



Makavelli and Manaia Novera, of Avaio, with their proud parents Suluape Riccy Lamositele and Lilia Fonoimoana. The Novera boys have been recognized as one of the Top 56 players in the nation, in the 7-8 grade level, hence their selection to play in the upcoming Freedom All American Game set to be held in California, July 5-8. See story in today's sports section for full details.

[photo: courtesy]

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Fishery meeting highlights dispute between ASG and longliners over fishing grounds

ASG REP SAYS IT'S A LOCAL PROBLEM, LOCAL LONGLINER REP SAYS IT'S 'POLITICAL'

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

The ongoing dispute in the territory between two fishery groups over the Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA) "is a local problem... an American Samoa problem" to be resolved locally, declared Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources director Va'amua Henry Seseapasara at last Friday's final day of the 172nd Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Honolulu.

Council executive director Kitty M. Simonds noted that the LVPA issue affects people's lives and livelihoods; while Longline Inc., president Christinna Lutu-Sanchez claims that ASG's position is part of a political agenda and in the meantime the longliners are becoming an "endangered fleet."

Va'amua (the ASG rep on the Council) and Lutu-Sanchez, along with StarKist Samoa official, Taotasi Archie Soliai are American Samoa's three members on the Council, which was initially to act last Friday on amending the LVPA to help the struggling US longline fleet — vessels 50 feet and over — based in the territory. Instead, the vote has been postponed until the June meeting on Maui island, Hawai'i, while four recommendations were passed, despite Va'amua casting the sole 'no' vote on all four recommendations, citing on advice from his legal team. (See yesterday's edition for details).

Prior to the vote, Lutu-Sanchez reminded the Council of their "obligations to uphold the national standards" of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act "of ensuring optimum fish yield and supporting US fisheries all together."

While she appreciates all the ongoing efforts in American Samoa for fisheries, "there hasn't been any sincere attention to address the problem faced by the local [US] longline fleet," Lutu-Sanchez said. She called on the Council "not to forget the US longline fleet based in American Samoa. You don't want that US fishery to disappear. You want to make sure it continues there. They are private investors [who] put their family monies to start that fishery. As you know it's very difficult to establish a fishery." She recalled the charts and other information presented earlier in the week during the meeting showing the downward trend of the US longline fleet, which is down to 12 vessels as of early this year. She wondered out loud if some Council members

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ASG directors can't appear in the Fono at this time, says Lolo

THEY ARE THE ONES ASSISTING FEMA REPS WITH GITA RECOVERY EFFORTS

by Ausage Fausia

Samoa News Reporter

Some lawmakers don't support the decision by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga to allow deputy directors to appear during House hearings to answer questions from faipule, as directors who are being requested to appear are the ones with key roles in the government's partnership with FEMA.

During the House session yesterday, Vice Speaker Fetu Fetui Jr. informed faipule that he has received a letter from the Governor asking the Fono to exempt all directors from appearing for committee hearings, due to their busy schedule with FEMA.

Fetu told his colleagues that he has no problem with deputy directors appearing in lieu of directors.

"We have to take into consideration the pleas from the Executive Branch that all of the cabinet members have a busy schedule, helping

our people with the FEMA assessments and other events that benefit our people. I don't see any problem having deputy directors appear because they are the ones working together with the directors in making decisions for their departments," Fetu said.

Rep. Gafatasi Afalava and Rep. Vui Florence Saulo did not agree.

Afalava said, "If that's the governor's decision, I believe the directors should come to the hearing while the deputy directors work with FEMA in the assessments."

He added that if there is a letter from the governor, each faipule should have a copy of it.

Vui seconded Afalava's objection, saying she has been working with the Government's Assessment Team since the first day after Gita until this week, and she has noticed that not all directors are part of the group.

She said the only director who is involved in

(Continued on page 10)



Last Thursday, Day #4 of Developmental Disability Awareness Week for special education (SPED) students from the Blue Empire, the agenda included a special visit to the Governor's Mansion at Mauga-o-Alia, where the students, along with staff members and teachers, were greeted and hosted by First Lady Cynthia Moliga (back row, center).

[photo: BC]

Police assemble patchwork of clues in hunt for Austin bomber

NEW YORK (AP) — In the search for answers to a series of explosions in Texas, authorities have come ahead with a simple plea to whoever’s behind the blasts: Talk to us.

The Austin police chief’s direct appeal, complete with promises to listen to the bomber and try to understand the reasons, reflects the stubborn progress of the investigation in which there’s no known motivation and the ties between the victims are opaque at best. It may also represent a ploy to coax a response that could give clues or help police prepare for what might come next. “It puts law enforcement and police in a down power dynamic and instills power on the person,” said Randall Rogan, a Wake Forest University professor who is an expert on forensic linguistic analysis and worked with the FBI on the Unabomber case. “It gives (perpetrators) a sense of satisfaction, of pride, of accomplishment, that they are in charge.”

An explosion on Sunday night was the fourth in Austin this month, and represented a stepped-up level of sophistication in the attack. Unlike the previous bombings, which involved packages left on doorsteps, the latest one was placed near a hiking trail and had a thin translucent tripwire like fishing line. Two people have died in the explosions and four others have been injured.

Hundreds of officers from multiple law enforcement agencies are on the case.

Rogan said as time passes, it’s likely the person or people behind the explosions will seek more than just the thrill of the crimes themselves and will desire more recognition, something that could drive them to make contact with police or release some sort of communiqué or manifesto. He said the new complexity of the fourth bombing might suggest it was a test for something even bigger.

“This is an increase and expansion of sophistication and most likely a trial run for something to come in the future,” Rogan said.

Robert Taylor, a former police detective who is now a criminologist at the University of Texas at Dallas, said eventually there will be a break in the case, but how long it will take remains to be seen.

(Continued on page 8)

First batch of tax refunds set for release today

by Samoa News staff

More than \$600,000 in tax refunds for tax year 2017 is scheduled to be released today, according to ASG Treasurer Ueligitone P. Tonumaip’e a in a brief statement yesterday afternoon.

All those who filed taxes between Jan. 1st and 24th will have checks released Tuesday, Mar. 20th, according to the Treasurer’s statement, which also notes that total refunds released today amount to \$684,905 — with \$254,369 for local and \$430,536 for the Additional Child Tax Credit, which is funded by the US Internal Revenue Service.

Tax filers are reminded that refunds are disbursed based on the person’s date of filing with the Tax Office. “We thank the public for their patience,” Tonumaip’e a said.

Release of tax refunds comes amid many complaints within the community, people calling into the Samoa News wondering why it’s taking so long for ASG to release refunds, especially those who filed early — like in January.

Samoa News understands that complaints were also directed to the Tax Office and ASG Disbursing for the late release of refunds.

While most people claim that those who file taxes in January generally get their refunds

in mid to late February, Samoa News points out that in the past two years — for tax years 2016 and 2015 — the first batch of tax refunds weren’t released until the second week of March.

Cannery workers are usually the ones who file early in January and get their refunds checks first.

Tax refunds also come at a time when those who are expecting checks are looking at using the money to make necessary repairs to their homes, damaged by Tropical Storm Gita, while awaiting any federal assistance from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Federal investigators work near the site of Sunday’s explosion, Monday, March 19, 2018, in Austin, Texas. Multiple people were injured in the explosion Sunday night, and police warned nearby residents to remain indoors overnight as investigators looked for possible links to other package bombings elsewhere in the city this month.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

Turkish leader vows wider offensive against Kurdish militia

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkey’s president vowed Monday to keep up the pressure against a U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish militia after his troops captured the Syrian town of Afrin, threatening to expand the military offensive into other Kurdish-held areas across northern Syria and even into neighboring Iraq.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared set on forcing Washington to reconsider its partnership with the Syrian Kurdish fighters, the main U.S. ally in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Turkey first launched its military operation in Syria in 2016, and Erdogan has repeatedly said it will not allow a “terror corridor” along its border — a reference to territories controlled by the Kurdish forces, which Turkey views as terrorists because of their links to Kurdish insurgents fighting inside Turkey.

Emboldened by Sunday’s capture of Afrin, Erdogan went even further on Monday, asserting that Turkish troops and allied Syrian forces would press eastward, targeting territory that includes Kobani, a town that has become a symbol of the fight against the Islamic State militants, as well as Qamishli, where the Syrian government controls an airport and a security zone.

Also in the cross hairs is Manbij, a town jointly patrolled by U.S.- and Kurdish forces and where U.S. bases are housed, triggering concerns over potential friction with U.S. troops.

Erdogan even threatened to target Iraq’s Sinjar mountains, used by Kurdish fighters to move between Iraq and Syria, and which Turkey claims is a stronghold for the outlawed Kurdish rebels fighting an insurgency in its southeast.

“We’ll continue this process until we completely abolish this corridor,” Erdogan said. “One night, we could suddenly enter Sinjar.”

Nicholas Heras, a Middle East Security fellow at the Washington-based Center for a New American Security, said the capture of Afrin was a “milestone” for Turkey in Syria but was not the end of its campaign against the Kurdish militia, known as the Syrian Kurdish People’s Defense Units, or YPG.

“The final destination is a Turkish war on the Kurds throughout northern and eastern Syria that destroys the YPG and forces the Americans to work by, with and through Turkey” in the fight against IS and in Syria, he said.

U.S. support of Syria’s Kurdish militia, which Turkey views as a threat to its national security, has soured relations between the two NATO allies. Ankara has accused the U.S. of not fulfilling a promise to move Syrian Kurdish fighters out of Manbij. Seeking to ease tensions, U.S. and Turkish officials

(Continued on page 10)



General Membership Meeting
On
TROPICAL CYCLONE GITA
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Benigno B. Ruiz Opening Comments
Federal Coordinating Officer

To Be Determined..... **Discuss how programs assists the Access Functional Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) and Unmet Needs (AFN) community**

Yolanda Stokes **Programs geared to help businesses and individuals**
Small Business Administration


Jacqueline Haylinger **DRC (IA) process and closing comments**
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by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

WOMAN ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING HER DRUNKEN HUSBAND

Taken into custody last Thursday night by police, was a mother of three from Fagaima, for allegedly assaulting her drunken husband, who had come home and wanted to cause trouble with her.

The 41-year-old woman made her initial appearance in District Court last Friday on one count of third degree assault and private peace disturbance. Her attorney, Assistant Public Defender Kate Hannaher entered a not guilty plea to both charges, and asked the court to release her client on her own recognizance. Prosecutor Bianca Lherisson did not object to the defense’s motion.

The government claims that the charges against the defendant stem from an incident that involved her and her husband, and it began with a verbal argument between the two, after the husband came home very drunk and tried to question his wife about issues pertaining to their family, including how their money is being spent.

And while it was the husband who started the verbal argument, it was the wife that initiated the physical confrontation by pushing the man down and punching his face multiple times.

A family neighbor called police for assistance after they overheard the woman yelling profanity from inside their house.

Police arrived a few moments later and found the husband sitting on a chair outside of the house with blood on his face. When police asked the husband what happened to his face, he explained that his wife had punched him multiple times.

Neighbors told police that this is not the first time the couple has fought, and in a previous incident, the woman allegedly assaulted her husband, as she is bigger than him.

While the defendant is released on her own recognizance, the court has ordered that she find another place to stay while her case is pending. She is also ordered not to make direct or indirect contact with her husband without the court’s permission.

To protect the identity of the victims in domestic cases, Samoa News does not identify the parties by name.

SANI TULI

After violating conditions of probation from a previous case, Sani Tuli was ordered last week

to serve 30 days — without release — at the Territorial Correctional Facility.

At sentencing last Thursday, District Court Judge Fiti Sunia explained that Tuli was sentenced to 16 months probation, after being convicted in Feb 2017 for public peace disturbance.

However, about 6 months after that, the defendant was again charged (September 2017) for misdemeanor public peace disturbance and was sentenced to 18 months probation. Then last month, the Probation Office filed a motion in court to void the defendant’s probation for failure to comply with all conditions of his probation.

In its motion, the Probation Office informed the court that Tuli tested positive for marijuana. Additionally, Tuli failed to visit the Probation Office once a month and did not attend and complete anger management as well as alcohol counseling classes.

Sunia agreed with the Probation Office and Tuli was sentenced to 30 days in jail without release.

Upon release from detention, Tuli is ordered to comply with all conditions of his 18-month probation, especially the condition to stay clean and sober.

MAVAEGA FONOTI

A man accused of cursing and causing a disturbance in his neighborhood on Nov. 26th has been charged with three misdemeanor counts of public peace disturbance, resisting arrest, and escaping from confinement.

According to court information, police received several calls from neighbors regarding Mavaega Fonoti, who was swearing at them and causing trouble. When police went to look for him in Ili’ili, the defendant allegedly took off.

Fonoti was later found in his home.

Police escorted him outside, but he broke free and ran down the road. The cops were able to apprehend him and take him to the Tafuna police substation, where Fonoti complained of pain in the abdominal area and breathing problems. He requested medical assistance and the EMS showed up.

The defendant then requested further medical treatment at LBJ Hospital and EMS transported him there, according to court documents, which also states that police called ahead to notify LBJ security.

Upon arrival at the hospital, Fonoti fled before he could be treated by medical professionals, the government alleges. The defendant was later apprehended.

After his initial appearance before District Court Judge Fiti Sunia last week, the defendant was released on his own recognizance under special conditions that include no contact with the government’s witnesses.

Fonoti is scheduled to appear in court on Mar. 29 at 8:30am for a pretrial conference.

KAMU ANESI

A young man who is accused of stealing a carton of cigarettes from an Asian store in Tafuna has been charged with misdemeanor stealing and public peace disturbance.

Kamu Anesi made his initial appearance before District Court Judge Fiti Sunia last week, where his attorney, Assistant Public Defender Ryan Nelson requested that his client be released on his own recognizance.

The motion was granted by the court under certain conditions — Anesi is to remain drug and alcohol free, and he is not to have any direct or indirect contact with the government’s witnesses, or try to enter the Asian store where the incident is alleged to have happened.

According to the government, it was around 11:00 p.m. on Mar. 14, 2018 that police got a call that an intoxicated man stole items from an Asian store in Tafuna.

The storeowner told police the defendant came in asking for a carton of cigarettes and after she placed the item on the counter, Anesi put it in his backpack.

Afterwards, the defendant asked for a case of beer.

When the owner walked towards the back to get the beer, Anesi fled, and the owner chased after him for payment of the cigarettes.

The defendant was apprehended and placed in the storeowner’s car to await police, after Tafuna residents who witnessed the chase assisted in his capture.

The storeowner told police this was not the first time Anesi has done this at his store. He told police that around Christmas last year, Anesi walked into the store late at night asking for beer, but he told him that it was past 10:00 p.m. and he couldn’t sell him beer because he was too drunk.

While the owner was talking on the phone, the defendant allegedly took a pack of cigarettes and walked away. The next morning, Anesi’s mother went to the store and apologized to the owner, before paying for the pack of cigarettes.

Anesi’s next court appearance is set for Mar. 29th.

How Facebook likes could profile voters for manipulation

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook “likes” can tell a lot about a person. Maybe even enough to fuel a voter-manipulation effort like the one a Trump-affiliated data-mining firm stands accused of — and which Facebook may have enabled.

The social network is under fire after The New York Times and The Guardian newspaper reported that former Trump campaign consultant Cambridge Analytica used data, including user likes, inappropriately obtained from roughly 50 million Facebook users to try to influence elections.

Monday was a wild roller coaster ride for Facebook, whose shares plunged 7 percent in its worst one-day decline since 2014. Officials in the EU and the U.S. sought answers, while Britain’s information commissioner said she will seek a warrant to access Cambridge Analytica’s servers because the British firm had been “uncooperative” in her investigation. The first casualty of that investigation was an audit of Cambridge that Facebook had announced earlier in the day; the company said it “stood down” that effort at the request of British officials.

Adding to the turmoil, the New York Times reported that Facebook security chief Alex Stamos will step down by August following clashes over how aggressively Facebook should address its role in spreading disinformation. In a tweet, Stamos said he’s still fully engaged at Facebook but that his role has changed.

It would have been quieter had Facebook likes not turned out to be so revealing. Researchers in a 2013 study found that likes on hobbies, interests and other attributes can predict personal attributes such as sexual orientation and political affiliation. Computers analyze such data to look for patterns that might not be obvious, such as a link between a preference for curly fries and

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Needs go unmet 6 months after Maria hit Puerto Rico



FILE - In this Sept. 26, 2017 file photo, downed power lines and debris are seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. Exactly six months after being hit by the hurricane the U.S. territory is still struggling to recover from the strongest storm to hit the island in nearly a century.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Generators are still humming. Candles are still flickering. Homes are still being repaired. Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Maria exactly six months ago, and the U.S. territory is still struggling to recover from the strongest storm to hit the island in nearly a century.

“There are a lot of people with needs,” said Levid Ortiz, operating director of PR4PR, a local nonprofit that helps impoverished communities across the island. “It shouldn’t be like this. We should already be back on our feet.”

Some 250 Puerto Ricans formed a line around him on a recent weekday, standing for more than two hours to receive bottles of water and a box of food at a public basketball court in the mountain town of Corozal. Many of those waiting were still without power, including 23-year-old Keishla Quiles, a single mother with a 4-year-old son who still buys ice every day to fill a cooler to keep milk and other goods cold amid rising temperatures.

“Since we’re a family of few resources, we have not been able to afford a generator,” she said. “It’s been hard living like this.”

Crews already have restored water to 99 percent of clients and power to 93 percent of customers, but more than 100,000 of them still remain in the dark. Justo Gonzalez, interim director for Puerto Rico’s Electric Power Authority, said he expects the entire island to have power by May, eight months after the Category 4 storm destroyed two-thirds of the island’s power distribution system — and just as the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season is about to start.

Gonzalez also pledged to inspect dozens of wooden and cement poles still leaning haphazardly across the island after a wooden telephone pole fell on a car. It killed an elderly couple on Sunday as they returned from a town fair in the mountains of western Puerto Rico. The deaths of Luis Beltran, 62, and Rosa Bosque, 60, have angered Puerto Ricans and raised concerns about the safety of people as they recover from the hurricane.

“It worries me because ... it can happen anywhere,” Mayor Edwin Soto told The Associated Press, adding that crews were going to inspect poles across the mountain town of Las Marias to ensure they are in good condition.

Beltran’s youngest sister, Migdalia Beltran, said her brother was living in New Jersey when Hurricane Maria hit, but that he moved back three months ago to be with family.

“He was No. 1,” she said as her voice cracked and she began to cry. “He was the one who gave me support to keep going.”

The storm caused an estimated \$100 billion in damage, killed dozens of people and damaged or destroyed nearly 400,000 homes, according to Puerto Rico’s government.

In the six months since the hurricane, more than 135,000 people have fled to the U.S. mainland, according to a recent estimate by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York.

More than 40 percent of them settled in Florida, followed by Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania, the study found. Meanwhile, those who stayed behind say they need more help. The AP recently found that of the \$23 billion pledged for Puerto Rico, only \$1.27 billion for a nutritional assistance program has been disbursed, along with more than \$430 million to repair public infrastructure. The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Administration also has spent more than \$6 billion from its standing emergency fund. Meanwhile, the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources issued a letter on Friday demanding that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers explain why it is reducing the number of crews helping restore power when there are still people who remain in the dark.

Fish supply remains a big challenge for StarKist

WPRFMC HEARS HOW CHALLENGES OF 2016, 2017 ONGOING WITH CANNERY

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Fish supply shortages remain a challenge at StarKist Samoa, which has encountered the same issues over the last two years, continuing into the first quarter of this year, according to company official Taotasi Archie Soliai, who told last week’s meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Honolulu that freezer space also is a continuing challenge.

An update status of StarKist Samoa and Tri Marine’s Samoa Tuna Processors Inc., were among the several matters on the “American Samoa Archipelago” agenda for the Council’s three-day meeting in Honolulu which closed last Friday, where many fisheries issues in the territory were discussed.

Taotasi, who is one of the three American Samoa members on the Council, presented on StarKist Samoa, recalling for the meeting, which was streamed live online, that the cannery was closed for five weeks for upgrades to machinery and equipment from October last year to after Thanksgiving in November 2017.

Additionally, the cannery underwent its annual end of the year shutdown last December into the first week of January 2018.

Taotasi explained that the year 2017 challenges were similar to those faced by the cannery the year before, noting that “some of it had to do with fish supply” — for example, 2016 the plant had “some closure” due to supply issues and this was similar in 2017.

“It was more of the same, with respect to albacore supply — there was a shortage in 2016 and into 2017. And the first quarter of 2018 we’re experiencing shortage with albacore as well,” he said and recalled a Council presentation on Thursday showing that the number of vessels that provide albacore for the cannery went from about 60 to about 14 vessels at the moment — local vessels that do provide albacore.

“So it continues to be a challenge,” he said and reminded

Council members that it was on Wednesday, that he mentioned and commended the US Coast Guard for their “efforts trying to provide some assistance to a carrier (vessel)... and Coast Guard has been very helpful in trying to facilitate that carrier delivering directly [to the cannery].”

While he didn’t provide additional details on the carrier, Taotasi did say, “We’re still in negotiations with them at the moment and hopefully within a week, they’ll be able to give some indication with respect to delivering to the [cannery] plant.”

He added that “one of the issues that we’re currently going through” is freezer space. He said the company started last October, during the five-week shutdown, upgrading its freezers, with the work already completed for one of the two freezers. He explained that it takes 4 1/2 months to upgrade the freezers.

Work in repairing and upgrading the second freezer has already begun and hopefully it should be completed by the end of May this year, he said.

However, “we’re seeing a lot of vessels being backed-up — some purse seiners waiting in port for weeks at a time, waiting to be unloaded because we’re very restrictive with respect to freezer space,” he explained.

Taotasi confirmed that StarKist is “currently using part” of the Samoa Tuna Processors cold storage freezer “to try to accommodate some of that volume that’s coming in.”

“That challenge is still going to continue and we’re very thankful that the purse seiners are patient while we try to upgrade the facility,” he said, but he didn’t speak on StarKist Inc. efforts to secure a land lease with ASG to build a new freezer facility.

One Council member noted that it seems that there’s been some investment by the cannery with the freezer facilities being repaired and upgraded. “Can that be perceived as a good sign that the company is investing in the Samoan cannery, good things are to come...?” the

member asked, to which Taotasi responded, “Certainly... those are some of the investments the company has done.”

Taotasi said this is “an indication that the company is still investing and still wants to do business in American Samoa, as long as it remains competitive.”

“All the other challenges we continue to face — whether it be local or federal or from supply — are still challenges that we still face,” he said, adding that “we’re investing and still interested in, and continue investment into American Samoa.”

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

Despite the many issues working against American Samoa, StarKist said last month that it remains committed to working with territorial leaders, “and the people of American Samoa to ensure a globally competitive and viable economic environment for conducting business in the territory.”

STP UPDATE

At last October’s 171th Meeting held in Pago Pago, the Council recommended that Tri Marine give an update on its operation in American Samoa, where it maintains the STP plant, although the cannery side shut down in December 2016.

The Council was informed last Friday that the plant is utilized as a “logistics hub” with limited operations. For example, STP continues to operate its dock as well as one of its cold storage units with a capacity in excess of 5,500 metric tons. Additionally, the company’s wastewater treatment plant is still operational; purse seiner vessel unloading is ongoing; including fish grading and storage and fish test sampling (histamine, salt e.g.)

Tri Marine chief operation officer, Joe Hamby told Samoa News last week that the future of STP “is uncertain”.

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President Donald Trump gestures as h speaks about his plan to combat opioid drug addiction at Manchester Community College, Monday, March 19, 2018, in Manchester, N.H.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

In NH and Iowa, Trump eyes 2020 re-election as midterms loom

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — President Donald Trump’s first visit to New Hampshire as president was soaked in nostalgia for his first campaign — and punctuated with subtle nods to his next one in 2020.

Some Republicans wish he would keep his focus on the election around the corner.

As the GOP faces tremendous challenges in November’s midterm elections, Trump and his allies trained their focus this week on the 2020 presidential primary’s premier states. The president has also added new staff to his re-election campaign and struggled at times to share the spotlight with congressional candidates who need his help. Trump’s attention to his own political future irked some party loyalists who are furiously preparing for midterm elections this fall, which will decide the House and Senate majorities.

“There is a sense that he should make the congressional campaign committees a bigger priority than his own campaign committee,” said Republican strategist Alex Conant.

The early-state focus featured Trump talking opioids Monday in New Hampshire, first daughter Ivanka Trump on the same day promising action on education and infrastructure in Iowa, and Vice President Mike Pence raising money for New Hampshire Republicans on Thursday.

The president took the stage in New Hampshire’s largest city to unveil his plan to battle the nation’s opioid crisis. But first, the Republican president mused about early campaign stops in the state that fueled his rise to the presidency a few years earlier. “It’s great to be back here in the great state of New Hampshire,” said Trump, who recalled the hall at Manchester Community College as the site of one of his first events in the state. “This is the room, right here, so I like this room. This has been a good room.” On its face, the event was focused far more on policy than politics. Yet White House officials acknowledged that any visit to New Hampshire was, by nature, politically strategic. They felt it was time for Trump to revisit a battleground state that would carry great import in the 2020 general election and to guard against any possible Republican primary challenger.

One White House official said that Trump’s travel schedule is determined in large part by a desire to repay those who supported him politically in the past. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the White House’s private political motivations and requested anonymity.

Trump hosted his first campaign rally a month after taking office. His re-election campaign aired its first television ad three months later. He held his first 2020 fundraiser the month after that. And earlier this month, he named a re-election

campaign manager.

“A lot of people wish the midterms were his singular focus and he wouldn’t worry about his re-election right now,” Conant said.

Trump hasn’t ignored the party’s midterm efforts, however.

The president helped generate record fundraising totals for the Republican National Committee. He hosted a fundraiser for Missouri’s Republican Senate candidate last week and he’s set to host another for the House GOP campaign committee this week.

Trump also campaigned for Pennsylvania Republican Rick Saccone ahead of last week’s special congressional election, although the president said little about the GOP candidate during the appearance.

The early state focus comes as Trump eyes an uncertain political future.

Up against the prospect of a GOP electoral disaster this fall — and a special counsel’s investigation — Democrats and even some Republicans are already preparing to challenge him in 2020. Just three days before Trump’s visit, Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona earned a standing ovation after telling New Hampshire voters that he might launch a primary challenge against the president.

“A brush fire for the White House could turn into a full-on wild fire if they’re not careful,” said Matt Moore, who previously led the state GOP in South Carolina, which traditionally hosts the third presidential primary contest after Iowa and New Hampshire. “Particularly in the early primary states, activists can easily feel jilted if they don’t feel the love from the White House. This White House is smart to begin its outreach early,” Moore said. A sitting president hasn’t lost a primary election in modern history. But even if Trump sails through the 2020 primary, he is expected to face stiff competition from the Democratic nominee later that year in both New Hampshire and Iowa, which are considered general election battlegrounds. Trump came in second place in Iowa’s presidential caucus in 2016. His first primary contest victory didn’t come until a week later in New Hampshire. While he lost narrowly the Granite State in the general election, Trump’s inner circle has always reminisced fondly about New Hampshire, believing that it wasn’t until he won there that they felt like he had a shot at capturing the presidential nomination. From the stage in Manchester, Trump made no mention of his re-election bid, save a passing reference to serving “seven more years” in office. Yet politics permeated the event. More than 100 protesters stood outside in sub-freezing temperatures to jeer the president’s motorcade.

Quick challenge for Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The nation’s most restrictive abortion law is headed for a showdown before a federal judge only hours after it was signed by Mississippi’s governor.

U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves late Monday scheduled arguments Tuesday morning over whether he should immediately block the law after a request by the state’s only abortion clinic and a physician who works there.

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed House Bill 1510 on Monday, immediately banning most abortions after 15 weeks of gestation. How quickly will the effects of the law be felt in Mississippi? Dr. Sacheen Carr-Ellis of the Jackson Women’s Health Organization stated in court papers that a woman 15 weeks or more pregnant is scheduled for a Tuesday afternoon abortion.

The law and responding challenge set up a confrontation sought by abortion opponents, who are hoping federal courts will ultimately prohibit abortions before a fetus is viable. Current federal law does not.

Some legal experts have said a change in the law is unlikely unless the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court changes in a way that favors abortion opponents.

“We are saving more of the unborn than any state in America, and what better thing can we do?” Bryant said in a video his office posted on social media.

The law’s only exceptions are if a fetus has health problems making it “incompatible with life” outside of the womb at full term, or if a pregnant woman’s life or a “major bodily function” is threatened by pregnancy. Pregnancies resulting from rape and incest aren’t exempted.

Mississippi previously tied with North Carolina for the nation’s strictest abortion limits at 20 weeks. Both states count pregnancy as beginning on the first day of a woman’s previous menstrual period. That means the restrictions kick in about two weeks before those of states whose 20-week bans begin at conception.

“We’ll probably be sued in about half an hour,” Bryant said to laughter from supporters as he signed the bill. “That’ll be fine with me. It’ll be worth fighting over.”

(Continued on page 11)

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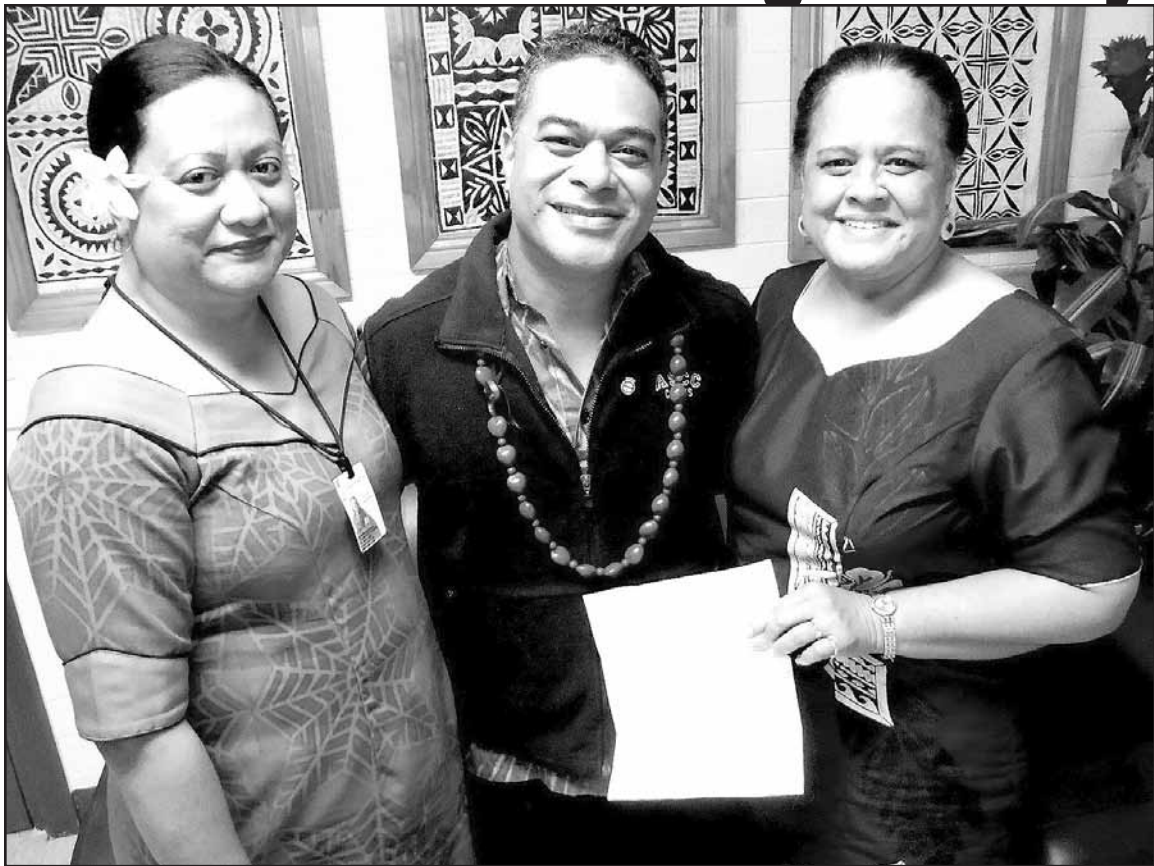
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ASCC advisor recognized by PTK Honor Society



ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato and Dean of Affairs Letupu Moananu presented Fine Arts Department chairman Kuki Tuiasosopo with a letter of recognition from the headquarters of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honors Society. The PTK has recognized Tuiasosopo for five years of service as an advisor to the ASCC Alpha Epsilon Mu chapter of the society.

[photo: J. Kneubuhl]

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

American Samoa Community College (ASCC) president Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato recently received correspondence from the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society commending Kuki Tuiasosopo,

advisor to the ASCC Alpha Epsilon Mu chapter of the PTK, for his five years of ongoing service to the society. Tuiasosopo, who is also chairman of the ASCC Fine Arts Department, organizes the society's induction ceremony each semester and oversees all of the Alpha

Epsilon Mu chapter's additional activity both on-campus and in the community.

"We at PTK owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our chapter advisors whose dedicated service is responsible for the success of our local chapters," wrote PTK President and

CEO Lynn Tincher-Ladner, PhD, to the ASCC president. "Advisors are truly the lifeblood of our organization, and we are delighted to recognize them for their years of service. On your campus, we are proud to honor Kuki Tuiasosopo for five years of service as an advisor of the Alpha Epsilon Mu chapter."

The stated mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders. Headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education, with 1,285 chapters on two-year and community college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, Peru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted since the founding of PTK in 1918, with approximately 135,000 students inducted annually.

"PTK offers its members opportunities in leadership and service, which are important skills to acquire as they move forward in realizing their dreams," said Tuiasosopo. "PTK also offers numerous transfer scholarships that assist our members to pursue higher degrees off-island. For those who choose to remain on island after ASCC, their membership in PTK allows them a smooth transition into the workforce, with their membership in this prestigious student organization is reflected in their resumes."

Tuiasosopo stressed that community involvement is an essential component of PTK membership. "For students to recognize their potential, I believe that we as educators shouldn't limit their experience to within the confines of a classroom. We need to send them out into the public to learn to collaborate in providing services to the community. They realize their own self-worth by making a difference in the lives of other people. ASCC is where our young people can develop both their intellects and their civic responsibilities."

With the above goal in mind, the PTK focuses on two main community service projects each semester. One is their participation in the School of International Training (SIT) Homestay Program, in which individual PTK members host a visiting student from the mainland in their homes for a week. During their stay in American Samoa, the visiting SIT students attend workshops at ASCC along with exchange activities organized by the PTK. While the PTK members earn service points by hosting their SIT guests, Tuiasosopo said the activity offers a learning opportunity of a deeper nature. "In essence, our PTK members really benefit from the intellectual exchanges with the SIT students, and make lifelong friends," he said. "We look forward to hosting 17 SIT students at the end of this month."

For their second project each semester, the PTK organizes a school supply drive to assist Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs. The PTK selects a school, identifies materials it needs, and then spend several weeks collecting these items. Both the Aunu'u Elementary and Coleman Elementary ECE programs have benefited from this service, which PTK plans to continue for the foreseeable future. The PTK has also performed numerous community service activities such as creating a Tsunami Remembrance Banner for the Leone Village Healing Garden, and volunteering as ushers at ASCC workshops, forums, performances and other events, holding a food drive for Hope House at Thanksgiving, and facilitating a toy drive for the Pediatric Ward at LBJ Hospital at Christmas. Tuiasosopo credited the many PTK advisors who preceded him for shaping the Alpha Epsilon Mu chapter's emphasis on both academic excellence and service to the community. He specifically mentioned the late Jim Sutherland, Elvis Zodiacal, Iva Tago, Athena Mauga, Evile Feleti, Tafaimamao Tupuola and Anthony Felise, as well as his current co-advisor Ernie Seiuli and Honorary Advisor Evelyn Fruean. For more information on the PTK, visit their web page at: <www.ptk.org>



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2474-18

Issuance Date: March 09, 2018

Closing Date: March 22, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide **Tech Equipment** for the Department Education-C.A.P. Project.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 10:00a.m. (local time), Thursday, March 22, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. BID DOCUMENTS

Bid documents, including Specifications, may be examined at the Office of Procurement or obtained there from free of charge during normal hours of operation.

4. CONDITIONSa

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

- not accept the lowest or any bid.
- reject all bids and reissue and amended IFB.
- request additional information from any bidder submitting a bid.
- waive any informalities in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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Pacific Island News in Brief

compiled by Samoa News staff

POLICE INJURED IN LUATUANU’U ROAD BLOCK, ARRESTS CONFIRMED

Police Commissioner, Fuiava Egon Keil, has confirmed that several untitled men from Luatuanu’u have been arrested.

He did not have the exact numbers.

The arrests were made when more than 50 police officers descended upon Luatuanu’u to try and calm a situation there where angry villagers had taken to block the road.

Speaking to the Samoa Observer, Fuiava also confirmed that some police officers were injured when they attempted to clear the road block. The men had allegedly thrown rocks at them.

Fuiava spoke to the Samoa Observer following a meeting with the village.

The issue, according to sources, is the result of a fight between the Luatuanu’u youth and nearby village Falefa which started at a rugby game.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

PRISONER STILL ON RUN IN SAMOA AFTER OVER TWO MONTHS

An escaped prisoner in Samoa who has been on the run since December is continuing to give police the slip.

Uili Manuleleua was one of four incarcerated at Tafa’igata Prison who broke out just a few days before Christmas last year.

Two were recaptured just a few hours later and a third a few weeks later.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi said a few weeks ago that Police were “tracing the prisoner”.

Samoa police spokesman Auapa’au Logoitino Filipino said the one eyed prisoner has been convicted of theft and breaking and entering.

(Source: RNZI)

PACIFIC ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

March 15-16, the World Health Organization brought together Pacific government leaders, climate change champions and technical experts to develop the Pacific Action Plan for the WHO Special Initiative on Climate Change and Health in Small Island Developing State, which will cover 22 Pacific Island countries and areas.

Launched at COP23, the WHO Special Initiative on Climate Change and Health in Small Island Developing States aims to protect people living in Small Island Developing States, such as the Pacific, from the health impacts of climate change by strengthening health systems with knowl-

edge, resources and technology to respond to extreme weather events.

Pacific island communities are very vulnerable to extreme weather events, such as rising sea levels, droughts, floods and extreme cyclones - all of which are increasing in severity and frequency because of the effects of climate change. Rising sea levels and increasingly extreme weather events are not only destroying homes, medical facilities and other essential services, but also

Opening this event was WHO’s first Assistant Director-General (ADG) for Climate and other Determinants of Health, Dr Joy St John. “As a citizen of Barbados, another Small Island Developing State, I understand how climate change is having such extreme impacts on our countries,” said Dr St John. “This is why I am so passionate about this Initiative and I am committed to pushing for practical solutions and action to address the health impacts of climate change.”

Representing the importance of this initiative, and the impacts of climate change on health, the event was also attended by the Fiji’s Minister of Health and Medical Services, Rosy Sofia Akbar; the Cook Island’s Honourable Minister of Health, Justice and Parliamentary Services, Nandi Tuaine Glassie; and Dr Corinne Capuano, WHO Director of Pacific Technical Support and Representative for the South Pacific.

Over two days, 35 participants from 18 Pacific island countries and areas, and 25 technical climate change experts and stakeholders from across the world have come together in Nadi, Fiji, to identify key priorities and set the agenda for how best to address the health impacts of climate change in the Pacific.

Participants will also be agreeing upon a timeline and discussing how resources can be best used for the initiative’s implementation.

(Source: WHO media release)

CNMI POLICE RUSHED TO HOSPITAL AFTER INHALING ‘METH’ CHEMICALS

In a sign indicative of the Northern Marianas’ growing drug problem, four policemen were hospitalised on Thursday after reportedly inhaling methamphetamine fumes.

The police officers became dizzy after opening a black backpack hastily left in the tourism district of Saipan by an alleged offender they were chasing.

Upon inspecting the contents of the bag, the policemen were greeted with the nauseous smell of what later turned out



CNMI police check for meth fumes.

[photo: Mark Rabago]

to be chemicals used in making crystal methamphetamine or “ice.”

Medics of the Department of Emergency Medical Services brought the four officers to the Commonwealth Health Center where they were treated and later released.

Police eventually arrested the suspect who threw the backpack during the foot chase.

The Department of Public Safety said they will charge 39-year-old in a federal court for attempting to manufacture a controlled substance.

(Source: RNZI)

SAMOA MEDIA COUNCIL BEATS DRUM ON ITS WORK

The Samoa Media Council has issued a statement to engage with members of the public and raise awareness about some of its initiatives.

“It is also timely in that as of late, the Samoa Media Council have been increasingly fielding concerns from our citizens around social media, the concept of cyber bullying and defamation of character and reputations,” the statement reads.

“We will continue to encourage our media practitioners and the public and consumers of media that our media practitioners’ continuous efforts to uphold the Code of Practice and the professional standards that underpin the code is part of a committed effort to be responsible, independent and genuinely accountable to the public whose trust they depend.

“The Media Council Act

(Continued on page 13)

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In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

HCPR NO. 55-17

In the Matter of the Estate of
HELEN LIUFAU,
Decedent
ELENA LIUFAU AND
MUAU LIUFAU,
Petitioner

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ABOVE-NAMED DECEASED-HELENA
LIUFAU

YOU ARE HEREBY required to present your claims, with supporting documents, to Tauiliili-Langkilde Law, P.O. Box 99-8081, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 or by email to Gwen.langkilde@gmail.com, within sixty (60) days of publication of this Notice or forever have your claims barred.

Dated: March 15, 2018

Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde
Attorney for Co-Administrators
Elena Liufau and Ma'am D. Liufau

Published: 3/20/18

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

HCPR NO. 18-15

In the Matter of the Estate of
KORETI ENELIKO,
Decedent
MUAU D. LIUFAU,
Petitioner

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ABOVE-NAMED DECEASED-KORETI
ENELIKO

YOU ARE HEREBY required to present your claims, with supporting documents, to Tauiliili-Langkilde Law, P.O. Box 99-8081, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 or by email to Gwen.langkilde@gmail.com, within sixty (60) days of publication of this Notice or forever have your claims barred.

Dated: March 15, 2018

Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde
Attorney for Administrator
Muaau D. Liufau

Published: 3/20/18



Pictured is Sarahanetty Ulani, who is the daughter of Sou & Faagutu Ah Colt, after she was inducted into the Faasao Marist Academy’s “Tasi Ae Afe” Chapter of the National Honor Society, along with 34 other students, on Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2018. She is a junior at FMHS, and is seen here with family who gathered to celebrate her induction at the FMHS Hall.

[Courtesy photo]

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LOCATIONS

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03/20	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
	11am-3pm	Lee Auditorium
03/21	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
03/22	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
	11am-3pm	Lee Auditorium
03/23	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
03/24	9am-12.30pm	Laufou Hallway

► Police...

Continued from page 2

“Something will come up somewhere. It will be a fingerprint on an envelope or DNA from saliva or a unique kind of detonator, or someone will just blab in a bar,” he said.

For now, though, the police chief’s plea suggests they haven’t reached that point.

“It’s a sign there’s probably not a lot of physical evidence in these kind of crimes that lead and point to a specific person,” Taylor said.

Every tiny piece of the bombs’ remnants, though, holds the potential to unlock the mystery.

Mary Ellen O’Toole, a retired FBI agent and profiler who worked on numerous bombing cases, including the Unabomber, and now heads the forensic science program at George Mason University, said because bombs require so many components, they increase the chance that whoever built it could leave a trace of themselves behind.

“They’re looking to see if they can determine a signature for the bomber,” she said of investigators.

Scouring the areas where the bombs went off could uncover something — a hair, a skin fragment, a part of a fingerprint — that might lead to the perpetrator. Police will analyze every part of the devices they can recover to see what clues come from wires, tape, the skill and neatness in which they were constructed, and any other detail that might help decode who the bomber is.

“Even the way they bend or roll the wire,” said Michael Bussell, a former Army ordnance disposal technician who now teaches classes on the subject for the online American Military University.



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Fishery...

Continued from page 1

are asking themselves, “those guys are crazy, what are they still doing, operating out there? And the answer is very simple. The remaining longliner operators are American Samoans. Those are the only ones left there.”She noted with concern another report presented during the meeting, which indicates that “there’s a perception” in the territory from others including alia fishermen, “that local longline owners may not be entirely indigenous.”“They are as indigenous as you see me here,” she informed Council members. “I can tell you, that I’m definitely American Samoan and a US citizen. And the other owners are the same. It’s a US fishery and they need help.”She explained that the request for LVPA exemption is to provide some relief access to fishing grounds for the longline fleet.

“Access to fishing grounds is important. We hear the purse seiner owners talk about it,” she said, and she is “so happy” that ASG leaders “work very diligently to help the purse seiner owners get that access [to fishing grounds].” (She is referring to fishing grounds on high seas for purse seiners.)

She asked that ASG “do the same for the longline owners, in our own waters.” She said data provided at the meeting shows a downward trend to the locally based US fleet and the fleet is “going towards the direction of... becoming an endangered fleet.”Lutu-Sanchez claimed that the local US longline fleet “have now become victims of this bigger mission” — whether by ASG or the leaders — “they have found this wonderful opportunity to create a legacy, or use it as a vehicle to gain a bigger political agenda.”

“And it’s really unfortunate, because if you start politicizing things, then it becomes complicated,” she said, adding that the longline request for use of certain areas of the LVPA “is to provide relief and access to fishing grounds for a US fleet operating in American Samoa by American Samoans.”

Council chairman Edwin Ebisui Jr, weighed in on the discussion, saying “fishery management is always a dynamic process. It doesn’t sit still, it’s a constant review, re-evaluation. Things change. There was a time and place for the LVPA separation of the alia fleet and the larger vessels but that’s no longer the case nowadays.”

“With all do respect to the American Samoa government, I feel that we are bound, to respond to the request of the longliners and maximize the national benefits of the fisheries to the United States. And that is by reduction of the LVPA,” he said. Taotasi, in his remarks, reiterated what he told the Council at last October’s meeting, “This is a very contentious issue. It’s been a very sensitive issue, not only at these [Council] meetings, but on island.”

He reiterated that StarKist would not take sides on this

matter. However, the one thing that’s certain — based on presentations at the Council meeting — the decline in vessels and this “also translates into a decline in fish supply.”

“To sum it up ... no fish means, no production,” he declared and “essentially that means no StarKist, essentially that would mean no jobs. And it’s very important that we provide support for the fish supplier.”“The US flagged fleet that catches South Pacific albacore is very critical on some of the brands that StarKist produces. It’s very critical. Some of these US caught albacore, we need them for contracts [such as] school lunch contracts, military contracts and some of the other brands,” he explained.

“It’s very important that we continue to receive some supply from these US flagged vessels and it’s important that we provide some sort of relief and assistance,” he added.

As for ASG’s position on the matter, Taotasi said, “We are very respectful of the position that they’ve taken.” However, looking from a business perspective, regarding the sup-

plier, “there’s very limited” US flagged vessels that supply South Pacific albacore.

Va’amua pointed out that “this problem here, is an American Samoa problem” and “I would not label this as a political problem, or anybody seeking a legacy, or to be famous.”

He said, “But it is a local problem — [between] American Samoa’s two fishing groups,” referring to the locally based US longliner and the alia fleet — in which the LVPA was established in 2002 for the latter. Va’amua said he was hoping that the Council would give American Samoa a chance to work out a resolution and present it to the Council at a later meeting, because this is what Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga wanted to do in the Council meeting held last October. Additionally, the governor had asked his fishery task force to ensure that someone from the longliner association is part of the task force “so we can sit down, find out all the issues and then make a recommendation to the governor,” he said, and noted one of the owners of the large vessel longliners was sent a letter by the governor

to be on the task force but had turned it down. Va’amua said it’s the governor’s wish to have the two groups - longliners and alia - sit together for discussion and present the information to the governor, who would then make a recommendation to the Council. (Both Va’amua and Taotasi are members of the task force.)Ebisui said, “I don’t think there’s anything that prevents the governor from continuing on this course” while the Council continues with its work.

Va’amua responded that the task force could meet again to maybe write a letter to the local longliners association for a representative to sit on the task force, as well as a member from the local alia fishermen association. As to Lutu-Sanchez’s comments about the government helping the purse seiner fleet, Va’amua said, “We cannot compare this to the purse seiners.” But he agreed with Lutu-Sanchez that government “went out and helped the purse seiner”, but that’s an “international problem. This is American Samoa’s problem and should be handled within our territory.”Simonds said to

Va’amua, “I know it’s your problem, but we have a federal fishery.” “It’s affecting people’s lives, livelihoods and the way people look at each other,” she said, referring to a Council presentation on Thursday where the local perception is that longliners are not American Samoans. “We need to get these groups together so the alia group will understand that Christinna and others are Samoans.”

Lutu-Sanchez said she is glad to hear that the governor has interest in getting the two groups — alia and local US longliners — together.

She said the Council was supposed to take final action on the LVPA amendment, but language of the four recommendations has changed and the matter has been kicked back to American Samoa.“If anything, I should be more upset, but it’s the reality that we have and live in,” she said, noting that the text of the recommendations, basically asked the “American Samoa leaders to bring different stakeholders together and try to resolve it, which is in agreement with what the director [Va’amua] has just stated.”



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IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Evaga)



▶ Turkish...

Continued from page 2

held talks about Manbij earlier this month following a visit by outgoing U.S. State Secretary Rex Tillerson. But with Tillerson's firing, the next round of talks has been postponed.

Ozgur 'Ünlühisarcikli', the Ankara director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States think tank, said the capture of Afrin had fulfilled Turkey's aim of preventing the Kurdish militia from linking up its territories in eastern and western Syria, and Erdogan's threat to expand the military operation was a bargaining chip aimed at Washington.

"Politically, though, it would be very difficult to accomplish," he said. Formidable guerrilla fighters, the YPG withdrew from Afrin on Sunday after a Turkish thrust into the town center. They have vowed to continue the fight, using hit-and-run attacks against Turkish troops in Afrin. Such an insurgency could prove to be "a big thorn" for the U.S. military operation in Syria, Heras said. "A YPG insurgency in Afrin would prompt Turkey to escalate against the Kurds throughout northern Syria, jeopardizing the U.S.-led mission to stabilize the areas captured" from IS militants, he said.



Turkish soldiers, positioned in the city center of Afrin, north-western Syria, Monday, March 19, 2018, a day after they took the control of the area. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday following victory in Syria's Afrin region, his country will expand its military operations into other Kurdish-held areas in Syria as well as in Iraq's Sinjar region.

(Hasan Kirmızıtaş/DHA-Depo Photos via AP)

Already, thousands of Kurdish fighters have been redeployed away from front lines with IS to take part in the Afrin battle, threatening to distract from the fight against the extremists. Turkey's state-run news agency said 11 people — seven civilians and four Turkish-backed Syrian fighters — were killed on Monday in an explosion as a building in the town center was being cleared of booby traps. Anadolu News agency said the bomb was reportedly left by the Syrian Kurdish fighters.

The Turkish takeover of Afrin has triggered a humani-

tarian crisis as thousands of residents fled the town to government-held areas. Once a safe area for tens of thousands of displaced Syrians from other parts of the conflict, Afrin residents have become Syria's new homeless. The U.S. State Department said it was "deeply concerned" over the humanitarian situation following Turkey's capture of Afrin. The European Union's top diplomat also criticized the Turkish military offensive in Afrin, calling on Ankara to work to halt the fighting in Syria. Federica Mogherini told reporters in Brussels that international efforts in Syria.

▶ ASG directors...

Continued from page 1

most of the assessments is Faleosina Voigt, the director of Public Works. Vui said she wants to see directors during committee hearings.

HOUSE JUDICIARY & LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING

A hearing before the House Judiciary & Legal Affairs Committee scheduled for yesterday at 11:00 a.m. following the House session was cancelled after subpoenaed witnesses failed to show up.

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale and Public Defender Douglas Fiaui were subpoenaed to testify on various issues regarding drugs, and allegations of mistreatment at the TCF.

Before the hearing was officially cancelled, committee chairman, Rep. Toeaina Fauano asked for a copy of the governor's letter regarding the unavailability of directors to appear before house committees.

He said the main reason why he called the hearing is to discuss allegations by an inmate to a judge that he was badly beaten by prison guards.

Toeaina said he wants the Fono to step up and do something to stop this kind of behavior by people in power.

"I want those inmates to know that we heard their complaints and frustrations and we're not sleeping like idiots, but we're trying our best to dig down to the bottom of what happened so they know their rights are protected under the law," he said.

After copies of the letter were finally handed to each faipule, Rep. Faimealelei Anthony Fu'e Allen acknowledged the governor for his understanding and respect of the Fono. He said the governor would never make a decision on his own unless it's something they all agreed to with Fono leaders.

He pointed out that lawmakers would easily understand the content of the governor's letter if the Secretary of the House did his job by making copies and delivering it to each faipule.

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

In his Mar. 15, 2018 letter to Fono leaders, Lolo wrote, "As a former member of the Legislature I am well aware of the need for the three branches of our government to collaborate on matters of mutual concern to all of us. There

is also the standing and latent respect expected and accorded to each branch. It is for this reason that has prompted this letter lest you deemed the Executive Branch to be disrespectful to the requests of the Fono."

Lolo requested the Fono's patience and leniency with respect to compliance to their requests for directors to appear for hearings. Lolo said early this week, he extended the emergency state for our territory, given the multitude of unresolved and unmet disaster activities.

"Accordingly, we are still operating under the emergency mode, which compels the directors as well as myself to collaborate with FEMA to fashion strategies and operating policies to guide the implantation of our recovery process. This commitment by the Cabinet and Executive Leadership is articulated in the MOU that we entered into with FEMA officials at the onset of our recovery process."

The governor told Fono leaders that FEMA requires the participation of agency leaders who have the authority to make decisions, and directors are the decision makers, not their subordinates.

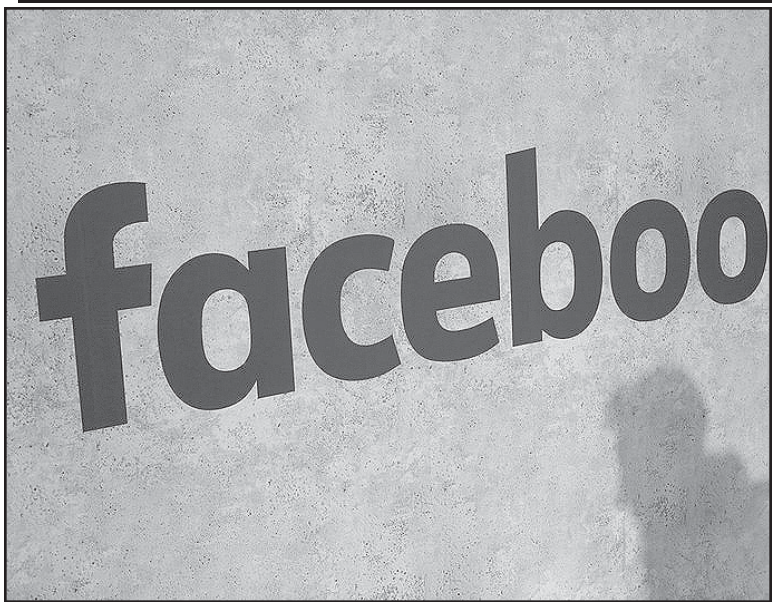
"FEMA has its own timeline to meet, thus it requires instant access and direct collaboration with the directors. I have instructed the directors, pursuant to my assurances to FEMA to make disaster recovery their top priority as the lives of our people are involved and quick solutions are expected."

According to the governor's letter, the directors being requested to attend these hearings are the very ones who are the key players in the government's partnership with FEMA. It would not bode well with regard to their commitment if decisions and activities are suspended until the directors' return from a hearing; since an Executive Decree has been issue impelling all directors to continually be available to FEMA.

The governor then asked for their support to allow the Deputy Directors to instead appear before Committees. He said their most pressing responsibility and duty is to quickly restore normalcy to the lives of people who were victimized by Tropical Storm Gita. He is certain this is also the Fono's major concern and desire.

► How facebook...

Continued from page 3



File - This Jan. 17, 2017, file photo shows a Facebook logo being displayed in a start-up companies gathering at Paris' Station F, in Paris. A former employee of a Trump-affiliated data-mining firm says it used algorithms that "took fake news to the next level" using data inappropriately obtained from Facebook.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus, File)

higher intelligence.

Chris Wylie, a Cambridge co-founder who left in 2014, said the firm used such techniques to learn about individuals and create an information cocoon to change their perceptions. In doing so, he said, the firm "took fake news to the next level."

"This is based on an idea called 'informational dominance,' which is the idea that if you can capture every channel of information around a person and then inject content around them, you can change their perception of what's actually happening," Wylie said Monday on NBC's "Today." It's not yet clear exactly how the firm might have attempted to do that.

Late Friday, Facebook said Cambridge improperly obtained information from 270,000 people who downloaded an app described as a personality test. Those people agreed to share data with the app for research — not for political targeting. And the data included who their Facebook friends were and what they liked — even though those friends hadn't downloaded the app or given explicit consent.

Cambridge got limited information on the friends,

but machines can use detailed answers from smaller groups to make good inferences on the rest, said Kenneth Sanford of the data science company Dataiku. Cambridge was backed by the conservative billionaire Richard Mercer, and at one point employed Stephen Bannon — later President Donald Trump's campaign chairman and White House adviser — as a vice president. The Trump campaign paid Cambridge roughly \$6 million according to federal election records, although officials have more recently played down that work.

The type of data mining reportedly used by Cambridge Analytica is fairly common, but is typically used to sell diapers and other products. Netflix, for instance, provides individualized recommendations based on how a person's viewing behaviors fit with what other customers watch. But that common technique can take on an ominous cast if it's connected to possible elections meddling, said Robert Ricci, a marketing director at Blue Fountain Media.

Wylie said Cambridge Analytica aimed to "explore mental vulnerabilities of people." He said the firm "works on creating

a web of disinformation online so people start going down the rabbit hole of clicking on blogs, websites etc. that make them think things are happening that may not be."

Wylie told "Today" that while political ads are also targeted at specific voters, the Cambridge effort aimed to make sure people wouldn't know they were getting messages aimed at influencing their views.

The Trump campaign has denied using Cambridge's data. The firm itself denies wrongdoing, and says it didn't retain any of the data pulled from Facebook and didn't use it in its 2016 campaign work.

Yet Cambridge boasted of its work after another client, Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, won the Iowa caucus in 2016.

Cambridge helped differentiate Cruz from similarly minded Republican rivals by identifying automated red light cameras as an issue of importance to residents upset with government intrusion. Potential voters living near the red light cameras were sent direct messages saying Cruz was against their use.

Even on mainstay issues such as gun rights, Cambridge CEO Alexander Nix said at the time, the firm used personality types to tailor its messages. For voters who care about tradition, it could push the importance of making sure grandfathers can offer family shooting lessons. For someone identified as introverted, a pitch might have described keeping guns for protection against crime.

It's possible that Cambridge tapped other data sources, including what Cruz's campaign app collected. Nix said during the Cruz campaign that it had five or six sources of data on each voter. Facebook declined to provide officials for interview and didn't immediately respond to requests for information beyond its statements Friday and Monday. Cambridge also didn't immediately respond to emailed questions.

► Quick...

Continued from page 5

Bryant's prediction was accurate. The state's only abortion clinic and one of the physicians who practices there sued in federal court within an hour, arguing the law violates other federal court rulings saying a state can't restrict abortion before a child can survive on its own outside the womb.

The Jackson Women's Health Organization, in a lawsuit handled by the Center of Reproductive Rights, argued the measure is unconstitutional and should immediately be struck down.

"Under decades of United States Supreme Court precedent, the state of Mississippi cannot ban abortion prior to viability, regardless of what exceptions are provided to the ban,"

the suit states.

The suit says the clinic performed 78 abortions in 2017 when the fetus was identified as being 15 weeks or older. That's out of about 2,500 abortions performed statewide, mostly at the clinic.

Carr-Ellis, in a sworn statement, says she'll have to stop providing abortions to women past the 15 week ban, or else lose her Mississippi medical license, as House Bill 1510 requires. She says women shouldn't be forced to carry their pregnancies to term against their wills or leave the state to obtain abortions.

"A woman who is pregnant should have the ability to make the decision that is best for her about the course of her pregnancy, based on her own values

and goals for her life," Carr-Ellis said in the statement.

Republican legislative leaders Lt. Gov Tate Reeves and House Speaker Philip Gunn both attended Bryant's private signing ceremony

"The winners (today) are those babies that are in the womb, first and foremost," Gunn said. "Those are the ones we're trying to protect."

When asked if the state is prepared to bear the cost of a lawsuit, Gunn said, "Absolutely."

"I don't know if you can put any value on human life," Gunn said. "We are all about fighting to protect the unborn. Whatever challenges we have to take on to do that, is something we're willing to do."

'Sex and the City' star Cynthia Nixon running for governor

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Former "Sex and the City" star Cynthia Nixon is running for New York governor.

After flirting with a run for months, Nixon tweeted Monday that she will challenge Gov. Andrew Cuomo in New York's Democratic primary in September.

It sets up a longshot bid pitting an openly gay liberal activist who has never held political office against a two-term incumbent with a \$30 million war chest and possible presidential ambitions.

Her campaign website said Nixon won't accept any corporate contributions and will limit contributions from any individual or organization to \$65,100 for the election cycle.

"We want our government to work again. On health care, ending massive incarceration, fixing our broken subway," Nixon said in a video announcing her candidacy. "We are sick of politicians who care more about headlines and power than they do about us."

Nixon has her work cut out for her. A Siena College poll released Monday showed Cuomo leading her 66 percent to 19 percent among registered Democrats, and by a similar margin among self-identified liberals. Nixon did a little better among younger and upstate Democrats but didn't have more than a quarter of either group.

The poll of 772 registered voters was conducted March 11-16. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Nixon in recent months has given speeches and interviews calling on Democrats nationally to run "bluer" in 2018 and carve out a strong, progressive liberal identity rather than being merely "the anti-Trump party."

"It could be a fight for the soul of the Democratic Party in some sense," said Baruch College political scientist Douglas Muzzio.

Nixon, a 51-year-old Manhattan mother of three, is a long-time advocate for fairness in public school funding and fervent supporter of Democratic New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who has frequently clashed with Cuomo on a range of issues. Her video shows her with her young son Max as she talks about being a proud public school parent.

(Continued on page 14)

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Trump calls for death penalty to ‘get tough’ on drug pushers

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Embracing the tough penalties favored by global strongmen, President Donald Trump on Monday brandished the death penalty as a fitting punishment for drug traffickers fueling the opioid epidemic.

The scourge has torn through the rural and working-class communities that in large numbers voted for Trump. And the president, though he has come under criticism for being slow to unveil his plan, has seized on harsh sentences as key to stopping the plague.

“Toughness is the thing that they most fear,” Trump said.

The president made his announcement in New Hampshire, a state hit hard by opioids and an early marker for the re-election campaign he has already announced. Trump called for broadening education and awareness about drug addiction while expanding access to proven treatment and recovery efforts. But the backbone of his plan is to toughen punishments for those caught trafficking highly addictive drugs.

“This isn’t about nice anymore,” Trump said. “This is about winning a very, very tough problem and if we don’t get very tough on these dealers it’s not going to happen folks. ... I want to win this battle.”

The president formalized what he had long mused about: that if a person in the U.S. can get the death penalty or life in prison for shooting one person, a similar punishment should be given to a drug dealer whose product potentially kills thousands.

Trump has long spoken approvingly about countries like Singapore that harshly punish dealers. During a trip to Asia last fall, he did not publicly rebuke Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, who authorized extrajudicial killings of drug dealers.

Outside a local firehouse that Trump visited before Monday’s speech, someone compared the two leaders with a sign that said: “Donald J. Duterte.”

“Drug traffickers kill so many thousands of our citizens every year,” Trump said. “That’s why my Department of Justice will be seeking so many tougher penalties than we’ve ever had and we’ll be focusing on the penalties that I talked about previously for big pushers, the ones that are killing so many people, and that penalty is going to be the death penalty.”

He added: “Other countries don’t play games ... But the ultimate penalty has to be the death penalty.”

The Justice Department said the federal death penalty is available for limited drug-related offenses, including violations of the

(Continued on page 14)

Want to avoid the flu while flying? Try a window seat

NEW YORK (AP) — Worried about catching a cold or the flu on an airplane? Get a window seat, and don’t leave it until the flight is over.

That’s what some experts have been saying for years, and it’s perhaps the best advice coming out of a new attempt to determine the risks of catching germs on an airplane.

It turns out there’s been little research on the risks of catching a cold or flu during air travel. Some experts believed that sitting in a window seat would keep a passenger away from infectious people who may be on the aisle or moving around.

The new study, published Monday, came to the same conclusion.

For somebody who doesn’t want to get sick, “get in that window seat and don’t move,” the study’s lead researcher, Vicki Stover Hertzberg of Emory University in Atlanta.

The study was ambitious: Squads of researchers jetted around the U.S. to test cabin surfaces and air for viruses and to observe how people came into contact with each other.

But it also had shortcomings. In a total of 10 flights, they observed only one person coughing. And though the experiment was done during a flu season five years ago, they didn’t find even one of 18 cold and flu viruses they tested for.

It’s possible that the researchers were unlucky, in that they were on planes that happened to not have sick

people on them, Hertzberg said.

The new study was initiated and funded by Boeing Co. The Chicago-based jet manufacturer also recruited one of the researchers, Georgia Tech’s Howard Weiss, and had input in the writing of the results. “But there was no particular pressure to change stuff or orient it one way or the other,” Hertzberg said.

The article was released by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers did some mathematical modeling and computer simulations to determine how likely people were to come close to a hypothetical infectious passenger sitting in an aisle seat on the 14th row of a single-aisle airplane. They concluded that on average, only one person on a flight of about 150 passengers would be infected.

Researchers who were not involved said it would be difficult to use the relatively small study to make any general conclusions about the risks of an airline passenger getting a cold or flu, let alone other diseases like measles or tuberculosis.

But it’s a novel study about a subject that hasn’t been well researched, they said. Studies have looked at how respiratory viruses spread in labs and in homes, but “this is the first time I’ve seen it done for airplanes,” said Seema Lakdawala, a University of Pittsburgh biologist who studies how flu spreads.

She and others not involved in the research were intrigued

by the study’s findings about how people moved about the cabin and came in contact with each other.

It found:

—About 38 percent of passengers never left their seat, 38 percent left once, 13 percent left twice, and 11 percent left more than twice.

—Not surprisingly, a lot of the people getting up had an aisle seat. About 80 percent of people sitting on the aisle moved at least once during their flights, compared with 62 percent in middle seats and 43 percent in window seats.

—The 11 people sitting closest to a person with a cold or flu are at the highest risk. That included two people sitting to their left, the two to their right, and people in the row immediately in front of them and those in the row behind.

A lot of frequent fliers will be interested in the study’s results, said Edward Pizzarello, an investor in a Washington-area venture-capital firm who also writes a travel blog.

“It’s absolutely a fear I hear from people all the time. They just believe that they’re going to get sick from going on an airplane, or they got sick from being on an airplane,” he said.

Pizzarello said he’s an aisle person, because he doesn’t want to feel trapped in the window seat if he needs to get up.

Will he now go for the window?

Maybe, he said, if a sick person sits next to him.



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FEBRUARY 27, 2018	5:30PM – 7:00PM
MARCH 17, 2018	10:00AM – 11:30AM
MARCH 20, 2018	5:30PM - 7:00PM
APRIL 28, 2018	10:00AM – 11:30AM
APRIL 30, 2018	5:30PM – 7:00PM
MAY 12, 2018	10:00AM – 11:30AM
MAY 15, 2018	5:30PM - 7:00PM
JUNE 16, 2018	10:00AM-11:30AM
JUNE 19, 2018	5:30PM – 7:00PM

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President Donald Trump speaks at Manchester Community College in Manchester, N.H., Monday, March 19, 2018. Trump is in New Hampshire to unveil more of his plan to combat the nation’s opioid crisis.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

6 months after Mexico quake some still camp outside homes



In this March 14, 2018 photo, members of the Marquez family talk outside the temporary shelter where seven children and four adults from the family are living in a park, six months after an earthquake damaged the Multifamiliares Tlalpan housing complex, toppling one building, killing nine people, and leaving around 300 families in housing limbo waiting for the rest of the buildings to be either repaired or condemned, in Mexico City. Most residents have moved in with relatives or friends, but those remaining are gradually receiving some housing help in the form of temporary one-room shelters built with plywood or with wooden pallets covered by polycarbonate by the Practical Architecture Consultancy (known by its Spanish acronym CAP) and the nonprofit Techo.

(AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

street near their building, which was damaged in the Sept. 19 earthquake.

Six months after the temblor, improvised camps like this one erected by displaced residents are among the most visible signs that not everyone has moved on from the earthquake that killed 228 people in Mexico City and 141 more elsewhere.

Mexico City Reconstruction Commissioner Edgar Oswaldo Tungui Rodriguez said there are 27 such camps around the capital, but denied that people were living in any of them. Rather, he said, quake victims had just posted guards to watch over their property. Camps visited by Associated Press journalists offered a different reality. Maria Patricia Rodriguez Gonzalez has been living under tarps on the sidewalk near the Independence Street building with her 13-year-old son and 27-year old daughter for the past six months.

The residents are still allowed to enter the building, but nobody risks staying there.

The bedroom floor in Rodriguez's apartment has sunk since the earthquake. The ceiling sags and plaster has fallen from the walls. Afraid to use the bathroom there, she heats water on

a gas burner under the tarps and manages a sort of bath inside a portable toilet on the sidewalk.

At first, Rodriguez and other residents say, there was a lot of solidarity in the neighborhood. Some neighbors let them use their bathrooms and shared food after the magnitude 7.1 quake. But as the days turned to weeks and then to months, sentiments shifted. People have stolen the gas tanks they use to heat food. Cars have come close to driving through the camp. Some neighbors have stopped speaking to them, others hurl insults.

"It makes us sad that people insult us without knowing the reality we are living," Rodriguez said. "We're not here because we want to be. We're here out of necessity."

Displaced residents received 3,000 pesos (\$160) each month for the first three months from the government. The idea was that they would rent apartments elsewhere. But residents say that was not enough to rent apartments in their neighborhood and they fear that without their presence, looters will clear out their possessions. Many residents had lived in the building's 37 units for more than 30 years.

► Pacific...

Continued from page 7

2015 and the Code of Practice are quite comprehensive in terms of handing complaints, self-regulation and professional integrity as a cornerstone of a journalist's credibility.

It further states: "This Code of Practice is our practitioners' safety net from any criminal or civil proceeding or the subject of a complaint before the Council and is the reassurance looking forward to grow in the profession.

"Underpinning all of this is also our recognition of the fundamental importance of freedom of expression. Alongside this is a clear public interest in ensuring those who are significantly harmed by unlawful communication have access to meaningful remedies.

"This Code of Practice was 20 years in the making so not an overnight effort but rather has some very strong grounding, expertise and best practice that sits behind it to inform the final product.

These Core Principals are primarily:

1. Be accurate, do not mislead
2. Report fairly and with respect for others
3. Understand the laws as it affects journalism
4. Establish and administer an in-house process for complaints handling
5. Uphold high ethical standards of personal conduct as a journalist
6. Respect people's privacy and dignity
7. Protect the welfare of children
8. Take care when reporting suicide, violence and other sensitive matters
9. Election reporting should be impartial and balanced

"We are also very mindful that we need to appreciate the local context, and that the complaints process needs to meet the needs of all citizens, many whose first language is Samoan.

"As context and society changes, the harms that our people can be subjected too also change, especially with new technologies which can have effects that can be highly intrusive on one's privacy. One of the Councils main concerns is protecting our citizens from substantial harm. It is these citizens which we wish to focus our activities on, citizens with legitimate complaints, thinking they have nowhere to go but the police and justice system.

"We need our complaints system to work better for them so as to get some redress for their harms." For 2018, the Council hopes to establish increased awareness of the complaints process in a way that is easily understood and to continue to promote the Code of Practice and to secure some funding so that they can have a dedicated focal point to handle enquiries and the complaints process.

"We will have monthly meetings which may on occasion involve expert guest speakers or a workshop type meeting. We will also be translating into Samoan as part of reaching our communities these processes and procedures.

"We look forward to ongoing support as we grow as a Media Council and a Council that can be respected for assisting our citizens who require redress when not wanting to revert to the Justice system for remedies for harm caused by false publications," the statement said.

(Media Council press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Under a patchwork shelter of overlapping tarps and repurposed vinyl advertisements, several dozen residents of 18 Independence Street pack cheek by jowl into donated tents in the



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP 029-2018
Issuance Date: March 16, 2018

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

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

"Department of Education - School Lunch Program: Consultant and Project Management Services for the Electrical Transformer Relocation Project"

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **"RFP: Department of Education - School Lunch Program: Consultant and Project Management Services for the Relocation of Electrical Transformer."** Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), April 2, 2018:

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

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

DOCUMENT

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

REVIEW

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

RIGHT OF REJECTION

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

▶ Trump...

Continued from page 12

“drug kingpin” provisions in federal law.

It is not clear if the death penalty, even for traffickers whose product causes multiple deaths, would be constitutional. Doug Berman, a law professor at Ohio State University, predicted the issue would go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

John Blume, a professor and director of Cornell Law School’s death penalty program, said the federal drug kingpin law has yielded few “kingpins” or major dealers, mostly ensnaring mid-to low-level minorities involved in the drug trade.

The president’s plan drew criticism from some Democrats, including Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, who said “we can’t arrest our way out of the opioid epidemic” and noted that “the war on drugs didn’t work in the ‘80s.”

Opioids, including prescription opioids, heroin and synthetic drugs such as fentanyl, killed more than 42,000 people in the U.S. in 2016, more than any other year on record, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Much of what Trump highlighted Monday was largely repackaged ideas he’s already endorsed.

He called for a nationwide public awareness campaign, which he announced in the fall, including broadcasting “great commercials” to scare kids away from dabbling in drugs. He announced a new website, www.crisisnextdoor.gov, where members of the public can share stories about the dangers of opioid addiction.

Trump said the administration will work to cut the number of opioid prescriptions that are filled by one-third within three years.

The president also discussed how his policies, including building a U.S.-Mexico border wall and punishing “sanctuary” cities that refuse to comply with federal immigration authorities, will help reduce the flow of drugs.

Monday was Trump’s first visit as president to New Hampshire, which has long occupied a special place in his political rise. He captured his first Republican presidential primary here in

2016, though he narrowly lost in the general election to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump drew criticism last year after leaked transcripts of a telephone conversation with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto showed he had described New Hampshire as a “drug-infested den.” The Washington Post published the transcripts.

Though the 2020 election is more than 30 months away, early jockeying already is happening in states that play an outsized early role in choosing a party’s nominee. Retiring Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a persistent Trump critic, visited New Hampshire, which holds the nation’s first presidential primary, last week. He told Republicans someone needs to stop Trump — and it could be him if no one steps up.

Meanwhile, the president’s daughter, White House senior adviser Ivanka Trump, spent Monday discussing infrastructure and workplace development in Iowa, which traditionally holds the first presidential nominating caucus.

▶ Sex...

Continued from page 11

Last month, at the annual New York gala of Human Rights Campaign, which has endorsed Cuomo, she took a backhanded stab at the governor’s record: “For all the pride that we take here in being such a blue state, New York has the single worst income inequality of any state in the country.”

A Cuomo campaign spokesman said the governor “has delivered more real progressive wins than any other Democrat in the country,” including legalizing gay marriage, tightening gun restrictions, raising the minimum wage, expanding public education funding and banning fracking.

The 60-year-old Cuomo recently mocked the celebrity status the Grammy, Emmy and Tony winner could bring to the race.

“Normally name recognition is relevant when it has some connection to the endeavor,” Cuomo said earlier this month.

“If it was just about name recognition, then I’m hoping that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and Billy Joel don’t get into the race.”

While Nixon has strong political connections and name recognition in the city that was the backdrop for her Emmy Award-winning role as lawyer Miranda Hobbes in the HBO comedy “Sex and the City,” her star power among upstate voters is less certain.

Jefrey Pollock, pollster and political adviser to Cuomo and other prominent Democrats, said that celebrity isn’t likely to trump governing experience in the voting booth.

“Over and over in our research, Democratic primary voters say they’re not looking for an outsider because they look to Washington, D.C., and see what the outsider has meant to this country,” Pollock said.

The first task for Nixon, Muzzio said, is to launch a listening and talking tour.

US student found dead in Bermuda after intense search



People sit together at the Arboretum after police confirmed they found the body of American college student Mark Dombroski in Hamilton, Bermuda, Monday, March 19, 2018. Dombroski, 19, a member of the rugby team at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, disappeared early Sunday after a night of socializing at the end of an international rugby tournament.

(Blaire Simmons/The Royal Gazette via AP)

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP) — A Pennsylvania college student who disappeared following a rugby tournament in Bermuda was found dead Monday after an intensive search of the British island territory.

Searchers found the body of Mark Dombroski, 19, at the base of a colonial-era fort in a park not far from where he was last seen walking by himself on CCTV footage, officials with the Bermuda Police Service said at a news conference.

A cause of death was not released but forensic experts were still processing the scene where his body was found and an autopsy was planned, said Acting Commissioner James Howard. “Bermuda Police Service extends our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends,” Howard said after a day of searching that included local authorities, volunteers and Dombroski’s family.

Dombroski was a member of the rugby team at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia and had come to Bermuda to compete in a tournament. He disappeared early Sunday, with video footage showing him walking

alone and looking at his phone as he left a bar where his friends had gathered.

He was found at the base of Fort Prospect in a wooded area known as the arboretum and near an athletic center where the team had played during the tournament.

Dombroski’s family rushed to the island to join the search and retrace his steps.

“We dearly love our son, we cherish our son. ... We want him back,” his mother, Lisa Dombroski, said at a news conference with police officials. “We thank the citizens of Bermuda. People have been with us shoulder to shoulder throughout this ordeal.” Detective Sgt. Jason Smith said there’s no evidence Dombroski was drunk, or that alcohol played a role in his disappearance.

Lisa Dombroski speculated her son, who had hurt his shoulder in a game that day and wasn’t feeling well, had simply wanted to call it a night. She said the surveillance footage showed him favoring his arm.

“He wasn’t in a celebratory kind of mood,” Lisa Dombroski said. “He wanted to get back.”

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Norfolk Southern moving derailed freight cars off tracks



Cleanup crews from the Norfolk Southern Railroad and the R.J. Corman Railroad Company remove debris from the site of a train accident, Monday, March 19, 2018, in Georgetown, Ky. Two freight trains collided and derailed shortly before midnight, injuring multiple people and igniting a fire that forced nearby residents to evacuate, authorities said Monday.

(AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley)

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (AP) — Norfolk Southern is moving derailed freight cars off the tracks after two trains collided in Georgetown, Kentucky, and sent four people to the hospital, the company said Monday in a statement.

Four train crew members were taken to the hospital after the crash as a precaution and have been released with no injuries, though one employee is still being evaluated, the statement said.

Officials say the trains collided head-on late Sunday, derailling both locomotives and 13 cars and igniting a fire that forced nearby residents to evacuate. Lexington Fire Department spokeswoman Lt. Jessica Bowman said residents were allowed to return home once officials determined there was no safety risk. Bowman couldn't confirm what substance had spilled and was burning, but Norfolk Southern later said a non-hazardous nut oil had spilled and was being cleaned.

The company said it is working to clear and repair the track and have it back in service Tuesday.

Shortly after the crash, police told the Scott County School superintendent, Kevin Hub, to open schools as emergency shelters, and buses were sent to the neighborhood to collect people without transportation. Hub said he could see smoke billowing from the scene and they were prepared to receive hundreds of people. The Red Cross even arrived with snacks. Shortly after many residents arrived, they were able to return home.

The crash remains under investigation.

At Lemons Hill Elementary, Christina Griffin said she was asleep when neighbors called her around 11:30 p.m. to say they needed to evacuate. As she and her son were leaving, an

Fear mounts in Austin as serial bomber uses tripwire

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The hunt for the serial bomber who has been leaving deadly explosives in packages on Austin doorsteps took a new, more sinister turn Monday when investigators said the fourth and latest blast was triggered along a street by a nearly invisible tripwire.

Police and federal agents said that suggests a “higher level of sophistication” than they have seen before, and means the carnage is now random, rather than targeted at someone in particular. Underscoring that point, a relative says the most-recent explosion left what appeared to be nails stuck in his grandson’s knees.

“The game went up a little bit — well, it went up a lot yesterday with the tripwire,” Christopher Combs, FBI agent in charge of the bureau’s San Antonio division, said in an interview.

Two people have now been killed and four wounded in bombings over a span of less than three weeks.

The latest happened Sunday night in southwest Austin’s quiet Travis Country neighborhood, wounding two men in their 20s who were walking in the dark. They suffered what police said were significant injuries and remained hospitalized in stable condition. Police haven’t identified the victims, but William Grote told The Associated Press that his grandson was one of them, saying he is cognizant but still in a lot of pain. Grote said one of them was riding a bike in the street and the other was on a sidewalk when they crossed a tripwire that he said knocked “them both off their feet.”

“It was so dark they couldn’t tell and they tripped,” Grote said. “They didn’t see it. It was a wire. And it blew up.”

Grote said his son, who lives about 100 yards (91 meters) away from the blast, heard the explosion and raced outside.



American Samoa Government DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Request for Public Comment on Special Education Funding Application

The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) Special Education Division (SPED) has for public review its application for funding under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the US Department of Education.

These funds are used to provide special education services to all school age children, ages 3 - 21 years, in the territory of American Samoa who have a disability that adversely affects their classroom achievements. As a condition for granting the funds, each State or Territory proposing the application must submit the application for public review and comment. The public must be afforded reasonable opportunities for comment 30 days prior to the submission of the application on May 14, 2018. The public hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2018 at the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Conference Room in Utulei at 2:00pm. The Department of Education must review and give due consideration to all comments and suggestions prior to the submission of the application for funding.


Copies of the application are available at the Special Education Office located in Faga’alu. All persons interested in the application are encouraged to pick up a copy between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. Written comments will also be taken during these hours. Comments and suggestions may also be made via email to Faaufono Vaitautolu at faautilu@yahoo.com or Dr. Teresa Le’iato Atuatasi at atuajjj_1999@yahoo.com or may be sent surface mail to Dr. Teresa Le’iato Atuatasi, Assistant Director Special Education Division, PO Box ASDOE-SPED, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

Talosagaina Finagalo Lautele mo le Tusi Talosaga mo Alagatupe Fuafuaina o le Ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa

Ua tu’uina mai e le Matagaluega o A’oga Amerika Samoa (ASDOE) Ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa (SPED) se avanoa e fa’alia ai finagalo fa’alau’itele a le mamalu o le atunu’u mo le alagatupe talosaga i lalo o le Maga B Tulafono mo Tagata o iai Manaoga Fa’apitoa (IDEA) ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa (OSEP) o le Matagaluega o A’oga a le Malo Tele o Amerika (USDOE).

O ia alagatupe ua fuafuaina e fa’atino ai a’oa’oga fa’apitoa tu’uina atu mo tamaiti a’oga uma, e amata mai i le 3 - 21 tausaga, i totonu o le Teritori o Amerika Samoa o lo’o iai manaoga fa’apitoa ua fa’afaigata ai taumafaiga taua’oa’oga i totonu o potu a’oga. O se tasi aiaiga mo le taliaina o le talosaga, e tatau i Setete ma Teritori uma o lo’o talosagaina ia alagatupe ona fa’asalalau a latou tusi talosaga mo se finagalo fa’aalia o tagata lautele. E tatau ona lava se avanoa e silasila lelei ai le atunu’u mo le silafia ma tu’uina mai so latou finagalo fa’aalia e tusa e 30 aso ae le’i tu’uina atu le tusi talosaga ia Me 14, 2018. O le a faia se fono fa’alau’itele ia Aperila 12, 2018 i le potu fonotaga i le Ofisa ASDOE Early Childhood Education i Utulei i le itula e 2:00pm. O le a iloiloina e le Matagaluega a A’oga Amerika Samoa finagalo ma manatu fa’aalia a le lautele ma tu’uina atu ni fautuaga ae le’i o’o i le aso fa’atapula’aina o tusi talosaga.

O lo’o maua kopi o lenei tusi talosaga i le Ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa i Faga’alu. Mo i latou e mana’omia se kopi o le tusi talosaga, e avanoa le ofisa mai le itula 8:00am i le 4:00pm. O manatu fa’aalia e tauala mai i tusitusiga e mafai ona tu’uina mai i taimi ua fa’atulagaina. A iai nisi manatu ma fautuaga, e mafai ona imeli mai ia Faaufono Vaitautolu faautilu@yahoo.com po’o Teresa Le’iato Atuatasi atuajjj_1999@yahoo.com pe tusi mai ia Teresa Le’iato Atuatasi, SPED Assistant Director, PO Box ASDOE-SPED, Pago




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Summer Reading Program
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The Mini Page
Issue 12, 2018

Next Week:
Thomas Jefferson

Founded by Betty Debnam

Dr. King's Legacy



photo courtesy Library of Congress

Mini Quote:

“We are saying that we are determined to be men. We are determined to be people.”

In the United States, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is honored each year in January for his work toward equality for all people. But this year, we'll also commemorate a sad anniversary.

Dr. King was **assassinated**, or murdered, on April 4, 1968 — 50 years ago next week. This week, The Mini Page learns more about that tragic day and how Dr. King's nonviolent approach to change has lived on.

Martin's life

King was born on Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He had an older sister, Christine, and a younger brother, A.D. He was named after his father, Michael King Sr.

When Dr. King was a little boy, his father changed his own name and his son's to Martin Luther King Sr. and Jr. The boy was called M.L. by family members and friends.

Martin was smart, and he thought a lot about how to improve things for African-Americans as he was growing up. Like his father, he became a pastor.

In the 1950s and '60s, black people were joining in the fight for their **civil**, or citizens', rights. Dr. King started the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to help organize and support protests against **discrimination**, or

unfairness. He wanted the protests to be peaceful, but that was not always possible.

His famous speech

In 1963, Dr. King organized a March on Washington. He delivered a moving speech, known as the “I Have a Dream” speech, to the crowd. Along with 250,000 marchers, he hoped to convince Congress to pass President John F. Kennedy's civil rights bill, which made discrimination illegal. The next year, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Dr. King's death

The famously nonviolent civil rights worker was in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, to support a **strike**, or work stoppage, by African-American garbage workers. On the evening of April 4, Dr. King was standing on a balcony at the Lorraine Motel when he was shot by James Earl Ray. Ray was convicted of killing Dr. King and died in prison in 1998.



photo courtesy National Archives

Dr. King at the March on Washington.



photo by Adam Ross

The Lorraine Motel in Memphis is now the site of the National Civil Rights Museum.

The work continues

After he died, Dr. King's influence did not end. On April 11, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which promised fair housing for all people, no matter their race, religion, color or nationality. He also sent officials to Memphis to settle the garbage workers' strike.

The King Center

Before 1968 ended, Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, had started the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. Mrs. King said: “We need ... to develop new and flexible strategies based upon the bedrock of Dr. King's philosophies.”

Dr. King's ideas

The King Center shares his **principles**, or beliefs, and steps for nonviolent change:

1. **Information gathering:** identifying and understanding a problem.
2. **Education:** sharing the problem with others.
3. **Personal commitment:** working steadily toward a solution.
4. **Discussion/negotiation:** working with your opponent to agree to a solution.
5. **Direct action:** acting to increase pressure on your opponent when negotiating doesn't work.
6. **Reconciliation:** developing a plan of action that solves the problem for both sides.



Resources

On the Web:
• bit.ly/MPMLK


At the library:
• “Martin Luther King: The Peaceful Warrior” by Ed Clayton



Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ASSASSINATE, ATLANTA, CENTER, CIVIL, CONGRESS, DISCRIMINATION, EQUAL, IDEAS, KING, LUTHER, MARCH, MARTIN, MEMPHIS, NONVIOLENT, PRINCIPLES, PROTEST, STRIKE, WASHINGTON.



P	F	S	U	T	N	E	L	O	I	V	N	O	N	M
R	V	Y	D	A	T	L	A	N	T	A	B	K	G	A
I	R	A	S	I	H	P	M	E	M	B	V	L	N	R
N	A	S	S	A	S	S	I	N	A	T	E	I	I	T
C	K	N	D	S	S	E	R	G	N	O	C	V	K	I
I	D	I	S	C	R	I	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
P	T	S	E	T	O	R	P	T	M	A	R	C	H	K
L	R	E	H	T	U	L	M	J	R	E	T	N	E	C
E	Q	U	A	L	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N
S	W	P	S	T	R	I	K	E	L	S	A	E	D	I

Cook's Corner


Peanut Butter Cookies

You'll need:

- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup peanut butter

What to do:

1. Combine butter or margarine and sugars in a large bowl until smooth.
2. Stir in eggs and peanut butter. Mix well.
3. Stir in remaining ingredients. Mix well.
4. Place by tablespoonfuls several inches apart on a greased baking sheet. Flatten with your palm or the bottom of a glass.
5. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 12 to 15 minutes. Makes about 3 dozen.



• 1 teaspoon vanilla

• 2 tablespoons baking soda

• 3 cups all-purpose flour

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

1. A long tube with lenses to see outer space (9 letter noun)

2. With as much or as many as possible; complete (4 letter adj)

3. A curved line with ends that meet around (6 letter noun)

4. A time without sunlight; darkness (5 letter noun)

ROOTONYM®
by Jan and Carey Orr Cook

Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Telescope, Full, Circle, Night.

1. Charlie used a _____ to see the stars in the sky.

2. The _____ moon shines brightly once a month.

3. Does Sam know the moon can be in the shape of a _____?

4. At _____, Susan goes to sleep before 9 o'clock.

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Mini Jokes

Bailey: What makes it easy for babies to cheat on their exams?

Ben: Crib notes!

Eco Note

Residents around Cape Town in South Africa have been warned that the city could run out of water as soon as July because of a long **drought**, or period of dry weather, across parts of the country. Since Feb. 1, each of the 3.7 million residents has been limited to using only 13 gallons of water per day. Reservoirs dwindled to less than 10 percent of capacity as the worst drought on record persisted during the past three years.


adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Watch your newspaper for stories about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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