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**Le LALI**

Kids from Ta'u, Manu'a had the chance to participate in engaging hands-on science-based activities and exciting learning opportunities thanks to the Sanctuary Summer Science in the Village (SSSV) programs held in each of the sanctuary villages and sponsored by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.

[photo: courtesy]



ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM



**samoa news**

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017

\$1.00

# KRUSE: 3 nofoaiga sosoo o tupu pea fa'aletonu Ofisa o Femalagaaiga

tusia Ausage Fausia

“ .. e le o se taimi muamua lenei ua maitauina ai e le Fa'amasinoga tulaga fa'aletonu i le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga, na tupu i le nofoaiga a Tauese, na tupu i le nofoaiga a Togiola, lea fo'i o lo o tupu i le nofoaiga a Lolo, pau le manatu lea ua oo mai ia te a'u, o le loka i le falepuipui o sui o le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga i le taimi latou te le aloaiaina ai poloaiga a le fa'amasinoga”, o le saunoaga lea a le afioga i le Fa'amasino Sili ia Michael Kruse ma lona si'ufofoga ua si'isi'i i luga, i le taimi na fa'afofoga ai le fa'amasinoga i le molimau a se sui sinia o le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga, e fa'atauta i le mafua'aga o le i ai pea lea i le atunu'u o se ali'i mai Samoa na malaga mai i se pemitā e 30 aso i le tausaga e 2012.

O le ali'i o Joeita Fa'aaliga na ulufale mai i se pemitā e 30 aso 29 Aokuso 2012, ma nofo faasolitulafono ai lava ina ua mae'a le aoga o le pemitā na malaga mai ai, seia oo i le taimi na pu'e fa'apagota ai o ia e Leoleo ma molia i molia o le talepe fale ma le gaioi i le ogototonu o le tausaga na sosoo ai e 2013, ma fa'asala ai loa o ia e le fa'amasinoga maua luga ina ua ta'usala o ia i le

(Continued on page 6)

# String of robberies sparks concern for westside business owners

by Samoa News Staff

Last week, several businesses on the west side were broken in to and robbed.

Samoa News has been unable to confirm if any suspects have been identified.

Last Monday, thieves hit up the Tool Shop's Tafuna location.

According to a company official, the culprit or culprits took off with some cash, and nothing else.

Right down the road, Samoa Motors was also broken into. Samoa News understands that the robber or robbers took off with some electronic devices. No injuries were reported from these two robberies.

However, a business owner down in the Leone area was not so fortunate. She was attacked and Samoa News witnessed severe bruising and swelling on her face as she entered a friend's store in Nu'uuli to purchase goods for her business.

The victim, who declined to speak to Samoa News in fear that the person or persons may attack again, is an Asian female who has been operating a store in the territory for many years.

Samoa News sought comments from the business owner's friends — who own a store in the

Nu'uuli area.

According to them, the business owner claims that since the incident, she has not been able to sleep well at night. “She's very scared and frightened,” Samoa News was told. “We told her to give up the money and she cried and said she can't, as she works hard for her money and she needs it in order to survive.”

The thief is said to be a Samoan male, who tried to grab the cash box but ended up punching the business owner in the face, after she refused to give up the money.

A manager for one of the local businesses in the area, who didn't want to be identified, told Samoa News that the robberies are a result of people being “desperate” for money.

“The economic setback, the reduction in hours, the unemployment — all of these things could be blamed for the recent break-ins.”

Another business owner blames the increase in the illegal drug trade.

“When people are on drugs, they need their fix,” she said.

“The only thing these addicts want is their drugs and they will stop at nothing to find money and things to sell, in order to feed their habit.”



# BOH DONATES \$10K TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICAN SAMOA

Last Friday, July 28, 2017, Bank of Hawaii donated \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of American Samoa (BGCAS).

The check was presented by BOH executives John Murakami- Branch & Community Banking Division Manager and Senior Vice President; Hobbs Lowson- West Pacific Region Manager and Senior Vice President; and EJ Ozu- American Samoa, Vice President & Branch Manager and BGCAS Board Member.

The donation was accepted by BGCAS Chair, Mary A.T. Tulafono, and Board Members Lisa Tuato'o Togia'i and Sailipea Kennison Barber.

Tulafono thanked Bank of Hawaii for their generous donations to the “Great Futures- Lumana'i Lelei” Afterschool Mentoring and Summer “Brain Gain” programs over the last five years. During her remarks, Tulafono also acknowledged BOH's support of the BGCAS “Money Matters” program, which teaches youth financial literacy, the basics of banking and other necessary life skills that will help prepare members to be productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Ozu and Teresa Langkilde, American Samoa Assistant Branch Manager, met with the three different age groups- Cadets: ages 6 to 9; Juniors: ages 10 to 13; and Seniors: ages 14 to 18 earlier this summer to teach finance and banking lessons provided through Bank of Hawaii and the American Bankers Association (ABA).

In appreciation and gratitude for the donation, the 90 participants of the 2017 Summer “Brain Gain” Program performed a special number for the guests, singing “Hawai'i Aloha” and “Lota Nu'u Moni”. Tulafono concluded the program thanking BOH again for their “support of BGCAS” efforts to ensure that youth in American Samoa go on to have “GREAT FUTURES.”

[photo: courtesy]





Salaus Dr. John Ah Ching, a former head of the OB/GYN unit at the LBJ Medical Center and now Samoa’s Associate Minister of Health, was recently awarded the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (P.S.R.H.) President’s Medal. See story for full details.

[photo: courtesy]

# Former LBJ doctor recognized for service to the Pacific Society

by Blue Chen-Fruean

Samoa News Correspondent

It has been six years since Salaus Dr. John Ah Ching retired from the LBJ Medical Center and moved to Samoa but his dedication to healthcare has not been swayed.

Last week, Salaus, Samoa’s Associate Minister of Health, led a delegation of six clinician representatives to the 12th biennial meeting of the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (P.S.R.H.) in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The six-day event included skills workshops and a scientific conference that brought together healthcare professionals from all over the Pacific Region, including stakeholders and partners from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia.

Doctors, nurses, midwives, health officials, and specialists gathered to brainstorm and share ideas during what has been called the most important professional development event in the reproductive health calendar for the region.

It was during the event that Salaus was awarded the P.S.R.H. President’s Medal, in recognition of his distinguished service to the Pacific Society and to honor his efforts in producing leaders in reproductive healthcare, as well as his contribution to patient care improvement.

Samoa News reached out to Salaus, who arrived in Samoa earlier today after spending a few days visiting his children in Australia.

The long time physician presented during the conference, a paper on a project he spearheaded, which trains midwives in district hospitals across Samoa to perform basic ultrasound scans to detect problems — if any — early enough to get the patients referred to the

National Hospital.

P.S.R.H. President, Dr. Pushpa Nusair of Fiji, congratulated Salaus and said the region will be watching, with interest, developments such as this in the independent state.

Only six other individuals have received the President’s Medal, three of whom are: Prof. Glen Mola of Papua New Guinea, Prof. Rajat Gyaneshwar of Fiji, and Dr. Rufina Latu of the World Health Organization.

Salaus is currently a member of Samoa’s Parliament representing Lepea, Vaimoso, and Vailoa.

He has been a physician for more than 40 years, more than half of which was spent at LBJ Medical Center where he worked for 22 years, retiring as the Chief of the OB/GYN unit.

He departed the territory six years ago and is now operating a private clinic under the National Hospital of Samoa. He continues to do what he has always done. And that is, to deliver babies and care for expectant and at-risk mothers.

His service to American Samoa was so extensive that at one point, he told Samoa News that the babies he delivered back in the 1980s and 1990s were now coming in to have him deliver their own babies.

Salaus’s love and dedication to the medical field is unquestionable. As a matter of fact, it has rubbed off on his kids.

He and his wife La have six children — three of whom are health professionals.

His oldest daughter Ulua’itupu is a registered nurse in Australia. Another daughter Lucilla is a doctor specializing in eye care, and son Emosi is a practicing dentist.

Those who knew him best all describe him the same way: “humble”. Congratulations Salaus Dr. John Ah Ching.



FILE - In this Sept. 20, 2015 file photo, creator-showrunners David Benioff, left, and D.B. Weiss accept the award for outstanding writing for a drama series for “Game Of Thrones” at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. The series, “ÀConfederate,” will take place in an alternate timeline where the southern states have successfully seceded from the Union and formed a nation in which legalized slavery has evolved into a modern institution.

(Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)



## Farm Service Agency

### American Samoa Field Office

Pago Plaza, Suite 213

PO Box 3661

Pago Pago, AS 96799

### PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title:	Loss Adjuster	Posting Date:	Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Position Type:	Independent Contractor	Deadline:	Tuesday, August 8, 2017
Expected Hrs:	7 - 15 hrs per month	Pay Range:	\$10.00/hr for orientation, \$18.00/hr following successful training certification
Minimum Requirements	1. Must be a US Citizen or US National 2. Must have significant math skills. 3. Have some agriculture background. 4. Own your own vehicle. Will be reimbursed for mileage. 5. Must be able to pay fare to the Manu’a islands. Travel advancements will not be made however you will be reimbursed for travel fees.		
Desirable Qulifications:	1. Fluency in Samoan Language 2. Working knowledge of GIS mapping		
Job Description:	A Loss Adjuster is an independent contractor who will visit farms for the purpose of inspecting, measuring, and appraising agricultural crops. A Loss Adjuster will also ensure compliance with acreage and production reporting requirements. Training will be provided.		

Application packets are available at the USDA Farm Service Agency, American Samoa Field Office located at the Pago Plaza Building, Suite 213, 633-1031 ext 127 or 126.  
Completed applications must be submitted in person by close of business Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# Low wages blamed for poor recruitment of US certified doctors and nurses

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

LBJ Medical Center’s Chief Executive Officer, Taufete’e John Faumuina told a US congressional panel that the low salary level in American Samoa is making it difficult to fill vacant positions for medical professionals at the hospital.

This view is also cited by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, in his official prepared statement submitted for last week’s US House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs hearing, assessing the current conditions and challenges at LBJ.

Since taking over as CEO of the LBJ, more than two years ago, Taufete’e has reiterated to the Fono that the challenge faced by the hospital in recruiting qualified medical professionals — especially US certified medical doctors — is the low salary level offered here.

During last week’s congressional hearing Taufete’e provided details on the specific areas at LBJ where there is a shortage of medical professionals. For example, the hospital is required to have 110 registered nurses, but they only have 73, and 11 pharmacists is required, but LBJ has only 3.

Subcommittee chairman US Rep. Doug LaMalfa, pointedly asked Taufete’e what he has a solution to the difficulties faced by LBJ is recruiting medical professionals, as cited by the LBJ CEO.

“You’ve had a real challenge with staffing. So how would you get the staffing level up with the current facility, let alone a newer, larger facility?” LaMalfa asked. “What’s the magic, the silver bullet of getting that done? What do you see as a way to accomplish that?”

Taufete’e’s responded that the staffing problem is because “we do not have the [financial] resources to recruit them,” and noted that the staffing numbers the hospital has on hand are due to the CMS (Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services) patient care assessments, and “they discover that there are times that we do not have physicians” and registered nursing staff “to tend to the needs of the patients.”

“How far do you have to cast the net for recruiting?” LaMalfa asked. Taufete’e responded, “We recruit from everywhere. We go as far as the Philippines, Fiji, and the Pacific.”

“We try to recruit from the United States ... They are interested in coming to the Pacific, but at the end of the day, the salary issue prohibits them from making a decision,” Taufete’e

said, but didn’t elaborate on the salary nor did any congressional member ask for details.

In his official written statement to the subcommittee, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga pointed out that building a new hospital, a proposed project being pursued by the local government, is just one element of “our overall healthcare delivery system improvement plan.”

“Simultaneous investments must be made to develop the competence of our physician and nursing corps workforce,” he added. “The significant disparity in physician and nursing salaries compared to the national standards frustrates efforts to recruit US Board Certified Physicians and Registered Nurses.”

The subcommittee was told that the bulk of the LBJ hospital physician corps is composed of Fiji Medical School graduates, and clinicians from Asia and Europe.

“In order to attract US Board Certified Medical Doctors, salaries must be on par with state-side compensation. Regrettably, insufficient revenues preclude successful implementation of this goal.

“We are a small island, small population, remote, and the cost of access to any service is extremely high because of the high cost of transportation and communications,” he said.

“This is particularly true with health care. No health insurance provider wants to

(Continued on page 5)



## COOL STUFF — QUICK SHOT

*United Airlines provides a beautiful view of Downtown San Francisco and The Bay Area if you pick the right flight on the right day at the right time, in the right season, and of course... choose the right seat. In summary, there was no skill in shooting this iPhone photo... just good luck.*

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 7/31/17]

## 4-H STEM CAMP “Learn by Doing”



Date: August 7-10, 2017

Time: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Venue: ASCC ACNR Division

Ages: 8-12

Registration: July 26 – August 2, 2017

Contact: ASCC 4-H office (699-1575...ext 236/242)

Nellie Fuimaono (fuinellie@yahoo.com), Marcella Maugalei (daisysamoa@yahoo.com), Ali’imau Petaia (mau.petaia@gmail.com), Molly Lagai (mlagai@yahoo.com).



Letter to the Editor

“INDEPENDENT PROSECUTOR APPOINTMENT”

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the Appointment of the Independent Prosecutor — 7/28/2017 — It is our hope that the Independent Prosecutor Mr. David Vargas will consider the entire scenario of the law-breaking acts committed against the victims.

The victim accused Chief of Staff, Fiu J. Saelua of sexual abuse. Fleeing from the only home she knew of, the victim and her family went to seek refuge and protection. They found shelter with a compassionate family.

As an automatic political alien/ refugee, the situation turned bad and gained notoriety. The victim was allegedly:

1. Assaulted by Fiu’s daughter in front of the family and help-less husband.
2. Victim and spouse were lured from the under the protection of their shelter with falsified/ forged documents brought by uni-formed Immigration officers.
3. Sponsor termination documents allegedly signed by their sponsor who also works for the Attorney General’s Office were being used to detain the couple. It was a false declaration.
4. Victim and spouse were forcibly abducted against their will and ID’s were confiscated.
5. They were driven by Immigration Officers to the wharf and were being forced to get on the boat scheduled to depart for Apia.
6. Immigration Officer Sam Soliai Fuimaono who was on duty on the wharf, prevented them from embarking due to lack of; traveling tickets/ papers, no Identification documents and no cer-tified ‘Order of Deportation’ document signed by the Immigration Board was presented.

Mr. Sam Soliai Fuimaono’s diligence averted another disaster. The victim’s 3-year-old and 7-year-old sons would have been abandoned in Leone without parents if the couple were suc-cessfully deported. Or the couple could have been accused of abandoning their children because there would be no proof of deportation.

These are some powerful offices that are directly involved with this sexually abused victim. My question is are the Chief of Staff and Chief of Immigration working in collusion to strong-arm the victim and her husband to silence her cry for help.

Only powerful persons in the Governor’s staff can have that kind of authority to move and commit multiple illegal acts against a citizen with impunity. Power to randomly force others to break the law as instructed. Powerful enough to shut all doors that are purpose is to provide protection, safety, sanction, assistance and relief to the people in American Samoa.

Names of all the people involved from within the Immigration office are included in the police investigation report. All except the key witness which was later furnished by us to the AG Crimi-nal Prosecutor Mr. Bigelow.

It is our hope, that this case will not be treated as an isolated one, focused only on the sexual and domestic issue. But to pull in and expose the full measure of what was committed by high placed government officials who conspired to conceal their crim-inal acts and escape the arm of justice.

Ipu Avegalio Lefti  
Victim Advocate

# GET INTO YOUR SANCTUARY



*It’s been a busy summer for the folks at the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), as they host various programs to immerse the younger generation of ocean stewards in interactive activities that teach them the importance of protecting the environment and ocean life.*

*The Summer Sanctuary Science in the Village (SSSV) Program has ended but another one will be hosted next Saturday, August 12. Called “Get Into Your Sanctuary” the program aims to “raise awareness about the value of our sanctuaries as iconic destinations for responsible recreation through a series of special activities.” NOAA’s NMSAS is urging the public to be part of a national celebration of America’s underwater treasures.*

*This is the third year the GIYS is being celebrated locally.*

*One of the highlights is a photo contest open from July 1 - August 31 and submissions should be the best photos of the National Marine Sanctuary System.*

*The winning submissions will be featured in next year’s “Earth is Blue Magazine” and on the “Earth is Blue” social media campaign.*

*On August 12th, National Marine Sanctuary Sites across the system will host public events to raise awareness about the National Marine Sanctuary and educate visitors about how they can responsibly enjoy these special places. The NMSAS is partnering with Samriel’s Aunu’u Island Getaway Tours and Aunu’u villagers to provide activities that will include guided land tours, fasci-nating boat tours to the sanctuary areas in Aunu’u, visiting the tide pools, fishing, cross island hikes to the wetland taro plantation, and a visit to see quicksand.*

*Those who are already familiar with the National Marine Sanctuary system, as well as the next generation of sanctuary visitors, supporters, and advocates are invited to be part of what promises to be a very fun and informative weekend for all. More information on the photo contest rules and a calendar of events can be found at*

*<<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/giys.html>> or call 633-6500*

*Pictured are SSSV participants from Ta’u, Manu’a, picking up trash that would otherwise have washed into the ocean.*

[photo: courtesy]

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email [news.news-room@samoatelco.com](mailto:news.news-room@samoatelco.com)



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compiled by Samoa News staff  
**POKE CRAZE HITS MAINLAND**

It's been a staple in Hawaii for as long as anyone can remember, but now the poke craze is spreading like wildfire on the continental U.S., with eateries popping up left and right, Hawaii News Now reported this week.

Citing a Washington Post story, Hawaii News Now opined that while it may seem comforting for homesick Hawaii people, others are less than thrilled about the trend.

Even though poke has a long history in Hawaii, the marinated raw ahi tuna has been taking off on the mainland, particularly because it's branded as healthy and because of its "Instagrammable" appeal. And from a business standpoint, it's relatively simple to open a shop and easy to prepare, according to the Post.

However, this "mainland poke" has been looking different from what people would normally find in Hawai'i stores and restaurants – and some say it doesn't respect the cultural heritage of the islands.

A handful of shops are offering more toppings than in a frozen yogurt bar – and some are even putting unconventional toppings like kale and corn, the Post reported.

And several restaurants are changing the name of poke – pronounced "po-kay" – to something a little easier to pronounce, like one restaurant in Washington: Poki District.

Gary Ngo, a founding partner of Poki District, did tell the Post that it is "an extra talking point for people" and

that despite the complaints, "we never think we are completely 100 percent authentic Hawaiian poke."

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, also told the Post, "The real thing comes from Hawai'i, as far as I'm concerned."

[Source: Hawaii News Now and Washington Post]

**U.S. AMBASSADOR TO NZ-SAMOA DEFENDS TRUMP**

The Samoa Observer reported over the weekend that the United States of America's new Ambassador to Samoa and New Zealand, Scott Brown, has defended the decision by the United States President, Donald Trump, to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement.

During his first media interview in Samoa, although the new Ambassador assured about the U.S. support to develop Pacific countries like Samoa, he wasn't as confident when he was asked about Trump and climate change.

"I don't believe that the President has closed the door on Paris," Brown told Samoa media. "He has felt that we're not getting a fair deal paying billions of dollars."

According to Brown, the U.S.A has "spent billions and billions dollars" and they "have been innovators for the last 50 years on these very important issues."

"We have all of the above approaches. We have wind, solar, nuclear, hydro, geo  
(Continued on page 7)



*The Abunai Bowl, with ahi tuna, white onions, spring mix and rice, at Abunai in downtown Washington, which was founded by Akina Harada, who has Native Hawaiian ancestry.*

[Deb Lindsey/for The Washington Post]



**American Samoa Government**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P.O. Box 5666  
American Samoa Government



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

1. ENT Specialist
2. Ultra Sound Technician
3. Ophthalmologist
4. Bio Medical Technician
5. Certified Nurse Midwife
6. Case Manager
7. Audiologist
8. Registry Operator

Applicants for independent contract are to contact the individuals listed below.  
Ms. Loretas Lees - lles@doh.as  
Ms. Silika Young-Similai - silika.similai@doh.as

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF INTERESTED APPLICANTS WITH  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE AUGUST 11, 2017.  
Phone: (684) 633-4606

► **Low wage...**  
*Continued from page 3*

serve American Samoa because we are a high risk, high poverty, and low volume population," Lolo continued.

The governor explained that Medicaid is the only health insurance provider for local residents and American Samoa has managed to operate a block grant program for the past 35 years that also serves as the single payer of our healthcare system. He then revealed that "we are close to providing universal healthcare coverage for our people under Medicaid, through our single government-run healthcare system."

Samoa News will report in future editions on other issues pertaining to the hearing as well as the rest of the governor's official written statement to the subcommittee. Tuesday's hearing, which lasted nearly 90-minutes, was streamed live (4a.m. American Samoa time).





Moeiini fofoga o le Fa’amasino Sili ia Michael Kruse a o fa’afofoga ma le toto’a i le lauga a le ali’i kovana ia Lolo Matalasi Moliga, i le tatala aloaiaina o le Fono Faitulafono i lana tauaofiaga lona 3 i le masina o Iulai na te’a nei i le Fale Laumei.

[ata AF]



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY  
Procurement Office

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR      Closing Date & Time: August 8, 2017  
Issuance Date: July 24, 2017      No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

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

“Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling (Re-bid)”

**Submission** An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP NO. ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Tuesday, August 8, 2017:

Procurement Office  
American Samoa Power Authority  
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

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 package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA’s New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Power Authority 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 Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director

► KRUSE: 3 nofoaga...

Continued from page 6

moliaga o le talepe fale ma le gaioi i le tausaga lava lea e 2013.

O le fiamalamalama o le fa’amasinoga i le mafua’aga o le i ai pea o Fa’aaliga i le atunu’u e ui ua mae’a le pemitā e 30 aso na malaga mai ai, na mafua ai loa ona faia le poloaiga a le fa’amasinoga e aami ai le Pule o le Ofisa o Femalagaaga, mo le tu’uina atu o fa’amaumauga o lo o moomia e le fa’amasinoga, peita’i e le i mafai ona o o atu le Pule o le Ofisa o Femalagaaga, se’i vagana ai le Ta’ita’i o le Vaega Suesue (Supervisor for the Investigating Division) ia Paelo Puni na oo atu e moliau.

O se tasi o itu na mafua ai ona le fiafia le afioga i le Fa’amasino Sili, o le le amanaia lea e le Ofisa o Femalagaaga o le poloaiga a le fa’amasinoga e saili mai ai fa’amaumauga fa’asaga ia Fa’aaliga, ina ua tau-mafai le Ofisa Fa’anofovaavaaia e fa’afesoota’i le Ofisa o Femalagaaga mo le tu’uina mai o fa’amatalaga uma e fa’atatau i le ali’i ua molia, ae sau le tali i luga o le telefoni, “e leai se faila”. O le mafua’aga na le maua ai le faila a Fa’aaliga i le ulua’i taimi na tu’uina atu ai le talosaga a le Fa’amasinoga e pei ona taua e Puni i lana molimau, o le eseese lea o igoa sa tu’uina atu e le Ofisa Faanofovaavaaia ma le igoa o loo maua i faila a le latou Ofisa. O le igoa o loo i fa’amaumauga a le Ofisa o Femalagaaga o “Joeita Fa’aaliga”, ae o le igoa sa tu’uina atu e le Ofisa Fa’anofovaavaaia o “Joyita Fa’aaliga”, peita’i na fa’ailoa e Kruse ia Puni, o le igoa o loo i fa’amaumauga a le Fa’amasinoga, o le igoa na ave e le ua molia i Leoleo, ona ave lea e Leoleo i le Ofisa o le Loia Sili, ma avatu ai e le Ofisa a le Loia Sili le igoa lena i le fa’amasinoga. Na fiamalamalama atili Kruse i le mafua’aga e le aloaia ai e le Ofisa o Femalagaaga poloaiga e tu’u atu e le Fa’amasinoga, i soo se taimi e mana’omia ai faila o tagata mai fafo o lo o a’afia i solitulafono, ae na fa’atoese Puni ma ia taua e fa’apea, o lo o aloaia e le Ofisa o Femalagaaga soo se poloaiga e tu’uina atu e le fa’amasinoga, sei vagana lava ua le maua le igoa sa’o o le tagata o loo molia ona faigata lea ona saili lona igoa i luga o le latou ‘computer system’.

“E fa’aapefea ona taofia le tula’i soo mai o le fa’aletonu lenei i le lumana’i, o le fiu o la outou Ofisa e su’e faila o tagata mai fafo e ulufale mai i le atunu’u”, o le fesili lea a Kruse.

“Talu mai tausaga e tele na ou nofo mai ai i le nofoa lenei, o le tele o tagata o lo o molia i le faia o uiga mataga i fanau teine laiti, o tagata e ulufale mai i pemitā ta’i 30 aso ma nonofo fa’asolitulafono ai lava

i le atunu’u e aofia ai ma le ali’i lea ua molia nei, ae sa tatau ona avea o ia ma turisi e tafao i le atunu’u mo le umi e na o le 30 aso”.

“E fa’aapefea la ona e fai mai ua leiloa le faila a le ua molia ae o la outou Ofisa lea na sainia le pemitā ma tu’u atu i ai le fa’atanaga e ulufale mai ai i le teritori, lea fo’i la ua fesili atu le fa’amasinoga e fa’amanino mai le mafua’aga e le i toe fo’i atu ai o ia ina ua mae’a le pemitā e 30 aso, ae sau lau tali e na o mea pogisa e le manino i le fa’afofoga a le fa’amasinoga”.

“Ua tula’i soo mai lenei fa’afitauli, e le o se taimi muamua lenei ua maitauina ai e le Fa’amasinoga tulaga fa’aletonu i le Ofisa o Femalagaaga, na tupu i le nofoaiga a Tauese, na tupu i le nofoaiga a Togiola, lea fo’i o lo o tupu i le nofoaiga a Lolo”.

Na koma teisi Kruse ina ua mae’a lana gasugasu i le molimau, ona maua lea o le avanoa o le Loia a le malo ia Robert Morris e fa’aauau ai ana fesili, ma ia fesiligia ai Puni poo le tiute a ai le mautinoa lea e tatau ona toe fo’i le tagata mai fafo pe a mae’a le aoga o le pemitā na ulufale mai ai, ae na tali Puni, “O le sponsor”.

Na ata fa’amaele Kruse i le taimi na mae’a ai le tali lea a Puni ma ia fa’aapea atu i le loia a le malo, “O le tali lava lea e tu’u mai e le Ofisa lea i soo se taimi e fesiligia ai i le mataupu lea, e tau tu’ua’i solo le leaga i isi tagata, ae o le matafaioi tonu lava lena a le Ofisa lea”, o le saunoaga lea a Kruse ma ia toe fa’aapea atu ai i le loia a le malo, “Alu e fai lau fesili lena i le Loia Sili, o ia tonu lena o loo pule i le Ofisa lea e vaavaaia le Ofisa o Femalagaaga”.

Na sa-o uma totonu o le potu fa’amasino i le taimi na alala ai lava Kruse i lona nofoa ma tu’u lona lima i lona muaulu, ma foliga mai o lo o tau to manatu i se isi mataupu, ae o le taimi lea o lo o tau fai punonou ai ana Fa’amasino Lagolago ia Fa’amausili Pomele ma Muasau T. Tofili e faitau tusitusiga a le Failautusi a le Fa’amasinoga o lo o i luga o masini computer o loo i o la luma. “O le poloaiga lenei a le fa’amasinoga, soo se taimi e tu’uina atu ai e le fa’amasinoga sana poloaiga e saili mai ai fa’amaumauga mai le Ofisa o Femalagaaga, e le toe mana’omia se sui o le Ofisa e oo mai, a ia oo mai le Pulesili o le Ofisa o Femalagaaga, poo le Loia Sili fo’i pe afai e le avanoa le Pulesili o le Ofisa”, o le saunoaga fa’ai’u lea a Kruse na tu’uina atu i le loia a le malo e uiga i lenei mataupu, ma malolo ai loa le fa’amasinoga mo le iloiloina o se fa’asalaga mo le ali’i o Fa’aaliga.



ACCURACY

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# ► Pacific briefs...

Continued from page 5

thermos ... we're not going to stop doing any of those things just because we did not sign on in an agreement in Paris," he said.

Brown also highlighted the importance of the good relationship between the U.S.A and China.

But he accused China of destroying the coral reefs.

"I know they are doing things in this region, it's great and it's important," he said. "We have been doing them for over a century in our relationship with Samoa.

We've been here since World War II obviously doing some wonderful things and we will continue to do that."

He said China has completely "decimated corals, dumped concrete destroying sea life, destroyed the reefs that are quite frankly exceedingly vital to the survival in this part of the world."

[Source: Samoa Observer]

## SAMOA POLICE REOPEN INVESTIGATION

Police in Samoa have reopened their investigation into the disappearance of a man in 2013, saying that new evidence has come to light.

A police spokesperson, Sala'a Moananu Sala'a says two men have been taken in for questioning.

But the Samoa Observer newspaper reports that it understands the men were taken in for questioning on an unrelated crime, but the disappearance came up during questioning.

According to the Samoa Observer, Sala'a declined to discuss the details of the case, noting the Police have reopened the case and that the investigation is underway.

A Police source told the Weekend Observer that during interrogation process, one of the men admitted to the Police that he and two other men were responsible for the death of a man who has been missing since 2013.

Back in 2013, it is alleged that the three men went to purchase the missing man's cattle. When the missing man refused to sell, the men allegedly plotted to steal the cattle.

The plot was carried out but it hit a snag when the owner caught the thieves in action. It is alleged that this was when they assaulted the man.

The source said the men cleared out the cattle's organs and allegedly stuffed the man inside its stomach.

They then threw the cattle down the river where it washed

out into the ocean.

Sala'a told the Weekend Observer that the Police have contracted divers to assist them with their search for any evidence pertaining to the missing man or his cattle.

[Sources: RNZI and Samoa Observer]

## SAMOA AND REAL TONGA AIRLINE HEADING INTO DEAL

Flights between Tonga and Samoa are closer to reality after a successful test flight.

Real Tonga Airlines plans to use one of its 34-seater planes from the northern island of Vava'u - which is closer to Samoa than Tonga's main islands.

While in Samoa, Real Tonga's general manager commercial, Tele Faletau, met with representatives of Polynesian Airlines about a possible codeshare.

Mr Faletau said a link between Samoa and Tonga has been needed for a long time.

"We have a lot of Tongans here in Samoa, there's Samoans over in Tonga.

Right now, to get between Tonga and Samoa or Samoa and Tonga it was costing customers over \$2000 and it required an overnight in Fiji or New Zealand."

"We're now going to be offering a more cost-effective option and a much more convenient service."

"There will be another test flight next week before scheduled flights begin in Mid-August."

[Source: RNZI]

## ROMANIAN ATM SCAM SUSPECT IN SAMOA COURT

A 33-year-old Romanian national has been in court in Samoa over an alleged ATM scam.

Catalin Razvan Veverita, who was arrested last month, appeared in court today but the matter was adjourned for the defendant to change lawyers.

The Attorney General's office is also still finalizing charges.

The presiding District Court judge Alalatoa Rosella Viane Papali'i said the matter would be adjourned until next Tuesday.

Last month, the Police Commissioner Su'a Fuiavailili Egon Keil warned the public about the increase in these types of crimes in the region.

He advised people to check their bank accounts to make sure no money was taken out illegally. [Source: RNZI]



A welcoming ceremony for Lt Tanner Stiehl, the head of the local marine safety detachment unit of the US Coast Guard was held yesterday inside the Port Administration conference room, where shipping agency representatives were asked to voice any concerns on how their local office can help ease some of the unwavering rules and regulations of the restrictions given to all boat owners and operators on island.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

## DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Position: Grant Writer (re-advertised)

### Responsibilities:

- Research and explore US Federal grants and funding sources available to the bank either directly or through the American Samoa Government.
- Develop and prepare proposals and grant applications and perform professional and administrative work in researching, identifying, developing and comply with all follow up grants reporting as required by the funding agencies.
- Develop and monitor procedures for complying with grant requirements, guidelines, and regulations of funding programs.
- Work closely with the staff in developing and transforming ideas into grant proposals
- Assist with the management of grant programs and submit required monthly, quarterly or annual financial reports as mandated by the funding agencies.
- Maintain a calendar to ensure timely submission of letters of inquiry, proposal deadlines and reports.
- Prioritize projects to keep multiple proposals moving in a timely manner, meet deadlines and manage material required for proposals
- Establish and maintain relationships with the funding agencies and program officers.
- Function as a point of contact for DBAS with the funding agencies and establish working relationship with their designated officials.
- Develop and monitor budget for grants and funded programs.
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports and submit to the President and Board of Directors summarizing the evaluation of all grants and funded programs.
- Organize training programs for DBAS staff prior to implementation of new grant or funded programs.
- Liaison with agencies or departments of ASG to implement and administer "pass through" funding programs.
- Maintain a database of various funding agencies and grant programs for the bank.
- Assume any other duties as assigned by the President.

### Qualifications:

#### Education/Experience/Qualification:

Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Management or related field with a minimum of 2 years grant writing experience.

#### Skills/Abilities:

Professional appearance and attitude.

Excellent writing, analytical and research skills are essential.

Highly level computer literacy required with excellent Microsoft office application use.

Must be self motivated, detail oriented, highly organized, and have experience using online Database.

Be proficient in research, interpreting and analyzing diverse data and posses the ability to work collaboratively and independently to achieve stated goals.

Must have solid knowledge of creating budgets as they relate to the proposals and grants.

Ability to maintain confidentiality.

Please submit your Resume & Application to the Development Bank of American Samoa located in Pago Pago - 2nd floor. This job posting will expire Thursday – August 3, 2017.



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Late Placement Test	August 10
Registration (New Students)	August 16
Registration (Continuing & Returning)	August 17 - 18
Instruction Begins	August 21
New Student Orientation	August 23
<b>TED Session</b>	
Registration	August 29 - 31
Instruction Begins	September 5

For more information regarding 2017 Fall semester dates, call 699-9155 ext. 333, 380 or 313, email [info@amsamoa.edu](mailto:info@amsamoa.edu), or visit [www.amsamoa.edu](http://www.amsamoa.edu) online.

# VP Pence in Estonia: Attack on 1 NATO ally is attack on all

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Monday strongly pledged America’s commitment to protecting NATO allies against attacks, including the Baltic states, which have anxiously watched a growing Russian military presence in the region.

“Under President Donald Trump, the United States stands firmly behind our Article 5 pledge of mutual defense — an attack on one of us is an attack on us all,” Pence told reporters after meeting with the presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

Mutual defense is a vital issue for the three small former Soviet states that border Russia, which were all occupied for nearly five decades by Soviet

troops before regaining their independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The United States never recognized the claim by Soviet leader Josef Stalin on the three countries — which have a combined population of 6 million — allowing Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to maintain independent diplomatic missions and have their national flags stored at the State Department throughout the occupation.

Saying that Trump “knows security is the foundation of our prosperity,” Pence said America and the Baltic countries would seek new ways to increase prosperity by increasing two-way trade that currently amounts to \$3.5 billion and by increasing their mutual investments.

Earlier, he met Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, Latvian President Raimonds Vejonis and Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite at the baroque 18th-century Kadriorg Palace, which was built by the Russian Emperor Peter the Great.

Energy is one way that Washington is seeking to tighten its commercial ties with the Baltic countries. It closed a deal in June to sell liquefied natural gas (LNG) directly from the United States to the region.

A Lithuanian state-owned gas trading company will receive the first delivery of U.S. imported LNG in August — something that Pence said will “benefit not only our prosperity, but regional security. And I am confident that this deal will only be the first of many.” Pence said he and Trump were pleased with the deal that will help the Baltic states to reduce their reliance on Russian gas.

Later Monday, Pence met with NATO troops from Britain, France and the United States that are stationed in Estonia. The alliance has deployed some 4,000 troops and military hardware in the three Baltic states and Poland to counter Russia’s presence in the Baltic Sea region. Before departing for Georgia, Pence took shovel and planted an English oak outside the headquarters of the Estonian defense forces together with the leaders of Latvia and Lithuania.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday ordered the U.S. to cut its embassy and consulate staff in Russia by 755 people. On Monday, Pence said America wants to improve bilateral relations with Russia “despite the recent diplomatic action by Moscow.” “We hope for better days and better relations with Russia,” Pence told reporters. Yet Russia’s upcoming Zapad 2017 military exercises with 13,000 troops near the Baltic states’ borders in September may further strain relations.



# In Loving Memory of a



## Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great Grandfather, brother, uncle and friend:

# TUITUAFANUA TAEFU ATOAMALEFUAIUPOLU TAFafa SIATAGA



Il Timothy 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Luke 23:46 “and when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said, thus he gave up the ghost.”

**Sunrise: January 6, 1934 ~ Sunset: July 11, 2017**

Fata ia i mauga o ao lau fa’asausauga Samoa. I ou paia e le popo ma ou sa e le ave’a. Le fa’asouga o ao male atu folasa. E afua mai i le oneone le utufia o le Faleniu sa, seia paiale Faletapa’au o le Alataua.Tulou, tulou, tulouna lava.

A taili ulu la’au ma malu fo’i letaufa’anu’u, o fa’aaliga ia o le ola ua tafi tafea i le auau. A sopoutu pe sopolagi fo’i lagona o le fa’anoanoa, e sala lava aua o mafutaga e pele ma mamae e le toe fo’i mai, e ui lava ina o lo o tu mai i tafata-faifailagi le laga’ali a Tamafaiga. Ua motusia nei le Tuive’eve’e a Lilomaiaava ma ua: Gasetoto ai le masina, ua pa’u le la, ua gasolosolo fo’i ao aua ua tu’umalo Tuituafanua Tafafa Siataga ma ua lagia ai nei Gagamoe e afio ai Mauga ole Ma’oputasi o le tama na fa’asau, Susu ai Tei, Susu fo’i Anoalo, Susu ouluta Matua, Susu Nofo-fanau, Susu Anoaloifale, alalata’i lau Tifa Tuaolo na Faleagafulu ai le motu fa’apea le mamalu ia te oe le Launiunasaelua.

Ua taia fo’i le tuluvao i le po ta’aligoligoa aua ua gasolosolo ao, ua to le timu, ta’ape papa aua ua tu’umaloTaeFu Tafafa Siataga, ma ua lagia ai Pata e afio ai le paia o aiga Tauaana ma la latou tama, afifio ai le Falefitu o le Ati Tagaloo, fa’apea le matua o Tonumaivao, afio Taiivao na falefia i ai aiga, afifio Fa’asavalu, Salu ma Auv’aipeau, alalata’i Galuefa ia Falelatai, le tagata o le vavau male tula o Salogo. Afio fo’i Toleafoa ma le aumaga ma vae o Nofoafia. Ua la’a fo’i le tui i le itulagi le utufia aua ua mafuli le la, ua gasetoto fo’i le masina aua ua usufono Atoamalefuaiupolu Tafafa Siataga. Ua lagia ai nei Sinave ma Ulumoto’otua. E afio ai Leupolu le matua.

Afifio ai Usoali’i ma aiga, alalata’i ai le fetalaiga a Atoamalefuaiupolu, alo o Malietoa. Talofa, ua mumutu vanu ma le ala o le la. Ua gausia fo’i le u ma ua laina.

O le a ave’esea mai lona tino maliu mai le Maota o gasegase i Faga’alu I le itula e 8 i le taeao o le Aso To’ona’i, aso 5 o Aukuso 2017. Ma molimoli atu ai i le Malumalu E.F.K.A.S. i Pago Pago mo lona toe sauniga. Ona mapu atu lea i lona aiga i Vaitafe i Pago Pago lava, ma lagomau ai i le itula e 3 i le afiafi. E alu lava le tagata e tusa ma le vala’au a le Atua, ae ma Atua pea ana galuega Sainia,

Susuga ale Fa’afeagaiga Nomeneta Jennings  
Atufili Nikolao Mageo  
Siligatusa Lui Auvae  
Asotasi Tavita Siataga

Tina fa’anoanoa ia Salau Tafafa Siataga ma le fanau ma aiga potopoto.





[Courtesy photo]







# IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Evaga)



Last week the Department of Commerce hosted a Capital Access Workshop, which brought under one roof, banks, federal and local agencies that serve businesses by providing training, technical assistance and funding sources to help existing business owners and individuals who want to start a business. The one day workshop was held at the Gov. H.Rex Lee Auditorium and attracted a good cross section of business owners and entrepreneurs looking for a step forward.

Booths were set up for participants to visit with the various entities offering info & services. Miss American Samoa, Antonina Keka Lilomaiava, is seen here at the American Samoa Visitors Bureau-Tourism booth, which is one of the areas of development that needs to move forward in the territory.

[photo: Sabrina Amosa]

## Transgender US soldier felt 'fired' by Trump's tweet

BERATZHAUSEN, Germany (AP) — The subject line read: "Announcing a personal change."

The U.S. Army soldier took a deep breath before hitting the button that sent the email to more than 200 fellow troops.

"All considered, I am, and have been, traversing what is essentially a personal matter, but is something I must address publicly," the email stated. "I am transgender."

The April 13 email officially ended the secret that burned inside Capt. Jennifer Sims, who was known as Jonathan Sims. But the feeling of relief swiftly turned to unease last week after President Donald Trump tweeted that transgender troops were no longer welcome.

"I read the tweet while I

was at work and you know it was devastating because I still have work to do and here I am reading basically what sounds like the president of the United States — who is the commander in chief, he is the ultimate boss of the military — telling me and anybody else that is transgender that we are fired," Sims said.

Pentagon officials say the policy allowing transgender troops will remain unchanged without official White House guidance. But for Sims, the uncertainty has been upsetting.

"So in the initial moments after the tweet, I saw myself forced into the state that I was in before I started transitioning — a state of depression, exhaustion and inability to enjoy things," said Sims, 28, who spoke to The Associated Press on her

own behalf and not on that of the Army.

The reversal of the Obama administration policy that allows transgender people to serve openly and receive military medical coverage for transitioning from one gender to another also could affect her physically.

Sims has been on hormone therapy by her military doctor since November. If she interrupts the treatment, her body will revert to being male.

"It would be very difficult to have to go through that," said Sims, who is based at Hohenfels, a U.S. Army garrison in the German state of Bavaria.

Growing up in Minnesota and Florida, Sims, a high school football player, never felt comfortable being male. The son

(Continued on page 11)





The Qliplet by Lulabop is a thoughtful solution to one of our most common travel fatigue issues.  
[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 7/31/17]

# Cool Stuff: Qliplet

by Barry Markowitz

We all have our specialized backpacks and roller bags... we are not going to change. But — Qliplet has reinvented the way our bags work with each other. Our Yuppie fellow travelers buy pricey coordinated combo two bag sets that fit together because they were made for each other. Cool Stuff travels with highly secure and comfy Pacsafe backpack for camera gear, and a Nanuk hard case for

medical supplies. And now, thanks to Qliplet, at the airport or checking into accommodations my Pacsafe and Nanuk are now best pals rolling with ease as one. The Qliplet is a well engineered carabiner with 360 degree rotating rubber gripping hook that allows the magic to happen. I have used Nite-Eze rubberized “Gear Ties”... but it takes too much time to hook up and release. Gear Ties are an incredibly versatile product for many concerns, and were a good

temporary solution... Qliplet is a specifically designed solution. Cool Stuff bought our Qliplet at a Brookstone Airport Store for \$19. Awaiting the Qliplet winter coat edition for when we are transiting to/through Auckland, Oz, Tokyo, or the US Mainland in Winter and it’s just too hot to wear on our return to the islands... me... my Cool Stuff hands are just too full carrying mealofas for you Coolios.



In this July 29, 2017 photo transgender U.S. Army captain Jennifer Sims poses at the main gate of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center after an interview with The Associated Press in Hohenfels near Regensburg, Germany.  
(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

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## ▶ Transgender US soldier...

Continued from page 10

and grandson of military veterans quietly came to terms with identifying as a woman a year after joining the Army R.O.T.C., but outwardly kept it a secret “because I wanted to continue serving,” Sims said.

Sims stopped socializing, feeling drained over worries about being masculine enough, and instead focused on work, serving in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Germany. Her sister, Natasha Sims, 24, said she saw “emptiness” in her eyes.

After the Defense Department announced in 2015 that it was considering allowing transgender troops to serve openly, Sims told Natasha and their parents. When the policy became official in June 2016, Sims said “it was the best day of my life really.” Sims made an appointment with the behavioral health office, was given a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and started hormone therapy.

Five months later, she decided to shed her secret, first telling her closest colleagues, Capt. Brandon Shorter and another infantry officer.

They were at a loss for words.

After Shorter got home, he texted Sims about how that was brave.

“Infantry officers are best described as brutish. So Capt. Sims pulled me and another brute aside face to face.

That took a lot of courage and that’s the first thing that went through my mind, mixed in with surprise,” Shorter said.

Sims then announced the “personal change” to more than 200 other troops.

It was not an emotional email. The seasoned military officer wrote how a lifetime of discomfort had peaked three years ago. Sims then outlined the steps she would take to fully

transition to a woman.

“Officially in DEERS, my gender will remain male until my medical transition is complete, which means I will still comport to male standards and use male facilities,” she wrote, referring to the acronym for the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, a kind of HR database for U.S. military personnel.

“While it is my preference for people to refer to me with female pronouns, if you are uncomfortable with this, there is no requirement to do so, I only respectfully request you refer to me by my proper name, Captain Sims,” the email stated.

Sims wrote that she will be more productive not having to “live two personas.”

Five soldiers sent emails back with words of encouragement. Most didn’t respond. For a few days, there were murmurs of “hey did you see the email?” Some said they would not use the feminine pronoun until Sims’ Army paperwork made it official.

The force had just undergone training explaining what was expected in regards to transgender soldiers.

Sims is the first transgender person Shorter has known.

The unit is basically full of “young men wanting to chew on nails and prove how tough they are,” Shorter said. Only about eight women are among the 500 soldiers in the battalion. Shorter had a lot of questions “being naturally curious and wanting to be a good friend because we didn’t really have a personal relationship.

He’s, excuse me, she’s — see I still slip up sometimes — a single captain.

I’m married with two daughters. Our lives are different.”





# Son of Nashville mayor dies of apparent drug overdose

Eds: Updates with comment from judge. Adds newspaper report on Barry’s death occurring at private residence, not considered suspicious. With AP Photos.

The only son of Nashville Mayor Megan Barry - whom her office described as “a kind soul full of life” - has died of an apparent drug overdose, and she asked for privacy as she and her husband face life “without his laughter and love.”

The office released a statement Sunday from Barry and her husband, Bruce, saying 22-year-old Max Barry died Saturday night in Denver.

“Early this morning, we received news that no parents should ever have to hear,” the couple said. “Our son Max suffered from an overdose and passed away. We cannot begin to describe the pain and heart-break that comes with losing our only child. Our son was a kind soul full of life and love for

his family and friends.”

Max Barry graduated in June from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

“Our family would greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers, and would respectfully ask for privacy as we mourn the loss of our child and begin to understand a world without his laughter and love in our lives,” the statement said.

Funeral arrangements are pending. The Tennessean reported a visitation is set for Monday evening at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music, and a memorial service is scheduled for Tuesday morning at the Belcourt Theatre in Nashville.

Denver police spokeswoman Raquel Lopez declined to search the department’s records and logs for the police report of Barry’s death, saying that would violate the department’s policy of not identifying victims.

Investigator Melinda Rose of the Jefferson County Coroner’s Office in Denver told the newspaper that an official cause or manner of death would not be declared until after the results of an autopsy, which was planned for Sunday.

FILE - In this Sept. 25, 2015, photo, Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, center, is hugged by her son, Max, as her husband, Bruce, left, applauds after she was sworn into office in Nashville, Tenn. A statement released Sunday, July 30, 2017, from Megan and Bruce Barry, said their only child, Max Barry, died Saturday night in Denver from an apparent drug overdose. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey, File)



American Samoa  
Power Authority

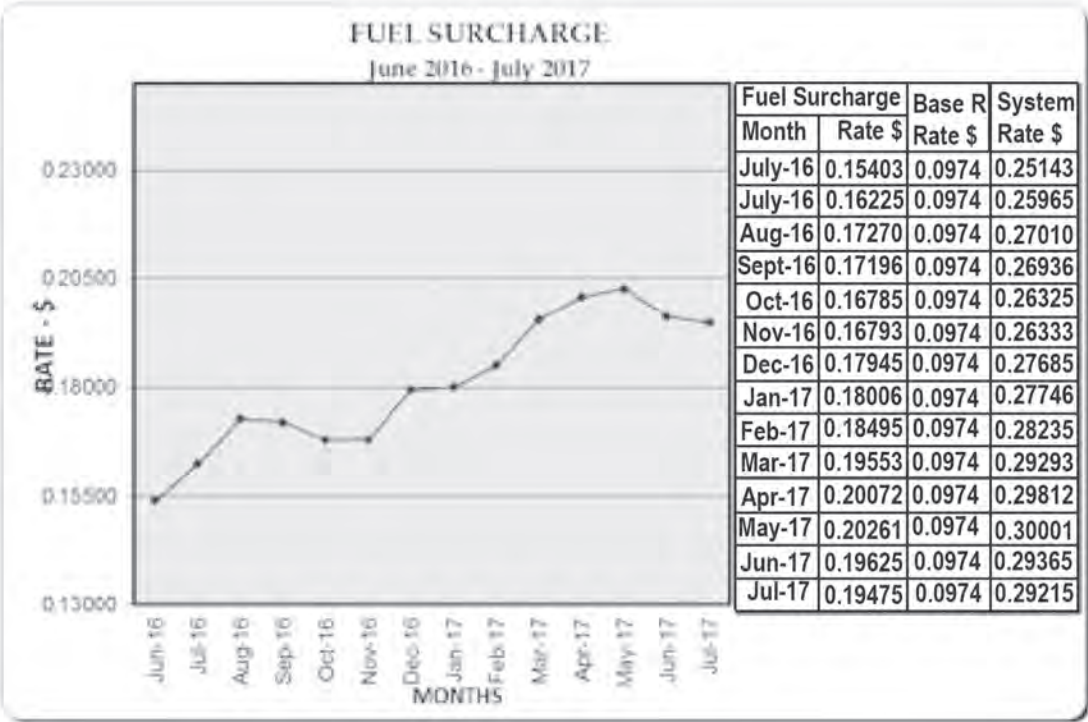
July 26, 2017

## Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the “base rate” and the “fuel surcharge rate.”

The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA’s operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a “pass-through” revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.



The fuel surcharge rate also includes the “Renewable Reduction” from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the “Renewable

Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for July 2017			
Rate \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Caluculated Fuel Surcharge	0.19924	0.19924	0.19924
Renewable Reduction	-0.00449	-0.00449	-0.00449
Fuel Surcharge	0.19475	0.19475	0.19475
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.09740	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.29215	0.29215	0.28435

Reduction” savings. There are six active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA’s renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.

Megan Barry was sworn in as Nashville’s first female mayor in September 2015 with her husband and son by her side. Max Barry bear-hugged his mom after the oath of office, sat just to her right as she gave her inaugural speech and kissed her afterward.

Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Richard H. Dinkins, who issued the oath, said his son and Max Barry started school together in kindergarten and the judge coached both on youth basketball and baseball teams.

Dinkins said the Barry family would host an annual holiday party with a houseful of kids.

Max Barry “had a loving environment,” Dinkins said in a telephone interview Sunday. “He was not pampered and spoiled. He was very grounded, had a very happy childhood.”

Metro Council Member Fabian Bedne said Barry attended the same high school as his son, and saw him often.

“He seemed like a good kid, nice friendly attitude,” Bedne said in a Facebook message Sunday. “When I served with the Mayor in the Council and visited her home they seemed to have a great relationship at home as well. It is a devastating loss to all of Nashville, we love our Mayor and her family.”

Condolences for the Barry family poured in on social media.





In this Feb. 16, 2017 photo, Dr. Annapoorna Kini, center, performs a non-emergency angioplasty at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. Through a blood vessel in the groin, she guides a tube to a blockage in the heart. She inflates a tiny balloon to flatten the clog, and leaves behind a mesh tube called a stent to prop the artery open.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

# US hospitals set record for fast heart attack care

Updates with details and quotes. With AP Photos, Graphic and 360 Video.

There’s never been a better time to be treated for a heart attack. U.S. hospitals have set a record for how quickly they open blocked arteries, averaging under one hour for the first time since these results have been tracked.

More than 93 percent of patients now have their arteries opened within the recommended 90 minutes of arrival.

“Things have definitely improved” from a decade ago, when less than half of heart attack patients were treated that fast, said Dr. Fred Masoudi, a University of Colorado cardiologist who led a recent report examining response times.

It’s based on records from about 85 percent of U.S. hospitals that do the artery procedure, angioplasty. Through a blood vessel in the groin or an arm, doctors guide a tube to the blockage causing the heart attack. They inflate a tiny balloon to flatten the clog, and leave behind a mesh tube called a stent to prop the artery open.

The sooner blood flow is restored, the less chance of permanent damage.

“It’s one of the few things in medicine where time, literally seconds, is of the essence. It’s where the phrase ‘time is muscle’ comes from,” said Dr. Ajay Kirtane, director of the lab that performs angioplasties at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. The risk of dying goes up 42 percent if care is delayed even half an hour beyond the 90 minutes that U.S. guidelines

say patients should be treated after arrival. In 2005, this “door-to-balloon” time averaged a dismal 96 minutes, and the American College of Cardiology led a drive to get hospitals to improve. The report shows it plunged to 59 minutes in 2014.

It was only 24 minutes for George Smith at UConn John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, Connecticut. The 82-year-old woke up on March 31 with intense jaw pain, the same kind he had during a heart attack two years ago. His wife called 911. An ambulance whisked him to the emergency room, and “they were all waiting for me” at the door, he said. An hour later he was sitting up in bed with a new stent. “I was amazed,” he said. “Such a blessing.”

One reason UConn is so fast — its median door-to-balloon time was 56 minutes last year, and only 39 minutes during one recent quarter — is the work it has done to make its emergency responders part of the cardiac care team, said the hospital’s EMS coordinator, Peter Canning. “We used our paramedics to extend our hospital into the patient’s home,” where they do an extensive electrocardiogram of the heartbeat and call results ahead to the hospital to get the angioplasty room ready, he said. “Calling from 25 minutes out instead of 5 minutes out can be a savings of 20 minutes of heart muscle.”

But all that speed by the hospital won’t do much good unless patients act fast, too, and call 911 if they think they might be having a heart attack.

The warning signs:

—Discomfort in the center of the chest lasting more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

—Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

—Shortness of breath, which might include breaking out in a cold sweat, or feelings of nausea or lightheadedness.

“For women, the symptoms may not be the same. It may not be the typical chest pain” but rather abdominal pain, nausea or unusual tiredness, said Dr. Annapoorna Kini, a cardiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

What to do? “Get medical help,” she said. “It’s better to worry after” about whether it was really a stomach problem rather than a heart attack.

Angioplasty also is done for non-emergency conditions, to treat chronic chest pain caused by arteries that are clogged but not severely blocked, and its use in that setting is more questionable. Often medicines and other things can be tried first, and angioplasty can be avoided or delayed. The report shows that fewer people are getting these procedures inappropriately. In 2014, about one third of angioplasties were elective, for non-emergency situations. Just over half were deemed to be done for clearly appropriate reasons and another one third were classified “may be appropriate” under guidelines from the cardiology college and others. About 14 percent were deemed “rarely appropriate” — less than other research has found in the past.

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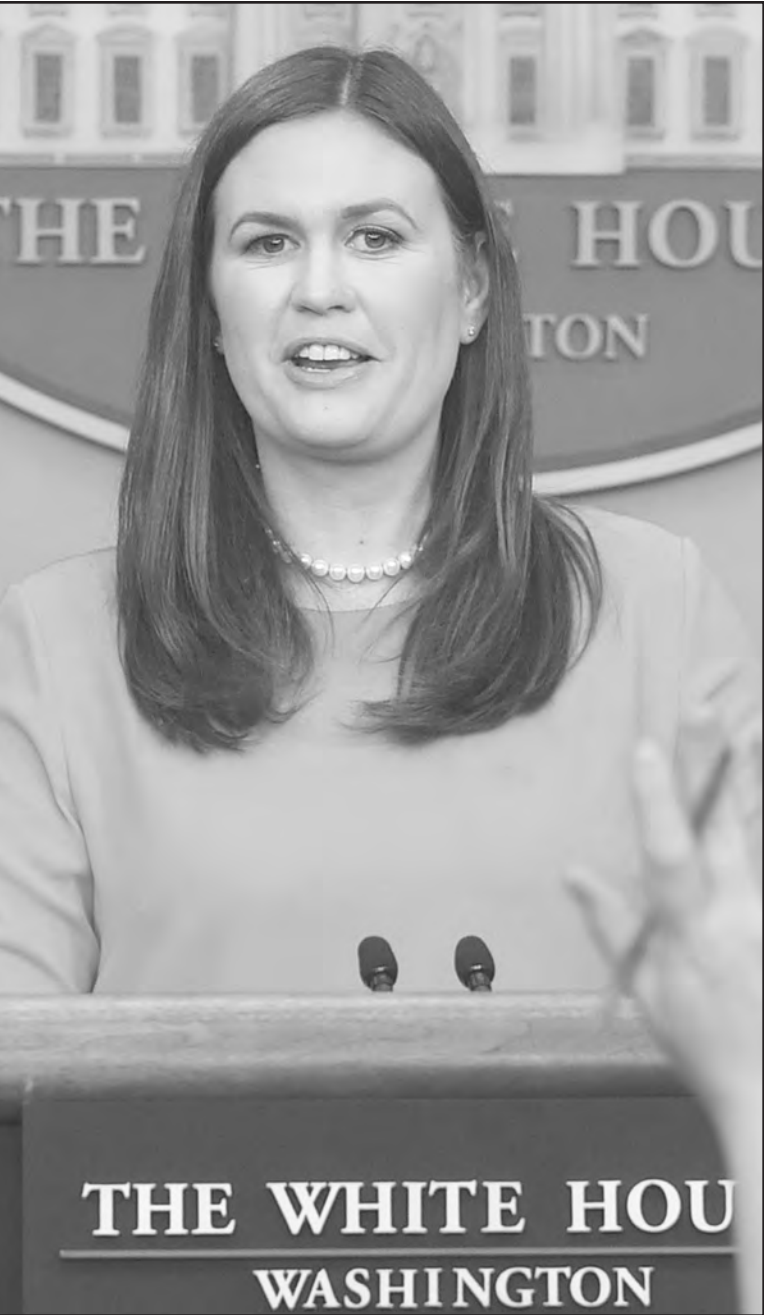
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White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, July 31, 2017. Sanders answered questions about President Donald Trump's decision to remove Anthony Scaramucci from his position as communications director.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)





FILE - In this June 5, 2017 file photo, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks in Baltimore. Clinton lost the 2016 election to President Donald Trump, but some Republicans in Congress are intensifying their calls to investigate her and other Obama administration officials.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

# Clinton lost, but Republicans still want to investigate her

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Hillary Clinton lost the 2016 election to President Donald Trump, but some Republicans in Congress are intensifying their calls to investigate her and other Obama administration officials.

As investigations into Russian meddling and possible links to Trump’s campaign have escalated on both sides of the Capitol, some Republicans argue that the investigations should have a greater focus on Democrats. Democrats who have pushed the election probes “have started a war of investigative attrition,” said GOP Rep. Steve King of Iowa, a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Several officials from former President Barack Obama’s administration and Clinton’s campaign have appeared before or been interviewed by the House and Senate Intelligence Committees as part of the Russia investigation, along with Trump campaign officials. The GOP-led committees are investigating whether Trump’s campaign had any links to Russian interference in last year’s election. The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., has continued a separate investigation into whether Obama administration officials inappropriately made requests to “unmask” identities of Trump campaign officials in intelligence reports.

The House Judiciary Committee, which has declined to

investigate the Russian meddling, approved a resolution this past week to request documents related to the FBI’s now-closed investigation of Clinton’s emails. In addition, Republican on that committee wrote the Justice Department on Thursday and asked for a second special counsel, in addition to Special Counsel Robert Mueller, to investigate “unaddressed matters, some connected to the 2016 election and others, including many actions taken by Obama administration.”

“The American public has a right to know the facts — all of them — surrounding the election and its aftermath,” the lawmakers wrote. Republicans want to investigate the unmasking issue and also Clinton’s email scandal that figured prominently in the campaign. They also frequently bring up former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and former FBI Director James Comey’s testimony that she told him to call the Clinton email investigation a “matter” instead of an investigation during the campaign.

Nunes wrote his own letter to Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats last week, saying that his committee has learned that one Obama administration official had made “hundreds” of the unmasking requests.

Even though he remains committee chairman, Nunes stepped back from the Russia investigation earlier this year after he was criticized for being

too close to the White House. Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, took over the leading role.

The committee has conducted bipartisan interviews of witnesses; Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner appeared on Tuesday, a day after talking to Senate staff. But partisan tensions have been evident.

GOP Rep. Pete King of New York, who’s on the House Intelligence Committee, said after the Kushner interview that the committee investigation into Russian meddling is a “sham.”

“To me there is nothing to this from the beginning,” he said of his committee’s own probe. “There is no collusion ... it’s the phoniest investigation ever.” Both the Senate and House committees have interviewed or expressed interest in interviewing a series of Democratic witnesses, including Obama’s former national security adviser, Susan Rice, and former U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power — both of whom Republicans have said may be linked to the unmasking. Rice met with staff on the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier this month, and Power met with the panel Friday. “Ambassador Power strongly supports any bipartisan effort to address the serious threat to our national security posed by Russia’s interference in our electoral process, and is eager to engage with the Senate and House committees on the timeline they have requested,” Power’s lawyer, David Pressman, said in a statement.



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# Sam Shepard embodied, examined American myth

LOS ANGELES (AP) — No one really got to know Sam Shepard — and that was the way he seemed to like it. Despite dozens of blatantly personal plays to his name, movie stardom and the spotlight of celebrity and acclaim, Shepard remained throughout his life an inscrutable figure, an American myth in plain sight.

Tortured, private and transient in both life and career, Shepard, who died Thursday at age 73, was in some ways the quintessential American: Full of restlessness, contradictions, and mysteries — and as handsome as they come.

He wrote and lived like life was its own jazz composition — skipping from a post-war California avocado ranch to the experimental East Village theater scene of the 1960s, then to London and Hollywood and back again. He wrote a play with Patti Smith and a song with Bob Dylan, and was the drummer for the “amphetamine rock band” The Holy Modal Rounders. His screenplays include Wim Wenders’ western wander poem “Paris, Texas” and Michelangelo Antonioni’s Death Valley shocker “Zabriskie Point.” He also fathered three children, had a passionate 30-year relationship with movie star Jessica Lange, picked up a Pulitzer Prize for playwriting and an Academy Award nomination for acting along the way — and those are just a few of the highlights.

Shepard once said he did his best writing on the road — literally — one hand on the steering wheel and one holding the pen. He advised that this is best done on a wide open highway, and not in Manhattan.

Born Samuel Shepard Rogers VII in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1943, Shepard was both ardently of his time, innovating new methods of storytelling to impact an anxious era, and also evocative of decades past — forever haunted by the men of his father’s generation of World War II vets who he described as “devastated in some basic way.” As a kid, he went by Steve Rogers, and claimed that he was unaware until much later that it was also Captain America’s civilian name.

Shepard spent his teen years generally apathetic toward school and looking for a way out of the banality of the post-war suburb. In his short stint in college in Walnut, California, he was exposed to the absurdist stylings of Samuel Beckett and decided to leave.

He had a difficult relationship with his father, who he called “a dedicated alcoholic” with a “real short fuse.” Although wary of picking at his own traumas,

Shepard explored this and other themes in his “Family Trilogy” of plays including “Curse of the Starving Class,” “Buried Child” and “True West.”

Shepard saw the absurdities in his own life too. In April 1979, Shepard was informed that he’d won the Pulitzer Prize for “Buried Child” on the same day it closed. Whether humble or a restless perfectionist, Shepard throughout his life would downplay his own accolades. Of “Buried Child,” Shepard said there were a number of lines he thought were “toe-scrunchers.”

Although well-versed in Beckett, Eugene O’Neill and Edward Albee, Shepard spoke of his career as a playwright as though it were an accident.

“I don’t know how I began writing plays,” Shepard said in the documentary “Shepard & Dark.” “I certainly didn’t decide to, I just found myself writing plays.”

And he cringed at the thought of performing on stage in front of a live audience, which made his transition into film and being a public figure even more curious.

Sam Shepard as movie star and celebrity was perhaps the designation that embarrassed him most.

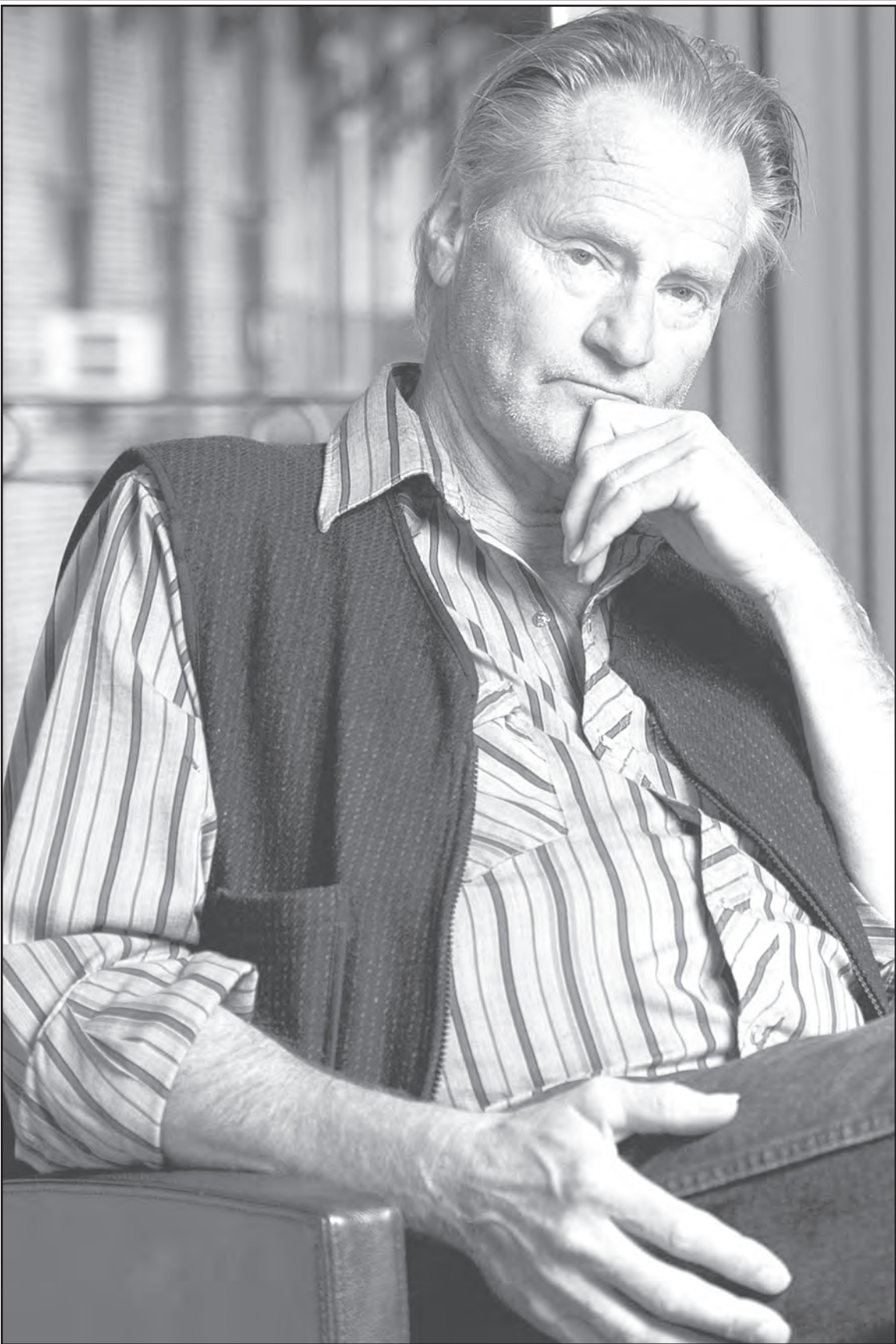
He made his film debut in Terrence Malick’s 1978 dreamy period piece “Days of Heaven,” as a wealthy, isolated farmer and romantic foe to Richard Gere. Although he had minimal dialogue, Pauline Kael wrote in The New Yorker that Shepard, “Makes a strong impression.”

He’d go on to embody classic masculinity as Chuck Yeager in “The Right Stuff,” for which he’d score an Oscar nomination, and charm Lange in the Frances Farmer biopic “Frances” and then Diane Keaton in “Baby Boom.”

Aside from his acting, his ideas left an indelible mark on cinema: He dreamt up “Paris, Texas” with Wim Wenders and L.M. Kit Carson.

It was almost ironic that later in life, Shepard occasionally found himself playing men like those in his father’s generation. He was memorable as the general in “Black Hawk Down,” the outlaw older brother of Jesse James in “The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford,” a hot-headed patriarch in the Netflix series “Bloodline,” and even as Ryan Gosling’s country father in “The Notebook.”

Shepard was that perfect bundle of contradictions that only an artist could ever justify: Someone who craved privacy and outwardly resented the opposite and yet acted in movies and revealed his rawest truths on the pages of his plays.



FILE - In this Sept. 29, 2011 file photo, actor Sam Shepard poses for a portrait in New York. Shepard, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Oscar-nominated actor and celebrated author whose plays chronicled the explosive fault lines of family and masculinity in the American West, died of complications from ALS, Thursday, July 27, 2017, at his home in Kentucky. He was 73. (AP Photo/Charles Sykes, File)



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# US bombers fly over South Korea after North's 2nd ICBM test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States flew two supersonic bombers over the Korean Peninsula on Sunday in a show of force against North Korea following the country's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test.

The U.S. also said it conducted a successful test of a missile defense system located in Alaska.

The B-1 bombers were escorted by South Korean fighter jets as they performed a low-pass over an air base near the South Korean capital of Seoul before returning to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, the U.S. Pacific Air Forces said in a statement.

It said the mission was a response to North Korea's two ICBM tests this month. Ana-

lysts say flight data from the North's second test, conducted Friday night, showed that a broader part of the mainland United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

Vice President Mike Pence said Sunday during a visit to Estonia that the U.S. and its allies plan to increase pressure on North Korea to end its nuclear program.

"The continued provocations by the rogue regime in North Korea are unacceptable and the United States of America is going to continue to marshal the support of nations across the region and across the world to further isolate North Korea economically and diplomatically," Pence said. "But the era of strategic patience is over."

The president of the United States is leading a coalition of nations to bring pressure to bear until that time that North Korea will permanently abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile program."

"The time for talk is over," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said in a statement. She denied reports that Washington would seek an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council, saying that new sanctions that fail to increase pressure would be "worse than nothing."

Haley said a weak resolution would show North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that "the international community is unwilling to challenge him," and singled out China, the North's biggest trading partner, as a country that must change its approach.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he and President Donald Trump spoke by phone Monday morning Asia time and have agreed to take further action against North Korea. Abe said Trump pledged to "take all necessary measures to protect" Japan and that Abe praised his commitment to do so.

Abe said Japan would pursue concrete steps to bolster defense system and capabilities under the firm solidarity with the U.S. and do utmost to protect the safety of the Japanese people.

Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander, called North Korea "the most urgent threat to regional stability."

"Diplomacy remains the lead. However, we have a responsibility to our allies and our nation to showcase our unwavering commitment while planning for the worst-case scenario," O'Shaughnessy said. "If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing."



In this photo released by Japan Air Self Defense Force, U.S. Air Force B-1B bombers, top, fly with a Japan Air Self Defense Force F-2 fighter jet over Japan's southern island of Kyushu, just south of the Korean Peninsula, during a Japan-U.S. joint exercise Sunday, July 30, 2017. Japan's Defense Ministry reported the U.S. supersonic bombers flown from the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam conducted a joint exercise with South Korean Air Force over the Korean Peninsula later in the day. The U.S. Pacific Air Forces said in a statement that the mission was a response to consecutive intercontinental ballistic missile tests by North Korea this month.

(Japan Air Self Defense Force via AP)

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