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DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

A look at some of the thirty-four (34) local US military enlistees that will be swearing in this Friday afternoon, Feb. 9, 2018, at the US Army reserve center.

[courtesy photo]

Sexual assault trial expected to go to jury today

JURY HEARS CONFLICTING STATEMENTS FROM PROSECUTION WITNESSES

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

The jury trial of the businessman charged with attempted sexually assault of a 13-year-old schoolboy continues in the High Court.

The defense called a number of witnesses including the victim, his teacher, the responding police officer and two residents of the Mt. Logotala area. The witnesses remembered the incident differently.

The 15-year-old victim who was 13 years old at the time of the alleged incident was the first government witness to take the stand. He was in Grade 8 when the alleged incident happened, and now he's in Grade 10 at one of the government high schools.

In his own words, the alleged victim stated that while he was waiting for a bus to go to school, a green pickup truck came and stopped in front of him. The driver then asked him if he needed a "lift" to school. He responded yes - and he then jumped inside the vehicle and off they went. The victim recalled what he was wearing on that day — it was Christmas season and he wore his class Christmas uniform of light green elei with designs and a Santa Claus hat.

Prosecutor Robert Morris asked the alleged victim if he would recognize the driver if he saw him again and the boy replied yes and pointed him out to the jury, without looking at him. He was sitting next to his defense attorney, Marcellus T. Uiagalelei at the defense table.

In continuing with his testimony, the alleged victim explained that he was waiting for a bus to go school at the three-corner intersection in Vaitogi. The defendant's vehicle came from west heading east. After he jumped inside the vehicle, the defendant made a U-turn in front of an Asian store next to the Iakina Adventist Academy and headed back to the direction where he came from.

"When the vehicle passed the school, I then asked the driver (defendant) where are we going, and he told me we're heading to Vaitogi, but I told him I want to go to school," the alleged victim recalled.

"The vehicle was moving at a high speed and when it reached the location where the Iliili CCCAS temple is, the driver then opened his pants and showed me his private parts. I tried to open the door so I could jump out of the vehicle, but the vehicle was moving too fast. The driver then tried to force me to touch his private parts, but I refused."

"Did you see his private parts?" Morris asked him. The boy broke down in tears and responded, "Yes."

"Do you remember what the defendant said to you?" asked

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Routing number in place, now TBAS works to set up master account

BEFORE FULL BANKING SERVICE CAN BE OFFERED

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Territorial Bank of American Samoa (TBAS) is now at work setting up its "master account" with the Federal Reserve Bank, after getting official confirmation last week that the bank is authorized to establish the account, which is the second step needed for the government owned bank to move forward with rolling out its services and products, says TBAS president Philip Ware.

It's been more than a year since TBAS, which is not FDIC insured, opened its doors in American Samoa and the bank has worked many months with the Federal Reserve to obtain a transit routing number, which was assigned in December.

TBAS's routing number was issued Dec. 26, 2017, according to an official notice to the bank from the American Bankers Association, which assigns the number.

During an interview at his TBAS office late Wednesday afternoon, Ware proudly showed reporters the notice, which has the actual routing number on it.

Also needed by TBAS is a master account

with the Federal Reserve Bank, which has been working closely with TBAS to get things moving.

"The process is taking a lot longer than I expected and it's not quite over yet for the bank," Ware said, but quickly added, "last week we got confirmation that we will be given access to a master account at the Federal Reserve Bank."

With the transiting routing number in place and now moving towards setting in place the master account, Ware said, "We have now made history in a couple of ways."

He said, perhaps the biggest way is that "we are the first non-insured government owned bank in the US. The fed did that for us."

He explained that individuals in the banking industry, such as himself, "understand the significance" of this achievement and "it is a big deal."

"We've been functioning over a year now and just the mere fact that we've been functioning without a transit routing number and without a fed account, is amazing," he noted. "It's a compliment to the staff and management of this place. And we have a good team."

Ware didn't give a timeline of when TBAS

(Continued on page 5)



This photo taken Tuesday and provided by a local resident to Samoa News, shows the fishing vessel, Chui Zai Fa No. 1 just off the Leone village coast line.

The vessel has caused concern to local residents, who have noted a possible oil spill and damage to the reef, especially in the last two days of rough tides and strong winds. Samoa News understands some villagers have also complained of a 'smell' in the air, since the vessel showed up on their reef.

The US Coast Guard is sending a team from Hawai'i and California to assess the situation. For details, see story inside.

[photo: Aoelua]

Senate celebrates budget deal _ but shut-down still possible

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate leaders brokered a long-elusive budget agreement Wednesday that would shower the Pentagon and domestic programs with an extra \$300 billion over the next two years. But both Democratic liberals and GOP tea party forces swung against the plan, raising questions about its chances just a day before the latest government shutdown deadline.

The measure was a win for Republican allies of the Pentagon and for Democrats seeking more for infrastructure projects and combatting opioid abuse. But it represented a bitter defeat for many liberal Democrats who sought to use the party's leverage on the budget to resolve the plight of immigrant "Dreamers" who face deportation after being brought to the U.S. illegally as children. The deal does not address immigration.

Senate leaders hope to approve the measure Thursday and send it to the House for a confirming vote before the government begins to shut down Thursday at midnight. But hurdles remain to avert the second shutdown in a month.

While Senate Democrats celebrated the moment of rare bipartisanship — Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called it a "genuine breakthrough" — progressives and activists blasted them for leaving immigrants in legislative limbo. Top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi of California, herself a key architect of the budget plan, announced her opposition Wednesday morning and

mounted a remarkable daylong filibuster on the House floor, trying to force GOP leaders in the House to promise a later vote on legislation to protect the younger immigrants.

"Let Congress work its will," Pelosi said, before holding the floor for more than eight hours without a break. "What are you afraid of?"

The White House backed the deal — despite President Donald Trump's outburst a day earlier that he'd welcome a government shutdown if Democrats didn't accept his immigration-limiting proposals.

Trump himself tweeted that the agreement "is so important for our great Military," and he urged both Republicans and Democrats to support it.

But the plan faced criticism from deficit hawks in his own party.

Some tea party Republicans shredded the measure as a budget-buster. Combined with the party's December tax cut bill, the burst in military and other spending would put the GOP-controlled government on track for the first \$1 trillion-plus deficits since President Barack Obama's first term. That's when Congress passed massive stimulus legislation to try to stabilize a down-spiraling economy.

"It's too much," said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., a fiscal hawk.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., however, backed the agreement and was hoping to cobble together a coalition of moderate Democrats and

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COURT BRIEFS

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

THIRD ALLEGED WU THEFT AT SAME BRANCH REVEALED IN COURT

Another former Western Union employee have been charged with stealing money from its customers. The government alleges Mavis Fusimalohi stole \$1,000 from an Asian customer, while employed at the Western Union branch in Nu'uuli.

The case against Fusimalohi surfaced while police and a senior staff member of the Western Union was investigating the matter against two other former employees, who have now been charged with two class C felony counts each for stealing and embezzlement.

According to the government's case, it was revealed from WU's internal investigation that US\$1,000 was also missing from their records, after another Asian customer complained that his family in China never received the money he sent around July 2016.

When questioned by the WU supervisor, the defendant admitted that she took \$1,000 for her personal use, and she did it without authority from her employer, or the Asian customer who owned the money.

The victim in this case, an Asian customer told the WU supervisor that sometime in July 2016, he went to the WU branch in Nu'uuli to send \$1,000 to his family in China, and the employee who served him, who is now the defendant in this matter, told him that his money would be available within 30

days, and he has to check back after 30 days.

After the 30-day period was over, the Asian customer went back to WU to check on his money but was told by the defendant to come back in another 30 days because his money had still not cleared from the system.

It was at that time WU became aware of the problem happening within the company that employees were stealing money from its customers and immediately conducted an internal investigation pertaining this matter, which resulted in filling charges against the first two defendants who appeared in court last month, and last week, Fasimalohi made her initial appearance before District Court Judge Fiti Sunia.

Fasimalohi's preliminary hearing was set for last Friday, however, his attorney, Assistant Public Defender Ryan Anderson informed the court that his client wishes to waive her rights for a PX hearing, and let her case be bound over to the High Court. Anderson also requested the court to reduce his client's bond from \$10,000 to \$5,000. He said that his client is not a flight risk to the government, and she has a lot of family ties to the community. Prosecutor Robert Morris opposed the defense's request and told the court that the bail amount that was set by the court is reasonable.

Sunia granted the defense's request and reduced Fusimalohi's bond to \$5,000.

In High Court yesterday, Fusimalohi denied the charges against her, and her first pretrial conference is now set for Mar. 26, 2018. She was remanded into custody unable to post her bond.

UNCLE ACCUSED OF SEXUALLY ABUSING HIS NIECE

A 40-year-old man has been accused of sexual abusing his 12-year-old niece. The government claims that the victim is the daughter of the defendant's sister.

The alleged incident was reported to police when the alleged victim told her mother of what happened last month, when her uncle allegedly sexually abused her. The victim told police that the incident happened at her uncle's home when she went there to hang out with his children.

She was in the living room watching television with her young cousins when her uncle, who was in the kitchen called out to her to come. When she got to where her uncle was, he instructed her to put the dishes in the sink and help him with the cooking.

While she was washing dishes, the victim told police that she suddenly felt someone

touching her shoulders. She immediately turned around and saw his uncle standing behind her with both of his hands around her body. She tried to move, but he whispered to her, "Just act normal and continue on to do what you're doing."

The victim told police that after her uncle whispered to her, he then moved his hand to her chest touching her breast from outside of her clothes, then moving down to her private parts. She then moved away from him and ran outside and off to her house.

The victim reported the alleged incident to her mother when she came back after work, and that is when he mother contacted police for assistance.

The government says the defendant was under the influence of alcohol when he was arrested by police; and he refused to make a statement to the police, nor would he cooperate when he was questioned about the alleged incident.

The defendant made his initial appearance in District Court last week, where he waived his rights to a preliminary examination, and his case was bound over to the High Court for further proceedings. District Court Judge Fiti Sunia set bail for the defendant at \$10,000.

However, during his arraignment in High Court last Friday, after the defendant entered a plea of not guilty to all three charges against him, Chief Justice Michael Kruse scheduled a bond hearing for the defendant for this week, after the court refused to sign an order to release the defendant on a \$10,000 surety bond. Kruse wanted to know more about where the defendant is going to stay if the court allows him to be released on bond.

The charges are sexual abuse in the first degree and child molesting — both felonies — and endangering the welfare of a child, a class A misdemeanor.

Robert Morris appeared for the victim, while Deputy Public Defender Michael White represented the defendant.

During the court proceedings, Kruse stated that the allegations against the defendant are most serious, and the court does not want him to go back to the same environment where the alleged incident occurred.

He also wanted the government attorney to know that the safety of the alleged victim is something the court is concerned about.

The defendant's bond hearing was re-scheduled for next week, allowing for both attorneys time to present more information to the court about where the defendant will be staying if the court releases him on bond.

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Coast Guard, partners respond to report of grounded fishing vessel in American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa — February 7, 2018 — The Coast Guard, port partners and local authorities are responding the grounding of the 88-foot commercial fishing vessel Chui Zai Fa No. 1 about 300 yards off Leone Bay, Wednesday.

Coast Guard responders are en route to American Samoa from Honolulu expected to arrive Wednesday afternoon via an HC-130 Hercules airplane from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point.

Additional support from the Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team based in Novato, California, is scheduled to arrive to the island aboard a commercial flight Friday. The feasibility of pollution response and salvage plans are being discussed.

Personnel from the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in American Samoa,

aboard a police vessel, assessed the Chu Zai Fa No. 1 following an initial report of its grounding Monday.

The Taiwanese-flagged vessel reportedly caught fire Nov. 4, 2017, in international waters prompting the crew to abandon ship into a life raft and were rescued by the crew of a Korean-flagged vessel, transferred to a sister fishing vessel and eventually disembarked in Fiji.

The master of the Chu Zai Fa No. 1 and one crewmember reportedly remain missing. The Chu Zai Fa No. 1 remained adrift until its grounding Monday. The vessel has the capacity to carry 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel and there may be approximately 13,000 gallons aboard the vessel. Some of the fuel may have burned off in the fire.

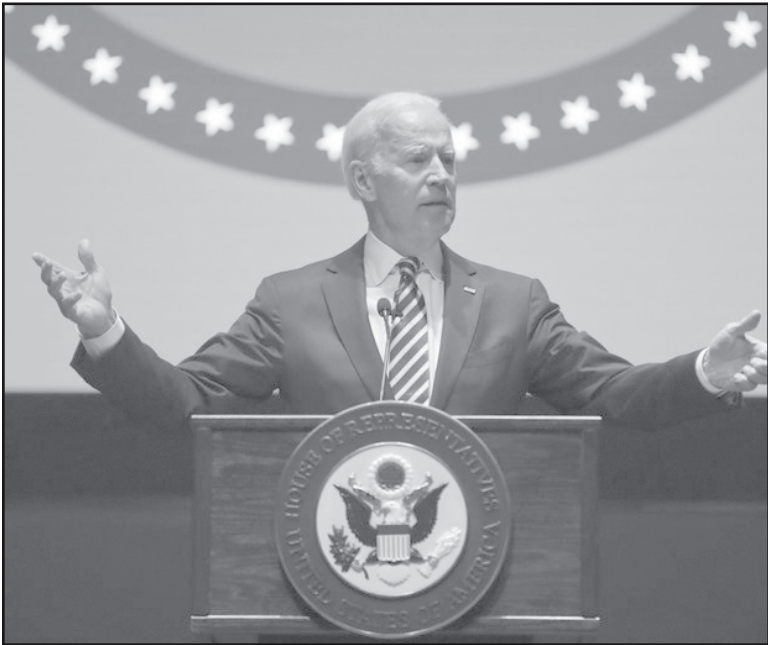
The responsible party has

been actively involved in addressing the matter; and has already provided significant financial resources to ensure all of the proper steps are taken in mitigating this issue.

A small craft advisory is currently in effect for American Samoa. Weather in the area is expected to deteriorate in the coming days as a monsoon trough generates wet and windy conditions across the islands through the rest of the week. Winds up to 45 mph, seas up to 10 feet, combined with hazardous north swells will gradually subside Wednesday night through Thursday morning. Occasional showers and isolated thunderstorms will occur through the next several days.

Efforts are being considered to anchor the vessel in place to prevent it from shifting or damaging the coral reefs in the area.

Dems head to midterms with energized base, unsettled agenda



Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks to the House Democratic Issues Conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are heading into the November elections with an energized party base, an unpopular president to rail against and a growing wave of GOP retirements. Now they just need a clear message.

In recent weeks, lawmakers have zigzagged from digging in against President Donald Trump — even forcing a government shutdown — to trying to cut deals. They’ve played to their core supporters on immigration, only to shift quickly to the middle on spending. They’ve amplified news about the Russia investigation and dueling classified memos, at the risk of drowning out their objections to Trump’s economic policies.

Democrats had planned to retreat to Maryland’s Eastern Shore to discuss 2018 strategy Wednesday, but instead were stuck in Washington locked in an immigration and spending debate that put their divisions

on full display.

As Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer called a two-year, bipartisan budget deal the “best thing” lawmakers have done for the middle class, his counterpart in the House was nearly three hours in to a marathon speech protesting the deal. Backed by progressives and immigration activists, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi held the floor for eight hours as she sought to force a House vote on legislation to protect young immigrants known as “Dreamers,” who face deportation after Trump threatened to remove protections established by President Barack Obama.

Senate Democrats tried a similar hard-line strategy, only to back off as Republicans accused them of shutting down the government over immigrants. Pelosi yielded Wednesday night without an agreement from GOP leaders for a vote on immigration, but

her talkathon was met with cheers and high-fives from fellow Democrats.

Former Vice President Joe Biden also drew cheers as he told Democrats they have “a real opportunity to take back” the majority in the House and even the Senate. Biden said Democrats must focus on middle-class families while standing up for the nation’s core values, which he said are under “direct assault” from Trump and congressional Republicans.

“The president is looking out for himself only, and the Republican Party seems to be only looking out for the president, so it’s our job as Democrats to remind the American people somebody’s looking out for them,” Biden said, drawing applause from Democrats gathered under the theme “United for A Better Tomorrow.”

New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, who is part of the House Democratic messaging operation, said the goal of the meetings was to “further develop an affirmative vision for how Democrats will improve the lives of the American people.”

That vision is now captured in the “A Better Deal” policy statement, which includes traditional causes as a higher minimum wage, paid leave for employees and lower costs for prescription drugs and college.

Still, Democrats end up spending much of their time lambasting Trump — whether it’s his policies, special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation or Trump’s tweets.

“It’s tough to ignore the elephant in the room. The Bob Mueller investigation goes to the heart of the Trump candidacy and presidency,” said Sen.

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EPA chief sees good in warming, experts don't



FILE - In this Jan. 30, 2018, file photo, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt testifies before the Senate Environment Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. Pruitt is once again understating the threat posed by climate change, this time by suggesting that global warming may be a good thing for humanity. Pruitt has been champion for the continued burning of fossil fuels while expressing doubt about the consensus of climate scientists that man-made carbon emissions are overwhelmingly the cause of record temperature increases observed around the world. In an interview with KSNV-TV in Las Vegas on Feb. 7, Pruitt made several statements that are undercut by the work of climate scientists, including those at his own agency.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Environmental Protection Agency is again understating the threat posed by climate change, this time by suggesting that global warming may be a good thing for humanity.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has championed the continued burning of fossil fuels while expressing doubt about the consensus of climate scientists that man-made carbon emissions are overwhelmingly the cause of record temperature increases observed around the world.

In an interview with KSNV-TV in Las Vegas on Tuesday, Pruitt made several statements that are undercut by the work of climate scientists, including those at his own agency.

The Associated Press shared a transcript of Pruitt's remarks with top U.S. scientists, and a dozen of them faulted his understanding of science.

Asked for references to any climate data or scientific studies Pruitt was relying on, EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox instead provided a link to a recent Fox News report questioning the accuracy of a statement made by former Vice President Al Gore in 2006.

A look at some of Pruitt's statements:

PRUITT: "We know that humans have most flourished during times of what? Warming trends. So I think there's assumptions made that because the climate is warming, that that necessarily is a bad thing."

THE FACTS: While it is true that early human civilizations flourished in warm climates such as the Middle

East and South Asia, the Earth has not been as warm as it is now for about 11,000 years, according to several studies. That was toward the end of the Stone Age, before humans had invented math, science or written language.

And a 2017 draft federal report that Pruitt's agency helped write says that by the end of the century global warming will add 4,500 to 9,000 deaths a year in the U.S. because of heat, with costs being \$60 billion to \$140 billion a year, depending on how much carbon pollution is emitted globally in the coming decades.

Pruitt's statement appears to draw from an argument by pro-fossil fuel groups that global warming will be a positive for some colder areas, bringing milder winters and longer growing seasons. While that may be true for a few areas of the United States, climate scientists say they will be the exception.

For most of the country, climate change will be disruptive — bringing more severe heatwaves and droughts, stronger tropical storms and increased coastal flooding.

"One theme from studies that look at the full range of impacts from climate change is that there are a few winners, but there are lots and lots of losers," said Stanford environment professor Chris Field, who oversaw a United Nations and World Meteorological Organization scientific report on climate change impacts. "And, the fraction of losers grows dramatically with the amount of warming. We need only look

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Female rep moves to amend local marriage laws — raising age for girls from 14 to 18

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Female Rep. Fialupe Felila Fiaui Lutu is moving to amend local marriage laws, by raising the marrying age for females to 18 from the current 14-years old.

Provisions of local law pertaining to "Requisites of Marriage", state in part that the male shall be at least 18 years old and the female at least 14 years of age. And if the female is less than 18-years old, she must have the consent of one of her parents or guardian.

Lutu's bill seeks to raise the female marrying age to at least "18" years of age. And if she is less than 18 years old, "but not younger than 16 years of age," she must have the consent of one of her parents or her guardian.

The measure was the subject of a House committee hearing on Tuesday, in which the committee agreed to amend the bill to say that, if the male or female is less than 18 years old, but not younger than 16 years of age, both — male/female — must have the consent of a parent or guardian.

Several residents, contacted by Samoa News in the past several days, were surprised that the current law is 14-years of age for a female to be married — although a parent's consent is required. "Why would a Samoan parent consent for a 14-year old daughter being married?" was the question raised by one of the individuals reached by Samoa News via phone.

None of those contacted wanted to comment on the record on the current law or proposed amendment. However, the main unanswered question they raised is — why American Samoa set the marriage age for a female at age 14 in the first place, when it is such a young age?

This same question was raised in January of 2012 when a similar bill was introduced in the House. And following witnesses who testified in a committee hearings at the time, the lingering question remains unanswered.

At that time, the bill sought to hike the female's age from 14 to 17 but following testimony from then Youth and Women's Affairs director Leiataua Leuga Turner, the measure was amended up to 18 years of age.

Leiataua testified at the time that 14 years is too young for marriage, and at this age, the young person's brain is not fully developed to make a judgment call when it comes to motherhood, compared to an individual who is over 21 years old.

She also said she has worked with youth and families for over 20 years and she has seen incidents where the new mother was as young as 11 years old. She pointed out that some parents have consented to marriage for their children under the age of 18, but then, two years later the young couple is divorced.

There was also support of the bill at the time from two Health Department officials, who noted that 14-years old is just too young for a girl to be a wife and have a baby.

Although the House approved the measure at the time, after raising the age to 18, it was rejected by the Senate in mid-February 2012, after a committee hearing heard testimony from a church minister who told senators that the current law is sufficient because it would require a parent or guardian's consent for a young girl wanting to marry.

Among the concerns raised at the time by not only faipule, but an advocate for protecting children and others in the community, is about 14-year old girls being forced into a marriage, by a parent or guardian consenting to a marriage, without knowing the consequences and the health impact on the young girl.

According to the American Samoa Statistical Yearbook 2016, which was compiled by the ASG Commerce Department and released last December, the Office of Vital Statistics reported 253 marriage licenses were issued in 2016, a drop from 2015 which reported 264 marriages.

There was no breakdown in the age or gender of those who got married.

The Statistical Yearbook 2016 did report that births to girls "under age 15" dropped to zero in FY2016, a significant decline from 2010 when there were seven.

However, of the total births in the year 2016, 10% of the births were to teenage mothers — ages 15-19, according to information from the LBJ Medical Center, cited in the Yearbook.



Although the rain had stopped after 8a.m. yesterday, a flow of water on the Fagaima Road continues with debris seen alongside. Fagaima floods are a common occurrence when rains — heavy or just a steady rain pours down. A solution to the problem continues to be a Public Works 'on the table' problem with a funding source still not identified or approved.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

▶ Routing...

Continued from page 1

will be able to open the master account and get it in place, but he did say that TBAS is working with the Federal Reserve to get the master account open “and there are a few restrictions on us.”

He didn’t elaborate on the restrictions at this time but asked for the public’s patience as TBAS works with the feds “towards providing full banking service to the people of American Samoa.”

“Because we are in such a unique position, and we’re able to do everything, we do have a couple of restrictions that will be put on us by the Federal Reserve,” he pointed out. “So, I’m going to be very careful, in opening of the master account in such a way so that I don’t make a mistake.”

Utilizing his many years in the banking industry, Ware said, “I’m doing everything I possibly can for the people of American Samoa. And I am committed to doing that, and I will do that.”

He added: “I’m not doing this for my health, or for the money, or for the prestige. I’m doing this for the people of American Samoa. I get so involved in this, that I want it to work.”

Regarding future banking services, once the master account is in place, Ware said, “In order to manage the bank, TBAS is going to roll out products and services in a conservative manner, so as not to put

itself in a position, whereby the fed has an opportunity to criticize us.”

He said, “So I’m going to be very conservative and very deliberate and roll these things out, as fast as I can without getting any criticism from the fed, [which] have done more than I thought for us.”

Ware didn’t have on hand the actual number of customers who have opened accounts with TBAS, but he noted that the bank is also offering its loan products, which have been in place for more than a year.

He also said there is a lot of support from the private sector including the Chamber of Commerce, with several of them wanting to open business checking accounts, but it can’t be done at this point until the master account is all set up.

He said TBAS is also working to reinstate its debit cards — for checking and savings — that were terminated late last year.

Ware returned to the territory Monday night following several meetings in the US, dealing with TBAS. The next day, he had several meetings including that with TBAS staff and management on the latest development with the routing number and master account, as well as other matters.

“We have an excellent staff and management at the bank,” said Ware. “They are great people.”

Trump flirts with flashy military parade long eschewed by US

WASHINGTON (AP) — For generations, as America’s authoritarian rivals strutted their tanks, troops and jets through main thoroughfares in dramatic displays of strength, the United States watched from afar, but did not emulate.

Widely accepted as the world’s mightiest, the U.S. military has no tradition of putting itself on parade like in Russia, North Korea or China. But President Donald Trump does not often stand on tradition. So Trump’s directive to the Pentagon to draft options for a massive march reverberated across Washington on Wednesday like the thud of a discharged cannon, as lawmakers and military leaders mused about the cost, the risk and the purpose.

“People will wonder, ‘Well, what are they afraid of now? What are they trying to prove?’” Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, who represents the District of Columbia in Congress, said in an interview. “We don’t have to show off to make a point.”

It was a critique voiced by both Democrats and Republicans the day after The Washington Post revealed Trump wants an elaborate parade this year to rival the Bastille Day celebration in Paris that made a distinct impression on him in July. Democratic Sen. Dick

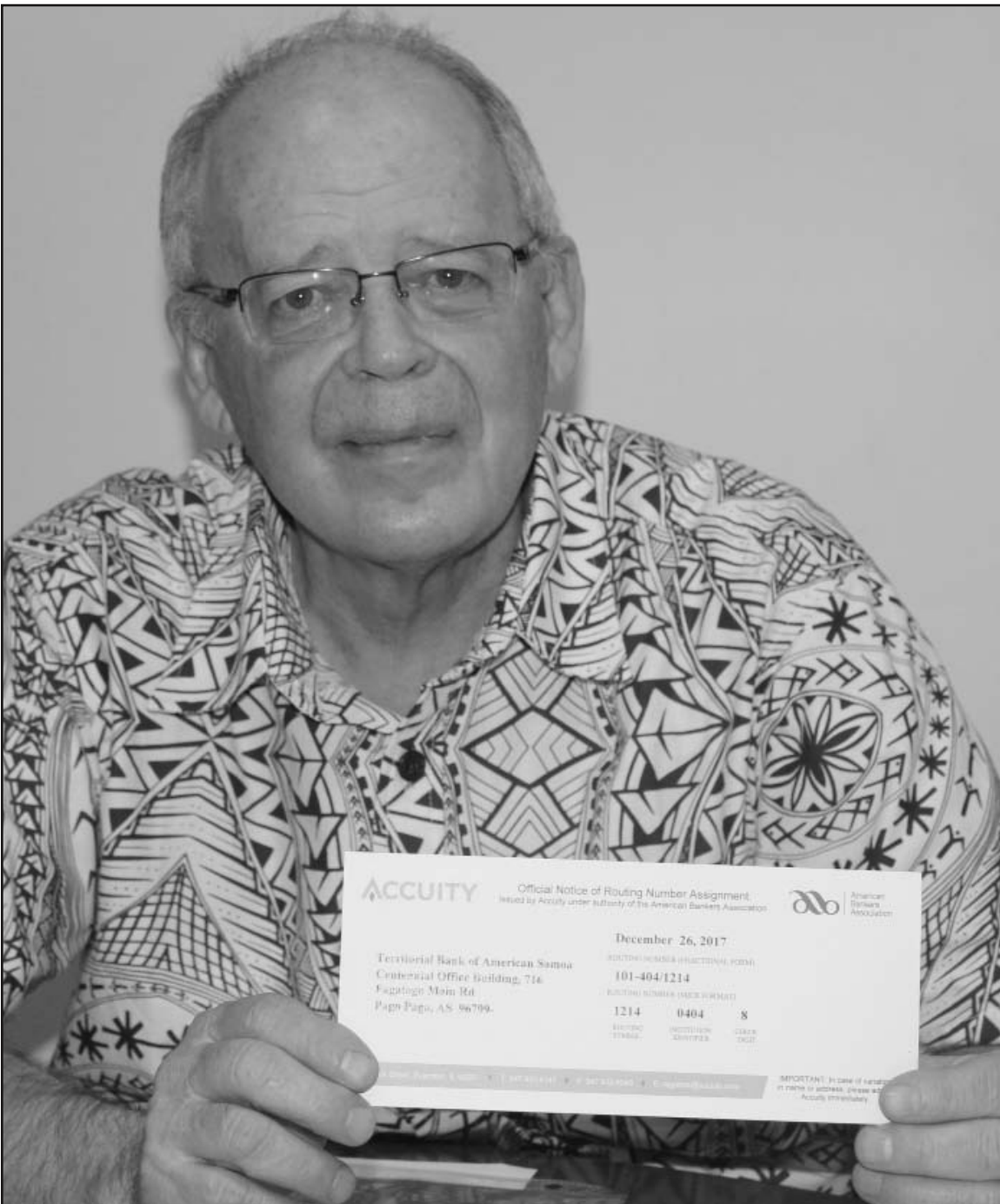
Durbin called it a “fantastic waste of money,” while Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham told CNN that the parade risked being “kind of cheesy and a sign of weakness” if it’s just about showing off military muscle.

The president did not seem deterred, although his aides rushed to downplay the notion that it was anything beyond an idea Trump had floated “in a brainstorming session” to help Americans express gratitude and pride for the military. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said there had been no final decision. And Trump’s legislative director said it was too early to even guess about potential costs, though it’s assumed it would cost millions.

“We’ve been putting together some options. We’ll send them up to the White House for a decision,” said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis as reporters peppered him with questions at the White House. “The president’s respect, his fondness for the military I think is reflected in him asking for these options.”

In the nation’s capital, officials were scrambling to identify potential implications for such a parade, such as whether D.C. streets could even accom-

(Continued on page 14)



Territorial Bank of American Samoa president Philip Ware shares with reporters from local media the “Official Notice of Routing Number Assignment” issued to TBAS by the American Bankers Association, during an interview Wednesday. Ware plans to put the notice in a picture frame and display it in the bank’s lobby for all to see.

[photo: FS]



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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SEEKING INFORMATION

ROGELIO MARTINEZ

Potential Assault on a Federal Officer
Deceased Victim
November 2017
Van Horn, Texas



REWARD
The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the resolution of this case.

DETAILS
On November 18, 2017, at approximately 11:20 p.m. CST, U.S. Border Patrol Agents from the Van Horn Station in the Big Bend Sector, located two injured Border Patrol Agents in a culvert area adjacent to Interstate 10, about 12 miles east of Van Horn, Texas. The Border Patrol Agents provided the injured Agents with immediate medical care and transported them to a local Van Horn hospital.

Both Agents sustained traumatic head injuries, along with other miscellaneous physical injuries. At a local hospital in Van Horn, it was determined both of the Agents' injuries were severe and required advanced medical care. The injured Agents were airlifted separately to a local hospital in El Paso, Texas.

Border Patrol Agent Rogelio Martinez succumbed to his injuries and died in the early morning hours of Sunday, November 19, 2017. Currently, the second injured Border Patrol Agent is in a local El Paso hospital.

The FBI is asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the FBI 24 hours a day at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324).

Field Office: El Paso

This image distributed by the FBI on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, in El Paso, Texas, shows a request for information in the death of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agent Rogelio Martinez, who succumbed to traumatic head injuries and broken bones suffered while on duty. The FBI released a statement Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, that the investigation into the November death of Martinez has so far yielded no evidence that there was a “scuffle, altercation or attack” more than two months after President Donald Trump and others used the suggestion of an attack to promote the building of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. (FBI via AP)

WITH TABLE 1 GRAPHIC

Fisheries council prepares to consider LPVA options

ISSUES ARE NOW OPEN FOR COMMENT

(BASED ON PRESS RELEASE) — Among the issues to be considered by the 172nd Fisheries council are the following of particular interest to American Samoa, plus any comments from the public on the issues.

AMERICAN SAMOA LARGE VESSEL PROHIBITED AREA

In the early 2000s, the American Samoa longline fleet included about 40 small vessels (alia) and 25 larger vessels (more than 50 feet in length) targeting albacore for the local canneries.

In 2002, the Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA) was

established to separate the large and small longline vessels to prevent potential gear conflict and catch competition. Subsequently, the alia longline fleet dwindled to fewer than three in 2006 and to one in 2010. About 15 larger longline vessels continue to operate out of Pago Pago Harbor but under severe economic stress.

At its 172nd meeting, the Council will consider taking final action on LVPA options (see Table 1) that may improve economic efficiency of the larger longline vessels while taking into consideration, among other things, the need to prevent overfishing, impacts on small vessels and protecting American Samoa cultural fishing practices.

This action addresses continued poor economic performance in the American Samoa longline fishery and regulations that may unnecessarily restrict fleet movement and harm fishing efficiency.

(INSERT TABLE 1 LPVA OPTIONS)

AMERICAN SAMOA SWORDFISH TRIP LIMIT

In 2009, the Council recommended Amendment 5 to the Pelagic FEP to require gear modifications in the America Samoa longline fishery to promote hooks to be set below 100 meters in depth in order to minimize the incidental catch of green sea turtles. NMFS implemented this measure in 2011, and green turtle interactions appear to be less frequent based on the estimated total number of interactions.

Amendment 5 also included a limit of 10 swordfish per trip to discourage fishermen from setting their gear shallow to target swordfish. The limit mirrored regulations applicable to the Hawai ‘i deep-set longline fishery.

In 2012, the swordfish limit for the Hawai ‘i deep-set longline fishery was modified to 25 swordfish per trip not carrying an on-board observer and unlimited with an observer on the fishing trip.

Currently, American Samoa longliners are unable to shallow-set for swordfish, unlike the Hawai ‘i shallow-set longline fishery, which is managed under a suite of Pelagic FEP regulations.

The American Samoa longline fishery primarily targets South Pacific albacore for the Pago Pago cannery, with a smaller amount of sales of other species (e.g., yellowfin, skipjack) to the cannery and into the local market.

American Samoa longline fishery participants do not ship

fishery products for export markets. Poor economic conditions have persisted in the American Samoa longline fishery for several years due to reduced albacore catch rates, high operating costs and relatively low fish prices.

At its 172nd meeting, the Council will consider taking final action on management options “to modify or remove the limit on the maximum number of swordfish that can be landed on a per” trip basis by vessels holding an American Samoa limited entry longline permit that operate south of the Equator.”

The intent of the proposed action is to optimize fishery resources by reducing regulatory discards of swordfish and increase efficiency of the fishery while maintaining safeguards for sea turtles and other protected species.

AMERICAN SAMOA MARINE CONSERVATION PLAN

The Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for American Samoa expires March 31, 2018.

At its 172nd meeting, the Council will review the proposed new American Samoa MCP for concurrence and approval. After review by the Council, the MCP will be transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. If approved by the Council and Secretary of Commerce, the MCP will be valid for a period of three years; however, an MCP can be modified at any time and resubmitted for approval.

The MCP is required under the MSA Section 204(e), which authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce and in consultation with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement (PIAFA).


A PIAFA would allow foreign fishing within the 200-mile US EEZ adjacent to American Samoa, CNMI, Guam or the Pacific Remote Island Areas with the concurrence of, and in consultation with, the applicable governor.

According to the MSA, the governor, with the concurrence of the Council, must develop a three-year MCP providing details on uses for any funds collected by the Secretary under the PIAFA.

In addition to PIAFA funds, the MSA provides that fines and penalties of violations by foreign vessels occurring within the EEZ around the Pacific Insular Areas, including sums

(Continued on page 15)





AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

Human Resource Department, Tafuna
PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
Phone No: (684) 248-1234, Option #5
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.

An Equal Opportunity Employer * A Drug Free Workplace



► Sexual...

Continued from page 1

Morris. The alleged victim responded, “He said to touch him and all the while the vehicle continued to move fast on the road.”

The vehicle headed to Vaitogi, and then continued on to a dead-end road that goes up to Mt. Logotala. The vehicle continued to move in a high speed, and the alleged victim told the jurors that all he was thinking at that time was “car crash.”

“When the vehicle was parked, he tried to force me again to touch his private parts, but I refused,” the alleged victim recalled.

“Did you want to touch his private parts?” Morris asked the him. The boy broke down into tears again and responded, “No ... and then I told him I want to go to school.”

“I tried to open the door, but I couldn’t. I then asked him to please open the door for me, and when he opened the door, I jumped out of the vehicle and started walking down away from him because I was so scared.”

“While I was walking down, I heard the vehicle engine was on. I looked back and saw the vehicle was moving, and then I took off my shoes and started running down the mountain hoping that I would reach the main road before he got back to me.”

“When I reached the main road, the vehicle came and stopped in front of me, and he told me to get inside so that he could drop me at the school. I did what he said because I was afraid that he might do something to hurt me like hitting me with his vehicle.”

The defendant dropped the alleged victim in front of a store opposite the school.

“Before I left the vehicle, he gave me \$2 without saying anything to me. I took the \$2 I don’t know why — then I closed the door. When the vehicle went off, I looked at the back of the vehicle and memorized the plate number, so that I could report it to the police.”

The alleged victim told the jurors that the first thing he did when he entered the school was to tell his teacher and other teachers who were there with her that morning. He also explained to other students inside the classroom the dramatic ordeal he faced that morning. He said that he told police everything that had happened on that morning.

The boy said that he went with the police to show them the area where the alleged incident happened, and that is where the

police found his Santa Claus hat he was wearing on that morning.

OTHER PROSECUTION WITNESSES

The boy’s teacher who was one of the government witnesses told a different story.

She told the jury that on the morning of the alleged incident, the alleged victim told her that while he was waiting for a bus on the road, the defendant’s vehicle came and stopped in front of him. The defendant offered him a ride, but he refused. The defendant then got out of his vehicle grabbed him into the vehicle and they went to Mt. Logotala.

The teacher also testified that the alleged victim told her that when he got out of the defendant’s vehicle on the Mt. Logotala, he then ran all the way from the mountain to the school campus. Two other government’s witnesses who live near the road that goes up to Mt. Logotala testified that they both saw a green pick-up around 6 a.m. heading up the mountain. One witness testified that the vehicle was moving very fast while the other testified that the vehicle wasn’t moving very fast.

DEFENDANT TAKES THE STAND

On the witness stand, Singh, in his words, admitted to the jury that he did offer a ride to the young boy who was waiting on the road for a bus on a raining morning, but denied all the accusations of sexual activity the government claimed.

He testified that his children were late to school that morning because he wanted to offer his help to the little boy. He said he usually offers help to other people around their neighborhood, but this was the first time he had offered help to this little boy he didn’t know.

He also testified that he gave the \$2 to the little boy not to calm him down but because he kept asking him for money to buy “sushi and soda.”

Singh told the jury that his vehicle never went up to the deadend road to Mt. Logotala, but he dropped the boy at school around 7:20 a.m. before heading back home to pick up his children and drop them at their school. Both sides rested yesterday and closing arguments were presented, after which the court said it would deliver final instructions to the jury this morning at 10 a.m. before the jury begins deliberation.

Samoa News will summarize closing arguments in tomorrow’s edition.

Drones to cloud computing: AP exposes Russian wish list

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian cyberspies pursuing the secrets of military drones and other sensitive U.S. defense technology tricked key contract workers into exposing their email to theft, an Associated Press investigation has found.

What ultimately may have been stolen is uncertain, but the hackers clearly exploited a national vulnerability in cybersecurity: poorly protected email and barely any direct notification to victims.

The hackers known as Fancy Bear, who also intruded in the U.S. election, went after at least 87 people working on militarized drones, missiles, rockets, stealth fighter jets, cloud-computing platforms or other sensitive activities, the AP found.

Employees at both small companies and defense giants like Lockheed Martin Corp., Raytheon Co., Boeing Co., Airbus Group and General Atomics were targeted by the hackers. A handful of people in Fancy Bear’s sights also worked for trade groups, contractors in U.S.-allied countries or on corporate boards.

“The programs that they appear to target and the people who work on those programs are some of the most forward-

leaning, advanced technologies,” said Charles Sowell, a former senior adviser to the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, who reviewed the list of names for the AP. “And if those programs are compromised in any way, then our competitive advantage and our defense is compromised.”

“That’s what’s really scary,” added Sowell, who was one of the hacking targets.

The AP identified the defense and security targets from about 19,000 lines of email phishing data created by hackers and collected by the U.S.-based cybersecurity company Secureworks, which calls the hackers Iron Twilight. The data is partial and extends only from March 2015 to May 2016. Of 87 scientists, engineers, managers and others, 31 agreed to be interviewed by the AP.

Most of the targets’ work was classified. Yet as many as 40 percent of them clicked on the hackers’ phishing links, the AP analysis indicates. That was the first step in potentially opening their personal email accounts or computer files to data theft by the digital spies.

James Poss, who ran a partnership doing drone research

for the Federal Aviation Administration, was about to catch a taxi to the 2015 Paris Air Show when what appeared to be a Google security alert materialized in his inbox. Distracted, he moved his cursor to the blue prompt on his laptop.

“I clicked on it and instantly knew that I had been had,” the retired Air Force major general said. Poss said he realized his mistake before entering his credentials, which would have exposed his email to the hackers.

Hackers predominantly targeted personal Gmail, with a few corporate accounts mixed in.

Personal accounts can convey snippets of classified information, whether through carelessness or expediency. They also can lead to other more valuable targets or carry embarrassing personal details that can be used for blackmail or to recruit spies.

Drone consultant Keven Gambold, a hacking target himself, said the espionage could help Russia catch up with the Americans. “This would allow them to leapfrog years of hardwon experience,” he said.

He said his own company

(Continued on page 12)



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.

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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Called by village residents — our temporary “lake” — it’s seen in this photo yesterday morning — it’s the Malaeloa malae.

Residents say that during heavy rains, the malae becomes a lake, gathering water, which then overflows into nearby homes. And this was the case following heavy, non-stop rain, from Tuesday to early yesterday morning. Family members whose homes were close to the “lake” were awakened early in the morning from the flooding and spent the day cleaning up.

Bad weather yesterday morning also prompted closure of all public schools and several private schools.

Several areas of Tutuila were affected by the heavy rain, which — according to the National Weather Service in Tafuna — was due to an active monsoon trough over the islands and was to move north yesterday afternoon.

Before noon yesterday, the rain stopped and brought relief to many motorists, some of them having to deal with high pools of water on the road throughout Tutuila during the morning drive to work, especially around 5a.m. to 7a.m.

Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO) reported overflow of streams from Nu'uuli to Fagaalu and a couple of landslides in the western district.

The usual bad flooding in Fagaima and nearby Ottoville has been reported to Samoa News by both residents and motorists, many of them facing the daunting task of very slow driving due to not only heavy rains but also unseen potholes on the road, as they are now covered by water.

Residents coming out of Kokoland onto the Fagaima road around 6a.m. yesterday said police were re-directing traffic to the road that runs through the Kanana Fou complex, to pass through onto another secondary road that exits to the round-a-bout next to McDonald’s in Tafuna, onto the Nu’uuli/Airport road.

Traffic began to pass through the Fagaima road sometime after 8a.m. as the rain stopped, and water began to subside.

The Weather Office, as of 2p.m yesterday, continued to monitor a tropical disturbance (TD07F), which was west of Fiji and well over 800 miles southwest of Tutuila. Another disturbance remains well southeast of Fiji moving south-southwest slowly.



These emerging disturbances will remain well southwest of the territory and will have no impact on local weather conditions through Thursday, according to the weather office’s afternoon weather statement.

Depending on the development and location of both disturbances — perhaps one or both can track closer to the Samoan Islands over the next 48 to 72 hours, it says and urged the community to heed future forecasts and advisories as well as to monitor local radio and television outlets for the latest update.

Samoa News will update this story online, if warranted with new developments regarding TD07F.



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Win 1 of 5 prizes this Valentine's Day!



eCharge \$6 or more and go into the draw to Win!



FAIRNESS

We make an issue of it every day.

If you want to comment about our fairness, call Samoa News at 633-5599





Solofua Fa'amasinoga le moliaga mamafa fa'asaga ia Jane Vasa



Jane Vasa

[ata AF]

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua solofua e le afioga i le ali'i Fa'amasino ia Fiti Sunia le moliaga mamafa o le faia o gaioiga tau fa'asese sa tu'uaia ai e le malo ia Jane Vasa, lea o lo o tu'uaia i le mataupu e pei ona alia'e mai i le Matagalua o Tautua ma Auaunaga Lautele (DHSS), i le fa'aaoga fa'asolitulafono o pepa 'ai mai le polokalame a le Food Stamp.

O Vasa, o le isi lea e to'atolu i ai i latou o loo molia e le malo i le mataupu o faiga fa'aalutua i le Matagalua a le DHSS. O isi e to'alua e aofia ai Vincent Toeava ma Liren Zhang poo Kevin e pei ona iloa ai e le to'atele.

O le taeao o le aso Lua na te'a nei na fa'atulaga e faia ai le ulua'i iloilogaga a Vasa i luma o le ali'i Fa'amasino ia Sunia.

Ina ua valaau le mataupu a Vasa, na fa'ailoa e le loia a le malo ia Woodrow Pengelly, le leai o ni molimau ua sauni le malo e valaau e lagolago ai mau o le latou tagi fa'asaga ia Vasa.

Talu ai e le i valaauina e le malo sa latou molimau i le taimi o le ulua'i iloilogaga a Vasa, na tuuina mai ai loa le fa'aiuga a le afioga a Sunia, e solofua ai le moliaga mamafa e tasi sa tu'uaia ai Vasa e le malo.

O le moliaga o le faia o faiga fa'aalutua sa tu'uaia ai e le malo ia Vasa ao lea ua solofua e le Fa'amasinoga, o se solitulafono C lea i le fa'atulagaina o solitulafono mamafa, lea e mafai ona fa'asala ai se tasi i le toese mo le umi e le silia i le 7 tausaga, pe fa'asala foi i le salatupe e le silia i le \$5,000, poo le fa'asala fo'i i fa'asalaga uma ia e lua.

O se tasi o vaega o le gaioiga a le malo e le valaauina sa latou molimau i le ulua'i iloilogaga a Vasa, o le latou failaina lea o le moliaga fou fa'asaga ia Vasa, le moliaga mama o le gaoi.

Ina ua fesiligia e Sunia ia Vasa poo le a lana tali i le moliaga mama o le gaoi lea ua molia ai o ia e le malo, na tali le ua molia na te ioeina le moliaga ua faila fa'asaga ia te ia.

Na talia e Sunia le tali ioe a Vasa e tusa ai o le moliaga mama o le gaoi e pei ona ta'usala ai o ia e le fa'amasinoga, ma fa'atulaga ai loa le aso 27 Aperila 2018 i le itula e 8:30 i le taeao e lau ai lana fa'asalaga.

O lo o tumau pea le tatalaina i tua o Vasa e fa'atali ai le aso lea ua fa'atulaga e lau ai lana fa'asalaga.

Ae tusa ai o le tagi a le malo, o lo o taua ai le tulaga lea e fa'apea, ina ua fesiligia e Leoleo ia Vasa i le aso 16 Ianuari 2018 e uiga i lenei mataupu, sa ia taua ai e fa'apea, i se taimi o le masina o Tesema 2017, na alu atu ai Toeava ma fai atu ia te ia, pe mafai ona ia avatua se pusa o lo o i ai kopi o pepa 'ai a le Food Stamp se'i fesoasoani ai i le faiga o ana pepa mo le galuega (business card).

Na taua e Vasa i Leoleo lona musu e talia le talosaga a Toeava, peita'i mulimuli ane, sa ia taliaina ma ia tuuina atu ai loa le pusa e pei ona ia talosagaina. O le vaiaso na sosoo ai na ave ai e Toeava le \$4,000 ia Vasa e tusa ai o lona taliaina o lona mana'o.



O nisi o sui sa matua tutu a'ai i le fa'atautaiga o le Fa'atofala'iga ina ia sao ma uli le fa'amoemoe o le DOH Tobacco/ Diabetes Coalition i ni suiga tau faaalu e aiaia ai fefa'ataua'iga o tapa'a i le atunu'u.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Meet A Spelling Champ!

BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?
Kristina Kapelianna Marie Timoteo

What is your school name?
Tafuna Elementary School

What grade are you in?
Grade 8

Who is your English Teacher?
Mr. Konelio Alofaituli

Who are your parents?
Susana Timoteo

What village are you from?
Ili'ili

What was your winning word?
PRESTIDIGITATION

The student at the right will represent Tafuna Elem. School in the American Samoa Spelling Bee to be held March 07, 2018. The winner of that Bee will represent American Samoa in the 90th annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held in Washington, D.C.

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.

Territorial Spelling Bee

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O le aotelega o i latou na mafai ona auai i le ‘Toe Aso nai Moamoa’ i le fa’amoemoe o le DOH Tobacco/Diabetes Coalition ina ia tamau ni suiga e fa’aleleia atili ai le tulafono ua mae’a fa’amalosia e taofia ai le ulaula tapa’a, fefa’ataua’iga o tapa’a ma le laiseneina o faleoloa e fa’atau atu ai tapa’a.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Mataituina suiga iloga o le tula- fono fefa’ataua’i tapa’a/sikaleti

tusia: *Leua Aiono Frost*

I le folasaga a le DHSS e tusa ai o le fa’atautaia o laisene o pisinisi e mafai ai ona fa’atauina atu i tagata ulaula le tapa’a i le teritori sa nafa lea ma le tama’ita’i o Tanya Atofau, ma ia fa’ailoa le ala ua faia ai e i latou laisene, e i ai aiaiga e ao ina usita’ia e le pisinisi po’o le faleoloa ona fa’ato’a talosaga lea ma totogia le tinoitupe e \$25.

Peita’i, i le tausaga nei, ua manatu le DHSS ina ia talosagaina fa’aletulafono le si’itia o le tofogi mo lea tautua. E i ai fo’i aiaiga e tatau ona usita’ia pe afai ua pasia le faleoloa e fa’atau atu ai le sikaleti. Ona e le’i aofia i nei aiaiga ituaiga tapa’a fa’aletoronisi lea [e-Cigarette] i le tula-fono ua mae’a fa’amalosia nei, o lena fo’i se isi vaega e ao ina va’ai toto’a i ai lenei au usufono i le aso lona lua o le fa’atofalaiga lenei.

O aiaiga o le mafai ona avea se faleoloa e fa’atau atu ai sikaleti, e le mafai ona fa’atau atu i le fanau e le’i atoa le 18 tausaga le matutua. E le mafai ona fa’atau ta’itasi sikaleti ae tatau lava ona fa’atau atu le pusa ta’i 20, e le mafai ona fa’a’ititia ane i le ta’i 20 fo’i sikaleti i totonu o pusa e fa’atau atu.

E afua nei ituaiga o aiaiga, ina ia le taugofie ai le sikaleti, ae ia taugata, ia le gafatia ai e tagata ulaula, ma fa’a’ititia atili ai le mana’o e ulaula pea.

“O nisi nei o mea ua aiaia ia taumafai ona fes-oasoani i le fa’aiuga a le tagata ia taofia ai le latou ulaula, ua iloa ua le gafatia le tau o le pepa sika-leti, ae a taugofie, e faigofie fo’i ona piki e tagata uma aua o lo’o lava ai le fa’asoa,” o nisi nei o manatu na fa’ailoa mai i lalo o le fola.

Ua i ai fo’i ni saini e ao ina fa’apipi’ia i le mea tonu o le faleoloa o lo’o fa’atau mai ai sikaleti. O le fa’atau atu fo’i o sikaleti, afai e le mautinoa lava tausaga po’o le matua o fanau talavou, ua le tatau ona e fa’atau atu i ai le sikaleti.

Afai e maua ua le usita’ia nei aiaiga, e fa’asala le faleoloa \$1,000 e totogia i le ulua’i taimi ua fa’amaonia ai le solitulafono. Lona lua o le toe maua o solia lava nei tulafono, o le \$2,000 ma le taofia o le mo sina vaitaimi. Fa’atolu loa ona maua o oe, motusia atoa le laisene ma le sala tupe \$3,500. Peita’i, o le talavou lea ua sau e fa’atau le sikaleti ae maua ai le faleoloa, afai e a’oga ae ua tu’ua le a’oga, ua leai se fa’asalaga o fa’asaga ia te ia. Ua talanoaina fo’i se suiga o le tulafono e ao ina faia i lea, peita’i o le aoga lena o lenei fa’atofala’iga sa fa’atautaia nei.

Pe afai e maua talavou o ulaula i totonu o lotoa a a’oga, e faigofie aua o lo’o ua mae’a fa’atulaga e le Matagaluega o Aoga latou fa’asalaga e tu’u atu fo’i i le pulega o a’oga ta’itasi latou te fa’amamaluina. Manatua o le fa’asa lenei o le ulaula ua mae’a fa’atapula’a mai e le Tulafono pasia lelei. Ua fa’ataoto afai e maua muamua, ona vala’au lea o matua e o’o ane i le Ofisa ma le fa’asa mai le a’oga mo le vaiaso. Ae afai ua fa’atolu ona maua, ona motusia loa lea o le avanoa e toe a’oga ai.

Fa’aaoga Fanau Talavou Siaki Faleoloa Fa’atau SikaletiIna ia siakia pea le tulaga mau-maututu o lo’o faia e faleoloa e fa’atau le sikaleti, ia mautinoa fo’i o latou fesiligia fanau talavou pe ua agava’a e fa’atau le tapa’a, ua fa’afaigaluega le tumau e le Matagaluega nisi o talavou mai le 15 - 17 tausaga le matutua ina ia o e taumafai ona fa’atau mai sikaleti mai faleoloa ua mae’a taua’aoina i ai laisene. Ua fa’aigoaina lea ituaiga o siakiga - o siakiga fa’avaitau ma ua le faia e soso’o i faleoloa ta’itasi uma ua i ai laisene, ae ua fa’aeseese lava taimi e faia ai ma lea itu ma lea itu o le motu. Ua le faia lea ituaiga o siakiga i faleoloa i le Manu’atele, ona e mamao tele mo le fanau talavou e aga’i atu e fa’atino. Ua mae’a pasia mai fo’i e le Feterale lea talosaga ina ia le faia mo le Manu’atele ma ona faleoloa lea sailiga.

Afai e fa’aaoga le talavou, e i ai aga ma uiga e agatonu i le talavou e iloga e aoga mo le sue-suega, ona pasia lea o ia e avea ma se tasi e a’oa’o fa’apitoa i le galuega. O le a i ai fo’i le tagata matua la te o fa’atasi e afua mai i le vaitausaga 60-72 tausaga le matutua. Afai fo’i e le’i fa’aulua se talavou mo lea galuega, e muamua lava ona mana’omia le fa’atagaga mai ona matua.

Afai e mae’a le fa’aaogaina o talavou, e le toe fa’aaoga fa’alua i latou. O tusi pasi o le galue lelei, usita’i ma le fa’alogo e maua ai e nei fanau se tau mai le faia o lenei galuega.

Ua fa’ailoa mai e tusa ma le 250 faleoloa na tatala mai ai le polokalama, ona soso’o lea ma le tausaga na soso’o ai ua amata ona maua mai na’o le 221 faleoloa, ae soso’o ma le tausaga 2017 ua na’o le 210 faleoloa.

Fa’atalatalanoaga o Suiga Mana’omia i le Tulafono - Fefa’ataua’iga o Tapa’a:

Ua mana’omia ona fa’aulu se talosaga e mafai ai ona ulaula tagata ulaula ae le afaina ai le manava e se o soso’o ane ia te ia se ea mama mai le asu o le tapa’a. O lea fo’i le fonotaga o le a latou va’ai toto’a ai po’o le a se mamao e tatau ona fa’atulafonoina ai vaega.

O se isi mea ua latou va’ai toto’a i ai, o ala e mafai ona fa’ao’o ai nei fe’au taua i le lautele o tagata uma i tua i afio’aga. Ona o le tele o mea na tutupu mai i le taimi e sioki ai le sapaalai o le sikaleti ma ua si’i atili ai fo’i e tagata faioloa le tau o pepa sikaleti, ae fa’atau ta’itasi ai loa foi e nisi sikaleti i tagata lautele, o lo’o taumafai ona mataituina ai totonu o le pulega o pitonu’u ma afio’aga ta’itasi.

O le vasega o Ali’i ma Faipule o afio’aga i le vaega a le Ofisa o Mataupu Tau Samoa sa lalamua mai i le fa’asologa o i latou e ao ina fa’apitoaugafa i ai lea matata i lea fonotaga lea sa usuina i le Naumati Room i le toe aso o le fa’amoemoe. “O i latou fo’i nei e mafai ona iloa lelei mea o tutupu i nu’u ta’itasi aua o le latou faiva lea o le maitau o mea uma e ono alia’i i totonu o afio’aga,” o se manatu lea o le susuga le fa’atonu o le AS-EPA, Ameto Pato.



O le tina o Eseta Tuimaleali’ifano, [ogatotonu tutula’i] ua o’o mai fo’i lana asiasiga mai Ierusalem, aua o ia lea ua fa’anofomau i le a’ai pa’ia ma o lona tiute, na te tu’ufa’atasia asiasiga mai atunu’u o le Pasefika i lea a’ai, ma e o atu fo’i malaga, o ia fo’i e avea ma fa’asinoala. Ua fiafia fa’atasi i latou ma Sarona Sotoa Ma’ae [tupito agavale] Etenauga ma Afoa Moega Lutu[alaala] i le DDW i le taeao o le aso Gafua.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



Le itu sa sasao ai le pa’ia maualuga o ali’i loia mai le Ofisa o le Loia Sili, fa’atasi ai ma le vasega o sui mamalu mai oe Ofisa o Matauopu Tau Samoa.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Falepuipui le ali'i sa galue Ofisa o Tiute i le 20 masina

tusia Ausage Fausia

E 20 masina lea ua fa'asala ai e le Fa'amasinoga Mauauga le ali'i sa galue i le Ofisa o Tiute a le malo, o se tasi lea o poloaiga o lana Fa'anofovaavaaia e 5 tausaga, ina ua fa'amaonia le moliaga o lona aumaia fa'asolitulafono i le teritori o vaega o fualaau fa'asaina o le mariuana. Na faatoese le susuga a Titifalaula Siaumau i le Fa'amasinoga Mauauga e tusa ai o lana solitulafono sa faia, ma ia talosagaina ai se isi avanoa mo ia se'i toe fo'i atu ai i lona aiga e tausi ona matua aemaise lana fanau. Sa ia taua lona matua salamo e tusa ai o lana solitulafono, lea na mafua ai ona taofia o ia i le falepuipui e fa'atali ai le aso e lau ai lana fa'asalaga.

E 2 isi molimau na valaau e le itu a Siaumau mo le tuuina atu o ni fa'amatalaga fa'aopoopo e fa'ataui i le soifua galue o lenei ali'i talavou, ina ia fesoasoani ai i le tau fa'amamaina o se fa'asalaga mo ia.

O ia molimau e aofia ai le Tina o lona Tina fa'apea ai lana Faifeau. Na taua e ia molimau i luma o le Fa'amasinoga e fa'apea, o Siaumau o se ali'i na te le tagofia le 'ava malosi pe ulaula fo'i, o ia fo'i o se ali'i e fiafia e fa'atasi atu i mafutaga a le Ekalesia aemaise ai le Autalavou.

Na taua e le Tina o le Tina a le ua molia e fa'apea, e usita'i ma fa'alogi Siaumau i totonu o le aiga, ae atonu o le mafuta atu i ana uo lea ua mafua ai ona a'afia o ia i lenei solitulafono. Na naunau le afioga i le ali'i Fa'amasino Sili ia Michael Kruse e fia iloa atili mai le Tina o le Tina a Siaumau, poo ai uo ia sa ia taua ua mafua ai ona suia le olaga o lana tama ina ua mafuta atu i ai, peita'i na tali fuaitau le Tina, na te le iloina poo ai uo e masani ona mafuta atu i ai lana tama.

Ae na taua e Kruse e fa'apea, o se tasi o itu o lo'o matua atugalua ai le Fa'amasinoga, o le vaega lea o lo'o taua i totonu o le Ripoti a le Ofisa Faanofovaavaaia. E le i taua e Kruse poo le a lea vaega o loo i totonu o le ripoti. Ae na taua e se molimau

fa'atuatua i le Samoa News e fa'apea, o lo'o aofia ai i totonu o le ripoti le tagata e ana fualaau fa'asaina lea ua mafua ai ona ta'usala Siaumau i lenei solitulafono.

O fualaau fa'asaina e pei ona ta'usala ai Siaumau, na aumai fa'anana i totonu o se sipika na aumai i le malaga a le va'alele o le Hawaiian Air i le masina o Mati 2017, lea e tusa ma le 5 pauna lona mamafa.

O ia mariuana o lo'o i ai pea lea i le potu suesue a le Vaega Suesue a le Feterale i Amerika (DEA), ma ua fa'amoemoe e tatau ona toe fa'afo'i mai i le atunu'u ona fa'atoa mafai lea ona fa'atamaia ina ia tusa ai ma le tulafono.

O le sipika na aumai faanana ai i totonu mariuana, na fa'atuatusi mai lea i le igoa o Felix Penerosa, o se ali'i e faigaluega i le Kamupani La'uuta o le CSL Cargo Service. Na loka e Leoleo ia Penerosa ina ua fa'atoa alia'e lenei mataupu, peita'i mulimuli ane toe tatata i tua ina ua ta'u e Penerosa i Leoleo, e le o ia e ana le sipika, o Siaumau.

Na taua atili fo'i e Penerosa i Leoleo e fa'apea, na alu atu Siaumau ma talosaga atu ia te ia mo sana fesoasoani, i lana sipikia mai se tasi o lona aiga i Amerika o lo'o fia aumai i le atunu'u. Na faailoa atili e Penerosa i Leoleo, e lei ioe ia Siaumau e fa'atuatusi mai le afifi ia te ia, ae na fa'ateia o ia ina ua faafesootai atu o ia e Leoleo e uiga i lenei mataupu.

O isi tuutuuga o le nofovaavaaia a Siaumau, o le totogi lea o le salatupe e \$5,000, aua ne'i ona toe solia se tulafono, aua foi nei ona toe tagofia le ava malosi poo fualaau fa'asaina. O le a mafai fo'i ona suesueina lona tino i soo se taimi ina ia iloa ai na te le o tagofia fualaau fa'asaina.

O le a matai fo'i e le fa'amasinoga ona iloilo se talosaga e faaulu e lana loia, pe afai e faamaonia ua maua sana galuega e galue tumau ai, i le mae'a ai lea ona ia tuliina o le ulua'i 6 masina o lana fa'asalaga fa'a falepuipui.

Amata visits Tripler Army Medical Center for veterans' services

Washington, D.C. – Monday, February 5, 2018 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata visited Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, where veterans from American Samoa often seek health services that are not available to them through the VA locally in American Samoa.

The Congresswoman spoke with Jennifer Gutowski, Director of VA Pacific Health Care Services, and others in leadership at the clinic regarding access to health services in the Pacific, updated them on plans for a Veterans Affairs hearing that includes these issues, and discussed planning for facility and equipment improvements at the Eni F.H. Faleomavaega VA Clinic in Pago Pago.

“As I travel back and forth to Washington, D.C., I meet our veterans as they make the long flight to Honolulu for services,” said Aumua Amata. “In the Veterans Affairs Com-

mittee, more than perhaps any other issue, I’m focusing on this challenging effort to find better ways to give our veterans more options and access to services.”

In 2017, Congress passed a number of veterans’ bills, particularly in the summer and again a group in November that help set the stage for the necessary upgrades, reforms and funding priorities to continue. Hearings continue in the Veterans’ Affairs Committee on providing better access in locations that are distant from major health providers.

“I know my colleagues are increasingly aware of the obstacles many veterans face in getting the health care they need,” continued Congresswoman Amata. “I’m encouraged by the work I’m seeing take place at the VA, and the Committee’s purpose is to provide oversight to these VA services and seek out ways to improve.”



Amata discusses veterans' health services and planning with Director Jennifer Gutowski in a visit to Tripler Center in Honolulu.

[courtesy photo]



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



Jessica Balik, left, and Keven Gambold, right, CEO of Unmanned Experts, prepare a drone for a demonstration at the Searchlight airport in Searchlight, Nev., on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018. Gambold, a hacking target, said his own company is so worried about hacking that “we’ve almost gone back in time to use stand-alone systems if we’re processing client proprietary data _ we’re FedEx’ing hard drives around.” (AP Photo/Isaac Brekken)

► Drones...

Continued from page 7

is so worried about hacking that “we’ve almost gone back in time to use stand-alone systems if we’re processing client proprietary data — we’re FedEx’ing hard drives around.”

The AP has previously reported on Fancy Bear’s attempts to break into the Gmail accounts of Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign, American national security officials, journalists, and Kremlin critics and adversaries around the world. U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded the hackers worked for the Kremlin and stole U.S. campaign email to tilt the 2016 election toward Donald Trump — all of which Russian leader Vladimir Putin has denied.

But the hackers clearly had broader aims. Fifteen of the targets identified by the AP worked on drones — the single largest group of weapons specialists.

Countries like Russia are racing to make better drones as the remote-control aircraft have moved to the forefront of modern warfare. They can fire missiles, hunt down adversaries, or secretly monitor targets for days — all while keeping human pilots safely behind computer controls.

The U.S. Air Force now needs more pilots for drones than for any other single type of aircraft, a training official said last year. Drones will lead growth in the aerospace industry over the next decade, with military uses driving the boom, the Teal Group predicted in November. Production was expected to balloon from \$4.2 billion to \$10.3 billion. So far, though, Russia has nothing that compares with the new-generation U.S. Reaper, which has been called “the most feared” U.S. drone. General Atomics’ 5,000-pound mega-drone can fly more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) to deliver Hellfire missiles and smart bombs. It has seen action in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The hackers went after General Atomics, targeting a drone sensor specialist. He did not respond to requests for comment.

They also made a run at the Gmail account of Michael Buet, an electronics engineer who has worked on ultra-durable batteries and high-altitude drones for SunCondor, a small South Carolina company owned by Star Technology and Research. Such machines could be a useful surveillance tool for a country like Russia, with its global military engagements and vast domestic border frontier.

“This bird is quite unique,” said Buet. “It can fly at 62,000 feet (18,600 meters) and doesn’t land for five years.”

The Russians also appeared eager to catch up in space, once an arena for Cold War competition in the race for the moon. They seemed to be carefully eyeing the X-37B, an American unmanned space plane that looks like a miniature shuttle but is shrouded in secrecy.

In a reference to an X-37B flight in May 2015, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin

invoked the vehicle as evidence that his country’s space program was faltering. “The United States is pushing ahead,” he warned Russian lawmakers.

Less than two weeks later, Fancy Bear tried to penetrate the Gmail account of a senior engineer on the X-37B project at Boeing.

Fancy Bear has also tried to hack into the emails of several members of the Arlington, Virginia-based Aerospace Industries Association, including its president, former Army Secretary Eric Fanning. It went after Lt. Gen. Mark Shackelford, who has served in the military and aerospace industry as a corporate board member. He has been involved with major weapons and space programs like SpaceX, the reusable orbital rocket company founded by billionaire tech entrepreneur Elon Musk.

Along another path, the hackers chased people who work on cloud-based services, the off-site computer networks that enable collaborators to easily access and juggle data.

In 2013, the CIA signed a \$600 million deal with web giant Amazon to build a system to share secure data across the U.S. intelligence community. Other spy services followed, and the government cleared them last year to move classified data to the cloud at the “secret” level — a step below the nation’s most sensitive information.

Fancy Bear’s target list suggests the Russians have noticed these developments.

The hackers tried to get into the Gmail accounts of a cloud compliance officer at Palantir and a manager of cloud platform operations at SAP National Security Services, two companies that do extensive government work. Another target was at Mellanox Federal Systems, which helps the government with high-speed storage networks, data analysis and cloud computing. Its clients include the FBI and other intelligence agencies.

Yet of the 31 targets reached by the AP, just one got any warning from U.S. officials.

“They said we have a Fancy Bear issue we need to talk about,” said security consultant Bill Davidson. He said an Air Force cybersecurity investigator inspected his computer shortly after the 2015 phishing attempt but found no sign that it succeeded. He believes he was contacted because his name was recognized at the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, where he used to work.

The FBI declined to give on-the-record details of its response to this Russian operation. Agency spokeswoman Jillian Stickels said the FBI does sometimes notify individual targets. “The FBI takes ... all potential threats to public and private sector systems very seriously,” she said in an email. However, three people familiar with the matter — including a current and a former government official — previously told the AP that the FBI knew the details of Fancy Bear’s phishing campaign for more than a year.



Senate...

Continued from page 2

Republicans to push it through. Despite the 77-year-old Pelosi's public talkathon, she was not pressuring the party's rank-and-file to oppose the measure, Democrats said. The deal contains far more money demanded by Democrats than had seemed possible only weeks ago, including \$90 billion in disaster aid for Florida and Texas. Some other veteran Democrats — some of whom said holding the budget deal hostage to action on Dreamer immigrants had already proven to be a failed strategy — appeared more likely to support the agreement than junior progressives elected in recent years.

The budget agreement would give both the Pentagon and domestic agencies relief from a budget freeze that lawmakers say threatens military readiness and training as well as domestic priorities such as combating opioid abuse and repairing the troubled health care system for veterans.

Graphic shows number and duration of continuing resolutions passed by Congress since the 2000 fiscal year.

The core of the agreement would shatter tight "caps" on defense and domestic programs funded by Congress each year. They are a hangover from a failed 2011 budget agreement and have led to military readiness problems and caused hardship at domestic agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the IRS.

The agreement would give the Pentagon an \$80 billion increase for the current budget year for core defense programs, a 14 percent increase over current limits and \$26 billion more than Trump's budget request. Nondefense programs would receive about \$60 billion over current levels. Those figures would be slightly increased for the 2019 budget year beginning Oct. 1.

"For the first time in years, our armed forces will have more of the resources they need to keep America safe," said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "It will help us serve the veterans who have bravely served us. And it will ensure funding for important efforts such as disaster relief, infrastructure and building on our work to fight opioid abuse

and drug addiction."

The Senate agreement contains almost \$90 billion in overdue disaster aid for hurricane-slammed Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. That would bring the total appropriated for disaster aid in the wake of last year's disastrous hurricane season to almost \$140 billion.

The agreement would increase the government's borrowing cap to prevent a first-ever default on U.S. obligations that looms in just a few weeks. The debt limit would be suspended through March of 2019, Sanders said, putting the next vote on it safely past this year's midterm elections.

The House Tuesday passed legislation to keep the government running through March 23, marrying the stopgap spending measure with a \$659 billion Pentagon spending plan, but the Senate plan would rewrite that measure.

Pelosi said the House should push into immigration legislation and noted that Senate Republicans have slated a debate on the politically freighted subject starting next week. At issue is legislation to address the dilemma of immigrants left vulnerable by Trump's move to end Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

Rep. Nanette Barragan, D-Calif., a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the Latino community thinks Senate Democratic leaders have "turned their back."

And a frustrated Angel Padilla, policy director for the liberal group Indivisible, said of the Democratic leaders: "What are they thinking? They're giving up their leverage. ... All of these votes will matter come November."

Dreamers and supporters mounted a peaceful protest in a Senate office building.

Schumer said the plan would contain \$20 billion dedicated to infrastructure such as highways and bridge construction and repair, water and wastewater projects, and rural broadband.

There's also \$4 billion for construction for veterans hospitals and clinics, \$6 billion to fight the opioid crisis and fund mental health programs and \$4 billion for college aid.

Dems...

Continued from page 3

Dick Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat.

In many ways, Trump's presidency has been good for Democrats. They've felt growing momentum at the end of last year after winning the Virginia governor's race and a special election for a Senate seat in Alabama, as well some down-ballot contests. They feel increasingly optimistic about the fall elections, particularly in the House, where they must flip 24 GOP-held seats to gain control.

In the Senate, Democrats are defending 26 seats, including 10 seats in states Trump won. Republicans are defending just eight seats as they try to hold their 51-49 advantage.

But the wounds from the last war remain. A significant wing of the party continues to push for sharpened focus on a more populist economic message.

"We need an agenda that speaks to an angry middle class that wants the government representing them and not just the Koch brothers and other billionaires," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent who caucuses with Democrats.

"There is an essential agree-

ment on what has to be talked about," he said.

There is no agreement on how to talk about it.

This week Republicans targeted Pelosi's comment that \$1,000 bonuses resulting from the GOP tax bill are "crumbs." They seized on the comment to claim Democrats are out of touch with working-class voters who flocked to Trump in 2016.

Republicans had their own slip-up over the weekend, when House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin highlighted on Twitter a school secretary benefiting from the Republican tax overhaul, then deleted the tweet after online criticism that he was cheering a paltry pay increase of \$1.50 a week. Democrats rushed to slam Ryan for the move.

Democrats also argue they benefit because Trump is an inconsistent foil. They noted that during his tax speech this week, he accused Democrats of being "un-American" and maybe even treasonous for failing to applaud him during his State of the Union address.

Even as Democrats talk about the need to press an economic message, Russia is never

far from mind.

Senate Democrats trooped to the Senate floor this week to attack Trump and other Republicans for what they called a smear of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies. After a Republican memo released last week criticized the FBI's handling of the investigation, Democrats have offered their own memo and pushed for its release.

Some Democrats stressed that anti-Trump was a winning message.

"There is so much antipathy to Trump where I live, that I don't think you can (put) his name up enough," said Democratic Rep. Gerry Connolly, whose Northern Virginia district is just outside Washington.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said she doesn't spend much time worrying about national politics.

"Frankly, I'm not really counting on the Democrats being able to help me," said McCaskill, who is seeking her third term in a state Trump won by 18 points. "I'm counting on me getting out and listening to Missourians and talking about things that matter to them."

EPA...

Continued from page 4

to the damage from hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria or the California wildfires of 2017 to appreciate the power of the climate system."A hotter climate will also have negative overall health consequences, said Dr. Howard Frumkin, an environmental health professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health.

"While milder climates in cold places may bring some

local benefits, a warmer world overall is clearly bad for health," said Frumkin who was appointed to head the National Center for Environmental Health by Republican President George W. Bush. "Hot weather promotes the spread of infectious diseases, reduces work capacity, increases rates of injuries and violent crimes, impairs sleep, reduces agricultural production, worsens air quality, and prolongs the allergy season."While past warming periods in human history did sometimes boost agriculture,

those climatic changes occurred over centuries, not at the rapid rate now being observed. The last four years have been the hottest ever recorded since accurate national weather data began being collected in the 1880s.

PRUITT: "No one disputes the climate changes, is changing, we see that constant. We obviously contribute to it, we live in the climate, right? So our activity contributes to the climate changing to a certain degree. Now, measuring that with precision.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email news.newsroom@samoatelco.com Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599 Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864 or by Email at news@samoanews.com Normal business hours are Mon. thru Fri. 8am to 5pm. Permission to reproduce editorial and/or advertisements, in whole or in part, is required. Please address such requests to the Publisher at the address provided above.



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President Donald Trump listens during a meeting with law enforcement officials on the MS-13 street gang and border security, in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



AMERICAN SAMOA
POWER AUTHORITY

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American Samoa 96799
Phone No: (684) 248-1234, Option #5
Email: humanresource@aspower.com
Website: www.aspower.com

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	<p>Must be knowledgeable of:</p> <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 <p>Must have skills:</p> <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 <p>Must have ability to:</p> <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

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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Trump...

Continued from page 5

modate heavyweight tanks and other equipment. On its official Twitter account, Washington’s city council openly trolled the commander in chief, declaring that despite wintry weather, “DC Public Schools will open on time today. Sadly, the Giant Tank Parade is cancelled. Permanently.”

Holmes Norton told The Associated Press that she was already preparing steps to ensure that “if Trump wants a parade, he pays for it.” Still, she conceded there was little chance of blocking a parade permit from being issued, given the First Amendment right to free assembly.

Although U.S. troops commonly participate in parades on the Fourth of July and other holidays, especially those honoring veterans, the United States has never embraced raw displays of military power, such as North Korea’s parading of ballistic missiles. The idea is that the world’s pre-eminent military is strongest when its might is inferred, not shown off in boastful fashion or in an implicit threat to foreign powers.

“We have avoided doing this kind of display, in part to emphasize that contrast because this has been so commonplace in authoritarian countries,” said Julian Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton University. “For some presidents, it’s sometimes a strategic act: Speak quietly while carrying a big stick,” as President Theodore Roosevelt famously advised.

The last time Washington saw anything similar to what Trump is considering was in June 1991, after the Gulf War, as Americans gave veterans of Operation Desert Storm a triumphant welcome home. Some 8,000 veterans marched along with tanks that trudged down a flag-festooned Constitution Avenue as fighter planes roared over the National Mall.

Some 800,000 gathered in the crowd, the U.S. Park Police

said at the time. President George H.W. Bush declared it a “great day.”

Although Trump’s critics argued his parade idea was rooted in a need for self-aggrandizement, the White House said it was squarely an attempt to venerate America’s military. Jonny Havens, a U.S. army veteran who said he served in Iraq, called that sentiment “right on.”

“I trust President Trump, Defense Department, Secretary Mattis to do it in the right way, and do it in a way that makes sense and is cost effective,” Havens said.

But Shaun Theriot-Smith, another Army veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, said the idea smacked “of the very things we make fun of North Korea for.”

“We had bombings in Kabul just last week,” Theriot-Smith said. “We’re not even sure what we’re intending to celebrate here. We still have wars going on that we need to fight.”

Trump first publicly floated his idea last September at a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, as he reminisced about watching France’s Bastille Day military parade. He said the two-hour parade was a “tremendous thing for France and for the spirit of France,” and said he wanted one on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington on July 4 — grander than the one he saw in Paris.

When Trump first suggested the idea to top aides aboard Air Force One after the parade, staff debated the best time of year to have it, and noted the tanks in Paris had chewed up the city’s pavement, throwing up chunks of concrete as they moved.

Trump, however, dismissed that concern, according to one person familiar with the conversation who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the president’s thinking.

That’s ok, Trump told them. We can fix the streets.

The doctor’s in, but jury is out on new LA Times owner

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The struggling Los Angeles Times found a local savior in a biotech billionaire willing to buy the storied newspaper from a corporation half a continent away, but the change of ownership brings its own set of questions and uncertainty.

Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong agreed to pay \$500 million and assume \$90 million in pension liabilities for the Times and San Diego Union-Tribune, Tronc Inc. announced Wednesday.

The news was met with a mix of optimism and skepticism by those who have seen the newspaper plagued by cutbacks and circulation declines and roiled by leadership changes in the two decades since it was sold to Tribune Co. by the Chandler

family. “Some people might think this could be the white knight, the savior, but nobody knows that,” said Steve Davis, a journalism professor at Syracuse University. “All they know is that it’s a change, that it’s somebody new who says the right things.”

Soon-Shiong, who was one of several local tycoons who have discussed throwing a lifeline to the Times in recent years, said in a statement that he looked forward to carrying on the “great tradition of award-winning journalism” at both papers. Representatives didn’t return messages seeking an interview with him.

Soon-Shiong amassed his

(Continued on page 15)

▶ With table...

collected from forfeiture and disposition or sale of property seized by the federal government, are to be deposited into the applicable local government's treasury and to be used to implement the respective MCP.

Also authorized by the MSA is the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund, which allows the Council to use funds to implement MCP projects.

The MSA requires the MCPs to be consistent with the Council's FEPs and include, but not be limited to, the following conservation and management objectives:

(i) Pacific Insular Area observer programs or other monitoring programs that the Secretary determines are adequate to monitor the harvest, bycatch and compliance with US laws by foreign fishing vessels that fish under the PIAFA.

(ii) Marine and fisheries research, including development of systems for information collection, analysis, evaluation and reporting.

(iii) Conservation, education and enforcement activities related to marine and coastal management, such as living marine resource assessments, habitat monitoring and coastal studies

(iv) Education and training in the development and implementation of sustainable marine resources development projects, scientific research and conservation strategies.

(v) Western Pacific com-

munity-based demonstration projects under section 112(b) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act and other coastal improvement projects to foster and promote the management, conservation and economic enhancement of the Pacific Insular Areas.

**2018 US TERRITORY
LONGLINE BIGEYE
SPECIFICATION**

BigeYE tuna comprises a Pacific-wide population that is internationally managed and assessed as separate stocks in the Western and Central Pacific (WCPO) and Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter American Tropical Tuna Association (IATTC), respectively.

Stock assessments conducted in 2017 for the WCPO and 2017 in the EPO indicate that both stocks are not subject to overfishing nor are they overfished, according to the stock status determination reference points in the FEP for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region.

At its 172nd meeting, the Council will consider taking final action on options related to the specification of the annual Territory bigeye longline limits applicable for 2018 for American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI.

The Council will also consider limits on the amount of catch that could be transferred under Specified Fishing Arrangements by the US Par-

ticipating Territories to vessels permitted under the Pelagic FEP.

The Council will consider the following limit options:

1. No management action: No specification of catch or allocation limits

2. Status quo: Specify for each US Participating territory, a 2,000-metric ton (mt) catch limit and 1,000-mt allocation limit in 2018

3. No total longline bigeye limit per US Participating Territory, but a limit on the amount of bigeye each territory can allocate under annual Specified Fishing Agreements:

a. 1,000 mt allocation limit per territory

b. 1,500 mt allocation limit per territory

c. 2,000 mt allocation limit per territory

Written public comments should be received by the Council's executive director by 5 p.m. (Hawai'i time), Friday, March 9, 2018, by postal mail, FAX or email as indicated below. After March 9, it is the submitter's responsibility to provide at least 40 copies of the written comment to Council staff at the Council meeting.

Mail: Ms. Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 522-8226
E-mail: info.wpcouncil @noaa.gov

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Pelosi stages 8-hour speech to push for vote for 'Dreamers'

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi staged a record-breaking, eight-hour speech Wednesday in hopes of pressuring Republicans to allow a vote on protecting "Dreamer" immigrants — and to demonstrate to increasingly angry progressives and Democratic activists that she has done all she could.

Wearing four-inch heels and forgoing any breaks, Pelosi, 77, spent much of the rare talkathon reading personal letters from the young immigrants whose temporary protection from deportation is set to expire next month. The California Democrat quoted from the Bible and Pope Francis, as Democrats took turns sitting behind her in support. The Office of the House Historian said it was the longest continuous speech in the chamber on record.

"You see, these people are being deported," Pelosi said around hour six. "We can do something today to at least make whole the children."

Her remarks seemed partly aimed at the liberal wing of Pelosi's own party, who seethed as Senate Democrats cut a budget deal with Republicans that could quickly steal the momentum behind the effort to resolve the Dreamers' plight.

The wide-ranging budget accord says nothing about renewing the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, called DACA, which temporarily shields Dreamers — hundreds of thousands of immigrants

brought to the country as children and living here illegally — from deportation. President Donald Trump has moved to annul DACA.

Pelosi said she'd oppose the budget deal unless GOP leaders agreed to hold a House vote on helping the Dreamers. But top Democrats said they weren't corralling rank-and-file lawmakers to oppose the budget pact, leading some of the party's immigration advocates to question the forcefulness of her opposition.

"I'm going to take everything she says at face value," said Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill. "And then hopefully tomorrow she will validate that trust by stopping us from voting for it. If she doesn't, then it was a nice speech." Pelosi's performance had no immediate impact on Republican leaders, who have not scheduled a vote on the issue. AshLee Strong, spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Ryan "has already repeatedly stated we intend to do a DACA and immigration reform bill — one that the president supports."

While Pelosi spoke, immigration activists rallied in Washington and threatened retribution against the congressional Democrats who abandoned the strategy of demanding that a budget accord be paired with an immigration deal. The fresh threats exposed deepening divisions within a Democratic Party struggling to address a liberal priority in Republican-controlled Washington.

▶ The doctor...

fortune in part by developing a cancer drug in 1991. He was already a major shareholder in Tronc, one of the richest men in Los Angeles and the nation's wealthiest doctor by Forbes' estimate, with a net worth estimated at \$7.8 billion.

The sale reflects a trend of billionaires buying up newspapers, most notably when Amazon founder Jeff Bezos bought The Washington Post in 2013 for \$250 million, in a move that has reinvigorated that newspaper and raised its profile.

"In general this is just another example of sort of boutique buying of newspapers," said Jack Kranefuss, a senior director at Fitch Ratings. "It's sort of going back to the day when captains of industry owned newspapers to get their own voice out."

One of the big questions is whether Soon-Shiong will distance himself from the Times or will use it for influence or to advance an agenda.

While Bezos has been applauded for allowing independence at the Post, that hasn't been the case with other rich owners.

Sheldon Adelson's acquisition of The Las Vegas Review-Journal was followed by resignations from a top editor and a handful of reporters, and a

columnist who said he couldn't do his job after the new editor told him he couldn't write about Adelson.

Soon Shiong, 65, who said his ultimate goal is to cure cancer during his lifetime, has been the subject of several unflattering reports, including in the Times, which raised concerns about conflicts of interest.

Among other things, an audit found that the University of Utah had taken over \$12 million from Soon-Shiong and then inappropriately awarded one of his company's, NantHealth, \$10 million for gene sequencing, the Salt Lake Tribune reported last year.

Gabriel Kahn, a journalism professor at the University of Southern California, said Soon-Shiong has "kind of a cloudy business career" that has been dogged by "very real questions about the appearance of improprieties." He has been sued by investors, including siblings as well as singer and activist Cher.

Kahn, who wrote about Soon-Shiong's charitable giving for Los Angeles Magazine, said it would great if Soon-Shiong sees his investment in the newspapers as a way to boost civic culture and standing in Southern California — as long as there's a clear separation from his other companies.

Still, it could be a challenge for reporters at the Times who have to cover him.

"He's incredibly wealthy,

Continued from page 14



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



PET OF THE WEEK

Timu is a 6-month old spayed female puppy looking for a home. Timu is shy at first, but very nice when she gets to know you. At only 16 pounds, we expect her to stay small.
She is available for adoption for a \$10 fee at the ASG Veterinary Clinic — you can call 699-9445 for more information.

[Photo: ASG Veterinary Clinic]

‘They want to erase us.’ Hunger used to target Rohingya

By the time Goni saw bodies floating down the local river, of fellow Rohingya killed for illegal fishing, he knew his family would die if they didn’t leave. On bad days, they carved the flesh out of banana plant stalks for food. On the worst days, his children ate nothing.
“I felt so sorry that I couldn’t give them enough food,” the 25-year-old says, tears running down his face, in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, just across the border from Myanmar. “Everything just got worse and worse. ... Day by day, the pressure was increasing all around us. They used to tell us, ‘This isn’t your land. ... We’ll starve you out.’”
First, massacres, rapes and the wholesale destruction of villages by the Myanmar military in western Rakhine state forced nearly 700,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to Bangladesh, in reprisal for Rohingya militant attacks on Aug. 25. Now, the food supply appears to be

another weapon that’s being used against the dwindling numbers of Rohingya in Myanmar.
The accounts of hunger could not be independently confirmed, as Myanmar’s government does not allow reporters into the northern part of Rakhine state, where most of the Rohingya lived. However, more than a dozen interviews by The Associated Press with the most recent refugees show growing desperation, as the noose tightens around their communities in what U.N. officials have said may be a genocide. The U.N. and human rights groups such as Amnesty International have also warned of increasing hunger among the Rohingya in areas where conflict and displacement have been most rampant.
Repeated calls to Myanmar’s military weren’t answered, but the Myanmar government denies ethnic cleansing and says it is battling terrorists. Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye says the government has been distributing food aid to as many people as possible.

“There are many ways that we have been reaching out to villagers frequently,” he says. “And that’s why it’s not possible that there are people who are completely cut off from food or facing hunger.”
The Rohingya Muslims, who have been loathed by Myanmar’s Buddhist majority for decades, are locked down in their villages — sometimes even in their homes — and prevented from farming, fishing, foraging, trade and work, the refugees and aid groups say. In other words, they can no longer do what they need to do to eat. While restrictions on freedom of movement and access to food have long been in place, they have tightened dramatically in recent weeks, the AP interviews show.
“It was worse than a jail,” says Goni, who finally left Hpa Yon Chaung village in Buthidaung township on Jan. 5. “People at least get food twice a day in jail. ... We were always surrounded, always under stress, always watched.”
The hunger the Rohingya faced at home is evident when they come to the Bangladesh camps, where new refugees, especially children and women, suffer from “unbelievable” levels of malnutrition, according to Dr. Ismail Mehr.
“They are definitely coming in starving,” says Mehr, who recently returned to the United States from treating refugees in the camps. “We saw the vitamin deficiencies in the children and the adults; we saw ... severely malnourished people who are basically skin and bones. It looked like the pictures from the Nazi camps.”
The government’s restrictions on access to northern Rakhine make it almost impossible to tell how many people are without food.





Teen meal

Filet-O-Fish, Small Fries, Small Drink & Apple Pie



\$5

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