



SPC Naomi Sautia-Pomele, of the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, was recognized at a Fort Drum town hall meeting with Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper during his visit on March 29, 2018. Sautia-Pomele was one of five female soldiers to be nationally recognized during Women's History Month for exceptional service to the US Army.
(For more details, read story inside.)

[photo credit: SGT Liane Hatch]

Ifopo gets 24 months in jail and has to pay restitution for filing fraudulent tax returns

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

An American Samoa woman accused of bilking the federal government out of more than \$100,000 by filing false tax returns for American Samoa residents with the US Internal Revenue Service has been ordered to serve jail time and pay restitution.

Corina F. Ifopo, who resides in Honolulu, appeared yesterday afternoon for sentencing before US Chief District Judge, Timothy M. Burgess, at the federal court in Anchorage, Alaska, where she pled guilty last year to 28 counts of filing false tax returns for residents of American Samoa who don't qualify to receive the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries, Assistant US Attorney for Alaska, Andrea T. Steward said Burgess ordered Ifopo to serve 24 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. She is also ordered to pay restitution.

"Chief Judge Burgess noted [at sentencing] that the crimes are extremely serious and he hoped to deter others from doing this type of tax fraud crime," Steward said via email from Anchorage after the 2p.m. sentencing yesterday.

"The [US] Department of Justice also hopes to deter others from committing this type of crime" with Ifopo's sentence, according to Steward, who had sought a 24-month jail term and \$167,574 in restitution, while the defense sought restitution and one-year plus one day in jail.

Assistant Federal Public Defender, Jamie McGrady, who represented Ifopo, didn't immediately respond to Samoa News inquiries.

In a brief news release yesterday, announcing Ifopo's sentence, U.S. Attorney for Alaska, Bryan Schroder announced that Ifopo has been sentenced for filing approximately 200 fraudulent tax returns on behalf of other individuals living in American Samoa, seeking over \$1 million in fraudulent returns.

As part of its sentencing memorandum, the defense submitted to the court several letters of support and character witnesses for Ifopo, and among them was her husband, Kelemete Ifopo, who works in the territory.

The husband first expressed appreciation to Burgess for allowing his wife to visit the territory last December for the holidays, saying it was great "to see my families and friends gathered as one, welcoming Corina in a mixed emotional embrace.

"Everyone shed tears of joy, happiness and sadness, knowing that Corina stepped up to take the blame for the horrendous and an unpleasant ordeal," he wrote. "Only if Corina could have listened to me; instead she took side with her families and friends."

The husband blamed himself for "not being able to stop this horrific experience from happening" and apologized "for not being strong and man enough to make a difference."

"I do believe Corina has seen the light, she has full remorse towards the inconvenience, Your Honor. I can feel her heartbeat fill with deep painful regrets. I apologize on her behalf and sadly beg for your forgiveness," he concluded.

Another letter came from Rep. Faimealelei Anthony F. Allen, who vouched for the defendant's "character" from a family chief, saying he has known Ifopo for over 40 years.

"One of the main characteristics that I have noticed and admired from Corina was her love and devotion to family and her faith," he said. "Love, devotion, family, and faith are the roots of our foundation for the Samoan culture and Corina Ifopo represents those roots.

"But sometimes that love for family is blind and in that blindness it can lead you to go against those roots, which I believe is what happened to Corina. I was shocked to learn about her case

(Continued on page 8)

Citizenship status has always been a part of the US territories' census questionnaire

NOT SO FOR THE US CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoa has its own long-form census questionnaire, which questions a person's citizenship status, says ASG Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele, who noted that this will be the same for the 2020 Census.

The citizenship status question became a local concern following protests in several US cities last week after the US Commerce Department (USDOC), which oversees the Census Bureau announced on Mar. 26, that a question on citizenship status will be reinstated in the 2020 decennial census questionnaire to help the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

Last week Thursday, the 2020 questionnaire was submitted by USDOC to the US Congress — as required by federal law — with the next submission in April 2020.

Growing local concern — as well as by some who reside in the US — is that the citizenship status question, may result in non-American Samoans not participating in the 2020 Census and thereby lose future federal funds for American Samoa under formula grants.

"Federal funds is a function of the population count primarily; and non-citizens, non-nationals do qualify for federal benefits such as WIC and ASNAP if they meet certain requirements," Lafaele said this past Monday, in response to Samoa News inquiries.

Lafaele said that he sent a request this week to the Decennial Management Division of the US Census Bureau — Island Areas "to send us the 2020 Questionnaire for American Samoa."

He explained that the citizenship question has always been asked for the Island Areas — the US territories — census. Additionally, American Samoa will, and has in the past, have a separate questionnaire for the 2020 census.

"American Samoa, including all the island areas, has a separate form (long form) whereas the forms for the US states contain only 10 questions," he explained. "This is the case because of the American Community Survey (ACS) which is conducted stateside every month."

He added that the US citizen or US national status question — "Is this person a Citizen or National of the United States?" — was included in the 2010 Census. He also shared with Samoa News a copy of the Census 2010 American Samoa Questionnaire form, which shows it.

The 2010 Census until this day is still being questioned by many in the community with some arguing that American Samoa was undercounted, a claim that has been dismissed by federal officials. American Samoa had also pointed out that the lower population count has resulted in less formula grant funding over the past years.

The US Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs said earlier this year in February that continued decline in population for some insular areas means a loss of federal monies, which are awarded based on population count.

The US Census Bureau's population count for American Samoa in 2010 released the following year shows 55,519 people — which was a 3.1% decline, or 1,772 people, between 2000 and 2010.

Samoa News notes that the COS Samoa Packing cannery closed down on Sept. 30, 2009, leaving more than 1,500 people unemployed.

NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the AFOA Family and to all whom these present may come!
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MIKE U. SU'ESU'E of UTULEI has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land PUNALOA, allegedly belonging to AFOA FAMILY of the village of UTULEI. Said land PUNALOA is situated in or near the village of UTULEI in the County of MAOPUTASI, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: MARCH 28, 2018 thru APRIL 27, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

FA'AALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU'U'ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa AFOA, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina lenei fa'aaliga!
O le fa'aaliga lenei ona o MIKE U. SU'ESU'E o le nu'u o UTULEI ua ia fa'aulufaleina mai i lenei ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa'ailoa ai se mana'oga fia tu'u'eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa'atuina i luga o le fanua o PUNALOA e fa'asino i le aiga sa AFOA, o le nu'u o UTULEI. O lenei fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o UTULEI, itumalo o MAOPUTASI, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.

O le fa'aaliga fo'i e fa'apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i lenei mata'upu e mafai ona fa'atu'i'iese ile fa'amauina o lenei feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana fa'atu'ese tusitusia. O fa'atu'iesega uma lava e ao ona fa'aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauina mai i le aso na faiaalia ai lenei fa'aaliga.

Afai ole a leai se fa'atu'iesega e fa'aulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta'ua i luga, o le a fa'amauina loa lenei feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'aafia ai tagata uma.

04/04 & 04/18/18

NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the TAUFETE'E Family and to all whom these present may come!
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that FIAUI U. VAISAGOTE of NU'UULI has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land FALETEINE allegedly belonging to TAUFETE'E FAMILY of the village of NUUULI. Said land FALETEINE is situated in or near the village of NUUULI in the County of ITUAU, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: MARCH 28, 2018 thru APRIL 27, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

FA'AALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU'U'ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa TAUFETE'E, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina lenei fa'aaliga!
O le fa'aaliga lenei ona o FIAUI U. VAISAGOTE o le nu'u o NUUULI ua ia fa'aulufaleina mai i lenei ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa'ailoa ai se mana'oga fia tu'u'eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa'atuina i luga o le fanua o FALETEINE e fa'asino i le aiga sa TAUFETE'E, o le nu'u o NUUULI. O lenei fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o NUUULI, itumalo o ITUAU, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.

O le fa'aaliga fo'i e fa'apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i lenei mata'upu e mafai ona fa'atu'i'iese ile fa'amauina o lenei feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana fa'atu'ese tusitusia. O fa'atu'iesega uma lava e ao ona fa'aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauina mai i le aso na faiaalia ai lenei fa'aaliga.

Afai ole a leai se fa'atu'iesega e fa'aulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta'ua i luga, o le a fa'amauina loa lenei feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'aafia ai tagata uma.

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Army recognizes American Samoa soldier during Women's History Month

by Sgt. Liane Hatch
Source: www.army.mil

In honor of Women's History Month last month, the US Army recognized SPC Naomi Sautia-Pomele, a Petroleum Supply Specialist with the 10th Mountain Division (LI) Sustainment Brigade, as a woman of exceptional and outstanding service.

In fact, Sautia-Pomele, originally from American Samoa, just barely made it into the Army to begin with, beating the age restrictions by just one month when she shipped to Fort Jackson, S.C. for Basic Combat Training in July, 2016, at age 34.

Having already established a successful financial career of 13 years and completed a Bachelors in Business Management and a Masters in Business Administration, and as the mother of two teenage sons, Sautia-Pomele thought she had missed her chance.

She had supported her husband's Army Reserve service as an active Family Readiness Group member for more than a decade, getting to know the Army from the outside looking in as her husband's unit went through deployments and training rotations. For her, military service had always been a thought, but never a reality; she had a family and a career to worry about.

That changed when Sautia-Pomele received the heart-breaking news of her father's illness.

"You see, my father is a humble, humble man," she said. "To me, he's the definition of selfless service. Right now he's a minister back home and regardless of any titles or anything, he will get down to the lowest level to do what he can to help others, always bringing fruit from his plantation to the senior citizens in the church and in the village. He would lay down his life.

"So when we received his cancer diagnosis, it was very hard for me to take. He just wouldn't accept the fact that I could help him, that I could take him in for treatment. He didn't want to get in the way. He was satisfied with what I had done to care for him, but I wasn't. I knew I could do so much more."

As Sautia-Pomele struggled to find a way to love and support a father who would rather give help than receive it, she recalled the ways he would talk about military service during her childhood.

"He had so much admiration and respect for the military, but he was never able to join because of his citizenship," she said. "He would always think

about what life would have been like if he had been able to join, and it kind of dawned on me.

"I figured if I could do this, if I could join, I could prove to him the good character he instilled in me. He taught me that no matter how rich or poor you are, serving others is the greatest thing you can do for one another. So here I am in the Army."

And that's when the rush to enlistment began.

Sautia-Pomele first walked into a recruiter's office on the island in April, and in order to meet cutoff requirements, she would need to ship by July. That left her with two options: Motor Transport Operator, or Petroleum Supply Specialist.

Following her initial entry training, Sautia-Pomele arrived at Fort Drum in December 2016, and spent a year assigned to the 543rd Composite Supply Company, performing in her role as a Petroleum Supply Specialist. Just recently, she moved to the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion command group, where she now works as an administrative assistant to Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Anthony L. Wilson Sr.

Wilson said he first met Sautia-Pomele after her commander brought him a commission packet on her behalf. When he went to sit down face-to-face with her, he was blown away.

"From the moment I met SPC Sautia-Pomele, she impressed me with her professionalism and humility," he said. "She's a quiet professional who leads soldiers by her example. I'm confident that she'll do outstanding things no matter where she is."

And as Sautia-Pomele pursues a commission as an officer in the medical service corps, she appreciates and values the path she has taken up to now.

"I know right now I'm doing things that are completely opposite of what I went to school for and my background and my career, but I don't regret any of it, because I've learned so much in terms of working with the enlisted side and working with the soldiers," she said. "These are the moving hands and feet

for the Army, and just seeing them day to day and their struggles, it encourages me. I know how it feels. I've always looked from the outside in through my husband's career, but it's different when you're actually doing it."

Sautia-Pomele said it's very personal for her when people find out about her credentials and ask, "What are you doing as a 92F?"

"I have my reasons, and they're very dear to me," she said. "It humbles me, and if I ever do get the chance to commission, I won't ever forget what it feels like to be enlisted. I've walked that path," she said.

Besides just the normal everyday struggles of enlisted life, Sautia-Pomele and her family have had to adjust to tremendous changes - from civilian to soldier, from island life to arctic life. And of course, she said, there are the struggles that come from being different.

"I know that discrimination is there. I know that people might look at me differently because I'm an islander, and that sometimes soldiers have different expectations of females, or don't give them the same opportunities as males," she said. "But I can also say that I've been through worse. I've seen it all and I already have that awareness, so I just don't let it bother me. I have already proved so much to myself."

Apart from the Army, Sautia-Pomele uses her free time to take care of her family and to volunteer within the community. From years of work in the Family Readiness Group on American Samoa to regular work with the American Red Cross and her local church community, Sautia-Pomele carries her father's lessons about humility and service into her daily life.

For her outstanding presence and impact on the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion as a woman of exceptional service, the Army selected SPC Sautia-Pomele, along with 4 other female soldiers, to be highlighted by the Department of Defense for Women's History Month.

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House hears updates on post-Gita communication services from Bluesky and ASTCA



Representatives from Bluesky Communications appeared before the House Communications Committee this week to answer questions pertaining to communication services that were knocked out during Tropical Storm Gita.

[photo: AF]

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

It was revealed during the House Communications Committee hearing on Monday that Bluesky Communications has — since Tropical Storm Gita — restored 93% of its cable service and 100% of its telephone service, while the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) is still trying to restore telephone service on Tutuila.

The hearing was called after faipule raised concerns and complaints on why communications were knocked out during TS Gita earlier this year in February.

ASTCA CEO Puleleiite Li'amatua Tufele Jr. along with representatives from Bluesky Communication fielded questions from committee members during the hearing.

BLUESKY COMMUNICATIONS

According to testimony from Bluesky reps, they operate an outside cable plant comprising 150 miles of overhead coaxial cable and 50 miles of fiber cable. During Gita, the plant sustained heavy damages, which amounted to 30 miles out of the 150 miles of coaxial cable and 5 miles out of the 50 miles of fiber optics needing to be either replaced or repaired. This affected cable TV and home Internet service across the island.

Bluesky's Faimanifo Joe Tuiteleapaga told faipule that although the company carries inventory cable as spares for normal service delivery, repair, and maintenance initiatives, the damage sustained exceeded normal operational stocks and the main challenge was acquiring and delivering the inventory needed to efficiently supply recovery plans. This contributed to delays in recovery efforts.

Bluesky's mobile (cellular) sites — 32 in total — did not sustain any structural damage but they lost signal to some sites due to power outages and fiber transmission link failures connecting these sites to the main

exchange located in Iliili. Periodic preventative maintenance and regular structural improvement programs were effective in maintaining structural integrity.

Right after Gita, their recovery teams were mobilized immediately to survey areas and remove/secure any cables or damaged infrastructure belonging to Bluesky that posed a threat to the public or other services.

Their assessments in all four zones revealed that there was major damage to fiber optics and multiple line breaks for zones 1-4, which consists of villages from Onenoo to Amanave.

As part of restoration of critical services, Tuiteleapaga told the committee that the focus was mainly to recover cellular sites providing mobile services to enable First Responders a communication channel in their recovery efforts. The majority of mobile sites on island were recovered and restored within 14 days after Gita.

As of this week, 93% of cable services have been restored around the island, the remaining areas that will be fixed this week are Seetaga and Amanave.

According to Bluesky, Gita has taught them few lessons. It was revealed during their assessment that damages were caused by fallen trees and thick vegetation around the cable plant. (This has also been the case for other service providers.)

According to Bluesky, shifting overhead cables underground is a very expensive and an environmentally challenging task. They are seeking the government's assistance to have equal access to BLAST to mitigate this risk.

"Despite the challenges and constraints, this continues to be the primary focus and Bluesky remains committed towards ensuring all services and damaged cables are fixed," Tuiteleapaga said.

ASTCA Puleleiite told the committee that ASTCA crews are still working very hard to restore landlines for telephone services

around the island. So far, only 47% of landlines have been restored. One of the main reasons for the delay is that two of their main towers in Aunu'u and Lauli'i were destroyed during Gita, and communication for east side residents mainly depends on these two towers.

He said two new telephone towers have been ordered and will arrive on island by July.

When questioned by faipule on updates on the Tui Samoa and the Hawaiki cable, Puleleiite said the Hawaiki cable was due to arrive this past February but it was postponed and will arrive on April 10th, which is next week. It will take the whole month to install everything that's needed to be done before the cable will be up and running.

For the Tui Samoa cable, Puleleiite told the committee that he signed an agreement with ASH cable last week in order for us to connect to the Tui Samoa cable, which has been up and running since February this year. ASTCA is making a monthly payment of \$155,000 to ASH cable for use of the Tui Samoa cable.

The ASTCA CEO explained that the reason Internet service is slow now is because there's not enough bandwidth. He said ASTCA has only 500+ megabytes of bandwidth — 400MB from the O3B network and 145MB from ASH cable, whose capacity is just 1GB, which shared by Samoa and American Samoa.

The Tui Samoa cable, according to him, will provide 10GB and using the Tui Samoa cable is the fastest solution to the bandwidth problem.

Saole faipule, Rep. Kitara Vaiau said that after Gita, a lot of wires were hanging around the island — in front of family homes, churches and even stores — and it distracts people who are driving on the road.

Several faipule praised both Bluesky and ASTCA, for their quick efforts to restore communication services immediately after Gita.

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NAPA SAMOA
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Letter to the Editor
“A RAPIST ON THE LOOSE”

Dear Editor,

A 16-year-old mentally challenged child with the cognizance of a 7-year-old was raped. The child is pregnant. Blame at this point is neither here nor there. A rapist is on the loose.

A concerned citizen informed me a week later, after it was reported to Child Protective Services of the child’s physical condition.

Upon my arrival to visit the victim’s family, CPS still had not visited them. With the guardian’s permission I escorted them to initiate a police report keeping in mind the need for the presence of a child psychologist or social worker to work in sync with DPS on the interview before an investigation can be launched.

Also keep in mind if a police report was not made, a crime has not been committed.

Failure of the Department of Health to report their positive pregnancy findings of an underage mentally challenged child, and failure of Child Protective Services to act upon the reported crime, resulted in a very delayed DPS involvement to investigate a sexual rape crime against a mentally challenged child.

These critical first responder agencies failed to activate the Mandated Report Law.

Since CPS and DPS involvement in this case (Feb. 21 - Mar 29, 2018), the child victim has not been removed from the unprotected environment and placed in the shelter. The key concern is, the sex offender has not been identified yet. Therefore the child is at high risk for continuous rapes. OPAD’s assistance was sought.

Being in the shelter, the child would be in a protected environment with counselors or social workers to allow recollections to gradually surface. Pending her advanced pregnancy stages she has access to all the existing services and expert supervision while in the shelter.

I understand CPS is out in the public helping children and the community through the traumatic experiences of Gita. However, this special high risk case shouldn’t be shelved just because of the lack of manpower or shelter accommodations. A criminal is running about loose.

Children with special physical or mental needs are easy prey and targets for sexual predators. Children have the right to a safe, protected and healthy environment with easy access to bldgs, schools, playgrounds etc., according to their special needs.

Whether a family member living in the house with the victim as a neighbor; school bus driver, teacher, shop keeper, pastor etc., sexual predators are encouraged and bold because they BELIEVE, the child’s disabilities will camouflage their crime.

By a village making a practice of identifying and caring for their special needs neighbors, they can at a glance see their whereabouts, redirect where they shouldn’t be and see who’s with them, as they go about their business.

Being concerned whether a child is competent enough to disclose shouldn’t be the issue to halt an investigation. My concern is whether or not our system to defend and protect our underserved community, doesn’t fall short because of our own incompetence.

Ipu Avegalio Lefiti

Woman says she
reported abuse in 2013



This March 25, 2018, Safeway surveillance photo provided by the California Highway Patrol shows Jennifer Hart, right, at a Safeway store in Fort Bragg, Calif. Sarah and Jennifer Hart, of Woodland, Wash., were found dead at a crash scene March 26, 2018, along with three of their children where the SUV they were traveling in plunged off a coastal cliff near Mendocino, Calif.

(Courtesy of California Highway Patrol via AP)

SEATTLE (AP) — A woman said Tuesday that she told Oregon child welfare officials in 2013 that Jennifer and Sarah Hart — who plunged off a California cliff with their children last month in an SUV — had been depriving the kids of food as punishment.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Alexandra Argyropoulos, a former friend of the Harts, said she “witnessed what I felt to be controlling emotional abuse and cruel punishment” toward the six children.

Argyropoulos said she was told after she made the report that Oregon officials had interviewed the children but it was apparent that each child had been coached by their mothers on what to say. She said she was told there was nothing more the Oregon Department of Human Services could do because there was not enough evidence to make a case.

“My heart is completely broken. The current system failed to protect these children from their abusers,” Argyropoulos said.

Authorities have said social services officials in Oregon contacted the West Linn Police Department about the family in 2013 while they were living in the area. Police referred media questions to the Oregon Department of Human Services, which cited privacy laws in refusing to

say whether the agency was involved.

Authorities don’t know exactly when the wreck took place. A passing motorist discovered the vehicle on March 26, three days after social service authorities in Washington state opened an investigation apparently prompted by a neighbor’s complaint that the children were being deprived of food.

The Hart family’s two moms and three of the six adopted children were found dead; the three others are missing and presumed dead, possibly washed out to sea.

Authorities are investigating whether a surveillance video from Fort Bragg, California, shows one of the women a day before the SUV was found. California Highway Patrol investigators are working with the FBI to try to enhance the video.

Later Tuesday, the highway patrol said investigators believe the Hart family was in or around Newport, Oregon, at about 8:15 a.m. March 24 and that they continued traveling south until reaching the area of Fort Bragg, California that evening. The family stayed in that area until the next evening, the state patrol said, officials said.

The SUV carrying the family plummeted 100 feet (31 meters) from a highway near Mendocino, California.

(Continued on page 7)

US suspects cellphone spying devices in DC



By FRANK BAJAK, AP Technology Writer

For the first time, the U.S. government has publicly acknowledged the existence in Washington of what appear to be rogue devices that foreign spies and criminals could be using to track individual cellphones and intercept calls and messages.

The use of what are known as cellphone-site simulators by foreign powers has long been a concern, but American intelligence and law enforcement agencies — which use such eavesdropping equipment themselves — have been silent on the issue until now.

In a March 26 letter to Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged that last year it identified suspected unauthorized cell-site simulators in the nation’s capital. The agency said it had not determined the type of devices in use or who might have been operating them. Nor did it say how many it detected or where.

The agency’s response, obtained by The Associated Press from Wyden’s office, suggests little has been done about such equipment, known popularly as Stingrays after a brand common among U.S. police departments. The

Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the nation’s airwaves, formed a task force on the subject four years ago, but it never produced a report and no longer meets regularly.

The devices work by tricking mobile devices into locking onto them instead of legitimate cell towers, revealing the exact location of a particular cellphone. More sophisticated versions can eavesdrop on calls by forcing phones to step down to older, unencrypted 2G wireless technology. Some attempt to plant malware.

They can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to about \$200,000. They are commonly the size of a briefcase; some are as small as a cellphone. They can be placed in a car next to a government building. The most powerful can be deployed in low-flying aircraft.

Thousands of members of the military, the NSA, the CIA, the FBI and the rest of the national-security apparatus live and work in the Washington area. The surveillance-savvy among them encrypt their phone and data communications and employ electronic countermeasures. But unsuspecting citizens

(Continued on page 11)

FILE - In this Nov. 28, 2017, file photo, Sen. Ron Wyden speaks during a committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. TFor the first time, the U.S. government is publicly acknowledging the existence in Washington of what appear to be rogue devices that foreign spies and criminals could be using to track individual cellphones and intercept calls and messages. In a March 26 letter to Wyden obtained by the Associated Press, the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged that it identified suspected unauthorized cell-site simulators in Washington last year.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

Lawmakers hear ‘options’ on the House reapportionment issue

IN THE END, SOME DISTRICTS WOULD EITHER GAIN OR LOSE A FAIPULE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

ASG Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations executive director, Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga, has shared with the Senate a “paper” on three options dealing with reapportionment of the local House of Representatives based on the “One Man One Vote” principle.

The document was presented last week during a hearing of the Senate Rules Committee, which requested it in January this year as a guideline or criteria going forward for the Fono on possible reapportionment of House seats, based on the fact that some districts — such as Tualauta — have a large population but only two faipule in the House.

The committee’s request in January was during a hearing on a House Joint Resolution seeking to add one more seat for Tualauta (referred to as “Ma’upu” in the Constitution), Representative District No. 15.

Some senators wanted to get an idea or guidance on how best to address districts with a high population, or even limiting the number of House members, who are elected by popular vote. There are 20 elected House members. The 21st member is a non-voting delegate from Swains.

Appearing before the Senate Rules Committee last week, Tapaau emphasized that the “paper” is intended for discussion purposes only and does not represent the official position of the Governor’s Office, under which his office falls.

Additionally, the paper was requested by the committee, which notes that their respective countries through the Samoan culture select Senate members.

Some senators said the document would be helpful in future discussions and debate on the issue, as some House Districts have, in the past, sought to increase the number of their lawmakers.

During the hearing, Tapaau first explained what “reapportionment” is: to assign or distribute representatives in a new way and the American Samoa Constitution states that Senators and Representatives shall be reapportioned by law at intervals of not less than 5 years.

He shared the guiding principle for a democratic form of government, and that principle is that “all citizens — regardless of where they reside in a state — are entitled to equal legislative representation.”

A question posed in the document and presented to the committee asks, “Should American Samoa follow the principle of equal legislative representation?” A footnote states that this

principle was enunciated by the US Supreme Court’s 1964 decision, better known as the “One Man, One Vote.”

THE PROBLEM

Tapaau cited issues, or problems, for the Senate to look at and explained that reapportionment is based on population. He used two sets of data to make comparisons on population.

In the 1960 Census, the three districts with very high populations were Manu’a #1, Itua'u and Tualauta — which had the highest population at the time. Because of their high population, each of these districts has two seats in the House, which is still part of the current make up of the House.

In the 2010 Census, which was the last one, there was a major increase in the Tualauta population, said Tapaau, adding that the population of Maoputasi (comprising all villages in the Bay Area from Fatumafuti to Aua with five Representative Districts, meaning five faipule) was 10,299 compared to Tualauta’s population of 20,858.

Another example cited by Tapaau is that Representative District Sua #1 and Sua #2 — with a population of 3,323 — has two faipule, compared to the population of Tualauta, which also has two seats.

Furthermore, “voting power is not equal.” He explained that the “Legislature must allocate seats on a population basis so the ‘voting power’ of each voter be as equal as possible to that of any other voter.” (This is a reference from the 1964 Supreme Court decision).

For example, the “voters of a district with one faipule, representing 10 people, has more voting power than a district with one faipule representing 100 people.”

Based on the graphics provided in the paper, Tapaau said the voting power percentage for Manu’a District #1 and Manu’a District #2 — where the population (1,143) in 2010 was much lower than many of the Representative Districts on Tutuila, showed for example that the voting power for Manu’a #1 and Manu’a #2 based on the 2010 census is over 0.25% compared to Tualauta’s voting power of just above 0.05%

He said it’s no secret that a candidate for a House District with a small population, would win by one-vote, because they have more voting power.

OPTIONS

Tapaau shared with senators the US model for the reapportionment of the US House of Representatives based on population, such as keeping state borders and constant 435 members for the 108th Congress, with a state gaining two seats and another state losing two seats

— based on the census between 1990 and 2000.

Option 1: “Reapportion based on population but keep current borders” — keeping 20 current elected House members; keeping borders of each Representative Districts; reapportioning the number of faipule per district based on population; and all Representative Districts will have a minimum of one faipule.

According to the document, this is similar to keeping state borders, while changing number of Representatives based on significant population changes.

Result of this option, based on the 2010 US Census of a population of 55,219, is that one district loses a faipule, while Tualauta gains one faipule.

According to the calculation in the document, it’s Manu’a District #1 — currently with two faipule — that will lose a faipule.

Option 2: “Change borders by making populations equal” and this means, each district will have “close to” the same number of people. Re-drawing the borders of each district so there are 2,776 people in each district does this.

“The re-drawing can end up splitting Itumalo [districts] and possibly villages. This will create three new districts in the House,” the document said adding that this option is also based on the 2010 census.


The document explains that this option is like changing the borders of voting districts

within a state. However, there is the “risk of politicized ‘gerrymandering’” — which can be minimized or prevented by the establishment of an Independent Commission.

The document cites examples of districts that would be added, and villages or districts to be split.

Option 3: Combine Traditional Districts. This reapportionment option minimizes the splitting of districts and villages, and adds voting for representatives “At Large”.

Results of this option, means 3 combined districts lose faipule; 3 combined districts stay the same; and one combined district gains a faipule.



AMERICAN SAMOA
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American Samoa 96799
Phone No: (684) 248-1234
humanresource@aspower.com

Position Title

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Department

Electric

Division

Power Generation

Position Type

Two Year Contract

Reports To

Power Chief

Posting Date

April 3, 2018

Deadline

Until Filled

Starting Rate

TBD

Job Grade/Status

TBD/Exempt

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Minimum Requirements

Education

BS degree in Electrical Engineering or related field. PE would be a major advantage.

Experience

At least ten (10) years of proven experience in utility and/or power plant O&M, power system design or SCADA experience preferred. Experience with Federal projects a plus. Other experiences in power system operations, system protection, project management, substations, distribution systems, renewable energy systems and SCADA systems would be beneficial. Must have knowledge of fundamental concepts, practice, procedures, general terms, nomenclature, etc. in assigned area of engineering specialty. Able to lead a team of technicians in the installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of Power Generation and T&D plant and equipment.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

Required knowledge: Must have knowledge of fundamental concepts, practice, procedures, general terms, conditions, nomenclature, etc. in assigned area of engineering specialty. Must be familiar with tools & equipment in diesel electric power plant; generators and related mathematics; safety principles, methods & practices. Must be able to use Word, Power Point, and Excel, ET AP or equivalent power software. Good analytical and problem solving skills.

Working knowledge of Electrical Standards, NEC or IEC Codes. Effective communication skills both verbally and in writing with superiors, colleagues, and individuals inside and outside the Company. Effective analytical and problem solving skills. Ability to motivate team efforts to accomplish goals.

Ability to: Communicate detailed information accurately to management and coworkers and to professionally represent ASP A when dealing with local government and off-island officials and external organizations. Demonstrate continuous commitment to safe operations. Be an active role model and constant resource to ASPA. Work independently and as part of team. Able to define electrical and instrumentation problems and present cost effective solutions.

Physical demands: Able to work indoor, outdoor environment, inside cable vaults and switchgear. Must be able to climb a ladder or work at an elevated position when required.

Qualified applicants:

Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA Tafuna (address listed above) by the deadline. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on pre-employment drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary. No phone inquiries accepted.

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- Application available at DDW or Island Lubricants office in Tafuna Industrial Park. Call 699-1417 or 633-5297.
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- Able to work after hours or weekends if required

Interested applicants can email resumes with references to gm@transamppg.com no later than April 6, 2018.

No phone calls please

UPDATE GITA: Registration for Manu'a residents starts today

by Samoa News staff

Manu'a residents who suffered losses from Tropical Storm Gita will start registration today at three Disaster Recovery Center sites in the Manu'a islands while more villages have been added to the list for DRC registration on Tutuila, according to joint statements from ASG and the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

MANU'A

Pre-registration for the island group was completed two weeks ago following a week-long visit by Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga, who is also the Governor's Authorized Representative, and ASG officials.

Now it's time for registration to determine eligibility for federal assistance. Registration begins today, Apr. 4 through Saturday, Apr. 7th and the following sites will open from 8am-4pm

- Ofu and Olosega registration - ASG Executive Office Building (EOB) on Ofu
- Ta'u Island (Ta'u, Fitiuta, Faleasao) - ASG-EOB at Ta'u village and the Fitiuta Airport ARFF station at Fitiuta village.

Manu'a residents are reminded that registration at the DRC sites is necessary to determine disaster eligibility and it is separate from pre-registration.

TUTUILA

ASG and FEMA say more Tutuila villages are up for reg-

istration at the DRC, located inside the DYWA Pago Pago Youth Center, which is also open from 8am-4pm

- Tomorrow, Thursday, Apr. 5 - Pago Pago numbers 0571 - 0826
- Friday, Apr. 6 - Vailoa (all numbers); Atu'u (all numbers); Leloaloa (all numbers); Pagai (all numbers); and Maloata (all numbers)

Saturday, Apr. 7 is the make up day for Fagatogo, Aoloau, Puapua, Pago Pago, Malaeloa, Vailoa, Atu'u, Leloaloa, Pagai, and Maloata.

OTHER INFO

Applicants should have the following information on hand for registration:

- ¥ Social Security number
- ¥ Address of the damaged primary residence
- ¥ Description of the damage
- ¥ Information about insurance coverage, if applicable
- ¥ Current contact telephone number
- ¥ PO Box where they can receive mail
- ¥ Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

Federal assistance includes help from FEMA and the US Small Business Administration — which is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property.

SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property, according to the agency.

These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

In the joint announcement, FEMA emphasized that all of its disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call 800-621-3362.

One resident who contacted Samoa News said he was told that he doesn't qualify for federal assistance because he is not a US national or US citizen; but he is a homeowner, and a legal permanent resident of American Samoa.

Samoa News has since learned that the matter has been resolved, and the resident is back on the list for possible federal assistance. ASG and FEMA officials have said from the beginning that legal residents of American Samoa can apply for federal help, if their property was affected by Gita.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Individuals with access and functional needs affected by the storm, people with disabilities, seniors, children, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals and families who are transportation disadvantaged who are heads of household and still need to register should call the Crisis Hotline at (684) 633-9017.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams will come to your home to register you – you do not need to come to any registration sites. If it is hard for an individual to use the telephone (hearing loss), please ask a family member or a friend to make the call on behalf of that individual.

FA'ASILASILAGA

Mo i latou uma e le atoatoa le mafaufau po o le tino ma e iai ni manaoga fa'apitoa ua mafua ai ona le mafai ona o'o mai i nofoaga o le tusigaigoa mo fesoasoani a le FEMA, fa'amolemole valaau mai ile 633-9017 e fa'ailoa mai ile au-faigaluega\lou suafoa mo le resitala a le FEMA. Aua ete alu i nofoaga o tusigaigoa, ae lava mai le onosa'i e asiasi atu sui o le FEMA i o outou maota po o laoa e fa'ataunu'uina le resitala.

Fa'asilasilaga: Afai o oe o se tagata matua po o se tasi e iai ni manaoga fa'apitoa, valaau mai i le numera 633-9017 E i ai le vaega fa'apitoa o le FEMA e o'o atu i lou maota po o lou laoa e resitala oe mo fesoasoani a le FEMA. Aua e te alu i nofoaga o tusigaigoa, e asiasi atu sui o le malo ma FEMA.

Afai e faigata ona e feso'ota'i mai i le telefoni, fai i se tasi o lou aiga e valaau mai i le numera mo le fesoasoani.

Ex-Bolivian president loses civil suit involving 2003 unrest

By CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A U.S. jury on Tuesday found a former president of Bolivia and his defense minister responsible for killings by security forces during 2003 unrest in the South American nation, awarding \$10 million in damages in a lawsuit filed by Bolivians whose relatives were among the slain.

The jury verdict came Tuesday after a nearly three-week trial of the civil suit in federal court in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The jury found against former Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, and his former defense minister, Jose Carlos Sanchez Berzain. Both have been living in the U.S. after fleeing Bolivia in 2003.

Lawyers for the two former officials vowed to seek to have the verdict overturned.

In the lawsuit originally filed in 2007, relatives of eight Bolivians who died claimed the two officials planned to kill thousands of civilians to crush political opposition during a time of civil unrest known as the "Gas War." The lawsuit was filed under the Torture Victim Protection Act, which authorizes suits in the U.S. for extrajudicial killings.

The unrest erupted in the fall of 2003 as street protests in Bolivia over use of the country's vast natural gas reserves boiled over. Demonstrators threw up street blockades of flaming debris and rubble in several places including on the outskirts of the capital of La Paz, and violent clashes between police and security forces with the civilian protesters turned deadly at times.

At times, government forces intent on clearing street barricades fired on demonstrators, mainly in the El Alto municipality adjacent to La Paz, leading to deaths. Other fatalities were reported

(Continued on page 13)

Amata welcomes State and Local Implementation Grant for American Samoa

Washington, D.C. – Monday, April 2, 2018 - Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed a \$200,000 grant for American Samoa from the U.S. Department of Commerce based on the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 which mandated the creation of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

“I am happy to welcome this \$200,000 grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce,” said Aumua Amata.

“This federal funding will be an added benefit to our efforts to improve our Territory’s public safety.”

The NTIA is dedicated to providing interoperable broadband network to further assist in the safety of police, firefighters, emergency medical service professionals and other public safety officials in their duties.

Specifically, these funds are appropriated under local jurisdiction to identify, plan, and implement the most efficient and effective means to integrate the necessary infrastructure, equipment, and other archi-

ture to satisfy the wireless broadband and data services needs of the Territory.

“I am excited for the continual advancement of our Territory’s broadband network”, continued Aumua Amata.

“Thank you to Deputy Director Jacinta Brown and the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security for their role in procuring these federal funds. I would also like to thank Secretary Wilbur Ross and the U.S. Department of Commerce for providing these funds for American Samoa,” she concluded.

Woman...

Continued from page 4

On Sunday, authorities disclosed that data from the vehicle’s software suggested the crash was deliberate. They said the SUV had stopped at a pull-off area before speeding straight off the cliff.

Sarah Hart pleaded guilty in 2011 to a domestic assault charge in Minnesota over what she said was a spanking given to one of her children.

Argyropoulos said she was unaware of a 2011 domestic assault conviction against Sarah

Hart. She said she had met the couple on Facebook, knew them for about eight months and that the family visited her in the Bay Area twice. The couple broke off contact with her after she voiced concerns to them about their treatment of the children, she said.

Two weeks ago, Bruce and Dana DeKalb, next-door neighbors of the Harts in Woodland, Washington, called state Child Protective Services because the couple’s 15-year-old son

Devonte had been coming over to their house almost every day for a week, asking for food.

Dana DeKalb said Devonte told her his parents were “punishing them by withholding food.” The boy asked her to leave food in a box by the fence for him, she said.

Devonte, a black boy who is still missing, drew national attention after he was photographed in tears while hugging a white police officer during a 2014 protest.

Teacher rebellion puts red-state Republicans on defensive

By SEAN MURPHY, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A teacher rebellion in red states from West Virginia to Arizona has put Republicans on the defensive, forcing them to walk a fine line in the months before midterm elections between placating constituents who are angry over education cuts and conservative supporters who want a smaller government and low taxes.

In Oklahoma, most Republicans last week broke with the party orthodoxy and endorsed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increases to fund public schools and give teachers a raise of 15 to 18 percent.

They acted after Oklahoma teachers demanded action, inspired by a nine-day strike in West Virginia, where they won a 5 percent raise. The rebellion also has spread to Kentucky where teachers thronged the state Capitol Monday to protest cuts in pensions. And in Arizona, restive teachers also are demanding a 20 percent pay raise.

But the epicenter of the revolt now is Oklahoma, where lawmakers got little praise for

approving major tax increases and instead caught flak from both sides of the political divide. Thousands of teachers converged on the state Capitol for a second day Tuesday demanding even more money, while anti-tax conservatives vowed to challenge incumbents who supported the plan.

“I’ve had some political blowback, people saying this will be my last term in office,” said Rep. Kyle Hilbert, a Republican from rural northeast Oklahoma, who has gotten an earful from conservatives. “I’d rather serve one term and know I did what was best for my district.”

The Oklahoma strike showed no signs of ending, with many of the largest school districts in the state planning to close for a third consecutive day on Wednesday to honor the walkout.

Some Republicans are trying to express their sympathy for the teachers. Three weeks before a closely watched special election for an open congressional seat in Arizona, Republican hopeful Debbie Lesko is running a TV ad that shows her reading a book to children as she vows

(Continued on page 15)

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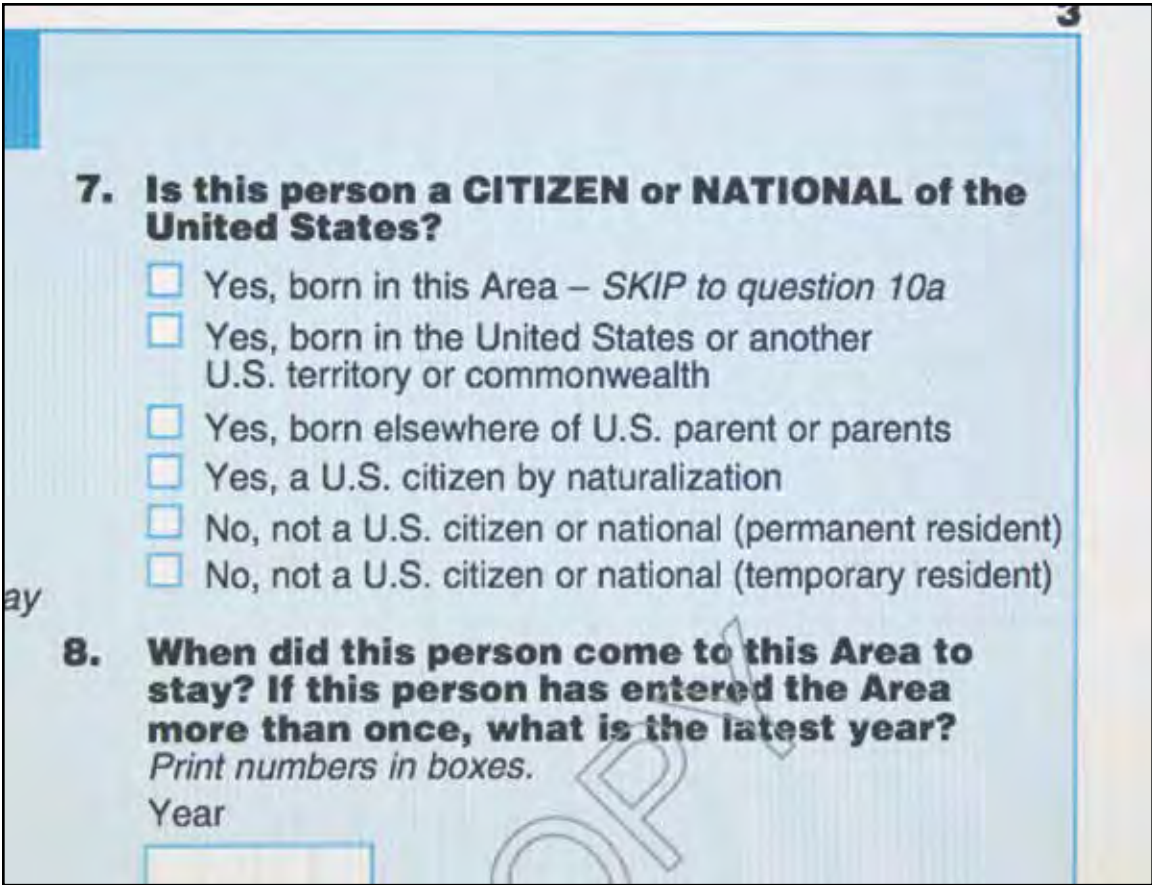
**When: April 6th (1:00pm - 5:00 pm)
April 7th, 9th, 10th from 10am-5pm.**

MUST be a US National to qualify. Bring copy of resume, Social Security Card and US Passport to interview.

Located: Veteran Affairs Office in Tafuna

Contact Michelle P. Agaimalo or Grace Ma’alona-Uiagalelei at Dept. of Human Resources, Employment & Training Division with any questions.

Ph: 633-4485



This screen shot of the Census 2010 American Samoa form shows Question 7, which has to do with a person’s citizenship status: US Citizen or National. The same question will be on the 2020 questionnaire for American Samoa. According to ASG Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele, American Samoa’s census questionnaire has always asked the question — apparently the US census form does not — but will be reinstated for the 2020 Census — a move that is raising concerns in many US cities.

[photo: FS]

► Ifopo gets...

Continued from page 1

because it was so out of character for her,” he said.

Faimealelei pointed to the defendant’s “people skills” which the faipule said helped her as a customer service representative for over 20 years at Bluesky Communications.

“Her smiling face, warm personality, and a ‘can-do attitude’ all contribute to the person she is. She is loved and respected by her colleagues, customers, and people from different walks of life,” he said.

A handful of her former colleagues at Bluesky also wrote letters of support, describing her as a “go-to” service representative and many customers preferred to be served by Ifopo, who had resigned and moved to Alaska with her family.

Ifopo’s younger sister, Sopo Lolomatauama, described the defendant as “a unique individual in her own way,” adding that Ifopo “is always smiling, has joyful spirit, determined, confident, yet humble and a lovable human being.”

“I have learned how we, humans, likely make simple mistakes in life,” Lolomatauama wrote. “Some mistakes are meant to be learned as lessons and some come as consequences.”

“Many know my sister as a humble, loving, and caring person. She has never committed any harm or crime in this life but through her kindness, she has conducted a simple mistake in the form of helping others,” Lolomatauama said. “May this letter be of help to lessen her sentence.”

CDC: Drug-resistant ‘nightmare bacteria’ pose growing threat

By MARILYNN MAR-CHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer

“Nightmare bacteria” with unusual resistance to antibiotics of last resort were found more than 200 times in the United States last year in a first-of-a-kind hunt to see how much of a threat these rare cases are becoming, health officials said Tuesday.

That’s more than they had expected to find, and the true number is probably higher because the effort involved only certain labs in each state, officials say.

The problem mostly strikes people in hospitals and nursing homes who need IVs and other tubes that can get infected. In many cases, others in close contact with these patients also harbored the superbugs even though they weren’t sick — a risk for further spread.

Some of the sick patients had traveled for surgery or other health care to another country where drug-resistant germs are more common, and the superbug infections were discovered after they returned to the U.S.

“Essentially, we found nightmare bacteria in your backyard,” said Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“These verge on untreatable infections” where the only option may be supportive care — fluids and sometimes machines to maintain life to give the patient a chance to recover, Schuchat said.

The situation was described in a CDC report.

Bugs and drugs are in a constant battle, as germs evolve to resist new and old antibiotics. About 2 million Americans get infections from antibiotic-resistant bacteria each year and 23,000 die, Schuchat said.

Concern has been growing

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(Continued on page 12)



Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church choir members, pictured with Catechist Malaki, Deacon Lesā, and Fr. Eneliko Auvaa following Easter mass Sunday morning.

[photo: Blue Chen Fruean]

PET OF THE WEEK



Fiafia is an adult spayed female dog looking for a home. She is a happy dog looking for a family. Please contact the ASG Veterinary Clinic at 699-9445 if you are interested in meeting Fiafia.

[photo: ASG Veterinary Clinic]

REAL FISH DEAL

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Central American migrants participating in the Migrant Stations of the Cross caravan or “Via crucis,” set up camp at a sports center during the caravan’s few-day’s stop in Matias Romero, Oaxaca state, Mexico, late Monday, April 2, 2018. The annual caravans have been held in southern Mexico for years as an Easter-season protest against the kidnappings, extortion, beatings and killings suffered by many Central American migrants as they cross Mexico.

(AP Photo/Felix Marquez)

Caravan migrants confused by President Trump’s angry tweets

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MATIAS ROMERO, Mexico (AP) — President Donald Trump’s angry comments about a caravan of migrants ricochet around like a soccer ball in the dusty athletic complex in southern Mexico where the 1,000 or so Central Americans have camped since the weekend.

Trump’s words have confused and befuddled families here, some of whom never intended on going all the way to the United States after the end of the “Stations of the Cross” caravan. It is a symbolic event held around Easter each year to raise awareness about the plight of migrants and has never left southern Mexico, though some participants then continue north on their own.

Even coordinators of the caravan seemed to misunderstand the debate in the U.S. when Trump’s endorsed a “nuclear option” for pushing funding for his border wall through Congress. They told worried families Tuesday that the U.S. president had floated the idea of using a nuclear weapon against the caravan of mostly women and children who have fled violence in Central America.

Sitting on a thin foam pad and trying to corral her sons, 2-year old Jonathan and 6-year-old Omar, Gabriela Hernandez wondered aloud at what Trump must think of them.

“I see it as something really sad, because I don’t understand how a child this age can make things difficult for him,” said Hernandez, a 27-year-old who is two months pregnant.

She would like to get into the U.S., where she has a cousin in Houston. Crime in Honduras was so bad that she decided to embark on the difficult a journey across several international borders with two young asthmatic sons, the younger of whom is now sick and on antibiotics.

In the minds of Hernandez and many of her fellow travelers, the risks they have taken should be an indication of how unsustainable their circumstances are back home. Hondurans predominate in this year’s caravan, but it includes families from Guatemala and El Salvador as well.

“The big Caravan of People from Honduras, now coming across Mexico and heading to our ‘Weak Laws’ Border, had better be stopped before it gets there,” Trump tweeted.

After hearing that Trump raised the possibility of sending troops to defend the U.S. border, Irineo Mujica, coordinator of the caravan, gathered the camp’s women and children around him and asked which of them Trump was afraid of.

“All of the women, children

come fleeing violence,” Mujica said. “These children are not soldiers.”

Late Tuesday, the first migrants began receiving documents from Mexican immigration authorities. Some give them 20 days to transit the country on their way to the U.S. border with the stated goal of applying for asylum. Others got papers in a first step toward a humanitarian Mexican residency visa for especially vulnerable people or a start to the application process for asylum in Mexico.

Mayra Zepeda, 38, of Honduras, said that once she gets documents to cross Mexico, she and her husband will continue their journey toward the border city of Tijuana. She said they hope to find better paying jobs there and aren’t planning to try to cross into the U.S.

The couple left Honduras in December after incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez was declared the winner of a contested election. The factory where she made T-shirts for export closed due to the weeks of instability that followed the election, she said.

She and her family stopped in the Mexican town of Tapachula at the Guatemala border for three months and she worked in a restaurant. When the caravan came together there they saw it as a good opportunity to make a move with safety in numbers.

On Tuesday afternoon, she cooked a cauldron full of sliced squash and eggs over an open fire for the caravan’s security team, volunteers who keep an eye on things.

“Honestly, I want to be Mexican,” Zepeda said. “We’re not going to cross. We’re just going to stay here.”

Others were not so fortunate on the first try.

Jose Carlos Lanza, traveling with his pregnant wife from Honduras, rushed forward when his name was called Tuesday only to find that they had got one letter wrong in his name, making his permit to travel across Mexico worthless and potentially delaying him for another day. The problem was that someone was already en route to pick him up and take him to the U.S. border.

“I can’t wait any longer,” he said.

Earlier Tuesday, Lanza said the U.S. government was ignorant about the migrants’ situation.

“They don’t see that the majority of the people here are children and women,” he said. “I think it’s stupid because the only thing we are looking for is safety for our family and it’s not fair that they treat us like terrorists.”



LBJ TROPICAL MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

March 20, 2018

The Department of Human Resources is accepting applications for the following position.

Job Title: Assistant Facilities (Civil Engineer)
Department: Plant Operation
Reports to: Director of Plant Operation
Salary: \$ 50,738 - \$ 58,109

Summary:

This position reports to the Director of Facilities and Engineering. Supports engineering projects by adapting and applying engineering techniques; conducting tests and inspections preparing reports.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Analyze survey reports, maps, drawings, blueprints, aerial photography, and other topographical or geologic data to plan objects
 - Plan and design hydraulic systems and structures, following construction and government standards, using design software and drawing tools
 - Compute load and grade requirements, water flow rates, and material stress factors to determine design specifications
 - Inspect object sites to monitor progress and ensure conformance to design specifications and safety or sanitation standards
 - Direct construction, operations, and maintenance activities at project site
 - Direct or participate in surveying to lay out installations and establish reference points, grades, and elevations to guide constructions
 - Estimate quantities and cost of materials, equipment, or labor to determine project feasibility
 - Prepare or present public reports, such as bid proposals, deeds, environmental impact statements, and property and right-of-way descriptions.
- Qualifications:**
 - Licensed as a Civil Engineer with a Bachelor’s Degree in related field, and 5 years’ experience in project management-building construction and renovations preferably at a Hospital facility.
 - Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**
 - Analytical skills and must be able to communicate effectively and collaborate with team members. Solve problems, manage multiple projects and use their time wisely and perform these skills with minimal supervision.
 - Core Skills**
 - Communicating technical ideas to non-technical audiences, such as residents or local government officials
 - Determining project costs based on the bids submitted by vendors
 - Preparing reports and proposals with Microsoft Word Excel
 - Developing projects [plans according to local building codes
 - Performing hand calculations to ensure the feasibility of project
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 - Advanced Skills**
 - Rehabilitating existing buildings, such as historical structures
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 - Understanding the physical and chemical properties of building materials
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Deadline for filing applications with the LBJ Office of Human Resources will be April 6, 2018 at 4:00 pm. Application forms are available at the Office of Human Resources.

Cool jazz: Bowhead whales improvise when singing, study says

BY SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some whales are taking jazz riffs to new depths.

For the first time, scientists have eavesdropped year-round on the songs of bowhead whales, the little-heard whales that roam the Arctic under the ice. They found that bowheads — the bigger, more blubbery cousins of the better known humpbacks — are more prolific and downright jazzier than other whales.

“Bowhead whales are the jazz singers of the Arctic. You don’t know what they’re going to do. They inject novelty,” said University of Washington oceanographer Kate Stafford.

Over three years a single underwater microphone captured 184 distinct bowhead whale songs, according to Stafford’s study in Wednesday’s Biology Letters. That’s remarkable because there are probably only a couple hundred males in an area between Greenland and Norway to make the songs, Stafford said.

Stafford and her colleagues couldn’t track specific songs to

individual whales to know for sure, but given the wide variety of songs they think each male has a different song, and that they likely change from season to season.

In contrast nearly all humpback males sing versions of the same song every winter, Stafford said. “Humpback whales are classical music singers. They make long elaborate songs but their songs are really ordered and almost predictable.”

Until now, biologists would hear only snippets of bowhead songs in other Arctic areas. They have many recordings of humpback songs because there are more humpbacks and they travel much further south.

Scientists think only male bowheads sing and that they are singing for sex, improvising to try to attract females with the best rendition of songs. Stafford said she was reminded of Miles Davis on his “Bitches Brew” album. Though she admitted bowhead music isn’t for everyone.

“I find the songs to be quite beautiful, but some people compare them to fingernails on a chalkboard,” Stafford said.

“They’re scream-y. They’re yell-y and they’re quite funny.”

Bowheads — which can live to be 200 years old and are almost 60 feet long — start with very high notes, modulate their tune quite a bit and at times make two completely different sounds at the same time.

“We don’t know how they do that,” Stafford said. Humans can’t, but some birds can, she said.

Syracuse University biology professor Susan Parks, who wasn’t part of the study, praised the research as “a huge step forward” in learning about bowhead songs, showing surprising novelty and variety.

“The diversity of signal types uncovered by this study suggests that something very different is going on with bowhead whale song,” Parks wrote in an email.

One of Stafford’s favorites makes repeated riffs of “woo-woo-woo” but with differing modulations. She’ll often just turn the songs on her cell phone and bliss out. “These guys are great mimics. They can imitate ice,” Stafford said. “They make the nuttiest songs.”

US suspects...

Continued from page 4

could fall prey.

Wyden, a Democrat, wrote DHS in November requesting information about unauthorized use of the cell-site simulators.

The reply from DHS official Christopher Krebs noted that DHS had observed “anomalous activity” consistent with Stingrays in the Washington area. A DHS official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the letter has not been publicly released added that the devices were detected in a 90-day trial that began in January 2017 with equipment from a Las Vegas-based DHS contractor, ESD America. Krebs, the top official in the department’s National Protection and Programs Directorate, noted in the letter that DHS lacks the equipment and funding to detect Stingrays even though their use by foreign governments “may threaten U.S. national and economic security.” The department did report its findings to “federal partners” Krebs did not name. That presumably includes the FBI.

The CEO of ESD America, Les Goldsmith, said his company has a relationship with DHS but would not comment further. Legislators have been raising alarms about the use of Stingrays in the capital since at least 2014, when Goldsmith and other security-company researchers conducted public sweeps that located suspected unauthorized devices near the White House, the Supreme Court, the Commerce Department and the Pentagon, among other locations.

The executive branch, however, has shied away from even discussing the subject.

Aaron Turner, president of the mobile security consultancy Integricell, was among the experts who conducted the 2014 sweeps, in part to try to drum up business. Little has changed since, he said. Like other major world capitals, he said, Washington is awash in unauthorized interception devices. Foreign embassies have free rein because they are on sovereign soil. Every embassy “worth their salt” has a cell tower simulator installed, Turner said. They use them “to track interesting people that come toward their embassies.” The Russians’ equipment is so powerful it can track targets a mile away, he said.

Shutting down rogue Stingrays is an expensive proposition that would require wireless network upgrades the industry has been loath to pay for, security experts say. It could also lead to conflict with U.S. intelligence and law enforcement.

In addition to federal agencies, police departments use them in at least 25 states and the District of Columbia, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Wyden said in a statement Tuesday that “leaving security to the phone companies has proven to be disastrous.” He added that the FCC has refused to hold the industry accountable “despite repeated warnings and clear evidence that our phone networks are being exploited by foreign governments and hackers.” After the

2014 news reports about Stingrays in Washington, Rep. Alan Grayson, D-Fla, wrote the FCC in alarm. In a reply, then-FCC chairman Tom Wheeler said the agency had created a task force to combat illicit and unauthorized use of the devices. In that letter, the FCC did not say it had identified such use itself, but cited media reports of the security sweeps.

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FILE - In this March 23, 2018, file photo, a woman wearing a uniform with the logo of an American produce company helps a customer shop for apples at a supermarket in Beijing. China raised import duties on a \$3 billion list of U.S. pork, fruit and other products Monday, April 2, 2018 in an escalating tariff dispute with President Donald Trump that companies worry might depress global commerce.

(AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, FILE)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Agriculture Community and Natural Resources (ACNR)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: COMPUTER LAB TECHNICIAN
Employment Status: Full Time 12 months (Career Service)

General Description:

Under the supervision of the ASCC ACNR Network Specialist, the Computer Lab Technician assists ACNR students who need access to a computer in order to fulfill course requirements and to keep current with the growing research and information resources found on the Internet. The successful candidate will be responsible for monitoring the daily operations of the ACNR Computer Lab as well as assisting students with its use. He/she will work with the Network Specialist on the procedural and operational functions of the computer lab.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Monitor the daily operations and functions of the lab, and use of the computers and equipment.
- Assist students in use and care of the computers.
- Keep daily records on the usage of the lab, write and submit reports, request forms, and provide feedback and evaluation on the operations and functions of the computer lab.
- Setup and maintain lab hardware and software. Familiar with MS Windows 7, 8.1, 10; Mac OS X up to current version; MS Office 2013 and later.
- Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Associate of Arts/Science degree in an Information Technology-related field from an accredited community or technical college or equivalent combination of relevant education and experience.
- Ability to recognize, analyze and resolve computer and network problems.
- Ability to support the technical architecture of ASCC ACNR Local Area Network.
- Must be physically able to lift heavy equipment and flexible for network installation.

Salary: GS:12/03-07: \$ 15,073.00 - \$ 17,673.00 per annum.

Application Deadline: April 5, 2018 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by emailing Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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US proposes tariffs on \$50 billion in Chi- nese imports

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Tuesday escalated its aggressive actions on trade by proposing 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports to protest Beijing’s policies that require foreign companies to hand over their technology.

China immediately said it would retaliate against the new tariffs, which target high-tech industries that Beijing has been nurturing, from advanced manufacturing and aerospace to information technology and robotics.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative issued a list targeting 1,300 Chinese products, including industrial robots and telecommunications equipment. The suggested tariffs wouldn’t take effect right away: A public comment period will last until May 11, and a hearing on the tariffs is set for May 15. Companies and consumers will have the opportunity to lobby to have some products taken off the list or have others added.

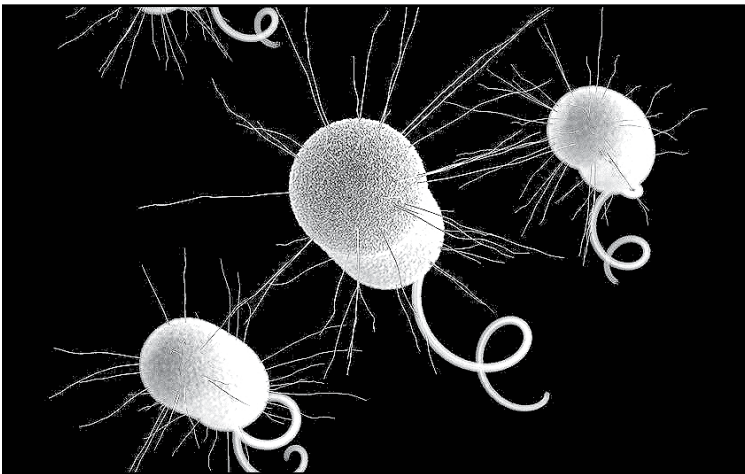
The latest U.S. move risks heightening trade tensions with China, which on Monday had slapped taxes on \$3 billion in U.S. products in response to earlier U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

“China’s going to be compelled to lash back,” warned Philip Levy, a senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and an economic adviser to President George W. Bush.

Early Wednesday in Beijing, China’s Commerce Ministry said it “strongly condemns and firmly opposes” the proposed U.S. tariffs and warned of retaliatory action. “We will prepare equal measures for U.S. products with the same scale” according to regulations in Chinese trade law, a ministry spokesman said in comments carried by the official Xinhua News Agency. The U.S. sanctions are intended to punish China for deploying strong-arm tactics in its drive to become a global technology power. These include pressuring American companies to share technology to gain access to the Chinese market, forcing U.S. firms to license their technology in China on unfavorable terms and even hacking into U.S. companies’ computers to steal trade secrets. The administration sought to draw up the list of targeted Chinese goods in a way that might limit the impact of the tariffs — a tax on imports — on American consumers while hitting Chinese imports that benefit from Beijing’s sharp-elbowed tech policies.

► CDC...

Continued from page 8



FILE- This undated file illustration made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta depicts Pseudomonas aeruginosa bacteria, one of the germs that can evolve to resist antibiotics. “Nightmare bacteria” with unusual resistance to antibiotics of last resort were found more than 200 times in the United States last year in a first-of-a-kind hunt to see how much of a threat these rare cases are becoming, health officials said Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

(CDC via AP, File)

about a rise in bacteria resistant to all or most antibiotics. Last year, public health labs around the country were asked to watch for and quickly respond to cases of advanced antibiotic resistance, especially to some last-resort antibiotics called carbapenems. In the first nine months of the year, more than 5,770 samples were tested for these “nightmare bacteria,” as CDC calls them, and one quarter were found to have genes that

make them hard to treat and easy to share their resistance tricks with other types of bacteria. Of these, 221 had unusual genes that conferred resistance. The cases were scattered throughout 27 states. “Even in remote areas” this threat is real, because patients often transfer to and from other places for care, said Dr. Jay Butler, chief medical officer for the state of Alaska and past president of the Association of State.

Trump wants US military to secure border until wall is built



FILE - In this July 19, 2006, file photo, a California Army National Guardsman grades dirt with a tractor next to the second U.S.-Mexico border fence in San Diego. President Donald Trump said April 3, 2018, he wants to use the military to secure the U.S.-Mexico border until his promised border wall is built. The Department of Homeland Security and White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment. At the Pentagon, officials were struggling to answer questions about the plan, including rudimentary details on whether it would involve National Guard members, as similar programs in the past have done. But officials appeared to be considering a model similar to a 2006 operation in which former President George W. Bush deployed National Guard troops to the southern border in an effort to increase security and surveillance.

(AP Photo/Denis Poroy, File)

By **JILL COLVIN** and **LOLITA C. BALDOR**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump wants to use the military to secure the U.S.-Mexico border until his “big, beautiful wall” is erected.

He said during a news conference Tuesday: “Until we can have a wall and proper security, we’re going to be guarding our border with the military.”

He has been frustrated by the lack of progress on fulfilling the signature promise of his campaign.

Federal law prohibits the use of active-duty service members for law enforcement inside the U.S., unless specifically authorized by Congress. But over the past 12 years, presidents have twice sent National Guard troops to the border to bolster security and assist with surveillance and other support.



FILE - In this Sept. 13, 2003, file photo, Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada speaks during a news conference in Mexico City. A U.S. jury has found the former president of Bolivia and his defense minister responsible for government killings during 2003 unrest in a lawsuit filed by Bolivians whose family members were among the slain. The jury verdict came Tuesday, April 3, 2018, after a nearly three-week trial in federal court in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

(AP Photo Marco Ugarte, File)

► Ex-Bolivian...

Continued from page 6

in confrontations between security forces and Bolivian miners marching to the capital in support of the protesters. Many of the civilian victims were indigenous Aymara Bolivians.

The unrest marked the decline of traditional political parties in that nation and the rise of new leaders including Evo Morales, a populist leader of coca growers who later became Bolivia’s first indigenous president. Now in his third term, Morales tweeted praise late Tuesday for the “perseverance” of those who pressed suit, saying they’ve obtained a court decision that “draws us ever closer to justice” in the case.

Plaintiffs also lauded the decision.

“After many years of fighting for justice for our family members and the people of Bolivia, we celebrate this historic victory,” said plaintiff Tefilo Baltazar Cerro, whose pregnant wife was killed by a bullet fired through the wall of a house. He added in an emailed statement: “Fifteen years after they fled justice, we have finally held Sanchez de Lozada and Sanchez Berzain to account for the massacre they unleashed against our people.”

The jury found the former officials responsible because they had ordered the military to use deadly force in the confrontations.

“The plaintiffs demonstrated immense courage

in relentlessly pursuing justice for over a decade,” said Judith Chomsky, a Center for Constitutional Rights attorney for the plaintiffs. “They have set an example for anyone fighting for accountability for human rights abuses worldwide.”

Attorneys for the two ex-officials said they have asked the judge for a ruling that would essentially overturn the jury verdict for legal reasons, which will continue the case for the time being. An appeal is also possible.

“We disagree with the jury’s verdict and believe that the proof was so lacking that the case never should have gotten to a jury,” said attorney Steve Raber in an email statement. “We trust the process and believe that the verdict will be overturned when the law is correctly applied.”

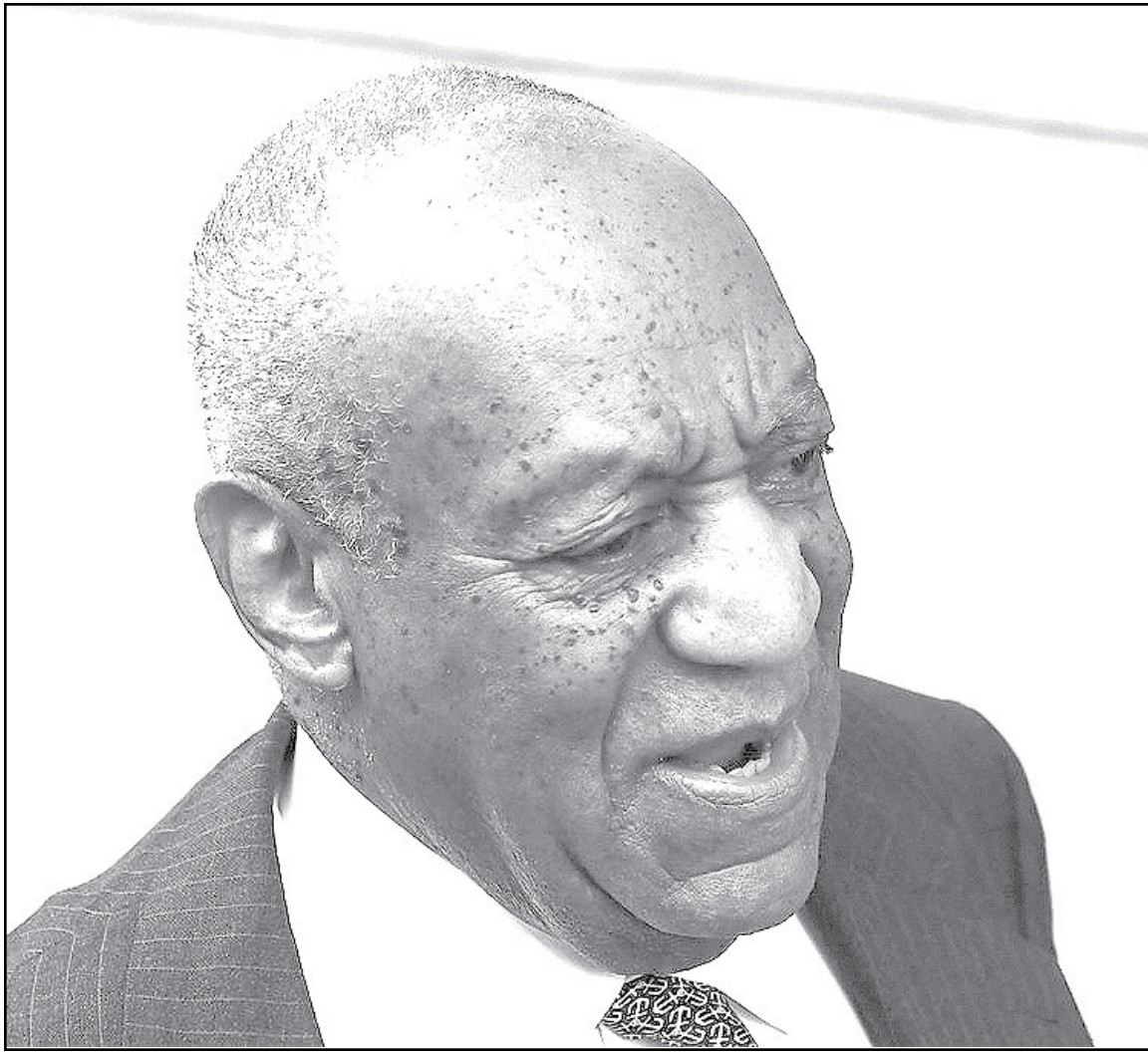
The defense had contended that the civilian deaths were more a product of crossfire than intentional killings and that the government was simply responding to a crisis. Authorities say at least 64 people died and more than 400 others were injured in the violence that year.

Sanchez de Lozada was president of Bolivia twice, serving the first term from August 1993 until August 1997 and again from August 2002 until October 2003. Sanchez Berzain was defense minister in the second term.

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Blue)





Bill Cosby arrives for jury selection in his sexual assault retrial at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Tuesday, April 3, 2018, in Norristown, Pa.

(AP Photo/Corey Perrine)

Cosby gets pair of key rulings, but not ‘band-wagon’ juror

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby’s lawyers scored a pair of rulings crucial to their strategy of painting his accuser as a money-grubbing liar, but they could not get the one prospective juror who seemed most willing to consider that idea.

The defense wanted a man who said he thought many of the women coming forward in the #MeToo movement were “jumping on the bandwagon,” but prosecutors used a challenge to send him home.

They agreed on six other jurors, bringing the two-day total to seven. They already have eliminated more than 200 potential jurors.

Jury selection continues on Wednesday, with a dozen people invited back for individual questioning as the prosecution and defense look to fill 11 remaining spots. A third batch of 120 potential jurors also is being brought to the courthouse in suburban Philadelphia.

No major rulings are expected after Judge Steven O’Neill opened Tuesday’s session by issuing back-to-back decisions favorable to the defense team that tried to force him off the case last month over his wife’s work with sexual assault victims.

O’Neill granted the Cosby’ team’s request to call a woman who says accuser Andrea Constand talked about framing a celebrity before she lodged allegations against him in 2005. The judge also ruled that jurors can hear how much Cosby paid Constand in a 2006 civil settlement.

Jury selection moved briskly on Tuesday until late in the day, when a second pool of potential jurors proved more opinionated and less willing to serve than the panel that produced the first seven.

Two-thirds of the group said they already had formed an opinion about Cosby’s guilt or innocence, and all but about 20 people begged off the case, saying it would be a hardship to serve.

Two of the people who made the cut said they had no knowledge of the Cosby case.

Five of the jurors picked so far are white and two are black, with four men and three women.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he drugged and molested Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He says the encounter with the former Temple Univer-

sity women’s basketball administrator was consensual.

O’Neill’s ruling allowing Marguerite Jackson to testify was at odds with his decision to block her from the first trial, which ended in a hung jury. O’Neill did not explain his change of heart but issued one caveat, saying he could revisit her testimony after Constand takes the stand.

During the first trial, O’Neill ruled that Jackson’s testimony would be hearsay after Constand testified she did not know the woman.

Jackson, a longtime Temple University official, has said that she and Constand worked closely together, had been friends and had shared hotel rooms several times.

Since then, prosecutors have told Cosby’s lawyers that Constand had modified her statement to acknowledge she “recalls a Margo.”

Jackson has said Constand once commented to her about setting up a “high-profile person” and filing a lawsuit.

Constand’s lawyer has said Jackson is not telling the truth.

Jackson’s availability as a witness for Cosby could be crucial to a defense plan to attack Constand’s credibility.

O’Neill hinted at a pretrial hearing last week that he might keep jurors from hearing Cosby’s testimony from a deposition in Constand’s lawsuit about giving quaaludes to women before sex — another potential boon to the defense. He said he would not rule on that until it is brought up at the retrial.

O’Neill previously gave a boost to the prosecution, ruling they can call five additional accusers in a bid to portray Cosby — the former TV star once revered as “America’s Dad” for his family sitcom “The Cosby Show” — as a serial predator.

As jury selection proceeded, The Associated Press and other news organizations challenged an arrangement that forces reporters to watch the proceedings on a closed-circuit feed from another courtroom.

Montgomery County President Judge Thomas DelRicci scheduled a Wednesday morning hearing on the news media’s legal challenge.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.



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Hundreds of Kentucky teachers protest outside of Gov. Matt Bevin's office on Friday, March 30, 2018, in Frankfort, Ky. State lawmakers passed a bill late Thursday night that makes changes to the state's pension system. Bevin could sign the bill into law on Friday.

(AP Photo/Adam Beam)

Liberal Dallet easily takes Wisconsin Supreme Court race

By SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Rebecca Dallet, a liberal Milwaukee judge, easily defeated conservative Michael Srenock on Tuesday in the race for Wisconsin Supreme Court, fueling optimism among Democrats for more victories in the fall midterms.

The win in the first statewide general election in the country this year forced Gov. Scott Walker, who endorsed Srenock, to warn his fellow Republicans.

"Tonight's results show we are at risk of a #BlueWave in WI," Walker, who is up for re-election in November, tweeted. "Big government special interests flooded Wisconsin with distorted facts & misinformation. Next, they'll target me and work to undo our bold reforms."

Although the race was viewed by some as a bellwether, results of past Supreme Court elections have not consistently proven to be predictive of what will happen in November. President Donald Trump won the state by less than 1 percentage point in 2016, while Dallet thumped Srenock by double digits.

She won by a nearly 12-point margin with 87 percent of precincts reporting, based on unofficial results.

The race for a 10-year seat was nonpartisan in name only, with millions in ad spending and public endorsements from the likes of Joe Biden, Eric Holder and the National Rifle Association.

Dallet said her victory, which Democrats quickly seized on as another sign of momentum, was a rejection of special interest influence on Wisconsin's Supreme Court.

"The candidate with the most experience in our courts

and standing up for the fairness of our courts won," she said. "I think people are tired of what's been going on in our state in terms of the money coming in to buy these elections and people spoke out tonight."

Srenock said he was proud of his campaign, in the face of "tremendous outside influence from liberal special interest groups that were willing to say and spend anything to elect their preferred candidate to the bench."

Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairwoman Martha Laning said the win was a warning shot to Walker, calling it a "huge loss" for him because his "endorsement, philosophy and politics were on the ballot."

One of the Democratic challengers to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, immediately tried to raise money off the Dallet win. Randy Bryce called the Dallet win "a rallying cry for working folks."

Srenock, a Sauk County circuit judge, was endorsed by Walker and backed by about \$400,000 from the state GOP.

Dallet's victory narrows conservative control of the court from 5-2 to 4-3. She also will become the sixth woman on the court. And it's the first time a liberal candidate has won a race for an open seat on the court since 1995. The court has been a reliable ally of Walker and Republicans who have controlled the governor's office and Legislature since 2011.

Voters who supported Dallet said they hoped her win would send a message.

"People are pretty motivated on the left, from what I can see," said Doug Clawson, 58, a communications professional who cast his ballot at a Madison public library as cold rain fell outside.

He said a Dallet win "would send a message that we're not kidding around here and maybe to borrow an axiom from the right: We're going to take our country back."

Dallet's victory follows a surprising Democratic win in January in a special election for a state Senate seat held by Republicans for 17 years. Two other special legislative elections are coming this June, giving Democrats more chances to build momentum heading into the fall.

Dallet, 48, has been a Milwaukee County circuit judge since 2008 and before that was a prosecutor for more than a decade. She will join the court in August.

Srenock, 48, was appointed judge by Walker in 2015. Before that he was part of a team that defended Walker's Act 10 law that effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers.

Several voters in liberal Madison said they were motivated to vote against Srenock because of his NRA support.

"I don't want to support anyone who's backed by the NRA right now," said Phil Ouellette, 59, who works in advertising.

Both candidates argued the other couldn't be trusted to serve as an independent voice on the state's highest court because of the partisans supporting their campaigns.

Dallet ran with a tough-on-crime message, focusing on her 11 years as a prosecutor followed by 10 years as a judge in Milwaukee. She argued that the current conservative-controlled Supreme Court is "broken," and she criticized the justices for not adopting a recusal rule forcing them to step down from cases involving large campaign donors.

Teacher...

Continued from page 7

to "fix our schools and give our teachers the raise they deserve."

As he runs for a second term, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey in Arizona epitomizes the dilemma for GOP candidates in 2018. He refuses to raise taxes and finds himself on the defensive amid growing frustration with education funding in a state where the budget was decimated during the recession and where he and other leaders have dramatically expanded voucher programs. Teachers have been filling the Capitol to protest a Ducey plan to provide a 2 percent raise for teachers, and they have been joined by the two Democrats trying to unseat him.

The protests also have emboldened teachers across the country to run for office. In Kentucky, teachers bruised by their fight over education pensions are preparing to mobilize to support legislative candidates they see as passing a key test: support for education. About two dozen educators or former educators are running for office this year, most of them as Democrats.

For the Democratic Party, which has been losing legislative seats in many of these red states for years, the intensity of the education movement is an opportunity. The Oklahoma Democratic Party set up a tent outside the Capitol during the teacher protests and urged dem-

onstrators to register to vote.

"I think the people who will be held responsible at the end of the day are the people in power," said Party Chairwoman Anna Langthorn. "I think we have a lot of momentum."

Xavier Turner, 17, the student body president at Del City High School in suburban Oklahoma City, held a sign at the protest Tuesday saying: "I'd take KD back before Mary Fallin," showing his preference for NBA superstar Kevin Durant, who left the Oklahoma City Thunder for the Golden State Warriors, over the Oklahoma governor who is term-limited and not running in 2018. He's not quite old enough to vote, but Turner said that as young people register, they will remember who stood with their teachers.

"We just need to do better as far as the Legislature and who we vote in," Turner said Tuesday after joining the protest outside the Oklahoma Capitol. "The national spotlight is on Oklahoma. Hopefully it goes well." Democrats already have made some gains in Oklahoma, winning four seats from Republicans in special elections in the past year, including two teachers elected to office after campaigning on improving school funding. But they are still deep in the minority in the Legislature.

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Rotary Club President John Raynar presenting 100,000 HAL Miles to Beatrice Mageo and Chang Calico of Hope House. Hope House was the 1st Place Winner in the Rotary Golf Tournament .

[Courtesy photo]





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Israeli leader nixes UN deal to resettle African migrants

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In an abrupt and startling reversal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nixed his own deal Tuesday with the United Nations to resettle tens of thousands of African migrants in Israel and other Western nations, caving in to nationalist critics who have demonized the migrants for taking over poor neighborhoods in Tel Aviv.

The move leaves unresolved one of Israel's most charged and divisive issues — what to do with the Africans who say they fled for their lives in search of sanctuary in the Jewish state.

The about-face also opened Netanyahu to scathing assaults on his leadership, raising doubts about his ability to make controversial decisions on bigger issues in the future, including how he would respond to a peace plan promised by President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu proudly announced the deal Monday in a nationally televised news conference, saying Israel had agreed to cancel a planned expulsion of tens of thousands of Africans that had been widely condemned both at home and among Jews around the world.

Under the deal, roughly half of the 35,000 migrants living in Israel would be resettled in the West with the rest absorbed in Israel. Netanyahu praised it as a “good agreement” that marked “an important day” for Israel.

But hours later, after heavy criticism among nationalists within his own ruling coalition.

