

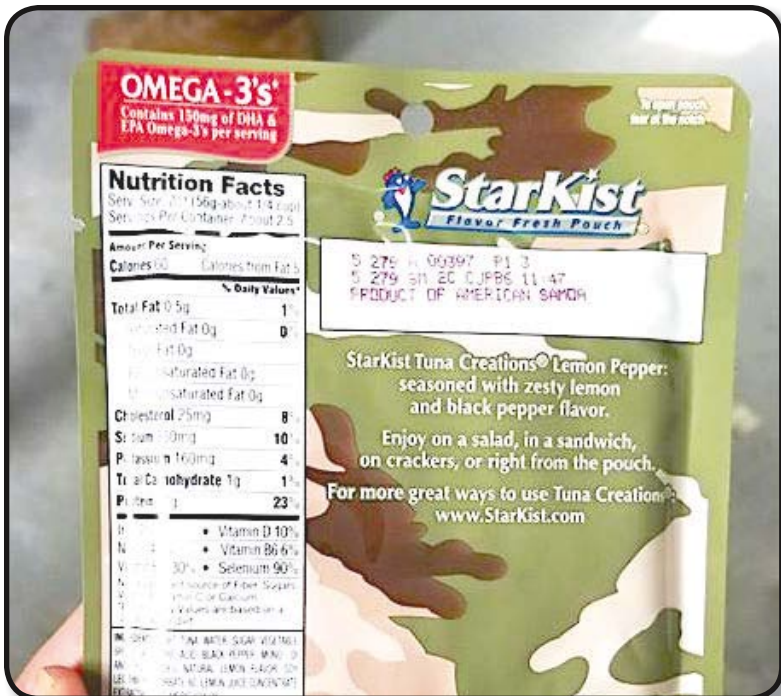


Drug defendant sentenced to probation and ordered to leave ...
Page 2

Fa'aauau pea suesuega mataupu tu'uiaia ai tafana ta'avale Leoleo
Le Lali

Pacific Island News in Brief
Page 9

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MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK PAGE OF A SOLDIER
"I'm currently in the field in negative degree weather and I opened my MRE and look what I found —
A tuna pouch made from home.
That was a boost of motivation for me and I was proud to tell my soldiers about the tuna cannery and the island — SSG Naea-Keemer, Aileen PPG AS 96799

[photo: facebook]

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

REAL ID update: ASDHS team sent to Hawai'i to get specific details

PAID FOR BY USDHS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The local Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS) has sent a team to Hawai'i to obtain specific details that would help American Samoa come into full compliance with all provisions of the federal REAL ID Act, when it comes to locally issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

As announced in a Jan. 19, 2018 in a national statement, the US Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), had said that effective yesterday, Feb. 5, residents of American Samoa will no longer be able to use territory-issued driver's licenses and identification cards to fly domestically or enter federal buildings and military installations.

Compliance with the federal law, which became effective in 2005, was one of the two main issues at last Friday's continuing Senate Public Safety/Homeland Security hearing from earlier in the week. The other issue is the use of Certificate of Identity to travel to Hawaii. (See yesterday's edition for details.)

Responding to a committee question, ASDHS director Samana Semo Ve'ave'a explained that American Samoa's proposal to USDHS is to be in full compliance by October of 2018.

He said the governor was sending a letter to USDHS officials requesting the continued use of currently issued driver's licenses and ID cards, while the territory works on compliance issues.

Samana also noted that there are only certain provisions left in the REAL ID Act for which American Samoa must comply. And to assist American Samoa meeting full compliance, Samana said an ASDHS team left last Friday for Hawai'i, to work with the state's officials.

He says this trip to Hawai'i is paid for by USDHS and that state officials from Hawai'i along with US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will later travel to the territory to work with local officials on all areas needing compliance.

The governor's executive assistant, Iulogologo Joseph Pereira told Samoa News last week that FEMA is eager to work with American Samoa to move towards compliance with the federal law.

During last Friday's hearing, a committee question was raised as to who is at fault for why American Samoa remains non-compliant after all these years and is there any money left in federal grants to help the territory.

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale responded that since 2005—when the REAL ID Act went into effect—there have been at least three different police commissioners. Additionally, he along with Samana and current Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson—another witness at the hearing—weren't onboard at the time. Therefore, he couldn't provide a direct response at this time.

However, Talauega said the ASDHS has an ongoing probe
(Continued on page 6)

High Court injunction blocks DBAS from foreclosing on Fuiava land

IT WAS USED AS "SECURITY" FOR LOAN FOR TAUSANI AIRLINES

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Lands and Titles Division of the High Court has granted an injunction preventing the Development Bank of American Samoa from foreclosing and seizing a parcel of land in Ili'ili, belonging to Michael Fuiava that was used as "security interest" in a DBAS loan for Tausani Airlines, which has since ceased operation.

Fuiava—who is currently the ASG Agriculture Department director—is an officer and president of the locally based start-up airline, which was to operate Manu'a flights. And it was more than two years ago that the airline leased the ASG plane, Segaula, which have since been returned to ASG.

Responding to Samoa News inquires, US Fed-

eral Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman, Ian Gregor said from Los Angeles yesterday that Tausani withdrew their certification application in the Spring of 2017.

PLAINTIFFS COMPLAINT

The court's decision followed a complaint—which provides new details on the Tausani loan and its operation plans—filed last December by Tausani and Fuiava against DBAS, which in 2014 entered into negotiations with the airline's officers for financing the development of Manu'a air service. During negotiations, the complaint said, Tausani officers presented a \$400,000 loan proposal to fund the company's equipment spare parts, aircraft, hangar improvements and working capital. Tausani proposed to purchase two aircraft

(Continued on page 4)



Smiling passengers before boarding Hawaiian Airlines' Inaugural Airbus A330-200 service from Daniel K. Inouye International, Honolulu, Hawai'i yesterday afternoon, arriving last night. They each received an ula as part of the celebration for the new service.

Incoming CEO Peter Ingram was also scheduled to be on the inaugural flight of the airbus with HA senior executives, according to a Hawaiian Air official. HA hosted a reception last night at the airport to celebrate the new American Samoa air service.

Hawaiian Air will introduce its new schedule on March 22, 2018—flying in and out on Monday and Thursdays, instead of Mondays and Fridays, but at the same arrival and departure times.

The new service offers a 40-seat increase of passenger capacity, as well as 3 cabin classes: Economy, Extra-comfort and 1st Class. It is unknown at this time what the tickets prices will be.

See inside today's edition or more photos of the Hawaiian Airbus inaugural flight while in Honolulu, Hawai'i. At this time, Samoa News offers a big "faafetai tele" to Hawaiian Air for allowing Samoa News photo journalist Barry Markowitz to travel on the flight to record this great event for American Samoa.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 2/5/18, 3:20pm]

Republicans working on averting another shutdown



WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republican leaders are grappling for a strategy to avert another government shutdown at midnight Thursday.

They scheduled a closed-door session Monday evening to brief House GOP lawmakers on a way to pass a stopgap funding bill that could last through March 23 to buy time for progress in implementing any follow-up budget pact and, perhaps, pass immigration legislation.

One option, GOP aides said, would be to pass the stopgap spending bill by marrying it with a full-year, \$659 billion Pentagon spending bill. The aides required anonymity because lawmakers hadn’t been briefed.

Republicans are scrambling to pass the measure through the House since they can’t count on support from Democrats — who feel stymied by inaction on legislation to protect young immigrants from deportation — to advance the legislation.

That approach of pairing the Pentagon’s budget with only temporary money for the rest of the government wouldn’t go anywhere in the Senate, vowed Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who said it “would be barreling head first into a dead-end.”

On the other hand, the Senate might respond with a long-awaited spending pact to give whopping increases both to the Pentagon and domestic programs. Talks in the Senate on such a framework appeared to intensify in hopes of an agreement this week, aides and lawmakers said.

The situation in both the House and Senate was murky, though it’s clear Senate Democrats have no appetite for sparking another government shutdown.

The broader budget picture is one in which GOP defense hawks are prevailing over the party’s depleted ranks of deficit hawks while Democrats leverage their influence to increase spending for domestic priorities such as combating opioid misuse.

(Continued on page 6)

Drug defendant sentenced to probation and ordered to leave the territory

by Ausage Fausia

While a drug defendant was sentenced to probation and ordered to leave the territory after serving only 6 months of his 5-year sentence, Chief Justice Michael Kruse also ordered the government’s attorney in the case to bring all the contraband and the paraphernalia that police seized from the defendant to court sometime this week for the court to review it.

The order was made after Kruse delivered the court’s sentence for Sio Olomali’i last Friday morning in High Court. When Kruse wanted to know what was seized by police from the defendant, prosecutor Woodrow Pengelly responded that he believed there was a glass pipe.

“Where is it, did you bring it to court?” asked Kruse. Pengelly responded, “No your honor, I believe it’s inside the evidence room.”

Kruse scratched his head and smiled for a moment, then ordered the government to bring the evidence to court this week. Attorney for the defendant, Douglas Fiaui added, saying that the police also seized a backpack belonging to his client on the day of his arrest, and Olomali’i really needs it back.

“Government, bring all those things to court next week. I don’t think you (government) need the backpack. Bring all the contraband and the paraphernalia to court. Marshall, make sure these things are destroyed except for the backpack. I don’t want these things to be recycled or to be used by somebody else,” said Kruse.

Olomali’i, a 31-year-old man from Samoa who works

as a bus driver in the territory entered into a plea bargain with the government for the charge of unlawful possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

An individual contacted police, for assistance, after he witnessed Olomali’i smoking a glass pipe inside his aiga bus.

The witness told police he’s known the defendant for a long time, and this wasn’t the first time he’s witnessed him doing this. When police pulled the defendant’s bus over for a traffic violation, a search of the bus and Olomali’i produced a glass pipe with meth inside.

When questioned by police, Olomali’i admitted that the glass pipe belonged to him, and he had purchased it from a longtime friend for \$50. He also told police that he used meth to keep himself awake while performing work as a bus driver.

During his sentencing Olomali’i apologized to the court for breaking the laws of the territory, and for using drugs while working as a bus driver. He told the court that the 4 months and two weeks he spent in jail taught him a lesson, and he told the court that using drugs is not only illegal but also not good for a person like him who came here to the territory to look for a good future for his family.

He assured the court that he will never break any laws of the territory again and he will do his best to stay away from trouble in the future. In closing, he begged the court to give him another chance to go back home and find another job to care for his elderly parents, who depend on him financially.

“I come from a poor family who only depend on their plantation to survive. I came here to earn a good living for my parents, but it’s sad to see how things end like this. What I did was wrong, and I assure the court that if I am given another chance, I will never be in this court room again,” said Olomali’i.

Both Pengelly and Fiaui asked the court for a probation sentence. Fiaui told the court that his client was truly remorseful, and he wants another chance to be with his elderly parents. Fiaui stated that Olomali’i is the only person in the family who works to take care of his parents.

Due to the fact that Olomali’i’s immigration status is now illegal, Fiaui asked the court to allow him to depart the territory and remain outside of the territory as a condition of his probation.

After reviewing all the facts about the case, the court sentenced Olomali’i to a term of imprisonment of 5 years, and a fine of \$5,000. Execution of sentence was suspended for the period of 5 years, and the defendant was placed on probation for the period of suspension under certain conditions.

For his term of detention, the court ordered the defendant to serve only 6 months of detention, the balance was stayed on the condition that he immediately depart the territory and remain outside of its borders for the period of his probation. He is credited for the 4 months and two weeks he already served in jail.



Hawaiian Airlines’ Inaugural Airbus A330-200 service from Daniel K. Inouye International, Honolulu, Hawai’i yesterday afternoon, arrived last night.

Aboard the inaugural flight was Miss Pacific Islands, Matauaina Gwendolyn To’omalatai, Onenao, of American Samoa and her chaperone, Mrs. Simeafou Imo, President of Miss American Samoa, Inc. (MASI).

They expressed their excitement about flying on Hawaiian Airlines’ inaugural Airbus 330-200 flight to Pago Pago, American Samoa from Hawai’i. Both were returning from Nauru’s 50th Independence celebration, transiting from Brisbane, Australia.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 2/5/18, 3:15pm]

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION CUMBERLAND COUNTY

FILE NO.: 17-CVD-5920

MANAOMIA TAUANUU and
SEELA TAUANNUU,
Plaintiffs,

VS.

GRACE TANIELA and
NELI CHRISTIAN TAUHEETIA,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: NELI CHRISTIAN TAUHEETIA

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is child custody of the minor child, TAFAILAGIIMOANA TANIELU, born July 21, 2016.

You are required to make defense to this pleading no later than March 21, 2018, and, upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. Your defense must be filed with the Clerk of Court of Cumberland County, P O Box 363, Fayetteville, NC, 28302, and a copy served upon the undersigned.

This 23rd day of January, 2018.

COOPER, DAVIS & COOPER
/s/ Robert L. Cooper

By:

Robert L. Cooper
Attorney for Plaintiffs
P O Drawer 1598
Fayetteville, NC 28302-1598
(910) 483-3843

Published: 2/6, 2/13, 2/20



by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

JANE VASA

One of the three defendants in the alleged fraud case at the Department of Human & Human Social Services (DHSS) is out on a \$10,000 surety bond. Jane Vasa was not in custody when she appeared in District Court for her preliminary hearing (PX) last Friday morning. She was accompanied by family members and close friends.

When asked about the status of the defendant’s case, her attorney, Assistant Public Defender, Ryan Anderson told the court that his client wanted to exercise her constitutional rights to a PX hearing. Prosecutor Robert Morris did not object to the defense’s request.

Sunia then scheduled Vasa’s PX for this morning at 10:30 a.m. He also reminded the defendant to comply with all the conditions of her release on bond, especially that of no contact with government’s witness. Vasa is facing one count of criminal fraud, a class C felony, punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 7 years, and/ or a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

Her two co-defendants, Vincent Toeava and Liren Zhang a.k.a Kevin are still in custody, unable to post bond of \$450,000 each.

Toeava who is facing 19 criminal counts, is scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, Feb 7, at 10:30 a.m. for his next hearing.

Kevin, who is facing 17 criminal counts, is scheduled to appear in court on Friday, Feb. 9, at 10:30 a.m. for his next hearing.

The alleged fraud case was discovered during a review of why funds for the American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program (ASNAP) for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2018 quickly ran out. According to court affidavits ANZ bank redeemed \$667,555 more for that period than the amount of food coupons that ASNAP issued.

Court documents stated that a subsequent review by the DHSS and ASNAP management team discovered a high amount of counterfeit ASNAP food coupons were redeemed by three ASNAP vendors during that period. The three named vendors are JFL Malae Store and Fast By Food Mart, both owned

by Kevin and the third vendor is Harbor View Mart, whose owner has not been formally charged in the case.

MICHAEL AGASIVA

Michael Agasiva Sr was ordered by Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea to be released from the Territorial Correctional Facility (TCF) last Friday, after he served more than what the court sentenced him to serve.

Agasiva Sr was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 12 months, and because he had already served close to 13 months in jail, Patea ordered Agasiva Sr to be released forthwith when his sentence was read out in open court.

The 62-year-old registered matai from Amaluia was initially charged with three criminal counts, including sexual abuse in the first degree, a class D felony; and two misdemeanor charges, trespass and assault in the third degree.

Under a plea bargain with the government, Agasiva pleaded guilty to the amended count one; sexual abuse in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor together with counts 2 and 3 as charged.

Before Patea delivered his decision, prosecutor Woodrow Pengelly asked the court to delay Mr. Agasiva’s proceedings, to wait the arrival of the victim who was on her way to the court and wanted to give a statement to the court.

When asked to explain what the victim wanted to share with the court, Pengelly stated that the victim wished to testify to the court about the impact of the defendant’s action on her, and the defendant’s reputation in the village.

Patea said that given the maximum sentence involved in this case and given the facts that the court can only impose those maximum terms of imprisonment, it would not make any difference as far as what the victim and the government were asking the court to do.

After hearing arguments from both sides, Patea then denied the government’s request to delay the hearing and proceed with sentencing.

In count one, sexual abuse in the second degree, Agasiva was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 6 months; in count 2, trespass, he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 6 months, and in count 3, assault in the third degree, he was sen-

tenced to a term of imprisonment of 15 days, and according to Patea, those are the maximum terms allowable by law for these offenses.

Count 1 and 3 will run concurrently with count 2 running consecutively.

The court stressed to Agasiva that failure to register by Friday this week as a sex offender would expose him to prosecution and if convicted, he would be subject to a class D felony, a lot more serious than the misdemeanor for which he was convicted.

“The court also strongly advises you that if you have an alternative home, don’t live close to the victim in this case,” Patea said, before ordering the government’s attorney to “file the appropriate charges” if there are any violations in the future.

PENI SAUVAO

District Court Judge Fiti Sunia sentenced Peni Sauvao to serve 10 days behind bars last Friday, after he was convicted for public peace disturbance, a class B misdemeanor while he was on probation.

“This is how things work out in this courtroom, once you violate a condition of your probation, we’re no longer talking about counseling, we’re talking about jail terms, and that’s what you get for disobeying the court order.

“So, if you want to try the court again, go ahead because your next conviction will be higher than this one,” said Sunia to Sauvao during his sentencing last week.

Sauvao was on probation for 6 months after he was convicted of public peace disturbance, a class B misdemeanor last year. One of the many conditions of his probation was to keep the peace with his girlfriend and never break any laws.

Before the end of last year, police re-arrested the defendant for another public peace disturbance charge for which he was convicted by the court last Friday, the same date he was sentenced to serve 10 days in jail as a condition of violating his 12-month probation.

Sauvao will have to spend 5 weekends at TCF in order to serve his 10 days detention.

He was ordered to report to TCF on Friday at 6 p.m. to be released on Sunday 6 p.m. starting from last weekend, Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, until the first weekend of next month, Mar. 2- 3, 2018.

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NEW ONLINE PROCESS FOR AM SAMOA ENTRY PERMIT WAIVER PROGRAM



Department of Legal Affairs

A Department of the
American Samoa
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ABOUT US

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OK BOARDS

All foreigners are required to obtain Entry Permits in order to lawfully enter American Samoa. There are circumstances where Entry Permits are not applicable. Those circumstances require travel authorizations referred to as "OK Boards" in order to enter and are detailed below.

1. OK Boards for U.S. Citizens and U.S. Nationals - American Samoa is considered an international destination and travelers seeking entry must possess a valid, machine readable passport before an air carrier allows them on-board. Traveler's sometimes loose their passport or realize, oftentimes a bit too late, that their passport has expired. If traveler is a U.S. Citizen or a U.S. National, they would be eligible for an OK Board. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply online.
2. OK Boards for Entry Permit Waiver Program (EPWP) - Under the EPWP, passport holders from select countries around the world may travel to American Samoa without the need for an Entry Permit. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply online.
3. OK Boards for Returning Residents - Foreign nationals who legally reside in American Samoa can enter using an OK Board if their travel documents are either lost or expired. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply online.



This screen shot of the ASG Department of Legal Affairs website, shows the webpage, that provides an online link with information for visitors to American Samoa. For example, one of the web-links provides the application and payment process for foreigners from 38 countries that qualify under the American Samoa Entry Permit Waiver Program, or EPWP, to enter the territory.

The EPWP allows citizens of specific countries to visit American Samoa without needing an entry permit for a period of 30 days or less for a \$20 fee. Among the countries under the EPWP are New Zealand, Australia, and France.

The EPWP along with other local entry regulations were implemented last September by Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, following a directive from Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga in August last year. At the time the AG's Office was working on the online application and payment process to make it easy for visitors to apply online as well as getting more information. Prior to the new online process, EPWP visitors either paid the \$20 for entry in advance or at the airport upon arrival.

Samoa News notes that countries listed under the EPWP, are the same countries under the US government entry permit waiver program. Applying and paying the fee requires 48 hours before arrival in Pago Pago. The online link: www.legalaffairs.as.gov/copy-of-ok-boards — also provides details and other information for all travelers, including transit passengers and fishermen to the territory, and is in line with regulations that were set up by Talauega in response to the governor's directive to set up such regulations to "Combat Illegal Immigration" in American Samoa.

The governor says there is an influx of immigrants entering the territory illegally, bringing with them illegal drugs and other contraband is well documented. (See Samoa News editions of Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 for details of these regulations.)

Samoa News encourages future visitors to the territory to check this link for details, as there have been many off-island inquiries — including from the US — to Samoa News seeking entry information into the territory. Under local law, the Attorney General oversees the Legal Affairs Department, which includes the AG's Office and Immigration Office.

[photo: screen shot]

High Court...

Continued from page 1

— a nine-seat BN Islander for \$250,000 and a Piper Cherokee for \$50,000. The two aircraft would be used as loan collateral as well.

According to the funding proposal document included in the complaint, Tausani would initially operate using the FAA issued Air Operation Certificate of Guam-based Aviation Services Ltd. that provided air service for Guam as Freedom Air. In the late part of 2014, DBAS agreed to a loan amount of \$400,000, with \$300,000 funded by the bank and \$100,000 funded by the Commerce Department's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (EDRLF) program. The loan documents were executed Nov. 12, 2014 and the complaint alleges that it was the plaintiffs' understanding at the time that the loan would be disbursed in a single transaction.

It's further alleged that DBAS representatives "promised" the airline that the full \$300,000 of the loan would be disbursed immediately upon execution of the loan documents or the following day at least. But nothing was disbursed until Dec. 14 and then only \$50,000 of the \$300,000 loan.

As a result of DBAS's failure to fund

the entire \$300,000 loan total, Tausani "was unable to develop its air services" to Manu'a, including purchase of the two aircraft as planned, the complaint alleges. For the loan from the EDRLF, the complaint alleges that the \$100,000 loan amount was immediately disbursed in a single payment upon execution on Feb. 2, 2015 of the loan agreement.

Because DBAS "failed to disburse" the balance of the \$300,000 loan, the airline "was unable to purchase the two FAA certified aircraft it had intended to buy, and instead had to scramble to find an alternative to fulfill its plans" for Manu'a air service, the complaint alleges.

ASG AIRCRAFT

The alternative cited in the complaint is the lease of the Segaula plane, which was offered by ASG in 2015, but one major problem is that this ASG aircraft lacked FAA certification.

As part of its offer, ASG agreed to lease the Segaula in exchange for Tausani's agreement to use the DBAS funds to repair the plane up to FAA standards, according to the complaint, which revealed that the lease agreement granted the airline an option to purchase the Segaula for \$150,000 within one year from the date that the aircraft become certified by the FAA.

However, if Tausani didn't purchase

this aircraft, the complaint alleges that ASG agreed to give the airline the option to be reimbursed for the sum equal to Tausani's expenses and costs incurred to bring the Segaula to an airworthy condition as certified by the FAA.

Around Aug. 15 last year, Tausani notified ASG of its intent to exercise its option to be reimbursed for expenses and costs related to repairing the Segaula, but as of last December ASG had not responded, according to the complaint but didn't provide details of how much the airline spent on repairing the Segaula.

LAND ISSUE

The complaint noted that Fuiava, owns a parcel of land — about .26 acres — in Ili'ili and the land has "significant improvements" on it, including a two-story house that was appraised to be valued at over \$400,000. And it was in August 2016 that Fuiava granted DBAS "a security interest in this parcel."

Then around Oct. 30, 2017, DBAS published a foreclosure sale notice in the newspaper, Samoa News, for this parcel of land, which was to be sold at a public auction around Dec. 7. The notice included a photo, which showed an undeveloped parcel of land and not Fuiava's land, according the complaint, adding that DBAS had been advised of this matter.

The complaint notes that the land —

based on the photo used for the advertisement — is raw and not developed.

CAUSE OF ACTION

The complaint cites four causes of action against DBAS, with the first accusing the bank of its failure to advertise the sale to the public in accordance with local law. And such failure "not only risks the sale of another's land but will reduce the value of any proposed sale" of Fuiava's land.

Plaintiffs also accused the bank of "breach of contract" for failing to disburse the loan funds in one transaction as well as the remaining balance of the \$300,000 loan amount.

DBAS's breach, which resulted "in the frustration of Tausani's business development" of Manu'a air service, "directly and proximately caused Tausani to suffer substantial damages", including but not limited to, "liabilities in the amount of over \$250,000 in DBAS loans, the threat of the loss of Fuiava's property, loss of profits and such other related damage in an amount to be determined at trial, according to the complaint. The court's injunction was granted last month and as of yesterday, no date has been set for trial.

Local attorney Gwen Tauiiili-Langkilde is representing the plaintiffs while the RDA Law Firm American Samoa is representing DBAS.



Medicaid increases Community Health Center reimbursement rate

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

Pursuant to a request made by the American Samoa Medicaid State Agency to amend the Medicaid State Plan, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved an increase in the DOH Federally Qualified Health Center’s (FQHC community health centers) reimbursement rate to \$150 per patient encounter. The FQHC’s starting reimbursement rate was \$50 per patient encounter.

This was confirmed by the director of the American Samoa Medicaid Office, Tofoitaufa Sandra King-Young last Friday.

According to Tofoitaufa, Medicaid worked for nearly three years to design a payment method to allow it to reimburse the FQHC’s community health centers and make it a Medicaid provider.

“Medicaid faced significant challenges creating a payment method because of the absence of utilization and financial data,” Tofoitaufa told Samoa News.

“After innovative problem solving and persuasive policy advocacy by the Medicaid office, CMS finally approved that payment method in February 2017, which allowed the FQHC to waive the facility fee for patients.”

She continued, “The intent is to do away with the financial barrier that prevents our people from seeking preventive care and chronic care management to help keep them healthy and control our limited financial resources.”

Tofoitaufa said, “Our people tend to wait until it’s too late or when illnesses are so far along that it ends up requiring more expensive medical care or worse — affects their quality of life. We need to encourage our people to go to the community health centers for preventive care.”

The local Medicaid director said even though American Samoa had an FQHC that was eligible

to be a Medicaid provider, the American Samoa Medicaid State Plan did not have a payment method defined in it to reimburse the FQHC. The Medicaid State Plan only had provisions for a provider to enroll but not to be paid.

And without a defined payment method, “there was no way we could pay the FQHC. We had to be creative in advocating for the change and providing creative solutions in order to move forward with approval.”

According to Tofoitaufa, “CMS approved the first payment method, with our intent and commitment to collect one year’s worth of data to determine whether we could then request an increase for the DOH FQHC.

“Now that we have the first year of data, we moved quickly to request the increase to further benefit our community health centers. This is the near maximum encounter rate similar to the Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate FQHC’s are generally eligible for — but because we do not do individual enrollment for Medicaid and the FQHC do not yet file a Medicare Cost Report for financial analysis purpose, we cannot use the PPS rate.”

“It’s complicated,” she said.

Given the current data, Tofoitaufa said the FQHC is estimated to receive an additional \$1.2 million in this fiscal year in new funding from Medicaid. She said the DOH FQHC is able to draw these additional federal funds because they have a local budget that they can use as local match.

“We are fortunate that DOH has a local budget to use to draw the additional federal funds that is real new monies to infuse in our territory, Tofoitaufa said. “The more the DOH FQHC’s hire more doctors and more nurses to serve more people, they will be able to receive more federal funds so long as they have the local match.”

Nielsen says 103.4 million watch Super Bowl

NEW YORK (AP) — An estimated 103.4 million people watched the Super Bowl on NBC, a 7 percent drop from last year that indicates that television’s biggest event may have peaked in popularity. The Nielsen company said it’s the smallest Super Bowl audience on television since 2009 despite the underdog Philadelphia Eagles beating the New England Patriots in a thrilling game that was close from start to finish.

Last year’s Patriots-Falcons game reached 111.3 million viewers. The all-time Super Bowl record — and record for any television event in the United States — was the 114.4 million who watched the Patriots against the Seahawks in 2015.

The NFL’s viewership has been down this year, with experts citing factors like increased injuries, some confusing rules changes and anger at players protesting police brutality by kneeling during the national anthem. Similarly, fewer people have cable than they did a few years ago, with streaming onto hand-held devices becoming more popular. The dip was also telegraphed by a poll conducted last week by Seton Hall University, which found that 54 percent of Americans were preparing to watch the game. That’s down from the 68 percent that said the same thing two years ago, according to the poll, which wasn’t done in 2017. The poll has a margin of error of 3.8 percentage points.

Despite that prediction, the poll’s director said he thought the game’s quality would lift the numbers beyond what was actually seen. “If you turned the game on at any time to say, ‘I wonder what’s going on,’ or a friend texted you to say you should watch this, you’re going to watch and get hooked,” said Rick Gentile, director of the poll, also sponsored by the Sharkey Institute.

NBC said that if you add in people who followed the game online, viewership increased to 106 million. And Nielsen said it has not yet counted the number of people who watched the game outside of homes — in a bar, for instance. Some perspective: despite the decrease, Sunday’s game ranked as the 10th most-watched television even in U.S. history. Soothing any hurt for NBC was Kantar Media’s estimate that \$414 million was spent on advertising for the Super Bowl telecast. That’s second only to the \$419 million spent last year, a figure that Kantar said exceeded 2018 only because last year’s game went into overtime, meaning there was more time to sell ads.



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This project is supported in part by an award from the **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS**



Smiling couple with their child before boarding time for Hawaiian Airlines' Inaugural Airbus A330-200 service from Daniel K. Inouye International, Honolulu, Hawai'i yesterday afternoon that arrived last night. They each received an ula as part of the celebration by Hawaiian Air for its new service.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 2/5/18, 4:02pm]



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP-024-2018

Issuance Date: January 16, 2018
Date & Time Due: February 16, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:
"Development of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the American Samoa Government"

Submission
Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP-024-2018: Development of CEDS for the ASG." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), February 16v, 2018:
Office of Procurement
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

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

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

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

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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DOI Insular Areas reor-
ganization to improve
missions and efficiency

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced on Monday the signing of Secretarial Order #3361, expanding the functions and responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech to include the Office of International Affairs and the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program (Oceans Program) currently under the Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget. The new expanded portfolio will now be called the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

"This realignment is part of the Department's overall efforts to reorganize for the next 100 years and improve mission achievement," said Secretary Zinke. "By elevating the profiles of all three of these components within Interior, we aim to renew and strengthen U.S. strategic interests, strengthen rela-

tionships and policies for U.S. oceans, Great Lakes and coastal communities, and enhance collaboration globally on behalf of the American people."

"I look forward to continuing my work on Insular Areas issues and incorporating Oceans and International issues all at the Secretarial level," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "My work to highlight their importance and critical priorities at the highest levels here within Interior and across the Federal government does not change."

The Office of Insular Affairs, the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program, and the Office of International Affairs will continue to be led respectively by Nikolao Pula, Liza Johnson, and Karen Senhadji. All three will now report to the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

Real ID...

Continued from page 1

into federal funds awarded to American Samoa to come into compliance.

During another hearing on this matter early last week, Samana had explained that USDHS awarded \$300,000 to American Samoa to comply with this federal law between 2008 and 2013. But several change orders later, the total amount awarded to American Samoa came to \$2.1 million — but the territory — up to now — remains non-compliant and there are no funds left. (Lolo Administration took office in January 2013.)

One issue which American Samoa needs in order to be put itself in compliance is locally approved legislation for the REAL ID Act.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries, the Governor's Legal Counsel, Alema Leota said the proposed legislation is in its final stages. "It's submission

date [to the Fono] will depend on the project timeline," he said last Thursday adding that "we want to get it out as soon as possible."

Regarding the governor's second letter to USDHS seeking an extension beyond Feb. 5, Leota said the letter was to be sent last week. "The letter outlines the efforts to bring American Samoa into compliance," he explained. "It outlines the legislation, funding, action items, and lays out a timeline for compliance."

According to USDHS, the extensions are renewable at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security, provided the state has provided adequate justification for continued non-compliance. Renewal is not automatic. Additionally, extensions will be renewed only if the state demonstrates continuing progress in meeting the REAL ID standards.

Republicans...

Continued from page 2

The result could be the return of trillion-dollar deficits for the first time since former President Barack Obama's first term.

Details are closely held and subject to change. But at issue is a two-year deal to increase caps on spending set by a failed 2011 budget deal. Republicans have pushed for defense increases in the neighborhood of \$80 billion a year and have offered Democrats nearly as much — \$60 billion or so per year — for nondefense programs.

Add in \$80 billion to \$90 billion worth of hurricane aid for Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, health care funding and money for President Donald Trump's

border security plan, and the final tally could total close to \$400 billion. The potential cost, over the 2018-19 budget years, would rival the deficit impact of last year's tax measure over that period.

"Republicans for years have made all of these bold promises to rein in spending," said Brian Riedl, a budget analyst at the conservative Manhattan Institute. "And they're doing the opposite."The potential agreement would significantly exceed Trump's request for a \$54 billion increase in defense spending — to \$603 billion before adding war funds — above the current cap. Rep.

US economy fundamentally strong despite stock market plunge

WASHINGTON (AP) — A wave of fear about inflation and higher interest rates has sent stock prices tumbling and raised concerns about corporate profits. On Monday, a plunge of over 1,100 points in the Dow Jones industrial average capped two days of losses that have erased the stock market’s gains for the year. Yet the rush of anxiety has obscured a fundamental fact about the U.S. economy: It’s healthy. Nearly nine years into the expansion that followed the Great Recession, the job market is strong. So is housing. Consumer confidence is solid, and manufacturing is rebounding. Households and businesses are spending freely. Personal debt has lightened since the financial crisis a decade ago. And major economies around the world are growing in tandem.

After Monday’s stock market swoon, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the spokeswoman for President Donald Trump, who has frequently boasted about the stock market’s gains under his watch, said in a statement:

“The president’s focus is on our long-term economic fundamentals, which remain exceptionally strong, with strengthening U.S. economic growth, historically low unemployment and increasing wages for American workers.”

That very economic vigor, in fact, is a key reason why investors anticipate higher inflation and interest rates. Higher borrowing rates over time could undercut corporate earnings as well as stock prices. And some fear that the Federal Reserve might miscalculate and raise rates too high or too fast.

But no one is sure that will happen. And for now, the economy remains on firm footing, even with the prospect of somewhat higher inflation. The inflation concerns escalated after Friday’s monthly U.S. jobs report showed that average wages surged 2.9 percent in January from 12 months earlier — the sharpest year-over-year gain since the recession.

“What we’re seeing right now is an economy overall that is doing quite well and has strong fundamentals,” said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. “The economy remains on track to expand at a fairly solid pace, and along with that comes inflation.” Here are some key reasons why the economy remains robust despite the jitters on Wall Street:

JOBS AND WAGES ARE PICKING UP
The job market is in its best shape in a decade or more. Businesses continue to hire at a pace that could drive the unemployment rate — already at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent — even lower. Some economists think the jobless rate by year’s

end could reach 3.5 percent, which would be the lowest level in a half-century. With relatively few job seekers, many businesses are struggling to fill open positions. To attract and keep workers, many are finally offering higher pay, which helps explain why the January jobs report showed such a sharp pickup in wages. A separate measure of wages and salaries rose in the final three months of 2017 by the most in nearly three years.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCES IN DECENT SHAPE
Americans generally haven’t been running up heavy debts. U.S. household debt — everything from mortgages and credit card debt to student and auto loans — equaled 95 percent of disposable income in the July-September quarter, according to data from the Fed. That compares with about 120 percent right before the recession.

Still, their willingness to spend has raised one concern: Savings have fallen. In December, the nation’s savings rate fell to its lowest level since 2005. Over the long run, a low savings rate can diminish the ability of households to withstand a financial shock.

GLOBAL ECONOMY
The U.S. economy now has something supporting it that it hasn’t had for nearly a decade: Solid growth around the world. Roughly 120 countries experienced faster growth in 2017 than in 2016, according to the International Monetary Fund. That’s the most since 2010.

The 19 European nations that share the euro expanded 2.5 percent in 2017, the most in 10 years and faster than the United States, which grew 2.3 percent. Japan’s economy has expanded for seven straight quarters, the longest such stretch since 2001. All that global growth tends to benefit the U.S. economy, the world’s largest.

SO WHAT’S NOT TO LIKE?
Even good economic news can prompt some troubling concerns. As companies raise pay, they typically increase prices to help cover their extra costs. That cycle can speed inflation. The Fed is then likely to raise the key short-term rate it controls to help reduce borrowing and spending and hold inflation in check. Fed officials have indicated that they expect to raise rates three times this year. But after Friday’s robust report on jobs and wages, some economists think the Fed might accelerate its rate hikes. Economists at BNP Paribas and Macroeconomic Advisers now forecast four rate increases this year.

A key source of anxiety among some investors is that the Fed or other central banks might end up tightening credit so much or so fast as to trigger an economic downturn.



AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT of HUMAN RESOURCES

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title	COMPTROLLER	Posting Date: January 29, 2018	Serial No.: 030-18
Department/Division:	Treasury/Finance	Closing Date: February 29, 2018	Announcement No.: 005-18
Type of Position:	Temporary Employment		
Posting Type:	Employment Opportunity/Open to the Public		
Note: This is exempted from the freeze as per the Governor’s General Memorandum			Pay Grade and Salary Range: GS 18-Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience

General Description:

The comptroller is responsible for accounting policy development and for the effective administration of the Government’s accounting controllership functions. This position is under the administrative direction of the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Preparations of the American Samoa Government Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
- Plan, Organizes and directs diverse of government-wide accounting functions, so as to ensure the accurate and timely recording and reporting of the financial status and fiscal progress of the American Samoa Government
- Develops policies and principles to govern and control accounting, advice to the Treasurer the standing of within and outside of the department of Treasury
- Supervises the General Accounting, Accounts Payable, Payroll and Travel Authorization, Revenue and Accounts Receivable Credit/Collection Sections on preparation and/or review of all financial data for inclusion in the monthly financial operating reports and such other periodic reports as required and/or requested
- Develops and administers the control over the government’s funds in order to ensure against any deficiencies and recommends an audits to be conducted as necessary, to determine the effectiveness of established controls in both the budget and accounting areas, and ensures that there are proper and timely responses to audit requests and personally see to it that any deficiencies are corrected.
- Review and analyzes all legislation to determine effect on treasury funds; supervises the maintenance of staff documents depicting pertinent information and statutes on all funds and accounts in the treasury
- Assist the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer with the resolution of an ongoing problems or current problems including Internal Revenue Service questions and accounts
- Perform other related duties as assigned

Knowledge, Skills and Ability:

Knowledge of:

- Government accounting and applicable regulations
- Budget and accounting principles, methods, practices and terminology
- Internal auditing principles and procedures, investment programs
- Government laws governing all treasury funds and distribution of revenues
- Effective and efficient business management practices
- Machine accounting methods, applications and potential
- Prcedures involving bonded indebtedness of government

Ability to:

- Organize, train and motivate skilled and unskilled staff in the operation and maintenance of an accounting system which is to operate primarily on computer
- Supervise and direct diverse accounts
- Analyze and determine agency budget requirements
- Recognize and resolve difficult and complex accounting, budget and business management problems
- Devise, install and operate government accounting systems
- Provide sound device, recommendations and counsel to management Officials relative to financial and business matters
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with government officials at all level
- Analyze complex organizational and business problems and recommend solutions

Academic and Experience Requirements:

- Applicant must have a Master’s degree in Public Administration, Business Management, Accounting or related field from an accredited university plus 10 years of work related experience posession of CPA is required.
- Years of progressively responsible working experience may be substituted for portion of academic requirement if not met. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Complete information concerning this vacancy may be obtained from the Personnel Division of the Department of Human Resources or please contact Recruitment at 633-4485/633-4000.

Fa’afetai tele,

Eseneiaso J. Liu
Director, Department of Human Resources



In Loving Memory of

a beautiful Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, Cousin and Friend

LUCILLA MULITAUAOPELE CHEN

June 18, 1952 - Jan 29, 2018



Colossians 2:5

"For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ".

FUNERAL PROGRAM
Saturday, February 10, 2018

7:30 am - Depart LBJ Medical Center
8:00 am - Arrive at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish (Laulii)
8:15 am - 10:00 am - Viewing for family and friends
10:00am - Mass of Resurrection
Immediately afterwards, Lucilla will be transported to her home in Laulii Tuai for final viewing.
2:00 pm - Committal Service
She will be laid to eternal rest at her home in Laulii

Respectfully,
Children: Whitey Chen, Blue Chen-Fruean and Grandchildren





A dynamic trio supporting American Samoa's economic wellbeing: (L-R) Joe Hamby, President-Tri Marine, US Congresswoman Aumua Amata, and Andrew Choe, President of StarKist — at the Gate 27 lounge prior to boarding Hawaiian Airlines' Inaugural Airbus A330-200 service from Daniel K. Inouye International, Honolulu, Hawai'i yesterday afternoon, arriving last night.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 2/5/18, 4:07pm]



MV Lady Samoa II: Her final voyage before she sinks to the bottom of the ocean.

[Samoa Shipping Corporation Facebook]

Compiled by Samoa News staff
END OF ERA AS LADY SAMOA II FERRY

An era of ocean voyaging in Samoa has ended with the Samoa Shipping Corporation putting the Lady Samoa II to bed forever.

The Corporation this morning posted a photo of the Lady Samoa II on their Facebook page with the caption: "MV Lady Samoa II: Her final voyage before she sinks to the bottom of the ocean."

The post does not say where the ferry has been sunk and who was there when it dropped to the seabed.

The ferry had served the Mulifanua and Salelologa route for many years, providing transportation services for thousands of travellers.

It had also sailed to American Samoa when needed.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

HAWAI'I INTRODUCES BILL TO BAN PLASTIC STRAWS

The US state of Hawai'i has introduced a bill to ban the sale and distribution of plastic straws in an effort to improve the environment.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Karl Rhoads, passed the Committee on Agriculture and Environment last week despite opposition from some businesses whose customers regularly use plastic straws.

Amanda Kelly from the Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis said straws were among the top ten items polluting the ocean.

"In the United States there's over 500 million estimated used per day. The average person, they say in the US, uses 1.6 which is almost 585 straws in one year," said Ms Kelly.

"There are infiltration systems and filters that look to catch trash before it goes into our streams and oceans, but straws are unique because of their shape. So they are very narrow and they fit through small holes and a lot of those filtration systems."

Ms Kelly said the bill proposed violators would have to pick up litter as community service or face fines.

The SB2285 bill now moves to the joint Ways and Means and Judiciary committees for consideration.

(Source: RNZI)

(Continued on page 13)

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As stocks plunge, Trump hits Dems for non-support on economy



dicted his party will fare well in November's congressional elections.

Pelosi, who represents San Francisco, responded on Twitter, writing: "Every American should be alarmed by how @realDonaldTrump is working to make loyalty to him synonymous with loyalty to our country. That is not how democracy works."

Trump's wife, Melania, accompanied him to Ohio aboard Air Force One but peeled off to visit a children's hospital. She was briefed on the state's opioid epidemic while he pitched the tax cuts he signed into law just before Christmas.

The president's political broadsides contrasted with the softer touch employed by his wife on her visit to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where executives briefed her on the opioid crisis in Ohio. She also visited some patients in an activity room, handing each child a Valentine's Day card.

"Children will always be my top priority," the first lady said in a written statement after the visit.

Mrs. Trump has accompanied her husband on numerous domestic trips, to introduce him at events or as they decamp to one of their own establishments for the weekend. Mrs. Trump also joined her husband on several trips to survey damage after hurricanes slammed parts of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, where she attended briefings by emergency management officials and helped console storm victims. But Monday's journey had a different twist in that it marked a less-typical instance in which she split from the president for a policy event separate from his. The trip also followed a period of public speculation about the first couple's relationship after The Wall Street Journal reported that Trump's personal lawyer brokered a payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels in October 2016 to keep her from publicly discussing an alleged years-old affair with Trump.

BLUE ASH, Ohio (AP) — President Donald Trump accused congressional Democrats on Monday of being "un-American" and perhaps even treasonous for refusing to cheer positive economic news during his State of the Union address. As he spoke, the stock market was plunging toward its largest single-day point drop ever, erasing its gains for the year.

Trump has frequently showcased the strong market as a barometer of his economic success and as a boon for everyday Americans and their retirement accounts. He did not mention the stock market during his speech, nor when reporters shouted questions as he returned to Washington after the markets had closed for the day.

At its close, the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen more than 1,150 points.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders stressed that the nation's long-term economic fundamentals "remain exceptionally strong," adding that Trump's tax cuts and regulatory reforms would "further enhance the U.S. economy and continue to increase prosperity for the American people."

During his wide-ranging remarks, Trump took special aim at House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi for describing as "crumbs" the bonuses of \$1,000 or more that some companies, including the one where he was speaking, are giving their workers as a result of the tax cuts.

He also accused Democrats of being "un-American" for not clapping, even for positive news during his address to the nation last week, in contrast to fellow Republicans, who he said were "going totally crazy wild" over everything in the speech.

"They were like death. And un-American," Trump said about the Democrats. "Somebody said treasonous. Can we call that treason? Why not?"

"They certainly didn't seem to love our country very much," the president said. He said Democrats "would rather see Trump do badly than our country do well."

Earlier Monday, Trump had gone after California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee that is investigating possible connections between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign.

On Twitter, the president labeled Schiff "one of the biggest liars and leakers in Washington." He added that Schiff "must be stopped."

Schiff retorted: "Instead of tweeting false smears, the American people would appreciate it if you turned off the TV and helped solve the funding crisis, protected Dreamers or ... really anything else."

As for Pelosi, Trump, who boasts that he is worth billions, said: "She's a rich woman who lives in a big beautiful house." He said the "crumbs" talk was not a "good day" for Pelosi. He referred to her as the Republicans' "secret weapon" and pre-

After record school closures, new Chicago plan draws fury

CHICAGO (AP) — Five years after the largest mass closure of public schools in an American city, Chicago is forging ahead with a plan to shutter four more in one of the city's highest-crime and most impoverished areas.

School officials are pitching the new closures around Englewood, a neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, to make way for a new \$85 million school they insist will better serve students and reverse low enrollment. But some parents, students and activists are skeptical, saying they're still reeling from the 2013 closures and the latest plan will make things worse, including the displacement of hundreds of mostly black and poor teenagers.

"The last thing they should do is close our schools," said 16-year-old Miracle Boyd, a student at John Hope College Prep, which could close. "They aren't the ones sitting in those chairs five days a week struggling to learn because we don't have the necessities we need as students. ... Why not use the \$85 million to improve our education and get our schools on the road to success?"

Like other cities, Chicago has long relied on closures to address underperforming and underutilized schools. Significant closures have taken place in Philadelphia, Detroit and St. Louis, but Chicago made history when it closed roughly 50 schools, affecting more than 12,000 students in mostly African-American and Latino neighborhoods.

The debate over Chicago's latest proposed closures has exploded, with shouting matches and emotional pleas during community meetings. Residents have pleaded with the district to invest more in neighborhood schools and safety. Some have alleged that racial politics are at play. And they worry by pulling students out of schools near their homes and placing them in ones farther away, they are putting them in danger of gang members who will view them as the enemy just by virtue of their address.

Chicago Public Schools says nothing is final until an expected Feb. 28 board vote. The nation's third-largest school district argues it's tried to boost enrollment and resources to the four schools, but it hasn't helped.

The changes coincide with a major drop in black residents. Roughly 180,000 people moved from Chicago from 2000 to 2010, according to census data. In Englewood, about 10 miles from downtown, fewer than 500 students are enrolled in the four schools. As a result, one freshmen class has only 17 students and another school doesn't offer science.

"We have to move these kids. They don't have enough support in these buildings," schools chief Janice Jackson said. "We can't sit by and continue to watch people leave."

The new school, which would open in 2019, will enroll only freshmen at the beginning, and upperclassmen will be left to attend nearby schools. The district expects to spend millions on the transition, including on individualized plans to help students at risk of dropping out, paid summer job programs and possible shuttle buses to transport students.

Research on the benefits of school closures is mixed. In 2017, the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado Boulder compiled research finding that even when students transferred to higher-performing schools, those students saw an achievement drop in the first year and marginal gains later on.

"There's no ground to stand on for saying this will improve the educational opportunities," said Pauline Lipman, a University of Illinois at Chicago professor who has studied closures.

Chicago Public Schools officials disagree.

With past closures, they've emphasized cost savings. This time, they've pitched the proposal as a more desirable option for students. Renderings of the new school tout outdoor sports facilities and a community health center. City officials say it complements other recent investment in Englewood, including a new lower-cost Whole Foods. But critics, including neighborhood activists and unions, say the district didn't do enough to address problems it helped create and there's a lack of trust, especially after two consecutive CPS leaders left office under scandal. The Chicago Teachers Union blames the city's push for charter schools. Roughly 90 percent of Englewood's students travel beyond neighborhood boundaries for school. Experts say property values will drop, vacant buildings are magnets for street crime and sending students to new schools could put their lives at risk.

"What people don't understand is that if you are 16 years old and get on a bus, when you get off that bus you are gang-affiliated whether you are gang-affiliated or not," said activist Jitu Brown.

Tensions between students from different Chicago neighborhoods attending the same school have erupted in violence before. In 2009, 16-year-old honor student Derrion Albert was fatally beaten after getting caught in the middle of such a clash. The attack involving students from Fenger High School on Chicago's South Side was captured on cellphone video that was viewed online worldwide.

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NTSB: Crash-preventing safety system was being installed



CAYCE, S.C. (AP) — Railway signals were out while crews installed a safety system that could have prevented the exact type of crash that killed two people in South Carolina when an Amtrak train was diverted to a side track and slammed head-on into an empty freight train, authorities said Monday.

Automated signals that could have warned the passenger train to stop before reaching the switch sending it down the side track were turned off as workers installed a GPS-based system called positive train control, or PTC, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt said. A day before, Sumwalt told reporters “an operational PTC is designed to prevent this type of incident.”

The crew that parked the CSX freight train on the side track and left the padlocked switch in position to divert trains from the main line were interviewed Monday, along with the dispatcher keeping up with trains in the area as the signals weren’t working, Sumwalt said. Sumwalt told reporters he had not been briefed about what the CSX workers said. The Amtrak engineer sounded his horn seven seconds before the crash and applied emergency brakes three seconds before the train collided with the other locomotive at 50 mph (80 kph), Sumwalt said, citing information from the passenger train’s data recorder.

“The expectation for the Amtrak crew is that they were clear,” Sumwalt said.

Positive train control is already installed in parts of the U.S. The system is designed to prevent two trains from traveling on the same track at the same time. That’s what happened early Sunday in Cayce, South Carolina, when the New York-to-Miami Amtrak passenger train hit the parked CSX Corp. freight train.

Two Amtrak employees, a conductor and an engineer, were killed and more than 100 passengers were treated at hos-

pitals for injuries. It was the third fatal Amtrak train crash in less than two months.

So why hasn’t the system been widely implemented? Both

industry experts and rail companies say in large part it comes down to costs and the sheer size of the nation’s rail system.

After a collision between a commuter train and a freight train in Chatsworth, California, that killed 25 people, Congress passed a law in 2008 requiring railroads to adopt the technology on all tracks that carry passenger trains.

Positive train control relies on GPS, wireless radio and computers to monitor train positions and automatically slow or stop trains that are in danger of colliding, derailing from excessive speed, or about to enter track where crews are working or that is otherwise off limits.

Railroads were given seven years to start using the technology across the country’s 20,000 locomotives and 60,000 miles of track. But when it became clear that few if any

railroads would meet the deadline, Congress extended it another three years to Dec. 31, 2018, with the option to grant railroads that show progress an additional two years to Dec. 31, 2020. Several freight railroads have previously told the government they won’t be able to meet the 2018 deadline.

Overall, freight railroads have implemented PTC on 56 percent of required route miles, according to the Association of American Railroads. The association said it’s not clear yet how many of the seven large freight railroads operating in the U.S. will require extensions.

In some areas of the northeastern U.S., where Amtrak owns both railways and locomotives, the company has been able to successfully set up PTC. But in areas like South Carolina, the tracks are owned by freight companies like CSX.

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

HCCA NO. 4-2018

IN RE

JULY SILA

Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Territory of American Samoa by JULY SILA of American Samoa born June 9, 1991 at LBJ Tropical Medical Center in Faga’alu, American Samoa. Petitioner is requesting the court approve a change of her legal name to JULY PATRINA TUVALE.

A hearing on the petition will be held on April 2nd, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the court on said date to respond to this petition.

Dated: January 24, 2018

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 1/30/18, 2/6/18 & 2/13/18

American Samoa Government Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program ADA Accessible Homes Initiative



**Do you or someone you know have a disability?
&
Do you need assistance in making your home
to become or more accessible?**

**For more information please call
DOC for Tanielu at 633-5155 Ext. 248**





In this late Sunday, Feb.4, 2018 photo, Maldivian opposition supporters shout slogans during a protest as they the urge the government to obey a Supreme Court order to release and retry political prisoners, including an ex-president in Male, Maldives. The political crisis in the Maldives deepened Monday, as the government of the island nation said it would not obey a Supreme Court order to free a group of imprisoned opposition leaders. Placards in Divehi language from left, to right, read, “protect the citizens , carry out the supreme court’s order, free political prisoners and to uphold justice”.

(AP Photo/ Mohamed Sharuhaan)

2015 letter belies pope’s claim of ignorance

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis received a victim’s letter in 2015 that graphically detailed how a priest sexually abused him and how other Chilean clergy ignored it, contradicting the pope’s recent insistence that no victims had come forward to denounce the cover-up, the letter’s author and members of Francis’ own sex-abuse commission have told The Associated Press.

The fact that Francis received the eight-page letter, obtained by the AP, challenges his insistence that he has “zero tolerance” for sex abuse and cover-ups. It also calls into question his stated empathy with abuse survivors, compounding the most serious crisis of his five-year papacy. The scandal exploded last month when Francis’ trip to South America was marred by protests over his vigorous defense of Bishop Juan Barros, who is accused by victims of witnessing and ignoring the abuse by the Rev. Fernando Karadima. During the trip, Francis callously dismissed accusations against Barros as “slander,” seemingly unaware that victims had placed Barros at the scene of Karadima’s crimes.

On the plane home, confronted by an AP reporter, the pope said: “You, in all good will, tell me that there are victims, but I haven’t seen any, because they haven’t come forward.” But members of the pope’s Commission for the Protection of Minors say that in April 2015, they sent a delegation to Rome specifically to hand-deliver a letter to the pope about Barros. The letter from Juan Carlos Cruz detailed the abuse, kissing and fondling he says he suffered at Karadima’s hands, which he said Barros and others saw but did nothing to stop. Four members of the commission met with Francis’ top abuse adviser, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, explained their concerns about Francis’ recent appointment of Barros as a bishop in southern Chile, and gave him the letter to deliver to Francis.

“When we gave him (O’Malley) the letter for the pope, he assured us he would give it to the pope and speak of the concerns,” then-commission member Marie Collins told the AP. “And at a later date, he assured us that that had been done.” Cruz, who now lives and works in Philadelphia, heard the same later that year.

“Cardinal O’Malley called me after the pope’s visit here in Philadelphia and he told me, among other things, that he had given the letter to the pope — in his hands,” he said in an interview at his home Sunday.

Neither the Vatican nor O’Malley responded to multiple requests for comment.

While the 2015 summit of Francis’ commission was known and publicized at the


time, the contents of Cruz’s letter — and a photograph of Collins handing it to O’Malley — were not disclosed by members. Cruz provided the letter, and Collins provided the photo, after reading an AP story that reported Francis had claimed to have never heard from any Karadima victims about Barros’ behavior. The revelation could be costly for Francis, whose track record on the abuse crisis was already shaky after a botched Italian abuse case he intervened in became public. More recently, he let the abuse commission lapse at the end of last year. Vatican analysts now openly question whether he “gets it,” and some of his own advisers privately acknowledge that maybe he doesn’t.

The Barros affair first caused shockwaves in January 2015 when Francis appointed him bishop of Osorno, Chile, over the objections of the leadership of Chile’s bishops’ conference and many local priests and laity. They accepted as credible the testimony against Karadima, a prominent Chilean cleric who was sanctioned by the Vatican in 2011 for abusing minors. Barros was a Karadima protege, and according to Cruz and other victims, he witnessed the abuse and did nothing.

“Holy Father, I write you this letter because I’m tired of fighting, of crying and suffering,” Cruz wrote in Francis’ native Spanish. “Our story is well known and there’s no need to repeat it, except to tell you of the horror of having lived this abuse and how I wanted to kill myself.” Cruz and other survivors had for years denounced the cover-up of Karadima’s crimes, but were dismissed by some in the Chilean church hierarchy and the Vatican’s own ambassador in Santiago, who refused their repeated requests to meet before and after Barros was appointed. After Francis’ comments backing Barros caused such an outcry in Chile, he was forced last week to do an about-face: The Vatican announced it was sending in its most respected sex-crimes investigator to take testimony from Cruz and others about Barros. In the letter to the pope, Cruz begs for Francis to listen to him and make good on his pledge of “zero tolerance.”

“Holy Father, it’s bad enough that we suffered such tremendous pain and anguish from the sexual and psychological abuse, but the terrible mistreatment we received from our pastors is almost worse,” he wrote.Cruz goes on to detail in explicit terms the homo-eroticized nature of the circle of priests and young boys around Karadima, the charismatic preacher whose El Bosque community in the well-to-do Santiago neighborhood of Providencia produced dozens of priestly vocations and five bishops, including Barros.





AMERICAN SAMOA
POWER AUTHORITY

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

Position Title

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC

Department

Equipment

Division

Support Services

Position Type

Career Service (12 months probation)

Reports To

Heavy Equipment Supervisor

Posting Date

February 2, 2018

Deadline

February 15, 2018, 4:00 p.m.

Pay Rate

\$8.89/hr - \$9.25/hr

Job Grade/Status

D/6/A – D/7/A, Non-Exempt

Major Duties & Responsibilities

A Heavy Equipment Mechanic performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment, gasoline and diesel powered tractors, garbage trucks, dump trucks, and dozers. A Heavy Equipment Mechanic is primarily responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of heavy equipment. The incumbent will be required to repair any heavy equipment that might break down, fix/adjust hydraulic pumps and safety valves, inspect repairs, and adjust diesel power units, hydraulic systems, injection valves and systems, and mold boards. He/she must also inspect, adjust, and repair gasoline/diesel machinery, vehicles, or equipment as well as any hydraulic/cable operated attachments. This position will repair and maintain trenching machines and set proper grade. This position is also required to perform incidental welding operations on equipment; install, replace, or adjust filters, belts, or similar objects to maintain equipment; and make skillful, controlled manipulations of small objects to repair equipment. He/she must also communicate any unsafe conditions or accidents/injuries in a timely manner to the supervisor in order to facilitate prompt correction or reporting, must demonstrate continuous effort to improve operations, decrease turnaround times, streamline work processes, and work cooperatively and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service.

Minimum Requirements

Education

High school diploma or equivalent.

Experience

Must have five (5) years of experience in heavy equipment maintenance and repair. Welding knowledge or experience is a plus. Must also be able to successfully operate or use heavy equipment.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Must be knowledgeable in heavy equipment maintenance and repair, hydraulics, the construction and operation of internal combustion and diesel engines.
- Must have knowledge of the tools and equipment used in the diagnosis, overhaul, repair and adjustment of heavy equipment.
- Must have knowledge of auto electronics and on-board computers and how to access them for diagnosing problems.
- Must be able to remain in a standing position for extended periods of time.
- Must be capable of lifting arms above shoulder level to install and remove transmission components as well as bend or stoop repeatedly over time to check air pressure on tires.
- Must be capable of manipulating tools in areas of limited spaces.
- Must be able to move heavy objects, fifty pounds or more, across long distances.
- Must be able to work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others.
- Must be knowledgeable of the hazards of the job and is trained in safety precautions of the trade.
- Must have skills in the care and use of hand and power tools employed in all phases of heavy equipment mechanical maintenance and repair work.
- Must have skills to use automotive servicing equipment such as A/C recycler, hydraulic jack, or emission analyzer.
- Must be able to diagnose defects in heavy duty equipment.
- Must be able to understand and carry out oral and written instructions in the English or Samoan language.
- Must have ability to complete forms to record or report information in standard format as specified by the form and observe or monitor objects to determine compliance with prescribed operating or safety standards.
- Must be able to read, understand and apply information from charts, graphs, and manuals.

Qualified applicants: Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA Human Resources (address listed above) by the deadline. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examination (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on pre-employment drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary.

An Equal Opportunity Employer * A Drug Free Workplace

► Pacific...

Continued from page 9

GOOD SAMARITAN
BREAKS HIS SILENCE

A man whose quick reaction possibly saved the life of a woman, who was viciously stabbed by her estranged husband, and left to die on the streets of Apia, has broken his silence about the ordeal.

Pharmacist Lemalu Mathew Mualia, who was among the first to help the woman, has recalled the shocking ordeal in an email to the Samoa Observer where he wants to highlight two issues he finds extremely sickening.

“I can’t express how sad I was for this young woman,” he told the Samoa Observer. “On the day of the incident, I ran to my Pharmacy to get gauze but when I got to get her, the people around her were just standing there. “They were just taking pictures. Some of them were videoing what was happening while this young woman was dying.” Nearly three weeks since the attack, Lemalu said he couldn’t fathom how people’s behavior has changed from a country of loving helpers to a bunch of social media-hungry heartless people who were more concerned about their photos than the life of a woman who was dying with “no family around.”

“I tried my best to stabilize her while waiting for the ambulance,” Lemalu said.

“Her wounds we’re horrific. I took her into the ambulance. I tried and asked her to say a prayer with me, which she did. ‘Jesus got my back,’ she whispered to me.

“It was an instinctive reaction that I ran over after finding out what happened to try and stabilize her neck wounds while we waited for the ambulance.

“The pictures alone are worth a thousand words, so I’ll leave it there. This young woman suffered nine stab wounds on her neck and back plus lacerations.”

The woman has since recovered and has been discharged from the hospital.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

LANDS AND TITLES
COURT PRESIDENT FACES
CHARGES

Samoa’s attorney general has recommended the police file two charges against the president of the Lands and Titles Court, Fepulea’i Attila Ropati.

Lemalu Herman Retzlaff said he was satisfied the police have enough evidence to charge Fepulea’i with causing injuries and being armed with a dangerous weapon.

The police investigation was the result of a complaint filed by a night watchman at the Ministry of Justice and Courts after an alleged assault by Fepulea’i.

The incident allegedly took place during the end of year function for judges in December.

Police said the complainant may have been drinking at the function, angering the president.

(Source: RNZi)

TONGA PREPARES FOR
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO
SAMOA

Real Tonga Airlines is preparing to start direct flights

between Tonga and Samoa this month. The airline’s owner Tevita Palu said it will fly its SAAB 340 which seats thirty passengers from Tongatapu to Faleolo Airport outside Apia, via Vavau, in Tonga’s northern island group.

Real Tonga Airlines has signed a codeshare agreement with Samoa Airways so the two airlines can share the same flight. Tevita Palu said he was looking forward to working hand in hand with Samoa Airways, to develop direct air transportation between the two nations and to support tourism growth in the region.

He told the Samoa Observer it had been over a decade since there was any significant commercial capacity between the two Polynesian nations and passengers have had to travel via Fiji or New Zealand at great expense.

He said the direct flights will initially be twice a week, cost about US\$400 and only take about an hour and a half.

(Source: RNZi)

PACIFIC LAW, CUSTOM
& CONSTITUTIONALISM
CONFERENCE

An innovative and exciting conference series is due to begin on Feb. 13-14, 2018 at the University of Auckland, at its Fale Pasifika complex.

The purpose of the conference is to raise public awareness among Aotearoa New Zealand communities, especially its Pasifika communities, of the relationship between Pacific law, custom and constitutionalism and the impact that this relationship has on them and their identity in Aotearoa and abroad. This first conference focuses on Samoa, the first of a 3-part conference series. The second conference to be held in 2019 will focus on Tonga; and the third to be held in 2020 will focus on New Zealand’s three Pacific ‘territories’: Niue, Tokelau and the Cook Islands.

The conference series targets all peoples, students, practitioners and professionals, from all relevant sectors in society with an interest in the themes and vision of the conference series. Unlike most academic conferences this conference series aims to involve as many young people (high school and undergraduate students) as possible. This has been made possible by Law Foundation funding made available specifically for high school and tertiary level students.

The conference series will focus on three key themes: the constitutionalisation of indigenous and western leadership models in the Pacific (including Aotearoa), of customary land tenure and British land tenure in the Pacific; and of indigenous religious and Christian religious beliefs in the Pacific.

This first Feb 12-14 conference has an impressive line-up of speakers from Samoa and Aotearoa, with expertise in law, custom and constitutionalism, as well as public policy, justice, policing, corrections, education, health and community governance. While it is aimed at the Pasifika diaspora resident in Aotearoa, tangata whenua and any other New Zealanders

in New Zealand, other Pacific Islanders from the Pacific interested in Pacific law, custom and constitutionalism are welcome to attend. The conference is hosted by the University of Auckland and AUT, with the support of Judge Ida Malosi of the Manukau District, Family and Pasifika Youth Courts and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples. Its outside sponsors are the New Zealand Law Foundation; New Zealand Institute of Pacific Research; Gualofa Trust; Institute of Professional Legal Studies; Kaye, Fletcher, Walker Law Firm; and Pacific Lawyers Association.

It’s not too late to register: registrations will be open up to the day of the conference and payment arrangements can be organised through Sonia Pope by email: spop728@aucklanduni.ac.nz or 021636165. For more information on the conference see: <http://pacificcustomlawconference.blogs.auckland.ac.nz/>.

(Source: PLCC media release)

SAMOA AIMS TO REVIVE
KAVA EXPORTS

The government of Samoa is looking to revive what used to be a \$US7.8 million export market for kava.

Kava was a significant export commodity until a ban imposed by European countries in 2001 caused many farmers to quit the industry. Consequently when the ban was lifted in 2015, demand could not be met and earnings fell to just under 79,000 dollars.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is asking local partners to increase their production and wants to attract farmers back into the sector

CEO Puluotu Lyndon Chu Ling said those farmers that stuck with kava are now reaping the benefits.

Puluotu said by 2020 the government aims to have kava earnings reach at least three million dollars a year.

(Source: RNZi)

House panel votes to release Democratic memo on Russia probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House intelligence committee voted unanimously Monday night to release a Democratic rebuttal to the GOP’s memo on the Russia investigation that President Donald Trump declassified last week.

The document now goes to Trump, who has five days to decide whether to declassify it.

The Democratic document aims to counter the Republican memo, which accuses the FBI and Justice Department of abusing their authority in monitoring a onetime Trump campaign associate.

A White House spokesman said Trump would “consider” the Democratic memo’s release just as he had the Republican document.

Earlier Monday, Trump traded insults with the top Democrat on the intelligence panel, Rep. Adam Schiff of California.

Trump resorted to his occasional name-calling on Twitter, labeling Schiff “one of the biggest liars and leakers in Washington.” He added that Schiff “must be stopped.”

Schiff quickly shot back: “Instead of tweeting false smears, the American people would appreciate it if you turned off the TV and helped solve the funding crisis, protected Dreamers or ... really anything else.”

White House spokesman Raj Shah took a more measured approach, saying consideration of a release would “allow for a legal review, national security review led by the White House counsel’s office.”

House Speaker Paul Ryan has said he supports the release of the Democrats’ memo, if sensitive intelligence information is removed.

The Senate’s Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, urged Trump to back the public release and said refusing to do so would show the president’s intent to undermine the Russia investigation.

On Sunday, Republicans as well as Democrats said Trump was wrong to assert that the GOP-produced memo cleared him in the Russia investigation. Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating possible collusion between the Trump 2016 presidential campaign and Russia as well as whether there have been efforts to obstruct the investigation.

Trump tweeted over the weekend that the memo “totally vindicates ‘Trump’ in probe” even as “the Russian Witch Hunt goes on and on.” But that statement found no echo from four committee Republicans who appeared on the Sunday talk shows. Lawmakers also said the memo should not impede Mueller.

“I think it would be a mistake for anyone to suggest that the special counsel shouldn’t complete his work. I support his work. I want him to finish it. I hope he finishes it as quickly as possible,” said Republican Rep. Chris Stewart of Utah.



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



PUBLIC NOTICE

The American Samoa Department of Health Early Intervention Program “Helping Hands” would like to inform the public that the Annual State Application under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as amended in 2004 for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 is available for public comment for a period of 60 days.

A copy of the document is available to review at the DOH Helping Hands Office located in the Lumana’i building in Fagatogo.

Please call the DOH Helping Hands office at 633-8553 if you have any questions regarding this public notice.

Signed,

Ruth Te’o, DOH Part C Coordinator



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Courtesy Photos)



Will intelligence agencies stop confiding to Congress?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top intelligence and law enforcement officials warn that last week’s release of a congressional memo alleging FBI surveillance abuse could have wide-ranging repercussions: Spy agencies could start sharing less information with Congress, weakening oversight. Lawmakers will try to declassify more intelligence for political gain. Confidential informants will worry about being outed on Capitol Hill.

The GOP-produced memo released last week contends that when the FBI asked a secret court for a warrant to do surveillance on a former associate in then-candidate Donald Trump’s campaign, the bureau relied too heavily on a dossier compiled by an ex-British spy whose opposition research was funded by Democrats.

Critics accuse Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., of abusing his power as chairman of the House intelligence committee to do the president’s bidding and undermine the investigation into whether any Trump campaign associates colluded with Russian during the 2016 election. His office rebuts that claim, saying the real abuse of power was using unverified information bought and paid for by one political campaign to justify government surveillance of former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page.

This isn’t the first time intelligence has been politicized. Both Democrats and Republicans used the release of the so-called torture report in late 2015 outlining the CIA’s detention and interrogation program as political ammunition. In the 1960s, while intelligence agencies warned that the Vietnam War was being lost, the White House was telling the public the opposite. During the George W. Bush administration, cherry-picked intelligence about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction fueled momentum for the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Former CIA Director Mike Hayden worries that the memo’s release will damage congressional oversight and the effectiveness of law

enforcement.

“We are chiseling away at processes and institutions on which we currently depend — and on which we will depend in the future,” said Hayden, who has worked for both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Hayden, who also directed the National Security Agency, wrote an op-ed in The Cipher Brief, an online newsletter focused on intelligence issues, to urge Justice Department and intelligence professionals to speak out. He wondered, though, if they would, given Trump’s penchant for honoring loyalty.

“A senior official in justice or a senior official in intelligence needs to say, ‘We need to take a knee here. We need to take a deep breath,’” Hayden said. “What we are now doing is destroying the institutions we need to keep America safe.”

Josh Campbell, a former supervisory special agent with the FBI who investigated counterterrorism, recently resigned to do just that. Partisan attacks undermine the agency and national security, according to Campbell, who said he disagrees with colleagues who advised staying mum until the current controversy passes.

“FBI agents are dogged people who do not care about the direction of political winds,” Campbell said in an editorial published Feb. 2 in The New York Times. “But to succeed in their work, they need public backing. Scorched-earth attacks from politicians with partisan goals now threaten that support, raising corrosive doubts about the integrity of the FBI that could last for generations.”

FBI director Christopher Wray and the second-ranking official at the Justice Department, Rod Rosenstein, had urged Trump to keep the memo classified and out of public view, but the president declined. Last week, Trump attacked both agencies through his Twitter account, saying their leadership and investigators had “politicized the sacred investigative process in favor of Democrats and against Republicans.”

Bloody 24 hours as Syria, Russia escalate punishing attacks

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian opposition rescue teams pulled babies from incubators in a hospital under attack, rushing them to safety in a pick-up truck. Elderly patients lay motionless on the ground and rescue workers searched for survivors in the rubble of a destroyed apartment building as stepped up airstrikes by Syrian government forces and their Russian allies on the country’s last remaining rebel strongholds killed at least 28 civilians on Monday.

“It is like the end of days,” said Raed Saleh, the head of the first-responders known as White Helmets, describing the last 24 hours of attacks on the opposition-held eastern Damascus suburb of Ghouta and north-western Idlib province.

The escalating offensive, which included a suspected chlorine attack a day earlier, reached a new ferocity after insurgents downed a Russian Su-25 over the weekend, the first time they scored such a major hit against the government’s main ally, Moscow.

Russia has waged a pun-

ishing aerial campaign against Syria’s armed opposition since intervening in the civil war on the side of its ally, President Bashar Assad, in 2015. Cease-fire deals have failed to quell the violence or restore humanitarian aid to besieged Ghouta, where 400,000 residents are holed up amid warnings of a looming humanitarian disaster.

“If a Russian plane was downed, revenge should not be on civilians and children,” Saleh said. “Now more than any other day, we need the international community to restore the humanity it has lost in Syria.”

The al-Qaida-linked Levant Liberation Committee, which is the dominant militant group in Idlib, said its fighters shot down the Russian jet near the town of Saraqeb in Idlib province and killed its pilot after he ejected from the plane. Rebels have previously claimed to have downed Syrian government planes or drones, but it was the first time they hit a Russian aircraft.

Russia’s military bases in western Syria were also hit last month in a series of drone attacks, challenging Moscow’s

gains in the country still torn by conflict.

Since then, activists say Russian and Syrian government forces have stepped up their attacks. Activists and rescue workers reported at least 28 civilians, including six children, were killed on Monday in Ghouta, where nearly 40 airstrikes hit the suburb that is the last opposition stronghold in Damascus. In Idlib, two hospitals have been hit with airstrikes since Sunday and at least 14 people killed. Rescue workers continued Monday to sift through the wreckage of a six-story building flattened a day earlier, pulling out three bodies after daylight. At least eight residents remained missing when the search was suspended at nightfall, one rescuer said.

In Idlib, a hospital in the town of Kafranbel was bombed early Monday, according to the activist-run Edlib Media Center and the Observatory. Another hospital, in Maaret al-Numan, was struck three times late Sunday and put out of service, according to the Syrian American Medical Society.



NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Left to right) The newly elected Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: John Wasko, Ella Gurr, Paul Michael Young, Kalena Strachan, Tom Drabble, Lee Stewart, and Genevieve Gregg. The annual election took place this week, Wednesday late afternoon, at Sadie's by the Sea during a CoC general meeting. A chair and co-chair, as well as other Board positions, are to be decided in the near future.

[Courtesy photo]

Athletes vow to keep fighting in doctor sex-abuse scandal

CHARLOTTE, Mich. (AP) — The worst sex-abuse case in sports history ended Monday with a third long prison sentence for Larry Nassar, and his victims vowed to keep fighting for accountability in the scandal that upended the gymnastics world and raised alarms about the sport's ask-no-questions culture.

Long after the disgraced doctor is locked up in a federal prison, investigations into his misconduct will go on, perhaps for years.

"We have taken care of one perpetrator. We have not taken care of the systems that allowed him to flourish," said Rachael Denhollander, who filed a police report in 2016 about how Nassar had molested her 16 years earlier, when she was 15, with her mother in the room.

The latest sentence of 40 to 125 years was for molesting young athletes at Twistars, an elite Michigan gymnastics club. The sentence is largely symbolic because Nassar, who pleaded guilty, is already assured of spending the rest of his life behind bars. Before serving his two state terms, the 54-year-old must first serve 60 years in federal prison for child pornography crimes.

An astonishing 250-plus women and girls gave statements in two Michigan courtrooms over 10 days of proceedings. The focus will soon shift to lawsuits and multiple probes of Nassar's actions and those of people around him when he worked for Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics, the sport's governing body.

Those inquiries include a special prosecutor and a legislative probe in Michigan, a law firm investigating the U.S. Olympic Committee and a Texas Rangers review of claims that Nassar assaulted some of the world's best gymnasts while they trained at a ranch southeast of Huntsville.

The NCAA has signaled that it may investigate potential rules violations related to

Nassar's crimes. The Education Department is reviewing how Michigan State handled complaints about Nassar. And Congress is investigating USA Gymnastics, the university and the committee.

Larissa Boyce and another teen gymnast in 1997 reported Nassar to Michigan State's then-gymnastics coach, but he was not investigated until 2004, when another teen filed a complaint with police. Even then, that report did not result in criminal charges.

"I felt like a weight lifted off of me," Boyce said of Nassar's latest sentence. "Finally, I don't have to face him in court anymore."

Boyce said she hopes the university and USA Gymnastics will "show the world how Nassar's actions were missed, the mistakes that were made ... so that other people can take a look and make changes where they need to make changes so this never happens again."

Katie Black, a Michigan State student who said she was sexually assaulted by Nassar when she was younger, returned for the sentencing after speaking in court Friday.

"I feel almost a sense of closure and that this is all over and things are going to be taken care of," Black said.

Nassar listened to 48 victims for two days last week and was almost attacked by a man whose three daughters said they were abused.

His abuse "robbed these girls and women of one of the most truly important human qualities — trust," Eaton County Judge Janice Cunningham said.

In a brief statement before he was sentenced, Nassar attempted to apologize.

"It's impossible to convey the breadth and depth of how sorry I am to each and every one," he said.

In all, some 265 women and girls have reported being molested by Nassar. Some of the cases date back to the 1990s. The judge said the abuse "spans

the country and the world," noting that she heard from participants not only in gymnastics but also soccer, figure skating, rowing, softball, cheerleading, wrestling, diving, dance, and track and field. Other victims were non-athletes treated for back, leg and other injuries, she said. Many of the accusers described an ultra-competitive gymnastics culture in which authority figures could not be questioned and Nassar was free

to abuse young patients year after year. They said they had little choice to see doctors other than Nassar, who was renowned throughout the sport.

Assistant Attorney General Angela Povilaitis said people must stop blaming the victims and their parents, who have been criticized online, on the radio and elsewhere. She said people are taught to trust doctors above all, especially those who appear to be world-class.

"It could have happened to any parent," she said, noting that Nassar tricked parents who were police officers, doctors and engineers. "Regardless of their profession, he fooled them all." Most victims who wanted to speak publicly or submit a statement did so earlier during Nassar's seven-day court hearing in Ingham County, including 2012 Olympic teammates Aly Raisman, Jordyn Wieber and McKayla Maroney.



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-028-2018

Issuance Date: February 1, 2018

Closing Date: February 15, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide the "Department of Health-Tafuna Primary Health Center Repairs" located in the village of Tafuna, Territory of American Samoa.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Thursday, February 15, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the Pre-Bid Conference.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Specifications may be examined or obtained at the Office of Procurement free of charge.

5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.

6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

In Loving Memory of
**DR. MATAGIESE “MATT”
HILTON MUASAU-TUNOA JR.**
February 08, 1970 – January 09, 2018.



FUNERAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Thursday – February 08, 2018

3:30pm Depart LBJ Tropical Medical Center
4:30pm Family and Friends Service
Ottoville Stake Center – LDS Hall
Following: Dr. Matagiese Tunoa Jr will be transported to Vaipapa,
VaitogiTunoa’s resident.

Friday – February 09, 2018

9:00am Final Viewing
Ottoville Stake Center – LDS Hall
10:00am Final Service
Ottoville Stake Center – LDS Chapel
Following: Burial/Final Resting Place
Pola Residents in Tafuna
Memorial Lantern/Balloon Ceremony

*In respect to Dr. Tunoa’s final wishes, there will be
NO FA’ASAMOA!!*

