



Ryan Taifane (center) made history earlier this month when he became the first Samoan — in five years — to be sworn in, locally, as an officer candidate.

The ceremony took place at the Konelio Pele Army Reserve Center with Taifane being surrounded by family members and friends, including his wife Ellison and their three children.

Taifane will be departing the territory for basic training on April 16th in Missouri and later to Fort Benning, Georgia for AIT. See full story in tomorrow's Samoa News.

[photo: LF]

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DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

## UPDATE GITA: COMPLAINTS ABOUT ASSESSMENTS PILE UP



A photo from last Saturday when police were called to one of the Points of Distribution for the Red Cross.

Samoa News was told that no one was arrested; however, people were not happy — after the long wait in line, to be told they were not on the 'assessment' list. More than one village is served at the different PODs — so people crowded in, with many arriving very early in the morning to stand in line. People became extremely agitated and verbal, saying among other things that their homes were still not assessed, and also that others seem to be receiving help, yet Gita had not damaged their homes. The Office of Samoan Affairs called an emergency meeting early yesterday morning for all pulenu'u (village mayors) to attend, as complaints poured into their office after last weekend's fiasco — pointing to pulenu'u doing little to 'smooth the waters'.

Samoa News also received word that some families refused to leave certain church-hall shelters, saying their homes are not inhabitable, and became angry when told to return home, as help from the Red Cross was being distributed, and home assessments were supposedly completed.

To date, there are 11 shelters that remain open; and as of last Friday, 600 people are being served.

### MANU'A ASSESSMENT

Teams from Tutuila traveled to Manu'a over the weekend to assess the damage caused by Tropical Storm Gita and the results will be included with the ones finalized for Tutuila, which suffered the brunt of the storm with damages to homes, infrastructure, and agricultural products, especially bananas. According to the Emergency Operations Center, there's no indication when the assessment team will return to Tutuila. Village mayors and village police in Manu'a were directed by the Secretary of Samoan Affairs to assist and escort the assessment teams.

Manu'a faipule and House Vice Speaker, Fetu Fetui Jr., said the reports he received immediately after the storm state that the majority of the damage was to agriculture products, with plantations devastated by the strong winds.

"Based on the reports that I received upon checking with Manu'a, there were some homes that were damaged," Fetui told Samoa News yesterday, noting that the government assessment would provide additional information.

Among the latest reminders from EOC:

- Remain in your home if it is livable to allow room/ space in shelters for individuals whose homes suffered major damages and are unsafe to be occupied.

- More importantly, staying at the shelter while your home is in livable condition will not increase your eligibility for further assistance.

- Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS) advises the public to contact the 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Hotline at 633-9017 if any assistance is needed.

- Contact your village mayor (pulenu'u) or the Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA) at 633-5201 or call EOC at 699-3800/ 3801 if your home has sustained damages from Gita and an assessment has

(Continued on page 7)

## Man convicted of drug possession gets a second chance

**COURT HAS THE OPTION TO PUT HIM AWAY FOR UP TO 10 YEARS IF HE FAILS TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS, SAYS KRUSE**

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

"...don't hide behind your sick father and sister. If you want a second chance from the court, try to persuade us so that we can give you a second chance."

This was the message from Chief Justice Michael Kruse yesterday morning when he handed down the sentence for Faaili Mata'u, who was convicted of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, to wit; marijuana.

Assistant Attorney General Robert Morris appeared on behalf of the government while Public Defendant Douglas Fiaui represented the defendant, who was in custody since his arrest on Oct. 29, 2017 unable to post a \$5,000 surety bond.

Mata'u, a.k.a 'Whistle' was initially charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine and marijuana - both felonies, punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than five years nor more than ten years, and a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$20,000 or both, for each count.

Under a plea agreement with the government last month, Mata'u pled guilty to the marijuana charge and the remaining meth charge was dismissed.

During sentencing, Mata'u apologized to the court and begged

(Continued on page 7)



# New Zealand’s National Party chooses indigenous Maori leader



Simon Bridges, right, holds a press conference with Paula Bennett in Wellington, New Zealand Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018. Bridges was chosen by New Zealand’s National Party lawmakers to lead the party, becoming the the first indigenous Maori to hold the position. Bennett, who is also Maori, retained her role as deputy leader. (AP Photo/Nick Perry)

By **NICK PERRY**, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Lawmakers from New Zealand’s main conservative party on Tuesday chose their first indigenous Maori leader as they regrouped after an election loss.

National Party members selected 41-year-old Simon Bridges from among five candidates. He is a former lawyer and prosecutor who was first elected to Parliament 10 years ago. He held several ministerial portfolios in the previous government, including energy, labor and transport.

The party also chose a Maori deputy leader after Paula Bennett fended off one challenger to retain her position. New Zealand has had three women serve as prime minister but has never had a Maori prime minister, an opportunity Bridges would have if he wins the next election in 2020.

“I’m really excited about the opportunity I’ve got ahead,” Bridges said. “I hope Maori are proud of me.” He said he wants to appeal to a “broad cross-range” of New Zealanders because that’s what his party represents.

Bridges replaces former Prime Minister Bill English, 56, who announced earlier this month that he was quitting politics. The National Party was in power for nine years before the election in September, when it won the most votes of any single party. But the liberal Labour Party was able to forge an alliance with two smaller parties and form a government under Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. The selection of Bridges could help blunt criticism that Ardern, 37, was better able to connect with a younger generation than English. Bridges and Ardern have faced off before, when they appeared on breakfast television together as “young guns” representing their respective parties.

Opinion polls indicate the popularity of Ardern and the Labour Party have risen since she was elected, and Bridges said the National Party would face the next election as underdogs.

Ardern has moved quickly to fulfill campaign pledges such as banning foreign speculators from buying homes, increasing spending on education and making the nation carbon neutral by 2050.

Her announcement last month that she was pregnant attracted intense interest around the world. She is due to have her first child in June, when she plans to take six weeks’ leave.



by **Ausage Fausia**  
Samoa News Reporter

**OKESENE ALO**

Chief Justice Michael Kruse has granted a motion by private attorney Richard deSaulles to withdraw himself as counsel for Okesene Alo, one of the four DPS officers assigned to the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) in Tafuna, who is facing various drug and sex charges.

During Alo’s hearing yesterday, deSaulles said there are several motions before the court pertaining to his client’s case, and some of them were made when Alo was represented by Sharron Rancourt, who is no longer practicing law locally.

One of the motions includes the motion to compel discovery.

deSaulles explained that since last year, he’s been asking the government to provide discovery for this case, including the statements by the 4 juveniles who are named as the alleged victims in the case against his client.

The juveniles, according to the defense attorney, have criminal convictions.

deSaulles told the court that the government has filed two separate criminal cases against his client and the discovery will help Alo get a fair trial.

He asked the court for an order to unseal all statements — made by the four alleged victims — now before Acting Associate Justice Elvis Patea, as it can help in his client’s defense.

Prosecutor Christy Dunn on the other hand told the court the discovery the defense is asking for has already been submitted to the court, and it’s now before Judge Patea.

She said Judge Patea has already informed the defense attorney that if they want to unseal the discovery, they need to seek an order from Chief Justice Kruse, because the discovery contains written statements from all four juveniles who are named as victims in the case against Alo.

Kruse said he understands why Judge Patea issued the order, saying it’s because Patea is concerned about safeguarding information pertaining to the juveniles.

Kruse is taking the motion under advisement.

For the second motion, deSaulles asked the court to withdraw him as the attorney for Alo, because he hasn’t received any payment for his services, and it’s been months since he took the case.

He said he has already spoken to the Public Defender’s Office about taking over Alo’s case.

When asked by the court, Alo said he has already discussed the issue with his attorney, and he has informed him that payment will be made once his brother — who is a minister — returns to the territory this month.

deSaulles told the court that Alo promised him many months ago that payment would be made and to this day, he still hasn’t received any money.

Kruse informed Public Defender, Douglas Fiaui, who was in court, that he now has a new client.

Kruse then granted deSaulles’ motion to withdraw as counsel, and he informed Alo that the court has now appointed Fiaui as his new attorney.

**ELLIOTT SIAUMAU**

The High Court is taking under advisement a motion from the government to revoke bail for defendant Elliott Siaumau. Prosecutor Christy Dunn told the court the government feels the defendant violated conditions of his release from a previous case that was filed last year.

According to Dunn, one of the conditions of release for the defendant when he was released on bond last year, was that he be a law-abiding citizen.

However, on Feb. 5th, Dunn said the defendant was re-arrested and charged in the District Court with two misdemeanors: public peace disturbance and third degree assault.

She asked the court to revoke and forfeit the defendant’s bond.

Siaumau’s attorney Douglas Fiaui opposed the motion, saying the allegation to revoke bond is based on evidence that was on a piece of paper but not solid evidence such as someone who can be sworn in to tell the court what happened.

Fiaui argued there is no sufficient evidence from the government to prove their motion, and for that reason, the motion must be denied.

Chief Justice Michael Kruse told Fiaui that it seems like he’s telling the court to go and do research, and the court is unhappy with his response.

Fiaui said he’s not asking the court to go and do research; instead, he’s asking them to deny the government’s motion.

Dunn fired back and said the government has a copy of the new complaint against the defendant, which can support their motion.

Kruse told Fiaui the court would review if the defendant is a danger to society and if this is the case, the court will consider that as an element in revoking his bond.



## VACANCY

### RESTAURANT ASSISTANT MANAGER

#### Job Description:

1. Assist the Food and Beverage Manager with various duties.
2. Available to work evenings and the weekends
3. Excellent customer service, friendly and courteous
4. Good leadership qualities and a team player
5. Be able to supervise and oversee employees performing various tasks
6. Duties will include but not limited to:
  - a. Greet and seat customers
  - b. Assist in taking food orders and serving when necessary
  - c. Stock supplies and reorder
  - d. Assist employees with cleaning and resetting tables
  - e. Resolve customer food complaints and ensure customer satisfaction
  - f. Verify cashier shift takings are balanced against receipts.

Application forms are to be picked up from the Front Desk at Tradewinds Hotel.





*This Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018, photo shows the new Jet-A-Fuel Tank Farm, which is currently under construction; it's where the airport jet fuel tank farm will be relocated from its current site next to the Tafuna Airport parking lot. The Lolo Administration moved forward with the project in response to the long-standing concern raised by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) over the apparent danger and hazardous proximity of the existing jet fuel farm location to the general public. The old jet fuel farm will be demolished to expand the airport parking lot, once the new tank farm is built and set up. Construction began last year and is set to be completed later this year. The \$5.6 million funding for the relocation project was to come from bond proceeds. However, positive relations fashioned with FAA administrators in the Region and Washington D.C. led the FAA to fund the entire project. The project funding was first discussed following a stopover visit in late July 2016, at the Pago Pago Airport, by then US Transportation Security Anthony Foxx, who met with the governor and other local leaders. Before his departure, Foxx shared with local leaders that FAA would fund the entire project; and the news was shared with reporters who were waiting in the lobby of the Tradewinds Hotel at the time of the meeting. The new jet fuel farm is located just outside of the airport fence around the Pala Lagoon area at the Sen. Inouye Industrial Park, across from ANZ Bank.*

[photo: FS]

## Dubai police: Bollywood's Sridevi drowned in hotel bathtub

By *FAY ABUELGASIM*, *Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Indian actress Sridevi drowned in her hotel bathtub after losing consciousness, the Dubai police said in a statement Monday, though two police officials said she was also under the influence of alcohol at the time.

The 54-year-old, who for years was one of Bollywood's top actresses, died late Saturday while in Dubai for a wedding.

Her brother-in-law Sanjay Kapoor had told an Indian newspaper that she died of a cardiac arrest.

In a tweet, the Dubai police said that her death was “due to drowning in her hotel apartment’s bathtub following loss of consciousness.”

They added that the case had been handed to the public prosecutor’s office, “which will carry out regular legal procedures.”

Two Dubai police officials added, though, that she was under the influence of alcohol. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Sridevi, who was at her peak in the 1980s and ‘90s, was seen as the first female superstar in India’s male-dominated film industry. She was known for her impeccable comic timing as well as her dancing skills — a serious asset in country where song-and-dance melodramas are a movie staple.

# Thank You FA'AFETAI TELE



## Aiono Helen Ah-Toon Passi

Mai i le taele o o matou agaga, e momoli tele atu la matou fa'afetai i le paia o Auauna a le Atua, i so'o se fata faitaulaga, ia outou talosaga faifai pea, faapea foi toe sauniga o si o matou Tina, i le matagofie o ona toe sauniga.

E le fa'agaloina Aiga uma o si o matou Tina faapea si o matou Tama, o Paolo ma Gafa tau Tupu, Gafa tau Malo, o le mamalu o uo ma e masani, faapea le mamalu na aualofa mai i auala eseese e ala i alofa'aga ma fa'amaisea mai vasa e fia ma totonu o si o tatou Atunu'u.

E le fa'agaloina foi Aufaipese ma mamalu i le laumua o le Ekalesia Katoliko i Fatu-o-Aiga, i la outou tautua matavela, faapea Auauna Paia a le Atua, se ua malo fai o le faiva, ua maualuga le aso o si o matou Tina ona o a outou manavaga ola, ua fai ma fa'amafanafanaga i le aiga nei.

I le paia faale Malo, le paia faale Atunu'u, le paia fa'ale Talalelei, o Paolo ma Gafa, e talitonu le manatu, e le gafataulimaina e sa matou faamatalaga.

Ae matou te talitonu e leai se auro po o se ario e mafai ona matou tauia atu ai lo outou agalelei, ae ua na'o la matou tatalo i luma o le Atua, ia alofa saga fa'atamaoaiga outou uma i lo outou mamalu, i ana fa'amanuiaga sautualasi i le tino ma le agaga.

O lea matou te faapea atu ai i lo outou paia, a'o ai ea i matou ma si o matou Tina o Aiono Helen Passi ua outou manatu mai ai.

FA'AFETAI TELE, MALO LE ALOFA.  
Alofa'aga o le Tama, Jerome Passi, Le Fanau ma Aiga



# Amata meets with Chamber of Commerce group to encourage investment in American Samoa



In addition to her meeting with the American Chamber of Commerce in Auckland, Aumua also spoke to the leaders of the high-powered women's organization Pacifica, whose President is Tofilau Bernadette Pereira, the sister of Iulogologo J. Pereira, Executive Assistant to Governor Lolo. [courtesy photo]

Washington, D.C. – Last week, Congresswoman Aumua Amata met with the American Chamber of Commerce group of Auckland, New Zealand, many of whom have extensive business endeavors throughout the Pacific, to encourage investment in American Samoa and to explore any possible ways to strengthen the Cyclone Gita recovery effort.

“I was pleased to speak with the Chamber as a group and discuss American Samoa, and the possibility of opportunities here, as well as talk to many of them individually,” said Amata.

“Companies that already have U.S. ties and already operate in New Zealand and elsewhere in the Pacific

are the best natural potential partners to set up shop in American Samoa. I encouraged them to strongly consider American Samoa in their business plans and future expansions,” she said.

Congresswoman Amata was part of a Congressional delegation from the House Committee on Natural Resources to New Zealand, following two stops in Australia. Among the companies represented at the Chamber of Commerce meeting was AECOM, a U.S. multinational engineering firm that has worked in American Samoa.

“In Auckland, I was the keynote speaker for Pacifica, an influential group of Pacific Islander women

that are working together on behalf of Pacific Islander women, and making a difference in New Zealand,” continued the Congresswoman. “Among them, I was honored to meet Josephine Bartley, the first Samoan woman to serve on the Auckland City Council.”

Amata concluded, “I was greeted warmly by the Samoan communities in each city, and had opportunities to spend time with them, including joining a large group for a church service.

“They expressed their concerns for the people of American Samoa following Cyclone Gita, and wanted me to let all of you know that you are in their thoughts and prayers as our islands work to recover.”



## Supreme Court declines to decide fate of ‘Dreamers’ just yet



FILE - In this Oct. 10, 2017, file photo, the Supreme Court in Washington, at sunset. The Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a case that could deal a painful financial blow to organized labor. All eyes will be on Justice Neil Gorsuch on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, when the court takes up a challenge to an Illinois law that allows unions representing government employees to collect fees from workers who choose not to join. The unions say the outcome could affect more than 5 million government workers in 24 states and the District of Columbia. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Trump administration’s highly unusual bid to bypass a federal appeals court and get the justices to intervene in the fate of a program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation.

The announcement means the case affecting “Dreamers” will have to work its way

through the lower courts before any Supreme Court ruling is possible. The case could also become moot if Congress takes action in the meantime. Right now, however, efforts to address the issue in Congress have hit a stalemate.

The Supreme Court’s decision for now to stay out of the case on the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, wasn’t surprising. It’s highly unusual for the Supreme Court to hear

a case before a lower appeals court has considered it.

But DACA supporters hailed the decision as a significant — if only temporary — win. Trump said the case would now be heard by an appeals court and “we’ll see what happens from there.”

“You know, we tried to get it moved quickly because we’d like to help DACA. I think everybody in this room wants to help with DACA,” he said

(Continued on page 12)

## Case against Florida shooting suspect returns to court

By KELLI KENNEDY, BRENDAN FARRINGTON and CURT ANDERSON, Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — The criminal case against the gunman accused in the Florida high school shooting returns to court Tuesday with prosecutors seeking hair samples, fingerprints, DNA and photographs of the suspect.

Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with 17 counts of murder, will not appear in court because he waived his right to attend the hearing. He is being held without bail at the Broward County Jail.

In a separate court matter, Cruz’s lawyers are seeking to disqualify a judge from presiding over the case. The defense says in court papers that Circuit Court Judge Elizabeth Scherer is biased in favor of prosecutors, threatening Cruz’s right to a fair trial.

Cruz, who is 19, signed an affidavit in a barely legible printed scrawl that resembled the writing of a young child.

As the case moves through the courts, it has fueled a debate over gun control in the halls of the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee, hours from where the shooting took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

On Monday, a state Senate committee approved a bill Monday to raise the age for buying a gun from 18 to 21 and imposing a three-day waiting period for all gun purchases. The bill would also allow teachers to carry guns in schools if their school district approves and the teachers undergo law enforcement training and are deputized by the local sheriff’s office.

About 300 gun safety advocates packed the room and dozens pleaded with senators to include an assault weapons ban in the bill. That idea was rejected on a 6-7 vote.

Stoneman Douglas students Katherine Guerra and Bela Urbina, both 15, stood together to argue for a ban on assault-style rifles.

“This weapon has killed so many people. It is a militarized weapon that we don’t need. We don’t need civilians to have it,” Urbina said.

In reference to hunting, Guerra added, “Do you think that your sport is more important than human lives? And if you believe that, you need to reassess yourselves.” The students received thunderous applause.

A similar House bill was going to be considered by a committee on Tuesday.

(Continued on page 7)







compiled by Samoa News staff

**BOY ELECTROCUTED BY  
BROKEN POWER LINE IN SAMOA**

A live broken power line caused by cyclone Gita is being blamed for the death of an 8-year-old boy in Samoa on Monday.

TV1Samoa reported that the family had reported the broken power line after the cyclone but nothing was done.

A family member said that the Electric Power Corporation only turned up to turn off the power line after the fatality.

Police spokesperson Auapa’au Logoitino Filipo confirmed an investigation is underway.

(Source: RNZI)

**FAMILY FIGHTS SAMOA GOVT.  
EVICTION IN COURT**

The fight by a Sogi family to stop the Government from evicting them from land they claim as their inheritance is continuing.

The Tokuma family of Sogi have taken their fight to Court.

Yesterday, the matter was called for hearing before Supreme Court Justice Leiatuaalesa Daryl Clarke.

Representing the descendants of Turaroe Tokuma is lawyer, Pa’u Tafaogalupe Mulitalo.

Tafailagi Peniamina of the Attorney General’s Office represented the Samoa Land Corporation (S.L.C.) and the Ministry of Public Enterprises.

The Tokuma family claims that the land they live on now in Sogi was gifted to their predecessor, Turore Tokuma, by the then Commissioner of Crown Estates of Samoa who was also the Public Trustee and a member of the Legislative Council of Samoa, the late Percival Ernest Patrick in the 1920s.

The late Turore Tokuma was a driver and was treated as a member of the household of Mr. Patrick.

The family also claims the gifted land they now occupy was given to their predecessor and his wife and children in recognition of his “service, loyalty and compensation for the execution that almost killed Mr. Tokuma for the crime he did not commit.”

The Tokuma family is arguing that their continuous occupation of the same land was endorsed by the first Prime Minister of Samoa, Mataafa Fiaame Mulinu’u.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

**SAMOAN MAN CHARGED AFTER  
STEP-DAUGHTER WENT MISSING**

The Samoa police have charged a man with assault and abuse after an investigation, which began when his seven-year-old stepdaughter went missing for two days.

Police told the Samoa Observer the stepfather had been charged and will appear in court next month.

The girl was reported to have left the family home last Wednesday and was found on Friday.

An unnamed police officer claimed there were bruises on her body.

(Source: RNZI)

**LANTERN FESTIVAL  
CELEBRATIONS BRING CHINESE  
AND SAMOANS TOGETHER**

The Lantern Festival, which usually signifies the end of Chinese New Year celebrations, was observed a little late this year by local Chinese at the Samoa Apia Mission.

Chinese New Year for 2018 was upstaged by Tropical Cyclone Gita.

But a Chinese Missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, Sister Zhu, persevered in gathering some local Chinese and Samoans to mark the occasion.

Sister Zhu told the Samoa Observer that it was great to see local Chinese mingling with other Samoans in their church held event even although language was a barrier.

“After I arrived in Samoa, I have learned how close the Samoan and Chinese are starting from 180 years ago,” said Sister Zhu. “There are around half of the people here who have Chinese ancestry, it is so amazing. Unfortunately many of them cannot speak Chinese.”

The families and members of the Apia Church Mission sang songs and fellowshiped with each other. Even though language was a barrier, both Samoans and Chinese do have one common way of communicating – through their love of food.

With a mixture of some delicious authentic Chinese and Samoan food, the event was declared a success by all.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

**TAHITI UKULELE WORLD  
RECORD ATTEMPT FAILS**

Tahiti has failed in its quest to regain the title of assembling the largest band of ukulele players in the world.

After weeks of campaigning and preparations, just over 6300 players gathered at a Papeete stadium for the performance.

This was short of the target of 10,000, and the record held by Hong Kong, where more than 8,000 people took part.

Three years ago, 4750 participants jointly played at the ukulele festival in Tahiti to make it into Guinness Book of Records.

The song Te ra mai te tiare had been chosen for the latest challenge.

(Source: RNZI)



The Tahiti ukulele world record attempt.

[Photo: Supplied/ Présidence de la Polynésie française]



**General Membership Meeting  
On  
TROPICAL STORM GITA RELIEF  
AND RESTORATION EFFORTS**

**Honorable Lt. Governor Lemanu Mauga**  
Governor’s Authorized Representative  
Keynote Speaker

**Muavaefaatasi John Suisala**  
Director, Department of Health Social Services  
Shelters

**Faleosina Voigt**  
Director, Department of Public Works  
Individual Assessments

**Alfonso P. Galea’i**  
Director, Office of Disaster Assistance & Petroleum Management  
Public Assessments

**Date & Venue**  
**Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 6pm**  
**Tradewinds Hotel**

*New Members and Public Welcome*

**For more information contact Chamber Secretary  
John Wasko at 733-0833**



*The American Samoa Chamber of Commerce  
would like thank  
Pago Pago Trading Company for sponsoring  
this meeting*

**Administration  
considers  
expanding mental  
health treatment**

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid the outcry over the Florida school shootings, the Trump administration says it is “actively exploring” ways to help states expand inpatient mental health treatment using Medicaid funds.

President Donald Trump again brought up the issue of mental hospitals in a meeting with governors on Monday, invoking a time when states maintained facilities for mentally ill and developmentally disabled people.

“In the old days, you would put him into a mental institution,” Trump said, apparently referring to alleged shooter Nikolas Cruz, whose troubling behavior prompted people close to him to plead for help from authorities, without success. “We’re going to have to start talking about mental institutions ...we have nothing between a prison and leaving him at his house, which we can’t do anymore.”

Organizations representing state officials and people with mental illness say no one wants to go back to warehousing patients. But they also say that federal action is needed to reverse a decades-old law known as the “IMD exclusion,” which bars Medicaid from paying for treatment in mental health facilities with more than 16 beds. IMD stands for “institution for mental diseases.”

Last year, the Trump administration opened the way for states to seek waivers from the policy in cases involving treatment for substance abuse. On Monday a spokesman said states are pressing the administration for similar waivers for mental health care, and officials are looking for ways to address those requests.

“We’ve continued to receive ... proposals and strong interest from states to allow similar demonstrations for individuals with

(Continued on page 8)



In The High Court  
of American Samoa  
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL  
COURT DIVISIONS  
FDA/JG No. 01-18  
IN RE: A CHILD.  
NOTICE/FA’AALIGA

TO: MOTHER/TILOMAI AMITUANA’I  
UNNAMED FATHER/MO LE TAMA O LE  
TAMAITITI

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa by Avapui Esekiele, a resident of Nu’uuli, American Samoa, for a minor female child alleged born to you on February 25, 2004, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Faga’alu, American Samoa. You have two months and ten days from the first publication of this Notice to answer or otherwise respond to this Petition by filing such response with the Clerk of the High Court of American Samoa at the Court-house in Fagatogo, American Samoa, and by serving such response upon attorney Frederick J. O’Brien at American Samoa Legal Aid, Inc., at the Leatila Building in Pago Pago, or by mail at P.O. Box 5984, Pago Pago, AS 96799. Your failure to respond within the time set forth above may result in granting by default the relief prayed for in the PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR.

Fa’amolemole, ia utagia mai, ua faauluina le talosaga mo le tofia o se tagata e tausia se tagata laitiiti tausaga i le Fa’amasinoga Maua’uga o Amerika Samoa e Avapui Esekiele, o tagata o lo’o alaalai i Nu’uuli, Amerika Samoa, mo se tagata laitiiti na faapea na e fanaua ia Fepuari 25, 2004 i le Falemai LBJ, Faga’alu, Amerika Samoa. Ia le umi atu ma le lua masina ma le sefulu aso mai le fa’asalalauina muamua o lenei Fa’aaliga e te tali ai pe e te fa’aalua mai sou manatu i lenei mataupu i le Failautusi o le Fa’amasinoga Maua’uga o Amerika Samoa i le Fale Fa’amasino i Fagatogo, Amerika Samoa, ma taua’ao mai ai se kopi o lau Tali i le Ali’i Loia o Frederick J. O’Brien i le Ofisa Fesoasoani Fa’aletulafono Amerika Samoa i le Fale o Letialua Pusa Meli 5984, Pago Pago, Amerika Samoa 96799. O lou le tu’uina mai o se tali i lenei mataupu i le taimi fa’atulagaina e mafai ai loa ona talia ai loa e le Fa’amasinoga Maua’uga o Amerika Samoa le TALOSAGA MO LE TOFIA O SE TAGATA E TAUSIA SE TAGATA LAITIITI TAUSAGA.

DATE/ASO: January 31, 2018  
CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 02/27/18 & 03/27/18

In The High Court  
of American Samoa  
TRIAL DIVISION

HCCA NO. 2-18

In The Matter of the Petition of  
HELEN FANUA TALOLUA  
Petitioner

NOTICE OF  
HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa by HELEN FANUA TALOLUA of Fagatogo, American Samoa, born April 4, 1998 at LBJ Tropical Medical Center at Faga’alu, American Samoa. Petitioner is requesting the Court to approve a change of her legal name to HELEN FANUA SALAIVAO.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on March 9th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa in the High Court Building located at Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date and time to respond to this Petition.

Dated: February 26, 2018

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 2/27/18

# Experts responsible for World’s Largest Tuna Fisheries meet

Fishery managers from Western and Central Pacific Ocean states which collectively produce over half of the world’s tuna come together to further understanding of tuna management best practices

21 February 2018 — Nadi, Fiji — The Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project workshop series is back in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and on track to provide over 300 fishery experts with resources to improve management of their tuna fisheries.

The last workshop for members from the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), held in Bali, Indonesia in August, helped 40 participants better understand the precautionary approach to tuna management through the use of management strategy evaluation (MSE) to guide the adoption of harvest strategies. With the second workshop in Nadi, over 80 people involved in WCPO tuna have now received tools to better manage their respective fisheries.

“Tuna fisheries in the WCPO, by volume, are the most significant tuna fisheries on earth,” said Alejandro Anganuzzi of the Food and Agriculture Organization of

the United Nations (UN-FAO). “And these fisheries contribute billions towards the region’s economy, so durable tuna management practices which avoid overexploitation and depletion of tuna stocks is a top priority.”

In 2016 alone, more than 2,600,000 tons of the primary commercial tuna species—skipjack, yellowfin, albacore and bigeye—were landed in the WCPO region. By volume, that means over 50% of the world’s tuna is managed by representatives of WCPFC member states.

“Harvest strategies can be used to ensure fishers catch significant volumes of tuna, but in a way which doesn’t overfish the stock,” said Feleti Teo, Executive Director of the WCPFC. “Our mandate at the WCPFC is to maintain sustainable use of tuna resources through effective management. Trainings such as this workshop are a good way to ensure fisheries managers have the acumen and tools to implement.”

Dr. Graham Pilling of the Oceanic Fisheries Program at the Pacific Community (SPC) added, “As members continue to develop the harvest strategy approach for their fisheries and stocks, this workshop will enhance their engagement with

the process, and enable them to provide the critical inputs necessary for its implementation.”

The Nadi workshop, designed by Ocean Outcomes for the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project and implementing partner World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), is number seven in a series of eight.

To date, over 280 developing state representatives have received training as part of the workshop series. An eighth and final workshop will be held later this year in Latin America.

The Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project is funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UN-FAO. Additional funding for this workshop was provided by the SPC with support from the New Zealand Aid Program.

The project harnesses the efforts of a large and diverse array of partners including the five tuna regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs), governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector, with the aim of achieving responsible, efficient and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction.



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## Ivanka Trump’s dual roles as senior adviser, first daughter



Ivanka Trump, daughter of U.S. President Donald Trump, departs following the closing ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, Pool)

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ivanka Trump expects to be treated seriously as a senior White House adviser. But when faced with uncomfortable questions about her father’s treat-

ment of women, she’d prefer to be viewed as just a daughter. President Donald Trump’s elder daughter drew fresh scrutiny Monday for an NBC interview in which she argued that a query to her about the women accusing the president of inap-

propriate behavior was “pretty inappropriate.”

The comment highlighted her complicated roles as both first daughter and advocate for women and families, serving in an administration led by a president accused of inappropriate behavior by more than a dozen women.

Asked if she believed the accusations against her father, Ivanka Trump said: “I think it’s a pretty inappropriate question to ask a daughter if she believes the accusers of her father when he’s affirmatively stated that there’s no truth to it. I don’t think that’s a question you would ask many other daughters.”

Trump has denied the allegations, and his daughter said she stood by him.

“I believe my father, I know my father,” she said. “I think I have that right as a daughter, to believe my father.”

She was interviewed after leading the U.S. delegation at the closing ceremony for the Winter Olympics.

Katherine Jellison, who heads the history department at Ohio University, said Ivanka Trump appeared to be trying to have it both ways.

“You’re either a senior adviser or a daughter. She’s in this unique position that she’s still trying to work out,” said Jellison, an expert on first families. “Especially since she was last in the news as a senior adviser going to the Olympics.”

Ivanka Trump’s trip to Asia included a private meeting with the South Korean president and a pledge that she would use her visit to advocate maximum pressure on North Korea to halt its nuclear program. Trump documented her journey on social media, posting photos and messages to athletes.

Before she left Asia, Trump wrote: “Thank you to President Moon, First Lady Kim & the people of South Korea for the warm hospitality you showed me, our Presidential Delegation & #TeamUSA during the #WinterOlympics.”

Trump worked on the president’s tax overhaul last year and successfully pressed for a beefed-up child tax credit. She has also promoted issues such as STEM education and workforce development.

But she has struggled to find the right tone to respond to the rising #MeToo moment.

She recently got pushback for a tweet offering support for Oprah Winfrey’s message of female empowerment at the Golden Globe awards.

She said: “Just saw @Oprah’s empowering & inspiring speech at last night’s #GoldenGlobes. Let’s all come together, women & men, & say #TIMESUP! #UNITED.”

Actress Alyssa Milano and others quickly chimed in, pointing out that the tweet didn’t mention her father’s accusers. Milano responded to Ivanka Trump’s tweet: “Great! You can make a lofty donation to the Time’s Up Legal Defense Fund that is available to support your father’s accusers.”

Ivanka Trump is not the first presidential family member who has sought to play down personal questions. Jellison recalled that former first lady Barbara Bush once pushed back on a question about her granddaughters after they received citations for underage drinking.

Jellison said the situation with Ivanka Trump was different, adding, “she did choose to play this senior advisory role.”





▶ Man...

Continued from page 1

for another chance to return home to care for his sick father and sister. The defendant told the court that prior to his arrest, he was the one who took care of his father and his older sister, who is a stroke victim.

Before the court heard final submissions from attorneys of both sides, Kruse asked the defendant some questions.

“You are now asking for a chance to go back home to care for your sick father and sister”, said Kruse to the defendant, who was sitting beside his attorney.

“But the reason you’re in court is because police found you sleeping at a bus stop with some marijuana and little ice on you. According to the police investigation, you have some drug addiction problems and that is against the law”.

“It was your own personal choice that brought you here.....and now you’re pleading the court to give you another chance so you can go back home and care for your sick family?” Kruse asked.

“We can allow you another chance to go back home but we’re not sure whether you will be going back to your same old lifestyle if we grant you a second chance. And if you go back to your old lifestyle and the police find you again with some drugs, the government will spend its resources to take care of you”.

Kruse continued, “How can I make sure I’m not going to see you again in another 10 years?” The defendant did not respond.

“The bottom line is, don’t hide behind your sick father and sister. If you want a second chance from the court, try to persuade us so we can give you a second chance”, Kruse told the defendant. Mata’u said, “This will not happen again,” and he promised never to commit any more crimes in his life.

His attorney asked the court to allow his client to return home. Fiaui said his client takes full responsibility for his actions and he made an early admission to the crime.

Fiaui said his client was convicted of public peace disturbance - a misdemeanor - over ten years ago and since then, he has been a productive member of society, truly remorseful for what he did. Morris agreed with the defense that Mata’u is a suitable candidate for a probated

sentence but he also asked for a period of detention.

When Kruse asked the prosecutor to define what he meant by a period of detention, given the fact that the defendant has already served 4 1/2 months in prison, Morris said the government is asking for a period of detention of 6 months.

The imposition of the sentence was suspended for five years, and the defendant is placed on probation for five years under the certain conditions.

Mata’u was ordered to serve a 20-month detention period at the Territorial Correctional Facility (TCF) without release, and throughout the period of probation, he has to remain clean, meaning, no alcohol or drugs in his possession or inside his system. He will be subject to random testing to ensure he’s in compliance.

Execution of the detention period is stayed until further order of the court, and the defendant is ordered to be released forthwith. Kruse ordered the Probation Office to conduct a test on the defendant immediately after the court rendered sentencing, and the defendant is to be tested every week within the next 30-days.

“Mata’u, I can put you away from the community for another 10 years, but now the court is giving you a second chance to straighten up your life, and if you violate any of these conditions the court has given you, the court will impose its decision and you will go to jail for up to ten years”, Kruse told the defendant.

The charges against the defendant stem from an incident that occurred on Oct. 29, 2017 when two police officers observed the defendant sleeping at one of the bus stops in the Tafuna area. Police approached the defendant to check if he was intoxicated or in need of assistance.

When one of the cops woke Mata’u, they observed a knife at the bus stop when Mata’u stood up. The knife was concealed by Mata’u’s back while he was sleeping. Mata’u gave police officers a container he was holding and inside, they found clear plastic baggies containing methamphetamine and a small hand rolled cigarette which appeared to have been smoked.

claim the assessors are ‘missing’ damaged homes, especially given that many houses are built immediately behind others and as such cannot necessarily be seen from the road.

Further, according to one house owner, “How do you know the condition of the house if you don’t get out of the car and physically experience or see the extent of the damage?”

[photo: THA]

▶ Case...

Continued from page 4



Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting survivor MaTuesday, February 27, 2018 Wilford, right, wipes a tear as her mom Missy looks on during a press conference at Broward Health North in Deerfield Beach, Fla., Monday, Feb. 26, 2018. (AP Photo/

Bused in from around the state, protesters wore orange T-shirts saying #GunReformNow. One held a sign with an image from the movie “The Sixth Sense,” with the words “I SEE DEAD PEOPLE ... THANKS TO THE GOP AND NRA.” Another said “Hey Lawmakers! Take the Pledge. No NRA Money.”

Students are scheduled to return to school Wednesday, for the first time since the Feb. 14 shooting.

The Florida House is expected to subpoena records from Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel and several agen-

cies that interacted with Cruz. Florida Gov. Rick Scott’s office has asked the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to investigate the police response, and the agency confirmed it would begin the probe immediately.

Also Monday, the attorney for the sheriff’s deputy assigned to guard the high school said that his client never entered the building to confront the suspect because he believed the gunfire was coming from outside.

Scot Peterson has been called a coward and worse for failing to stop the massacre. The criticism intensified

as President Donald Trump blasted the deputy and other officers who were there, saying they “weren’t exactly Medal of Honor winners.”

If he had been there, Trump said, he would have raced into the school during the attack even if he were unarmed.

Peterson’s attorney issued his first public statement about the attack, saying it was “patently untrue” that the deputy failed to meet sheriff’s department standards or acted with cowardice at the scene of the Feb. 14 assault. He resigned after Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said he felt sick to his stomach over his deputy’s failure to intervene.

“Let there be no mistake, Mr. Peterson wishes that he could have prevented the untimely passing of the 17 victims on that day, and his heart goes out to the families of the victims in their time of need,” attorney Joseph DiRuzzo said in the statement.

The sheriff’s account of Peterson’s actions that day was a “gross oversimplification” of the events, the attorney said.

The sheriff’s office declined to comment, explaining that Peterson’s conduct is being investigated by its internal affairs division. Under state law, the agency is prohibited from discussing the matter until that investigation has concluded.



AMERICAN SAMOA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT  
“Pesticide Applicator Training”

ASCC Land Grant Program will be conducting a Pesticide Applicator Safety training for those who handle farm chemicals. If you are using farm pesticides or you are planning to use chemicals in the near future, this is a good opportunity for you to attend this important training. The training schedule is as follows:

Date: March 05 - March 09, 2018  
Time: 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.  
Place: ASCC Land Grant Training Room

Registration is FREE. To confirm your participation for this training, please call Joyce or Helen at 699-1575/2019.

Thank You.

FAAALIGA FA’ALAUATELE

“A’oa’oga mo i latou o lo’o fa’aaogaina vaila’au o’ona”

O le a faia se a’oa’oga mo i latou o lo’o fa’aaoga vaila’au o’ona i fa’ato’aga. Afai o lo’o e fa’aaoga vaila’au o’ona po’o e fa’amoemoe fo’i e te fa’aaoga i se taimi o i luma, o lou avanoa lelei lenei e te ‘auai ai i lenei a’oa’oga taua. O taimi la nei mo lenei vasega.

Aso: Mati 05 - Mati 09, 2018  
Taimi: 12:00 - 4:00 i le afiafi  
Nofoaga e fai ai: Potu mo A’oa’oga a le Vaega o Laufanua ma Atina’e a le Kolisi Tu’ufa’atasi ma Alaalafaga o Amerika Samoa.

“E leai se sotogi o le resitala. Afai e te fia ‘auai i lenei a’oa’oga, fa’amolemole ia fa’afeso’ota’i mai Joyce po’o Helen i le telefoni 699-1575/2019

Fa’afetai.

▶ Update...

Continued from page 1

not been completed or done.

For other Emergency responders’ contacts:

- Red Cross number is 272-8090
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) — 733- 2342

Samoa News should point out that people are complaining that some of the assessors are driving by in their vehicles, not doing door-to-door visits. They





Gov. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., right, speaks about school safety during an event with President Donald Trump and members of the National Governors Association in the State Dining Room of the White House, Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

## Administration...

Continued from page 5

serious mental illness,” Johnathan Monroe, a spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said in a statement. “We are actively exploring how best to provide states with new opportunities to improve their mental health delivery systems.”

There’s no telling if a more robust mental health care system would have saved the 17 lives lost in Parkland, Florida, as well as other victims of mass shootings that have become tragically commonplace. Democrats say it’s no substitute for stronger gun control laws.

But state officials would welcome a change to Medicaid’s exclusionary rule, said Matt Salo, head of the nonpartisan National Association of Medicaid Directors, which supports full repeal of the policy and, short of that, expanded waivers.

“There is a need for a spectrum of services for people suffering from mental illness and substance abuse,” Salo said. “That spectrum should include

everything from community-based resources as well as more structured institutional care.”

Medicaid is the federal-state health program for low-income people, a major source of coverage for mental health treatment. Experts say the program’s longstanding restriction on inpatient treatment is at odds with changes in federal law over the last 20 years to create parity between coverage for mental and physical diseases.

The government’s top mental health official said the president is acknowledging that more needs to be done to make Americans safe in their communities.

“The IMD exclusion makes it very difficult for people with serious mental illness to get a bed when they need that care, and the 24-7 safety, security and treatment that an inpatient facility provides,” said Elinore McCance-Katz, assistant secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Use. “That contributes to jails and prisons becoming de facto mental institutions in this country.”

McCance-Katz also said expansion of community-based and outpatient treatment is needed.

Last year a government advisory panel recommended repealing Medicaid’s IMD exclusion, and the idea has bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. But the cost of full repeal has been estimated at \$40 billion to \$60 billion over 10 years, daunting for lawmakers. State waivers may provide a more manageable path.

Advocates question the cost estimates, saying that savings from keeping mentally ill people out of jail should be factored in as well.

Whether mental illness contributes to violence is a debate rife with misconceptions. On the whole, medical experts say people with mental illness are no more likely to be violent than others.

But McCance-Katz and others say research shows that untreated serious mental illness is a risk factor for violent behavior. The term “serious mental illness” connotes a degree of severity that impairs a person’s ability to carry out usual functions of daily life. Treatment effectively reduces risks, said McCance-Katz.

Advocates are making the same point.

“There is no argument that stepping forward and addressing the IMD exclusion would have a huge benefit to mental health systems in states across the country,” said John Snook, executive director of the Treatment Advocacy Center, a nonprofit trying to broaden access to mental health treatment. “We have a situation where the most severely ill are cycling in and out of emergency rooms and jails.”

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# Tele lesona aoga ua a'oa'oina mai Ofisa Vaai tau i le 'afa o Gita

tusia Ausage Fausia

E ui i le tele o fa'asea mai ni isi o le atunu'u fa'asaga i le auunaga a le Ofisa Vaai Tau i le taimi na alia'e mai ai le matagi malos o Gita lea na afatia ai le atunu'u i le amataga o le masina leni o Fepuari, peita'i na taua e le Tama'ita'i o Elinor Lutu-McMoore o loo faauluulu i ai le Ofisa Vaai Tau i Tafuna e fa'apea, e tele naua lesona taua na mafai ona aoaoina mai e lana aufaigaluega i le taimi o le matagi o Gita, ma ua avea ia lesona aoga e fesoasoani ai i le faaleleia atili o le latou auunaga i le atunu'u.

O se tasi o lesona taua na taua e Lutu-McMoore na mafai ona latou aoaoina mai i leni fa'alavelave, o auala e fesoasoani ai i le faaleleia atili o le latou tautua e ala i le latou afi faaleoleo.

Na taua e le Tama'ita'i Pule e fa'apea, o se tasi o itu na matua to'atele ai le mamalu o le atunu'u na faasea, o le taimi na motusia ai le eletise a le ASPA, sosoo ai ma le motusia o fesootaiga i laina telefoni, ma le mafai ai ona maua ni ripoti e faatatau i tala o le tau mai le latou Ofisa.

"Ou te iloa lelei finagalo o le atunu'u e tusa ai o le faaletonu sa tula'i mai, e le gata na motusia le eletise a le ASPA, ae na motusia fo'i le eletise sa maua mai i le afi faaleoleo a le Ofisa Vaai Tau ina ua tula'i mai ni tulaga faaletonu i totoga o le afi. E ui o lea, ua avea ia faaletonu o ni itu lelei matou

te aoaoina ai ni lesona taua mo le lumana'i", o le saunoaga lea a Lutu-McMoore i se faatalatalanoaga ma le Samoa News i le vaiaso na te'a nei.

Saunoa le Tamaitai Pule e fa'apea, e aoga faasea ma fautuaga mai le atunu'u e fesoasoani ai i le fa'aleleia o le latou tautua.

"Matou te taliaina uma faasea ma fautuaga mai le atunu'u e tusa ai o faaletonu na tutupu i le matou auunaga i le taimi o le matagi malos o Gita, e fesoasoani ai mo le fa'aleleia atili o le matou auunaga i le lumana'i".

"O faaletonu na tutupu i le taimi o Gita, o ni faaletonu e tataua ona matou toe vaavaai toto'a i ai. Ina ua motusia le eletise ma laina o fesootaiga i lo tatou atunu'u, na faasalalau mai ai loa i le Ofisa Vaai Tau i Honolulu ripoti e fa'atatau i le matagi, lea fo'i na mafai ai ona fesoasoani i si o tatou atunu'u atoa". Na faafetaia e Lutu-McMoore le fesoasoani a le tele o Ofisa a le malo, lea na mafai ai ona toe vave lelei a latou fesootaiga, ma toe faaauau ai le tuuina atu o tala o le tau i le atunu'u. O le vaiaso na te'a nei na foa'i ai e le Matagaluga o le Puipuga o le Saogalemu Lotoifale le afi faaleoleo mo le Ofisa Vaai Tau, e fesoasoani i le latou auunaga pe afai e toe tula'i mai isi matagi ma motusia ai le eletise i le atunu'u.



O se va'aiga i le aiga o Ryan Taifane & le Faletua ma si a la'ua fanau, o le si'itaga o tiute i le galuega, e fa'apea fo'i ona fa'afiafiaina ai lo latou aiga atoa. Ia manuia faiva.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

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Cheeseburgers

Deluxe Double Cheeseburger

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Limited Time Only

\*Available as a side order or in a meal and served after 10:30am Daily

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**tusia Ausage Fausia**  
**LUATUA FILISOUAIGA TA'AFUA**

O le aso 23 Iulai lea ua toe tolopo i ai le mataupu a le sa avea ma Pule o le Ofisa o le Litaea a le malo, susuga Lutatua Filisouaiga Ta'afua, i le mae'a ai lea ona fa'afogoga o le fa'amasinoga maua luga i folasaga a loia mai itu e lua o lenei mataupu i le vaiaso na te'a nei.

O le ali'i loia ia Robert Morris o lo o tula'i mo le malo, ae o le tama'ita'i loia ia Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde o lo o tula'i mo le ua molia.

Na taua e Tauiliili-Langkilde i lana folasaga i le vaiaso na te'a nei e fa'apea, i le masina o Novema o le tausaga na te'a nei, sa ia talosagaina ai le fa'amasinoga ina ia fa'atonu le malo e faamatu'u atu fa'amaumauga uma e uiga i le latou tagi fa'asaga ia Lutatua, ina ia mafai ai ona amata tapena le ia itu mo le fa'amasinoga autu o lenei mataupu.

E oo mai lava i le taimi nei e pei ona taua e Tauiliili-Langkilde, e le i tuuina atu lava e le malo fa'amatalaga auiliili e fa'atatau i le latou tagi fa'asaga ia Lutatua. Taua e le tama'ita'i loia le taua tele o fa'amaumauga o loo ia talosagaina, e fesoasoani ai i tapenaga mo le puipuia o aia tatau a le o lo o ia tauaveina.

Ina ua fesiligia e le fa'amasinoga le itu a le malo, na taua ai e le ali'i loia ia Morris le mae'a lea ona ia talonoa i Leoleo o lo o gafa ma le sue-sueina o lenei mataupu, ma ua mae'a fo'i ona latou fa'aioa atu ia te ia le mafua'aga o le tuai ona tuuina atu o fa'amaumauga o loo talosagaina e le itu tete'e.

Na taua e Morris e fa'apea, e oo lava foi' ia te ia e lei tuuina atu ai e Leoleo fa'amatalaga e uiga i le tagi fa'asaga ia Lutatua, o le mafua'aga

fo'i lena e faigata ai ona ia tali atu i le talosaga a le itu tete'e.

O ni isi o mafua'aga na taua e Morris o lo o mafua ai ona tuai le tuuina mai o fa'amaumauga o loo fesiligia e le itu tete'e, ona e le o ma'ea sue-suega a Leoleo e uiga i lenei mataupu, o lo o i ai fo'i ni isi o molimau o lo o manatu Leoleo e tatau ona fesiligia, ao lei fa'ai'uina a latou sailiiliga e uiga i lenei mataupu.

I le mae'a ai ona fa'afogoga o le fa'amasinoga i folasaga a itu a lua, na tuuina mai ai loa e le afioga i le ali'i fa'amasino ia Elvis Patea le fa'aiuga, ina ia toe tolopo le iloilogaga o le mataupu a Lutatua se'ia aulia le masina o Iulai, atonu e oo atu i ai ua mae'a sue-suega a Leoleo e uiga i lenei mataupu, ma taua atu ai loa ma fa'amaumauga o loo manaomia e le itu tete'e.

**TIMATA NAEA**

O le masina o Aperila o le tausaga nei lea ua fa'atulaga e toe valaau ai le mataupu a le alii o Timata Naea i luma o le fa'amasinoga maua luga, i le mae'a ai lea ona ia teena o le moliaga e tasi ua tuuaia ai o ia e le malo i le vaiaso nei.

O le vaiaso nei lea na faila ai e le malo le moliaga mamafa e tasi o le sola ese mai le toese fa'asaga ia Naea, e mafua mai i le faalavelave lea na latou sosola ai ma isi pagota e to'a 3 i le masina o Ianuari na te'a nei, a o taofia ai i latou i le toese i Tafuna.

E ese mai i le moliaga fou e tasi lea ua molia ai e le malo Naea, o lo o tuuaia foi o ia i moliaga o le gaoi ma le talepe fale, e mafua mai i le fa'alavelave lea o loo tuuaia e le malo na tula'i mai i le tausaga na te'a nei, lea na ia osofaia ai ni fale o ni aiga se to'alua i Tafuna ae ave faagaoni meatotino sa i totonu.

**tusia: Leua Aiono Frost**  
**ATA & FAAMAUMAUGA O AMERIKA SAMOA**  
**- 1907-1913**

E tele taimi e pu'eina ai ata, ae le mautinoa le umi e taofia ai, ae maise o le taimi e aoga ai. Peita'i o le umi ona i ai o se ata ia te oe o se tasi po'o va'aiga o mea na tutupu i lou aiga, ekalesia, nu'u po'o le atunu'u atoa, o lona taua lea!

O le taua lea o le galuega ua mae'a tu'ufa'atasia i le tusi a le tama'ita'i tusitala o Karen Wheat, o ia o le alo tama'ita'i o se augatupulaga lona fa i le ali'i fitafita a le USNavy i le pulega o le Malo o Amerika Samoa i le vaitausaga 1907-1913.

O lea tusi ua fa'aigoaina: "Ata o Suiga i le Parataiso," tusia i le amataga o le Senituri 20, ma ua tusia ma fa'amaumau mo Tagata o Samoa, Ananafi, Nei ma Taeao.

I le maimoa atu i ai, o ata nei e ta'atele i le tatou Faletusi ma le Fale Mata'aga i Fagatogo, o ata na tapu'ea lea e Joseph Dwyer, lea e tupuga mai ai Wheat.

E fa'afa lelei ona sau Wheat i Amerika Samoa, ma nofo ai mo sina taimi, ina ia mafai ona feso'ota'i ma le atumotu ua matua fialia tele i ai lo latou tama matua ua loa fo'i ona maluu.

O Joseph Dwyer, sa avea ma Failautusi o Mataupu Tau Samoa i le teritori mai le 1907-1913. O le fa'alua ai lenei ona taua'aoina e se sui o lenei aiga, o foa'i taua i le tatou faletusi ma le atunu'u.

"O le foa'i muamua sa taua'aoina fo'i lea e Karen Wheat i le tausaga e 1997, a'o tula'i le faigamalo a Kovana Tauese Sunia. O lea foa'i sa mua'i faia i lena tausaga o Ata uma lava nei ua mae'a ona fa'ava'a ma ata o se toe va'aiga lea i le faigamalo ma le Fita-fita Guard a Amerika Samoa. O se sao ua iloga lona taua, aua ua toe iloa ai e tatou mea na tutupu i nai ulua'i vaitausaga o le pulega a le US Navy i le tatou lotoifale," o se tala lea a le susuga Justin Maga, Pule o le Faletusi Feleti Barstow i Utulei.

A'o i ai Wheat i le teritori, sa malaga mai na'o le tasi le vaiaso mo le fa'amoemoe e tatala fa'atauga o lana tusi lenei, ma tu'u fo'i ni kopi i le faletusi.

Na faia i le aso Faraile ua te'a se fa'atasiga i le faletusi, ina ia sainia ai ana tusi fa'atau atu, ma toe feiloa'i ai i le pulega o le tatou faletusi ma maimoaina ai fo'i ata uma sa taua'aoina i le 1997, ua fa'atautau uma i le faletusi mo le maimoaga a le atunu'u.

I le taimi nei ua aga'i atu o ia i Samoa ma fa'asolo atu i Niu

(Faaauau itulau 11)



*Le tama'ita'i talavou o DeAnn English, o se alo e fa'asino ia Ane Ah Foon ma John English ua alaala nei i Las Vegas. O lo'o ua avea DeAnn ma se tasi o le to'a ono na tapena se latou folasaga i le Google Center i lea setete e fa'atatau i Faipisinisi Laiti, ua maua e i latou nei le fa'ailoga muamua i lea tauvaga, ma ua iloga ai fo'i le naunauta'iga o lea tama'ita'i e avea ma faipisinisi i le lumana'i. Malo DeAnn, ae maise o le tina o Ane English, aua o ia sa galue mo le Samoa News a'o le'i fa'aipoipo ma amta le la'ua aiga ma le ali'i Pailate o John English.* [ata: foa'i]



*O se va'aiga i le to'afitu o i latou e fa'atautaia siakiga o le Fatu mo fanau ma tagata lautele i o taotu falema'i fa'aitumalo ma Faga'alu fo'i ua a'o'a'dina fa'apitoa e sui fa'apitoa mai fafo, ina ia iloa lelei ona fa'aaoga masini fou ua mae'a fa'atula'ia, ae maise ia malamalama lelei fo'i i le fa'itauga o le fa'amaumauga mai le masini fatu ua i ai nei.*

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



► Tala i Vaifanua...

Mai itulau 10



O le pule o le Faletusi, Feleti Barstow Utulei, Justin Maga lea ua ia sainia se tusi o “Ata o le Suiga i le Parataiso” o lo’o ua lomia ai ata na pu’ea i le vaitausaga 1907 - 1913 i Amerika Samoa.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Sila, aua o le tele o nei ata o lo’o i ai fo’i ma nisi e mafai ona fa’amaumau i Samoa ma Niu Sila, o vaitau o fesuia’iga o pulega i le Atu Samoa atoa.

I le taimi na feiloa’i ai Wheat ma nisi o lo’o masani ai i le tatou nei malo, aua sa i ai se taimi na malaga mai ai ma nofo e a’oa’o lana tusi ata i le ASCC, ma avea ai fo’i le tama’ita’i o Reggie Meredith ma ona faia’oga i le Fine Arts.

“O iina sa a’oa’oina ai a’u i le valiga o le Siapo Samoa ma lona tusia o mamanu ma fa’a’ailoa mai ai fo’i ma latou uiga. O lena taimi na a’o ai fo’i ma le Siva Samoa ma taumafai ona pese i fatuga Samoa. Matagofie lea tulaga i le tusia ai o la’u nei tusi, e pei lava ua i ai lo’u so’otaga ma le ola ai iinei, ma ua toe fafagu mai ai le tele o manatunatuga lelei ma le matagofie a’o tusia lena tusi. Tau ina ia aoga mo tupulaga faia’e o le atunu’u pele o Amerika Samoa,” o se tala lea a Wheat.

O lena tusi sa toe siakia lea e le susuga John Enright, o se tasi sa galue ma nofo i Amerika Samoa nei, ma avea ma Pule o le Historical Preservation Office. O lo’o tumau pea lona naunau e faitau ma galue mo se lelei o tatou tagata ae ua aumau nei i Rhode Island ma lona aiga.

**SIKOLASIPI - FA’AMANATU AI - FALEOMAVEGA ENI HUNKIN:**

I le atoaga o le tasi le tausaga talu ona malii le tofa Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, lea sa avea ma sui o Amerika Samoa i le Konekeresi mo le 26 tausaga, ua tu’ufa’atasia ai e le faletua Hinanui Hunkin se fa’asikolasipi mo alo o Amerika Samoa e talosaga atu i ai.

Na malaga fa’apitoa mai Hinanui ma nisi o le fanau i le atunu’u, ma latou fono fa’atasi ai ma le pulega o le ASCC, Peresetene Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato, ina ia latou talanoaina lea avanoa fa’asilolasipi ua fa’atula’ia nei, ina ia manatua ai pea le tofa a Faleomavaega.

“O lea sikolasipi, ua i ai le fa’amoemoe maua luga o le ali’i

Faipule mo Amerika Samoa ua malolo, ina ia aoga i se taumafaiga a se alo o le atunu’u ina ia fa’amanuiaina. Ia gafatia ai e ia ona tauva fa’atasi ma nisi, ma fa’aleleia ai o latou tomai i a latou sailiga fa’aleaoaga e tapena ai e avea ma ni ta’ita’i agava’a o le tatou atunu’u,” o se tala lea a le faletua i le tama’ita’i peresetene o le ASCC.

Na faia fa’asalalauga fa’alaua’itele a lena aumalaga, Hinanui ma le fanau e to’afa i luga o le alaleo fa’asalalau e fa’a’ailoa fa’alaua’itele ai lena taumafaiga, ina ia au pea se tautua sa gapatia ai le tama o le aiga a’o soifua ma galue mo le tatou atunu’u.

O i latou na malaga mai o le tina o Hinanui, ma ona alo tama’ita’i o Temanuata, Leonne ma le atali’i o Nifae lea sa latou fa’alauiloa ai fo’i ma nisi o latou mo’omo’oga alofa ua misia ai lo latou tama. O nisi o vaega o lana tautua sa mafai ona fefa’asoa’i ai lo latou aiga, ma mea fo’i e faigata ona fa’agalo ai lo latou tama, ona o lona siufofoga malie i fatuga e pele ia Samoa.

O nisi o nei pese sa taina fo’i ina ia toe fa’afofoga i ai le lautele o le atunu’u ma toe fa’amanatu ai si o latou tama i agaga o ona tagata sa pele tele ia te ia a’o tautua ma soifua i lena olaga.

E tusa ai ma se fa’amatalaga a Hinanui, “O Eni e matua pele ia te ia le tupulaga talavou o Samoa, e naunau lava ina ia tofusua tamaiti uma ma le avanoa lelei e fa’alautele ai lo latou tomai i so’o se agava’a ua fiafia e tautua ai ma toe fa’afo’i ai sona sao i lona malo o ola ai. E manatu tele o ia i le a’oa’oga mo fanau a lona atunu’u ina ia lelei.”

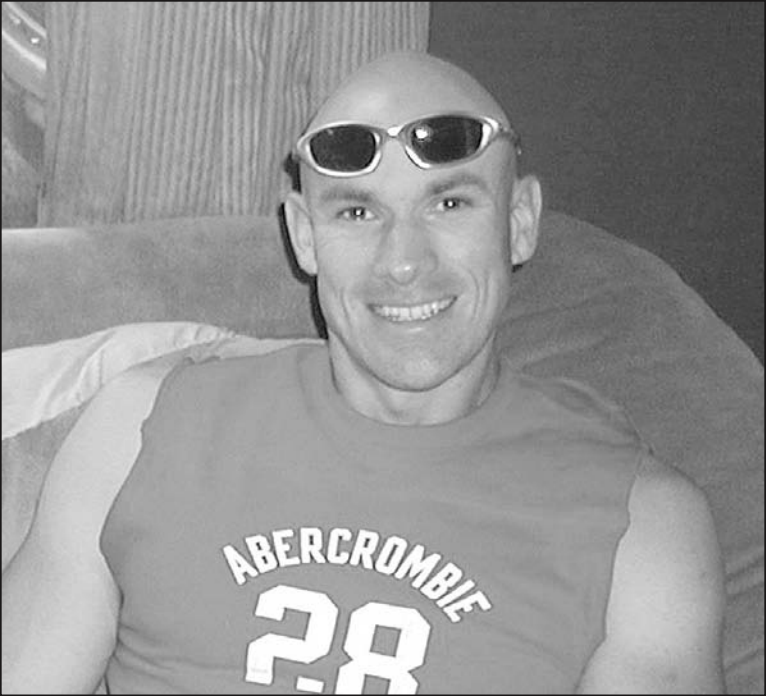
O pesega ma fatuga i CD pese a Faleomavaega, o lo’o maua lea i le so’otaga “iTunes” ma o tupe uma e maua mai i lea so’otaga ona o lou fia fa’afofoga i ana pese Samoa, o le a tu’ufa’atasia lea i le sikolasipi lena mo nisi o le fanau a’oga e agava’a ai i le tatou Kolisi Tu’ufa’atasi.



O se vaaiga i le fiafia fa’atasi o le susuga le Fofoga Fetalai Savali Talavou Ale ma le tofa Taula Niualama Taifane ma le fanau, ina ua fa’aeaina fo’i le susuga Ryan Taifane i se tofiga fou e galue ai mo le US Army Reserve i le tatou nei malo. [Tala tusia lomiga a taeao] L-R Tama o le Auaiga Taifane, Mr & Mrs Ryan Taifane & Fofoga Fetalai o le Maota o Sui Savali Talavou Ale.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

# Court: US anti-discrimination law covers sexual orientation



This 2006 photo provided by Melissa Zarda at her home in Kansas City, Mo., shows her Donald Zarda, a gay skydiving instructor who is the subject of a sex discrimination ruling. Zarda died three years ago in a wingsuit accident in Switzerland, but on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, a federal appeals court in New York became the second one in the country to declare that U.S. anti-discrimination law protects employees from being fired over their sexual orientation. The decision involved Donald Zarda, who was fired in 2010 from a skydiving job in Central Islip, N.Y., that required him to strap himself tightly to clients so they could jump in tandem from an airplane. To put one female student at ease about the physical contact, he said, he told her not to worry - he was gay. The school fired Zarda after the woman’s boyfriend called to complain.

(Melissa Zarda via AP)

By LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ruling in the case of a gay skydiving instructor, a federal appeals court in New York on Monday became the second one in the country to declare that U.S. anti-discrimination law protects employees from being fired over their sexual orientation.

The decision could set the stage for an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to settle the question once and for all.

In a 10-3 ruling, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that while it and other courts around the U.S. previously found that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act didn’t cover

sexual orientation, “legal doctrine evolves.”

“We now conclude that sexual orientation discrimination is motivated, at least in part, by sex and is thus a subset of sex discrimination,” Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann said, writing for the majority.

The decision involved Donald Zarda, who was fired in 2010 from a skydiving job in Central Islip, New York, that required him to strap himself tightly to clients so they could jump in tandem from an airplane. To put one female student at ease about the physical contact, he said, he told her not to worry — he was gay. The school fired Zarda after the

woman’s boyfriend called to complain.

The woman alleged Zarda inappropriately touched her and disclosed his sexual orientation to excuse his behavior. The skydiving company maintained that it was Zarda’s behavior, not his sexuality, that led to his firing.

The ruling applies only in the 2nd Circuit, which consists of New York, Connecticut and Vermont. But it could wind up before the Supreme Court, which declined in December to hear the case of a Georgia woman who had also argued she was fired for being gay.

Title VII bars employment discrimination on the basis of “race, color, religion, sex or national origin.” The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago last year also concluded “discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a form of sex discrimination.”

Saul Zabell, the lawyer for the skydiving company, said his clients were “extremely proud” of the court for saying that sexual orientation is covered by federal antidiscrimination law and for “curing this glaring legislative gap in fundamental human rights.”

But he said his clients were disappointed the court had “ignored the facts of the underlying matter.” He would not say whether the company would appeal.

Zarda died three years ago in a wingsuit accident in Switzerland.

His sister, Melissa Zarda, said by telephone from Kansas City, Missouri, that her brother “would have been just over the moon, beyond excited,” with the ruling.

Gay rights organizations welcomed the decision.

“Today’s ruling is the latest victory affirming that employees should be evalu-

(Continued on page 13)





# IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



# Americans say Congress is listening to all the wrong people

By LAURIE KELLMAN and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking for common ground with your neighbor these days? Try switching subjects from the weather to Congress. Chances are, you both agree it's terrible.

In red, blue or purple states, in middle America or on the coasts, most Americans loathe the nation's legislature. One big reason: Most think lawmakers are listening to all the wrong people, suggests a new study by researchers at Stanford University and the University of California-Santa Barbara with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"We have the best Congress you can buy and pay for," said Chester Trahan, 78, of Palm Coast, Florida. "Congress, they're subject to the special interest groups and that's really who's running the show."

Hating Congress has become a lasting feature of American politics, regardless of which party is in power or whether the 435 House members and 100 senators pass lots of legislation — or don't do much of anything at all.

A new poll from the AP-NORC Center found that 85 percent of Americans, including 89 percent of Democrats and 82 percent of Republicans, disapprove of the job Congress is doing. That might matter in this midterm election year, as Republicans defend their majorities in the House and Senate.

In the study by Stanford, UC-Santa Barbara and the AP-NORC Center, which was conducted in 2015 and again in 2017, only about 2 in 10 said they think Congress pays much attention to their own constituents or Americans as a whole, or even give much consideration to the best interests of those people.

Instead, most said Congress does listen to lobbyists, donors and the wealthy.

That's exactly the opposite of the way people think Congress should function, the study found. The highest levels of disapproval came from Americans who felt the largest sense of disconnect between whom they think Congress should

listen to and whom they believe Congress actually listens to.

That disconnect played out in the public square last week as the nation reeled from yet another mass shooting — this time, the Valentine's Day killing of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Many raged over what they see as the National Rifle Association's power to stifle efforts to tighten gun laws, including a ban on assault rifles.

"Can you tell me right now that you will not accept a single donation from the NRA?" student Cameron Kasky demanded of Sen. Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican who appeared on CNN's "Stand Up" town hall.

Rubio, one of the gun rights groups' top beneficiaries over his political career, would not make that pledge. Nor have other congressional Republicans, who are overwhelmingly favored by gun rights supporters when it comes to campaign contributions.

The disillusionment is not just about guns, and it's not new. Democrats and Republicans alike see members of Congress as mostly listening to elites and donors rather than the ordinary people they represent.

Congress has rarely been especially popular in polls conducted over the past several decades, but approval of the House and Senate's performance has been particularly low over the past several years. In polling by Gallup, Congress' approval rating has been below 20 percent for eight straight years.

Americans are more likely to approve of their own member of Congress than of Congress generally, but even that rating is less than stellar. In the latest AP-NORC poll, 44 percent of Americans — 41 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of Republicans — approve of the person representing their district.

American apathy toward their lawmakers has become an area of scholarly study, with some researchers contending that when Congress

(Continued on page 14)

## Supreme...

Continued from page 4

to visiting governors. "But the Supreme Court just ruled that it has to go through the normal channels."

DACA has provided protection from deportation and work permits for about 800,000 young people who came to the U.S. as children and stayed illegally.

In September, Trump argued that President Barack Obama had exceeded his executive powers when he created the program. Trump announced he was ending the program effective March 5 and gave lawmakers until then to come up with a legislative fix.

But in recent weeks, federal judges in San Francisco and New York have made Trump's deadline temporarily moot for people who have sought and been granted renewals; the rulings do not extend to people who are applying for the first time. Judges issued injunctions ordering the administration to keep DACA in place while courts consider legal challenges to Trump's termination. As a result, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services resumed accepting and processing DACA renewals in January, just as it had before Trump's September announcement.

The Trump administration has not tried to block the injunctions that force it to continue operating the program. Though the March 5 date is now moot, Greisa Martinez, policy and advocacy director for United We Dream, said DACA supporters planned to demonstrate in Washington on that day in part to continue to pressure Congress to act.

The Senate two weeks ago blocked a bipartisan bill offering Dreamers potential citizenship

and providing \$25 billion for President Donald Trump to build his proposed border wall with Mexico. A more conservative House proposal that sharply reduces legal immigration and imposes other restrictions has languished short of the GOP votes it would need to pass, leaving its fate in question.

The Supreme Court's announcement Monday that it wouldn't step in to the case now means the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will likely be the first appeals court to weigh in on the topic, the step before the case would return to the Supreme Court. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who has led the multistate lawsuit in California to keep DACA in place, cheered the Supreme Court announcement Monday.

"It's a victory for all Dreamers, certainly a great victory for California," Becerra said during a phone call with reporters. "It's a victory for the rule of law and it's a victory for our economy."

The Ninth Circuit has set no date to hear arguments but has given lawyers dates by which they must file briefs that run through April. Andrew Pincus, an attorney who represents more than 100 businesses that intervened in support of DACA, said June is probably the earliest that the court would rule.

Trump on Monday didn't seem to hold out much hope of winning at the Ninth Circuit, criticizing the liberal-leaning court by saying "nothing's as bad as the Ninth Circuit."

"I mean, it's really sad when every single case filed against us is in the 9th Circuit we lose, we lose, we lose and then we do fine in the Supreme Court," he said.



# Still no cease-fire in Syrian enclave; Russia orders a pause



U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses his statement, during the opening of the High-Level Segment of the 37th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 26, 2018.

(Salvatore Di Nolfi/Keystone via AP)

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American apathy toward their lawmakers has become an area of scholarly study, with some researchers contending that when Congress doesn’t act, it’s often representing a divided electorate that can’t resolve disagreements, either.

That certainly describes the United States now, which is deeply divided over such uncomfortable matters as immigration, gun control and Presi-

(Continued on page 15)

## ► Court...

Continued from page 11

ated only on their work ethic and job performance — not on who they are or who they love,” Masen Davis, chief executive of Freedom for All Americans, said in a statement.

One of the three dissenting judges, Gerald E. Lynch, said Congress never intended Title VII to cover sexual orientation, though he added: “I would be delighted to awake one morning and learn Congress had just passed legislation adding sexual orientation to the list of grounds of employment discrimination prohibited under Title VII.”

The case led to two government agencies offering opposing views. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said Title VII applies to sexual orientation. The U.S. Justice Department argued it does not.

“We remain committed to the fundamental principle that the courts cannot expand the law beyond what Congress has provided,” Justice Department spokesman Devin O’Malley said. But he the department will continue to enforce numerous other laws Congress enacted to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The EEOC said in a statement that the ruling was “a generous view of the law of employment protections, and a needed one.”

Most federal appeals courts in the past have ruled that “sex” means biological gender, not sexual orientation.

During oral arguments in the cast last fall, one judge suggested the Justice Department changed its position after President Donald Trump was elected. The department filed its legal arguments the same day Trump announced on Twitter that transgender people could no longer serve in the military.

# Chinese public figures decry proposal to scrap term limits

BEIJING (AP) — A well-known political commentator and a prominent businesswoman in China have penned public letters urging lawmakers to reject a plan that would allow President Xi Jinping to rule indefinitely.

The rare and public expressions of dissent have come through impassioned statements that began circulating widely on the WeChat messaging app after the ruling Communist Party announced a proposal to scrap term limits on the president and vice president.

Li Datong, a former editor for the state-run China Youth Daily, wrote in a statement Monday to Beijing’s members of China’s rubber-stamp parliament that lifting term limits would “sow the seeds of chaos.”

An official in the information department of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress said he was not aware of the open letters.

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Continued from page 12



In this Feb. 21, 2018 photo, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student Cameron Kasky asks a question to Sen. Marco Rubio during a CNN town hall meeting at the BB&T Center in Sunrise, Fla. Red, blue or purple, in flyover country or along the U.S. coast, most Americans loathe the national legislature and think its members are listening to all the wrong people.

(Michael Laughlin/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP)

doesn't act, it's often representing a divided electorate that can't resolve disagreements, either.

That certainly describes the United States now, which is deeply divided over such uncomfortable matters as immigration, gun control and President Donald Trump. Even with Republicans in control of the presidency and the House and Senate, Congress passed just one significant piece of legislation during Trump's first year in office — a \$1.5 trillion overhaul of U.S. tax laws that Republicans hope will begin to boost American paychecks this year.

"It is not crumbs," Trump said earlier this month in a brushback to Democratic efforts to campaign against the tax cuts. In November, voters cast ballots for every House seat and 34 in the Senate. And it's fair to say plenty of members of Congress have had enough of Congress, too — including

more than 50 House members who have opted to leave rather than seek re-election.

Among the other reasons for all the Congress hate, fewer than 2 in 10 Americans in the new study said they think Congress passes mostly good laws. The remainder considers congressional output to be at best neutral, with over a third seeing it as mostly bad. At the same time, Americans who felt Congress should be passing either more laws or fewer of them were far more likely to disapprove of Congress than those who felt the number of laws passed by Congress is about right. "Most of them have got it wrong," said David Peterson, 67, a Republican-leaning Vietnam veteran from Torrance, California. "The fact that Congress can't seem to come to grips with health care, can't seem to come to grips with immigration, can't seem to come to grips with legislating firearms.

# Cyberstalk victim says she feared tormentor would kill her



FILE - This undated file photo provided by the Warren County Sheriff's Department in Warrenton, Mo., shows Juan Thompson. Thompson, a former journalist who admitted cyberstalking ex-girlfriend Francesca Rossi and terrorizing Jewish groups with bomb threats, was sentenced Dec. 20, 2017, to five years in prison. Rossi says that she complained of Thompson's online threats for nearly a year and feared he would kill her. Experts say the case demonstrates that law enforcement has a long way to go.

(Warren County Sheriff's Department via AP, File)

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly two dozen times, Francesca Rossi called law enforcement to complain that an ex-boyfriend was harassing her online, posting nude images of her, sending notes to her bosses that she had a sexually transmitted disease and making it appear she was running guns and trafficking in child pornography.

But they couldn't make it stop and couldn't even make an arrest for almost a year, until the man set off a national panic by posing as Rossi to make bomb threats against Jewish centers

across the country. That turned it into a major federal case that ended with her tormentor, Juan Thompson, arrested within days and eventually sentenced to five years in prison. Rossi spoke to The Associated Press in her first interview since the criminal case ended in December.

"It went on for months. I thought I was going to die and no one could help me," Rossi said. "In the end, the only way that my abuse was legitimized is because he went after such a large community of people, and because there was so much hysteria over it."

Police officials didn't comment on Rossi's criticism, except to say her case was closed due to insufficient evidence to support a charge.

### A GROWING CRIME

Legal and policing experts say her experience is an extreme example of how law enforcement is ill-equipped to handle the growing threat of online crime, even though laws have recently been passed in 38 states addressing cyberstalking and revenge porn.

"The response by and large is: Ignore it and turn off your computer," said Danielle Citron, a University of Maryland law professor and author of "Hate Crimes in Cyberspace."

Four in 10 internet users are harassed online and women disproportionately suffer, according to a Pew Research Center report. But only about 5 percent report it.

"Fran is a strong resourced individual, and she barely made it out of this," said her friend Sarah Mikhail, 33. "Imagine if she were someone less strong, if she had no money. Imagine some of the women who experience this who don't have the emotional wherewithal, the

family, the support. What happens to them?"

Part of the complexity in the Thompson case, for example, was that Thompson used 25 different devices that allowed him to mask his identity. That made gathering evidence difficult, officials said. There are no fingerprints, no DNA, no surveillance footage. The nonprofit Police Executive Research Forum recently issued a report on the subject that recommended, among other things, that law enforcement agencies hire more people with more technological expertise.

"The internet is like the Wild West of technology," said Chuck Wexler, the group's executive director. "It has no speed limits and no cops."

### SUSTAINED HARASSMENT

Rossi told the AP that she met Thompson through an online dating site in late 2014. He worked as a journalist with The Intercept; she as a social worker. They bonded over their commitment to reform. And for a while, their relationship was great.

But by the spring of 2016, he'd moved into her Brooklyn apartment and trouble came with him. She started getting harassing texts from ex-boyfriends. The wife of another ex-boyfriend sued, saying she'd given him a sexually transmitted disease, a lawsuit that turned out to be a hoax. Another posted a naked picture of her online.

Rossi panicked. She contacted Carrie Goldberg, a lawyer specializing in online harassment and she quickly figured out that only one man was behind the harassment: Thompson. He'd been posing as her exes for months. Rossi believes he was trying to make her feel bad so he could intimidate and control her.

"Juan was going through all of my stuff and I had no idea," said the 33-year-old Rossi. "He somehow gained access. I never gave him access to any of my passwords. But he had everything on me. He had been reading my texts and my emails for at least a year."

Rossi broke up with him, but then things got worse.

Thompson telephoned, emailed and texted her relentlessly, she said. Sometimes, he posed as others, terrorizing Rossi and her family, including her 92-year-old grandmother. He called and wrote her office. He used every major social media platform to trash her. He even posted her information on a website where men promote violence against women.

"Technology gave him utter access to me," she said. "Every time my phone buzzed, I felt sick. I mean, I thought he was going to kill me. I felt like my life was over."

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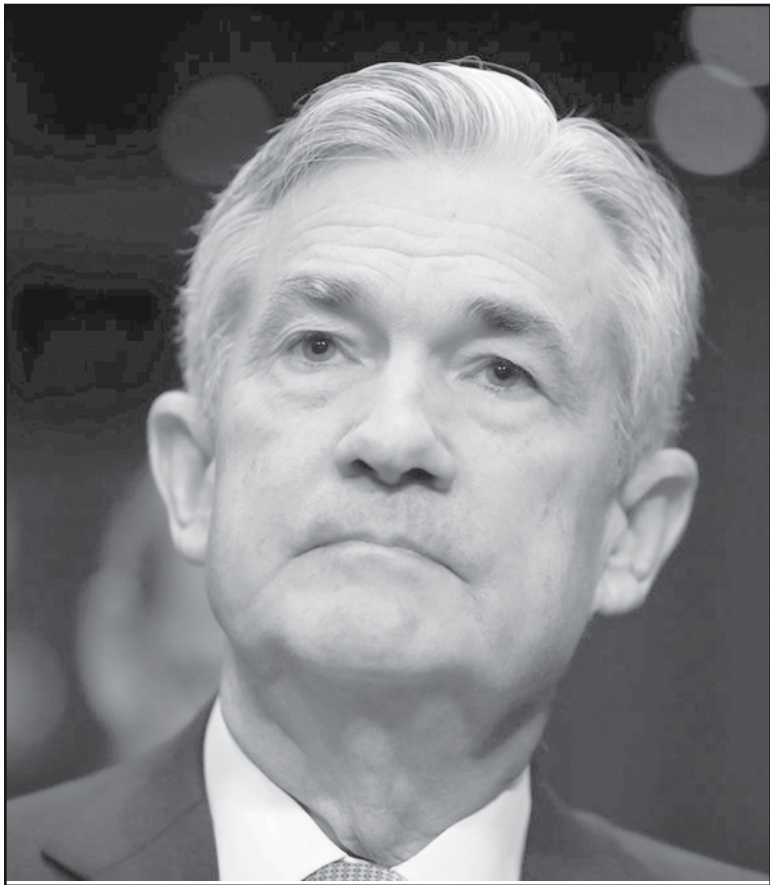
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# 5 things to watch for as new Fed chair Powell meets Congress



FILE- In this Nov. 28, 2017, file photo, Jerome Powell, President Donald Trump's nominee for chairman of the Federal Reserve, sits in the audience before being called to testify during a Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Powell testifies to Congress on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, in his first public appearance as chairman of the Federal Reserve. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Jerome Powell testifies to Congress on Tuesday in his first public appearance as chairman of the Federal Reserve, investors will be paying close attention to his every word.

Financial markets are always on high alert for any hints of policy shifts when the leader of the world's most powerful central bank speaks publicly. But in this case, they will be listening with particular care. It will be the first time they will hear Powell articulate his views since he succeeded Janet Yellen. Most of all, investors will be parsing Powell's words for any signal of when or how quickly the Fed will continue to raise interest rates. The Fed had forecast in December that it would raise rates three times in 2018. But many analysts think economic developments might lead it to accelerate that pace.

Powell will be offering his thoughts on the Fed's twice-a-year monetary report to Congress, which lays out its thinking on the economy and interest rates. He will testify Tuesday to the House Financial Services Committee and on Thursday to the Senate Banking Committee.

Here are five things to listen for:

## MARKET TURBULENCE

The financial markets threw a rotten welcoming party for Powell. On Feb. 5, his very first day as Fed chairman, the Dow Jones industrial average plunged by 1,100 points — and fell further in subsequent days. After that wild start to the month, the markets have since stabilized and regained much of the lost ground that had put stocks into correction territory.

Powell is sure to face questions about just what the market turbulence means and whether he worries that the volatility will harm the economy. Does Wall Street's long bull market — and the surge in stocks that followed the 2016 election — leave him worried that share prices have formed a dangerous asset bubble that could pop with disastrous consequences?

If Powell does think so, the Fed might be prepared to accelerate its rate hikes this year to try to further deflate stock prices. On the other hand, the Fed might feel that the stock market plunge at the start of February has already served as a prudent warning to investors that will ease pressure to quicken its pace of rate hikes.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

The minutes of the Fed's most recent meeting in January showed that many of the policymakers were upgrading their forecasts for economic growth based on a brightening global picture and the prospect that the Republicans' tax cuts could quicken growth.

Stronger growth would follow years in which the recovery from the Great Recession has plodded along with expansion of only around 2 percent annually — the slowest recovery since World War II. But some economists say the subpar pace of growth has actually contributed to the recovery's durability. It is now the third-longest economic expansion on records dating to the 1850s. Powell will likely be asked about how the Fed might respond to a pickup in growth at a time when unemployment is at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent and the Fed is gradually raising rates to ensure that inflation

doesn't pose a problem. Will the Powell-led Fed be pleased with stronger growth? Or might it feel compelled to accelerate its rate hikes to prevent faster growth from igniting inflation later on?

James Bullard, president of the Fed's St. Louis regional bank, said Monday, "I have been a little bit concerned if the (Fed) goes too far, too fast." Bullard suggested that the Fed needs to avoid becoming overly aggressive with rate hikes if not warranted by the latest economic data.

## INFLATION

A key factor triggering the market turbulence earlier this month was a surprise report that average wages rose in January compared with a year ago at the fastest pace in eight years. Some other barometers of inflation have also shown increases. Still, the Fed's preferred measure of inflation remains stubbornly below its target of 2 percent annually.

Investors will want to know whether Powell is becoming convinced that the Fed is finally on the verge of achieving its 2 percent inflation target — and, if so, whether it might soon feel the need to speed up its rate increases. With the current 4.1 percent unemployment rate well below the Fed's own 4.6 percent designation for full employment, how much of an acceleration in inflation might the central bank tolerate before deciding to step up its rate hikes?

## BUDGET DEFICITS

When President Donald Trump proposed a budget two weeks ago, it forecast a dramatic jump in deficits over the next decade compared with his first budget last year. The new budget expects deficits will total \$7.1 trillion over the next decade, more than double the deficits the administration projected last year. Much of the increase will come from the \$1.5 trillion tax cut Trump pushed through Congress in December. And critics contend that even the expected sizable jump in deficits understates the amount of red ink that will likely flow. That's because the administration's budget didn't include the \$300 billion in increased spending that was included in a government funding deal Congress passed right before Trump released his budget.

What's more, Trump's new budget is counting on growth to accelerate from the 2 percent pace seen since the recovery began to rates of 3 percent or better. The Fed has a far dimmer view: More in line with most economists, the Fed projects the long-run growth rate at around 1.8 percent.

Powell will likely be quizzed about this discrepancy and about whether the Fed worried about potential economic overheating and inflation from the increased government stimulus.

Still...

Continued from page 13

dent Donald Trump. Even with Republicans in control of the presidency and the House and Senate, Congress passed just one significant piece of legislation during Trump's first year in office — a \$1.5 trillion overhaul of U.S. tax laws that Republicans hope will begin to boost American paychecks this year.

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were far more likely to disapprove of Congress than those who felt the number of laws passed by Congress is about right.

"Most of them have got it wrong," said David Peterson, 67, a Republican-leaning Vietnam veteran from Torrance, California. "The fact that Congress can't seem to come to grips with health care, can't seem to come to grips with immigration, can't seem to come to grips with legislating firearms. It makes me less optimistic."

The study was conducted in 2015 and 2017 using samples drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Funding was provided by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University and by NORC.

The most recent AP-NORC poll of 1,337 adults was conducted Feb. 15-19 using a sample drawn from NORC's AmeriSpeak Panel, and has a margin of sampling error for all respondents of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

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# Meet A Spelling Champ!

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



## BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?  
*Amazing Grace Malaefono*  
What is your school name?  
*Mt. Alava Elementary School*  
What grade are you in?  
*Grade 8*  
Who is your English Teacher?  
*Suluia Afuola*  
Who are your parents?  
*Uputaua Tuiasosopo*  
What village are you from?  
*Vatia*  
What was your winning word?  
*AMBIVALENT*

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

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# Meet A Spelling Champ!

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



## BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

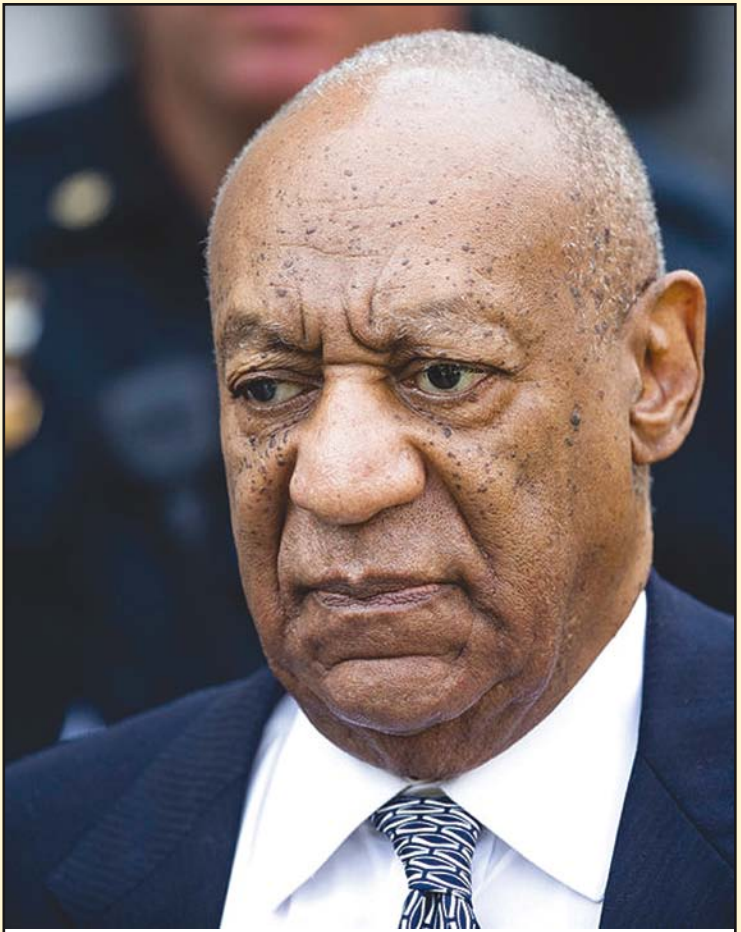
What is your name?  
*Heavenly Alofa Tuaau*  
What is your school name?  
*Matafao Elementary School*  
What grade are you in?  
*Grade 8*  
Who is your English Teacher?  
*Faaiufono Siuloa*  
Who are your parents?  
*Mr. Utumoe & Mrs. Palepa Tuaau*  
What village are you from?  
*Pago Pago*  
What was your winning word?  
*POLING*

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# Bill Cosby's daughter Ensa, 44, dies in Massachusetts



FILE - In this Aug. 22, 2017, file photo, Bill Cosby departs after a pretrial hearing in his sexual assault case at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa. Bill Cosby's 44-year-old daughter Ensa Cosby died Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, in Massachusetts from kidney disease, a spokesman for the comedian said Monday. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

By BOB SALSBERG, Associated Press  
BOSTON (AP) — Bill Cosby's 44-year-old daughter Ensa Cosby died in Massachusetts from kidney disease, a spokesman for the comedian said Monday.  
Spokesman Andrew Wyatt did not immediately offer other details about her death on Friday.  
"Please keep the Cosby family in your prayers and give them peace at this time," he said.  
Bill Cosby lost another of his five children in 1997 when his 27-year-old son, Ennis, a graduate student at Columbia University, was shot to death while changing a flat tire near a freeway off ramp in Los Angeles. A 22-year-old man was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole.  
Bill Cosby, 80, owns a home in the western Massachusetts town of Shelburne Falls.  
Ensa Cosby spoke out on her father's behalf before his trial last year on charges he drugged and molested a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He has pleaded not guilty and remains free on bail ahead of his retrial scheduled for April 2. His first trial ended with a hung jury last year.  
Ensa Cosby and her sister, Erinn, recorded statements that aired on New York hip-hop radio station Power 105. Ensa Cosby said she strongly believed in her father's innocence and believed that racism played a big role in aspects of the scandal.  
"How my father is being punished by a society that still believes black men rape white women but passes off 'boys will be boys' when white men are accused, and how the politics of our country prove my disgust. My father has been publicly lynched in the media," she said.  
"Boys will be boys" was an apparent reference to President Donald Trump excusing as "locker room talk," lewd remarks he was recorded making in footage released during the 2016 presidential campaign by "Access Hollywood."  
Cosby is due in court next Monday for a pretrial hearing as his lawyers and prosecutors clash over how many other accusers can testify at his retrial.  
In the wake of Ensa Cosby's death, Bill Cosby could ask to postpone the pretrial hearing or waive his right to be in court for it. Cosby's lead attorney, Tom Mesereau, did not immediately respond to messages.  
A defamation lawsuit filed by seven women who have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct also is pending in Massachusetts.  
Ensa Cosby largely stayed out of the public spotlight during her life though she did appear in 1989 in a single episode of her father's popular sitcom "The Cosby Show," which ran from 1984-1992.