

**Kruse denies defense motion for acquittal in trial against teacher**  
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**Tausinio aufusu a le atunu'u i le ta'amilosaga a le tafatolu i Samoa**  
Le Lali

**Laisene Ursula Te'o Martin avea ma fa'amasino Tauvaga teuteu Tino**  
Sports

**B U Y E R S BEWARE:**  
*There are "Gatorade" drinks being sold locally that are allegedly not authentic. The sole distributor of Gatorade products is Pago Pago Trading Company (PPTC) and they are currently suing an Asian owned business for parallel shipping. According to PPTC, the Gatorade being brought in by this other company appears tainted and is not the real thing. See story below for details.*

[photo: courtesy]



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## Babies mistakenly switched, mothers' take wrong babies home

By:Samoa News Staff

You read about it or hear about it and you figure — that could never happen to you: You give birth to a healthy baby girl at the hospital, name her, take her home, nurture her, introduce her to the world, and two weeks later the hospital calls you and says that you were sent home with the wrong child.

A 17-year-old mother in American Samoa is living this nightmare right now. After giving birth to a healthy baby girl a month ago, she was called two weeks later and informed that she was given the wrong baby.

And according to the 17-year old mother's Aunt, on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at LBJ hospital — the babies were switched back, like nothing happened, but, unfortunately, her niece is 'going out of her mind'.

"The baby they gave her is real sick," the Aunt said. "My niece is trying hard to cope and trying to understand what is going on."

Right now, the 17-year old mother is at the hospital admitted last week for an infection, and the baby she was 'given' on Tuesday, has been admitted to the hospital with pneumonia.

How was the switch discovered?

Apparently, according to the Aunt, when one of the mothers went to WIC to register her child for assistance, she was told the baby's name was wrong on the Birth Certificate. She then went to the hospital to find out what was going on.

That's when LBJ apparently called the 17-year old mother, and she checked the baby's tag — which she had not bothered to check when they brought the baby home — and it was then discovered that yes it was the wrong name.

Meetings with each mother and family members were then held separately, with LBJ hospital top officials, including legal counsel attending, to discuss the mix up and what the LBJ hospital wanted to do — to run a DNA test to make sure it was a case of 'switched' babies, and not just wrong name tags.

In a recording of one of the meetings, held on Oct. 25th, with the 17-year old mother and family members — obtained by Samoa News, the emotionally charged meeting, which went on for almost an hour, LBJ Hospital CEO Faumuina Taufetee Faumuina is heard telling the family that after consultation with legal counsel, a decision has been made to run a DNA test in order to verify the 'right relationship' between mother and baby.

While Faumuina apologizes profusely to the family about what has happened, he is unable to get the family to leave the baby at the hospital while the DNA test is being run.

He points out that he understands the bond formed between mother and child, and then gives permission for the babies to be taken to their current homes.

The baby's grandmother, who attended the meeting, is heard disagreeing with the DNA testing, saying they have bonded with their baby.

Speaking in Samoan she says, "We have pictures of the baby when she was born. Before she was taken to the nursery. Change

(Continued on page 7)

## Two local companies are in court for alleged bootleg of Gatorade products

by Blue Chen-Fruean  
Samoa News Correspondent

The folks at Pago Pago Trading Company (PPTC) are urging the community to be on the lookout for Gatorade products that are being sold in local stores, because some are allegedly not authentic and "could make people sick."

Currently, PPTC is suing Pacific Mini Mart in Tafuna for parallel shipping and a trial date is yet to be scheduled. According to PPTC general manager Ella Ae Gurr, they have been in and out of court with Pacific Mini Mart, whose representative told judges during the most recent court proceedings that he does not speak English.

With the ASHSAA sports season in full swing, and the occasional heat wave that creeps up on locals every week, Gurr said their concern is for the safety and health of the people who consume Gatorade products, especially kids.

Attend any one of the ASHSAA football games on the weekends and you're sure to see dozens of athletes, and spectators, with Gatorade bottles in their hands.

PPTC is the sole distributor of Gatorade products. Gurr said the distinction carries with it a huge responsibility as far as ensuring that the products are authentic, and liability issues are at the forefront in business dealings.

She said they've been made aware that Pacific Mini Mart has been selling - and wholesaling - Gatorade sports drinks but she can't say where the company is getting its supply, "but for sure, it isn't from us."

"Our perspective - we have to be able to protect our distribution rights because if the product gets anyone sick or needs to be recalled, we will get approached and have to take on the liability

(Continued on page 9)



Ken Longenecker of Bishop Museum points to one of the fish that he and Ross Langston from Windward Community College and Erik Franklin from Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology are collecting specimens of in order to study their reproductive lifespan. The fish include the Alogo, Poge, Laea and Ume — which are local favorites for the table.

While collecting specimens for their study, the scientists are also holding workshops for local Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources biologists and ASCC Marine Science students to share their knowledge. The workshops are being held at the Fagatogo Market Place, in the fish market space.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



# Local media encouraged to help disseminate accurate info during disasters

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

With American Samoa now in cyclone season — which runs through Apr. 30, 2018 — the National Weather Service Office in Tafuna and the local Department of Homeland Security/TEMCO have reached out to local media outlets to help keep people informed as part of preparations before and after a storm.

During any disaster, the media, especially the broadcast outlets, plays a vital role in ensuring that accurate information from authorities is disseminated to the community as soon as it becomes available, in a timely manner.

This past Tuesday, the NWSO and ASDHS hosted the 2017-2018 Tropical Cyclone Workshop, where not only Weather Service officials shared information and data for the current season, but also sought input from media representatives on how best to get

the message out to the public to prepare and stay informed when there is a pending tropical cyclone.

Broadcast media — radio, television, and cable TV — and print, were represented at the workshop, along with officials from the US Coast Guard, Office of Samoan Affairs, Human and Social Services, Weather Office, Bluesky Communications, and ASDHS. A similar workshop was held the day before, for liaisons from each ASG entity.

ASDHS deputy director Jacinta Brown said one of the most important topics that has come up is “having a uniform understanding... of weather products put out” by NWSO and ASDHS when it’s transmitted.

She said having a better understanding of the product will help prepare the community when things happen, and there is a need to focus on the local products instead of what’s being disseminated out of

Samoa so there is no confusion.

NWSO meteorologist Elinor Lutu-McMoore noted that the workshop is also to gain input on what the media needs in “order to help you do your job”. She said the media is “very important to us” in the dissemination of information during times of emergency and she described the workshop as further “strengthening of our partnership and collaboration”.

NWSO meteorologist Hans Malala presented on the outlook for the 2017-2018 season, saying the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) in Fiji has already released its outlook for the South Pacific, which includes American Samoa, and the outlook is 4- 6 tropical cyclones for this season.

“But for us here, it’s the same as the last season. Ours is 0-2”, he said, adding that the “risk is still high... so we still need to prepare for this tropical cyclone season even though in the past we have seen nothing; but it only takes one tropical cyclone to do all the damage, just like Puerto Rico.”

Both Malala and Lutu-McMoore said the outlook for 2017-18 is based on a number of issues like the weather pattern — La Nina — and previous cyclone data. “Of course, these are all forecasts,” McMoore said.

The Oct. 31st news release was distributed to workshop participants, and states in part that the outlook covers activity near the American Samoa basin — extends to 300 nautical miles — and does not predict whether, or how many, of these systems will directly affect the territory.

One of many issues raised by NWSO and ASDHS officials during the workshop had to do with local residents tuning in to Samoa’s Radio 2AP broadcast during cyclone season, instead of listening to local stations.

The concern is there is different weather terminology used by the two Samoa, as well as winds speeds, when it comes to a storm. For example, Samoa’s Category 3 cyclone is considered a Category 2 for American Samoa — which follows the federal system.

Another example, and this caused a lot of confusion in the past, is that while the local weather office issues a Tropical Storm - Watch/Warning - with winds clocking at 39-73 mph, this is considered a Category One Warning in Samoa with 39-54 mph, according to the NWSO information page <[www.weather.gov/ppg/cyclone](http://www.weather.gov/ppg/cyclone)>.

Media outlets are encouraged to disseminate weather information from local authorities, not from Samoa.

“We rely on you, so you are putting out the most accurate information and you can help,” Lutu-McMoore told media representatives.

It was also noted during the

(Continued on page 6)



National Weather Service Office meteorologist Elinor Lutu-McMoore with local Department of Homeland Security officials Fale Ulufale and Vinnie Atofau.

[photo: FS]



## LOCAL COMMUNITIES LOOKING FORWARD TO PALOLO RISING THIS MONTH



October and November is the period of the annual rising/swarming of the *palolo* worm. As usual, local communities are expecting a harvest and an event for celebration. During the rising, many residents make their way to the reef early in the morning to await the spawning of *palolo* worms. Although it may vary, *palolo* rising usually occurs around the third-quarter moon in October and/or November or seven days after the full moon. This would put the *palolo* rising around Oct. 12 and Nov. 11.

The *palolo* worm is considered a seafood delicacy in the Samoan culture, and during the rising people come together to harvest and feast. During this period, the worms usually back up from their burrows and release their reproductive segments or ‘epitoke’ that contain their gametes into the water column. The epitoke is what actually is referred to as *palolo*. The epitoke upon release from the worms twirls upward to the water surface like a dancing noodle. It ‘swims’ upwards as it is attracted to light through its own sensor. As it rises to the water surface, it is collected in buckets and baskets using hand nets by the local communities. Blue-green epitoke indicates female and brown epitoke signifies male. As day breaks, the epitoke disintegrates and it releases the male and the female gametes. It is advised that people go out to the reef two to three nights before peak harvest dates (Oct. 12th and Nov. 11th) to check for early signs of *palolo* spawning.

The *palolo* rising is a classic example of synchronous (same time) mass spawning of a marine organism. The timing of the rising/swarming varies and suggests that other factors are involved than the lunar cycle. Other factors that may play a role in spawning include sea water temperature, tides, and wind. It is not known whether the quality or integrity of the coral reef habitat affects *palolo* rising. During the *palolo* rising, assigned staff of the Department of Marine and Wildlife will be conducting surveys and interviews on weight of catch per person to track annual trends in the amount of *palolo* released.

We kindly ask the public to please call Maria Vaofanua (mariavaofanua@hotmail.com) at 633-4465 ext. 241 to report any sightings of *palolo*.



# Kruse denies defense motion for acquittal in trial against former teacher

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SAYS THERE IS ‘ZERO TOLERANCE’ ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

The 11-year-old victim in the government’s case against former Coleman Elementary schoolteacher Tony Leatualevao told the jury yesterday that the defendant used a wooden paddle to strike him five times last year.

This is according to testimony provided during Day 2 of Leatualevao’s jury trial in the High Court. The government called four witnesses to the stand: the victim and his mother, the school principal, and the lead investigator.

According to the boy, he wasn’t able to sit down for hours because of the pain that followed the assault by his teacher. It was revealed during the trial that the victim got into a fight with several 7th graders after school on November 2, 2016. The next day, as the first bell rang, Leatualevao called the victim over to his desk and questioned him about the alleged fight, after which he scolded the boy about not heeding his advice about not fighting. The boy’s mother testified that on that same day, she spoke to the defendant, who admitted to her that he did “sasa” her son for fighting in school and not obeying him. She said she was not aware of the severity of her son’s injuries until later when she noticed the bruises on his buttocks while he was showering. The mother identified photos of her son’s injuries shown by the prosecutor during court proceedings.

According to testimony from the school principal, Coleman Elementary has a zero tolerance policy on corporal punishment — they never allow teachers to spank the students. The principal said part of the school’s policy is to provide a safe learning environment for all students, and this means no form of beating or abuse.

In his cross examination of all four government witnesses, defense counsel Douglas Fiaui tried to establish the main reason why the defendant spanked the victim. The principal, during cross examination, told the jury that if a student has a behavior problem in the classroom or on campus, the student is referred to the school counselor and if that doesn’t work, the counselor contacts the student’s parents to come in for a meeting. If the behavior continues and there is no sign of change in the stu-

dent’s actions, the parents are contacted again and suspension becomes an option.

Fiaui asked the witness whether classroom management is about discipline, to which the witness responded that classroom management is not about discipline only, but it involves many factors including teaching, the safety of the student, and other factors that apply to the student’s success.

She told the court that Leatualevao no longer teaches at Coleman Elementary, but he was transferred to the Teacher Quality Division at the DOE main office in Utulei. As for the victim, he still attends Coleman Elementary. Lead investigator Ta’iala Malala confirmed to the jury that Leatualevao provided a written statement to police when he was interviewed on Friday, Nov. 04, 2016 regarding the incident, and admitted that he struck the victim twice with a wooden paddle.

After all the government witnesses testified, Fiaui asked the court for an acquittal. The jury was dismissed for a break while Kruse addressed a legal issue with the defense attorney.

During his verbal motion, Fiaui said the facts the government already presented show that Leatualevao never used any physical force on the victim, and there was no substantial risk to the child’s life. He argued that the injuries to the victim’s body were neither severe nor life threatening.

Prosecutor Morris argued that the evidence proves there was physical force involved, and the injuries were severe and life threatening. Morris said he believes the government presented enough evidence to prove their case.

Kruse denied Fiaui’s motion for an acquittal, saying there were facts presented to the court, and the jury’s duty is to decide on those facts.

When the case continued, the defense called its first witness: the school counselor, who taught for ten years and served as a school counselor for eleven years. The witness said her duty is mostly to provide counseling for students who are referred by teachers for misbehaviors, including fighting and bullying other students.

She told the jury that the victim in this case was referred to her office three times during the last school year, for rea-

sons including fighting, name calling, bullying, and playing inside the classroom.

After the third time, she said she sent a letter to the victim’s parents to come see her, to discuss their child’s actions. It was after consultation with the parents, that the victim was suspended for 3 days, after the school’s vice principal gave her the authority to do so.

The trials resumes today at 9:00 a.m.

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Lea ua gafoa nei le ata, e pei o le fetalaiga ia Pa’iatea ma le Pa’ialala. Ua musa fiafia i foga’a le Sagalala ina ua tu le Failā, le Mila o le Atua. O le **Pulou o le Ola**. Fa’amoemoe ua taunu’u, o le la’au lea o le soifua lelei.

Ua iai se fa’atofala’iga i le Susuga a le Faife’au Toeaina ma le mamalu o le Ekalesia e fa’apea. O le a fa’apa’iaina le malumalu o le Atua, le Pulou o le Ola, EFKAS i Afonotele, i le Afioga o lo’o afio ai le Afioga i le Mata’utia, le na ulula’i Sa’o i Papa o le Tuimanu’a, susu ai le Matua o Tela, susu ai le Sa’ofetalai, susu ai le Aloali’i, ae puipui malu i le Fetalaiga ia i la’ua Ao. O lea ua iai le fa’atofala’iga o le a fa’ataunu’uina i le **Aso Tofi, Novema 23, 2017 i le 10:00 i le taeao**.

Talosia ia i le alofa o le Atua, molio’o lo outou soifua a’o so matou ola i lea aso ua atofaina.

Ma le fa’aaloalo tele,

**Rev. Elder Kereti Paepae Fai’ai**  
**TK Tela Malaga, Ta’ita’i Komiti Pulou o le Ola**  
**Ma le mamalu o le Ekalesia i Afonotele**



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# US Navy to run rare 3-carrier military exercise in Pacific

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Navy said Wednesday it will launch a rare military exercise involving three aircraft carrier strike groups in the western Pacific starting this weekend, coinciding with the final stops of President Donald Trump's Asia tour.

The maneuvers are to begin Saturday and end Tuesday. It will be the Navy's first three-carrier exercise in the western Pacific since 2007.

The U.S. 7th Fleet, which announced the exercise, did not say where in the western Pacific the exercise will be conducted, but officials have said recently that it is intended to demonstrate U.S. resolve with allies Japan and South Korea during the ongoing crisis with North Korea.

"Multiple carrier strike force operations are very complex, and this exercise in the Western Pacific is a strong testament to the U.S. Pacific Fleet's unique ability and ironclad commitment to the continued security and stability of the region," the Pacific Fleet commander, Adm. Scott Swift, said.

The announcement made no mention of the exercise coinciding with Trump's Asia trip, but the maneuvers are connected with a string of U.S. moves to showcase U.S. military strength as Washington and its allies put diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang to end its nuclear weapons program and cease the testing of ballistic missiles.

U.S. strategic bombers have recently flown off the coast of Korea, and Trump mentioned this week in South Korea that U.S. submarines operate in that area.

Trump began his trip in Japan and currently is in China. He also is scheduled to visit Vietnam and the Philippines.

The carriers involved are the USS Ronald Reagan, based in Japan; the USS Theodore Roosevelt, based in San Diego; and the USS Nimitz, based at Naval Base Kitsap at Bremerton, Washington. Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters in Hawaii in late October, before the dates of the exercise had been made public, that the three carriers were not targeting North Korea. He called their convergence in the area a "routine demonstration of our commitment to the region."

# ⊗ Florida man convicted of killing ex-girlfriend, 3 others

OCALA, Fla. (AP) — A Florida man has been convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend, her mother and two children.

The Ocala Star-Banner reports that 37-year-old James Edward Bannister was found guilty Wednesday of four counts of first-degree murder and one count of arson. Authorities say Bannister killed 6-year-old CorDerica Hill, 8-year-old CorDarrian Hill, 27-year-old Jocalyn Gray and 52-year-old Bridget Gray at a Marion County home in August 2011. He shot each victim once in the head and then set the house on fire. Bannister and Jocalyn Gray had a child together. The Hill children belonged to Bridget Gray's boyfriend.

The jury that convicted Bannister will reconvene to decide whether he should be executed or serve a life sentence. A decision for the death penalty must be unanimous.

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dba Samoa News is published Monday through Friday, except for some local and federal holidays.

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*Compiled by Samoa News Staff*

### NEXT PREDICTED DATE FOR PALOLO IS TOMORROW NIGHT

The 7th night following the 3rd quarter full moon in October and November are generally the predicted dates for palolo spawning in the territory. That means the slimy worms are expected to rise during the late evening hours tomorrow, Nov. 10th, early morning hours of Saturday, Nov. 11th - although it is generally usual practice to check the night before and the night after the predicted dates.

No palolo was caught last month when predictions from the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) pinpointed the spawning date to Oct. 12th.

Palolo lovers were skeptical that the delicacy would be in abundance last month, as the weather patterns were favorable; but they went home empty handed - and soaking wet.

DMWR personnel took to the streets in the days before and after the predicted October swarming to confirm that nothing was found. They even had a crew go out to sea. Still, no palolo.

This time, local residents are optimistic. In Samoan belief, palolo rises when the smell of moso'oi is in the air and weather conditions are wet. So many assumptions are circulating in the community. Some believe that since the palolo rise in independent Samoa was so strong last month, the worm will likely make its way the local waters - in abundance - this time around. Some say it's all dependent on the weather.

Whatever the case may be, Samoa News has spoken to several locals who already claim to have their flashlights, homemade nets, and buckets ready to collect some palolo this weekend.

*Good luck!*

### ARCHIVES AND RECORDS OFFICE CELEBRATE AMERICAN ARCHIVES MONTH

The American Samoa Government (ASG) Office of Archives & Records celebrated this year's American Archives Month with various activities including two roadside disaster relief 'waves' on Oct. 13th and 20th to help assist hurricane victims, and an American Samoa Archives Month wave on Oct. 27th.

Territorial Archivist Jim Himphill reports their staff hosted an Open House week that featured reception area displays for Discovery Day - Samoans, Explorers, and Missionaries; and the 50th Anniversary of American Samoa's Constitution.

Additionally, there was a staff workshop about PARBICA17 Pacific Archivists and the Council of

State Archivists SERI program on Oct 24th. Online Discovery Day and Halloween displays were uploaded to a pilot website <<http://asa-moandigitalarchives.omeka.net>>

"It was a memorable month and though our turnout wasn't large due to a multitude of other American Samoa public activities this month, we hope that our island community is more informed about the work that we do," said Himphill. "Our team really enjoyed these activities and we look forward to a greater celebration in 2018!"



The American Samoa Government (ASG) Office of Archives & Records celebrated this year's American Archives Month with various activities. [photo: courtesy]





ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato congratulates this semester's recipients of the College's in-house scholarships. (l-r) Dr. Pato, Jin Lin Du, Louaivasa Laulu, Jingling Jiang, and Rianna Lafaele.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

# ASCC awards Fall 2017 In-House Scholarships

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Most students at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) are US citizens or nationals, which gives them access to federal financial aid, particularly the Pell Grant which covers the majority of a student's college expenses. ASCC also serves a number of young men and women who do not qualify for financial aid and thus need to meet the cost of their attendance through independent means.

To assist these non-Pell students, as well as other applicants who meet the criteria, the College offers two in-house scholarships, the "Saili le Atamai" Student Government Association (SGA) award and the Presidential Merit Scholarship.

The Student Services

Division of ASCC recently announced the recipients of these scholarships for the fall 2017 semester.

The "Saili le Atamai" Scholarship of \$500, funded by the SGA, is intended for full-time students who do not qualify for any federal aid. The criteria includes the student maintaining a grade point average of at least 3.00, having already completed at least 12 credits or more at ASCC, attending the College on a full-time basis, and being committed towards earning a particular Associate Degree or Certificate of Proficiency.

This semester's recipients are Ms. Jingling Jiang, and Mr. Jin Lin Du.

Born in China, Ms. Jiang graduated in 2015 from Seventh Junior High School in the Fujian Province. An Accounting major

and also a member of both the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society and the Business Ambassadors of ASCC (BAOA), Ms. Jiang actually volunteered to work doing data input for the ASCC Business Office before becoming a work study employee there.

"My parents, who are still in China, had to make great sacrifices so that I could attend ASCC," she said. "My education is very expensive, but I still feel it's a worthwhile investment."

Also a Chinese citizen, second "Saili le Atamai" recipient Mr. Jin Lin Du attended high school in Malaysia and now attends ASCC and majors in Liberal Arts. He would like to eventually complete his college education in the USA and become a computer engineer.

(Continued on page 10)



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ASCC Science Department chairman Dr. Randel DeWees (front, center) with some of the students who participated in last week's Science Symposium at the College. [Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

# ASCC holds 2017 Science Symposium

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The Science Department at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) hosted its annual Science Symposium last week, an event open to students from both the College and the Territory's high schools.

"The Symposium provides an opportunity, for science to showcase their scientific activities and findings before the general public of American Samoa. Not only does the symposium allow the students to hone their presentation skills, but it can also help bolster self esteem and competence in their respective fields," said ASCC Science Department chairman Dr. Randel DeWees, who also served as moderator for the event.

The program took the form of 10 presentations, some by individual students and others collaborations by two or more.

Michelle Paletaleo, Puaolele Tausau and Iosefo Sio took to the podium first to give a report titled "Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources (ACNR) Piggery and Greenhouse," in which they focused on their internship experiences over the summer working in the named areas of the College's ACNR division.

Anastasia Magalo followed with "Caripac Summer Internship in Pohnpei," which reported on her trip to Pohnpei along with two other students from American Samoa for the learning experience of being part of the Caripac (Caribbean/Pacific) summer program.

In their presentation "Global Climate Change Workshop," Saelia Holmgren and Naomi Galea'i discussed their experiences at a summer event, which explored topics such as ocean acidification and new scientific approaches to addressing the challenges of climate change.

Malia Talia next shifted the topic to "Catfish in the Mekong River Delta," recalling her experiences this summer traveling all the way to Vietnam to take part in a study of the more than 300 species of catfish found in the named region.

Ulelemaikalani Kwon followed with "Identification of Phytophthora colocasiae resistance and tolerance in Samoan taro cultivars," a discus-

sion of the scientific effort to find a taro species resistant to the taro blight disease.

With all of the previous speakers having been ASCC students, Karallyn Fitisono of South Pacific Academy showed that science projects also take place in our high schools with her presentation "The effect of anthropogenic litter on the health of mangrove wetland forest in Masefau, American Samoa," a study of how trash dumping impacts American Samoa's fragile mangrove areas.

ASCC student Johann Vollrath next touched on equally urgent environmental issues with his presentation "Summer Internship with the National Park Services."

Faatoia Areta looked into the seldom-explored topic of native healing methods with her talk "Determination of antimicrobial activity of aqueous leaf extracts of Samoa medicinal plants."

Imeleta Luamanu gave a presentation with the complex-sounding title "Modified Kassai (1991) McMaster technique for faecal egg counting (FEC) and the efficiency of Doramectin as a chemical control," which focused on the livestock health issues she studied during a summer internship in the Independent State of Samoa.

Rounding-off the proceedings, Claudia Thompson spoke on the topic "Okeanos Explore in Training Program," in which she spoke of her learning experiences as part of the team mapping the ocean floor on a research vessel.

"Through constructive criticism, the young scientists gain a more refined understanding of their projects and scientific concepts," said Dr. DeWees. "This is important, as science is dynamic and ideas are constantly being revisited and refined.

"It is our hope to broaden the Science Symposium to bring more of the island's scientists together to promote the youth in this important endeavor," he concluded.

More information on the Science programs at ASCC can be found in the ASCC Catalog, accessible online at: [www.amsamoa.edu](http://www.amsamoa.edu).

## Local media encouraged...

Continued from page 2

workshop that social media postings have contributed to inaccurate information being put out, and local authorities are asking media outlets to disseminate accurate information as released by NWSO and ASDHS. Facebook was cited as one social media platform that has contributed to misinformation. The latest example was last Friday's "tsunami advisory" following a 6.8 quake.

"We've started our Facebook page, and we ask our partners here and everywhere else to follow us as well as

[local] Homeland Security with our messages," said Lutu-McMoore. Office of Samoan Affairs official Tumuatasi Apoga Custodio believes the problem is "how we take the message out there" and suggested that local radio stations get their broadcast signals out to outlying villages. For example, at Alataua County on the western side of Tutuila, there's bad reception or no reception at all and that's why residents in those village listen to broadcasts from Apia, he said.

Other areas that don't

receive local radio reception are the northern shore villages of Afono, Vatia and Masefau, he pointed out. "So it's not about the information and message, it's how to get the message out," he continued, and suggested the need to "upgrade our communication system" to get the message to all community members. Tumuatasi said mayors of outlying villages with no local radio signal can help when a storm is approaching, by ringing the church bell or village bell to alert villagers and others nearby.



# Babies mistakenly...

Continued from page 1

the names not the babies.”

“My niece called saying that she is in the hospital and they just came and took the baby away from her after telling her the results of the DNA test.”. She was crying so hard I could not make out what else she was saying.” The Aunt told Samoa News.

She also told Samoa News, that they had tried talking to Legal Aid for advice and were told to call the LBJ Nurses Office and no one answered. They then tried calling the LBJ

Social Services Manager and again no luck.

“We just want to understand how this can be done the way it was done. The baby has been with us for a month. We just feel so helpless and honestly don’t have a clue on how to handle this,” Samoa News was told.

A reliable source at the LBJ Nurses Office confirmed with Samoa News that there was a mix up with the two babies and that they have been switched back to their natural mothers.

# Barack Obama shows up in Chicago for jury duty; not chosen

CHICAGO (AP) — Former President Barack Obama, free of a job that forced him to move to Washington for eight years, showed up to a downtown Chicago courthouse for jury duty on Wednesday morning. Then he heard the words most prospective jurors pray for: You’re dismissed.

The 44th president’s motorcade — considerably shorter than the one when he lived in the White House — left his home in the Kenwood neighborhood on the city’s South Side and arrived at the Richard J. Daley Center shortly after 10 a.m.

Obama — wearing a dark sport coat, dress shirt, but without a tie — waved to people who gathered outside.

Shortly before noon, Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans told reporters that the former president had not been selected for jury duty. But Obama was ready to serve if told to do so, Evans said.

In fact, Obama was also summoned in 2010 but that was during the period when he was the most powerful leader in the world, and he was able to postpone reporting, according to his spokeswoman, Katie Hill.

On Wednesday, Obama did get the prospective juror experience of sitting through a decades-old, 20-minute video in which Lester Holt— now the anchor of NBC Nightly News but back then on local news — explained the ins and outs of jury duty.

Obama’s experience was a bit different than the others who watched the video. When he arrived there was a feeding frenzy as crowds of people inside the courthouse took photos and videos of the former president. As happens most days, would-be jurors brought books, but on Wednesday some people brought books Obama had authored in hopes he might sign them. He obliged them and posed for photographs, Evans said.

“Look at this. Did you know I was coming?” he asked one man who held a copy of Obama’s “Dreams From My Father.”

Thomas Pearson, who took the video and called the experience of shaking hands with Obama “the best thing I experienced in my entire life,” said he wasn’t going to show up for jury duty until his mother texted him that Obama would be there.

For his troubles, Obama is in line to receive \$17.20 .



# FA’ASILASILAGA SE’I EFKAS VAILOA

Aso To’ona’i, Novema 11, 2017

E muamua lava ona ta le pula ma fa’atulou atu i le Paia ma Mamalu i lau Tapuaiga Samoa, e amata mai i le Oneone Sa, Le-Ufitia o le Tuimanu’a, se’i pa’ia le Tai Ulaula o Nafanua, na tau’ilo ai Malo, Tulou.

Ae, o le a tu’u sa’o ia sa matou leo, ona o le taimi ua vave, e fa’asilasila atu ai ma le ava tele e tatau ai, ona o pepa se’i o le EFKAS i Vailoa, ua tau’aaoina e le mamalu o le atunu’u, o le a fa’ataunu’uina pea le tatou SE’I, i le Aso Toonai, Novema 11, 2017 (Aso Malolo mo Fitafita o le Malo Tele) ae le o le Aso 13, 2017, e pei ona atofaina.

Ma, o le a faia ai fo’i ma le tatou ta’aloga BINGO, i le 10:00 a.m.

Talosia ia, ia molio’o atu ai lo outou soifua ma si o matou ola, i le Alofa Tunoa o le Atua Soifua.

Ma le fa’aaloalo tele,  
O le Komiti,  
EFKAS Vailoa

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# Air Force Academy silent on motive in alleged racist hoax

DENVER (AP) — The Air Force Academy said Wednesday it would not discuss what led a student to allegedly stage a hate crime, but a researcher said those who commit hoaxes are sometimes trying to bolster their reputations or want to deflect attention from trouble they are in.

The academy said this week that an African-American student acknowledged writing anti-black slurs in a dormitory in September and that an investigation confirmed the student was responsible.

The epithets prompted academy superintendent Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria to sternly warn students that racists were not welcome at the school, and he invoked some of the racial tensions that have been gripping the country. A video of the speech has been widely viewed online.

Silveria stood by his comments Tuesday after the slurs

were revealed to be a hoax, saying the need for a culture of respect can never be overemphasized.

Academy spokesman Meade Warthen said he could not discuss what may have motivated the student, citing privacy laws.

Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, said hate-crime hoaxes are often meant to attract or divert attention or they can be a political statement.

The slurs were found at a prep school on the Air Force Academy grounds outside Colorado Springs.

The prep school helps potential academy cadets meet the academy's entrance requirements.

The student, whose name was not released, has left the school, but officials will not say whether the student was expelled or withdrew.



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Ross Langston of Windward Community College, Erik Franklin from the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, and Ken Longenecker of the Bishop Museum (not pictured) are conducting daily sessions at the Fish Market space at the Fagatogo Market Place for local DMWR marine biologists and ASCC marine science students on the reproductive lifespan of the local favorites — Alogo, Poge, Laea and Ume. For the next two weeks, they are collecting specimens of these fish for the study. (See yesterday's Lali for details.)

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

## Death of man who caught fire after Taser under investigation

LINDSAY, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma authorities are investigating the death of a man who was hit by an officer's Taser and caught on fire after allegedly dousing himself with gasoline and taking out a lighter.

Norman police requested a welfare check Tuesday on a man who'd made comments about suicide, said McClain County Sheriff Don Hewett.

Authorities, who were responding to a call of a man acting erratic, found the man about 2 miles (3 kilometers) northwest of Lindsay sitting inside a van with a container of gasoline.

Authorities said the man refused to step out of the vehicle and was disregarding the officers' orders. He later came out of the vehicle with a lighter in his hand. He caught fire after a police officer deployed a Taser.

The man was burned beyond recognition, Hewett said.

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# Two local companies...

Continued from page 1

ties,” Gurr explained to Samoa News earlier this week. “But how can we be liable for others bringing in Gatorade? I have no idea where they are sourcing the product.”

According to her, businesses that sell fake knock offs rape the economy of quality and standards, for profit.

Inspectors from the Department of Health recently shut down - for one week - operations at Pacific Mini Mart for unsanitary conditions. It was during that week that PPTC officials contacted DOH to assist with weeding out the questionable Gatorade products being sold there.

Samoa News contacted DOH Chief Inspector Onosa'i Aulava yesterday and he confirmed that he and his crew confiscated three cases of Gatorade from the store, because the product looked “old” and it appeared as if some of the additives were settling at the bottom of the bottle.

Aulava explained that their role is to remove products that are unsafe for consumption and added that the Gatorade they removed was not stored properly. “It looked like it had been sitting in storage for far too long and by the time they were put up for sale, the appearance just wasn't right.”

Samoa News understands that officials from Pacific Mini Mart claim they are not bringing the Gatorade products in to the territory but instead, they are

buying it from another local supplier whose identity is yet to be revealed.

But Gurr contends that the information she received from Customs is that a container carrying 700 cases of Gatorade had landed and was delivered. Of course, it didn't belong to PPTC, the sole distributor.

“Store owners who are bringing in the items that we hold sole distributorship for are riding off of our success,” Gurr said.

“A huge amount of money goes into maintaining a product's image, advertising, promoting, etc., and it only takes one mishap for everything to spiral downwards.”

She described the situation as being “risky” and said she has tried to get a restraining order to immediately stop the sale of Gatorade by Pacific Mini Mart.

“We knew the product was coming in, but didn't know it had floating particles in them,” Gurr said. (See photo). “I

don't know how many stores are selling the Gatorade from Pacific Mini Mart but the public needs to be warned that it is not authentic, it is not from us.”

According to her, when she tried to input the bar code off the label of the Gatorade being sold at Pacific Mini Mart, no information could be obtained. She explained that the bar codes usually reveal the lot, batch, and other pertinent manufacturing information of a product.

Gurr said it's one thing to wholesale the product to one store, but actively mass distributing it on the market is just wrong. She said there are no laws to protect them and the government needs to do something about it.

Samoa News understands that Gurr has reached out to the Attorney General's Office and she was told by one of the legal counsels there - in not so many words - that basically, in order for them to step in, someone has to get sick or die from consuming the product.



Liu Lino Lafaele met up with Congresswoman Aumua Amata when she was in Las Vegas recently. Lafaele is a senior at UNLV and was very glad to have met up with his former boss. He sends his love to all his family here at home. Lots of love for all!

[courtesy photo]

## Men freed on bail after 24 years in prison in deadly robbery

NEW YORK (AP) — Two men imprisoned for nearly a quarter-century in the killing of a New Jersey video store clerk were freed on bail Wednesday to await new trials after new tests found someone else's DNA on a key piece of evidence.

“I feel great,” Eric Kelley said by phone as he dined with family after he and Ralph Lee walked out of the Passaic County Jail, free for the first time since 1993.

After years of unsuccessful appeals, “finally, it's here now — I'm a free man,” Kelley said.

A judge granted Kelley and Lee new trials in September, but they had remained behind bars amid legal arguments over their bail, which was eventually reduced from \$1 million to \$20,000 apiece. Their release came after the New Jersey Supreme Court turned down prosecutors' appeal of the bail decision. Prosecutors also are appealing the decision granting the two new trials, and that appeal has not been decided.

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*FILE - In this Oct., 31, 2017 file photo, U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Joseph A. Felix, his wife, and his lawyers exit a courtroom after testimony at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Closing arguments could begin soon for a former Felix, a Marine Corps drill instructor facing court-martial on charges including cruelty and maltreatment. Prosecutors have spent more than a week at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina laying out the case against Felix. They returned to court Wednesday, Nov. 8.*

(Rory Laverty /The Washington Post/via AP, File)



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### Responsibilities and Duties:

- Oversee the State/Territory wide strategic plan development and deployment;
- Provide needs-based services and professional development for the American Samoa SBDC;
- Possess strong coaching skills for utilization to all stakeholders and clients;
- Be knowledgeable and willing to actively manage client, stakeholder relationships and market;
- Manage marketing and promotional activities which includes: 1. ensuring American Samoa Community College (ASCC); 2. Small Business Administration (SBA) and SBDC branding is well recognized and represents a quality organization;
- Measure, analyze and maintain performance metrics in accordance with SBA and SBDC's agreed upon milestones and measures;
- Manage SBDC scorecard performance;
- Ensure customer, stakeholder and market needs are understood and where possible measured;
- Ensure security and confidentiality of client information and efforts.
- Provide and manage the following SBDC services: Counseling, Business Training, Technology transfer, Research and Development, Succession Planning, Continuity Planning, Community assistance, Export assistance, Government 'contracting assistance, Regulatory compliance;
- Serve in institutional committees as designated by President as a leadership member,
- Oversee the planning, development and implementation of SBDC programs within the College and in the Territory of American Samoa,
- Supervise all SBDC staff and ensure governance in accordance with State and College policies;
- Oversee the budget and utilization of all program monies in compliance with program specifications.
- Perform other related duties as required by President of College.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- Possesses a Master's degree required in Business Administration, or related field(s). Doctor's degree strongly preferred;
- Five years to ten years of experience in business administration or similar or related experience. Military experience is a plus;
- Knowledge of federal, state and local business development issues;
- Knowledge managing federal grants, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements, and/or negotiating agreements;
- Excellent communication, presentation skills, experience working in team environment;
- Proven experience in building and maintaining partnerships and working with diverse client base;
- Must be proficient with MS Office Suite software and Neoserra – client training and advising tracking.

**Salary:** Salary will commensurate with degree and experience. (\$ 45,000 + based on qualifications)

**Application Deadline:** Open Until Filled

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office [www.amsamoa.edu/employmentopportunities](http://www.amsamoa.edu/employmentopportunities) or main office at 699-9155 Ext. 441/428/429 or email: [ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu](mailto:ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu).

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# Prosecutor says Marine Corps drill instructor was a 'bully'

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — A Marine Corps drill instructor was a "bully" who punched, choked and kicked recruits, focusing his abuse on three Muslim volunteers he derided as "terrorists," a military prosecutor said at a court-martial Wednesday.

Eyewitnesses testified of seeing Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Felix slug recruits in the face and hit others with a rifle, terrorizing recruits sometimes while drunk, Lt. Col. John Norman said in his closing arguments.

"He was drunk on power and sometimes Fireball whisky, and he used that power again and again," Norman said. "He abused his power to abuse his recruits. He punched them. He kicked them. He degraded their religion, and he put them in industrial appliances."

Felix did not testify. His chief defense attorney, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Bridges, said the dozens of prosecution witnesses gave contradictory accounts which the government unfairly fashioned into a case against the brawny drill instructor who called all recruits "terrorist." Young men told investigators fanciful stories including one in which Felix grabbed a recruit by the throat and lifted him off the ground with one arm, Bridges said.

"Just because a lot of people said it, doesn't mean it's beyond a reasonable doubt," the attorney said. "Not credible equals not guilty."

An eight-man jury at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, starts deliberating Thursday.

Felix was charged after the Marines investigated what drove one of his Muslim trainees at the Parris Island, South Carolina, boot camp to commit suicide in March 2016.

Investigators found unchecked abuse of recruits by junior drill instructors at the training depot. Six drill instructors, including Felix, were charged and the training battalion's commanding officer fired. A court-martial for Lt. Col. Joshua Kissoon is scheduled for March. Eleven others faced lesser, administrative discipline, said Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Joshua Pena.

Witnesses during the previous seven days of Felix's court-martial included two former recruits who said Felix ordered them into a commercial clothes dryer. One former trainee, Lance Cpl. Ameer Bourmeche, said the dryer was turned on as Felix demanded he renounce his Islamic faith.

Bourmeche testified that after he obeyed and climbed into the dryer, Felix and another drill instructor asked him whether he was a Muslim. He twice confirmed that he was, Bourmeche testified, and twice the trainers sent him for a bruising, scorching tumble inside the dryer. After a third spin, Bourmeche said he feared for his life, and renounced his creed.

## ▶ ASCC awards...

*Continued from page 5*

ASCC also offers the Presidential Merit Scholarship, also of \$500, which is open for application by full-time students either eligible for financial aid or not. Among other criteria, applicants must have completed 24 credits and maintained a grade point average of 3.60 or higher.

This semester's recipients are Ms. Louaivasa Lailu and Ms. Rianna Lafaele.

Ms. Lailu graduated from Pacific Horizon Academy last year, and now majors in Liberal Arts at ASCC. She has done volunteer work with the American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and has noted the prevalence of substance abuse among her peers.

"My ultimate goal is to work towards reversing these situations by furthering my education at a U.S. university and earning a degree in Psychology," she said.

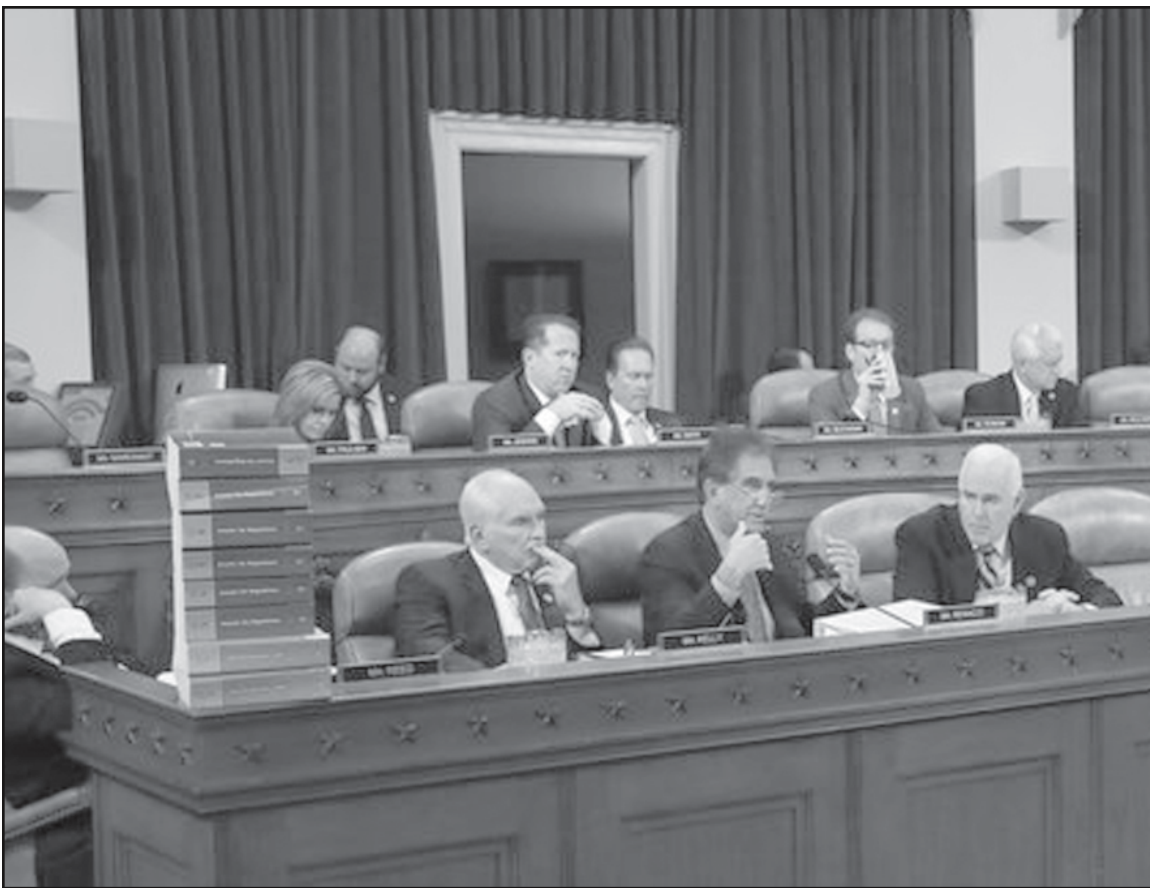
Ms. Lafaele has also volunteered at the Alliance, as well serving as a Youth Leader Assistant for her church. She graduated last year from

Inderkum High School in Sacramento, California, where she also participated in the International Baccalaureate Program and served as president of the school's Polynesian Club. Another ASCC Liberal Arts major, Ms. Lafaele intends to use her scholarship award towards her priorities of furthering her education and doing service for others.

ASCC Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i congratulated this semester's in-house scholarship recipients and encouraged all students who feel they may be eligible to apply in the future.

"We feel fortunate to have these resources available for students who make significant academic achievements even without the benefit of financial aid," she said, "and we hope the public will join us in also recognizing the community service these individuals often provide." For more information on scholarship opportunities at ASCC, contact the Student Services Division by calling 699-9155 and asking for extension 376.





The House Ways and Means Committee continues its debate over the Republican tax reform package, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

# Trump administration officials meet GOP senators on tax bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top administration officials met privately with Republican senators Wednesday as Senate GOP tax writers put finishing touches on their high-stakes bill cutting levies on people and corporations and reshaping the federal tax code.

A day before Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, planned to unveil the legislation, some of its most basic contours were set while others seemed in flux.

As leaders hunted for ways to pay for their tax cuts, Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., said the measure would fully eliminate the deduction people can take for state and local property, income and sales taxes. The House version would retain the deduction only for property taxes and cap that at \$10,000, drawing opposition from GOP lawmakers from states with high local taxes like New York and New Jersey.

Perdue said the Senate plan would compress the current seven personal income tax brackets down to four. On Tuesday, two Republicans had said the bill would retain the seven brackets but cautioned that changes were possible.

Hatch's plan was likely to include a one-year delay in its reduction in the corporate tax rate, which will be permanent, said a GOP aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. Shrinking that rate to 20 percent from its current 35 percent has been a chief goal of President Donald Trump and the business community, and delaying that reduction would help contain the bill's costs.

"We're excited, everything looks good," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters after he and chief White House economic adviser

Gary Cohn met with Republicans on Hatch's panel in the Capitol late Wednesday.

The tax bill must worsen federal deficits by no more than \$1.5 trillion over the coming decade. If Republicans don't do that, the measure will be vulnerable to a bill-killing Senate filibuster by Democrats that GOP senators lack the votes to block. It also cannot add to red ink beyond the first 10 years without facing the same fate.

Across the street, the House Ways and Means Committee completed a third day of debate on the nearly \$6 trillion legislation, with the Republican-led panel wading through dozens of amendments and rejecting Democrats' efforts to revise the bill.

Republican leaders want the panel to approve the bill Thursday. Their goal is for Congress to send a measure to Trump by Christmas, which they hope would protect their congressional majorities in next year's elections.

A preliminary estimate by Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation said the House measure would add \$74 billion more to 10-year deficits than the \$1.5 trillion target allows.

Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, plans to make last-minute changes in the measure before final passage, presumably to meet the target and nail down GOP votes so the House can approve the legislation soon. Democrats are expected to uniformly oppose the legislation.

The committee voted along party lines against a battery of Democratic proposals to restore to the bill tax benefits to student borrowers, people with significant medical expenses, homeowners and teachers.

The proposed elimination

of the deduction for medical expenses not covered by insurance is especially controversial. The deduction has helped offset costs of such things as nursing home care, laser eye surgery and out-of-state travel for a second opinion on a rare cancer.

Eliminating it "is a direct assault," said Rep. John Larson, D-Conn., the failed amendment's sponsor.

"This is devastating to individual families."

House Speaker Paul Ryan said the Republican drubbing in Tuesday night's elections "just puts more pressure on making sure we follow through" on the party's drive to overhaul the tax code.

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Virginia Gov.-elect Ralph Northam celebrates his election victory with his wife Pam and daughter Aubrey, right, and Dorothy McAuliffe, wife of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe at the Northam For Governor election night party at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017.  
(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

# Democrats get boost from election wins around the country

NEW YORK (AP) — Democrats woke up to a big dose of good news Wednesday as they dissected election results from around the country. One year after the surprise election of President Donald Trump, there were plenty of encouraging signs for Democrats trying to travel the road to recovery. Some key election takeaways:

### TRUMP RESISTANCE IS REAL

After a series of losses in red-state special elections, Democrats finally had the night they needed to prove the much-discussed “Trump resistance” movement can be an electoral force. They notched a showy win in the Virginia governor’s race, where Ralph Northam won by nearly nine points. The New Jersey governor’s race was a Democratic blowout. Maine voters approved a Medicaid expansion that was seen as a referendum on former President Barack Obama’s health care law. And Manchester, New Hampshire, elected its first Democratic mayor in a decade. Activists emboldened by Trump’s victory have long claimed they had the power to change elections. They finally proved it at the ballot box.

### TRUMPISM WITHOUT TRUMP DIDN’T PAN OUT

Just before Election Day, former Trump strategist and Breitbart boss Steve Bannon credited Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie of Virginia with rallying behind the president’s agenda, saying a perceived boost in the polls was an indication that “Trumpism without Trump can show the way forward.” But the opposite may be true. Gillespie may not have fully embraced the president, but he did his part to court Trump voters — including embracing the president’s rhetoric on Confederate monuments and kneeling by NFL players during the national anthem. He even received an Election Day boost from Trump himself in the form of robocalls that declared Gillespie “tough on crime and on the border.” But it was all for naught, as the lobbyist and former official in President George W. Bush’s administration was trounced by Northam.

### LOOK OUT DOWN BALLOT

It may not have garnered as much attention, but Democratic gains in statehouses could lead to lasting political consequences in Washington. That’s because state governments control redistricting, the once-every-decade process of redrawing congressional districts. The GOP controlled the vast majority of state houses in 2010

and used that edge to create advantageous political maps in many cases. If Tuesday’s results are a harbinger of what’s to come, Democrats may be poised to flip the script.

In Virginia, Democrats picked up at least 14 House seats, and the state House majority remained in reach with a handful of races still too close to call. In Washington state, Democrats need to pick up just one seat to control the state Senate. Democratic activists are vowing to redouble their efforts in down-ballot races going forward.

### TRUMP AND GOP MAY HAVE A SUB-URBAN VOTER PROBLEM

In Virginia, Gov.-elect Northam more than doubled Hillary Clinton’s margin of victory, and the results can’t be solely attributed to anti-Trump enthusiasm. The GOP is showing signs of struggle in the suburbs, where Trump already had run weaker in 2016. That’s a sign of trouble for the party before the midterms. Take Chesterfield County, Virginia, a reliably conservative suburb of Richmond, where Gillespie underperformed even Trump. It will take weeks to precisely diagnose the drop-off in GOP support. But in recent years, the GOP has relied heavily on suburban votes to maintain safe seats in Congress, as they’ve used redistricting to carve out more favorable districts for the party. An erosion of support in those strongholds could have dire consequences for the party.

### TAX REFORM JUST GOT HARDER

It was never going to be easy for Trump and his allies in Congress to overhaul the nation’s tax laws. Facing a wall of Democratic opposition, GOP leaders have to persuade virtually every Republican member to support their tax plan. Some members serving in swing districts already were nervous. After Tuesday, it’s hard to imagine that vulnerable Republicans across New York, New Jersey and California are more willing to take a risk on taxes or any major policy that could hurt their constituents. Blue-state Republicans already have raised concerns that the current House tax plan largely wipes away the deduction for state and local taxes, which could be a major problem for residents and business in high-tax states. House Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican, said Wednesday that it’s more important than ever for his party to pass a tax bill. For some of his members, it’s also more risky.



# Trump isolationism allows China to fill Southeast Asia void

BEIJING (AP) — When Chinese leader Xi Jinping said last month that “no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation,” he might as well have been talking about Donald Trump as the U.S. president makes his first official visit to Southeast Asia.

As Trump steers his administration’s focus inward, China has stepped into what many see as a U.S.-sized void left behind in the region, boosting cooperation on infrastructure, security and trade, flooding eager countries with tourists and offering itself up as a model for developing nations with sometimes dodgy rights records.

China’s rise in influence, and the perceived decline of the United States by some in the region, is all the more extraordinary because Beijing has often been seen as an arrogant bully in Southeast Asia, where it is mired in disputes over competing claims in the South China Sea. Throughout the region, countries have looked at Xi and Trump and found more stability and reassurance from the Chinese president, said Richard Heydarian, a Manila-based Asia specialist and author.

“America is clearly on a downward trajectory in terms of its influence in the region,” Heydarian said. “Donald Trump comes in and he sounds even more protectionist than China. So you have a strange, in fact surreal, situation whereby China is now presenting itself as the guardian of the global economic order.”

A look at how new approaches from Trump and Xi have countries in Southeast Asia attempting a sometimes awkward balancing act:

### TRUMP: “RADICALLY DIFFERENT”

Perhaps Trump was always destined to come up short in any Asia comparison with his predecessor, Barack Obama, whose childhood was partly spent in Indonesia and Hawaii.

Obama, who hosted Southeast Asian leaders last year in the United States, made much of a supposed “pivot” of U.S. attention back to Asia after what his administration portrayed as years of neglect.

The biggest signal that Trump appeared willing to cede ground to China came shortly after his January inauguration, when he withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, saying he preferred one-on-one pacts that brought more benefits to the United States.

Obama had presented the deal among Pacific Rim countries, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Singapore, as symbolic of U.S. commitment to the region — and a crucial curb of Chinese power.

As the remaining TPP countries discuss ways to do the deal without Washington, critics say Trump’s protectionism will allow China to establish greater inroads. During a recent trip to Washington, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong nicely summarized the dilemma many in the region face because of a “radically different approach” under Trump.

The Chinese, Lee said, will pursue their objectives “assiduously, quietly farming away, and they will make friends and influence people whether or not you (the United States) are there, and if you are not there, then everybody else in the world will look around and say, ‘I want to be friends with both the U.S. and the Chinese, and the Chinese are ready and I will start with them.’”

Trump is set to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vietnam, where he may offer up a broader Asia policy, and meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Philippines.

A scheduled meeting with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte could be a good signal on how Trump may be received in the region.

Duterte, who rejected Trump’s White House invitation earlier this year, recently told reporters in the Philippines, a U.S. treaty ally, that he would welcome Trump as “the important leader on this side of the planet.”

### XI: STANDING “TALL AND FIRM”

During his speech last month at the twice-a-decade Communist Party congress, Xi, who has cemented his status as China’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, declared that his nation “now stands tall and firm in the East.”

China’s judgment that the U.S. is in decline, which can be traced to the onset of the global financial crisis in 2009, “is even more certain today, as it sees U.S. global leadership eroding under President Donald Trump,” Bonnie Glaser and Matthew Funairole, China experts at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington, wrote recently.


Part of the explanation for China’s rise in Southeast Asia is Beijing’s decision last year to “proactively moderate” its positions on the South China Sea, which it claims nearly in its entirety, said Shi Yinhong, an international relations expert at Renmin University of China.

Beijing has also made progress because of what its critics call a willingness to support countries in the region accused of systematic human rights abuse or corruption.



FILE - In this April 28, 2017, file photo, an attendee at a conference looks up near a portrait of Chinese President Xi Jinping with the words “Xi Jinping and One Belt One Road” and “One Belt One Road strategy,” in Beijing. Part of the explanation for China, “rise in Southeast Asia is Beijing, “decision to , “proactively moderate, “its positions on the South China Sea, which it claims nearly in its entirety, said an international relations expert. Xi, “his biggest move in the region, the “One Belt, One Road” initiative, seeks to link China to Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond with a sprawling network of roads, railways, ports and other economic projects.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)



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POWER AUTHORITY

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

### PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Operator I	Posting Date	October 30, 2017
Department	Engineering	Deadline	November 10, 2017, 4:00 pm
Division	Environmental Services Division	Starting Rate	\$7.28/hr
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation		
Reports To	Water Distribution Supervisor	Job Grade/Status	D/1/A, Non-Exempt

Major Duties & Responsibilities

his position is an entry level/trainee position within the Water Distribution Operator series. Will assist in the maintenance, repair, and construction work on the potable water treatment and distribution system of the Water Division; will assist in operating maintenance and construction tools and equipment; assist in a variety of maintenance tasks relative to water distribution and treatment. We are looking for a thorough worker that will have good attendance and is resourceful in completing assignments.

Minimum Requirements

Education	1-year vocational certificate or 2-year associate's degree
Experience	Detail-oriented; able to work with data, make decisions, understand mechanics. Previous experience in related work environment. Fluently speaks and writes in English. Basic computer knowledge and word processing skills. Ability to obtain a Water Distribution System Operator Level 1 certification within 12 months of hire.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assists in handling water quality and low pressure complaints. Assist in completing service orders assigned to complaints, or provide necessary information to request further work to another branch of division if solution cannot be completed under his/her scope.</li><li>Participates in all phases of water supply, treatment, distribution, such as pumps, controls, valves, addition of chemicals, inspection of water surface elevation; determination of loss of head, meter and gauge readings; repairing feed equipment and valves;</li><li>Assists Level I, Level II, Level III and Level IV operators in guaranteeing the adequate production, treatment and delivery to the water distribution system a potable water in substantial quantities and high quality;</li><li>Assists with establishing maintenance schedules with routine daily lubrication of equipment;</li><li>Assists Level I, Level II, Level III and Level IV operators in normal and emergency service situations;</li><li>Assists in conducting field laboratory tests, and sampling required to assure efficient operation of the water supply and treatment;</li><li>Learn how to identify service and main leaks; and assist in operating pipe locator</li><li>Learn to read and update water distribution maps and as-built plans and blueprints.</li><li>Assist in repairs, maintenance and installation of water meters and related service lines; read meters; turn services off and on as necessary.</li><li>Assist in underground service alert locating, marking and notification.</li><li>Assists other personnel as necessary under the direction of the Chief Operator;</li><li>Ability to communicate orally with co-workers is important and be able to write and converse fluently in both English and Samoan languages.</li><li>Demonstrates the ability and willingness to work in a team environment in the course of daily activities.</li><li>Good manual dexterity for the use of common tools is required. Standing for extended periods is common. Hearing and vision within normal ranges is important.</li><li>Lifting of up to 50lbs. is required.</li><li>Enters and works in a confined space;</li><li>Be available to work after hours and on weekends, holidays, whenever necessary.</li></ul>

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Jimi Westbrook, from left, Karen Fairchild, Kimberly Schlapman, and Philip Sweet, of Little Big Town, arrive at the 51st annual CMA Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, in Nashville, Tenn.

(Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)

## Country singers honor Vegas victims with music at CMA Awards

Eric Church, Keith Urban, Darius Rucker and Lady Antebellum opened the 2017 Country Music Association Awards with a touching performance honoring the 58 people killed at a country music festival last month.

The Wednesday night awards show in Nashville, Tennessee, kicked off with Church singing an emotional version of “Amazing Grace,” later joined by the other performers for “Hold My Hand.”

At the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas on Oct. 1, a gunman fired on the crowd from a hotel room while Jason Aldean was onstage. Nearly 500 people were injured.

Reba McEntire, Luke Bryan, Thomas Rhett, Tim McGraw and others joined in to sing along at the Bridgestone Arena, earning a large applause from the crowd.

“This has been a year marked my tragedy ... Tonight we’re going to do what families do, come together, pray together, cry together and sing together, too,” co-host Carrie Underwood said.

“This show is dedicated to all those we lost,” fellow host Brad Paisley said.

Paisley and Underwood are celebrating their 10-year anniversary — as hosts of the CMAs. They joked at the top of the show about CMA sending

restrictions to press about what to ask singers on the red carpet, saying they shouldn’t ask about politics or guns. They also riffed on politics, taking shots at both President Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

“Maybe next time he’ll think before he tweets,” they sang to the beat of Underwood’s mas-sive hit, “Before He Cheats.”

Underwood will wear sev-eral hats during the show as host, performer and nominee. Last year, she ended Miranda Lambert’s six-year streak as female vocalist of the year. Both singers are nominated for the award this year, along with McEntire, Maren Morris and Kelsea Ballerini.

Nominees for the show’s top prize, entertainer of the year, include Bryan, Chris Stapleton, Urban, Church and last year’s winner, Garth Brooks.

## Seattle elects first woman mayor in nearly a century

SEATTLE (AP) — The booming liberal city of Seattle will get its first woman mayor since the 1920s after former U.S. Attorney Jenny Durkan defeated urban planner Cary Moon for the office left open by a sex abuse scandal.

Durkan maintained her 20-point lead Wednesday when a second batch of ballots was tabulated and released in the all mail-in election.

Durkan captured just over 60 percent of the votes while Moon tallied about 40 percent.

“While the election results will probably continue to tighten, the outcome is unlikely to be what we hoped,” Moon said in a statement.

She said she had offered her congratulations to Durkan.

“I urge her to boldly confront the challenges facing our city and to remember that Seattle’s prosperity should provide shared opportunity and success for everyone, not just the wealthy few,” Moon said.

Seattle voters chose between Durkan and Moon to replace former Mayor Ed Murray, who resigned earlier this year amid accusations of sexual abuse.

Because Murray resigned, Durkan will take office as soon as the election is certified in late November, instead of January.

Durkan had a message Tuesday night for the president of the United States whose policies she opposed during her campaign: “Can I just say, Donald Trump, keep your hands off Seattle.”

Durkan will lead the city as it deals with the benefits and drawbacks of an economy that is booming for some but not others as e-commerce giant Amazon expands.

The two-woman matchup came after Murray dropped his re-election efforts amid accusations that he sexually abused several men. Murray denied the allegations.

Murray had been expected to easily win re-election after pushing through increases to the city’s minimum wage and emerging as an opponent of Trump, whom Seattle voters overwhelmingly rejected in 2016.

The race between Durkan and Moon centered on how the city will respond to changes largely brought by Amazon, which employs about 40,000 people in Seattle. Housing prices have skyrocketed amid constant complaints about traffic and worries that the poor and middle class are being priced out.

Durkan, who says she was the first openly gay person to become a U.S. attorney, touted her managerial experience as a prosecutor. Moon, meanwhile, who formerly managed her family’s manufacturing business, stressed that she’s not a politician and focused on her 20 years of activism on transit, waterfront and other city issues.

The race attracted big money with Durkan’s support including the city’s business and labor establishment. Although it was Durkan’s first run for office, the well-connected player in city and state Democratic circles raised nearly \$1 million. An independent-expenditure committee working on Durkan’s behalf raised some \$847,000 to pump into election efforts.

Moon’s donations topped \$355,000 with over \$176,000 coming from her private bank account. An independent-expenditure group for Moon raised over \$27,000.



Seattle mayoral candidate Jenny Durkan applauds supporters as she takes to the stage at an election night party Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, in Seattle. Voters were picking a female mayor of the Northwest’s largest city for the first time in 90 years, choosing between former U.S. attorney Durkan and community activist Cary Moon.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)





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**PUBLIC JOB POSTING**

Position Title	Construction Worker I	Posting Date	October 30, 2017
Department	Engineering	Deadline	November 10, 2017, 4:00 pm
Division	Environmental Service Division (ESD)	Pay Rate	\$6.51/hr - \$8.50/hr
Position Type	1 Year Contract	Job Grade/Status	C/1/B – C/5/A, Non-Exempt
Reports To	ESD Construction Project Engineer		

**Major Duties & Responsibilities**

Install and maintain pumps, pipes and manholes. Complete construction work on assigned projects; ensure maximum usage of ASPA resources to complete projects on time and within budgets; perform other duties as assigned and needed.

**Minimum Requirements**

Education	High School diploma or GED certificate preferred. Solid, related work experience in construction can be considered in place of the minimum educational requirement.
Experience	Minimum of two (2) years of successful construction work experience with some plumbing construction experience. Pipe fitting experience preferred.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manual labor involved in the construction and maintenance of ASPA Waste Water (WW) facilities.</li><li>Familiar with construction safety standards. Confined Space training a plus.</li><li>Operates a variety of hand and power tools to perform WW construction work including digging and filling ditches and trenches, loading and unloading of cinders, sewer pipes and other material.</li><li>Have special skills to use power tools to assemble on-site septic tanks.</li><li>Familiar with maintenance of equipment and tools.</li><li>Quickly handle &amp; solve related problems.</li><li>Good attendance record; Communicate effectively in both Samoan and English languages.</li></ul>

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# Self-operating shuttle bus crashes after Las Vegas launch

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The robots won this one.

A driverless shuttle bus was involved in a minor crash with a semi-truck less than two hours after it made its debut on Las Vegas streets Wednesday in front of cameras and celebrities.

The human behind the wheel of the truck was at fault, police said.

Las Vegas police officer Aden Ocampo-Gomez said the semi-truck’s driver was cited for illegal backing. No injuries were reported.

“The shuttle did what it was supposed to do, in that it’s sensors registered the truck and the shuttle stopped to avoid the accident,” the city said in a statement. “Unfortunately the delivery truck did not stop and grazed the front fender of the shuttle. Had the truck had the same sensing equipment that the shuttle has the accident would have been avoided.”

The oval-shaped shuttle that can transport up to 12 people has an attendant and computer monitor, but no steering wheel and no brake pedals. It uses GPS, electronic curb sensors and other technology to make its way. It was developed by the French company Navya and was tested in January in Las Vegas.

At the unveiling ceremony,

officials promoted it as the nation’s first self-driving shuttle pilot project geared toward the public.

Before it crashed, dozens of people had lined up in downtown Las Vegas to get a free trip on a 0.6-mile loop in downtown Las Vegas. City spokesman Jace Radke said the shuttle took two more loops after the crash.

NASCAR driver Danica Patrick and magic duo Penn and Teller were among the first passengers. The transportation company Keolis is operating the shuttle. Its vice president of mobility solutions, Maurice Bell, said the bus will scoot through Las Vegas at more than 15 mph. AAA Northern California, Nevada and Utah, which is sponsoring the one-year pilot project, expects that 250,000 people will use the shuttle.

Las Vegas resident Stacey Gray and her dog Socrates were among the first to board the bus Wednesday. She said the drive was so smooth that she couldn’t even tell she was in a car, but approaching the intersection made her a little nervous.

“A little bit of that looking around and you know wondering if it was going to stop, and ‘Oh my gosh, there’s a car behind us, kind of little hesitation,’” she said. “But it stopped and it was fine.”



A masked environmental activist wags mock dollars bills during a protest outside the JP Morgan Chase & Co. office to urge the multi-national company to stop its funding of a coal-fired power plant in the country and other coal projects all over the world Friday, Oct. 13, 2017, in suburban Taguig city east of Manila, Philippines. The activists, who described coal use as one of the main contributors to global warming and climate change, urged the financial institution to instead channel their funding to solar, wind and other renewable sources of energy.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

# House approves bill to expand hydropower

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled House has approved a bill aimed at expanding hydroelectric power, an action supporters said would boost a clean source of renewable energy but opponents denounced as a giveaway to large power companies.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington state, would define hydropower as a renewable energy source and streamline the way projects are licensed, with primary authority granted to a single federal agency. Lawmakers approved the bill Wednesday, 257-166.

Power from rivers and streams makes up nearly 70 percent of electricity generated in Washington state and accounts for more than 50 percent of power in Oregon and Idaho and 36 percent in Montana. But hydropower only accounts for 7 percent of electricity nationwide. McMorris Rodgers, the fourth-highest ranking Republican, said that figure could be doubled without constructing a single dam. While it takes an average of 18 months to license a new natural gas plant, it can take up to 10 years or longer to license a new dam or relicense an existing dam, she and other Republicans said.

Only 3 percent of the nation’s 80,000 dams now produce electricity. Electrifying some of the larger sites - primarily locks and dams on the Ohio, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas Rivers that are operated by the Army Corps of Engineers - would generate electricity for millions of homes and create thousands of jobs, an Energy Department report said. The bill would make the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the lead agency on hydropower licensing and require states, tribes and other federal agencies to defer to the commission.

# Feds: Parking lots owner swindled Los Angeles VA out of \$11M

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who operated parking lots for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles defrauded the agency out of \$11 million, using the money to fund a lavish lifestyle that included multi-million-dollar condos, several luxury cars and a speedboat, authorities alleged Wednesday.

Richard Scott, 58, owner of Westside Service LLC, kept two sets of books for 15 years, stashing millions in unreported cash and millions more in over-reported expenses, a U.S. attorney’s statement said.

He was arrested on Wednesday in Santa Monica. He has not yet entered a plea and it’s unclear whether he has hired an attorney.

Court papers say Scott used the wealth he gathered to buy three \$2.5 million condominiums in Santa Monica, a racing boat in Miami, and luxury and vintage cars that include Ferraris, Corvettes, high-end Mercedes-Benzes and a Shelby Super Snake Mustang. Federal authorities are now moving to

seize those assets.

Scott charged the VA for extensive travel, though all his business took place in the same area of Los Angeles, an FBI agent said in an affidavit of more than 100 pages outlining the alleged fraud.

Scott is also charged with bribing the VA official who granted his parking contracts for years starting in 2003. The official abruptly retired in 2014 when confronted by federal agents. “He was definitely bribing me and I was definitely looking the other way,” the official said in the affidavit. The official was not identified and it’s not clear whether he is also facing charges. Scott under-reported revenue by at least \$4.6 million and over-reported expenses by at least \$8.2 million, court papers say. The vast VA parking lots are on prime real estate in West Los Angeles and are also used for UCLA basketball games and other events. Federal agents say Scott also pocketed an undetermined amount from those events that went unreported.

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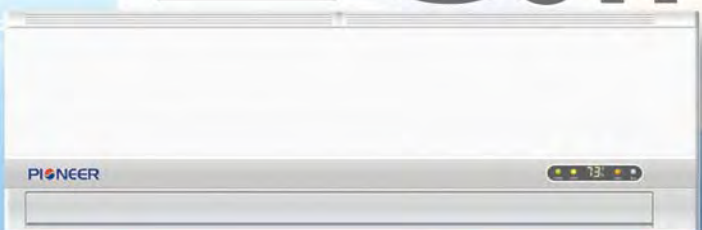
  
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