

StarKist Co., president and CEO Choe and Governor Lolo to meet...
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Talosaga Senatoa fa'aopoopo \$500 fa'atupe ai latou Ofisa le tumau
Le Lali

Patriots defense pushed around in Super Bowl loss to Eagles
Sports



Philadelphia Eagles' Nick Foles holds his daughter, Lily, after beating the New England Patriots in the NFL Super Bowl 52 football game Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, in Minneapolis.
(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

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CJ loses patience with Immigration Office's 'old stories'

"SOMEONE WILL GO TO JAIL OR I WILL HOLD THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE IN CONTEMPT!"

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

The High Court is running out of patience with the government, specifically the Immigration Office, for providing "conflicting reports and information" to the court pertaining to the case of an over-stayer, who is serving a straight sentence at the Territorial Correctional Facility (TCF).

As a result, Chief Justice Michael Kruse has given Chief Immigration Officer, Peseta Dennis Fuimaono and the government attorney two (2) weeks, to bring to the Court the file that contains the original form for the defendant Joeita Fa'aaliga's 30-day permit application back in 2012. If not, "someone will go to jail or I will hold all of the Immigration Office in contempt!"

Fa'aaliga's Deposition Hearing is re-scheduled for Feb. 15 at 9:00 a.m., after the court was unsatisfied with the answers the government attorney and their only witness, Peseta provided to the court during last week's hearing. The High Court subpoenaed Peseta and the Attorney General, Talauega Eleasalo Ale to appear, but only Peseta turned up in court, where he was ordered by Kruse to be sworn in to testify.

Assistant Attorney General Robert Morris is prosecuting the case while Public Defender Douglas Fiaui is representing the defendant.

Fa'aaliga appeared before the High Court last Friday for a
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It's confirmed: You can use a CI to travel, but may need other IDs too

C.I. IS COUNTED AS 'OTHER' ID BY TSA, ALSO NOW ACCEPTED BY HAWAIIAN AIR

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoans can use the Certificate of Identity (CI) for travel to Hawaii, along with additional identification, required by the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) — which oversees security checks points at all US airports. It is recommended by TSA that you carry additional IDs just in case verification is needed — a "Certificate of Identification Guidance & TSA ID Requirements" information leaflet lists acceptable 'other' IDs.

ASG officials confirmed this at last Friday's Senate Public Safety/Homeland Security Committee hearing, which was a continuation of the one from last Wednesday, where senators wanted clear and solid information pertaining to the use of CIs to enter Hawai'i and that the CIs are accepted not only by TSA but Hawaiian Airlines.

As previously reported Samoa News, local officials had already been informed that US immigration will continue to accept CI to enter Honolulu, but the airline and TSA have a different policy.

Governor's Legal Counsel Alema Leota told Samoa News late last week that "we received information" that US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) "will continue their policy of accepting CIs. They have not received a directive

to change this policy."

At last Friday's Senate hearing, local Homeland Security Department ASDHS) director Samana Semo Ve'ave'a recalled a conference call last Wednesday afternoon with officials of the US Department of Homeland Security and those from TSA's headquarters in Washington D.C.

Issues during the conference call included use of CI for American Samoans to check in at Hawaiian Airlines, as well as being accepted by TSA agents in Pago Pago. Following the conference call, ASG officials also met with locally based officials of Hawaiian and TSA to reconfirm the acceptance of CI with other acceptable forms of IDs.

A "Certificate of Identification Guidance & TSA ID Requirements" information leaflet distributed at the hearing from ASDHS, explained the TSA accepted proof of identification.

At TSA check points at the airport, it says that TSA will take one of the following as proof of identity: acceptable state issued driver's license (except American Samoa), US passport, US passport card.

If the individual does not possess these, then "other forms" of ID will be needed. Furthermore, traveler may be asked to present at least two

(Continued on page 10)



Tax Office representatives Tim Mauga (3rd left) and Maryann Olo (5th left) are seen here after presenting a tax preparation training seminar for students and faculty of the ASCC Business Department, with whom they are pictured here. Having completed the seminar, ASCC Business and Accounting students will be on hand several hours a day throughout tax season to assist members of the public who need help preparing to file their taxes. For more details see story inside.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



Hawaii man says he's devastated about sending missile alert

HONOLULU (AP) — A former Hawaii state worker who sent a false missile alert last month said Friday he's devastated about causing panic but was "100 percent sure" at the time that the attack was real.

The man in his 50s spoke to reporters on the condition that he not be identified because he fears for his safety after receiving threats.

He says an on-duty call that came in on Jan. 13 didn't sound like a drill. However, state officials say other workers clearly heard the word "exercise" repeated several times.

"Immediately afterward, we find out it was a drill and I was devastated. I still feel very badly about it," he said. "I felt sick afterward. It was like a body blow."

He's had difficulty eating and sleeping since, he said: "It's been hell for me the last couple weeks."

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency fired him after the incident.

The man's superiors said they knew for years that he had problems performing his job. The worker had mistakenly believed drills for tsunami

and fire warnings were actual events, and colleagues were not comfortable working with him, the state said.

His supervisors counseled him but kept him for a decade in a position that had to be renewed each year.

The ex-worker disputed that, saying he wasn't aware of any performance problems.

While starting a Saturday shift at the emergency operations center in a former bunker in Honolulu's Diamond Head crater on Jan. 13, the man said, a co-worker took a phone call over the U.S. Pacific Command secure line that sounded like a real warning, he said.

"When the phone call came in, someone picked up the receiver instead of hitting speaker phone so that everyone could hear the message," he said.

The man said he didn't hear the beginning of the message that said, "exercise, exercise, exercise."

"I heard the part, 'this is not a drill,'" he said. "I didn't hear exercise at all in the message or from my co-workers."

Federal and state reports say

(Continued on page 8)



COURT BRIEFS

by Ausage Fausia

Samoa News Reporter

TITIFALAU SIAUMAU

Chief Justice Michael Kruse has continued to 9:00 this morning, Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 the sentencing for the former Custom employee who was scheduled to be sentenced last Friday, so that the government will have time to bring to court all the evidence that police seized from this incident last year.

Titifalau Siaumau, 22 was initially charged with one count each of importing a controlled substance and conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance — in this case, marijuana. Under a plea agreement with the government, Siaumau pled guilty to the charge of importing a controlled substance. The remaining charge was dismissed.

After his case was called by the Court Clerk, Kruse asked the government's attorney, Christy Dunn if she had brought all the contraband that were seized from Siaumau's case, she replied no.

She explained to the court that all the evidence for this case is currently at the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) Lab right now for testing, and she doesn't know when the contraband will be returned.

Kruse asked the DPS Evidence Custodian, DPS Officer Jennings to explain to the court, what is the contraband that was seized from the defendant's case.

Jennings explained that it was 8 baggies containing the controlled substance, which was sent off-island for testing, and the speaker that was used to transport the stuff is on island in

the DPS evident room.

Kruse then ordered Jennings to bring the speaker to Court on Monday (today).

"Are there any scanners for the freight handler people at the airport," Kruse asked. Dunn replied she believed that there were custom scanners, but she doesn't know if there are any scanners for the freight handler people.

"There were millions of dollars we used for scanners and it's useless if there are items that are not being scanned", Kruse said. He then reminded Dunn and the DPS evidence custodian to bring the contraband to court on Monday, because he doesn't want those items to be recycled or to be used by somebody else.

Siaumau admitted to the court that early last year in March, he knowingly imported marijuana through the Pago Pago international Airport.

The government claimed that a package addressed to the government's witness, Felix Penerosa, arrived unaccompanied on a Hawaiian Airlines Flight on Mar. 27th. Penerosa is an employee of CSL Cargo Services. Inside the parcel, hidden in a speaker, was 5 pounds of marijuana, with an estimated street value of more than \$20,000.

TAPUTIMU DRUG DEFENDANTS STILL IN CUSTODY

Two of the three men who were arrested by DPS Vice & Narcotics detectives during a raid in Taputimu last November are still in custody, unable to post their bond set by the District Court Judge Fiti Sunia.

Cody Woods is being held at the Territorial Correctional

Facility (TCF) with a bond of \$200,000, and is represented by Joshua Rovelli of RDA Law Firm, while his co-defendant Taisia Lemalie, a taxi driver is being held with a bond of \$5,000.

Woods and Lemalie appeared in High Court last week for their pretrial conferences.

In Woods' case, Chief Justice Michael Kruse accepted a motion by his attorney for a 30-day continuance, to give them enough time to review the discovery they received from the government and finalize a plea negotiation.

For Lemalie's case, his attorney, Public Defender Douglas Fiaui acknowledged receiving discovery from the government. He asked the court to set the matter for trial, after they were unable to reach an agreement with the government. The trial is set for April 2020.

The third defendant in this case is still at large, and Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson confirmed to Samoa News this week that they're still search for Steve Tuatoo.

Tuatoo, a former cop was arrested following the raids in November, however he was released from jail pending charges; and immediately left the territory.

DPS has received reports that Tuatoo has been seen in Seattle, Washington around November of last year.

The haul from November 9th raids, included crystal meth with a street value of up to \$US\$55,000, marijuana valued at up to \$US25,000 plus 3 weapons and ammuni-

(Continued on page 11)



Honolulu attorney Michael Green, right, sits with his client, the former Hawaii Emergency Management Agency employee who sent a false missile alert to residents and visitors in Hawaii, left, during an interview with reporters, Friday, Feb. 2, 2018 in Honolulu. The ex-state employee says he's devastated about causing panic, but he believed it was a real attack at the time. The man in his 50s spoke to reporters Friday on the condition he not be identified because he fears for his safety after receiving threats.

(AP Photo/Jennifer Sinco Kelleher)

LAPATA'IGA MO MATAFAGA

Lagolagoina le fa'amamaina o matafaga



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

ASEPA

Aso o le Fa'asalalauga: Ianuari 31, 2018

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 Ianuari 30, 2018, ma fa'amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

Asili
Nuuuli Pala Lagoon
Nuuuli Pala Spring
Nuuuli Coconut Point
Avau
Fatumafuti
Fagaalu
Gataivai
Fagasa-Fagalea
Afono
Vatia

Aua Stream Mouth
Aua-A&M
Laulii Stream Mouth
Alega Beach
Alega Stream Mouth
Auto
Fagaitua
Masefau
Aoa
Auasi Harbor
Onenoa

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 mauuluga 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 fa'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.

StarKist Co., president and CEO Choe and Governor Lolo to meet tomorrow



This Samoa News file photo from June 2015, shows StarKist Co., president and chief executive officer, Andrew Choe speaking to reporters during a news conference at the StarKist Samoa main office.

[photo: SN file photo]

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga is scheduled to meet tomorrow — Tuesday — with StarKist Co., president and chief executive officer, Andrew Choe, who was to arrive last night from Honolulu and will be on island until Friday.

“At this juncture, no specific agenda items have been identified for the meeting,” the governor’s executive assistant Iulogologo Joseph Pereira said last Friday afternoon responding to Samoa News inquiries. He said they will know more by

today (Monday) on the meeting agenda.

In a brief statement last Friday morning StarKist says that Choe, while on island, will spend time with employees at the StarKist Samoa plant, and also plans to meet with government and Fono leaders.

Choe — who will be on his third visit to the territory since heading up the company in November of 2014 — said it’s “always an honor” to be in American Samoa and looks forward to a productive time with StarKist Samoa leadership team and employees.

“It continues to be difficult for American Samoa to compete with other manufacturing locations where labor costs and other expenses are substantially lower and subsidized,” Choe is quoted in a StarKist statement.

During this visit, Choe said he looks forward to meeting with local leaders, both in government and business, “to discuss critical issues that are impacting StarKist’s business in American Samoa.”

StarKist along with American Samoa has been faced with many challenges in the past year, particularly due to federal regulations in areas such as restriction on fishing grounds impact fish supply, federally mandated minimum wage increases and federal tax benefits.

Despite the many issues working against American Samoa, StarKist said it remains committed to working with the governor, Congresswoman Aumua Amata, Fono leadership, “and the people of American Samoa to ensure a globally competitive and viable economic environment for conducting business in the territory.”

One long-standing issue for StarKist is efforts to secure land to building a freezer facility, in which the Lolo Administration last year offered ASG land at the old Satala Power Plant. It’s unclear if this is one of the issues to be discussed during Choe’s visit.

As of last Friday, StarKist has no plans to hold a news conference with reporters during Choe’s visit.

Ryan tweets about a \$1.50 paycheck boost, then deletes it

WASHINGTON (AP) — Julia Ketchum of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, whose check went up \$1.50 a week. Ryan on Saturday posted a Tweet noting the secretary’s increase and linking to the AP story. He has posted several other examples of worker pay increases and bonuses since the overhaul, some as much as \$1,000. Ryan’s spokeswoman didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Associated Press reported on Thursday that changes in tax withholding were sparking bigger paychecks, citing as one example



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Police: 5-year-old girl burned in voodoo ritual; 2 charged



Rachel Hilaire and Peggy LaBossiere appear at Brockton District Court on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2018 in Bridgewater, Mass. The two sisters tied down and burned a 5-year-old girl, permanently disfiguring her, in a voodoo ritual meant to rid her of a demon causing her to misbehave, police said. The women also threatened to cut off the head of the unnamed girl's 8-year-old brother with a machete, authorities said. LaBossiere, 51, and Hilaire, 40, denied injuring the girl and threatening the boy and pleaded not guilty Monday, Jan. 29, to mayhem, assault and other charges. (Marc Vasconcellos/Enterpriseneews.com via AP)

EAST BRIDGEWATER, Mass. (AP) — Two sisters tied down and burned a 5-year-old girl, permanently disfiguring her, in a voodoo ritual meant to rid her of a demon causing her to misbehave, police said. The women also threatened to cut off the head of the girl's 8-year-old brother with a machete, authorities said.

The boy said his sister was tied down on at least two occasions while the sisters blew fire over her face and cut her on the arm and in the collar area with a needle-like object, drawing blood, according to police. The girl said the women also poured over her eyes a substance that stung.

Peggy LaBossiere, 51, and Rachel Hilaire, 40, of East Bridgewater, denied injuring the girl and threatening the boy, the Brockton Enterprise reported. They pleaded not guilty on Jan. 29 to mayhem, assault and other charges. A public defender for the women didn't return a call seeking comment on Saturday.

Police say the girl's mother is a hair stylist of Haitian descent who has LaBossiere as a client and requested the ritual. She has not been charged but is receiving mental health treatment.

The sisters will be back in Brockton Superior Court on Wednesday for a hearing to determine whether they're too dangerous to be released.

The sisters told police that they have performed "cleansing baths" for family and friends in the past, something that involves chanting prayers, rubbing frankincense and eucalyptus oils and sea salt on their bodies, and burning myrrh, the newspaper reported. Children sometimes get burned as spirits leave the body, they said.

The girl suffered a third-degree burn across her face that will leave her permanently disfigured, police said. She was treated at a hospital and taken into custody by state welfare authorities, along with her brother, who described to police what happened at the sisters' house over multiple days.

Voodoo refers to religious practices developed centuries ago by enslaved Africans in the Caribbean, primarily in Haiti, where the practices are sometimes spelled "vodou."

Senate hearing on ASH-Cable cash dividend set for tomorrow

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman Sen. Magalei Logovi'i has scheduled another hearing tomorrow so that senators can gain solid information on the cash dividend the American Samoa Government received from the American Samoa Hawaii Cable LLC (ASH-Cable), major shareholder and operator of the submarine cable connecting American Samoa to Hawaii', with another spur connecting American Samoa to Samoa.

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale and ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaip'e are the two witnesses being called to testify and to provide a complete detailed report on the dividend along with other pertinent information.

In a joint news release last December, ASH-Cable and ASG announced its first annual cash dividend distribution of \$1.65 million to its two shareholders — majority shareholder, eLandia International and ASG, which contributed \$9 million to the project and holds 33% shares.

The cash dividend was paid out after the company successfully paid off its capital loans earlier last year, according to the news release, which also states that almost all of eLandia's share of the dividend was given to ASG to pay the company's corporate taxes. (See Samoa News edition Dec. 8, 2017 for details).

However, there are still lingering questions as to how much in cash dividends did the ASG

"actually receive" and the total actual taxes paid by eLandia, a Florida based company.

These questions were posed to Talauega during an unscheduled budget committee hearing last Friday, after the AG testified during a Senate Public Safety/ Homeland Security Committee hearing.

Talauega explained that this transaction occurred towards the end of last year, in which ASH-Cable reached a resolution for a "non-cash dividend" totaling \$9 million to pay debts affiliated with eLandia including eLandia's subsidies of Bluesky Communication and Bluesky Samoa.

The resolution also called for paying out "cash dividends", which Talauega recalled totaled about \$1.6 million in which ASG received \$550,000 and eLandia received \$1 million-plus, that went towards the company's taxes to ASG for 2015 and 2016.

Talauega noted that he doesn't have the report in front of him to provide specific answers sought by the committee.

Magalei than told the AG that the hearing will continue this week and the committee would like to receive a written report with specific numbers.

The senator pointed out that ASG invested \$9 million in the project but has received a small amount of return — referring to the cash dividend. It was during last Friday's Senate session that Magalei confirmed the hearing set for tomorrow — Tuesday.

German coalition talks adjourned until Monday



Martin Schulz, head of Germany's Social Democratic Party, SPD, speaks to journalists at the start of a new round of coalition talks in Berlin, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018. Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and the center-left Social Democrats embarked Sunday on what they hope is their last round of talks on forming a new German government, although the negotiations could take up to two more days. (Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP)

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and the center-left Social Democrats embarked Sunday on a final push for an agreement on a new German government, but negotiators adjourned for the night without resolving all their differences.

After an all-day session, the parties agreed to resume talks Monday, according to the Social Democrats' general secretary, Lars Klingbeil. He said issues remain on which the parties are still some distance apart and "want to talk thoroughly and concentratedly."

Germany's effort to put

together a governing coalition after its Sept. 24 election is already its longest since World War II. It won't be over with these talks. A deal will require approval in a ballot of the Social Democrats' members, many of whom are skeptical about renewing the alliance that has governed Germany since 2013 after a disastrous election result in September. Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, its Bavaria-only sister, the Christian Social Union, and the Social Democrats had set Sunday as a deadline to wrap up negotiations. They budgeted two extra days as a precaution when they opened formal talks

on Jan. 26. "The three parties have agreed and come closer on many points in recent days, but there are still issues to discuss — particularly on questions of social policy," Social Democrat leader Martin Schulz told reporters as he arrived at Sunday's talks. Those include labor and health policy questions that are a priority for his party. "I am still interested in making quick progress, but we want to give Germany a stable government, and a stable government involves a durable coalition deal that is agreeable to all," he said. "So, in the end, we must take the time that we need to create such a stable foundation."

Merkel said "important points" had to be cleared up. "We know what task we have and are trying to do justice to it," she said.

Klingbeil later said that Sunday's talks had been very constructive. Merkel's attempt to put together a government with two smaller parties collapsed in November. Schulz, who had previously ruled out renewing the "grand coalition" of Germany's biggest parties, then reversed course but still faces resistance from parts of his party.

Failure to reach an agreement, or a deal's rejection by Social Democrat members, would leave a minority government under Merkel or a new election as the only viable governing options.

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A picture showing a man identified by the Italian Carabinieri, paramilitary police, as Luca Traini, who is accused of having shot with a firearm to several people in Macerata, Italy, Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018. A lone gunman opened fire on foreigners in drive-by shootings in a central Italian city, wounding an undisclosed number of people Saturday morning before being arrested, police said. The suspect, Æs motive wasn, Æt immediately clear, but the city of Macerata is still reeling from the gruesome killing of a young Italian woman this week, allegedly at the hands of a Nigerian immigrant.

(ANSA via AP)

Hitler book, suprem- acist flag found in Italy suspect’s home

MILAN (AP) — A right-wing extremist suspected of shooting six Africans in central Italy was “lucid and determined, aware of what he had done” and exhibited no remorse, an Italian law enforcement official said Sunday.

Luca Traini, 28, remained jailed as police investigated him on multiple counts of attempted murder with the aggravating circumstance of “racial hatred” for the Saturday attacks in the Italian city of Macerata.

The five men and one woman wounded in the two-hour drive-by shooting spree are from Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia and Mali, according to RAI state television.

Italian authorities said they seized Adolf Hitler’s “Mein Kampf,” other publications linked to Nazism and a flag with a Celtic cross, a symbol commonly used by white supremacists, from Traini’s home Sunday.

The suspect was an unsuccessful candidate last year in a local election for the anti-migrant Northern League political party. Italy’s ANSA news agency quoted acquaintances saying he previously had ties with the neo-fascist Forza Nuova and CasaPound parties.

Photographs released by police showed Traini with a neo-Nazi tattoo prominently on his forehead and an Italian flag tied around his neck.

Col. Michele Roberti, the Carabinieri commander in Macerata, told Sky TG24 that Traini demonstrated no remorse for the two-hour rampage and “it’s likely that he carried out this crazy gesture as a sort of retaliation, a sort of vendetta” for the gruesome slaying of a teenager a few days earlier.

A Nigerian man has been arrested in the death of Pamela Mastropietro, 18. Her remains were found in two suitcases days after she walked away from a drug rehab community.

Police said her bloody clothes, a receipt from a pharmacy where she bought a syringe, and knives consistent with the crime were found in the Nigerian suspect’s apartment. Roberti ruled out any personal connection between Traini and the slain woman.

The woman wounded in the shooting spree, a 29-year-old identified only as Jennifer, told La Stampa from her hospital bed that she no longer feels free to walk around the city “with peace of mind.”

“I never hurt anyone. I was talking and laughing with three other people” when she was struck by the bullet, she told the Turin-based newspaper.

One of the six victims was released Saturday. The remaining patients were all stable, with one in intensive care and Jennifer facing surgery on her shoulder, doctors said Sunday.

Her boyfriend told La Repubblica they were waiting at a bus station when he saw a man pointing something at them from a black car. He realized then that it was a gun.

“I gave Jennifer a push to get her out of the way and threw myself down. And I heard a shot: Boom!” said Ogie Igbinowania.

Jennifer told the newspaper she arrived in Italy seven months ago and joined her boyfriend in Macerata.

“I have always been comfortable here. People are friendly. I don’t know why that guy fired at us,” she said.

A Nigerian community leader in Macerata, Sammy Kunoun, said he heard the shots as he was going to meet with cultural mediators about organizing a sit-in to support Mastropietro’s family. They called off the event after the shootings for fear of further racist attacks.

“Now, we are all victims in this story,” said Kunoun, adding that the immigrant community has been well-integrated in Macerata. Foreigners are 9.2 percent of the city’s 43,000 residents, according to official data.

Anti-foreigner sentiment has become a key theme of a heated electoral campaign. Italy has struggled with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of migrants in the last few years coming across the Mediterranean Sea in smugglers’ boats.

The general election is scheduled for March 4 and the head of the rebranded League party, Matteo Salvini, had capitalized on the teen’s killing in campaign appearances even before the shooting Saturday.

Salvini is pledging to deport 150,000 migrants in his first year in office if his party wins control of parliament — drawing sharp rebukes that he is using the migrant crisis to foment xenophobia for political gain. Italian Premier Paolo Gentiloni warned in Rome after the attack that “the state will be particularly severe against whoever thinks of feeding the spiral of violence.”



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-028-2018

Issuance Date: February 1, 2018 Closing Date: February 15, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

- 1. INVITATION**
Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide the “**Department of Health-Tafuna Primary Health Center Repairs**” located in the village of Tafuna, Territory of American Samoa.
- 2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS**
Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Thursday, February 15, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.
- 3. MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING**
A **MANDATORY** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the Pre-Bid Conference.
- 4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**
Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Specifications may be examined or obtained at the Office of Procurement free of charge.
- The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.
- The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of American Samoa Government.


DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



Abortion is a focus of early action in legislative sessions



FILE - In this March 2, 2014, file photo, Sen. Curt Bramble, R- Provo, speaks during a news conference at the Utah State Capitol, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Abortion policy has been a hot topic in state legislative sessions that convened or resumed Jan. 2018. Lawmakers already have taken several actions on bills that would expand or restrict access to abortion. In Utah, lawmakers are considering bills that would penalize doctors who do not show an informational video to women seeking an abortion, and another that would bar doctors from performing abortions sought because the fetus has Down syndrome.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File)

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Republicans who control a majority of the nation’s statehouses are considering a wide range of abortion legislation that could test the government’s legal ability to restrict a woman’s right to terminate pregnancy.

The Mississippi House passed a bill Friday that would make the state the only one to ban all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. In Missouri, lawmakers heard testimony earlier in the week on a bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks.

The Ohio House is expected to consider bills, already passed in the Senate, that would prohibit the most common type of procedure used to end pregnancies after 13 weeks and require that fetal remains be buried or cremated.

Abortion is a perennial hot button issue in statehouses across the country. Republican-controlled states have passed hundreds of bills since 2011 restricting access to the procedure while Democratic-led states have taken steps in the other direction.

The early weeks of this year’s state legislative sessions have seen a flurry of activity around the issue. It comes as activists on both sides say they expect the U.S. Supreme Court to soon consider a question that remains unclear: How far can states go in restricting abortion in the interest of preserving and promoting fetal life?

The state bills debated since the start of the year “are all tests designed to see how far government power to legislate on behalf of a fetus can reach,” said Jessica Mason Pieklo, who has been tracking legislation as the senior legal analyst for Rewire, a website that promotes views supporting abortion rights.

She said the outcome will determine whether states can legally ban abortion after a specific time period and outlaw specific medical procedures. Advocates for abortion rights say those strategies undermine the Supreme Court’s 1973 ruling that women have the right to terminate pregnancies until a fetus is viable.

In Utah, critics have warned that a pending bill to prevent doctors from performing abortions on the basis of a Down syndrome diagnosis is unconstitutional. But its co-sponsor, Republican state Sen. Curt Bramble, said he is willing to defend the bill in court because its goal is to protect unborn children.

“There are times if the Supreme Court got it wrong, it is appropriate to push back,” said Bramble, an accountant from Provo.

The anti-abortion bills have drawn opposition from women who say they have made the excruciating choice to terminate a pregnancy, often after discovering serious fetal abnormalities.

“A 20-week abortion ban sounds OK, but if that gets passed, what’s next — 18 weeks, 15 weeks? At what point does it make abortion truly illegal?” said Robin Utz of St. Louis, 38, who submitted testimony this week against the Missouri bill. “It’s terrifying and it’s willfully ignorant.”

Utz recounted terminating her pregnancy in its 21st week in November 2016, after learning her daughter would be born with a fatal kidney disease if she survived birth. She said doctors told her that dilation and evacuation, the most common abortion procedure in the second trimester, was the safest way to terminate the pregnancy.

Undeterred by such stories, the National Right to Life Committee and its allies have been pushing for state laws that ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy and outlaw dilation and evacuation. Supporters of both measures argue that fetuses are capable of feeling pain after 20 weeks and call the procedure “dismemberment abortion.”

Several court challenges to both types of laws are underway, with federal appeals courts considering the “dismemberment abortion” bans approved last year in Texas and Arkansas.

(Continued on page 11)



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



PUBLIC NOTICE

The American Samoa Department of Health Early Intervention Program “Helping Hands” would like to inform the public that the Annual State Application under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as amended in 2004 for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 is available for public comment for a period of 60 days.

A copy of the document is available to review at the DOH Helping Hands Office located in the Lumana’i building in Fagatogo.

Please call the DOH Helping Hands office at 633-8553 if you have any questions regarding this public notice.

Signed,

Ruth Te’o, DOH Part C Coordinator



AMERICAN SAMOA
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Human Resource Department, Tafuna
PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
Phone No: (684) 248-1234, Option #5
Email: humanresource@aspower.com
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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

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

Major Duties & Responsibilities

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

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

Minimum Requirements

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

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

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Egypt says 4,400-year-old tomb discovered outside Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered a 4,400-year-old tomb near the country’s famed pyramids at the Giza plateau just outside Cairo, the Antiquities Ministry said Saturday, the latest discovery that authorities hope will help revive the country’s staggering tourism sector.

The tomb was found in a wider area of Giza’s western necropolis, which is known to be home to tombs from the Old Kingdom.

It likely belonged to a woman known as Hetpet, who archaeologists believe was close to ancient Egyptian royals of the 5th Dynasty.

The tomb, unveiled to the media on Saturday, is made of mud brick and includes wall paintings in good condition depicting Hetpet observing different hunting and fishing scenes.

Other scenes also depict a monkey — in pharaonic times, monkeys were commonly kept as domestic animals — picking fruit. Similar scenes have been found in other tombs belonging to the later 12th dynasty, according to the ministry’s statement. Another scene shows a monkey dancing before an orchestra.

According to the ministry, the archaeological mission behind the discovery started excavation work last October. Archaeologists have been making discoveries near the site since the 19th century, and Mostafa al-Waziri, who led the mission, believes there is still

more to be found. “This is a very promising area. We expect to find more,” Al-Waziri told reporters at the site. “We have removed between 250-300 cubic meters of layers of earth to find the tomb.” “What we see above the earth’s surface in Egypt doesn’t exceed 40 percent of what the core holds,” he added.

Al-Waziri believes Hetpet had another tomb in Giza’s western necropolis and said that excavation work is underway to find that one too.

Hetpet is a previously known figure in Egyptian antiquity though her mummy has not been discovered yet. Fragments of artefacts belonging to Hetpet were found in the same area back in 1909, and were moved to a museum in Berlin at the time, Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani said Saturday, speaking at the site to reporters and Western diplomats.

Despite all the discoveries already made about ancient Egypt, experts say they hope to find much more — in part thanks to modern technology — treasures still buried under the vast desert.

The area of the latest discovery is close to a new museum under construction that will house some of Egypt’s most unique and precious artifacts, including many belonging to the famed boy King Tutankhamun.

The first phase of Grand Egyptian museum is expected to be opened later this year while the grand opening is planned for 2022.

► Hawaii...

Continued from page 2

the agency had a vague checklist for missile alerts, allowing workers to interpret the steps they should follow differently. Managers didn’t require a second person to sign off on alerts before they were sent, and the agency lacked any preparation on how to correct a false warning. Those details emerged Tuesday in reports on investigations about how the agency mistakenly blasted cellphones and broadcast stations with the missile warning.

It took nearly 40 minutes for the agency to figure out a way to retract the false alert on the same platforms it was sent to.

“The protocols were not in place. It was a sense of urgency to put it in place as soon as possible. But those protocols were not developed to the point they should have,” retired Brig. Gen. Bruce Oliveira, who wrote the report on Hawaii’s internal investigation, said at a news conference.

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency Administrator Vern Miyagi resigned as the reports were released. Officials revealed that the employee who

sent the alert was fired Jan. 26. The state did not name him.

The agency’s executive officer, Toby Clairmont, said Wednesday that he stepped down because it was clear action would be taken against agency leaders after the alert.

Another employee was being suspended without pay, officials said.

The incident “shines a light” on the state’s system failures, the man who sent the alert said, adding that he believes the federal government should handle such alerts. Testing of the alert system began in November and protocols were constantly changing, he said. “As far as our level of training was concerned, I think it was inadequate,” he said. Hawaii state Department of Defense spokesman Lt. Col. Charles Anthony declined to comment on what the former worker said. Officials said the man refused to cooperate with state or federal investigations beyond providing a written statement. He wasn’t trying to impede any investigations, he said: “There really wasn’t anything else to say.”

In Loving Memory of “BIG GEORGE” George Jacob Poysky Jr.

August 26, 1921 - January 28, 2018



It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our
Husband/Father/Grandfather, George
He was 96 when he passed in Clatskanie, Oregon
He is survived by his wife; Karen Poysky,
His 3 children; George Poysky III, Greg Poysky (✶ Barbara), Gayle Johnson (✶ Craig)
5 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren
He will be greatly missed.

There will be no fa’aSamoa or funeral services as per his request. However, his
ashes will be laid to rest at his Clatskanie home sometime in the summer.

(BG said to wait until work is slow)

8 Turkish troops die in Syria operation; Russian pilot slain



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signs a drone at a military airbase in Batman, Turkey, Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018. The Turkish military says two of its soldiers have been killed in Syria and a third was killed on the Turkish side of the border in an attack by Syrian Kurdish militiamen, saying Saturday's deaths were related to Turkey's operation against the Syrian Kurdish-held enclave of Afrin.

(Murat Cetinmuhurdar/Pool Photo via AP)

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkey said eight of its troops were killed Saturday in Ankara's military operation against a Syrian Kurdish militia, the deadliest day in the two-week-old offensive in the enclave of Afrin, while in another part of Syria, al-Qaida-linked militants downed a Russian fighter jet, then shot and killed the pilot.

In a statement late Saturday, the Turkish military said five soldiers were killed after their tank in Syria came under attack near Afrin. The soldiers could not be saved despite all attempts, it said.

Earlier in the day, three Turkish soldiers were reported killed in the Afrin offensive — one was killed in the area of the tank attack, another in northern Syria and the third on the Turkish side of the border in what Ankara said was an attack by Syrian Kurdish militiamen.

The total death toll for Turkish troops since the operation, codenamed Olive Branch, started on Jan. 20 now stands at 13. Turkey launched the incursion into Afrin to rout the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish militia, known as the People's Protection Units or YPG, which it considers to be a terrorist organization and an extension of Kurdish insurgents fighting within Turkey. From Istanbul, Turkish presidential spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, said Turkey will not tolerate the presence of the YPG "anywhere" along its southern border, hinting that Ankara might expand the Afrin operation eastward. Turkey's first demand is to see the YPG move east of the Euphrates River and leave the town of Manbij, where American troops backing the Syrian Kurdish fighters are stationed, Kalin said. He called on the United States to "disengage" from the YPG and said Turkey will continue communications with "our American allies to avoid any confrontation."

Turkey shares a 911-kilometer border with Syria. The YPG controls much of the territory along the border and an uninterrupted strip from Manbij to the Iraqi border.

Meanwhile, in the embattled northwestern province of Idlib, al-Qaida-linked militants said they downed a Russian fighter jet and killed its pilot after he ejected from the plane and landed on the ground.

The pilot resisted being captured and fired at the militants who then shot and killed him, according to one of the militants and Syrian monitors.

The Russian Defense Ministry confirmed the downing of the Su-25 and said the pilot was killed in fighting with "terrorists." A report on the ministry's Zvezda TV said preliminary information indicated the plane was shot by a portable ground-to-air missile in an area under control of al-Qaida's branch in

Syria. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the plane was downed near the rebel-held town of Saraqeb, which Syrian troops have been trying to take under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

Russia is a key ally of President Bashar Assad, and has been waging a military campaign on behalf of his forces since 2015. Since then, Syrian troops have captured wide parts of the country and in recent weeks have been making advances in Idlib. The province is also a base for al-Qaida's branch in Syria and other Islamic groups.

A Syrian militant in the area told The Associated Press that the Russian pilot was shot and killed when he resisted capture. The pilot opened fire from his pistol as the militants were trying to seize him, said the militant, who refused to be identified by his real name because was not authorized to speak to

the media.

A video circulating on social media shows a lifeless body of a man, his face stained with blood, as bearded gunmen stand around him. One of the armed men shouts: "He is Russian." The authenticity of the video could not be independently confirmed but it corresponded to events reported by the AP.

Earlier in the day, the Observatory and the media arm of al-Qaida-linked militants reported intense airstrikes in Idlib. The Observatory reported more than 35 airstrikes on Saraqeb since late Friday, adding that many of its residents are fleeing. The Ibaa News Agency of the al-Qaida-linked Levant Liberation Committee, said Russian and Syrian warplanes and helicopter gunships have been pounding Saraqeb and the village of Tel Mardeekh in Idlib since the early hours of Saturday.

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BUNDLE THREE



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Courtesy Photos)



► It's confirmed...

Continued from page 1

forms of ID with their names and other identifying information, such as photo, address, phone number, social security number or date of birth.

Traveler may present the following:

- temporary paper IDs • expired IDs • credit cards
 - social security card • birth certificate • marriage certificate • bank statements or bills • Certificate of Identity
- will count as other forms of ID.

TSA online link provides the list of acceptable identifications which, by themselves, can be used to prove identity and to pass through TSA checkpoints. Link at: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>

Samana suggested during the hearing that if the traveler doesn't have a passport, to check in early, in case there's additional information needed by TSA to verify the person traveling.

When asked by the committee if Hawaiian will accept CIs, the airline's local station

manager, Tuli Fruean, who was also a witness at the hearing Friday, responded "yes", saying that there is now further clarification on what's needed when a traveler checks in.

Another witness at the hearing, Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale noted the TSA required IDs at the airport, but suggested that the traveler bring to the airport any other form of ID — such as a military ID — in the event additional identification is needed by the airline and TSA to verify the identity of the person.

In a news release last Friday that confirms the use of CIs, the Governor's Office says that TSA has recommended that travelers arrive at the airport at least two hours in advance of their flight time to complete the security check process.

Furthermore, "TSA stressed that travelers will not be allowed to enter the security checkpoint if their identity cannot be confirmed, if they choose to not provide proper identification, or if they decline to cooperate

with the identity verification process."

The news release also quotes Samana thanking CBP, TSA, and USDHS for clarifications regarding the CIs and TSA required identification. He expressed special thanks to TSA's Steve Yonkers and Mark H. Carlson — CBP supervisory program manager in San Francisco "for confirming this critical information for our travelers."

Effective today — Feb. 5th — residents of American Samoa will no longer be able to use territory-issued driver's licenses and identification cards to fly domestically or enter federal buildings and military installations, according to a USDHS announcement on Jan. 19th. (See Samoa News edition Jan. 30th for details.)

See tomorrow's edition regarding the latest update on American Samoa working towards full compliance with the federal REAL ID Act.

► CJ loses...

Continued from page 1

Deposition Hearing, pursuant to an order to show cause issued by the Probation Officer, in regards, to his two most recent criminal cases that came before the court last year. Both are cases that happened while the defendant is serving time in the Territorial Correctional Facility (TCF).

The defendant, an over-stayer from Samoa, who entered the territory on a 30-day visitor's permit, is currently serving a 12-year straight sentence at TCF. If the court revokes his probation, he's looking at serving a total of 34 years behind bars.

In recap, Kruse said that on June 21, 2013, Fa'aaliga was convicted of first degree burglary and second-degree burglary — both felonies, and he was ordered by the court to serve a 40-month detention, as a condition of a 7-year probation sentence.

While serving his detention, the government later discovered evidence of a prior burglary involving the defendant, resulting in subsequently being charged on March 08, 2014.

For this second case, Fa'aaliga was convicted of felony stealing, and was ordered to serve 28 months, as a condition of a 7-year probated sentence. The 28 months was to be served consecutively with his 40-month sentence.

And, then in 2016, Fa'aaliga was charged in two separate incidents while he was serving time in jail.

Court records show that the defendant escaped from jail on June 30th and managed to make his way over to the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) main office in Tafuna at night, where he took a wom-

an's purse while she was sitting inside her vehicle. For this first case, Fa'aaliga was convicted with escape from confinement and was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment, a straight sentence.

His second case — which also happened in 2016, occurred on June 19th, where he broke into an Asian Store and stole \$1,500.

In this case, the defendant was convicted of felony stealing and was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment, straight sentence.

The defendant's 12-year straight sentence from the two crimes he committed in 2016 is to be served consecutively with his 2013 sentence, from his first burglary case.

According to Kruse, the court wants to know two things:

1 How a 30-day visitor or a tourist is going to impact the resources of the territory for 34 years?

2 What happened to the bond that was posted and who is in fact the right sponsor.

Kruse said that the court is receiving conflicting information about who the real sponsor is. According to the two reports the court received from the Immigration Office, Fa'aaliga has two different sponsors — Pine Lauoletolo and Misipele Liaina.

Before the court ordered Peseta to take the stand, Kruse asked the government's attorney whether he had brought the original file of the defendant's immigration status the court ordered him to bring. Morris responded he did not have the file.

"Why?" Kruse fired back, with a raised voice; whereupon Morris replied that the file is in

the container where a lot of the immigration files are kept.

"I want that file brought to court. Someone will go to jail if I don't have that file. I'm sick and tired of dealing with this government's old stories", Kruse stated.

While Peseta was on the witness stand, Morris asked him if the two sponsors named in two separate reports are two different sponsors, Peseta responded "No, it's the same person."

When asked to describe the penalty for the sponsor when an immigrant overstay, Peseta explained that if was after their meeting with the AG in 2013 that they agreed to impose a penalty fine of \$500 for the sponsor.

Kruse immediately intervened and said, "Is there a law that can support these statements. This sounds like a legal conclusion to me. Is there a regulation or were these things made up 'on the fly'."

Morris responded that it seems like these are part of the rules that apply to the sponsor.

"If that is the case, cite to me the law that says this. The only people who can apply a fine is the Fono. I need to see the underlying authority", Kruse said.

Morris was silent for a moment, then Kruse looked straight at him and asked, "There is none, and it was just the flying thing, right?"

Morris replied, "Yes your honor."

Kruse then tells a story of what happened when he arrived at the airport with some Australian passport holders one day. At the Immigration window, the Australian passport holders were told that they had to post

(Continued on page 13)

Uma Thurman levels accusations against Weinstein, Tarantino



NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Uma Thurman, in long-awaited remarks, accused disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein of forcing himself on her sexually years ago in a London hotel room. Weinstein, through his attorney, acknowledged making an “awkward pass” but strongly denied any physical assault and suggested the possibility of legal action over her comments.

In a separate allegation in the same New York Times article on Saturday, Thurman also said “Kill Bill” director Quentin Tarantino during filming coerced her into driving a car that she believed to be faulty, resulting in injuries including a permanently damaged neck, a concussion and damage to her knees. A representative for Tarantino did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Thurman’s allegations against Weinstein, who has been accused of rape, assault or other sexual misconduct by scores of women, had been widely anticipated since she hinted late last year that she had a story to tell but wanted to wait until she was less angry. Her story came in an interview with Times columnist Maureen Dowd.

“I used the word ‘anger,’ but I was more worried about crying, to tell you the truth,” Thurman was quoted as saying. “I was not a groundbreaker on a story I knew to be true. So what you really saw was a person buying time.”

Thurman said that an early encounter with Weinstein in a Paris hotel room in the 1990s ended with him suddenly appearing in a bathrobe and leading her to a steam room but that she did not feel threatened. She said that the first “attack” — the word appears in quotes — happened later in London.

“He pushed me down,” she said. “He tried to shove himself on me. He tried to expose himself. He did all kinds of unpleasant things. But he didn’t actually put his back into it and force me. You’re like an animal wriggling away, like a lizard.”

Later, she alleged, she arranged a meeting with Weinstein and warned him: “If you do what you did to me to other people you will lose your career, your reputation and your

family, I promise you.”

The Times article says Thurman’s memory of the Weinstein encounter stops there, but it quotes a friend who was waiting downstairs as saying Thurman emerged from an elevator disheveled and shaking.

“Her eyes were crazy, and she was totally out of control,” said the friend, Ilona Herman.

When Thurman was able to talk again, Herman said, she revealed that Weinstein, who was one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, had threatened to derail her career.

Though the article doesn’t make clear how the London hotel room encounter ended, Thurman said: “Harvey assaulted me, but that didn’t kill me.”

A representative for Thurman, Leslie Sloane, responded to an Associated Press request for more details on all the encounters by saying only: “The article speaks for itself.”

Meanwhile, Ben Brafman, Weinstein’s attorney, said the producer was “stunned and saddened” by false accusations from Thurman. He emphasized Weinstein and Thurman had worked together for more than two decades.

The lawyer, in a statement, said Weinstein acknowledged making “an awkward pass at Ms. Thurman 25 years ago which he regrets and immediately apologized for.” He said it was a mystery why Thurman would wait so long to come forward or “embellish what really happened to include false accusations of attempted physical assault.”

He said Thurman’s statements to the Times were being “examined and investigated” before Weinstein decides whether any legal action against her would be appropriate.

Thurman, one of the stars of Tarantino’s “Pulp Fiction,” also said that just before shooting began on the director’s “Kill Bill: Vol. 1,” which came out in 2003, she told him about Weinstein and he confronted the mogul, leading him to apologize.

But she also described a harrowing onset episode on location in Mexico in which Tarantino ignored her expressed fears of driving a car that she had been warned might be faulty.

Tarantino persuaded her to do it, she said, quoting him as saying, “Hit 40 miles per hour or your hair won’t blow the right way and I’ll make you do it again.”

Video accompanying the article online — which Thurman says took her 15 years to procure — shows Thurman struggling to control the car, crashing into a tree and then being carried from the car.

▶ Court...

tion. Police also found more than \$US54,000 in cash in the Woods’ home.

THOMAS SIAUMAU

Chief Justice Michael Kruse has granted a motion by government attorney’s Woodrow Pengelly for another continuance on the case against Thomas Siaumau, so that the police will have more time to finalize their investigation, including the interview of more witnesses.

Pengelly also told the court that the evidence in this case

may be sent off-island for testing, and it will take some time. Siaumau, who is held without bail, is facing six felony counts — including assault and weapon charges — and three misdemeanors, appeared in High Court last week for his first pretrial conference since his arraignment on Dec. 29, 2017. He is represented by counsel William R. Olson of the RDA Law Firm.

Charges against Siaumau stem from an accident when

someone shot at a police vehicle in Dec. 2017.

The shooting occurred on the late evening of Dec. 14 at the Tony Solaita Baseball Field, while two officers were on the field, searching for a possible break-in. The officers had been called to the ASTCA compound in Tafuna and noticed the gate open at the baseball field and went in to check, when the shots were allegedly fired.

Siaumau is scheduled to appear in court on April 6, 2018.

Continued from page 2

▶ Abortion...

The Kansas Supreme Court is expected to rule soon on the first-in-the-nation ban passed in that state three years ago.

Ingrid Duran, director of state legislation at the National Right to Life Committee, said the model state laws drafted by her group are aimed at U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, a swing vote who wrote the court’s 2007 opinion upholding a federal ban on a procedure critics call partial-birth abortion.

She said the court could use similar reasoning to prohibit dilation and evacuation and noted it has never considered whether states have an interest in protecting fetuses from pain.

“We did draft these laws with the bigger picture in mind,”

Duran said.

The shifted focus comes after the court dealt the anti-abortion movement a blow in 2016 by ruling that strict Texas regulations on abortion clinics and doctors were an undue burden on abortion access and unconstitutional. Anti-abortion groups hope President Donald Trump will be able to nominate one or more justices to the Supreme Court following last year’s confirmation of Neil Gorsuch, potentially making the court more conservative on the issue for decades to come.

In the meantime, some of them are cautioning their allies not to go too far. Duran said the proposed 15-week ban in Mississippi, which now goes to the state Senate, caught her by

surprise. She noted that prior state laws banning abortion after 12 weeks or once a heartbeat was detected have been found unconstitutional. In South Carolina this past week, state senators tabled a bill that would have banned most abortions to give lawmakers more time to study the consequences. Also last week, a legislative committee in Tennessee amended a bill to remove language that would have outlawed abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detectable, which is usually around six weeks. The bill’s sponsor, Republican Rep. Micah Van Huss, said he would be back.

“I will not stop fighting for the lives of babies until abortion is abolished in this state,” he said.

Continued from page 7



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-010-2018

Issuance Date: February 2, 2018

Closing Date: February 13, 2018

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

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Utulei, Su’igaula and Faga’alu Park Shoreline Protection” for the Office of Parks and Recreation.

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), **Friday, February 13, 2018** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING

A **MANDATORY** Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on February 9, 2018 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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Warren Buffett on hand as Navy commissions newest warship

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. Navy on Saturday commissioned its newest warship, the USS Omaha, a futuristic, \$440 million vessel named for the Nebraska hometown of billionaire Warren Buffett, who was on hand for the ceremony.

The Omaha, a 218-foot-long littoral combat ship, was commissioned at its new home port in San Diego.

Buffett’s daughter, Susie Buffett, who was designated as the ship’s sponsor, gave the traditional order for officers and crew: “Man our ship and bring her to life.”

“Aye, aye, ma’am,” they replied and ran to the ship as a band struck up “Anchors Aweigh.”

The aluminum-clad Omaha is designed for missions close to shore. It has high-tech computer capabilities and can be reconfigured for various missions, including anti-submarine warfare and anti-mine operations.

“She is a beautiful ship,” said Cmdr. Michael Toth, the commanding officer. “To be at her helm is more akin to flying an aircraft with a pilot and a co-pilot than to conning a traditional warship.”

Other dignitaries at the ceremony included Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert and former Nebraska Gov. and U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey, a Navy veteran and Medal of Honor winner.

“I am proud to share our name, our heritage and our community values with USS Omaha and its commander, and we wish you safety on your missions,” Stothert said.

Ricketts, whose state is landlocked, issued what he said was a unique honor in designating the entire crew collectively as “an admiral in the great Navy of the state of Nebraska.”

The ship is the fourth to carry the Omaha name since 1869. The last vessel was an attack submarine that was decommissioned in 1995.

“She represents the strength and the fortitude of her city and her state,” U.S. Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer said at the ceremony. “This ship is ready to deliver the fight tonight.”



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Child abductions rise amid South Sudan civil war



In this photo taken Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, children play in empty cardboard boxes during a food distribution by Oxfam outside Akobo town, one of the last rebel-held strongholds in South Sudan. Child abductions have risen during South Sudan’s civil war as desperate people try to make a living, and one child, no matter the age, is said to sell for 20 cows, worth about \$7,000.

(AP Photo/Sam Mednick)

AKOBO, South Sudan (AP) — It’s been almost two years since Deng Machar’s three young children were abducted from his home and likely sold for cattle. Sitting in South Sudan’s opposition-held town of Akobo, the 35-year-old pointed to the dirt beneath his feet.

“They were playing right there,” Machar said. “It would be easier if they were dead because then I could forget.”

Machar said his 4-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son were likely sold for cattle after being seized by men from the rival Murle tribe. He doubts his 2-year-old son is still alive. Eleven children in all were abducted from this area that day and none has been seen since.

It is a little-acknowledged tragedy in South Sudan’s five-year civil war. Child kidnappings between clans have increased as people become more desperate amid widespread hunger and a devastated economy, human rights groups say.

“Child abductions and trafficking in South Sudan is a real issue that requires an urgent response by the government,” said Edmund Yakani, executive director of the nonprofit Community Empowerment for Progress Organization.

While tracking child kidnappings is challenging amid the conflict and mass displacement, he said his organization has confirmed abductions in several parts of the country. Those include 11 children seized last year in Abyei in the north, five taken between 2012 and 2014 in the Wau area in the west, and seven in 2016 and 2017 in the Yei area in the south, near the Ugandan border.

The United Nations says its child protection team confirmed abductions in the regions of Unity, Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Western Equatoria last year, though it didn’t have a total number.

Although inter-clan fighting, cattle raiding and abductions

are deep-seated throughout this East African country, Yakani called it a particular problem in Jonglei state, where the town of Akobo is located and where many in the Murle tribe base “their livelihood” on selling children.

During a recent trip to Akobo, near the Ethiopian border, The Associated Press spoke with Murle tribesmen who acknowledged stealing and trafficking children for personal gain.

“The intention is to trade the children for cattle or use them personally,” said Thiro Akungurouth, a Murle youth leader who knows some of the abductors.

One child, no matter what his or her age, can sell for 20 cows, worth about \$7,000, he said.

Children who aren’t sold are kept by families without kids while girls are groomed for marriage, Akungurouth said. Stigma remains against childless families in South Sudan. Abducted girls often are married to their captors.

Authorities in Akobo said 37 children have been seized in the surrounding areas since 2016, more than in the first three years of the war combined. It was not clear how many children have been abducted across the country during the civil war.

One opposition governor blamed South Sudan’s government for the increase in kidnappings, saying it’s trying to create a wedge between the Murle and Nuer tribes to advance its military agenda.

“It’s happening more now because the government is instigating a rift and telling the youth to attack by distributing arms and ammunition,” Koang Rambang, the governor of Bieh state, which until last year was part of Jonglei, told the AP.

He specifically faulted the country’s First Vice President Taban Deng Gai for “instigating more abductions,” citing 10 children who were seized in January while Gai toured the largely opposition-held Jonglei.

South Sudan’s government denied it, saying Gai was in the region only to promote peace. The government also said it had given “directives to the concerned governors of those states to get rid of those activities,” said Maal Maker Thiong, who works in the office of the presidency.

But as the civil war drives the nation deeper into despair, children continue to be the worst affected.

Although South Sudan in 2015 signed onto the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that all parties should take appropriate measures “to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children,” the country’s warring factions repeatedly have been accused of committing grave violations against children, including the forced recruitment of child soldiers.

“The abduction of children is abhorrent. They are vulnerable and deserve our protection,” the chief of the U.N. mission in South Sudan, David Shearer, told the AP. He said the U.N.’s human rights team was due to visit Akobo to assess the situation and advocate with local authorities and armed groups to prevent the practice.

Over the years some organizations have tried to work with the tribes, encouraging them to return the kidnapped children and halt the practice.

Last month, a conference held between the Nuer and Murle tribes in the village of Burmath outside Akobo discussed the possible return of some of the children, including three who were abducted on Jan. 17.

“We tell the chiefs that this is having negative consequences and that they need to stop this and live peacefully,” said Ruei Hoth, one of the conference organizers.

As desperation among South Sudanese continues, however, people are skeptical that the abduction and sale of children will end.



Yellen disappointed not to get a second term as Fed chair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Janet Yellen said she was disappointed that President Donald Trump didn’t offer her a second term as Federal Reserve chair, but supports her central bank successor, Jerome Powell, who takes over on Monday.

Powell, a Fed board member since 2012, is “thoughtful, balanced, dedicated to public service. I’ve found him to be a very thoughtful policymaker,” Yellen said in an interview with CBS’ “Sunday Morning.”

She also said the stock market — the Dow Jones industrial average closed at 25,520 Friday after a 665-point drop — was “high,” and that the financial system was in stronger shape to handle a sharp sell-off than it was during the 2008 financial crisis. She cited changes put in place since that time; Trump has been critical of that effort.

“”The financial system is much better capitalized. The

banking system is more resilient,” Yellen said. “Our overall judgment is that, if there were to be a decline in asset valuations, it would not damage unduly the core of our financial system.”

Yellen, appointed by President Barack Obama, was the first woman to lead the Fed. Her four-year term ended Friday. She is joining the Brookings Institution think tank.

Yellen noted that it has been common for Fed chairs to receive a second term even when they were first nominated by a president of the other party.

“I made clear that I would be willing to serve another term and so yes, I do feel a sense of disappointment,” she said.

Trump was highly critical of Yellen during the 2016 campaign, but took to praising her after becoming president. Nonetheless, he decided against reappointing the Democrat in favor of nominating Republican Powell.

Before becoming Fed chair in 2014, Yellen had served as the central bank’s vice chair and was president of the Fed’s San Francisco regional bank.

“I’ve been in high level positions in the Federal Reserve for many years, where I think I’ve had a seat at the table to make the arguments that I thought needed to be made and to advocate for good policy,” Yellen said.

Yellen was asked whether she believed the economy was under threat because stocks had risen too high, creating an asset bubble that could burst, with disastrous results.

“I don’t want to say too high. But I do want to say high,” Yellen said, adding that it was “a source of some concern that asset valuations are so high.”



FILE - In this Friday, May 5, 2017, file photo, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen smiles before giving a speech during a conference at Brown University in Providence, R.I. Yellen's last day at the Fed is Friday, Feb. 2, 2018. Then she will start a new job on Monday, Feb. 5 at the Brookings Institution.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, File)

▶ CJ loses...

Continued from page 10

some money.

“Forget about the amount whether it’s \$20 or \$50, but what caught my attention was that when they asked for a receipt, they were told to come back tomorrow and get it.

“So are these on the fly policies also, because I’m hearing that right now unless you reference it to a regulation or something. Am I getting a story here or what.

“Thirty-four (34) years potentially this society is expected to look after this young kid, and he will be an old man by that time. So, no more stories,” said the Chief Justice.

Kruse ordered the Clerk of the Court to hand over to Peseta the two separate reports from the Immigration, containing two different sponsors’ names for Fa’aaliga. The two pieces of document were both signed by Peseta and were marked as court exhibit 1 & 2.

When Kruse asked whether the two different sponsors applied for the 30-day permit for Fa’aaliga, Peseta responded, “According to this report yes (referring to the report he was holding).”

“He’s never been out of jail. He’s in jail ever since he’s been here,” Kruse said, referring to Fa’aaliga. Peseta replied, “I only signed the verification on the first one that was provided to me Your Honor”.

“So — who’s lying to the court when we required this information for sentencing purposes,” Kruse asked; Peseta replied that he’s not lying to the court.

“You’ve just said that your

office was the one that gave you the report. So, is your office the one that’s lying to the court,” he wanted to know. Peseta replied he don’t know.

Kruse turned to the government’s attorney and asked if the AG had come to court, and Morris explained that after he spoke to the AG and Peseta about this case, he made the decision to bring Peseta to the court, hoping that he would provide all the answers that would “please the court”.


Kruse’s instantaneous reply was, “He’s not pleasing the court, he’s telling me stories. And I’m not pleased if you’re not giving me the actual application form on how the 30-day permit for this young man was done.

“I’m giving you 2 weeks to bring those papers to the court. I don’t care what you’re going to do to that container, all I want is the file,” he said.

“If you give me the same song of too much work, I’ll hold the whole Immigration office in contempt,” Kruse told Morris.

He then turned to Peseta and said, “Mr. Fuimaono, there will be consequences if I get the same story from you next time. I’m giving you 2 weeks to give me the file.”

The CJ concluded, “And for you, government, you also need to talk to Le’i [the Police Commissioner], to let us know how is he going to house this man if we revoke his probation and sentence him for 34 years. He was on the radio this morning (last Friday morning) complaining about not having enough room for inmates.”



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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	AUTO MECHANIC I	Posting Date	February 2, 2018
Department	Auto Shop	Deadline	February 15, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Division	Facilities, Security & Maintenance	Pay Rate	\$7.28 – \$7.58/hr
Position Type	Career Service (12 month probation)	Job Grade/Status	D/1/A-D/2/A, Non-Exempt
Reports To	Auto Shop Supervisor		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

Perform skilled maintenance and repair work on all vehicles, light and heavy equipment fleets; disassemble and assemble engines and hydraulic units; perform minor or major overhaul and repair work re: mechanical components, electrical system, brakes, fuel system, clutch, cooling system, air conditioning, differential, transmission, etc; provide call-out/emergency repair services as required; assist in ensuring adequate inventory of high-usage parts and supplies; assist in ensuring maintenance and repair work is cost effective and efficient; perform other tasks as assigned.

Minimum Requirements

Education	HS Diploma with Certification in Automotive Mechanics – trade & technology required; AS degree in Automotive Technology with Certification preferred
Experience	Five years (5) work experience in automotive field. Experience and skills in safely operating a heavy duty lathe machine would be an added advantage. Computer skills in ProDemand Automotive Repair online program is also a plus.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<div><div>Must be knowledgeable of:</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">vehicle painting procedures and protocolshydraulics and in using diagnostic scanning tools for troubleshooting and identifying vehicle electronic problemstools and equipment used in the diagnosis, overhaul, repair and adjustment of vehicle, light and heavy equipmentauto-electronics, on-board computers, and how to access them for diagnosing problems hazards and safety precautions involved with the work<div>Must have skills:</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">in automotive body repair and repainting workin diagnosis of vehicle, light and heavy problemsto lubricate and service equipment as per maintenance scheduleto fabricate parts and panel where safe and acceptable options are availableto perform welding work where requiredin the use of automotive mechanical and electronic tools (air/power) and equipment<div>Must have ability to:</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">work rotating shifts, weekends and holidays when requiredread and understand technical manuals, reports and instructions including schematic drawings and diagramsestablish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of workread and follow manuals and standardized procedures in service and maintenance of vehicles/equipmentbe a team player and willing to offer assistance on critical matters and issues pertaining to the Auto Shopensure safe working practices at all timesassist in maintaining appropriate recordsbe proactive and responsibleperform housekeeping duties in keeping workshop clean and tidy</div>

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Cyprus president re-elected, defeats same opponent again

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades vowed to push on with attempts to reunify the ethnically divided island nation and to improve the economic fortunes of its people after he was re-elected by a wide margin Sunday.

Anastasiades defeated left-leaning independent challenger Stavros Malas in a runoff election. Anastasiades received 56 percent of the vote, compared to 44 percent for Malas, in the final returns.

Malas telephoned Anastasiades to concede defeat about an hour after polls closed, when half of the ballots had been counted and Malas trailed badly.

Speaking to supporters, Malas said he told Anastasiades to “take care of our Cyprus.”

It’s the second consecutive time that Anastasiades, 71, a conservative veteran politician, won a head-to-head contest with Malas, 50, for the presidency.

“Tomorrow, a new day, a new era dawns, where people demand cooperation from all of us,” Anastasiades told throngs of jubilant supporters at his campaign headquarters.

Malas campaigned as the candidate who would bring change to a tired political system that short-changes ordinary Cypriots, who have seen salaries and benefits slashed in the wake of the national economy’s near-meltdown.

But voters appeared to heed the incumbent’s campaign message, which blamed the left-wing economic policies of previous administrations for bringing Cyprus close to bankruptcy.

Malas also struggled to separate himself from the party that supported him, the communist-rooted AKEL. Anastasiades accused AKEL of crushing the economy during the presidency of former leader Demetris Christofias.

“I know that the result has disappointed you, but we must respect it, and above all else for all of us to recognize that this was a worthy battle that neither begins nor ends with an election,” Malas told his backers.

Cyprus was split into an internationally recognized Greek Cypriot south and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence and keeps more than 35,000 troops in the north.

Voters remain skeptical about whether a reunification deal can be reached any time soon. The latest round of talks at a Swiss resort in July collapsed amid finger-pointing about who was responsible for the failure.

To buoy public hopes, Anastasiades said he would reach out to Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci to try and resuscitate their negotiations.

Democratic, GOP lawmakers: Memo doesn’t clear Trump in probe



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump arrive on Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport, in West Palm Beach, Fla., Friday, Feb. 2, 2018. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was wrong to assert that a GOP-produced classified memo on FBI surveillance powers cleared him in the Russia investigation, Democratic and Republican lawmakers said Sunday. They expressed hope that special counsel Robert Mueller’s work would continue without interference.

Democrats could seek a vote on publicly releasing their rebuttal memo when the GOP-led House Intelligence Committee meets late Monday afternoon. The committee rejected that move last week, with one Republican member saying revisions were needed so the memo would not endanger national security. The Senate’s Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, urged Trump to back the public release and said that refusing to do so would show the president’s intent to undermine the Russia investigation.

The committee’s top Democrat, California Rep. Adam Schiff, branded the GOP memo “a political hit job.” He questioned whether the chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., had coordinated with the White House in drafting the document seized on by the president to vent his grievances against the nation’s premier law enforcement agencies.

“The goal here is to undermine the FBI, discredit the FBI, discredit the Mueller investigation, do the president’s bidding,” Schiff said. “I think it’s very possible his staff worked with the White House.”

Nunes was asked during a Jan. 29 committee meeting whether he had coordinated the memo with the White House. “As far as I know, no,” he responded, then refused to answer when asked whether his staff members had communicated with the White House. He had previously apologized for sharing with the White House secret intelligence intercepts related to an investigation of Russian election interference before talking to committee members.

Trump’s Saturday tweet that the memo “totally vindicates ‘Trump’ in probe” even as “the Russian Witch Hunt goes on and on” found no echo from four committee Republicans who appeared on the Sunday talk shows.

Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio, said, “I think this is a separate issue.” Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah, said, “No, it doesn’t end that.” Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, said, “I don’t,” when asked whether he agreed with Trump. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., asked whether the memo affected the investigation, said, “No, not to me, it doesn’t, and I was pretty integrally involved in the drafting of it.”

The Democratic response was more expected: “Of course, not at all,” said Schiff. Added Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.: “No, of course it does not.”

Lawmakers also said the memo should not impede Mueller.

“I think it would be a mistake for anyone to suggest that the special counsel shouldn’t complete his work. I support his work. I want him to finish it. I hope he finishes it as quickly as possible,” Stewart said.

The memo released Friday alleges misconduct on the part of the FBI and the Justice Department in obtaining a warrant under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to monitor former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page and his ties to Russia. Specifically, it takes aim at the FBI’s use of information from former British spy Christopher Steele, who compiled a dossier containing allegations of ties between Trump, his associates and Russia.

The underlying materials that served as the basis for the warrant application were not made public in the GOP memo.

Even as Democrats described it as inaccurate, some Republicans quickly cited the memo — released over the objections of the FBI and Justice Department — in their arguments that Mueller’s investigation is politically tainted.

The memo’s central allegation is that agents and prosecutors, in applying in October 2016 to monitor Page’s communications, failed to tell a judge that the opposition research that provided grounds for the FBI’s suspicion received funding from Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign and the Democratic National Committee. Page had stopped advising the campaign sometime around the end of that summer.

Steele’s research, according to the memo, “formed an essential part” of the warrant application. But it’s unclear how much or what information Steele collected made it into the application, or how much has been corroborated.

Republicans say a judge should have known that “political actors” were involved in allegations that led the Justice Department to believe Page might be an agent of a foreign power — an accusation he has consistently denied.

The memo confirms the FBI’s counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign began in July 2016, months before the surveillance warrant was sought, and was “triggered” by information concerning campaign aide George Papadopoulos. He pleaded guilty last year to lying to the FBI.

The confirmation about Papadopoulos is “the most important fact disclosed in this otherwise shoMonday, February 5, 2018 memo,” Schiff said Saturday.

Schiff and Hurd spoke on ABC’s “This Week.” Stewart appeared on “Fox News Sunday,” Gowdy was on CBS’ “Face the Nation” and Wenstrup was interviewed on

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Amata welcomes early stages of infrastructure process

Washington, D.C. – Friday, Congresswoman Aumua Amata highlighted the first steps in developing a national infrastructure plan, which President Trump urged in this week’s State of the Union Address and said she will work to bring attention to American Samoa’s needs in Congress. The draft planning effort includes unspecified investment designed to address infrastructure needs on tribal lands and U.S. Territories.

“I believe the President is right to seek developments that can strengthen our economy and improve infrastructure for years to come,” said Aumua Amata. “Major infrastructure such as roads, ports, and pipes must be repaired or replaced from time to time. That’s why a national plan to improve essential infrastructure makes good sense.”

“There will be a tough decision-making process in congressional committees, and I will work to ensure that lawmakers understand the challenges of outdated infrastructure in American Samoa,” continued Congresswoman Amata. “I believe territories should be treated on an equal footing with states as this important legislation is written.”

The upcoming congressional schedule is likely to first include a short-term spending bill, and other priorities that are already scheduled, before lawmakers take up a complicated infrastructure bill. The legislative process will start in Subcommittees and Committees, and much of the content and direction of the bill has yet to be determined.

“Earlier this year, President Trump selected a highly experienced leader in Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to head up the department that will implement much of these plans,” concluded the Congresswoman. “I also have a lot of confidence in Speaker Ryan, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster and other Members of Congress as they undertake this responsibility.”



Congresswoman Amata with Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao in a committee room on Capitol Hill. [courtesy photo]

Sheila E: Timberlake won’t use Prince hologram at Super Bowl

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Sheila E. said Justin Timberlake reached out to her after she tweeted that Prince didn’t want to be turned into a hologram and said she has been assured there will be no hologram of the late superstar at Sunday’s Super Bowl.

TMZ reported Saturday that Timberlake was set to use a hologram of Prince during his halftime show performance. But Sheila E. said Sunday in an interview with The Associated Press that a hologram won’t appear.

“Prince had told me ... don’t let anybody do a hologram of him for religious reasons, so I just posted that if this happened it’s kind of messed up and not cool,” the Grammy-nominated performer said.

“And then Justin’s people reached out to my manager and wanted to talk to me about it and we had a great conversation,” she added. “And I felt that it was OK to respond and let the fans know he said great things about Prince and the fans and how important they are. So it was a good conversation.”

Sheila E. made the comments ahead of her tailgate performance at Nomadic Live at The Armory in Minnesota.

Timberlake said he looked up to Prince and admired him during a press conference Thursday in Minnesota. It was the same day the pop star held a listening party for his new album at Paisley Park.


Holograms of A-list celebrities have appeared in recent years, from Tupac Shakur to Roy Orbison, whose hologram is set to go on a tour.

In an AP interview Saturday, Sting said he would not want to have his likeness portrayed in a hologram.

“I don’t want to be hologrammed. I really don’t. God knows who they will team me up with, you know. No. I’m going to write in my will that I am not to be hologrammed,” he said.

“Roy wouldn’t have even known about it,” he added. “How would he know?”

The Philadelphia Eagles will take on the New England Patriots at the U.S. Bank Stadium on Sunday.



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Email: humanresource@aspower.com
Website: www.aspower.com

PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC	Posting Date	February 2, 2018
Department	Equipment	Deadline	February 15, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$8.89/hr - \$9.25/hr
Position Type	Career Service (12 months probation)	Job Grade/Status	D/6/A – D/7/A, Non-Exempt
Reports To	Heavy Equipment Supervisor		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

A Heavy Equipment Mechanic performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment, gasoline and diesel powered tractors, garbage trucks, dump trucks, and dozers. A Heavy Equipment Mechanic is primarily responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of heavy equipment. The incumbent will be required to repair any heavy equipment that might break down, fix/adjust hydraulic pumps and safety valves, inspect repairs, and adjust diesel power units, hydraulic systems, injection valves and systems, and mold boards. He/she must also inspect, adjust, and repair gasoline/diesel machinery, vehicles, or equipment as well as any hydraulic/cable operated attachments. This position will repair and maintain trenching machines and set proper grade. This position is also required to perform incidental welding operations on equipment; install, replace, or adjust filters, belts, or similar objects to maintain equipment; and make skillful, controlled manipulations of small objects to repair equipment. He/she must also communicate any unsafe conditions or accidents/injuries in a timely manner to the supervisor in order to facilitate prompt correction or reporting, must demonstrate continuous effort to improve operations, decrease turnaround times, streamline work processes, and work cooperatively and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service.

	Minimum Requirements
Education	High school diploma or equivalent.
Experience	Must have five (5) years of experience in heavy equipment maintenance and repair. Welding knowledge or experience is a plus. Must also be able to successfully operate or use heavy equipment.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be knowledgeable in heavy equipment maintenance and repair, hydraulics, the construction and operation of internal combustion and diesel engines.Must have knowledge of the tools and equipment used in the diagnosis, overhaul, repair and adjustment of heavy equipment.Must have knowledge of auto electronics and on-board computers and how to access them for diagnosing problems.Must be able to remain in a standing position for extended periods of time.Must be capable of lifting arms above shoulder level to install and remove transmission components as well as bend or stoop repeatedly over time to check air pressure on tires.Must be capable of manipulating tools in areas of limited spaces.Must be able to move heavy objects, fifty pounds or more, across long distances.Must be able to work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others.Must be knowledgeable of the hazards of the job and is trained in safety precautions of the trade.Must have skills in the care and use of hand and power tools employed in all phases of heavy equipment mechanical maintenance and repair work.Must have skills to use automotive servicing equipment such as A/C recycler, hydraulic jack, or emission analyzer.Must be able to diagnose defects in heavy duty equipment.Must be able to understand and carry out oral and written instructions in the English or Samoan language.Must have ability to complete forms to record or report information in standard format as specified by the form and observe or monitor objects to determine compliance with prescribed operating or safety standards.Must be able to read, understand and apply information from charts, graphs, and manuals.

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

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In this image from video, train cars are smashed and derailed Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018 near Cayce, S.C. The crash left multiple people dead and dozens of people injured.

(WLTX TV via AP)

Amtrak crash in South Carolina leaves 2 dead, over 100 hurt

CAYCE, S.C. (AP) — An Amtrak passenger train slammed into a parked freight train in the early-morning darkness Sunday after a thrown switch sent it hurtling down a side track, authorities said. Two Amtrak crew members were killed, and more than 100 people were injured.

It was the third deadly wreck involving Amtrak in less than two months.

The Silver Star, en route from New York to Miami with nearly 150 people aboard, was going an estimated 59 mph when it struck the empty CSX train around 2:45 a.m., Gov. Henry McMaster said.

The crash happened near a switchyard about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of Columbia where railcars hauling automobiles are loaded and unloaded.

Many of the passengers were

asleep when the crash jolted them awake and forced them into the cold.

“I thought that I was dead,” said passenger Eric Larkin, of Pamlico County, North Carolina, who was dazed and limping after banging his knee.

Larkin said he was on his way to Florida when he was awoken by the crash. The train was shaking and jumping, and his seat broke loose, slamming him into the row in front of him, he said.

He said he heard screams and crying all around him as he tried to get out. Other passengers were bleeding.

Robert Sumwalt, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said investigators found a track switch had been set in a position that forced the Amtrak train off the main track and onto the siding.

He said the question for investigators is why that happened.

Amtrak President Richard Anderson pointed the finger at CSX, saying the signal system along that stretch is run by the freight railroad but was down at the time of the wreck, forcing CSX dispatchers to route trains manually. The NTSB said it was working to confirm that.

CSX issued a statement expressing condolences but said nothing about the cause of the accident. Sumwalt said that positive train control — a GPS-based safety system that can automatically slow or stop trains — could have prevented the accident.

“That’s what it’s designed to do,” he said, referring to technology that regulators have been pressing for for decades with mixed success. The conductor and engineer aboard the Amtrak locomotive were killed. And 116 people were taken to four hospitals, according to the governor.

At least three patients were hospitalized in critical or serious condition, with nearly all the rest treated for minor injuries such as cuts, bruises and whiplash, authorities said.

Palmetto Health emergency room doctor Eric Brown said so many passengers were hurt that they were brought in on two buses, and a tent that had been set up as a waiting room to keep people separate from flu patients was turned into a triage area. The locomotives of both trains were left crumpled, the Amtrak engine on its side. One car in the middle of the Amtrak train was snapped in half, forming a V off to one side of the tracks.

“It’s a horrible thing to see, to understand the force involved,” the governor said after touring the scene. Investigators recovered a camera from the front of the Amtrak train and were looking for the data recorders from the two trains.



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