

DMWR: marine monu-  
ment expansion not  
based on science 2



ASBA Summer Youth  
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COOL STUFF 4

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga (front), along with Manu'a District Governor Laolagi F.S. Vaeao, Samoan Affairs Secretary Mauga T. Asuega, and the delegation from Tutuila, arrived yesterday morning at Fitiuta Airport on Ta'u Island to celebrate Manu'a Cession Day, marking the 103rd year since the Manu'a island group was ceded to the United States and became part of American Samoa.

The group was met by the police honor guard.

[photo: courtesy/M. Gurr]



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TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017

\$1.00

## Proof of overpayment entitles person to refund

SEN. MAGALEI: OMV OVERCHARGE FALLS UNDER TREASURY, NOT THE AG

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

Sen. Magalei Logovi'i has voiced to ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaipea the government policy when it comes to reimbursing the public if they are overcharged; for example, the registration renewal of vehicles at the Office of Motor Vehicles that appears to have overcharged car owners for many years.

Magalei raised the issue and sought an explanation on refunds when Tonumaipea appeared before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for a hearing last Friday morning on federal deductions — FICA and Medicare — being imposed on allowance checks for lawmakers. (See yesterday's Samoa News for details).

The senator is the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman.

The Tualauta Senator recalled a Senate Public Safety Committee hearing held a day earlier, during which Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale testified regarding OMV registrations.

Magalei explained the issue at the center of Thursday's hearing, and said the government was incorrect in their interpretation of the law, regarding vehicle registration renewal.

The first time a vehicle is registered, it's \$32 plus \$12 per ton of weight. For motor vehicle renewals it's \$32. However, in the past, the practice has been to add \$12 as part of the renewal process.

The senator said the OMV has continued this long standing practice of adding \$12 for renewal registration. He said some senators had asked if vehicle owners can be reimbursed or get a refund for the overpaid amount and the Attorney General's reply was "no".

Magalei, who served as ASG Treasurer during the Togiola Administration, informed Tonumaipea that he was not pleased or happy with the Attorney General's response to senators, especially when the matter does not fall under the AG's jurisdiction, but the purview of the ASG Treasury.

According to the senator, he didn't want to counter Talauega's response nor correct the AG during his response at the time,

but he wanted to wait until Tonumaipea appeared during Friday's already scheduled hearing for a direct response on the matter for all senators.

Magalei said that only when the Treasurer has a different interpretation of the law, is when the AG's opinion is sought.

So to his understanding, said Magalei, if a person brings a receipt to show that the government owes that individual a reimbursement, then a refund is made.

"Correct me if I am wrong," Magalei asked Tonumaipea, who acknowledged that Magalei's statement is true, saying that a person who overpays the government — for example, a registration fee — should get a refund on the overpaid amount.

Unless the person agrees to use the amount, to be refunded, as a credit towards a future renewal, Tonumaipea said and reiterated that the requirement is that a person is reimbursed the overpaid amount.

Magalei said that in order to get a refund, a person must provide a receipt — as proof of over payment — and Tonumaipea

(Continued on page 3)



The wind force in the Utulei area was so strong during the late evening hours this past Sunday, that a part of the huge tree fronting the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building (EOB) in Utulei fell right on to the road, blocking motorists trying to use the access road between the Centennial Building and the DHSS compound. Employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) were at the site yesterday morning trying to clear out the area.

DPW Assistant Director Luki Tuitasi told Samoa News yesterday that he received the call about the incident at 1a.m. yesterday morning but he told the guys to wait until morning, as it was too dark and windy to do anything, and having his crew respond at that time would have posed a serious risk to their safety. "It just wasn't safe for us to come out when I got the call," he said.

Tuitasi was in the area yesterday supervising the clean-up of the site, saying he wanted to make sure the crew was safe, that everyone knew what they were supposed to do. Samoa News contacted the local weather station to inquire about the weather conditions when reports of the fallen tree were made, and meteorologist Elinor Lutu-McMoore said their logged observation had winds at 24 knots, or 27 mph.

Yesterday afternoon, Lutu-McMoore issued a wind advisory for the territory until today, although there is a possibility that it could be extended. She said winds of 20-35mph are in the forecast, especially in higher elevation areas, with strong gusts at times.

She advises the people of American Samoa to expect strong winds throughout this week, adding that although there will be rain showers here and there - within the wind flow - of utmost importance and concern right now are the strong winds. Everyone is urged to be mindful of the current weather conditions and do what they can to stay safe, like staying indoors.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



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# DMWR argues marine monument expansion not based on science

**“BUT MORE ON POLITICAL LEGACY  
CONSIDERATIONS”**

by *Fili Sagapolutele*  
*Samoa News Correspondent*

Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) Chief Fisheries Biologist, Domingo Ochavillo has shared concerns with US Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, over the designation of Rose Atoll as a marine monument; and also argues that expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Monument was not based on science “but more on political legacy considerations.”

The biologist’s comment — a letter released last week by the federal portal <www.regulations.gov> — was in response to Zinke’s request for public comments on DOI’s review of all land and marine monuments in the nation including Rose Atoll and Pacific Remote Islands following President Trump’s executive order in April.

“There is a need to review these national monument designations so that they are based on the best available science, and adequate cultural and economic considerations,” said Ochavillo who wrote the comment-letter in her capacity as DMWR acting director at the time.

“The recent consideration of the American Samoa Deeds of Cession as a relevant document for federal decisions makes it more imperative now to review these marine monument designations,” said Ochavillo, referring to the Honolulu federal court decision this year that voids a US National Marine Fisheries Service rule which reduced last year the Large Vessel Prohibited Area in territorial waters from 50 to 12 miles.

### ROSE ATOLL

In her letter, Ochavillo explained that the “indigenous people of the Manu’a Islands consider Rose Atoll or Muli’ava their traditional fishing ground”, and monument designation “meant that additional culturally important area was lost.”

“Scientifically, the superimposition of the national monument designation to the Rose Atoll Wildlife Refuge was redundant,” said Ochavillo because it “was already a no-fishing zone up to 12nm thereby effectively protecting the coral reefs.”

“Expansion up to 50nm has no added benefits to pelagic animals that are highly mobile that move in the South Pacific region,” she noted. “In addition,

the additional national monument designation has added another bureaucratic layer in the permitting process and added confusion.”

All of Rose Atoll Marine National Monument is contained within the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.

### PACIFIC REMOTE ISLANDS

Ochavillo further contends that the decision to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Monument “was not based on science but more on political legacy considerations,” adding that the original designation already protected coral reefs and the expansion would be ineffective for otherwise highly mobile marine animals whose movements cover the vast Pacific Ocean.

“The expansion also virtually closed the economic fate of the local canneries and the American Samoa economy already reeling from unique challenges of a Small Island Developing State,” she said.

The Pacific Remote Islands Monument was expanded by former President Obama.

The governor along with StarKist Co., and Tri Marine International have argued that this expansion has closed off traditional fishing grounds for the US purse seiner fleet which services the local canneries. (See yesterday and last Friday’s Samoa News editions for details on Lolo and StarKist’s arguments.)

### SUPPORT FOR ALL MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENTS

There have been hundreds of comments released by the federal portal which urge Zinke and the federal government not to remove the Rose Atoll designation.

One of the strongest supporters of this viewpoint is the US based National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

In a July 9th letter to Zinke and US Commerce Secretary Wibur Ross, the foundation urges the Trump Administration to uphold the designations of all marine national monuments at their current size and with the requirements put in place in the Proclamations made by previous Presidents.

For Rose Atoll, the Foundation argued among other things, that this is one of the most pristine atolls in the world. Furthermore, the lands, submerged

(Continued on page 3)



USCG Lt. Whalen is presented a House Resolution commending his service to AS Rep. Su'a Alexander Eli Jennings (5th from right) shakes hands with US Coast Guard Lt. Kevin Patrick Whalen (4th from right), after Su'a read and presented Whalen a House Resolution, from the Fono and people of American Samoa, that commends him for his significant contribution to the safety and environmental well-being of American Samoa.

Also pictured are Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele (second from left) along with other Port Administration employees, and local US Coast Guard personnel, during the resolution presentation, made early last month, at Port's conference room on the main dock. The presentation happened before Whalen left the territory after his tour of duty as supervisor of the USCG Marine Safety Detachment unit in Pago Pago.

The resolution, sponsored by Su'a and House Vice Speaker Fetu Fetui Jr., says Whalen responded to numerous marine casualties in the port of American Samoa involving a tanker collision, injuries, environmental damage and a death.

Furthermore, Whalen, a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy with a degree in environmental science, oversaw correction actions for safety and environmental compliance on approximately 130 vessels improving safety of the vessel and its crews. In tandem with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in response to the grounding of the fishing vessel No. 1 JI HYUN, Whalen engaged local marine surveyors and environmental agencies to conduct a damage survey and analysis of the grounded vessel.

His actions vastly reduced the impact in the National Marine Sanctuary and led to the eventual recovery of the vessel from the reef. According to the resolution, Whalen's commitment to Marine Safety led to a successful collaboration of the first search and rescue assessment involving several state agencies, New Zealand and Coast Guard responders.

“This assessment led to identifying American Samoa's response capabilities and shortfalls,” it states. “As a result, American Samoa is developing plans and networking with our Pacific islands for more capable response time and capability.” The resolution went through the usual protocol of official approval last week in the House when the Fono convened for the 2nd Regular Session of the 35th Legislature.

[photo: Port Administration]



## ▶ Proof of overpayment...

Continued from page 1

agreed.

Sen. Fa’amausili Mau Mau Jr., noted that the particular provision of the law in question, regarding the renewal fee,

goes back to 1977 and that’s a lot of money (for refunds) to be paid, especially if the owner has more than one vehicle.

During Thursday’s Public Safety Committee hearing, Talauega told senators that no refunds were issued and none will be issued,

saying “thank you for helping the government”. Police Commissioner Le’i Sonny Thompson, who also testified at the hearing, said his office does not have jurisdiction over refunds or reimbursements, and he has never said that refunds will be issued.

Sen. Muagututi’a M.T. Tauoa urged the government to reimburse members of the public who have overpaid the renewal fee, adding that he is concerned with vehicle owners taking ASG to court, as it will be an embarrassment to the government.

Paraphrasing a quote from the Bible, Muagututi’a said God will punish those who want their neighbor’s property.

During Le’i’s testimony last Thursday afternoon before the House Public Safety Committee, he explained to lawmakers that he never made any statements that refunds will be issued because it is not in his

jurisdiction.

He also told House members that OMV has already halted the \$12 charge for people renewing their registration.

### BACKGROUND

Samoa News in its OMV hearing story published last week Friday, July 14, 2017, pointed out that it is not just an extra \$12 or overcharge of \$12 that was added on to the renewal fee of \$32.

It was an actual extra \$12 per ton of weight/ every 2,000 pounds. Keeping it simple:

If OMV said your vehicle weighed 4,000 pounds or 2 tons, then you paid \$24, plus the \$32, and don’t forget the inspection fee of \$9.

This is a total of \$65 for your renewal, which probably was the same amount you paid on the original registration of your vehicle.

This makes up for much more than a \$12 overcharge on each person’s registration renewal.

The simple math according to the statute on registration renewal is \$32

(renewal fee) plus \$9 (inspection fee), equals \$41.00. Minus this amount from your renewal receipts and you have the amount you have been overcharged.

Samoa News also pointed out in its story published last Friday that a question could also be raised about the ‘offi-

cial’ weight schedule OMV uses to charge per ton of weight for a vehicle. It is not specified in the statute.

Current statute from the Annotated Code of American Samoa, written in 1977:

Title 22 - Highways and Motor Vehicles; Chapter 10; Section 22.1002- Application for and issuance of license-Fees;

Subsection (d) The following vehicle license registration fees are established:

(1) motor vehicle, including private vehicles, cargo vehicles, buses, motorcycles, taxis, trailers,

tractors and rentals, \$32.00; plus per ton of weight, \$12.00;

(2) bicycle, \$2.00;

(3) renewal for motor vehicle, \$32.00;

(4) Legal Ownership Certificates and Titles, \$10.00; (etc...)

Notice d) (1) gives us the tag fees for a first time registration. This is either a new vehicle purchase here or a vehicle brought on island for the first time.

Next, d) (3) shows us the renewal fee for any vehicle regardless of size, weight or usage is \$32. Period.

(A \$9 inspection fee is also assessed to ensure safe driving in American Samoa.)

## ▶ DMWR argues...

Continued from page 2

lands, waters, and marine environment around Rose Atoll support a dynamic,

interconnected reef ecosystem that is home to a very diverse

assemblage of terrestrial and marine species,

many of which are threatened or endangered.

Additionally, Rose Atoll supports the largest populations of giant clams,

and it is a primary nesting site for threatened green and endangered hawksbill sea turtles,

and central seabird colony in the region

with approximately 97% of the seabird population of American Samoa,

and rare species of reef fish in the territory.

The Monument area includes the submerged volcanic cone known as the Vailulu’u Seamount which has a diverse biological community that includes crinoids, octocorals,

sponges, and cutthroat eels, according to the Foundation, adding that since 2003,

an 1100 foot tall volcanic cone, known as Nafanua, has grown in the seamount’s crater.

“Scientists speculate that Nafanua will breach the sea surface within decades,

forming a new island in the

Samoa island group,” it says.

The Foundation also addressed the issue of “Cultural Resources and

Traditions”, saying that the relatively pristine marine habitats at

Rose Atoll also provide essential cultural resources by maintaining and supporting the traditional spiritual connection with coral reefs.

“In the Samoan creation legend,

the god Tagaloa split a rock into clay, coral, cliffs, and stones.

These fundamental natural formations are intact at Rose Atoll,”

the Foundation said and cited its sources of information, such as the National Park of American Samoa.

“It is believed that Polynesians have harvested at Rose Atoll for millennia and several species,

such as the giant clam, were used for cultural celebrations and events,”

it says but made no mention of the indigenous people of the Manu’a islands.

The Foundation letter also covered the marine monuments of Papahānaumokuākea

in the Hawaiian islands and Marianas Trench in the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.



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





Movie actor, Jason Scott Lee displays the Popgear version of Popticals in Little India, Singapore.

[photo: Barry Markowitz, 3/17]

# Cool Stuff: POPTICALS

by Barry Markowitz

Popticals are the most significant contribution to the practical art of sunglasses... in the history of the universe.

It was a privilege to meet Popticals' innovators a few years ago before their product was released.

You Coolios have seen me abuse their prototypes Popticals on airlines, on purse seiners, around the canneries, the Pacific's rugby & football stadiums, on the beach at Maliau Mail, Savaii's Uini & Ieu's Island View,

and Sadie's by the Sea... with amazing results.

Popticals are magic because: a) they slide to collapse (stainless steel FL2 Micro Rail System) in half neatly fitting in a hard, clip on case; b) lenses are polarized optically superior Zeiss perfection; c) my Popticals never seem to scratch; d) taking a red-eye flight from Samoa... just clip the Poptical hard case to your belt loop, backpack then on arrival toss on your Popticals to combat the harsh morning glare; e) Popticals nylon Carl Zeiss lenses are UV400, are scratch resistant, and incorporate Ri-Pel moisture/oil/ dust/ dirt resistant technology; and,

f) frames are made of super tough and flexible Swiss Grilamid TR 90® manufactured in Italy

Now the funny back story of my gift of Popticals to Jason Scott Lee.

Jason and I developed a recent tradition of having blue collar food court lunch in Singapore when I am there for the Singapore 7's Rugby or in this case a potential TV show production.

As is normal in the Pacific, Jason and our family are connected through a cousin/ good friends/and Chinese Restaurants.

Jason is a good kind family man, who facilitated my accommodations last March in the interest of our meetings. In the reciprocal tradition of 'all things Coolio' he received a mealofa — a big bag of Hawai'i chocolate covered MacNuts for his wonderful daughter,

Hawai'i coffee for him and his lovely Singapore wife, and the Popgear Poptical sunglasses as Jason's special personal gift.

Knowing that Jason is a great outdoorsman, who has done documentary stories on Malaysia, etc.,

the pictured Popgear was

selected because they are the ultimate light protective and are the strongest Poptical version available.

Ironically, rather than accept the brand new Popgear, Jason preferred the beater used Popairs/ Popguns Popticals I had on my face.

If you are a fisherman, the Popgear is the perfect tool.

If you are a movie star, not portraying Ray Charles... Popticals lighter versions are the best in quality and for still keeping that stylish Hollywood vibe going — even in Singapore.

Find all Popticals online at Popticals.com. They retail from \$189- \$239 and are absolutely well worth it —

with the clip on case, I never lose them — and with the sophisticated Zeiss lenses they haven't yet scratched.



Compiled by Samoa News staff

## ASTCA APOLOGIZES FOR QUALITY OF THEIR INTERNET SERVICE

The American Samoa Telecommunications Agency (ASTCA), in a press release, says it has identified some technical issues, which are affecting the quality of their Internet service; and apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused and reassures the public that measures have been taken to resolve the existing issue by the end of the week.

ASTCA asks its customers for their patience and continued support as they work towards resolving the occurring issue. The media release advises its customers to feel free to call their Helpdesk for further information regarding this issue.

Samoa News notes the problem has progressively gotten worse over the last 3 months.

(Source: ASTCA Management)

## INAUGURATION OF SAMOA'S NEW HEAD OF STATE SET FOR THIS FRIDAY

One of the most important official ceremonies for Samoa this year is scheduled for Friday. The inauguration

of Samoa's new Head of State, Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II has been confirmed for 3p.m. at the Parliament precinct, Tuanaimato. The confirmation came in a statement from Parliament.

"A formal ceremony whereby Afioaga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II will take the oath of Head of State before his Honor, the Chief Justice is scheduled for Friday 21st July 2017, 3:00pm at the Parliament precinct, Tuanaimato," the statement reads.

Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi made the official announcement during Parliament.

Speaking to the Samoa Observer, Tuimalealiifano said he was humbled about being chosen to lead Samoa for the next five years.

As reported earlier, Tuilaepa said during the announcement the appointment of the Honorable Tuia'ana as Head of State, is a milestone for the Independent State of Samoa.

The outgoing Head of State, His Highness Tui Atua will record his farewell message to the nation on Wednesday.

[Source: Samoa Observer]



The Klecker Klax axe is stunning in its ingenious flexible capabilities.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 7/16]

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# Cool Stuff: Ingenious Klecker Axe

by Barry Markowitz  
Special to Samoa News

A small axe with no handle is the best hand tool!  
The Klecker Tool & Knife folks know it’s so much easier to clip the Klecker to your hip or backpack and grab a handle from a tree branch if you really need it. Frequently you don’t need a handle on a small axe as you are shaving wood, fitting small notches, or doing some lightweight hammering.  
Over kill on basic tools means weight, and awkward devices bumping you in the shoulder, butt, and even your head. So the “Klecker Klax” lets you function with no handle, a store bought handle or best of all a free one made of a fallen branch assembled in two minutes.

I was privileged to spend time with Klecker’s designer who shared that the inspiration for much of his Klecker axe and knife innovations come in dreams.  
You know how many times Cool Stuff has slept off several Vailima Beers or Cutty Sark Whiskey at Sadie Thompson’s Restaurant and couldn’t come up with one paragraph for our column or remember if it was Evalani’s Taco Tuesday or Polynesian Shipping/ Samoa Shipping Corporation’s boat day to Apia.

Purists may refer to the Klax as a indigenous American Tomahawk.  
Cool Stuff calls it pure simple genius. Check out the extra features and functions:

- Stainless Steel Axe Blade
- Patent Pending Clamping System
- Ulu Knife Blade (Alaskan, not breadfruit influence)
- Knife Blade
- Hammer Head
- Cutting/Gut Hook
- Hex Wrench Set (Inches)
- 1/4” Hex Bit Driver Socket
- Bottle Opener
- Lanyard Hole
- Carabineer
- Ruler (Inches)
- Comes with Ballistic Nylon Sheath

The Klecker Klax is a vital part of my gear for any future CNN Pacific disaster coverage. You military guys know that your gear becomes part of organized chaos in a Coast Guard C-130. Less is so, so much better.  
The innovative magic and quality are a bargain at \$180 for the stainless Klax, \$140 for the basic version (attachable with paracord), and for you true Coolios there is a magnificent Titanium version Ti-Klax for \$595. Order yours at Kleckerknives.com  
Check out their solid knives listed on their website... really unique, very strong... and as only you Coolios know, inspired by dreams.  
We at Cool Stuff having saved all our Samoa News two tala bonuses to pick up my Ti-Klax later this month if ya’ll don’t buy all the stock. You Coolios probably will... and you will use and enjoy the heck out of it!



Some of the kids who participated in the Summer Sanctuary Science in the Village (SSSV) program hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS) earlier this month in Aunu’u.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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# American Samoa Government EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

The following people have been recorded as inactive participants in the ASG Retirement Fund system and still have funds that are owed to them.

If your name is on the list, please come to our office at the Centennial Building, 3rd floor with a valid form of identification such as a driver's license, passport or CI in order to make your claim.  
We will not release any information over the phone.

Thank You

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# Justice Dept. signals more police property seizures coming

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Justice Department will soon make it easier for local law enforcement to seize cash and property from crime suspects and reap the proceeds, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday.

Sessions said a shift will be announced this week that will increase the use of asset forfeiture, especially for drug suspects. The practice has been criticized because it allows law enforcement to take possessions — such as cars and money — without indictments or evidence a crime has been committed.

“With care and professionalism, we plan to develop policies to increase forfeitures. No criminal should be allowed to keep the proceeds of their crime,” Sessions told local prosecutors in Minnesota.

A change would likely represent another reversal by Sessions of Obama-era Justice Department policies. His Democratic predecessor Eric Holder had tightened control of the department’s asset forfeiture operations amid concerns that property could be seized without judicial oversight and without the owner ever being charged with a crime.

Holder namely restricted the ability of the federal government to take possession of, or adopt, assets seized by local authorities, who could then share in the proceeds with their federal counterparts. Civil liberties groups and some members of Congress praised the move as a step toward reform because that practice made it easier for local authorities to circumvent state laws that were sometimes stricter than the federal ones governing seizures.

Sessions on Monday said such practice — known as adoptive forfeiture — is “appropriate, as is sharing with our partners.” The line drew a round of applause from the hundreds of county attorneys and law enforcement officials inside a Minneapolis convention center.

Local law enforcement agencies use forfeited proceeds to pay for expenses, and some had complained that Holder’s policy left them without a key source of funding. But that policy was also designed to save federal resources for larger, complex investigations where the ability to seize assets is critical, such as cases involving national money laundering or Russian organized crime, said Stefan Cassella, a former federal prosecutor and expert on asset forfeiture and money laundering law.

“It’s a great way to build teamwork by adopting the cases and sharing the money,” Cassella said. “But at the same time, not everything can be a

priority.”

The Justice Department sees the assets forfeiture program as a way to strip suspects of the proceeds of their activities, to deter crime and to compensate crime victims. An effort to expand it is in keeping with Sessions’ tough-on-crime agenda, which he continued to espouse during Monday’s speech.

He again implored prosecutors to pursue the toughest punishments against most crime suspects, echoing a directive he issued earlier this year to U.S. attorneys. He reiterated his top priorities: cracking down on illegal immigration and quashing violent crime. Sessions stressed the need to tackle gang activity, pointing to cities such as Minneapolis.



Samoan tattoo artist Falefitu Taefu working on a sleeve for one of many people who got inked during the Northwest Tatau Festival held in Tacoma, WA earlier this month. Falefitu is a Samoa-born artist who grew up in New Zealand and now owns a tattoo shop in Canada. He was one of numerous Polynesian artists who showcased their work during the three-day event.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



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# House gives go-ahead for Washington Metro safety commission

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., said the bill responds to the safety needs of the system.

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# Ex-Texas officer indicted on murder charge in teen’s death

DALLAS (AP) — A white former police officer has been indicted on a murder charge in the April shooting death of a black teenager who was a passenger in a car that was leaving a party in suburban Dallas, prosecutors said Monday.

The grand jury’s indictment of Roy Oliver also charges him with four counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon by a public official related to the other four teens who were in the car with 15-year-old Jordan Edwards, said Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson.

Oliver, 37, was fired from the Balch Springs Police Department in May for violating department policies. Body camera footage of the incident showed Oliver shooting his rifle into a car that was moving away from him and another officer.

Edwards, his two brothers and two other teens were leaving the party where police had arrived to investigate an underage drinking complaint. Officers heard unrelated gunshots and spotted the vehicle leaving.

Shots from Oliver’s rifle pierced the front passenger window, hitting Edwards in the head as he sat in the front seat.

An attorney for the teen’s family, Lee Merritt, said Oliver getting indicted is “one step on the road to justice.”

“We’re looking forward to a conviction and proper sentencing,” the lawyer said. He added that anything less than serious jail time wouldn’t be adequate. Johnson promised during a news conference to thoroughly prosecute the case. With Edwards’ parents at her side, the district attorney touted the speed with which Oliver was charged and arrested. “This is the very first time we have issued an arrest warrant for a police officer before the case was presented to the grand jury,” she said. “As we move forward, my office continues to be committed to seeking justice for Jordan and his family.”

Charmaine Edwards said the world lost “so much” with the death of her stepson, who was a high school freshman at the time.

“A great kid, a great football player, straight-A student ... somebody who was going to go somewhere,” she said.

Oliver’s attorney, Jim Lane, did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment Monday.



FILE - In this May 6, 2017, file photo, mourners hold the commemorative program as they emerge from the funeral service for 15-year-old, Jordan Edwards, at Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas. A white former Texas police officer has been indicted on a murder charge in the April shooting death of Edward’s, who was leaving a party, prosecutors said Monday, July 17, 2017. Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson announced that a grand jury indicted former Balch Springs police officer Roy Oliver in the death of the 15-year-old.

(Louis DeLuca/The Dallas Morning News via AP, File)

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White House press secretary Sean Spicer speaks during an off camera daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, June 26, 2017.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

# Trump wants new NAFTA deal to cut trade deficit with Mexico

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump vowed Monday to boost U.S. manufacturing by cutting the \$64 billion trade deficit with Mexico as he showcased products made in all 50 states — everything from a fire truck to a baseball bat.

“No longer are we going to allow other countries to break the rules, to steal our jobs and drain our wealth,” Trump said at a White House event that spilled from the East Room to the South Lawn. Shortly after Trump’s remarks, the U.S. trade representative released an 18-page report about its goals for updating the decades-old North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

In addition to reducing the trade deficit, the administration wants to insert a chapter on the digital economy into the deal. It also wants to strengthen labor and environmental obligations, as well as amending the rules of origin so that more of the products traded come from the United States and North America.

Facing an investigation into his campaign’s ties with Russia and a tax and health care agenda struggling to make headway as quickly as promised, Trump is turning his focus to trade this week. Administration officials are to meet Wednesday with economic officials from China, a nation the president has accused of dumping steel on the global market to hurt U.S. steelmakers.

The White House emphasis on trade follows a string of other recent theme weeks on energy, job-training and infrastructure that mostly failed to draw much attention away from the Russia inquiry.

The president took his time checking out products from all over the country: Trump donned a cowboy hat from Texas. He swung a baseball bat from Louisiana. And he even climbed into the cab of a Wisconsin-built fire truck and pretended to be a firefighter, saying, “Where’s the fire? Where’s the fire? Put it out fast!”

The new NAFTA objectives, a requirement to begin talks on updating the agreement in the next 30 days, contain the first specifics for a Trump administration that has made bold promises on trade. Trump has pledged to recover factory jobs

and boost wages by crafting new trade deals. Supporters note that NAFTA enabled companies to charge cheaper prices for products that range from cars to vacuum cleaners, helping many U.S. consumers.

The president said he only seeks a level playing field for U.S. companies and workers, but “if the playing field was slanted a little bit toward us, I would accept that, also.”

But the president has a conflicted relationship with global trade. His namesake clothing business depended on the work of low-wage workers living overseas, as does the fashion line of his daughter and White House aide, Ivanka Trump.

As of now, Ivanka Trump’s firm continues to have its products made overseas. Her lawyer, Jamie Gorelick, said in a statement Monday that the president’s daughter “has resigned from the company, does not control its operations, and has been advised that she cannot ask the government to act in an issue involving the brand in any way, constraining her ability to intervene personally.”

Trump has blasted trade deficits as hampering the economy by sending money abroad. But the trade deficit has actually improved from \$762 billion in 2006 to \$505 billion last year, a change brought about largely because U.S. consumers cut back spending during the Great Recession. His administration already is pursuing multiple trade cases on individual products and is weighing whether to impose tariffs and quotas on foreign steel in hopes of curbing production in China, even though that country represents a fraction of U.S. steel imports.

The Mexican government said in a statement that the administration’s NAFTA objectives will give greater clarity to the negotiations.

Chrystia Freeland, Canada’s minister of foreign affairs, said, “NAFTA supports millions of middle class jobs” across North America and Canada welcomes the opportunity to add “progressive, free and fair approaches” to the pact.

Despite the report, it’s still not clear exactly how Trump will renegotiate NAFTA to reduce the trade deficit, said Phil Levy, a senior fellow for the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a business professor at Northwestern University.



# Arizona flash flood kills 9 relatives celebrating birthday

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST, Ariz. (AP) — The flash flood that killed nine people in an Arizona river canyon began its deadly descent as an impressive but avoidable surge of churning water, black with cinders from a recent wild-fire and choked with tumbling tree trunks and limbs.

By the time it reached a rocky swimming hole several miles downstream, it was a roaring torrent 6 feet (1.8 meters) high, and an extended family celebrating a birthday while seeking refuge from the summer heat had no warning — and no chance to escape.

The bodies were found up to 2 miles (3 kilometers) away. Five other people were rescued, some of them clinging desperately to trees, and were treated for hypothermia and released.

As rescuers searched Monday for a 27-year-old man still missing about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of Phoenix, authorities identified the victims, who ranged in age from 2 to 60.

Among them were three generations of a family. Five of the dead were children.

The victims had been lounging Saturday in the swimming hole, where rocks create pools and a series of small waterfalls. There the river narrows, squeezing the flow of water and increasing its deadly force.

The river roared to life after a thunderstorm had dumped up to 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain in an hour, prompting a flash-flood warning from the National Weather Service.

Though the service sent out a flash-flood warning over cell-phone networks, service in the remote area is patchy at best. Unless they had a weather radio, the swimmers would have been unaware.

“They had no warning. They heard a roar, and it was on top of them,” said Fire Chief Ron Sattelmaier of the Water Wheel Fire and Medical District.

Carrie Templin, a spokesman for the Tonto National Forest, said people headed to the forest should check weather alerts ahead of time to determine whether it’s safe. It is hard to predict where rain will fall in the desert Southwest, and people should know that heavy down-pours can cause flash flooding, Templin said.

One hiker who was stranded by the flood said she can’t get the sound of the rushing water out of her head.

Nancy Coto, 17, said she was stuck for four hours on a slab of rock with her boyfriend and his family before they were able to walk out.

“We’re all just saying that we got blessed, but I don’t like to use that word because other families weren’t blessed,” Coto said. “Children died.”

About 40 volunteer workers and four search dogs looked for the missing man, whom authorities identified as Hector Garnica.

The search was suspended late Monday afternoon by an approaching thunderstorm, but was scheduled to resume at dawn Tuesday weather-permitting.

Detective David Hornung of the Gila County Sheriff’s Office said more dogs and crews from around the state would be joining the search.

There still is hope Garnica would be found alive, he said. “I’ve seen miracles happen before,” Hornung said.

Garnica had come to celebrate his wife’s birthday with their three children and other family. All were among those killed.

Authorities and a family member identified the dead as 2-year-old Erica Raya-Garcia; Emily Garnica, 3; Mia Garnica, 5; Danial Garnica, 7; and Jonathan Leon, 13. Also killed were Javier Raya-Garcia, 19; Celia Garcia Castaneda, 60; Maribel Raya-Garcia, 24; and 26-year-old Maria Raya-Garcia, Hector Garnica’s wife.

The group went up the mountain early Saturday, said Tom Price, the general manager at The Horny Toad, a restaurant where Hector Garnica worked.

Garnica’s parents were eating at the restaurant in a Phoenix suburb Saturday night when they got a call that something had happened, Price said.

“Very tight knit,” he said of the family. “They’re just extremely close.”

About 5 miles up the mountain from where the family was relaxing Saturday, Scott Muller spotted the water rumbling down the nearly dry East Verde River.

Muller was spending the day with a dozen other members of AZ Krawlers, a volunteer group of Jeep owners that was checking dirt roads and trails for dangerous erosion and missing signs.

It was an area where a June wildfire burned 11 square miles of the Tonto National Forest. Flooding is worse after a wild-fire because the scorched land repels water and the lack of vegetation makes soil unstable.

Muller began making a video with his phone from the river bed, and comfortably scampered to the bank before water clogged with debris whooshed past. The river was wide enough that the water was not the inescapable wall it



*This Saturday, July 15, 2017, image taken from video provided by Mindy Russell shows a rescue helicopter picking up people who survived a flash flood at a popular swimming hole that swept several people to their deaths in the Tonto National Forest near Payson, Ariz. The flooded area is at lower right. The flood was the result of a thunderstorm that dumped heavy rainfall just upstream, unleashing 6-foot-high floodwaters, dark with ash from a summer wildfire.*

(Mindy Russell via AP)



AMERICAN SAMOA  
POWER AUTHORITY

PO Box PPB, Pago Pago  
American Samoa 96799  
Phone No.: (684) 248-1234

[bids@aspower.com](mailto:bids@aspower.com)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.045.WTR

Issuance Date: July 18, 2017

Closing Date & Time:

August 17, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

### “Upper Amouli Tank Replacement Project”

#### Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal for the provision and construction of a 320,000 gallon replacement tank at Upper Amouli in American Samoa. This project is part of ASPA’s effort to improve its service to the people of American Samoa. This project is fully funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA’s website, [www.aspower.com](http://www.aspower.com). For more information about this RFP, please contact the following person(s):

Ioana S. Uli  
ASPA Procurement Manager  
ASPA Procurement Office  
PH: 684-248-1234  
[bids@aspower.com](mailto:bids@aspower.com)

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to:

1. Reject all proposals and **reissue a new or amended RFP**;
2. Request additional information from any Offeror
3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than “least cost” (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance:

Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY NEWS REPORTER

Samoa News is looking for a news writer that has a natural curiosity about our local community and is willing to report accurately for our newspaper readers.

The successful applicant must possess bi-lingual, Samoan and English, speaking and/or writing skills. They must be able to meet daily deadlines and if needed, to work weekends.

Access to computer, camera and vehicle is a definite advantage.

Call Samoa News at 633-5599 for an appointment to interview.



# Venezuela opposition calls strike, Trump threatens 'actions'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's opposition called Monday for a 24-hour nationwide strike to pressure President Nicolas Maduro to drop plans to rewrite the constitution while the United States threatened "strong and swift economic actions" against his socialist administration if it ignores the will of voters in a referendum.

President Donald Trump joined other world leaders in urging Maduro to heed Sunday's symbolic plebiscite in which millions of voters rejected the plan to remake Venezuela's political system, which the opposition calls a power grab by the ruling party as it struggles with shortages, inflation and more than 100 days of anti-government protests.

The vote came two weeks before Venezuela's government will hold an election to select a constituent assembly charged with rewriting the constitution. Canada, Mexico, Brazil and the European Union have also come out against the effort.

"The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles," Trump said in a statement. "If the Maduro regime imposes its Constituent Assembly on July 30, the United States will take strong and swift economic actions."

The U.S. president lauded voters in Sunday's referendum, saying "their strong and courageous actions continue to be ignored by a bad leader who dreams of becoming a dictator."

Despite the global and domestic calls for him to cancel the constituent assembly, Maduro vowed to press ahead with it.

"I won't be intimidated," Venezuela's president said in a

speech at the presidential palace. Maduro's allies have called on the assembly to impose executive branch authority over the few remaining institutions outside the control of the ruling party.

On Monday, opposition leaders laid out their plans about how they will resist Maduro in the wake of the referendum.

They said the opposition-controlled National Assembly would name new members to the government-dominated Supreme Court, setting up a showdown with Maduro. Opposition parties also said they plan to sign a declaration calling for the formation of an alternative "government of national unity," a step toward total rejection of government authority.

"Overall the package is pretty radical, especially the idea of a parallel government," said David Smilde, a Tulane University expert on Venezuela. "I think it could lead to real chaos."

He noted, however, that the opposition moves were to be implemented in phases over the next week, giving both sides the opportunity to negotiate possible concessions.

After some procedural moves in the National Assembly on Tuesday, the opposition said it would launch a plan it called "zero hour" on Wednesday that includes an agreement to form an alternate government and create 2,000 local committees that would function as street-level support for the opposition.

That will be followed Thursday by a nationwide strike, which could bring much of Venezuela's already sputtering economy to a standstill. Venezuela's largest chamber of commerce told The Associated

Press that its members would not punish employees for participating in the strike.

On Friday, the opposition will name 13 judges to the supreme court to replace those named by the outgoing, ruling party-dominated congress in 2015 in a process that legal experts say violated nomination procedures.

The nominations would not give the opposition a supreme court majority but are almost certain to be rejected by the current court and the executive branch, making them a largely symbolic tactic to increase pressure on Maduro.

"We call on the whole country to launch a 24-hour national strike this Thursday, a massive, non-violent protest, as a way to pressure the government and to prepare for the final steps, which will be next week, to confront this fraud ... and to restore constitutional order," opposition leader FreTuesday, July 18, 2017 Guevara said.

He didn't say what the final steps would be.

More than three months of street protests, which have left at least 93 people dead and 1,500 wounded. More than 500 protesters and government opponents have been jailed.

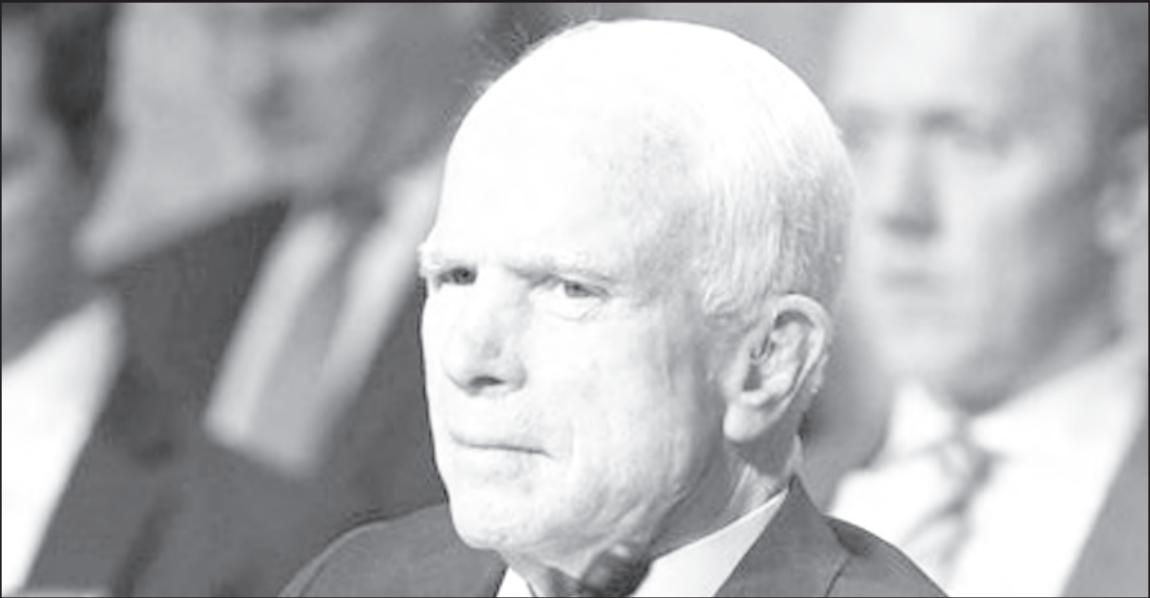
The opposition said 7.6 million Venezuelans participated in Sunday's symbolic referendum, which the government labeled an internal party poll with no relevance for the country.

Sunday's vote was marred by violence when a 61-year-old woman was killed and four people wounded by gunfire after government supporters on motorcycles swarmed an opposition polling site at a church in western Caracas.



President Donald Trump holds up a signed proclamation during a "Made in America," product showcase featuring items created in each of the U.S. 50 states, at the White House, Monday, July 17, 2017, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



FILE - In this July 11, 2017 file photo, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. listens on Capitol Hill in Washington, during the committee's confirmation hearing for Nay Secretary nominee Richard Spencer. Surgeons in Phoenix said they removed a blood clot from above the left eye of McCain. Mayo Clinic Hospital doctors said Saturday, July 15 that McCain underwent a "minimally invasive" procedure to remove the nearly 2-inch (5-centimeter) clot, and that the surgery went "very well." They said the 80-year-old Republican is resting comfortably at his home in Arizona. Pathology reports are expected in the next several days. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)



# California climate law touted as global model clears hurdle

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers moved closer Monday to renewing a climate initiative that Gov. Jerry Brown holds up as a model for confronting global warming to be replicated around the world.

But a key hurdle remains.

The state Senate voted to give another decade of life to California’s cap-and-trade program, sending the measure to the Assembly, which was scheduled to take it up immediately. The legislation has global implications as the largest U.S. state moves to be a leader in reducing carbon emissions at a time when President Donald Trump is pulling back from fighting global warming.

“It is more important than ever for California to send a crystal clear message to the world that that does not represent all Americans,” said Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat.

Brown portrays the initiative as essential for the survival of civilization, but critics say it fails to aggressively combat pollution. It is one of his highest priorities as he nears the end of his fourth term, but he’s struggled to line up support from two-thirds of lawmakers that he will need.

The program expires in 2020 if lawmakers don’t renew it. The real battle is in the Assembly, where 54 votes are needed to pass it but where Democrats have only 53 members present due to a lawmaker’s longstanding absence and a fresh vacancy from another who went to Congress. That makes Republican support essential.

But the plan has mobilized intense opposition from conservatives who say it will raise costs in an already expensive state as well as from liberals who say it’s too timid for progressive California.

Cap and trade puts a limit on carbon emissions and requires polluters to obtain permits to release greenhouse gases. Some permits, known as allowances, are given away while others are auctioned, generating billions of dollars in revenue for the state.

Lawmakers are considering a package of measures, one to renew cap and trade through 2030 and another aimed at improving local air quality. A third would give Republicans more of a say in how to spend money collected through cap and trade. All three cleared the Senate.

Brown sounded an apocalyptic tone in a rare personal appeal before a Senate committee last week, telling lawmakers that failing to pass the extension would lead to fires, disease and mass migration, not

to mention higher costs for food and gasoline.

Republicans likened the bill to a tax that will hit Californians at the gas pump and the grocery store.

The nonpartisan legislative analyst said last year that the existing cap and trade program accounted for an 11-cent-per-gallon increase in gasoline prices. The office has not analyzed the extension proposal.

“We could shut down the entire state of California and it would have absolutely no effect on the global climate,” said Sen. Andy Vidak, a Republican from Hanford in the agricultural Central Valley.

“But what is measureable is the effect this tax will have on the poorest of the poor in my district and across California.”

Sen. Tom Berryhill of Twain Harte was the only Senate Republican to support the legislation.

The bill is supported by national environmental groups and business interests, which echo Brown’s refrain that cap and trade is the most affordable way for California to meet its ambitious climate goals.

State law requires California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 — among the most aggressive mandates for carbon reduction in the world. Without cap and trade, state regulators will be forced to enact restrictive mandates on polluters that would be burdensome for businesses and significantly more expensive for consumers, Brown said.

The legislation shows the divisions between environmentalists who work nationally, focusing on reducing global carbon emissions and creating a policy that can be replicated elsewhere, and environmental justice advocates who work locally.

The latter group said cap and trade allows polluters to keep fouling the air around major sources of pollution like oil refineries and objected to concessions Brown made to the oil industry and other polluters in a bid to win support from Republicans and moderate Democrats.

Some lawmakers have questioned why Brown so urgently wants to extend a program that doesn’t expire for another 2½ years. Brown says extending it now would give businesses the certainty they need to plan.

A quick extension would also bolster Brown’s global advocacy for climate action. He made a high-profile trip to China last month, plans to attend a climate summit in Germany in November and will host a climate conference next year in San Francisco.



## Department of Human and Social Services Government of American Samoa Utulei, American Samoa 96799

### TEMPORARY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Departments of Human and Social Services (DHSS) and Health (DOH) are collaborating to conduct a hybrid survey in July 2017 to gather health information that includes behavioral and mental health questions and non-communicable disease questions for baseline data so we may better understand the health needs of our community. The survey will be conducted using household interviews with adults 18 years of age and older between the hours of 1 pm and 8 pm. Our target is to survey 3,500 households on the islands of Tutuila, Aunu’u and Manu’a.

We are currently recruiting for the following temporary, part-time positions for the survey. Interested applicants must pick up an application form from the DHSS’ Special Projects and Community Assistance Division located on the second floor of the Children, Families and Behavioral Health Services Building (CFBHS) between the ASWIC and the old Election Office buildings in Utulei on the main road. Please submit completed applications along with a copy of your birth certificate, Social Security card, a valid picture Identification (e.g., Driver’s License, Passport, etc.) and a copy of your Immigration ID card if you are not a US citizen or US National. Deadline to receive applications is 3 pm, Friday, July 14, 2017. Please contact Ms. Tu’umafua Maiava or Mr. Wilfredo Tuiasosopo at 633-2696 or 633-0315.

JOB	DURATION	NO. POSTS	AGE	QUALIFICATIONS
Survey Supervisors	4-5 months	2	20 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Associate Degree</li><li>• Must have Management Skills</li><li>• Speak and write in English and Samoan</li><li>• Must have a drivers license</li><li>• Must be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory</li></ul>
Advance Mapping	1.5 months	10	18 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High School Diploma</li><li>• Speak and write in English and Samoan</li><li>• Must have good PR Skills</li><li>• Must be able to walk in the villages</li><li>• Must have a Drivers License</li><li>• Must be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory</li></ul>
Enumerator/ Interviewer	4-5 months	15	18 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High School Diploma</li><li>• Speak and write in English and Samoan</li><li>• Must have good PR Skills</li><li>• Must be able to walk in the villages</li><li>• Basic Computer Skills</li><li>• Must be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory</li></ul>
Enumerator/ Interviewer	4-5 months	15	18 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High School diploma</li><li>• 1 year of Nursing or Medical Assistant Experience</li><li>• Must have good Public Relations Skills</li><li>• Must be able to walk in the villages</li><li>• Basic Computer Skills</li><li>• Must have a Drivers License</li><li>• Must be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory</li></ul>





# Veronica's Salon



in the Pago Plaza - across from ASPA office.

**COME AND HAVE YOUR HAIR DONE BY PROFESSIONAL HAIR STYLISTS:**

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Mondays (Appointments Only)

# American scholar jailed in Iran is innocent, professor says

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A Chinese-American graduate student at Princeton sentenced to 10 years in prison in Iran for allegedly “infiltrating” the country and sending confidential material abroad is innocent of all charges against him, his professor said Monday.

Xiyue Wang’s arrest, which happened nearly a year ago, only came to light Sunday when Iran’s judiciary announced his sentence and the detention of President Hassan Rouhani’s brother in an unrelated case.

Princeton said that it is “very distressed” by the charges leveled against Wang while he was carrying out scholarly research in the Islamic Republic.

It has been working with Wang’s family, the U.S. government, lawyers and others to secure his release, it said, adding that it hopes he will be released on appeal.

“Xiyue Wang is a remarkable, linguistically gifted graduate student,” Princeton University professor Stephen Kotkin, who has served as Wang’s doctoral adviser, told The Associated Press. “He is innocent of all the charges.”

An article posted on Mizan Online, a website affiliated with Iran’s judiciary, said 37-year-old Wang was born in Beijing and is a dual national of the United States and China.

He has already filed an appeal to his sentence, according to the website.

Wang was arrested on Aug. 8, 2016 and is accused of passing confidential information about Iran to the U.S. State Department, Princeton’s Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, the Harvard Kennedy School and the British Institute of Persian Studies, Mizan Online said.

It alleged he scanned some 4,500 pages of digital documents, paid thousands of dollars to access archives he needed and sought access to confidential areas of Tehran libraries.

He was arrested while conducting research on the Qajar dynasty that once ruled Iran for his doctorate in late 19th and early 20th century Eurasian history, according to Princeton.

He was expecting to continue his research in Russia and needed to get as much work done in Iran as he could before taking up a fellowship there, Kotkin said.

That included scanning large volumes of documents that he could access later — something Kotkin described as “normal, standard scholarly practice.” The documents he accessed were roughly 100 years old, the professor said.

“We saw nothing out of the

ordinary on anything that he undertook or did,” Kotkin said. “He’s a graduate student in good standing.”

A photo on Princeton’s history department website shows Wang posing under a plaque at the entrance of China’s official Xinhua News Agency bureau in Kabul, Afghanistan.

A short bio on the Princeton in Asia website said Wang had been a fellow in Hong Kong in 2008-2009, had completed a bachelor’s degree in South Asian studies at the University of Washington and did Russian and Eurasian studies at Harvard.

In addition to Mandarin and English, Wang was able to communicate in Persian, Turkish and Pashto, and had worked as a Pashto translator in Afghanistan, Kotkin said. It was his first trip to Iran.

“He is unbelievably committed to the life of the mind,” Kotkin said. “You have to hand it to this guy, this kind of ambition.”

The U.S. State Department has not provided details on the case but called on Tehran to immediately release “all U.S. citizens unjustly detained in Iran.”

The U.S. does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with Tehran and warns its citizens traveling there that they risk arrest or being barred from leaving.

“The Iranian regime continues to detain U.S. citizens and other foreigners on fabricated national-security related charges,” it said.

Other Americans who remain in Iranian custody include Iranian-American art gallery manager Karan Vafadari, who was detained along with his Iranian wife last year. They have yet to be convicted.

Iranian-American businessman Siamak Namazi and his 81-year-old father, Baquer Namazi, are each serving 10-year sentences for “cooperating with the hostile American government.”

Another Iranian-American, Robin Shahini, was released on bail last year after staging a weeks-long hunger strike while serving an 18-year prison sentence for “collaboration with a hostile government.” He is believed to still be in Iran.

Former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran in 2007 while on an unauthorized CIA mission, remains unaccounted for.

Also in an Iranian prison is Nizar Zakka, a U.S. permanent resident from Lebanon who advocates for internet freedom and has done work for the U.S. government. He was sentenced to 10 years behind bars last year after being accused of espionage-related charges.



Catherine Garoupa joins others critical of Gov. Jerry Brown’s cap-and-trade program, calling for defeat of the bill at a news conference, Monday, July 17, 2017, in Sacramento, Calif. California lawmakers are expected to vote Monday on AB398, Monday, which critics say is too friendly to the oil industry.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)



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Also in an Iranian prison is Nizar Zakka, a U.S. permanent resident from Lebanon who advocates for internet freedom and has done work for the U.S. government. He was sentenced to 10 years behind bars last year after being accused of espionage-related charges.

Zakka has been on a hunger strike for three weeks to protest his confinement and his supporters believe he was taken to the hospital Sunday for treatment, said Jason Poblete, a Washington-based lawyer representing him.

Poblete said authorities have

repeatedly tried to get Zakka to sign documents in Persian said to be for his medical care, but he has refused, fearing they could be a false confession.

Wang’s sentence was announced the same day authorities said they had detained President Rouhani’s brother, Hossein Fereidoun, on allegations of financial misconduct.

Fereidoun is a close confidante of the moderate president, a cleric who changed his surname to Rouhani, meaning “spiritual,” after joining the seminary decades ago.

Fereidoun was part of the Iran’s negotiating team during the final phases of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

hard-liners, who have accused him of misdeeds, including money laundering and misappropriation of government funds.

He appeared briefly in court on Monday but had to be taken away by ambulance for an undisclosed health concern. He is known to suffer from lung problems dating from the Iran-Iraq War during the 1980s.

The Tasnim news agency reported later Monday that Fereidoun was released on \$15 million bail.



FILE - In this July 11, 2015, file photo, Kermit the Frog, left, and puppeteer Steve Whitmire attend “The Muppets” panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International in San Diego. ABC News and The Hollywood Reporter reported July 10, 2017, that Whitmire is no longer performing the character.

(Photo by Tonya Wise/Invision/AP, File)



## American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

# INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-081-2017

Issuance Date: July 13, 2017

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

### 1. INVITATION

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

### 2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

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

### 3. MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE

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

### 4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

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


DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON  
Chief Procurement Officer

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# 2 more GOP senators oppose health bill, killing it for now

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest GOP effort to repeal and replace “Obamacare” was fatally wounded in the Senate Monday night when two more Republican senators announced their opposition to the legislation strongly backed by President Donald Trump.

The announcements from Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Jerry Moran of Kansas left the Republican Party’s long-promised efforts to get rid of President Barack Obama’s health care legislation reeling. Next steps, if any, were not immediately clear.

Trump, who had predicted success for the legislation just hours earlier, responded with a tweet urging: “Republicans should just REPEAL failing ObamaCare now & work on a new Healthcare Plan that will start from a clean slate. Dems will join in!” But Republican leaders rejected that clean-repeal approach months ago because it could not pass Congress.

Lee and Moran both said they could not support Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s legislation in its current form. They joined GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky, both of whom announced their opposition right after McConnell released the bill last Thursday.

McConnell is now at least two votes short in the closely divided Senate and may have to go back to the drawing board or even begin to negotiate with Democrats, a prospect he’s threatened but resisted so far. Or he could abandon the health care effort, which has proven more difficult than many Republicans envisioned after campaigning on the issue for years, and move on to tax legislation, a bigger Trump priority to begin with.

McConnell’s bill “fails to repeal the Affordable Care Act or address healthcare’s rising costs. For the same reasons I could not support the previous version of this bill, I cannot support this one,” said Moran.

Lee said, “In addition to not repealing all of the Obamacare taxes, it doesn’t go far enough in lowering premiums for middle class families; nor does it create enough free space from the most costly Obamacare regulations.”

It was the second straight failure for McConnell, who had to cancel a vote on an earlier version of the bill last month when defeat became inevitable.

Trump had kept his distance from the Senate process, but Monday night’s development was a major blow for him, too, as the president failed to rally support for what has been the GOP’s trademark issue for seven years — ever since

Obama and the Democrats passed the Affordable Care Act. Republicans won the White House and full control of Congress in large part on the basis of their promises to repeal and replace “Obamacare,” but have struggled to overcome their deep internal divisions and deliver.

The Senate bill, like an earlier version that barely passed the House, eliminated mandates and taxes under Obamacare, and unraveled an expansion of the Medicaid health care program for the poor and disabled. But for conservatives like Lee and Paul it didn’t go far enough in delivering on Republican Party promises to undo Obama’s law, while moderates like Collins viewed the bill as too extreme in yanking insurance coverage from millions.

McConnell’s latest version aimed to satisfy both camps, by incorporating language by Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas allowing insurers to sell skimpy plans alongside more robust ones, and by adding billions to treat opioid addiction and to defray consumer costs.

His efforts did not achieve the intended result.

There was no immediate reaction from McConnell’s office. But Democrats could barely contain their glee.

“This second failure of Trumpcare is proof positive that the core of this bill is unworkable,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York. “Rather than repeating the same failed, partisan process yet again, Republicans should start from scratch and work with Democrats on a bill that lowers premiums, provides long term stability to the markets and improves our health care system.”

Prior to the stunning announcements from Lee and Moran, the GOP bill stood on the knife’s edge, with zero votes to spare but not dead yet. It was apparent that no GOP senator wanted to be the third to announce opposition and become responsible for killing the bill, so the news from Lee and Moran came simultaneously.

It arrived as about a half-dozen senators were at the White House meeting with Trump and Vice President Mike Pence about the next steps in the GOP effort to ensure passage of the bill. There are at least a half-dozen or so others who are undecided, so it’s quite likely that more “no” votes will be announced in the hours and days ahead.

In a Senate divided 52-48 between Republicans and Democrats, McConnell could lose only two senators and still prevail on a procedural vote to open debate on the bill.

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