal service, it is extremely rare to see such a finding against the U.S. attorney's office, which is charged with upholding the laws of this country," said Las Vegas attorney Adam Levine, who has advised clients in the federal equal employment opportunity process. "If any agency should be aware of the prohibition against retaliation, it is the U.S. attorney's office."

Brower and a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office declined to comment.

Under the decision, the Justice Department will have to pay the former prosecutor a total of \$287,998 in legal fees, costs and damages. Brower and other managers involved in the case are required to attend anti-sex discrimination and retaliation training.

The U.S. attorney's office is expected to post the order explaining the commission findings and submit a compliance report.

It is unclear whether Brower will be disciplined now that he is working for the Department of Justice again.

FILE - In this June 3, 2013 file photo, Nevada Sen. Greg Brower, R-Reno, speaks during Senate floor debate on the final day of the 77th Legislative session at the Legislative Building in Carson City, Nev. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determined earlier in 2017 that a former female prosecutor was subjected to sex discrimination and retaliation while Brower was in charge of the U.S. attorney's office in Nevada. Brower is currently the FBI's top liaison with Congress during its investigation in Russian election meddling.

(AP Photo/Cathleen Allison, File)



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Oscar-winning actor Martin Landau dies at 89

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Martin Landau, the chameleon-like actor who gained fame as the crafty master of disguise in the 1960s TV show "Mission: Impossible," then capped a long and versatile career with an Oscar for his poignant portrayal of aging horror movie star Bela Lugosi in 1994's "Ed Wood," has died. He was 89.

Landau died Saturday of unexpected complications during a short stay at UCLA Medical Center, his publicist Dick Guttman said.

"Mission: Impossible," which also starred Landau's wife, Barbara Bain, became an immediate hit upon its debut in 1966.

It remained on the air until 1973, but Landau and Bain left at the end of the show's third season amid a financial dispute with the producers. They starred in the British-made sci-fi series "Space: 1999" from 1975 to 1977.

Landau might have been a superstar but for a role he didn't play — the pointy-eared starship Enterprise science officer, Mr. Spock.

"Star Trek" creator Gene Rodenberry had offered him the half-Vulcan, half-human who attempts to rid his life of all emotion. Landau turned it down.

"A character without emotions would have driven me crazy; I would have had to be lobotomized," he explained in 2001. Instead, he chose "Mission: Impossible," and Leonard Nimoy went on to everlasting fame as Spock.

Ironically, Nimoy replaced Landau on "Mission: Impossible."

After a brief but impressive Broadway career, Landau had made an auspicious film debut in the late 1950s, playing a soldier in "Pork Chop Hill" and a villain in the Alfred Hitchcock classic "North By Northwest."

He enjoyed far less success after "Mission: Impossible," however, finding he had been typecast as Rollin Hand, the top-secret mission team's disguise wizard. His film career languished for more than a decade, reaching its nadir with his appearance in the 1981 TV movie "The Harlem Globetrotters on Gilligan's Island."

He began to find redemption with a sympathetic role in "Tucker: The Man and his Dream," the 1988 Francis Ford Coppola film that garnered Landau his first Oscar nomination.

He was nominated again the next year for his turn as the adulterous husband in Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

His third nomination was for "Ed Wood," director Tim Burton's affectionate tribute to a man widely viewed as the worst Hollywood filmmaker of all time.

"There was a 10-year period when everything I did was bad. I'd like to go back and turn all those films into guitar picks," Landau said after accepting his Oscar.

In "Ed Wood," he portrayed

Lugosi during his final years, when the Hungarian-born actor who had become famous as Count Dracula was ill, addicted to drugs and forced to make films with Ed Wood just to pay his bills.

A gifted mimic trained in method acting, Landau had thoroughly researched the role.

"I watched about 35 Lugosi movies, including ones that were worse than anything Ed Wood ever made," he recalled in 2001. "Despite the trash, he had a certain dignity about him, whatever the role."

So did the New York-born Landau, who had studied drawing at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and worked for a time as a New York Daily News cartoonist before switching careers at age 22.

He had dabbled in acting before the switch, making his stage debut in 1951 at a Maine summer theater in "Detective Story" and off-Broadway in "First Love."

In 1955, he was among hundreds who applied to study at the prestigious Actors Studio and one of only two selected. The other was Steve McQueen.

On Broadway, Landau won praise for his work in "Middle of the Night," which starred Edward G. Robinson.

He toured with the play until it reached Los Angeles, where he began his film career.

Landau and Bain had two daughters, Susan and Juliet. They divorced in 1993.

Health plan hinges on the young, but they're a tough sell

WASHINGTON (AP) — Julian Senn-Raemont isn't convinced he needs to buy health insurance when he loses coverage under his dad's plan in a couple of years — no matter what happens in the policy debate in Washington, or how cheap the plans are.

The 24-year-old musician hasn't known a world without a health care safety net. But he hates being forced by law to get coverage, and doesn't think he needs it.

"I'm playing the odds," said Senn-Raemont, who lives in Woodstock, Illinois. He will go without insurance, he said, until he starts a family or gets a job with benefits. "I feel comfortable I could get care if I needed it."

Senn-Raemont's outlook could pose a major problem for Republicans building a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. Insurers need young and healthy enrollees like him to buy insurance because they keep premiums down for everyone. The current law attempts to do that by mandating that everyone get coverage. The Republican plan replaces that mandate with penalties for those who let coverage lapse, and aims to entice young adults by allowing insurance companies to sell bare-bones coverage that could be cheaper.

But cheap isn't free, which turns off people like Senn-Raemont. And other young adults worry that opening the door to these bare-bones plans will make the more comprehensive coverage they know now too expensive or even unavailable.

In Houston, 29-year-old Jimmieka Mills pays \$15 a month for a government-subsidized "Obamacare" health plan. She fears Congress will weaken the health law's guarantees of free preventive care, so she made an appointment to get a birth control implant that will last for years.

"I'm scared," Mills said. "I'm like a bear getting ready for hibernation. That's how I feel."

Language is still being nailed down in the retooled bill, but it includes a proposal from conservative Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, which would let insurers sell plans with minimal coverage, as long as they also sell policies that meet strict coverage requirements set by the Obama-era health care law. Insurers could deny the slimmer coverage to people with pre-existing conditions or charge them more.

Georgetown University health policy researcher Sabrina Corlette said young adults may find the "Cruz plans" more affordable, but they should "read the fine print."

"You may end up with unexpected costs," Corlette said. "And if, God forbid, you do end up needing better coverage, you will be blocked from that coverage for six months." To encourage continuous coverage, the GOP plan installs a six-month waiting period for anyone with a two-month gap in coverage. The skimpy policies wouldn't qualify as continuous coverage.

The insurance industry also sharply questioned this approach. In a statement last week, the industry group America's Health Insurance Plans said the proposal would create an "un-level playing field" that would lead to "unstable health insurance markets."

Other features of the proposal aimed at young adults include allowing them to stay on their parents' insurance until they turn 26, as they can now, and shifting costs to older enrollees.

Current law restricts how much insurers can charge for insurance based on age. "Obamacare" limits the ratio to 3-to-1, meaning a 50-year-old can be charged only three times as much as a 20-year-old. The Republican plan shifts that ratio to 5-to-1.

More flexible pricing could attract young adults, the Congressional Budget Office said in a review of a previous draft of the Senate plan.

But other provisions, including cuts to Medicaid, would result in 22 million people losing insurance over the next decade. All ages and income levels would have higher uninsured rates. For low-income young adults, CBO said, the uninsured rate would double.

A CBO analysis of the new proposal is expected this week.

"On the whole, the bill is bad for young people," said Jen Mishory, executive director of the youth advocacy group Young Invincibles. "It is particularly concerning for the most vulnerable young people, those who are low-income and folks with pre-existing conditions."

Young Americans, ages 18-34, remain more likely to be uninsured than older age groups, but the rate of uninsured young Americans dropped under "Obamacare" to 16 percent from 29 percent.

Obama's health law also gives them job flexibility because good health insurance was no longer tied to employment, said Republican labor economist Craig Garthwaite of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

"That gives young adults the opportunity to find a first job that's right for their talents," Garthwaite said.



In this Tuesday, July 11, 2017 photo, Roy Saenz, IUSB professor and beekeeper along with Amanda Harlow examine the beehives behind the Franklin D. Schurz library and at the Conservatory at Potawatomi Park in South Bend, ind They check the health of the hive and keep an eye on parasites and prevent blight from destroying the hives. Thousands of bees make their home in the two areas and promote sustainability in an urban environment.

(Santiago Flores/South Bend Tribune via AP)



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-081-2017

Issuance Date: July 13, 2017

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

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide "Route 104 Hospital Road Reconstruction" for the Department of Public Works.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Thursday, August 10, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on July 27, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Procurement- Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.
6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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US to create independent military cyber command

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of delay, the Trump administration is finalizing plans to revamp the nation’s military command for defensive and offensive cyber operations in hopes of intensifying America’s ability to wage cyberwar against the Islamic State group and other foes, according to U.S. officials.

Under the plans, U.S. Cyber Command would eventually be split off from the intelligence-focused National Security Agency.

Details are still being worked out, but officials say they expect a decision and announcement in the coming weeks. The officials weren’t authorized to speak publicly on the matter so requested anonymity.

The goal, they said, is to give U.S. Cyber Command more autonomy, freeing it from any constraints that stem from working alongside the NSA, which is responsible for monitoring and collecting telephone, internet and other intelligence data from around the world — a responsibility that can sometimes clash with military operations against enemy forces.

Making cyber an independent military command will put the fight in digital space on the same footing as more traditional realms of battle on land, in the air, at sea and in space. The move reflects the escalating threat of cyberattacks and intrusions from other nation states, terrorist groups and hackers, and comes as the U.S. faces ever-widening fears about Russian hacking following Moscow’s efforts to meddle in the 2016 American election.

Muddy floodwaters of the East Verde River flow under a bridge where at least one victim of a flash flood was found during a search and rescue operation by the Gila County Sheriff’s Office on Sunday, July 16, 2017, in Payson, Ariz. Search and rescue crews, including 40 people on foot and others in a helicopter, have recovered bodies of children and adults, some as far as two miles down the river after Saturday’s flash flooding poured over a popular swimming area inside the Tonto National Forest in central Arizona.

(AP Photo/Ralph Fresco)

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The U.S. has long operated quietly in cyberspace, using it to collect information, disrupt enemy networks and aid conventional military missions. But as other nations and foes expand their use of cyberspying and attacks, the U.S. is determined to improve its ability to incorporate cyber operations into its everyday warfighting.

Experts said the command will need time to find its footing.

“Right now I think it’s inevitable, but it’s on a very slow glide path,” said Jim Lewis, a cybersecurity expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. But, he added, “A new entity is not going to be able to duplicate NSA’s capabilities.”

The NSA, for examples, has 300 of the country’s leading mathematicians “and a gigantic super computer,” Lewis said. “Things like this are hard to duplicate.”

He added, however, that over time, the U.S. has increasingly used cyber as a tactical weapon, bolstering the argument for separating it from the NSA.

The two highly secretive organizations, based at Fort Meade, Maryland, have been under the same four-star commander since Cyber Command’s creation in 2009.

But the Defense Department has been agitating for a separation, perceiving the NSA and intelligence community as resistant to more aggressive cyberwarfare, particularly after the Islamic State’s transformation in recent years from an obscure insurgent force into an organization holding significant territory across Iraq and Syria and with a worldwide recruiting network. While the military wanted to attack IS networks, intelligence objectives prioritized.