



To fund numerous community service projects like Project Eye Care, the Boy Scouts, and LEO Clubs, members of the Lions Club of Pago Pago, led by president Lisa Tuatoo (far right) have been out and about, selling raffle tickets for their next major fundraiser — the annual golf tournament set to be held Saturday, Dec. 2nd.

Pictured are some of the Lions Club members who were at Cost-U-Less this past Saturday. (See advertisement for more details).

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000 \$1.00

Latest drug bust nets meth allegedly bought from Le Aute

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A man with two bench warrants issued by the District Court for failure to appear for two separate cases was arrested for alleged possession of methamphetamine last Wednesday, when the vehicle he was driving was stopped by detectives from the DPS Vice and Narcotics Unit in front of a store in Tafuna.

Marty Tanielu is charged with two counts of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, to wit; methamphetamine — a felony — punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than five or more than ten years, and a fine of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$20,000, or both.

Tanielu made his initial appearance before District Court Judge Pro-Temp, Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde last Friday. He is being represented by Assistant Public Defender Ryan Nelson while prosecuting the case is Assistant Attorney General, Woodrow Pengelly.

During court proceedings, Tanielu’s attorney requested a bail reduction to \$2,500 from the initial amount of \$10,000 that was set by the Court.

(Continued on page 6)

Gov dismisses claims he is “anti-canneries”

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has dismissed criticism circulating in the community that he is “anti-canneries”, saying that only a governor who isn’t right in the head — ‘e leaga le ulu’ — would be against the canneries, the lifeline of many families in American Samoa.

Lolo made the comment during last Friday’s news conference, where he said he’s been informed that StarKist Samoa — whose production is set to resume today, following a five-week shutdown, is looking at utilizing freezer storage facility at Tri Marine International’s Samoa Tuna Processors (STP) Inc., plant in Atu’u.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries, Tri Marine chief operations officer Joe Hamby said “Tri Marine has been discussing the STP facilities with StarKist for some time.”

“Those discussions are bound by a confidence

agreement and, unfortunately, we cannot share them with you,” Hamby told Samoa News over the weekend.

StarKist’s corporate spokesperson based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, didn’t immediately respond to Samoa News request for comments, due to the long Thanksgiving holiday heading into the weekend.

Industry officials have told Samoa News that STP’s multi-million-dollar storage facility may be one of the best options for StarKist.

“It’s brand new and considered a state of the art facility,” said one official, adding that STP is a perfect solution for StarKist, since there’s already an existing dock, where fish is off loaded directly into the freezer facility. “However, use of the facility as a permanent solution all depends on Tri Marine, whether or not it’ll reopen its STP cannery operations.”

(Continued on page 7)

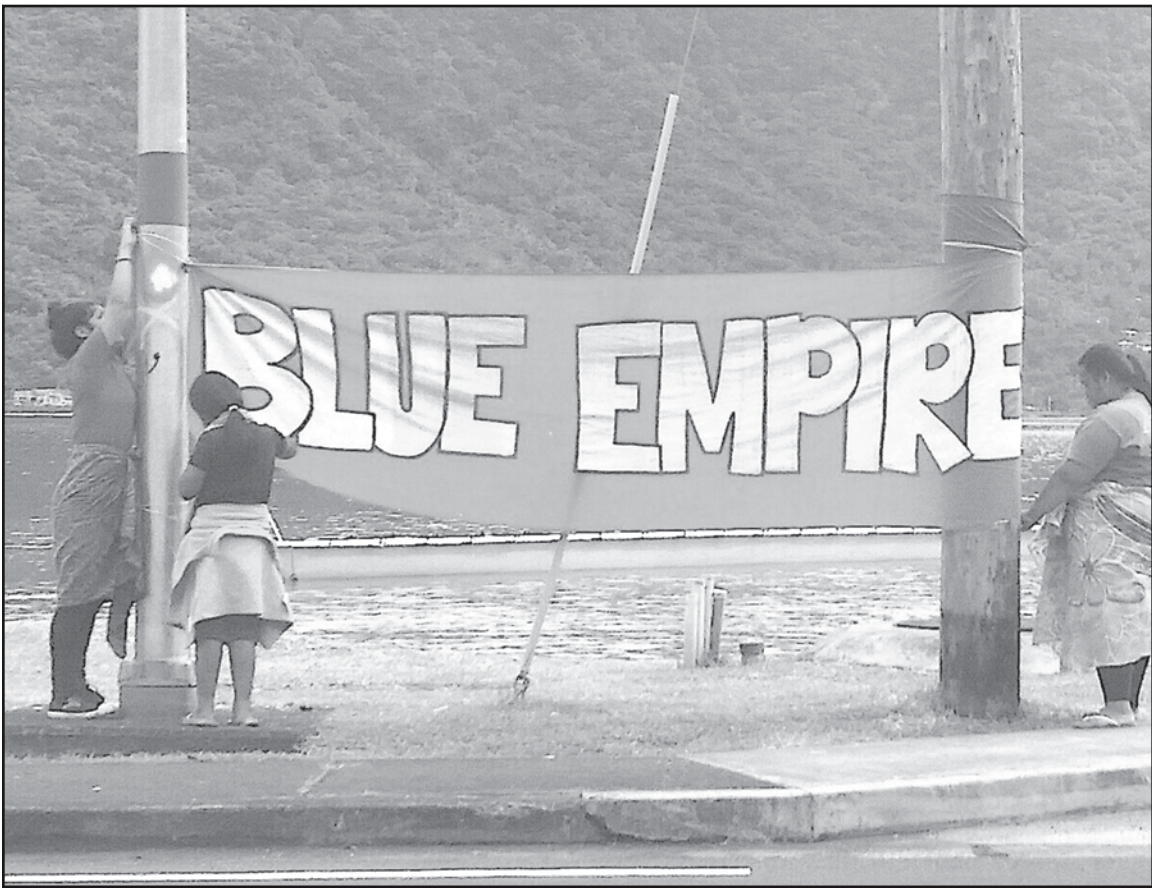


Congratulations go out to Samoana High School — the Blue Empire — for their victory on Saturday — the Sharks have now swept both the Varsity and JV football championship titles for the 2017-18 season.

A big “Malo Lava” also goes out to the Warrior Nation and all the other high schools that contributed to this remarkable season that ended peacefully, with no fights or rock-throwing incidents like previous years. See today’s sports section for full coverage of Saturday’s game.

[photo: Courtesy]





This past weekend, before the Samoana Sharks and the Tafuna Warriors squared off in the biggest game of the year — ASHSAA's varsity football championship game — fans and supporters of both teams took to the streets, hanging up homemade banners, school uniforms, and signs featuring the name and number of their favorite players. The east side, which usually bleeds red this time of year in support of the Faga'itua Vikings — who have consistently played and won championship games — was decorated this time with blue 'ie lavalavas and banners to celebrate the achievements of the Samoana Sharks, who have now won their first championship title since 2009.

It has been 8 years since the Sharks reigned supreme but this year is extra special for Samoana, as they swept both football divisions, winning championship titles in both the junior varsity and varsity divisions. This past Saturday, Samoa News was on the road, admiring the school spirit of each team and the support of their fans and family members. The fence near the Veterans Memorial Stadium was covered with maroon and white signs in support of the Warriors.

Heading into Utulei, Samoa News observed these three ladies hanging up a sign that read: "Blue Empire". At this same spot, after the game was over and Samoana was officially named champs, a big group of kids gathered next to the main road, waving at cars and awaiting the motorcade that usually parades the championship trophy for everyone to see.

It was a great run for the Sharks, a journey that has led many to call it "The Rise of the Blue Empire". See today's sports section for full coverage of Saturday's game.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

Governor uses media reports to check up on his directors' performances

SAYS DIRECTORS ONLY WANT TO COMMENT WHEN THINGS ARE GOOD, NEVER WHEN THEY'RE BAD

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga during his first ever press conference with the media last week, said the reason why some directors don't want to communicate with the media, when they are asked for comments on certain issues, is because either they don't know what they're doing, or they're not prepared to speak about the issue.

A press conference — for media representatives only — was set by the Governor's Office last week, after Lolo and Lemanu became aware that the media is struggling to get accurate information from some directors on what's going on in their departments.

Samoa News and KHJ reporters, along with an official from KVZK-TV, were present at the press conference, during which Lolo said he doesn't agree with how some directors are treating the media, they only want to communicate when there are good things happening in their departments, but when it's bad, they don't want to talk.

"That's not the way the Administration should run things," he said. "We have an open policy with the media, because we want the media to report on everything the government is doing, whether it's good or bad, it's the duty of the media to report and we have to respond."

Lolo emphasized that one of the reasons why he wants the media present during all cabinet meetings, is because he wants them to have access to all government events.

One of the things Lolo suggested for the media to do every week, is to make sure they know exactly what the governor's daily calendar looks like, to check with the governor's staff on daily updates to his calendar and schedule, so the media can report on all government events for the benefit of the community.

"I don't like what some of my directors are doing, they only have an open relationship with the media when there are good events that give the department credit, but when it comes to controversial issues, they don't want to be on the front line, but they try to push the media to me or the Lt. Governor — and that is not democracy," the governor said.

Lolo thanked the local media for their hard work, especially the delivery of information to the public everyday on what's going on in government. He said he wants the media to understand how the government functions, so they will know exactly what information should be disseminated to the

people.

The governor said every time the media reports on certain issues regarding each director's performance, he and Lemanu use the information to check on each director's performance — to check if what was reported by the media is exactly what happened.

"I encourage you (media) to follow government leaders everywhere they go and report everything that is happening in government; that will be a good way for the people to know and understand what exactly is going on in government.

"So instead of us trying to explain to the media what to report, you're right there at the place where you can find the right information; not only are you witnessing what is going on, but you can do your own assessment based on what you see," Lolo said.

He sought a recommendation from the media to help the government on how to improve its service to the people.

"Don't be afraid to analyze and write whatever the people are saying about government. When people complain, it tells us the story on what to do to improve the government's part. We don't ignore what the people are saying. I use everything the people say to build up a good and solid government.

"This is the people's government and we have to work together with the people; and the only way we and the people can share information is through you (media). Your role is very essential to the government, and that's why we continue to invite the media to be part of every cabinet meeting," Lolo said.

Speaking about the role of each director, Lolo said he and Lemanu are not stopping directors from speaking to the media, they only stop them from giving out false information. He said the reason why he recommended each director to speak to the media on behalf of their department and staff, is because they are the ones doing the job, not the governor or the lieutenant governor.

"We keep telling directors to allot time from their busy schedules to speak with the media, but it has come to our attention that most of the directors are not helping the media, instead, they are running away from them. Some of the directors advised us to stop the media from participating in cabinet meetings, but we told them no — we can't do that. The media is a vital part of our democracy and we have to make sure we extend them the chance to be part of government," Lolo said.

His words of advice to the

(Continued on page 12)



ATTENTION!!

Island-Wide Territorial Spelling Bee

will be held on Wed, Mar. 7, 2018

TO ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPELLING BEE WINNERS FOR 2018,
please email your Biographies and a Photo to
maelynnsamoanews@gmail.com/samoanews.ads@gmail.com.

OR drop it off at our office, located across from the ASG Port.
We are open from 8:00am until 4:00pm Monday through Friday.

For more information please contact 633-5599.



samoa news



Department of
EDUCATION

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Compiled by Samoa News Staff STARKIST EMPLOYEES RETURN TO WORK TODAY

After being out of work and going without a paycheck for five weeks, employees of StarKist Samoa are set to return to work today, Nov. 27th.

The 5-week shutdown was necessary in order for the can- nery to install equipment and upgrade its facilities.

StarKist management has confirmed that produc- tion resumes today, and all employees are to report to work, per their normal schedule.

Only Fish Room employees were told to report to work yes- terday, Nov. 26th

Everyone else will carry on with their usual shifts.

CHURCHES DONATE THE MOST MONEY FOR RED CROSS DISASTER RELIEF DRIVE

The more than \$147,000 in monetary donations collected during the “American Samoa Disaster Relief Fund & US Hurricane Support” fundraisers, spearheaded by the American Samoa Government, will be split between the national American Red Cross and the local Red Cross office, says Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga.

The drive was held to help victims affected by natural disasters in parts of the US and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

ASG’s funding raising com- mittee, co-chaired by Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga and Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Mauga T. Asuega, delayed until the governor returned to the territory two Fri- days ago, the official announce- ment of how much money was collected and how it’s to be distributed.

Mauga announced at last Wednesday’s cabinet meeting that \$147,255.24 was col- lected, and he thanked com- mittee members, many of whom are ASG employees. He also thanked local churches, non profit groups, government entities, businesses, and the community.

“We want to give you a heartfelt thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You stand beside the government in every way, in every shape, not only in this occasion, but so many times we ask you to help us, you again stepped up to the plate. And all we can say is fa’afetai lava,” Mauga said.

After citing a verse from the Bible, Mauga continued, “Whatever comes our way, what problems this world gives us, if we put our hearts together, and give it to the Lord, you know and I know, things will work out.”

A summary report of the fundraising was distributed at the cabinet meeting and Lolo was appreciative of all the effort that was put into it.

“If you look at the summary report... it tells the story of who we are”, he said, adding that the largest donations were from religious groups, followed by the government.

According to the report, “Religions/Denominations” gave \$35,300; followed by ASG departments/agencies with \$27,723; villages donated 18,900.

Others such as “businesses” donated \$14,570; “combined village & church” \$14,050; \$5,423 from organizations/ associations, and individual donations totaled \$3,605.

The report states that cases of tuna sold with proceeds towards the disaster fund total \$2,484 so far. And as of Nov. 21st, the date of the report, 194 cases were left to be sold at \$6 — which will bring in \$1,164 if they all sell.

The report also shows that

\$3,605 came from ASG depart- ments’ collection points and \$9,148 was received through the local Red Cross.

The governor said “our belief” is “put God first and that is reflected in the large donation from churches.”

Lolo said half of the total donations will go to the national American Red Cross to help affected states and territories, and the balance will go to the local Red Cross, which con- tinues to provide services to the public during disasters, despite difficulties they face.

He said it’s community donations that help the local Red Cross with its mission.

BLACK FRIDAY CAME AND WENT

Traffic on the west side was backed up and parking lots of the major retail outlets were packed last Friday morning, when businesses opened up two hours early for the biggest sale day of the year: Black Friday.

There was no school and a good number of adults took Friday off, as a continuation of the Thanksgiving holiday the day before, making for a four- day weekend for most families.

Samoa News got caught

up in the action at Neil’s ACE Home Center in Malaeimi. The company wasn’t only offering deals for Black Friday, they were also celebrating their 33rd anniversary.

Consumers started arriving about an hour before the sched- uled early morning opening time. Samoa News understands that the crowd was so big, people were shuffled into the store in groups, to control the foot traffic.

Cost-U-Less was no dif- ferent, with people arriving early to take advantage of the deals on electronics such as television sets. Down the street in the Nuuli area, it was con- gested as expected, in front of the Laufou Shopping Center as BlueSky Communications and CBT (across the street) were offering huge deals on various items.

Samoa News spoke to sev- eral business representatives who said they aren’t expecting sales to be great this holiday season, as the economy is in such a bad state.

“Of course we know sales will not be great this year but all

(Continued on page 12)

In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS FDA/JR No. 35-17 IN RE: A CHILD NOTICE/FA’AALIGA

TO: Mr. John Doe
Leone Village
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named respondent that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to terminate your parental rights in a female child born on July 24, 2017, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Fagaalu, American Samoa. A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first pub- lication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order that you have not acquired any parental rights to the minor child and place the child for adoption. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of the publica- tion of this notice and file and objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA’AALIGA E TUUINAATU ia te oe, le ua ta’ua i luga, ua iai se talosaga ua failaina i le Fa’ama- sinoga Maua luga o Amerika Samoa e iloilu ai ou aia fa’a-matua i se teineitiiti sa fanau o ia ile aso 24 o Iulai, 2017, i le Falemai i Fagaalu, Amerika Samoa. O lenei iloiloga e faia pe a tuana’i le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le aso o le ulula’i faasalalauga o lenei faaaliga, ma e ono tuuina atu ai se poloa’iga a le Fa’amasinoga e faailoa ai ua leai ni ou aia fa’a-matua i lenei teineitiiti. Afai ete tete’e, pe e te finagalo e faamaonia ou aia fa’a-matua, ia e failaina se talosaga tete’e i le Fa’amasinoga i totonu o le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le ulua’i faasalalauga o lenei fa’aaliga.

Dated/Aso: October 25, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 10/27 & 11/27/17



FA’ASILASILAGA OFISA O LE KONESULA SAMOA: ASO MALOLO KERISIMASI MA LE TAUSAGA FOU

E fa’asilasila atu ma le agaga fa’aaloalo i le mamalu o le atunu’u femalagaa’i e faapea:

O le a tapunia le Ofisa o le Konesula Aoao o Samoa, e afua atu i le **12:00 aoauli o le Aso Faraile, Tesema 22, 2017; seia aulia le itula 8:30 i le taeao o le Aso Lulu, Ianuari 03, 2018;** mo Aso Malolo o le Kerisimasi ma le Tausaga Fou.

E fautuaina ai le mamalu o e fofou malaga i Tumua e mana’omia pemitā, po o nisi auaunaga a lo tatou Ofisa nei mo ia aso Malolo, ina ia tapena mamao i ai.

Fa’afeta’i mai lo tatou Ofisa nei i telefoni 633-5919/633-5920; po o le imeli amtpvk1@gmail.com, pe a man’omia.

SUI TAIMI TAPUNIA O LE OFISA ASO FAIGALUEGA MASANI

Ina ia fesoaosani atili mo tapenaga mo aso Malolo, o le a suia ai le taimi tapunia ai le Ofisa mai le 3:00 (o lo’o iai nei) i le 3:30 p.m. i le Aso Faraile, Tesema 01, 2017 se’ia o’o i le Aso Tofi, Tesema 21, 2017.

A O TAPUNIA LE OFISA: TESEMA 25, 2017 - IANUARI 02, 2018

Mo ni Mataupu Le-Ma’alofia/Faanatinati a o tapunia le Ofisa ma aso Malolo ua ta’ua i luga; fa’amolemole fa’afeso’ota’i ane Alii Ofisa ia i Apia:

1. To’alepai Valhalla Siaopo Pese: +685-771-2166
2. Tailaoa Falaniko Lesa: +685-777-4504

E momoli atu le fa’afetai tele i le mamalu o le atunuu femalagaa’i mo lo outou taupati fai-pa’aga i lenei tausaga o le a mavae atu. Malo onosa’i, malo tauapati.

Momoli atu Mo’omo’oga alofa mo se Kerisimasi Fiafia ma le Tausaga Fou Manuia.

OFISA KONESULA-AOAO SAMOA

SAMOA CONSULATE GENERAL: CLOSURE OF THE OFFICE FOR CHRISTMAS 2017 & NEW YEAR 2018

The general public is hereby advised that the Office of the Samoa Consulate-General will be Closed from **12:00 Noon, Friday, December 22, 2017 until 8:30a.m., Wednesday, January 03, 2018.**

The traveling public is therefore urged to arrange for their needed documentation and permits well before closure, to avoid disappointment.

Contact phone numbers and e-mail address remain the same (i.e. phone: 633-5919/633-5920 and email amtpvk1@gmail.com)

CHANGE OF CLOSING TIME

To assit in facilitating the procurement of documents and entry permits, the Consulate will extend its opening hours by Closing at 3:30pm on work days from Friday, December 01, 2017 until Thursday, December 21, 2017.

During closure for Christmas and New Year (December 25, 2017 - January 02, 2018).

For Emergency and extenuating circumstance only: Please contact the following Immigration Officers in Apia:

1. To’alepai Valhalla Siaopo Pese: +685-771-2166
2. Taliaoa Falaniko Lesa: +685-777-4504

We take this opportunity to wish all our clients and the people of American Samoa all the very best for a most happy and joyous Christmas, and a safe and successful New Year.

SAMOA CONSULATE-GENERAL

CORRECTION

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Pro Tempore, Marie A. Alailima operates her own law firm: Marie A. Alailima, attorney-at-law, instead of Alaillima and Alailima, as stated in last Friday's Samoa News.

Samoa News apologizes to Alailima for the inadvertent error.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our

email news.newsroom@samoatelco.com

Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599

Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864

or by Email at news@samoanews.com

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Please visit samoanews.com for weekend updates.

Franken ashamed amid groping claims, will return to work



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Sen. Al Franken said he feels “embarrassed and ashamed” amid allegations that he groped several women, but said he looks forward to returning to work on Monday and gradually regaining voters’ trust.

The Democrat spoke to a handful of Minnesota media outlets on Sunday in the first interviews he’s granted since being swept into a nationwide tide of sexual misconduct allegations. Four women have accused the U.S. senator of sexual misconduct.

Three women allege Franken grabbed their buttocks while taking photos with them during separate incidents at campaign events in 2007, 2008 and 2010. Franken told the Minneapolis Star Tribune he doesn’t remember taking the specific photos, but said such groping is “not something I would intentionally do.”

Asked whether he expected other women to step forward with similar allegations, Franken said: “If you had asked me two weeks ago, ‘Would any woman say I had treated her with disrespect?’ I would have said no. So this has just caught me by surprise. ... I certainly hope not.” The first woman to come forward was Los Angeles radio news anchor Leeann Tweeden. She released a photo earlier this month showing the then-comedian grinning while reaching out toward her chest, as if to grope her, as she slept on a military aircraft during a USO tour in 2006.

Franken told Minnesota Public Radio on Sunday the

photo was “inexcusable.” He declined to explain it further.

“What my intention was doesn’t matter. What matters is that I am chained to that photo,” Franken said. “She ... didn’t have any ability to consent. She had every right to feel violated by that photo. I have apologized to her, and I was very grateful that she accepted my apology.”

Tweeden said Franken also forcibly kissed her while rehearsing for a USO performance; Franken has said he has a different recollection of the rehearsal.

Franken faces a Senate ethics investigation — which he welcomed in the wake of Tweeden’s allegation — though it’s unclear when that review may begin. Franken, who hasn’t faced widespread calls to resign, said he will fully cooperate.

Franken missed votes after the first accusations were made public. He said he spent the holiday break with his wife and the rest of his supportive family. When he goes back to work Monday, he said he’ll ask tough questions about proposed tax legislation that “would affect Minnesota and the rest of the country in a terrible way.”

Franken sidestepped when asked whether the allegations would make him less effective in the Senate. He noted he has apologized to women who have felt disrespected and “to everyone I have let down.”

“I think this will take some time,” he told Minnesota Public Radio. “I am trying to handle this in a way that adds to an important conversation. And to be a better public servant and a better man.”

President Trump expected to issue decision next month on 27 monuments

AMERICAN SAMOA’S ROSE ATOLL IS ONE OF THEM

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Reducing the size of the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument in America Samoa and the Pacific Remote Islands National Monument, as well as lifting commercial fishing restrictions on these two ocean monuments, have been recommended by 24 members of Congress in a letter to US President Donald Trump.

Congresswoman Aumua Amata, along with 23 of her colleagues from the Congressional Western Caucus signed a Nov. 9th letter, which applauds Trump on his call in April this year for a complete review by the US Interior Department of the nation’s 22 land and 5 ocean monuments. The majority of the marine monuments are in the Pacific.

The public comment period ended several weeks ago on Trump’s call for review.

According to congressional members, “Powerfully vocal special-interest groups have been undeniably effective in mobilizing their contributors to flood public comment periods in favor of these monuments under review.”

The also note that “many average Joes and blue collar folks” are not familiar with the comment period and pending deadlines.

“Their voices should not be forgotten or ignored because of a bureaucratic process established by the federal government.”

Thousands of comments were submitted during the comment period, regarding Rose Atoll and the Pacific Remote monuments, but a vast majority of them didn’t come from American Samoa. The majority of the commenters support keeping the current boundaries of the two monuments, despite objections from ASG and fishing industry officials.

For the Rose Atoll monument, the Congressional letter says all commercial fishing is prohibited there. It recalled what Aumua said earlier this year in May: “We are simply looking to remove the fishing restrictions on the American Samoa fleet for the migratory fish who travel through the monuments.”

Additionally, “our fishermen are the most responsible and regulated in the world...as it stands currently, these fish swim through the monuments and are then caught by nations with little to no environmental regulations...that is not helping the sustainability for the future.”

The congressional members recommend a “reduction of the size...so that the monument is ‘confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected,’ as well as repealing all fishing restrictions via executive order and returning management of the atoll to American Samoa.”

The same recommendation was made for the

Pacific Remote Islands Monument. In addition to repealing all fishing restrictions, congressional members recommend to repeal “unnecessary energy” restriction for this area and return management back to regional fishery management councils.

The group refers to a March 2017 letter from Aumua and US House Committee on Natural Resources chairman, US Rep. Rob Bishop, informing Trump that marine monuments in the US Pacific islands “resulted in the US purse seiner fleet losing access to historical fishing grounds” in this monument area.

As previously reported by Samoa News, Bishop and Aumua had signed a Mar. 7, 2017 letter asking Trump to remove all marine monument fishing prohibitions and reinstate fisheries management in accordance with federal law.

They said prohibitions on commercial fishing in waters around marine monuments have impacted US fishing fleets as well as one cannery operation in Pago Pago. (See Samoa News Mar. 8, 2017 edition for details).

US news outlets have reported that Trump is expected to make a decision next month on the 27 land and marine monuments after receiving in September this year the final report summarizing findings of the review of these monuments.

The Washington Post obtained a copy of US Secretary of Interior, Ryan K. Zinke’s memorandum to Trump, and released it online at the time as part of a national story. The memo notes that American Samoa’s economy is heavily dependent on tuna fish production, and many monument designations have contributed to ongoing threats to the viability of the industry.

Zinke recommends that the Rose monument proclamation be amended or the boundary be revised to “allow commercial fishing and ensure the practice is managed” under the federal Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

An identical recommendation is also made for the Pacific Remote Islands Monument, with Zinke saying that prior to the monument designation, there were Hawaiian and American Samoan longliners and purse seiner vessels operating there.

“Indirect benefits of the purse seine fishery is important to the economy of American Samoa, which is heavily dependent on these vessels,” the memo says.

American Samoa government and traditional leaders along with fishing and cannery officials have made identical arguments, saying that most of the US fleet have moved to fishing areas farther away from the territory, home to US canneries, because of fishing restrictions in certain areas of the Pacific Remote Island Monument.



FILE - In a Nov. 15, 2017 file photo, Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., speaks during the Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Franken has agreed to talk with a handful of Minnesota media outlets on Sunday, Nov. 26, marking his first interviews since the Democrat was swept into a nationwide tide of sexual harassment allegations.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana, File)



Tuna News from PNA

Cuba's expected next president starts to take higher profile

WALMART VISITS MAJURO

A team from the US mega-corporation Walmart spent a week in Majuro touring fish processing facilities, looking at fishing vessels and meeting with government fisheries officials and the PNA office, according to the Marshall Islands Journal.

“They are looking at the supply chain and sourcing fish,” said Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority Director Glen Joseph, who met with the five-person team Monday.

They toured Pan Pacific Foods tuna loining plant and the sashimi export operation managed by Marshall Islands Fishing Venture. MIFV Fish Base Manager Jin Liang said the Walmart representatives toured MIFV’s tuna processing facility Monday and also showed interest in the company’s longline fishing boat operation. There may be a chance to do business with the US-based corporation in the future, said Jin.

Parties to the Nauru Agreement Commercial Manager Maurice Brownjohn met with the group Monday morning and said they were interested primarily in social accountability of fishing operations. “We are way ahead on that,” said Brownjohn. He continued, “PNA with its globally recognized sustainable skipjack and yellowfin fishery has been implementing sustainable fishing measures for the fishery as well as requirements for fishing boats in managing fishers. Under Pacific, PNA has what we believe are the only social accountability guidelines for crews on purse seiners.”

Brownjohn said Walmart has contacted PNA before with interest in tuna from this part of the Pacific, but the visit this past week was the company’s first to Majuro.

“Hopefully following this visit we may now see MSC Pacific co-branded canned tuna in Walmart stores in the future.”

Joseph said the visit by Walmart representa-

tives was low key. “We didn’t know about it until we were alerted to the visit through Pan Pacific Foods,” said Joseph.

“We’ve got our (tuna) product at Costco, now Walmart’s here (taking a look),” he said. “Who’s next — Sam’s Club?”

Walmart is the largest business employer in the United States, with 2.1 million workers. Forbes lists Walmart as the 17th largest public company in the world.

PALAU TO TEST PAUL ALLEN’S SKYLIGHT

Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. announced SkyLight, a new satellite imagery and data-analysis system developed by Paul Allen, is set to be implemented for testing in Palau in December, and expected to be up and running in 2018.

Allen announced his plans at the recent Our Ocean conference in Malta. He is spending \$40 million to develop the system that will take multiple data sources from satellite images and shipping records as well as information manually collected by officials on docks. It will then use machine-learning software to track and predict which vessels are Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU).

Palau has declared 80% of its exclusive economic zone as protected marine sanctuary and bans foreign commercial fishing. SkyLight could be of great assistance in helping Palau better police its waters.

NEW OBSERVER CLASS COMMENCES IN MAJURO

John Still Villi, lead instructor for observer training, and Edward Adiniwin, director for CMI’s Maritime Vocational Training Center, have just finished conducting several two-week Standard of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers (STCW) classes where students learn personal safety techniques, CPR and

HAVANA (AP) — The man widely seen as Cuba’s next president delivered a defiant rejection of demands for change in the island’s single-party system as he participated Sunday in the first in a series of elections expected to end with his taking over from Raul Castro next year.

First Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel said the voting will deliver a message to the world.

“What message? Unity. Conviction. A message that our people don’t bow down, not to a hurricane and even less to external pressure and some people’s desire to see our system change,” the normally laconic Diaz-Canel said in an unusually lengthy series of statements to members of the foreign and state-run press.

Diaz-Canel’s message appeared to refer mostly to the Trump administration, which has tightened restrictions on U.S. travel to Cuba and stopped issuing visas to Cubans at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. The measures have been accompanied by tough talk about the U.S. administration’s desire for change in Cuba, where the Communist Party-led government maintains tight control of virtually every aspect of political and economic life.

Cuba’s electoral process begins with neighborhood meetings to select candidates for municipal councils. Dissidents groups said a record number of their supporters attempted to stand for nomination this year but were thwarted by state security agents who prevented them from attending the meetings, among other tactics. The municipal elections themselves were delayed more than a month by Hurricane Irma, which damaged large swaths of Cuba’s northern coast.

The country prohibits campaigning and political platforms: On Sunday, millions of Cubans turned out for local elections, in which voters in each district chose between two candidates whose bare-bones biographies were posted on the walls of voting stations. Results of the votes are expected to be released Monday.

Sunday’s winners will form a pool of thousands of officials from which commissions will pick candidates for Cuba’s provincial and national assemblies. After votes for those bodies in coming months, the new national assembly will pick the president and other top officials.

Castro, 86, has said he will step down in February, and most observers believe Diaz-Canel, 57, will be selected to succeed him. Castro was shown voting Sunday but made no public statements.

(Continued on page 13)



Pastor Selina S. Taliva'a
Acting President - Aglow-AS

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**You are a
Gamechanger.
Each of us has a
place of God's
intent, to bring light
into dark places.
Knowing our
identity in Jesus
brings that light to
us and others.
Join us for this
challenge for such a
time as this.**

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AMERICAN SAMOA

21 st Century
GameCHANGERS

kickoff

**Nov. 27-Monday
TO
Dec. 01-Friday
Time: 6:30pm
ALOFA TUNOA
Lion of Judah
Puapua, Leone**

Speakers:



Pastor Amy Tavai



Pastor Elaine Niko



Dr. Bishop Tavai Efa



**Rev. Elder Dr. Siulagi
Solomona Jr.**



Rev. Dr. Enesi Enesi



Praise & Worship
**Elijah Tavai
Worship Leader**
Aglow Youth Generation

Police say NY mall evacuated after gun discharges into floor

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y. (AP) — A crowded mall in New York’s Hudson Valley was evacuated Sunday after a man shot a gun into the floor, causing minor injuries to two bystanders, police said.

It wasn’t clear whether the gunfire shortly after 3 p.m. at the Galleria at Crystal Run in Middletown was accidental. Police were seeking the man with the gun.

“At this time it appears that a male wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt and gray pants discharged one round from a handgun into the floor on the second level of the mall in front of the American Eagle store,” Chief Robert Hertman of the Wallkill Police Department said at a briefing outside the mall.

Hertman said the two people were being treated for minor lacerations. He said it was unclear how they were injured.

Video posted on social media showed armed police in tactical gear running down a corridor of the mall while shoppers ran in the other direction.

Leighton Peterson was grabbing a pre-movie bite to eat in the mall’s food court around 3:20 when suddenly, he heard alarms, “and all of the employees were telling everybody to get to the exits and evacuate,” he told The Associated Press.

As people made orderly progress toward the exits, Peterson thought it might be a fire drill until he heard a worried-looking mall worker mention a shooting, he recalled.

Outside, holiday shoppers lingered at first to see whether there might be an all-clear and reopening. But before long, “it became pretty clear that there was an actual situation happening, so then people started leaving en masse,” in a bumper-to-bumper stream out of the packed parking lot, said Peterson, 32, a video editor.



People are evacuated after reports of shots fired at the Galleria at Crystal Run, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, in Middletown, N.Y. (Allyse Pulliam/Times Herald-Record via AP)

▶ Latest drug bust...

Continued from page 1

Nelson argued that although his client is being charged with two criminal counts, based on the court affidavit, the two charges have similar elements, and therefore his client should be charged with one criminal count instead of two.

He further argued that his

client is not a flight risk, that he has no intention of leaving the territory and his family. The government opposed the defense motion for a bail reduction. Pengelly argued that \$10,000 is a reasonable bail amount, based on the quantity of drugs that police allegedly found in the defendant’s possession.

After reviewing both arguments, Tauiliili-Langkilde ordered that Tanielu’s bail be reduced to \$5,000 — a cash bond, subject to the following conditions: He is not to possess any illegal drugs or consume any alcoholic beverages. He is also ordered to submit himself to random testing and he is not to have any direct or indirect contact with the government’s witness.

According to the government’s case, it was 11:10 a.m on Nov. 22, 2017 that a detective from the Vice & Narcotics Unit saw the defendant’s vehicle pulling into the parking lot of a store in Tafuna. The defendant has two outstanding bench warrant from the District Court for failing to appear on two separate cases.

The detective, who recognized Tanielu as the driver of the vehicle, parked his police unit close to the rear of the defendant’s vehicle, before stepping outside to make contact with him, where he notified Tanielu of the bench warrants.

Before the defendant was placed inside the police unit, he was patted down for weapons. Prior to this, Tanielu removed items from his pants pocket and placed it on the police vehicle. During the pat down, another police officer observed a pouch which held a glass pipe that contained a crystalline substance believed to be methamphetamine.

Other items that were pulled out from the defendant’s pocket included a pack of cigarettes, a cell phone, and \$9.00.

His vehicle was searched for contraband at the scene, and police discovered paraphernalia including cut up straws.

Tanielu and another man who was inside the vehicle when it was pulled over, were transported to the Tafuna Sub-station.

When questioned by police,

the defendant said he understood his rights and he refused to make a statement.

While preparing a property report on the evidence found on the defendant, the investigating officer found a cut up straw about an inch long, with both sides sealed, containing a crystalline substance inside the plastic cover of the cigarettes. The substance tested positive for methamphetamine.

When confronted by police about the cut up straw, Tanielu said, “I forgot I still had that in my cigarettes.”

The passenger of the vehicle Tanielu was driving was also interviewed by police and he agreed to provide a written statement.

According to the witness, the previous night, Nov. 21, 2017, at about 9 p.m., Tanielu contacted him to see if he wanted to buy meth, and he said yes.

The witness said Tanielu and another male picked him up and they were on their way to buy meth. He said not long after they pulled on to a dirt road, they were met by three males and he saw Tanielu give one of the guys money in exchange for a bag of ice.

Before they left the area, according to the witness, Tanielu loaded the pipe with meth and they took turns smoking it. Afterwards, Tanielu dropped him off at home.


The following day, Nov. 22nd, at about 5:00 a.m, the witness told police that his vehicle broke down in Faganeanea, and he contacted Tanielu for help.

He said Tanielu came and towed his vehicle to Malaeloa and on their way back, he and Tanielu went to the Aute and waited on the same dirt road where they made a previous drug transaction the night before.

Three males again walked up to their vehicle and sold them meth. The witness said after they made their buy, he and Tanielu went to Malaeloa to feed his pigs and afterwards, they were on the road again.

It was when they drove past Lions Park that their vehicle was stopped by police.

Tanielu remains in custody, unable to post bond. His preliminary examination is set for tomorrow in the District Court.



AMERICAN SAMOA
POWER AUTHORITY

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

PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Welder I	Posting Date	November 22, 2017
Department	Power Generation	Deadline	December 4, 2017, 4:00 pm
Division	Electric	Starting Rate	\$8.89/hr - \$9.25/hr
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation		
Reports To	Mechanical Supervisor	Job Grade/Status	D/6/A - D/7/A, Non-Exempt

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The primary objective of the position is to perform welding and fabrication services for the Electric Division. The journeyman welder shall weld and/or fabricate auxiliary pieces, frames and pipework for – generator sets, mechanical and electrical equipment, building frames and steel tanks for power generation and other company operations; shall rebuild and/or weld components; shall ensure all work is conducted safely and in accordance with established standards and best practices; shall work to enhance the productivity, reliability and efficiency of the generation division and other utility services.

Minimum Requirements

Education	Trade Certificate in welding or equivalent discipline.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Five (5) years related work experience in welding and fabrication required in addition to the minimum educational requirement having been obtainedSeven (7) years related work experience in welding and fabrication will be considered in place of the minimum educational requirement.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be knowledgeable and have experience with the operation of the arc-weld, tig-weld, mig-weld, gas-weld and welding of various metal materials (e.g. aluminum, stainless steel, steel, iron, etc.)Develop and display a working knowledge of rules and safety practices.Refer to service guides where required in order to obtain additional information.Determine dimensional specifications, set up and operating requirements for each job.Respond with sound judgment to unusual and hazardous circumstances.Maintain information on dimensional specifications for future reference.Maintain records of all work undertaken and parts/materials used.Refer to service guides where required in order to obtain additional information.Skills to fabricate and weld metal materials according to required specifications and standards.Skills to manufacture and/or fabricate pieces, frames, columns, beams, tanks and pipework for power generation and other company operationsAbility to communicate with other workers to coordinate the preparation and completion of work assignments.Ability to liaise with warehouse personnel and mechanics with regards to ordering of spare parts for welding machines and equipment, welding materials and specialist tools etc.Ability to use hand and power tools when required.Inspect progress using required tools and instruments of the welding trade..Develop and display a working knowledge of rules and safety practices.Assist coworkers in solving work related problems.Perform other duties as required.Work involves standing, walking, stooping, bending, climbing and kneeling; Medium to heavy lifting is required. Good physical fitness is a requirement.
Physical Demands:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Candidate will be subject to working under bad/unclear weather conditions in order to complete tasks.

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer * A Drug Free Workplace

► Former STP plant...

Continued from page 1

The storage facility was officially opened about two years ago; however the STP cannery shut down last December, laying off some 800 workers.

The governor addressed what some in the community have said over the past several months: that the Lolo Administration is not supportive of the cannery, after the governor decided early this year not to lease government land at the ASG shipyard facility in Satala to StarKist to build a freezer storage facility — which the cannery has been trying to do since the Togiola Administration.

Lolo claims that some people have said the “governor is anti-canneries” but that is not the case. According to the governor, the canneries is just one of the many sectors of the community that the government depends on. He said many times, when people don’t understand decisions made by the governor, they tend to think that is the “attitude” of the governor — going up against others.

Regarding land for the StarKist storage facility, Lolo said it was explained to StarKist officials — during the Las Vegas meeting — the reason “why we pulled out of the piece of ASG land that was planned for their use” — referring to the shipyard land. “We cannot invest millions and millions of dollars to upgrade the shipyard and yet we’re giving away a parcel of land,” he said. Lolo gave a similar explanation during a cabinet meeting earlier this year. For many years, StarKist has been trying to secure land for additional freezer storage facility space and just a few months ago, they were offered ASG land in Satala that was occupied by the old Satala power plant after the Lolo Administration denied the company’s request for space at the shipyard facility. Commerce Department director

Keniseli Lafaele, who is also the shipyard board chairman told Samoa News in August this year that StarKist is considering all options, including the old Satala power plant land.

“We’re hopeful StarKist decides on the matter soon so the necessary work to increase its cold storage capacity gets underway, and resolving the supply of fish issue to a significant extent thus avoiding future intermittent closure of operations,” Lafaele said.

STARKIST MEETING

Early this month, Lolo along with some of his cabinet members and Congresswoman Aumua Amata met in Las Vegas, Nevada, with StarKist Inc. officials including the company’s president and CEO, Andrew Choe to discuss several issues including local and federal support for the cannery’s operations in the territory.

Responding to questions last Friday, Lolo said there were no changes shared by StarKist during the Las Vegas meeting regarding the temporary shutdown of the StarKist Samoa plant for five weeks. The cannery’s production is set to resume today, along with American Samoa Talofa Systems Inc., which manufactures cans for StarKist. Both companies are owned by South Korean based Dongwon Industries.

Lolo said the importance of the meeting with StarKist officials is that both sides are now much clear on each others’ position. “We might have some differences on individual positions, but the bottom line is that the government” will not shy away from its continued support of he cannery, he explained.

And that’s why he invited Congresswoman Aumua, so StarKist understands that the “support of our government along with the Congresswoman remains firm,” said Lolo.

Pope’s trip to Myanmar, Bangladesh boiling down to 1 word

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis’ aim in visiting Myanmar and Bangladesh is to encourage their tiny Catholic communities and bring a message of friendship and peace to some of Asia’s most peripheral and poor. The big question looming is whether he’ll utter the word “Rohingya” while he’s there. The “will he or won’t he?” issue has dominated debate before Francis’ trip, which begins Monday when his Alitalia charter flight lands in Yangon and ends with a youth rally in Dhaka on Dec. 2.

In between, Francis will meet separately with Myanmar’s civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, its powerful military chief and Buddhist monks. He’ll greet a delegation of Rohingya Muslims and meet with Bangladesh’s political and religious leadership in Dhaka. Masses for

the Catholic faithful and meetings with the local church hierarchy round out the itinerary in each country.

Myanmar’s local Catholic Church has publicly urged Francis to avoid using the term, which is shunned by many locally because the ethnic group is not a recognized minority in the country. Rohingya in recent months have been subject to what the United Nations says is a campaign of “textbook ethnic cleansing” by the military in poverty-wracked Rakhine state.

Francis, though, has already prayed for “our Rohingya brothers and sisters,” and any decision to avoid the term could be viewed as a capitulation to Myanmar’s military and a stain on his legacy of standing up for the most oppressed and marginalized of society, no matter how impolitic.

Second California inmate in brazen courthouse getaway caught



FILE - This undated photo released by the Santa Clara County Department of Corrections shows John Bivins. Authorities say two jail inmates, Bivins and Tramel McClough, who escaped from a suburban Silicon Valley courthouse in a waiting vehicle on Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, have been captured.

(Santa Clara County Department of Corrections via AP, File)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — in a San Francisco Bay Area suburb, authorities said Sunday. The second of two California inmates who made a brazen courthouse getaway was caught The Santa Clara County sheriff’s office posted on social

media that U.S. marshals arrested John Bivins in San Leandro about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco. The sheriff’s office did not provide further details and a department spokesman did not immediately respond to an email for comment.

Bivins, 47, and Tramel McClough, 46, escaped from a deputy Nov. 6 escorting them through a hallway outside a Silicon Valley courtroom for a hearing. The men ran through an emergency exit, down stairs and outside to a waiting car before abandoning the vehicle for a U-Haul moving van and fleeing the Palo Alto courthouse.

Highway patrol officers in Stockton caught McClough last week when the men were spotted driving. McClough ditched the car and ran into a Walmart, where he was caught. But Bivins took the wheel and escaped.

Officials said the men were held without bail after robbing a Verizon store of \$64,000 in merchandise in February.

The escape was the latest setback for the sheriff’s department. Four inmates escaped from the county’s main jail last year by cutting through metal bars and rappelling with a rope made of clothing and sheets.



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) RFQ-017-2018

Issuance Date: November 13, 2017

Date & Time Due: December 13, 2017

No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Qualification (RFQ) from qualified firms to provide:

“Ofu Airport Runway 8/26 Rehabilitation - Design Services”

Submission

Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFQ: Ofu Airport Runway 8/26 Rehabilitation - Design Services.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), December 13, 2017:

Office of Procurement

American Samoa Government

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

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

Document

The RFQ Scope of Work outlining the qualification requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

Review

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

Right of Rejection

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

Samoa Government or the public.as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government or the Public.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



FILE - In this Sept. 13, 2017 file photo, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney departs after a television interview at the White House in Washington. Senior Trump administration officials said Saturday, Nov. 25, that they expect no trouble when President Donald Trump's pick for temporary director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau shows up for work, despite the clash on who should take over. Trump announced he was picking Mulvaney within a few hours of Richard Cordray's announcement on Friday.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

Suit challenges Trump's pick for consumer financial bureau

President Donald Trump's appointment of his budget director as interim director of a consumer financial protection agency championed by Democrats was challenged in a lawsuit filed in federal court Sunday night.

Leandra English, the federal official elevated to the position of interim director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by its outgoing director, filed the suit against Trump and his choice, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney.

The suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia asked for a declaratory judgment and a temporary restraining order to block Mulvaney from taking over the bureau.

English cited the Dodd-Frank Act, which created the Consumer Financial Protec-

tion Bureau. She said that as deputy director, she became the acting director under the law and argued that the federal law the White House contends supports Trump's appointment of Mulvaney doesn't apply when another statute designates a successor.

English was chief of staff to bureau director Richard Cordray when he named her deputy director as he prepared to resign last Friday. Cordray was appointed to the position by President Barack Obama and has been long criticized by congressional Republicans as overzealous.

The White House, with the support of an opinion issued Saturday by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, maintained that the president has the power to appoint an acting director.

Steven A. Engel, newly confirmed head of the office, wrote that, while the deputy director may serve as acting director under the statute, the president still has authority under the Vacancies Reform Act.

A new director must be confirmed by the Senate.

Earlier Sunday, Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the third-ranking GOP leader, pledged swift action whenever Trump nominates a successor to Cordray.

Meanwhile, Thune said he expected that Mulvaney "will be on the job and he'll be calling the shots over there," but acknowledged the issue could end up in court.

Beyond the fight over who's in charge is the future direction of the bureau, created after the 2008 financial crisis and given a broad mandate as a watchdog for consumers when they deal with banks and credit card, student loan and mortgage companies, as well as debt collectors and payday lenders.

"All Americans should be deeply concerned about the White House's cynical decision to flout the law and attempt to put the ringleader of its dangerous, anti-consumer protection policies in charge," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said in a statement issued before the lawsuit was filed.

Taking aim at Mulvaney, she said the public deserves "a champion that protects them from predatory bankers and lenders, not the leadership of a Wall Street pawn who denigrates consumer protection as a 'sick, sad joke.'"

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer joined Pelosi in arguing that English was the rightful acting director.

He accused Trump of ignoring the law "in order to put a fox in charge of a hen house."

Thune said he hoped eventually to see "reforms to that agency, which has essentially very little accountability to the Congress or anybody else." Another Republican, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said he thinks Trump was on "good ground" to pick Mulvaney for the job and hopes Mulvaney "will ride herd on these folks."

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, said putting Mulvaney in charge was part of an effort to destroy the bureau.

"Wall Street hates it like the devil hates holy water," Durbin said. "And they're trying to put an end to it with ... Mulvaney stepping into Cordray's spot. But the statute is specific, it's clear, and it says that the deputy shall take over."

Thune appeared on "Fox News Sunday" while Durbin and Graham spoke on CNN's "State of the Union."



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Saturday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
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CRAIG JOINERY



Tens of thousands stranded as Bali volcano closes airport

KARANGASEM, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian authorities raised the alert for a rumbling volcano on Bali to the highest level on Monday, stranding tens of thousands of travelers as ash clouds forced the closure of the tourist island’s international airport.

Mount Agung has been hurling clouds of white and dark gray ash about 3,000 meters (9,800 feet) into the atmosphere since the weekend. Video released by the national disaster agency showed a mud-flow of volcanic debris and water known as a lahar moving down the volcano’s slopes.

Bali’s airport was closed early Monday after tests indicated ash had reached its airspace and authorities raised the volcano’s alert to the highest danger level.

Flight information boards showed rows of cancelations as tourists arrived at the busy airport expecting to catch flights home.

Airport spokesman Air Ahsanurrohim said 445 flights were canceled, stranding about 59,000 travelers. The closure is in effect until Tuesday morning though officials said the situation will be reviewed every six

hours. Bali is Indonesia’s top tourist destination, with its gentle Hindu culture, surf beaches and lush green interior attracting about 5 million visitors a year.

Geological agency head, Kasbani, who goes by one name, said the alert level was raised because the volcano has shifted from steam-based eruptions to magmatic eruptions. However he said he’s still not expecting a major eruption.

“We don’t expect a big eruption but we have to stay alert and anticipate,” he said on Indonesian TV.

The volcano’s last major eruption in 1963 killed about 1,100 people.

The exclusion zone around the crater was widened to 10 kilometers (6 miles). Previously it ranged between 6 and 7.5 kilometers.

Ash up to half a centimeter (less than half an inch) thick has settled on villages around the volcano and soldiers and police distributed masks on the weekend.

In Karangasem district that surrounds the volcano, tourists stopped to watch the towering plumes of ash as children made their made to school.



A view of the Mount Agung volcano erupting in Karangasem, Bali, Indonesia, Monday, Nov. 27, 2017. The volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali erupted for the second time in a week on Saturday, disrupting international flights even as authorities said the island remains safe.

(AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati)

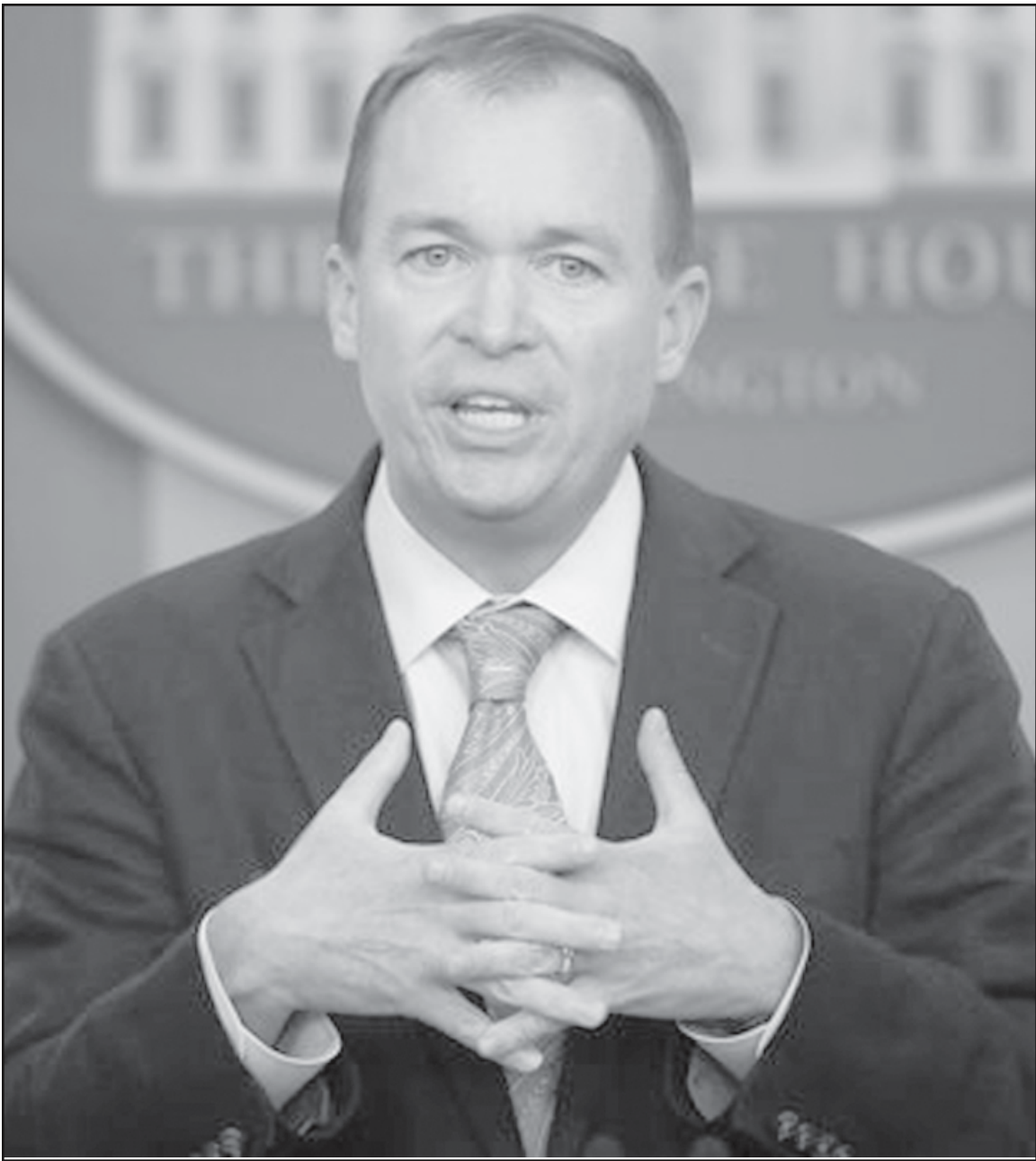
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FILE - In this Thursday, July 20, 2017, file photo, Budget Director Mick Mulvaney gestures as he speaks during the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington. Mulvaney is expected to take on a second role in the Trump administration as acting director of a consumer financial agency created by the Obama administration. Mulvaney is expected to be named to lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on an acting basis in addition to his duties as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

The government agency in a tug-of-war leadership fight

The U.S. consumer watchdog agency, enmeshed in partisan politics since its creation after the 2008 financial crisis, is now at the center of a tug-of-war over who will lead it. Both the departing director — an Obama appointee often criticized as being too aggressive by banks and Congressional Republicans — and the White House have named interim leaders of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

WHAT THE CFPB IS

The CFPB was proposed by now-Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., in her previous job at Harvard Law School, and it was created as part of the laws passed following the 2008 financial crisis and subsequent recession. It was given a broad mandate to be a watchdog for consumers when they deal with banks and credit card, student loan and mortgage companies, as well as debt collectors and payday lenders.

The idea was to prevent financial companies, such as mortgage servicers, from exploiting consumers. Critics had said those kinds of companies had been subject to weak oversight before the financial crisis. The CFPB gets its funding from the Federal Reserve and its director is given significant leverage to go after what he or she considers important. The director can be removed only “for cause,” such as neglect of duty, and not over political differences. The structure of the agency has long been a sticking point because of arguments that it gives too much power to a single agency director and limits the president’s ability to replace that person.

WHAT IT DOES

Under the leadership of its first director, Richard Cordray, the CFPB implemented or proposed a myriad of new rules and regulations for the banking industry. Nearly every American who deals with banks or a credit card company or has a mortgage has been affected by rules the agency put in place.

The agency has also taken legal action against banks, mortgage companies, credit card issuers, payday lenders, debt collectors and others, and extracted billions of dollars in settlements. When Wells Fargo

was found to have opened millions of phony accounts for its customers, the CFPB fined the bank \$100 million, the agency’s largest penalty to date.

The banking industry has viewed CFPB as a thorn in its side, and accused it of overreaching in its regulation of consumer financial activities. Cordray lost some notable battles, such as when the GOP-led Congress overturned a regulation that would have ensured that customers could band together to sue their banks in a class action.

THE LEADERSHIP FIGHT

Facing Republican opposition, President Barack Obama had used a congressional recess appointment to install Cordray to lead the agency. When President Donald Trump was elected, Cordray became one of the highest-level political appointees to remain, and some congressional Republicans had urged Trump to fire him.

Cordray announced earlier this month that he planned to resign his office by the end of November. Many thought his early resignation would give Trump a chance to appoint his own director, who could remake the agency and potentially roll back the protections Cordray and his staff put into place.

But in tendering his resignation effective Friday, Cordray simultaneously elevated Leandra English, who was the agency’s chief of staff, into the deputy director position. With Cordray’s resignation, English would become acting director. That set up a fight with the Trump White House, which later Friday named Mick Mulvaney, currently director of the Office of Management and Budget, as interim director.

Cordray and the White House have cited different laws to support their positions. Administration officials on Saturday acknowledged that some other laws appear to clash with the one they cited, but said that in this case the president’s authority takes precedence.

On Sunday night, English filed a lawsuit in federal court against Trump and Mulvaney, asking for a temporary restraining order to block Mulvaney from taking over the bureau.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT “PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING”

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

Date: November 27 - December 1, 2017
Time: 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
Place: ASCC Land Grant Training Room

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

Thank You.

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‘O le a faia se a’oa’oga mo i latou o lo o fa’aaogā vailā’au o’ona i fa’atoaga. A fai o lo’o ‘ē fa’aaogā vailā’au o’ona , po o ‘ē faamoemoe fo’i e te fa’aaogā i se taimi o i luma, o lou avanoa lelei lenei e te ‘auai ai i lenei a’oa’oga tāua. ‘O taimi la nei mo lenei vasega:

Aso: Novema 27 - Tesema 1, 2017
Taimi: 12:00 - 4:00 i le afiafi
Nofoaga e fai ai: Potu mo A’oa’oga, a le Vaega o Laufanua ma Atina’e a le Kolisi Tu’u Faatasi ma Alaalafaga a Amerika Samoa

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

Fa’afetai.



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FILE - In this Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump speaks in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House, in Washington. Trump in tweets Sunday, Nov. 26, is again coming to the side of Republican Roy Moore by bashing the Democratic nominee Doug Jones in the Alabama Senate race.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

Trump chooses legislative agenda over GOP repulsion of Moore

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that electing a Democrat as Alabama’s next senator “would be a disaster,” making clear the success of his legislative agenda outweighs widespread GOP repulsion at the prospect of seating Republican Roy Moore, who is dogged by allegations of sexual misconduct. The allegations, including claims that the 70-year-old Moore sexually assaulted or molested two teenage girls while he was in his 30s, have made the Dec. 12 election a referendum on “the character of the country” that transcends partisan politics, said GOP Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, as the party establishment cringed at Trump’s latest intervention in the closely contested race.

“In my opinion, and in the opinion of many Republicans and conservatives in the Senate, it is time for us to turn the page because it is not about partisan politics. It’s not about electing Republicans versus Democrats,” Scott said Sunday on ABC’s “This Week.”

“It’s about the character of our country,” he said. Trump on Sunday once again plunged himself into the race, declaring in a pair of tweets — without mentioning Moore by name — that electing Moore’s Democratic opponent, Doug Jones, would “be a disaster.”

“The last thing we need in Alabama and the U.S. Senate is a Schumer/Pelosi puppet who is WEAK on Crime, WEAK on the Border, Bad for our Military and our great Vets, Bad for our 2nd Amendment, AND WANTS TO RAISES TAXES TO THE SKY,” he wrote from Florida, referring to Democrats’ congressional leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi.

Jones, speaking to reporters in Birmingham, shrugged off Trump’s criticisms, saying he would not be a partisan voter. He said Alabamians are focused on issues such as the economy, education and health care.

“My record speaks for itself ... I think I am very strong on the issues that the people of Alabama care for,” Jones said.

Jones, a former federal prosecutor, said he would be an independent voice in the U.S. Senate, similarly to his political mentor, the late U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin, who represented the state for nearly 20 years.

Jones’ campaign issued a more biting statement saying, “Roy Moore was unfit for office even before nine Alabama women served as witnesses to all Alabamians of his disturbing conduct.”

Two women have accused Moore of sexually assaulting or molesting them decades ago, when he was in his 30s and they were teenagers. Moore has denied the accusations. At least five others

have said he pursued romantic relationships when they were teenagers and he was a prosecutor. Moore has said he never dated “underage” women.

Moore has had few public appearances since the accusations surfaced earlier this month, but his campaign quickly touted the president’s tweets, adding “We will defeat him on Dec. 12,” a reference to Jones.

Trump had stayed silent on Moore for days until all but endorsing him while departing for Washington last week. The president dismissed questions from reporters about his willingness to back a Republican accused of sexual assault over a Democrat. Trump, who won election despite facing more than a dozen accusations of sexual misconduct himself, appeared last Tuesday to shrug off the allegations against Moore, saying, “Forty years is a long time.”

Trump has no campaign events for Moore scheduled at this time, said White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters.

Top Republicans in Congress, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, have called for Moore to leave the race, and the Republican National Committee and the National Republican Senatorial Committee have pulled their support for his campaign. Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who has also called for Moore to step down, said Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union” that Trump is “definitely trying to throw a lifeline to Roy Moore.”

But Graham said when it comes to Moore, it’s unclear “what winning looks like.”

“If he wins, we get the baggage of him winning and it becomes a story every day about whether or not you believe the women or Roy Moore, should he stay in the Senate, should he be expelled. If you lose, you give the Senate seat to a Democrat at a time we need all the votes we can get,” he said, referring to Republicans’ current 52-48 majority in the Senate.

“The moral of the story is: Don’t nominate somebody like Roy Moore who could actually lose a seat that any other Republican could win,” Graham said. Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 3 Republican in the Senate, said he’d like to see Trump “come out and support what many of us have said and that is that Roy Moore needs to step aside” and “allow somebody else to be a write-in candidate.”

He said on “Fox News Sunday” that if Moore ends up winning and comes to Washington in January, he will be the immediate subject of an ethics investigation, “which is going to be a cloud that he’ll be operating in and it’s going to be a distraction for us and for our agenda.”





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Notice for Proposed Registration of Land

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the request which has been received by the Territorial Registrar for the registration of a certain land **TOMEA** which is situated in or near the village of **VAILOATAI/TAPUTIMU**, County of **TUALATAI** Island of **TUTUILA**, from **SATELE GALU** of the village of **VAILOATAI/TAPUTIMU** as a/an **COMMUNAL** land of **SATELE FAMILY**.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone claiming an interest in the above named land, may file an objection with the Territorial Registrar's Office within 60 days from the date of posting of this notice. If no objection is filed within 60 days from the date of posting of this notice, the land proposed herein will be registered as such in accordance with the law of American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the survey and description of the said land are now on file in the Territorial Registrar's Office where they may be examined at any time prior to the expiration of the said sixty (60) days.

POSTED: OCTOBER 13, 2017 thru DECEMBER 12, 2017
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

Fa'aaliga o le Fia Fa'amauina o se Fanua

O LE FA'AALIGA LENEI ua fa'asalalauina ona o le talosaga ua fa'aulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa ina ia fa'amauina le fanua o **TOMEA**, e tu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o **VAILOATAI/TAPUTIMU**, Itumalo o **TUALATAI** i le motu o **TUTUILA**, ina ia fa'amauina e **SATELE GALU** ole fanua **FAITELE** o **LE AIGA SA SATELE**.

SO O SE TASI e aia ma fa'atu'iese i le fanua ua ta'ua i luga ia fa'aulufaleina mai sana fa'atu'iese-ga tusitusia i le Ofisa o le Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na fa'aalia ai lea fa'aaliga. Afai o le a leai se fa'atu'iese-ga e fa'aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 60, o le fanua leni o le a fa'amauina e pei ona ta'ua i luga e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono i Amerika Samoa.

O LE FA'AFANUA ma fa'amatalaga e uiga i lenei fanua, ua iai nei i le Ofisa ole Resitara, ma e avanoa mo se iloiloiga i so'o se aso i totonu o le 60 o le faitauina o aso. 10./27 & 11/27/17



Back-dropped with pictures of the late Fidel Castro and President Raul Castro a school girl and boy raise their hands to confirm a vote as a woman casts her ballot for municipal elections in Havana, Cuba, Sunday Nov. 26, 2017. The elections were postponed by a month to Nov. 26 after Hurricane Irma devastated part of the island last September. (read story page 5)

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Community brief...

Continued from page 3

we can do is drop the prices on certain items that families need, things that are necessities in the home,” said one store manager.

With cannery workers returning to work today after a 5-week closure, and the recent reduction in work hours for government employees, times are tough and many people are trying to budget and tighten up on spending.

POTENTIAL CORAL BLEACHING EVENT THIS SUMMER

PAGO PAGO, AS — Friday, Nov. 24th, 2017 — Coral reefs are the most diverse marine environment on the planet, providing homes to hundreds of species of fish and coral. We depend on the reef for food, protection from storms, and recreation. Unfortunately, coral bleaching is considered one of the greatest threats to the world’s coral reef systems, and it is expected to happen more often as climate change continues.

American Samoa experienced some coral bleaching on almost all reefs in 2015 and 2016 and bleaching is expected during this upcoming January. Bleaching can cause fish kills, coral death, and coral disease.

Understanding bleaching and how it relates to high temperature events allows us to prepare for and attempt to lessen the impacts on our local environment.

Corals bleach when they become stressed because of the increase in water temperature, pollution, and exposure to too much sunlight. When corals bleach, the coral animal push out tiny colored algae (marine plant) that live in their cells causing the corals to turn white. The white coral you see as a result does not necessarily mean the coral is dead, but it is starving. Corals rely on these colored algae for oxygen and food (energy), so if a coral remains bleached for long enough, it will die. Even when corals are capable of recovering from bleaching events, they often experience a decline in growth rates, reproductive potential, and overall health.

Our reefs continue to be threatened by negative impacts from people, such as leaking septic systems, illegal piggeries, and adding too much fertilizer to crops. The high amount of nutrients from these activities make their way into our ocean and damage the eco-

system by feeding large mats of algae (limu) that suffocate or harm corals. This is why it is also important to protect fishes that eat algae (like Alogo, Poge, Ume-isu, Umelei) and help control algal overgrowth.

The islands of Hawai’i and Guam are both considering laws to limit the fishing of algae-eating fish while their reefs recover from the current bleaching events.

We can help reduce the likelihood of bleaching events by minimizing human activities that produce the carbon emissions that drive climate change. With a little effort we can also help the reef quickly recover back to its current healthy state when bleaching events do occur.

Everyone can make a difference by not littering, making sure your septic system is up to date, reporting illegal piggeries, and protecting plant-eating fish like Alogo.

Feel free to stop by the National Park office if you would like to learn more about climate change, coral bleaching, and how it will affect our environment.

(Source: National Park Service)

Governor uses media...

Continued from page 2

media: “Freedom of expression is a two-way process. When the people wish to voice their concerns, questions and even complaints, the government needs to respond, elaborate, and even explain why things are happening.”

Lolo explained that there are also reasons why sometimes certain information cannot be revealed. For example, the Department of Public Safety, they will never reveal any information to

the media about any continuing investigation or confidential matters, unless that matter has been resolved. But for most of the directors, Lolo said he doesn’t see any reason why they are not willing to work together with the media.

The governor said he believes the close relationship between the government and the media will continue until the last day of his Administration.

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Head of the Pakistani Tehreek-i-Labaik Ya Rasool Allah radical religious party, Khadim Hussain Rizvi gestures during a press conference regarding Saturday's police operation against them, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017. Pakistani Islamists pressed ahead with their rally near Islamabad in even larger numbers on Sunday, a day after clashes with police left six dead and dozens wounded.

(AP Photo/Anjum Naveed)

Pakistan law minister resigns, Islamists disband protest

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani Islamists announced on Monday they were disbanding their sit-in near Islamabad after the country's law minister resigned, caving in to the protesters who have been demanding his ouster in a three-week-long rally.

After Zahid Hamid's resignation, the Tehreek-i-Labaik Ya Rasool Allah party, which is behind the protest in Islamabad and other cities and towns across Pakistan, said they were dispersing peacefully.

The developments underscored how a small Islamist party was able to pressure the Pakistani government and force

it to accept its demands through a protracted standoff that started earlier in November.

The Islamists had demanded Hamid's resignation over an omitted reference to Islam's Prophet Muhammad in a parliamentary bill. He apologized for the omission in the bill, saying it was a clerical error that was later corrected.

But the Islamists persisted, taking to the streets and setting up their sit-in at the Faizabad intersection on the edge of the Pakistani capital.

Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal told the chief justice of the Islamabad High Court, Shaukat Sadiqui, on Monday that the

government has signed an agreement with the rally organizers to avoid a "civil-war like situation."

The Islamist party's chief, Khadim Hussain Rizvi, told supporters at the Islamabad sit-in that they "are immediately ending" the rally. He also thanked the army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, for facilitating the agreement, under which Hamid would resign and all detained party activists would be freed.

Rizvi asked his followers to pack up but await the return of their detained activists so that they could all go back together to the city of Lahore, the party's base.



► Tuna news from PNA...

Continued from page 5

first aid, fire prevention and fighting, and occupational health and safety.

Those who pass the class and hold a high school diploma or GED are eligible to take the fisheries observer training course that commenced last week at the College of the Marshall Islands Arrak campus. Ten students have signed up for the challenge. These ten students are all males, but the instructors encourage women to participate.

During the course the students will learn essential skills including geography and navigation in addition to basic math, English and computer skills. Students are also taught environmental laws regarding issues such as the proper disposal of waste at sea. Students must pass both written and practical tests in order to graduate to become fisheries observers.

The course is rigorous but has many perks. Tuition is covered by the National Training Council, and meals, housing, and transportation are provided for the duration of the course. Students also earn a weekly stipend. When they graduate in nine weeks they will be fisheries observers for the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), ready to go to sea on purse seine and longline fishing boats and capable of earning \$75 to \$85 per day at sea. In port they can supplement their income as a port monitor, collecting and reporting data as vessels transship their tuna.

An independent observer is required on every purse seine fishing trip within Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) waters, which includes the RMI's 200-mile exclusive economic zone. The

observer keeps data and records that are turned in at the end of each fishing trip. Their reports are an essential part of PNA's fisheries management system to prevent boats from Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity. Data from each fishing trip is shared with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and MIMRA to help scientists determine best practices and quotas for keeping tuna stocks sustainable.

Much has been done to ensure the safety of fisheries observers at sea. Adiniwin explains observers are treated like officers on purse seiners. They eat with the captain and other officers and have air-conditioned quarters they have seen and approved before accepting the post. As the fishing companies have come to realize that they must be compliant or face fines, they have become more accepting and welcoming to the observers, he said.

The current class is scheduled to graduate in December.

MARKET NEWS

Bangkok prices for frozen whole round skipjack have been USD 2,300-2,350/mt in October, a record high for the past four years, up from September's prices of USD 2150 - 2200/mt. Prices have now begun to level off, between USD 1980 and 2050/mt according to Undercurrent, this on the back of opening up the FAD closure. With other oceans facing limited catches it is envisioned the prices may remain high.

(Reprinted with permission from PNA)





FILE - In this Nov. 28, 2014, file photo, Target shoppers Kelly Foley, left, Debbie Winslow, center, and Ann Rich use a smartphone to look at a competitor's prices while shopping shortly after midnight on Black Friday, in South Portland, Maine. Stores have been pushing deals on holiday merchandise throughout November, but they'll be stepping it up for the official holiday kickoff, the busiest days of the year. 2017 has been a tough year in retail, with many store closures and some bankruptcies. But with unemployment low, stores are hoping customers are in a mood to shop.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty, File)

Stores hoping people keep shopping offer Cyber Monday deals

NEW YORK (AP) — After offering online deals for days, retailers are rolling out even more promotions for Cyber Monday, hoping to keep people buying stuff on their smartphones or computers.

Shoppers are expected to spend \$6.6 billion on Cyber Monday, up more than 16 percent from a year ago, according to Adobe Analytics, the research arm of software maker Adobe. And more people will be picking up their phones to shop: Web traffic from smartphones and tablets is expected to top desktop computers for the first time this year, Adobe said.

At the MacArthur Center shopping mall in Norfolk, Virginia, on Sunday, Kathy Lewis was there not to shop but to get her nails done. Her plan is to make her big purchases on Cyber Monday, including the newest model Nerf gun for her boyfriend's nephew. Lewis said she gave up years ago on waiting in line at Toys 'R' Us.

"It's so hard to get in and out of there to me," said Lewis, adding, "If you look online, you get the same price you get on Black Friday." Lewis did brave a very crowded Best Buy on Friday in search of a 32-inch television for another

of her boyfriend's relatives. But after checking the price, she's holding off for Monday. Her plan is to scan the websites of Toys 'R' Us and Best Buy and then Amazon before making her final decision. As part of their Cyber Monday deals, Target and Toys R Us are offering 15 percent off most items on their sites. Walmart.com has tripled the amount of items available for sale from last year. And Amazon — which Bain & Co. says is expected to capture 50 percent of all online sales growth — will offer similar deals on its gadgets as it did on Black Friday.

FBI gave heads-up to fraction of Russian hackers' US targets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI failed to notify scores of U.S. officials that Russian hackers were trying to break into their personal Gmail accounts despite having evidence for at least a year that the targets were in the Kremlin's crosshairs, The Associated Press has found.

Nearly 80 interviews with Americans targeted by Fancy Bear, a Russian government-aligned cyberespionage group, turned up only two cases in which the FBI had provided a heads-up. Even senior policy-makers discovered they were targets only when the AP told them, a situation some described as bizarre and dispiriting.

"It's utterly confounding," said Philip Reiner, a former senior director at the National Security Council, who was notified by the AP that he was targeted in 2015. "You've got to tell your people. You've got to protect your people."

The FBI declined to discuss its investigation into Fancy Bear's spying campaign, but did provide a statement that said in part: "The FBI routinely notifies individuals and organizations of potential threat information."

Three people familiar with the matter — including a current and a former government official — said the FBI has known for more than a year the details of Fancy Bear's attempts to break into Gmail inboxes. A senior FBI official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the hacking operation because of its sensitivity, declined to comment on when it received the target list, but said that the bureau was overwhelmed by the sheer number of attempted hacks.

"It's a matter of triaging to the best of our ability the volume of the targets who are out there," he said.

The AP did its own triage, dedicating two months and a small team of reporters to go through a hit list of Fancy Bear targets provided by the cybersecurity firm Secureworks.

Previous AP investigations based on the list have shown how Fancy Bear worked in close alignment with the Kremlin's interests to steal tens of thousands of emails from the Democratic Party. The hacking campaign disrupted the 2016 U.S. election and cast a shadow over the presidency of Donald Trump, whom U.S. intelligence agencies say the hackers were trying to help. The Russian government has denied interfering in the American election.

The Secureworks list comprises 19,000 lines of targeting data. Going through it, the AP identified more than 500 U.S.-based people or groups and reached out to more than 190 of them, interviewing nearly 80

about their experiences.

Many were long-retired, but about one-quarter were still in government or held security clearances at the time they were targeted. Only two told the AP they learned of the hacking attempts on their personal Gmail accounts from the FBI. A few more were contacted by the FBI after their emails were published in the torrent of leaks that coursed through last year's electoral contest. But to this day, some leak victims have not heard from the bureau at all.

Charles Sowell, who previously worked as a senior administrator in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and was targeted by Fancy Bear two years ago, said there was no reason the FBI couldn't do the same work the AP did.

"It's absolutely not OK for them to use an excuse that there's too much data," Sowell said. "Would that hold water if there were a serial killer investigation, and people were calling in tips left and right, and they were holding up their hands and saying, 'It's too much'? That's ridiculous."

"IT'S CURIOUS"

The AP found few traces of the bureau's inquiry as it launched its own investigation two months ago.

In October, two AP journalists visited THCServers.com, a brightly lit, family-run internet company on the former grounds of a communist-era chicken farm outside the Romanian city of Craiova. That's where someone registered DCLeaks.com, the first of three websites to publish caches of emails belonging to Democrats and other U.S. officials in mid-2016.

DCLeaks was clearly linked to Fancy Bear. Previous AP reporting found that all but one of the site's victims had been targeted by the hacking group before their emails were dumped online.

Yet THC founder Catalin Florica said he was never approached by law enforcement.

"It's curious," Florica said. "You are the first ones that contact us."

THC merely registered the site, a simple process that typically takes only a few minutes. But the reaction was similar at the Kuala Lumpur offices of the Malaysian web company Shinjiru Technology, which hosted DCLeaks' stolen files for the duration of the electoral campaign.

The company's chief executive, Terence Choong, said he had never heard of DCLeaks until the AP contacted him.

"What is the issue with it?" he asked.

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Cold Drinks



Doctor: Kim Jong Nam’s underwear soiled, pupils contracted

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP) — A Malaysian doctor testified Monday at the trial of two young women accused of murdering the estranged half brother of North Korea’s leader that the victim’s pupils contracted and his underwear was soiled with feces, both signs of poisoning.

Siti Aisyah of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam, the only suspects in custody, pleaded not guilty at the start of their trial on Oct. 2. They were accused of smearing the banned VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam’s face at a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, killing him within two hours.

Nurliza Abdullah, one of two government doctors who conducted the autopsy on Kim’s body, told the court that the pupil constriction and the large amount of excrement found in Kim’s underwear both pointed to poisoning.

“Based on our autopsy and the lab test results, the cause of death is acute nerve agent VX poisoning,” she said, concurring with a colleague who had given similar testimony earlier in the

trial, when the autopsy report was presented to the court.

Nurliza, however, agreed with the defense assertion that the post-mortem alone wasn’t able to confirm VX as the cause of death, and that the autopsy conclusion was based on tests by the chemical department that found traces of the nerve agent on Kim’s face and body.

Monday’s court session was cut short because the next prosecution witness wasn’t ready. The trial will resume Tuesday.

The two women face a mandatory death sentence if convicted. Defense lawyers say they were duped by suspected North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a TV show.

Prosecutors have said four North Koreans conspired with the two women to plot the murder of Kim Jong Nam and fled the country the day of the attack.

South Korea’s spy agency has claimed the attack was part of a carefully set plot by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to kill a brother he reportedly never met.

Report: Seoul broadcasts news of NKorean defection at border

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — South Korea is reportedly broadcasting into North Korea news of the recent escape of a North Korean soldier over the rivals’ border as part of its psychological warfare against the North.

South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported Monday that a recap of the soldier’s defection and recovery from being shot five times by his former

colleagues has been played on loudspeakers at the border since the dramatic Nov. 13 defection.

The Defense Ministry declined to confirm the report.

Earlier Monday, South Korea’s defense minister visited the area and criticized Pyongyang for firing across and physically crossing the border in pursuit of the defector, a violation of the armistice that ended the Korean War.



Three North Korean soldiers, back, look at the South side near the spot where a North Korean soldier crossed the border on Nov. 13, as South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo, right, visits the Panmunjom, in the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea, Monday, Nov. 27, 2017. South Korea is reportedly broadcasting into North Korea news of the recent escape of the North Korean soldier over the rivals’ border as part of its psychological warfare against the North.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

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Selected apprentices will be employed by ASPA in preparation for the academic session starting in February 2018.

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Citizenship: US National or Citizen.

Testing: All applicants will be required to complete ASPA’s internal testing for science and math ability.

Salary will be based on the technical area and job duties assigned.

Applicants must complete an ASPA Employment Application Form and provide two written references. The form is available at ASPA Human Resource Office in Tafuna or via ASPA’s website at www.aspower.com

All application information, including school records and references, will be subject to verification as part of the screening process.

Deadline for submitting applications is 4pm on Wednesday, November 29th, 2017.

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Philippine modernization program imperils jeepney

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines’ iconic passenger jeepney, once regarded as Manila’s “King of the Road,” is chugging toward change and uncertainty.

A remnant of World War II, the gaudily decorated jeepneys evolved from the U.S. military jeeps that American forces left behind after the war. The vehicles were modified and reproduced by Filipinos, and for decades were their most popular mode of land transport, becoming a daily showcase of Philippine culture on wheels.

Atop the jeepney’s hood stands a horse emblem in chrome, with the vehicle’s body wrapped in vibrant colors and all sorts of artwork, ads and mundane slogans.

Running on diesel engines,

jeepneys, with their low fares, have been the choice transport of working-class Filipinos. But they have also had a major downside: The dark fumes coughed out by thousands of jeepneys have been blamed for Manila’s notoriously polluted air. Now, a Philippine government modernization program aims for a major make-over of the jeepney and other modes of public transportation by improving their engines, safety and convenience. Aging jeepneys must go or be outfitted with cleaner engines, Wi-Fi and security cameras in an overhaul that poor Filipino drivers and owners say they can’t afford.

George San Mateo, who leads a group of drivers and owners called Piston, said the government program would displace more than 600,000 drivers and 250,000 owners and jack up fares. With new jeepneys costing between 1.2 million and 1.6 million pesos (\$23,000-\$31,000), San Mateo complained that drivers have not been offered a concrete financial assistance scheme by the government. Drivers have protested, but they got a warning from Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte after staging a two-day strike last month. “By Jan. 1, if I see any jeep of yours which has not been registered, I’ll drag them away in front of you,” the tough-talking president said. “It is given that every time there is change, there is resistance,” said Aileen Lizada of the government’s Land Transportation and Franchise Regulatory Board. The government, she said, will convince drivers and owners that the program will actually benefit them, the public and the environment.

Ed Sarao, whose family’s Sarao Motors Inc. is among the most popular jeepney manufacturers in the Philippines, said the company is awaiting the enforcement of the modernization program amid resistance.

“Right now people are still clamoring for the traditional jeepney,” Sarao said, although he added that many prospective buyers have been asking when the modern jeepneys will roll on the road. “I tell them that the government still has no go signal yet so it is still a wait and see situation for the manufacturers,” Sarao said. Promoters have been hard at work. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was invited to take a short ride on an “e-jeep,” which runs on electricity, this month on the sidelines of an annual diplomatic summit in Manila. “He’s very happy because he can see our aspirations in changing the Filipinos’ lives,” said Philippine Transport Secretary Arthur Tugade, who accompanied Trudeau.

In this Sept. 26, 2017, photo, Filipino driver Victorino Samson, 62, drives his jeepney in Manila, Philippines. Samson has supported his family with his earnings as a jeepney driver for 30 years. The iconic passenger jeepney is chugging toward change and uncertainty as a government modernization program aims to improve their engines, safety and convenience in an overhaul that poor Filipino drivers and owners say they can’t afford.

(AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



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