

Hawaii bill would classify homelessness as medical condition

GCCC Football Program offers 4 scholarships to local players

Toe i'u lava tagata Manu'a i le MV Sili

Hawaii State Rep. Cedric Solosolo Asuega Gates (sitting) of Samoan ancestry from American Samoa, with family members (standing l-r) Benjamin Asuega Gates, Anita Asuega and Meafou Asuega Sausi in this Jan. 18 photo on the floor of the Hawaii state House of Representatives. See story below.

[photo: Rep. Gates Office]



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017

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Lualemaga Faoa remembered as a pillar of the community

HE WAS A LEADER WHO RAISED CONCERNS AND PUBLICLY SPOKE OUT ON ISSUES

by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu Samoa News Reporter

We have lost a great traditional leader, he was a pillar in his county, his village, his family and the Government of American Samoa, for he has worked in all of the three branches of the government," said Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who is stunned by the news that Western District Governor Lualemaga Faoa has passed away.

Lualemaga passed away at the LBJ hospital on Tuesday afternoon, after a sudden illness. His passing came as a shock to close friends who were just with him last week.

A Paramount Chief from Aasu,

Lualemaga served as an Associate Judge, a Senator and his latest post was as Western District Governor for two terms. He had just been sworn in two weeks ago to serve his second term.

Governor Lolo, who is among those who found it hard to accept that Lualemaga had passed, said, "I was chatting with him just a week ago, we were joking about him not getting a paycheck unless he's sworn in to serve as the Western District Governor.

"He's a dear friend and someone who would disagree with me on certain issues and that's a sign of a great leader, someone who is not afraid to speak his mind and make hard decisions. He will be sorely missed," said the governor in a phone interview. The governor

expressed his condolences to Lualemaga's family.

Pulu Ae Ae Jr., director of Congresswoman Aumua Amata's local office, said Lualemaga was a vocal leader who raised concerns and publicly spoke out on issues, and he was always a friend of the media.

For example, in September 2015, an alarming increase in drug-related crimes, which led to a shooting of a police vehicle that injured a police officer, caused the Western District Governor to publicly question the village mayors and police on what they were doing to protect their respective villages, during a meeting of all traditional leaders.

(Continued on page 8)

Youngest in current Hawaii'i Legislature is House Rep of Samoan ancestry

by Fili Sagapolutele Samoa News Correspondent

When the Hawaii'i Legislature convened last week for its new session, the youngest lawmaker among members is a person of Samoan ancestry from American Samoa in the Hawaii'i state House of Representatives, serving his first term in office.

Hawaii'i State Rep. Cedric Solosolo Asuega Gates represents District 44 — Maile, Waianae, Makaha, Makua on Oahu Island — where he won 63% of the votes during the November 2016 general election.

"Being the youngest lawmaker... at age 23, has definitely been a blessing because I feel that my community has made a commitment to investing in our young leaders and it also shows that our elders have confidence in the success of our future generations," Gates said yesterday from Honolulu responding to Samoa News questions.

Gates said his mother, Easter Asuega Gates, passed away in 2006 and his father William Gates passed away in 2014. "So I really had no choice but to grow up fast," he noted.

According to family members, Gates is the grandson of Leasa Asuega and Faigaelo Moananu and the great grandson of High Chief Solosolo Mauga Asuega and Samitioata Moemoe Asuega — all from Pago Pago "He brings new ideas and a bright future for the people of West Oahu and his district," said a family member in an email message to Samoa News.

Some family members, brother Benjamin Asuega Gates, Anita Asuega of California and Meafou Asuega Sausi of Hawaii'i, attended the opening of the Hawaii'i Legislature on Jan. 18 that included traditional Hawaiian song and dance.

(Continued on page 9)

Daniel Lin, a National Geographic explorer, will be in the Manu'a Islands next week to host a workshop for high school students there, training them on how to record, document, and 'tell their story' about what the new solar microgrid — which has made Manu'a energy efficient — means to them. See story inside for full details.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruenan]



The Ta'u 1,400kW solar panel installation. (image credit Solar City)

DOC director reveals Datamatics pulls out of local ICT development

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Due to internet costs in American Samoa, Datamatics, the company looking to set up a local business process outsourcing (BPO) operation — similar to a call center — has opted out of the territory, despite the local government's tax breaks, according to Commerce Department Acting Director, Keniseli Lafaele, who noted that ASG continues to work on attracting US technology based companies to the territory.

Lafaele made the revelation about Datamatics during the government's presentation on local economic development at a Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting Wednesday night. The presentation was a joint one between DOC and the Governor's Office, which was represented by the governor's executive assistant Iulogologo Joseph Pereira.

The status of Datamatics came up when Lafaele spoke about the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry, which he says "is something that we believe



Commerce Department Acting Director, Keniseli Lafaele speaking Wednesday night to the Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting on economic development issues. [photo: FS]

can be a game changer in the development of our economy."

He described the ICT industry as the "greatest opportunity for new industry and strong job creation."

Based on information on his presentation, the government is looking at the third quarter

of 2017 for construction of the ICT Industry Business Incubator, but didn't provide a site on island for the project.

Lafaele recalled past efforts to improve internet service starting in 2009 with the launch of the American Samoa Hawai'i Cable (ASH-Cable), followed

six years later with the American Samoa TeleCommunications Authority's Broadband Linking the American Samoa Territory (BLAST) project as well as the O3b satellite (which has been operational for ASTCA for more than a year).

While all those efforts are

great in getting the Internet moving forward in American Samoa, "it did not produce the broadband that we need to entice technology based industries," Lafaele told Chamber members. "With all that development, we still have one of the most expensive [internet costs] in the world."

He pointed out that Datamatics, the company that was close to opening shop in American Samoa, late last year, "did not opt to go with us because...it was just too expensive" when it comes to local internet costs.

"Even with all the tax breaks that we would give them, all the breaks that they asked for [and] we gave them, but this was the breaker — the cost of the Internet," he said.

However, he believes that things will change in the near future regarding internet costs with the planned Tui Samoa fiber optic cable, based in Samoa, and ASTCA joining the Hawaiki fiber optic cable. Another fiber optic cable in the planning is Moana Cable in which the Bluesky Group is involved.

(Continued on page 20)

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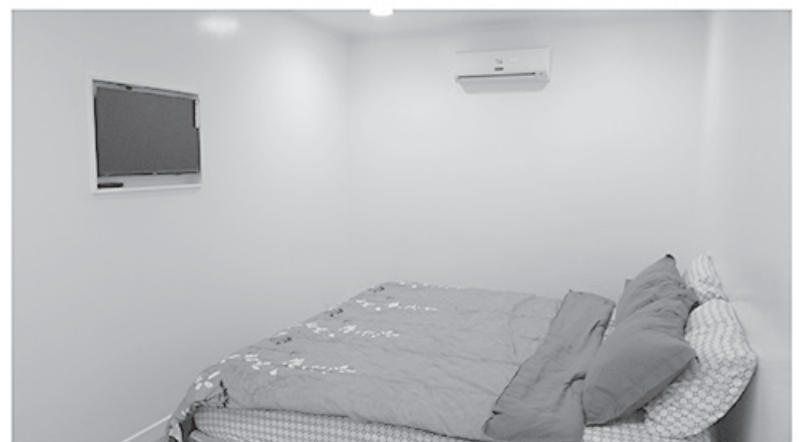
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[l-r] Benjiman Asuega Gates, Anita Asuega, Hawai'i state Rep. Cedric Solosolo Asuega Gates and Meafou Asuega Sausi in this Jan. 18 photo at the Hawai'i State Capitol building, in Honolulu, after the official opening of the new session of the Hawai'i Legislature. [courtesy photo]

Withdrawing from TPP, US will negotiate directly with each country for trade agreements

AM. SAMOA LOOKING FOR MORE VIABLE SOLUTIONS TO ITS FAILING FISHERIES INDUSTRY

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

In withdrawing the United States from participating in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, US President Donald J. Trump says the US will negotiate directly with each country when it comes to trade agreements. Trump on Monday signed an executive order withdrawing US participation in the TPP, which is a free trade agreement between the United States and eleven countries — that includes Vietnam, Australia, and New Zealand. Congresswoman Aumua Amata and others have praised Trump's action. (See Samoa News edition Jan. 24 for details.)

As previously reported in Samoa News, this is considered good news for the territory. In the meantime, American Samoa is also looking at other viable solutions to protect the future of its tuna industry and fisheries, which includes tax credits, protecting its fishing grounds from federal restrictions and further minimum wage hikes.

"It is the policy of my Administration to represent the American people and their financial well-being in all negotiations, particularly the American worker, and to create fair and economically beneficial trade deals that serve their interests," Trump said in his executive order.

"Additionally, in order to ensure these outcomes, it is the intention of my Administration to deal directly with individual countries on a one-on-one (or bilateral) basis in negotiating future trade deals," he said, adding that trade with other nations is, and always will be, of paramount importance to his Administration and to him as President.

In withdrawing from the TPP, Trump directed federal agencies involved in trade matters, to begin pursuing, wherever possible, bilateral trade negotiations to "promote American industry, protect American workers, and raise American wages."

AMERICAN SAMOA LOOKING FOR MORE VIABLE SOLUTIONS

American Samoa's major concern with the TPP, as well as other US unilateral trade agreements with other countries, is that it reduces the competitive edge for the canneries duty free export to the US, especially from countries with low labor and energy costs, such as Vietnam and Thailand.

According to the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on minimum wages released last December, US trade policies provide tariff-free access to the U.S. market for processed tuna from American Samoa, while foreign suppliers generally are subject to tariffs for these goods.

For example, foreign suppliers' canned or pouched tuna packed in oil is subject to a 35% tariff, and their canned or pouched tuna not packed in oil is subject to a 12.5% tariff. However, U.S. trade agreements with certain countries may provide those countries tariff-free or reduced-tariff access to the United States, according to GAO, which also cites the U.S. Trade Representatives saying that the US has free trade agreements with 20 countries.

Besides US trade agreements, the canned tuna and fishing industries are also faced with other challenges such as restrictions on fishing grounds in the region.

In his official written State of the Territory Address, regarding the issues of canneries and fisheries, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga said his administration recently met with Fono leaders and Amata to discuss viable solutions for protecting the future of American Samoa's tuna industry.

"All have agreed to push possible legislation in the US Congress to reinstate the 30A [federal] tax credit, as well as protecting local fishing grounds from federal encroachments," Lolo said.

Additionally, the American Samoa Fisheries Task Force is to "aggressively address" sev-

eral pressing issues involving the expansion of ocean monuments, exclusive economic zones, and regional issues with other Small Island States involving fishing and high sea prohibition.

"For the most part, these regional issues directly impact the growth of American Samoa's tuna industry if left unchecked," the governor said.

THE BIG PICTURE

Withdrawing from the TPP appears to be one of the few things U.S. politicians — both liberal and conservative — can agree on. They see it as a way to bring jobs back to the U.S. and grow the manufacturing sector — and it was called for by both major parties in the recent election.

However the mostly politically neutral Bloomberg Press, among other news outlets, is reporting Trump's withdrawal from the Pacific trade pact "creates a political and economic vacuum that China is eager to fill and pointed out China's leaders are ramping up support for globalization and free trade.

In a speech last week to the World Economic Forum at Davos, Chinese President Xi Jinping likened protectionism to "locking oneself in a dark room."

Trump opposed the pact because he said it could hurt American jobs. But the impact of his decision is likely to go beyond trade, giving more leeway to Xi to position China as an economic and military anchor in the western Pacific.

The TPP was seen as a way to further bind countries, including smaller Southeast Asian nations, to the U.S. — and act as a buffer. As evidence of this, note that not a week passes without Pacific regional news outlets reporting Chinese funding for infrastructure and development for some of American Samoa's nearest neighbors — Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

(Read story "Tonga 'overwhelmed' with Chinese assistance" posted this week at samoanews.com)



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A look at some of the Chamber of Commerce members who attended Wednesday night's general membership meeting, where Commerce Department acting director Keniseli Lafaale presented on the administration's economic development. [photo: FS]

ASG applies to feds for an EB-5 regional center to attract foreign investors

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

In an effort to attract foreign investors, the American Samoa Government has applied

to the federal government for a regional center in the territory under the federal EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, which is known as EB-5 Program for

the name of the employment-based fifth preference visa that participants receive.

Under the EB-5, which is administered by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), entrepreneurs (and their spouses and unmarried children under 21) are eligible to apply for a green card (permanent residence and work permit) if they:

- Make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States; and
- Plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for qualified U.S. workers.

The US Congress created the EB-5 Program in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors, according to USCIS website (www.uscis.gov for details of the program).

During his economic development presentation at Wednesday night's meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Commerce

Acting Director Keniseli Lafaale revealed that American Samoa is applying for the EB-5 program, where "foreign investors are invited to invest in the United States."

He says most US states as well as cities and counties have this program. Additionally, all US territories have this program, except for American Samoa and "maybe because of our unincorporated and unorganized political status. We don't know," Lafaale told Chamber members.

"Nevertheless, we went ahead and filled out an application [which] was submitted last year," he explained. It "usually takes three to four years to get an answer, but we aim to really fight for that program to locate a EB-5 regional center in American Samoa."

This is the first time an ASG official has spoken publicly about this program, and that an application has been sent to USCIS. However, in Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga's official

written State of the Territory Address, it's noted briefly that DOC has submitted an application to the USCIS and is currently awaiting approval.

Additionally, the American Samoa Economic Development Implementation Plan 2014-2017 suggested developing direct foreign investment opportunities through the EB-5 program.

During his presentation, Lafaale reminded Chamber members that American Samoa has its own foreign investment program "where we entice foreigners to invest \$1 million in our economy" and in return "we allow [the] foreigner to live here and have a chance to become a permanent resident."

The "Foreign Investment" provision is found under Title 27, Chapter 26, of the American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA).

Samoa News will report in future editions on a wide range of issues covered in Lafaale's presentation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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FILE - In this June 30, 2015, file photo, people camp out on a sidewalk in the Kakaako neighborhood of Honolulu. A Hawaii lawmaker wants to classify homelessness as a medical condition so that people could use Medicaid money for rent payments. As a doctor, Sen. Josh Green argues that he's constantly treating homeless people in the emergency room where he works.

(AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy, File)

Hawaii bill would classify homelessness as medical condition

HONOLULU (AP) — As an emergency room doctor, Hawaii Sen. Josh Green sees homeless patients suffering from diabetes, mental health problems and an array of medical issues that are more difficult to manage when they are homeless or do not have permanent housing.

That's why Green says he wants homelessness classified under Hawaii state law as a medical condition.

If homelessness is a disease, he reasons, then doctors should be able to write prescriptions for the cure: Housing.

"It is paradigm shift for sure, but the single best thing we can do today is to allow physicians and health care providers in general to write prescriptions for housing," Green said.

Green last week introduced a bill in the Hawaii Legislature to classify chronic homelessness as a medical condition and require insurance companies to cover treatment of the condition.

But if a doctor wrote a prescription for six months of housing, where would the patient fill the prescription?

That's where Green wants Medicaid to step in.

He wants to redirect some of Hawaii's \$2 billion annual Medicaid budget to pay for housing.

He says the state could spend less Medicaid money by dedicating some of it to housing instead of paying for frequent visits by homeless people to emergency rooms. A recent

University of Hawaii survey found health care costs for chronically homeless people dropped 43 percent when they had decent housing for an uninterrupted six-month period.

"Housing is health care, because it does afford a person a much greater chance of sustaining their health," said Connie Mitchell, executive director for the Institute for Human Services, Hawaii's largest homeless services provider.

But she cautioned that choosing who qualifies would be a challenge.

"You need to really look at when that's appropriate, because there's a lot of people that become homeless," Mitchell said. "Just because they become homeless doesn't mean it entitles them to write a prescription for a unit."

Hawaii had the highest rate of homelessness of all U.S. states in 2015, with 53 homeless people for every 10,000 residents, according to The National Alliance to End Homelessness.

The isolated state's high food and housing costs have prompted thousands of locally-born residents and transplants to erect tents and makeshift structures for homes in parks and sidewalks on Oahu, the state's most populated island.

Concerned about impacts on tourism, city officials have banned sitting and lying down in public spaces in the beachfront neighborhood of Waikiki

(Continued on page 12)

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Hawai'i State Rep. Cedric Solosolo Asuega Gates, 23, of Samoan ancestry from American Samoa being interviewed Jan. 18 at the Hawai'i State Capitol by a young reporter from 'Olelo cable television. [photo: Rep. Gates Office]

**In The High Court
of American Samoa
TRIAL DIVISION**

PR NO. 13-016

*In the Matter of the Estate of
FRANK PRITCHARD, SR.*

Decedent

KISHON PRITCHARD LUA

Petitioner

**NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION
FOR LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition for letters of administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Territory of American Samoa by KISHON PRITCHARD LUA for the Estate of FRANK PRITCHARD, SR. (Deceased) who died on August 2, 1963 in American Samoa.

A hearing on the petition will be held on February 27, 2017 at 9am before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa at the Courthouse in Fagaotog, American Samoa. All heirs of FRANK PRITCHARD, SR. And other interested parties may appear before the court on said date to respond to this petition.

Dated: January 17, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 01/20, 1/27, 2/3



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, center right, reviews the troops as he leads the flag-raising ceremony to commemorate the 120th death anniversary of the country's National Hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 in Manila, Philippines. Duterte remains popular as shown by recent surveys despite international concerns about his war on drugs that has so far killed more than 6,000 drug suspects since he took office June 30.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

Philippine offensive reportedly wounds top terror suspect

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine troops have launched airstrikes and ground assaults that reportedly wounded one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terror suspects who is trying to establish a new base for an alliance backing the Islamic State group, officials said Friday.

Intelligence reports showed initial assaults killed at least four militants, possibly including a Malaysian, and reportedly wounded the main target, Isnilon Hapilon, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told The Associated Press.

He said that Hapilon apparently managed to flee from an encampment in the mountainous hinterlands of Butig town in southern Lanao del Sur province.

"Army troops are still in hot pursuit," Lorenzana said.

Airstrikes targeted Hapilon's group on Wednesday and Thursday. Hundreds of troops, backed by artillery fire, then began pursuing him and other militants from the so-called Maute group in Butig, military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said.

Hapilon, who is on the U.S. Department of Justice list of most-wanted terrorists worldwide with up to \$5 million bounty for his capture, moved to Butig from his stronghold on southern Basilan island a month ago to look for a base for his new militant alliance, Ano told The AP.

Lanao lies about 830 kilometers (520 miles) south of Manila.

President Rodrigo Duterte has repeatedly warned that the emergence of IS-influenced militant groups was fast looming as

a major national security threat. While pursuing peace talks with two large Muslim rebel groups in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation, he has ordered the military to destroy smaller but brutal extremist groups like the Abu Sayyaf, which is dreaded for cross-border kidnappings, beheadings and bombings.

A wave of Abu Sayyaf kidnappings of crewmen, mostly from Indonesia and Malaysia, has sparked a regional security alarm.

Hapilon, an Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise on commando assaults, has been indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged role in terrorist acts against Americans and other foreigners in the southern Philippines.

The elusive Abu Sayyaf commander pledged allegiance to the IS group in 2014.

He then went on to organize an alliance called Dawlatul Islam Wilayatul Mashriq, which is now believed to include at least 10 small militant groups, including some Abu Sayyaf factions, the Maute and two other groups established by Malaysian and Indonesian militants. They all use black IS flags, according to counterterrorism officials and documents.

The Maute and another group under the alliance of Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines have been linked to a Sept. 2 bombing of a night market that killed 15 people and wounded 69 others in southern Davao city, the president's hometown, and a failed bombing in Manila's popular Rizal Park and the U.S. Embassy last year.



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| 4. | Grant Writing Seminar | Mar 14-15, 2017 | 5-7pm | \$40 |
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**GOVERNOR LOLO MOLIGA'S
*Message of Condolences***

On behalf of the people and the Government of American Samoa Lieutenant Lemanu Peleti Mauga, join Cynthia and I, in extending to the families of U.S. Army Reservist Toese Ume of Futiga, Iosefa Peato Elia of Aua, and Saito Paulo of Faga'itua, our profound condolences over the tragic loss of life for these three young men at the prime of their lives. We pray that our merciful and loving God will comfort and uplift you during this difficult time.

The sad and heartbreaking news of the loss of lives resonating throughout our community makes us pause to reflect on our vigilance guarding against complacency and adhering to safety standards and warranted precautions. This is a sorrowful time that is shared by our whole community. It is a time for reawakening and recommitment in practicing diligence in guaranteeing that the safety of the workers become our paramount charge and concern.

While investigations are still ongoing, to determine the factors contributing to the cause of this heart-rending incident, revealed preliminary information underscores the perceived lack of compliance in exercising and practicing safety standards. It is imperative therefore, irrespective of inherent consequences, that we clearly and accurately define the causes of this sorrowful and painful event to ensure that such an incident will not be replicated in the future.

I have impressed on the Commissioner of Public Safety not to leave any stone unturned in conducting its investigations to produce accurate information necessary to evaluate the sufficiency and effectiveness of existing policies and procedures fostering deterrence of this type of event from ever happening again. The findings of the OSHA investigation will also be of great help to examine current policies and procedures which regulate the issuance of licenses to crane operators and improving safety policies and standards for workers.

May our Heavenly Father's tender mercies comfort the families and friends of these young men during this most sorrowful time.

With our deepest sympathy



L. M. Moliga

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa



C M
Y K

⊗ In this recent file photo of Lualemaga Faoa, he is seen standing next to Lt. Gov. Lemanu P. Mauga (far right) in a group photo with Gov. Lolo M. Moliga (center) and Secretary of Samoan Affairs Mauga Tasi Mauga (third from left), after being sworn in as the Western District Governor three weeks ago, at the Office of Samoan Affairs. [OSA courtesy photo]

➤ Faoa remembered ...

Continued from page 1

Lualemaga said the reason that these problems continued in the territory was because village police and mayors are not doing their jobs.

“That is Lualemaga,” said, Pulu.

“He was also one of the best golfers I know,” he said. “He’s indeed a pillar of this community who will be missed.” Pulu also expressed condolences to the mourning family for the loss of a great man.

During Lualemaga’s time as senator, he chaired the Senate Select Investigative Committee (SSIC) and prompted a Senate Committee to come up with a rather unusual recommendation. The Committee wanted the police and Customs officers to submit to a polygraph test every six months, which they claimed would help minimize the potential for bribes in the territory following the increase of violent and drug related crimes in 2012.

Lualemaga said this test would be a better check and balance and also called for an independent Public Safety Commission.

In 2015, Lualemaga, who was serving as Western District Governor, urged the United Nations Decolonization Committee to delist American Samoa from the list of UN colonies, saying that problems between American Samoa and the U.S. are resolved between the two parties and not with the UN.

He thanked and expressed appreciation for “the wisdom of our forefathers who signed

the Treaty of Cession in 1900 for Tutuila and in 1904 for the Manu’a islands. That’s the reason I stand firm and keep the wisdom of our forefathers for giving American Samoa under the control of the United States,” he said, adding that their foresight and wise consideration is continuing “our good relationship with the greatest nation, the United States of America.”

According to Samoa News archives, Lualemaga during the Paris attack in 2015 wrote to France’s President Francois Hollande and the French people expressing his condolences.

“After hearing of the evil attacks upon your people and nation, I, Paramount Chief Lualemaga E. Faoa and my people in A’asu village and people of American Samoa, are extremely saddened to hear and learn of such uncivilized acts towards your peaceful and loving people.”

Lualemaga also made Hollande aware that he’s from A’asu the resting place of the twelve French sailors who died and are buried in A’asu. They “are well preserved and still part of our everyday lives from December 11, 1787 until now in 2015 - 228 years ago.” (A monument is in A’asu in memory of the French sailors.)

Lualemaga is survived by his wife Jessie, children and grandchildren.

Funeral services have yet to be announced.

Samoa News expresses deepest condolences to the mourning family.

C M
Y K

Hawai'i state Rep. Cedric Solosolo Asuega Gates (standing-front) being recognized along with another lawmaker, on the floor of the Hawai'i state House of Representatives on Jan. 18 — the opening of the Hawai'i Legislature. Family members of lawmakers were also on the floor behind them.

[photo: Rep. Gates Office]



▶ Youngest ...

Continued from page 1

Asked about the advantage and disadvantage of being a young House member, Gates says some disadvantages that he currently faces as a young member “is the fact that I have a lot to learn in such a short time, along with the fact that I have to work extra hard to earn respect from my colleagues in the House.”

“Advantages as a young member of the House, I feel that it is my responsibility to listen more than I speak,” he said. “I find that being a young member, my distinguished colleagues are more open to share their knowledge and experiences with me.”

Asked for reaction of being a young lawmaker of Samoan ancestry, Gates points out that he was born in Wai'ane, where there is a large Samoan/ Polynesian population.

“The community... has been very supportive of my campaign, and has helped spread the word to their friends, family, and co-workers,” said Gates, who noted that there are currently two other lawmakers of Samoan ancestry in the Hawai'i Legislature including himself “and I am glad to be part of that group.” The other two are Hawai'i state Rep. Andria Tupola and Hawai'i state Sen. Mike Gabbard.

US Rep. Tulsi Gabbard “has been a strong influence for me. Not only because she is of Samoan decent, but also because she currently holds the record for being the youngest State Representative ever elected in the history of the State of Hawai'i at the age of 21.”

Gabbard, who was born in Leloaloa, American Samoa, was elected to the Hawai'i state House in 2002. Hawai'i Sen. Gabbard is related to Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard — he's her father.

“I look forward to visiting Samoa in the near future to help strengthen and build relationships between Hawai'i and Samoa,” said Gates, who served as an intern for Congresswoman Gabbard and as a member of the Congresswoman's Youth Leadership Council. “I also look forward to learning more about my heritage and ancestors of Samoa.”

According to the Hawai'i Legislature website, Gates is vice chair of the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs; and a member of other committees - Agriculture; Finance; and Public Safety. Since the new session began, Gates has helped introduced 11 bills.

Anyone wanting to learn more about Gates can contact his office at 808-586-8460.



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Fire victims try to save items from their burnt homes following an overnight fire at an informal settlers' community in suburban Bicutan, southeast of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017. No casualties were reported but the fire razed about 60 homes and affected 150 families, officials said.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

Philippine offensive reportedly wounds top terror suspect

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine troops have launched airstrikes and ground assaults that reportedly wounded one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terror suspects who is trying to establish a new base for an alliance backing the Islamic State group, officials said Friday.

Intelligence reports showed initial assaults killed at least four militants, possibly including a Malaysian, and reportedly wounded the main target, Isnilon Hapilon, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told The Associated Press.

He said that Hapilon apparently managed to flee from an encampment in the mountainous hinterlands of Butig town in southern Lanao del Sur province.

"Army troops are still in hot pursuit," Lorenzana said.

Airstrikes targeted Hapilon's group on Wednesday and Thursday. Hundreds of troops, backed by artillery fire, then began pursuing him and other militants from the so-called Maute group in Butig, military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said.

Hapilon, who is on the U.S. Department of Justice list of most-wanted terrorists worldwide with up to \$5 million bounty for his capture, moved to Butig from his stronghold on southern Basilan island a month ago to look for a base for his new militant alliance, Ano told The AP.

Lanao lies about 830 kilometers (520 miles) south of Manila.

President Rodrigo Duterte has repeatedly warned that the emergence of IS-influenced militant groups was fast looming as

a major national security threat. While pursuing peace talks with two large Muslim rebel groups in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation, he has ordered the military to destroy smaller but brutal extremist groups like the Abu Sayyaf, which is dreaded for cross-border kidnappings, beheadings and bombings.


A wave of Abu Sayyaf kidnappings of crewmen, mostly from Indonesia and Malaysia, has sparked a regional security alarm.

Hapilon, an Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise on commando assaults, has been indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged role in terrorist acts against Americans and other foreigners in the southern Philippines.

The elusive Abu Sayyaf commander pledged allegiance to the IS group in 2014.

He then went on to organize an alliance called Dawlatul Islam Wilayatul Mashriq, which is now believed to include at least 10 small militant groups, including some Abu Sayyaf factions, the Maute and two other groups established by Malaysian and Indonesian militants. They all use black IS flags, according to counterterrorism officials and documents.

The Maute and another group under the alliance of Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines have been linked to a Sept. 2 bombing of a night market that killed 15 people and wounded 69 others in southern Davao city, the president's hometown, and a failed bombing in Manila's popular Rizal Park and the U.S. Embassy last year.



American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title	GRAPHICS DESIGNER	Posting Date	January 20, 2017
Position Type	Career Service	Deadline	February 3, 2017
Job Opening	One (1)	Starting Salary	GS: 8/1 \$14,294.00 to GS: 8/12 \$20,869.00
Report to:	Marketing Manager		
		FLSA	Non-Exempt

Major Responsibilities:

This position is located in the Marketing Department of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA). Work is generally performed in a standard office environment, but also includes activities that occur in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings. Some exposure to varied weather conditions may be required.

Minimum Requirements & Qualifications

Education/ Experience:	Must possess an Associate of Science Degree from an accredited college or university or (5) years of related experience.
Duties & Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepares work to be accomplished by gathering information and materials; Plans concept by studying information and materials; Work with wide range of media and use graphic design software; Work with Adobe Photoshop; Understands IMAC/PC Computers; Obtains approval of concept by submitting rough layout for approval; Completes projects by coordinating with outside agencies, art services, printers, etc; Maintains technical knowledge by attending design workshops; reviewing professional publications, participating in professional societies; Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed. All other responsibilities as required by higher authority
Skills & Qualifications	Graphics Design Skills, Layout Skills, Creative Services, Customer Focus, Creativity, Flexibility, Attention to Detail, Deadline-Oriented, Desktop Publishing Tools, Acute Vision, Handles Rejection.
Physical Demands	The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand; use hands to finger, handle or feel; and reach with hands and arms. The employee frequently is required to walk; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; and talk or hear.

Qualified applicants: Please submit a completed ASTCA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASTCA (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 pre-employment drug test. ASTCA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary.

Qualified Applicants Apply To:	Human Resources Division American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (A.S.T.C.A.) P.O. Box M Tafuna, American Samoa 96799	Tel: (684) 699-1121 ext. 408 Fax: (684) 699-9026 Email inquiries: seinia.moira.astca@gmail.com
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▶ Hawaii bill would ...

Continued from page 5

and other parts of Honolulu.

The prospect of Green's proposal passing is unclear, but Hawaii officials appear receptive to offbeat solutions. State officials last year directed more money than ever to homeless support services.

And this week, 20 state senators proposed issuing \$2 billion in state-backed bonds to build affordable housing, public housing renovations and homeless shelters.

Representatives from the state's two largest insurers — Kaiser Permanente and Hawaii Medical Services Association — and the chairwoman of the legislative committee that will first consider the bill declined comment, saying they have not had time to review it.

National homelessness experts said they are unaware of any other U.S. state attempt to classify homelessness as a medical condition.

But more than a dozen states — including California, Louisiana, New York and Texas — have found alternative ways to use Medicaid money for social services to help people stay in housing, like employment services or counseling, according to the Corporation for Supportive Housing, a New York-based group.

And New York is searching for ways to redirect the state-funded portion of its Medicaid budget toward housing payments.

"To date, no one is able to pay for rent using Medicaid. That's the line in the sand," said Barbara DiPietro, senior director of policy at the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, referring to federal Medicaid money.

Green's idea is in line with an ongoing push in Hawaii

to expand Medicaid coverage so it will pay for services such as social workers who help people secure housing.

"The state realizes there's a strong intersection between housing and health care, and I think that really is a critical component of our efforts to address homelessness here locally," said Scott Morishige, the homelessness coordinator for Gov. David Ige, a Democrat.

Illness and injuries can lead to homelessness, through loss of income or inability to pay medical bills. When people become homeless, chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes and mental health problems are more difficult to manage, according to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

"If you don't have stable housing, if you don't have a stable place to live, how are you managing medications and going to doctor appointments?" said Marcella Maguire, a director at Corporation for Supportive Housing.

The Queens' Health System, a Honolulu hospital, billed \$80 million for treating homeless people in 2014 and \$89 million in 2015, said Lyndsey Garcia, a hospital legislative analyst. More than \$10 million goes uncompensated annually, she said.

Some homeless patients visit emergency rooms dozens of times per year, Green said.

"I've heard it described as you go to Queens as a two-day vacation," he said. "It's going to cost probably \$2,000 to \$3,000 per day, so Queens is going to eat that cost, just for basic shelter."



ADVANCE FOR WEEKEND EDITIONS - In this Nov. 29, 2016, photo, the Lanclos' family, from left, Steffan, Alic, Ashley and Soffia pose for a photo at Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic School in Lafayette, La. When 31-year-old Steffan Lanclos started having seizures about a year ago, he thought maybe it was just his diet. Lanclos, a husband and father of two, had worked in the oilfield as a mechanic and was used to long hours and sporadic eating habits, so he thought he'd try to eat better and put off going to a doctor. It wasn't until his wife, Ashley, witnessed one of the episodes that he sought medical help. After several tests, an MRI revealed a tumor the size of a large egg in Lanclos' brain.

(Lee Celano/The Daily Advertiser via AP)

'Fatal Vision' doctor claims innocence in family's slaying

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A former Army surgeon who has always insisted he was wrongly convicted of slaughtering his pregnant wife and their two young daughters nearly 50 years ago won't give up, even if his latest appeal fails to clear his name, his lawyer says.

Jeffrey MacDonald is "going to keep fighting and will continue to maintain his innocence until the end of his days," Attorney Hart Miles said after a hearing at the 4th U.S. District Court of Appeals on Thursday.

After decades of failed appeals, MacDonald now hopes the same court that briefly reversed his convictions in 1980 will side with him again. His

attorneys say evidence uncovered since then proves he wasn't the killer.

The 73-year-old has maintained that a group of drug-fueled hippies slaughtered 26-year-old Colette McDonald and their daughters Kimberley, 5, and Kristen, 2, on Feb. 17, 1970, and that his own wounds resulted from his failed attempt to protect his family.

MacDonald told the police he called to their home inside Fort Bragg in North Carolina that he was awakened by the screams of his wife and daughters, then was attacked by three men and a woman with long blond hair and a floppy hat who carried a lighted candle and chanted "acid is groovy; kill the pigs."

Prosecutors still contend that the evidence shows MacDonald used a knife and an ice pick to kill them before stabbing himself with a scalpel. They say he donned surgical gloves and used his wife's blood to write the word "PIG" over their bed to imitate that year's Charles Manson murders.

It became known as the "Fatal Vision" case, the title of a true-crime book MacDonald had invited author Joe McGinniss to write to demonstrate his innocence. Instead, McGinniss became convinced of his guilt. McGinniss eventually agreed to pay MacDonald \$325,000 to settle breach of trust claims.

MacDonald is now challenging a judge's refusal in 2014 to grant him a new trial based on new evidence, including three hairs found at the scene that don't match the family's DNA, and a statement from Jimmy Britt, a deputy U.S. marshal who accused the prosecution of intimidating a key witness.

Britt told defense attorneys in 2005 that Helena Stoeckley, a troubled local woman MacDonald had identified as one of the attackers, told prosecutor Jim Blackburn that she was at the scene of the killings. Britt said

Blackburn threatened to indict her with murder if she said so in court. When Stoeckley got on the stand, she said she couldn't remember where she was that night.

Stoeckley also told several others that she was present for the murders, but the district court said her heavy drug use makes her alleged confessions unreliable. Britt and Stoeckley have both since died.

U.S. Attorney John Bruce described the defense evidence as insignificant and told the judges Thursday that the case against MacDonald remains strong.

Significant pieces of Britt's story were proven wrong, making him an unreliable witness, Bruce told the judges. The hair — which MacDonnell's attorneys say must have come from the intruders — could have been anyone's, Bruce said.

"This was a busy apartment with a young family with scores of people around them," Bruce said. "There was dog hair on the bed. Was that evidence of intruders? The MacDonalds didn't own a dog."

Appellate Judge Diana Gribbon Motz also questioned how the hair evidence helps MacDonald's case, noting that it did not match Stoeckley's DNA either.

"It's not as though you have this hair tied to another person of interest," Motz told MacDonald attorney Joseph Zeszotarski Jr.

A ruling from the 4th Circuit could take months or more.

MacDonald, who is serving three consecutive life terms in Cumberland, Maryland, refused to apply for parole for years after becoming eligible in 1991, arguing that doing so would essentially amount to admitting guilt. He finally applied in 2005 — in part out of a desire to live with the woman he married in 2002 — but was denied early release. He is not eligible for parole again until 2020.



PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The Secretary of American Samoa wishes to inform the residents interested in obtaining a notary public commission, or in renewing a commission, that the next course on notary law and ethics will be offered on January 31st, February 1st, and 2nd, 2017 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, at the ASCC. As is required by the Notary Act of 2007, Public Law 30-18, as amended, anyone who wishes to obtain a Notary Public Commission must undergo and successfully complete a course on Notary law, procedure and ethics.

Please contact Melesete Haleck or Sally Faumuina at the Office of the Governor at 633-4116 to register and for more information, or visit the website www.americansamoa.gov, and click on the "Secretary of American Samoa" hyperlink to find out more.

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IN THE COMMUNITY



Rogue tweeters in government could be prosecuted as hackers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Who are the federal government's rogue tweeters, using official agency social media accounts to poke President Donald Trump? Are these acts of civil disobedience, or federal crimes?

The online campaign began with unauthorized tweets — on subjects such as climate change inconsistent with Trump's campaign statements and policies — that have been mostly deleted from official agency accounts. It shifted tactics Thursday as at least 40 new but unofficial "alternative" accounts for federal agencies began spreading across Twitter. It wasn't clear how many unofficial accounts were run by government employees, but there were early indications that at least some were created by federal workers using their work email addresses — and that may have exposed their identities.

The administration said the earlier Twitter actions involved tweets by unauthorized users — at least one was a former employee — who still had passwords for the agency accounts, including one case involving the account for the Redwoods National Park in California. Legal experts said the Justice Department could prosecute such tweeters under federal hacking laws, but the FBI so far was not involved.

"An unauthorized user had an old password in the San Francisco office, went in and started retweeting inappropriate things that were in violation of their policy," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said. Separately, the National Park Service said tweets published earlier this week on the account of the Badlands National Park in South Dakota were posted by a former employee not authorized to use the account.

Employees or former employees publishing unauthorized messages on official accounts could be prosecuted under the U.S. Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, which prohibits someone from exceeding authorized access to computers. "The argument would be that the authorization to use the account was only for employees and implicitly that was extinguished when the employee left government employment," said Orin Kerr, a law professor at George Washington University.

Even employees authorized to use official agency Twitter

accounts could face legal jeopardy posting messages they weren't supposed to write, said Stewart Baker, a cybersecurity lawyer and former National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security official.

"If someone says you may not tweet except in these circumstances, and you tweet in other circumstances, you're exceeding authority," Baker said. He added that some federal courts would examine the security measures in place and could throw out cases where employees weren't clearly violating them.

"It wouldn't surprise me if at this stage a criminal investigation was opened and criminal tools were used to investigate this, even if at the end of the day they decided not to pursue criminal charges," Baker said.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter by name, said he was unaware of any requests from federal agencies to investigate the rogue tweets.

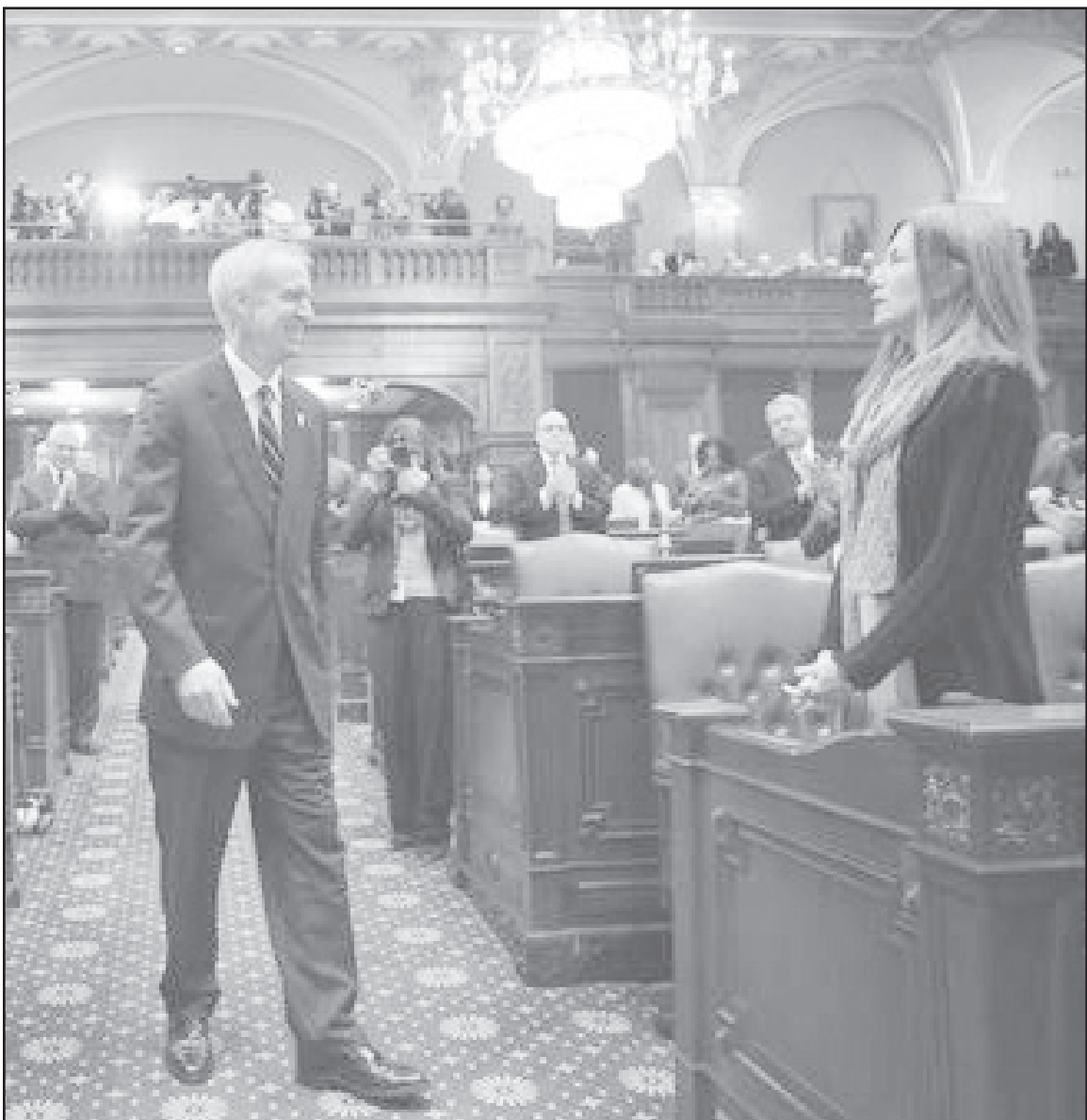
The unauthorized messages posted under official accounts appeared to be dropping off, as the Trump administration regained control over its agency accounts. Over last weekend, immediately after Trump's inauguration, transition staff changed all social media passwords for the Environmental Protection Agency, said Jared Blumenfeld, a former EPA official under the Obama administration who said he was speaking regularly with former colleagues.

Starting Wednesday, scores of unofficial Twitter accounts appeared purporting to represent federal agencies, mocking Trump using the same social media service the president uses daily. At least some were linked to federal employees using work email addresses who inadvertently revealed their involvement.

Twitter users can choose to allow others on the service to find them by searching for their email address. In other cases, Twitter notified users who previously shared their online address books using Twitter's "Find Friends" feature that anonymous accounts were created by federal employees whose work email addresses were already in those address books.



With eye on 2018, Illinois governor says 'Don't blame me'



FILE - In this Jan. 25, 2017 file photo, Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner greets lawmakers as he enters the Illinois House chamber to deliver his State of the State address in the Illinois House chamber in Springfield, Ill. With crises mounting around him and potential Democratic rivals circling, Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's strategy for keeping his job in 2018 appears to involve stressing the bright spots and blaming others for the things going horribly wrong.

(Ted Schurter/The State Journal-Register via AP)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — With crises mounting around him, Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's strategy for fending off potential Democratic challengers and keeping his job in 2018 includes stressing the bright spots while blaming others for the things going horribly wrong.

As a Republican in a solidly Democratic state, the wealthy former private equity investor would have been one of the country's most endangered GOP incumbents even under the best of circumstances. Adding to his task are a state budget impasse that has dragged on for most of his two years in office, decimating many social service agencies and creating billions more in debt, and a labor dispute that has Illinois' largest public-employee union holding its first strike-authorizing vote.

Rauner didn't make more than a fleeting reference to the budget until the end of his annual State of the State address on Wednesday. Instead, he highlighted accomplishments such as ethics reforms, increased funding for schools and improved cybersecurity of state records and said he was "deeply optimistic" about Illinois' future.

When he made it to the budget issue, he was quick to point the finger at his predecessors for creating a mess that includes \$130 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and the worst credit rating of any state.

"These problems aren't new," Rauner said. "They've been building up for many years as past governors and General Assemblies — from both political parties — kicked the can down the road to avoid making tough decisions."

Democrats pounced. One possible 2018 challenger, U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, called him an "epic failure," while the head of the Illinois Federation of Teachers wondered where Rauner, who owns nine homes, has spent the past two years.

"It's like he's not living in Illinois," Dan Montgomery said.

The Democratic Governors Association, which considers Illinois a top-tier race, sug-

gested Rauner's State of the State could have been summed up in four words: "Getting worse every day."

And state Sen. Kwame Raoul, who isn't ruling out a bid, scoffed at Rauner's attempts to shift blame to others. He noted Illinois was paying its bills within 30 days before Rauner took office; as of this week the state's backlog of overdue bills is almost \$11 billion and some vendors are waiting months to get paid.

"The only variable that's changed ... is the fact that we have a different governor and that's Bruce Rauner," Raoul said. "He wears the shirt for that."

Rauner deposited \$50 million of his own money into his campaign fund last month. Republicans said the money was intended to send a message to potential challengers — including deep-pocketed businessmen J.B. Pritzker and Chris Kennedy — that taking him on would not be easy.

Rauner, a first-time politician, defeated Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn in 2014 by promising to bring big changes to a state Capitol where several previous governors had gone to prison and decades of bad budgeting had led Illinois to have the worst-funded public pensions of any state.

He pledged to make Illinois more business friendly by weakening labor unions, reducing regulatory burdens on companies and cutting the cost of workers' compensation. And he pledged not to agree to a tax increase to help balance an out-of-whack state budget until the Democrat-controlled Legislature went along with him.

Democrats resisted, saying Rauner's agenda would weaken the middle class and hurt Illinois' most vulnerable residents while fattening the wallets of his business friends.

With the two sides at odds there has been no full spending plan approved. While lawmakers have approved money for K-12 schools and some spending has continued under court order, the state deficit has grown by billions of dollars and universities and social ser-

vice agencies have lost funding, leading homeless shelters to close and colleges to lay off employees.

Rauner's team says voters knew when they elected him that what he was trying to do would be difficult, and that they'll reward his persistence.

The GOP also is counting on that voters will instead blame longtime Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan, whom they've repeatedly painted as the roadblock to

reform.

The party operation — funded largely by Rauner — has worked to link his potential Democratic rivals to Madigan, who will soon become the nation's longest-serving state-house speaker in a century.

They credit that same strategy with helping Republicans pick up four Illinois House seats during the 2016 elections, including one held by a top Madigan lieutenant, Rep. John Bradley.

Rauner also will continue to press for lawmaker term limits and a more fair way of drawing political maps — two issues that are popular with voters from both parties in Illinois, and that he again stressed during Wednesday's speech.

"Let the people decide these issues for themselves," Rauner said. "End the power of incumbency and special interest groups, and give power back to the people of our state."



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Toe i'u lava tagata Manu'a i le MV Sili



tusia Ausage Fausia

Na taua e ni isi o le itumalo o Manu'a o latou lagona su'ifefiloi i le vaiaso nei i le Samoa News, ina ua toe i'u lava le itumalo e fa'aaoga le va'a tuai a le malo mo malaga i Manu'a, e ui o lea ua taunu'u mai le va'a fou sa folafola o le a avea ma fa'aola mo le itumalo.

Na taua e se tasi o Tama matua na malaga ai i le va'a a le MV Sili mo Manu'a i le po o le aso Lulu na te'a nei e fa'apea, e tele lava lagona e fia fai e fa'atautu i le mafua'aga ua toe i'u ai le itumalo e fa'aaoga le va'a tuai mo faigamalaga i Manu'a, ae ona o le popole ma le manatu ina nei faitioina ai i latou.

"O lea mea moni lava ua ese upu ma tala sa tu'uina mai, ese le tulaga lea ua vaaia i le taimi nei, o folafolaga sa tu'uina mai, o le taimi lava e taunu'u mai ai le va'a fou o le MV Manu'atele, o le taimi fo'i lea e ea ai le pologa o tagata Manu'a sa tauamo mai i le tele o tausaga ua mavae, o le a le toe fa'aaogaina fo'i le MV Sili, peita'i o le tu ai o le va'a fou e aunoa ma se fa'amatalaga sa'o e tu'uina mai i le mafua'aga ua le fealua'i ai, ua atagia ai le maoaluma o lagona o tagata, ma ua moni ai le upu a le atunu'u, ua salu vale lau

ta'amu a Aopo", o le saunoaga lea a se tasi o Tama matua e le'i finagalo e fa'a'ailoa lona suafa.

E to'alua isi Tina matutua na la taua i le Samoa News e fa'apea, e oo mai lava i le taimi nei o loo tu'u fesili pea le itumalo i le mafua'aga ua le faia ai se malaga a le va'a fou mo Manu'a.

Na taua e ni tagata faigaluga a le Pulega o Uafu ma Malaeva'alele i le Samoa News e fa'apea, "pau ripoti o loo matou fa'alogi ai, o loo i ai vaega o le va'a o loo fa'aletonu, ma o loo fa'atali totoga o loo oka i fafo i le taimi nei".

E lei manuia taumafaiga a le Samoa News mo se fa'amalamalamaga o lenei mataupu, ina ua tu'uina atu ni fesili i le tama'ita'i Fa'atonusili le tumau o le Pulega o Uafu ma Taulaga, le afioga ia Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele, peita'i e tusa ai o ripoti na maua e le Samoa News, na mafua ona le taunu'u le malaga a le MV Manu'atele sa fuafuaina mo le vaiaso na te'a nei i Manu'a, o loo i ai ni isi o vaega o le va'a o loo fa'aletonu, o le mafua'aga lea na taofia ai e le Ofisa o le US Coast Guard le fa'ataunu'uina o le malaga atu i Manu'a.

Na taua e le sui o le US Coast Guard ia Joe Twiddy i le Samoa News i le vaiaso nei e fa'apea, o ni isi o vaega o loo



Le taimi na la'u ai le uta a le MV Sili i le aso Lulu na te'a nei mo lana malaga mo Manu'a i le vaiaso nei. [ata AF]

fa'aletonu o le va'a e moomia le fa'aleleia, o le suau'u lea e sisina i le vaega e teu ai uta a le va'a, ma masini e tape ai ni afi e alia'e mai i taimi o malaga i totonu o le potu e nonofo ai pasese e le o lelei.

I le taimi na taunu'u mai ai

le va'a fou lenei a le malo e tusa ma le \$13.6 miliona tau, na taua ai e ta'ita'i o le malo e aofia ai le itumalo o Manu'a, le avea o lenei va'a fou o se fa'aola totoga mo tagata uma o Manu'a, talu mai ona pologa le itumalo i tulaga o femalagaiga

mo le silia i le 50 tausaga ua mavae.

E le o manino mai lava i le taimi nei se taimi e mafai ai ona foia vaega o loo fa'aletonu o le va'a.

Fa'alauiloa ali'i Kovana ni isi o ana Tofiga mo lana Kapeneta

tusia Ausage Fausia

O le vaiaso nei na saina ai e le afioga i le ali'i Kovana ia Lolo Matalasi Moliga, ana poloaiga e fa'amaonia ai ni isi o ana tofiga ua mae'a ona faia mo i latou e avea ma Fa'atonusili le tumau mo ni isi o Ofisa ma Matagaluega a le malo, e fa'atalitali ai le taimi e fa'amaonia ai i latou i luma o le Fono Faitulafono.

O ni isi o ia tofiga fou e 6 e aofia ai tofiga tuai e 2 mo le afioga ia Dr. Peter Tinitali e toe avea ma Fa'atonusili le tumau o le Ofisa e Puipuia Aia Tatau o i latou e i ai manaoga fa'apitoa o le tino ma le mafaufau, ma toe fa'aa'au ai lana tautua sa ia fa'atinoina i le 4 tausaga ua mavae, fa'apea ai ma le toe filifilia o le afioga a Tamaaiga Maeata'anoa Pili Gaoteote e avea ma Fa'atonusili le tumau o le Ofisa o Paka ma Malaeta'alo a le malo mo le isi 4 tausaga o loo lumana'i nei, ma toe fa'aa'au ai lana tautua sa fa'atinoina mai i le 4 tausaga ua mavae.

O isi tofiga e 4 a le ali'i kovana, o ni isi ia o ana tofiga fou ua mae'a ona fa'alauiloa mo sui o lana Kapeneta, lea e aofia ai le tofia o le afioga a Tuimavave Tauapa'i Laupola e avea ma Fa'atonusili le tumau o le Ofisa o Fa'amatalaga a le malo, le KVZK-TV.

E pei ona silafia, o le tofa a Fagafaga D. Langkilde sa avea ma Fa'atonusili o le Ofisa o Fa'amatalaga a le malo mo le 4 tausaga ua mavae atu, peita'i o lea ua tofia i ai le afioga a Tuimavave.

O le isi tofiga fou a le ali'i kovana e aofia ai le filifilia o Eseneiaso Liu e avea ma Fa'atonusili o le Matagaluega o Tagata Faigaluega a le malo mo le isi 4 tausaga, e sui tulaga i le tofia i le Tootoo ia Le'i S. Thompson sa ia tauaveina lea tofiga i le 4 tausaga ua mavae, a o lea ua filifilia e avea ma Komesina fou o le Matagaluega o le Puipuia o le Saogalemu Lautele.

O le tofa a Leseiau T. Laumoli lea ua filifilia nei e avea ma Fa'atonusili o le Ofisa e fa'atautaia Fuafuaga ma Polokalame e taofia ai Solitulafono mo le isi 4 tausaga o loo lumana'i nei.

Ma le tofiga mulimuli, lea ua filifilia i ai le tofa ia Paogofie Fiaigoa e avea ma Fa'atonusili le tumau o le Ofisa o Tu ma Aganu'u a Amerika Samoa mo le isi 4 tausaga, e sui tulaga i le tofa Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoile lagi sa ia tauaveina mai lenei tofiga i le 4 tausaga talu ai, lea ua malolo ona o tulaga i lona soifua maloloina.

O le masina lenei o Ianuari na aloia ai le fa'atinoina e i latou ua tofia e le kovana o lenei galuega, o latou tiute fa'atino e fa'atalitali ai le taimi e fa'amaonia ai i latou e le Fono Faitulafono.

Ua i ai le fa'amoemoe o Ta'ita'i o le Fono Faitulafono o le toe amataina ai o galuega masani a maota e lua i le taeco o le aso Gafua o le vaiaso fou, pe a toe a'e mai le Fono mai lana malologa e 2 vaiaso sa alo atu i ai, ona amata loa lea ona fa'atulaga taimi ma aso e faia ai iloiloa a Komiti ta'itasi, mo le iloiloa o tofiga a le ali'i kovana ua mae'a ona fa'atinoina.



Afioga i le faipule, Su'a Alexander E. Jennings, i le aso Faraile ua te'a, fa'alauiloa panikeke e saunia mai i le falaoa mata fai i le ulu. [ata: FS]



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Polynesia	481	OMIT	SAILED	SAILED	SAILED	SAILED	SAILED	IN PORT	Polynesia	481	SAILED	SAILED	SAILED	IN PORT
Cap Taputapu	026	SAILED	SAILED	SAILED	02/03	---	02/08	02/08	Cap Taputapu	026	02/03	---	02/08	02/08
Polynesia	482	01/27	02/06	02/08	02/18	02/23	02/24	02/24	Polynesia	482	02/18	02/23	02/24	02/24
Cap Taputapu	027	02/17	02/21	02/23	03/06	---	03/11	03/11	Cap Taputapu	027	03/06	---	03/11	03/11
Polynesia	483	03/03	03/07	03/09	03/20	03/25	03/27	03/27	Polynesia	483	03/20	03/25	03/27	03/27

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Ni isi o le mamalu o le atunu'u sa mai ona maimoaina le fa'alauiaina e le afioga i le faipule, Su'a Alexander E. Jennings, o panikeke e saunia mai i le falaoa mata fai i le ulu i le aso Faraiile ua te'a.

[ata: FS]

Onosa'i i Mea Tiga

Tusia: Akenese Ilialo Zec
VAEGA: 48

Fa'atalofofa atu ma fa'afeiloa'i atu i le mamalu o le atunu'u, i lou alafa'i mai i fanuga lelei o lenei aso fou, o se aso e fa'aopoopo i lou soifua ma si o'u nei ola vaivai.

Fai mai, o le mea ua tupu nei, na o'o ane Lefefe e fai le fa'amalamalama, a'o lea ua 'ese le tulaga ua tual'i mai, ua mana'o le lo'omatua o Susitina ia talanoa loa le aso e fai ai le fa'aipoipoga a Lilo ma Loleta.

Ua fiu lava le toaina o Falaniko ma le matai o lo latou aiga e fai ane i le lo'omatua ae ua finau mai lava ia talanoa loa mo le aso e fai ai le fa'aipoipoga a Lilo ma Loleta, e le toe faia lava nisi tala. Na

tilotilo ane nei Lilo ia Lefefe ma lulu ane i ai lona ulu, e leai, na iloa lelei e Lefefe le uiga o le ta'aga lea a Lilo ua fai ane ia te ia. O lea na ia toe fa'apea ane ai i a Falaniko ma le matai o le aiga, "Ia e fa'apenei, ou te fa'amalulu atu lava i lau tofa 'Ave, fa'apea fo'i le tama o le aiga Falaniko, o le mea ou te fia fa'ailoa atu, ia outou finagalo malilie, o lo'o tapua'i mai matua o Lilo ma fa'atali mai mo se tala.

"E le mafai la ona ou fa'apea atu, tatou fetufa'ai i tulaga ia, ae e sili ia pe a moe le toa, ona tatou toe talanoa ai lea mo le tulaga e pei ona au mai le finagalo o le tina o le aiga, ou te fa'amalie atu ai ma lo'u loto mauualalo."

E le i toe i ai lava ni upu na tali mai nei le tofa ia 'Ave, le matai o le aiga o Loleta, "Lefefe, o mea lava fa'apenei e tatau lava ona o tatou soalau-pule lelei ai, ae o le a fai lou fingalo, tatou auai ia fa'apea."

Fai mai, e le i uma atu tala a le matai o le aiga oi Falaniko, ae puna mai le lo'omatua o Susitina, "O le a le mea ua tupu, 'Ave, o lea ua ou fai atu e talanoa loa le aso e fai ai le fa'aipoipoga a Loleta, afai la tou te le faia le mea ua ou mana'o i ai, o le a ou alu i lo'u aiga e fai ai le fa'aipoipoga a la'u tama, ou te le popole lava i se mea, o le na fo'i tou te silafia, e le o se aiga fa'atauva'a ma se aiga mauualalo lo'u aiga, ma e fa'alogo fo'i o'u tuagane ia te

a'u, afai la o le mea lena ua lua manana'o i ai ma Falaniko, o le a fai lava le mea lea ou te mana'o i ai."

E le i uma mai tala a le lo'omatua, ae fa'alave ane loa ma Lefefe, "Susitina, alofa maia oe le tina, e fai fo'i o i'ina a'o i'inei, e pei lava ona ou fai atu, o lo'o fa'atali mai matua o Lilo, e le mafai ona ou faia se fa'ai'uga se i vagana matua o Lilo, o le ala lea, ou te soso atu lava i ou tafatafa, malie maia lou fingalo, e sau se taimi ona tatou toe felogoa'i lea, malie maia oe le lo'omatua faigata."

Ua le toe tali mai le lo'omatua i a Lefefe, ae fai mai, e le mafai ona ave'ese mata o le lo'omatua mai ia Lilo. Ua iloa ma ua mautinoa nei e le

lo'omatua, o se taule'ale'a e agamalu, o se taule'ale'a fo'i e tausa'afia ona uiga, ae o se taule'ale'a ua matua'i matagofie i le va'ai, o ona foliga fa'apea ma lona faitino, ua matua'i selau pasasa pasene i le va'ai a le lo'omatua.

A tonu o le mafua'aga lea ua naunau ai lona loto ia fai loa le talanoaga i le aso mo le fa'aipoipoga a lana tama ma Lilo, aua ua musu le lo'omatua e toe tu'u 'ese atu Lilo ma ona tafatafa. Ae fai mai le tala a Vesi lea na musumusua ane ia Lefefe, "Fefe, o le matua'i palu vai lava o le lo'omatua lenei, tatou o, ua leva le afiafi."

E faia pea...

Report: Trump called park official to dispute crowd photos

WASHINGTON (AP) — On his first full day in office, President Donald Trump called the acting director of the National Park Service to dispute widely circulated photos of Trump's inauguration.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that Trump personally ordered park service head Michael Reynolds to produce additional photographs of the previous day's crowds on the National Mall. The president believed that the photos might prove that the news media had lied in reporting that attendance had been no better than average, the newspaper said.

The Post reported that Reynolds forwarded additional photos to the White House as requested.

Photos taken that day made clear that crowds didn't extend to the Lincoln Memorial as Trump later asserted and that his claim of 1 million to 1.5 million people in attendance was wrong.

A spokesman for the park service confirmed the call Thursday but declined to reveal details of the conversation. Asked about Trump's call, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said,



President Planned Parenthood Federation of America Cecile Richards speak to the crowd during the women's march rally, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 in Washington. In a global exclamation of defiance and solidarity, more than 1 million people rallied at women's marches in the nation's capital and cities around the world Saturday to send President Donald Trump an emphatic message on his first full day in office that they won't let his agenda go unchallenged. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

"President Trump is someone who takes action and gets things done — this is one of the reasons he won and Hillary didn't."

Trump also expressed anger over a retweet sent from the park service's account, in

which side-by-side photographs showed far fewer people at his swearing-in than had shown up to see President Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009, the Post reported.

The call from Trump came after the Interior Department

briefly suspended park service accounts and others run by the department in response to the retweeted photos and another tweet that pointed out that webpages about some issues, including climate change, had been removed from the White

House site.

The Interior Department accounts were reactivated the next day.

Park service employees launched a Twitter campaign against Trump this week. After three climate-science tweets by Badlands National Park were deleted, several other parks posted tweets related to climate change in an apparent show of solidarity and defiance.

Trump has called climate change a hoax, and many readers saw the climate-related tweets as a message of defiance to the new president.

Tom Crosson, the chief spokesman for the park service, declined to comment on any of the tweets sent out by park service accounts, but he said there is no restriction on agency use of Twitter or other social media.

"There's no gag order on national parks that would prevent people from tweeting," he said Wednesday.

Trump used his Twitter account during the campaign to bash opponents and share his messages directly to his supporters. But government policy indicates that any agency must agree with the contents of whatever it shares on social media.

tusia Ausage Fausia

MICHAEL AGASIVA

Ua teena e le susuga a Michael Agasiva tu'uaiga a le malo fa'asaga ia te ia, i le mae'a ai lea o lana ulua'i iloiloiga lea na fa'atautaia i luma o le Fa'amasinoga Maua'uga i le taeao ananafi. I lona teena ai o tu'uaiga fa'asaga ia te ia, ua fa'atulaga ai loa e le fa'amasinoga lana ulua'i iloiloiga e faia lea i le masina o Mati o le tausaga nei.

O loo tu'uaia e le malo le susuga a Agasiva i le moliaga o le talepe fale i le tulaga lua, tagofia o itutinosa o se tama'ita'i i le tulaga muamua, atoa ai ma le fa'atupu vevesi i nofoaga faitele.

O ia moliaga na afua mai i se fa'alavelave na tula'i mai i le taeao o le aso o le tausaga fou na te'a nei, ina ua ulufale fa'amalosi le ua molia i totonu o le fale o se fafine ma ia faia i ai ni uiga mataga, e pei ona tu'uaia ai o ia e le malo.

Na taua e le fafine na a'afia i Leoleo e fa'apea, o le mae'a ai o se fiafia a le latou aiga sa faia i le po o le tausaga fou na te'a nei, na manatu ai loa e fo'i i lona aiga e fai sana malologa ina ua latalata i le taeao pe tusa o le itula e 5:00.

O luga o le nofoa sa i luma o le potu malolo o le fale na alu atu le fafine ma moe ai, peita'i ina ua o ese lana fanau mai le fale i le taeao lea, sa galo ia tei latou ona loka le faitoto'a, o iina la lea o loo tu'uaia e le malo ia Agasiva na mafai ai ona ia ulufale i totonu o le fale, ma ia fa'atinoina loa uiga mataga i le fafine na a'afia e pei ona tu'uaia ai o ia e le malo.

O loo taofia pea Agasiva i le toese i Tafuna i le taimi nei, ina ua le mafai ona ia totogi le tupe e \$5,000 ua mae'a ona fa'atulaga e le fa'amasinoga e tatala ai o ia i tua, peita'i afai e mafai ona ia totogiina le tupe ma tatala ai o ia i tua, ua fa'atonuina e le fa'amasinoga o ia ina ia aua ne'i ona toe tau-

mafai e fa'afeso'ota'i le fafine na a'afia i soo se auala, pe toe alu ai fo'i i lona fale.

Ua fa'asa ona ia toe soliina se tulafono a le malo, a ia aveva o ia ma tagatanu'u lelei e tausisi i tulafono a le malo i taimi uma.

O le tama'ita'i loia ia Sharron Rancourt lea ua aveva nei ma loia fautua a Agasiva, ae o le ali'i loia ia Gerald Murphy lea ua aveva nei ma loia a le malo mo lenei mataupu.

RICHARD TUANA'I

E 12 masina lea ua nofovaavaai ai le ali'i o Richard Tuana'i i luma o le fa'amasinoga fa'aitumalo, i le mae'a ai lea ona ta'usala o ia e le fa'amasinoga i le moliaga o le fa'atupu vevesi i nofoaga faitele, atoa ai ma le tu fua i le fanua poo le fale o le isi aiga. I le ta'usalaina ai e le fa'amasinoga o Tuana'i i moliaga mama e lua, i lalo o se malilie sa latou sainia ma le malo ma talia e le fa'amasinoga, na solofua ai loa e le fa'amasinoga le moliaga mama o le fa'aoolima i le tulaga tolu.

O se fa'alavelave na tula'i mai i le masina o Novema o le tausaga na te'a nei i Nu'uuli, ina ua tula'i mai se vevesi i le va o le ua molia ma se ali'i la te tuaoi, ma alu ai loa le ua molia i le fale o le ali'i lea ma tauanau o ia la te fufusu, e mafua mai i se taugapu na amata mai i se ta'aloga Volipolo.

Na fa'atoese le ua molia e tusa ai o lana solitulafono sa faia, peita'i na saunoa le afioga i le ali'i Fa'amasino ia Fiti Sunia e fa'apea, o le taimi lava e le mafai ai e le tagata ona fa'atonutonu lona ita, ona tula'i mai ai loa lea o isi la'asaga e ono a'afia ai lona olaga.

O ni isi o tuutuuga o le nofovaavaaia a Tuana'i e aofia ai le aua ne'i ona toe solia se tulafono, fa'asa ona ia toe alu i le fale o le ali'i na la vevesi, ma ia totogi le salatupe e \$125.

BEACH ADVISORY

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

AS-EPA

Supporting efforts to clean our shores

Release Date: January 25, 2017

Contact: AS-EPA Water Program at (684) 633-2304

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on **January 24, 2017**, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

- Fagasa-Fagale'a Stream Mouth**
- Aua Stream Mouth**
- Afono Stream Mouth**
- Lauli'i Stream Mouth**
- Alega Stream Mouth**
- Fagaitua Stream Mouth**
- Masaui Stream Mouth**
- Coconut Point**
- Pala Spring**
- Pala Lagoon**
- Asili Stream Mouth**

AS-EPA beach advisories inform the public about current water conditions. When a beach advisory is issued, it is because water samples indicate that the American Samoa Water Quality Standard for Enterococci has been exceeded. This advisory is in effect until further sampling and laboratory analyses indicate that Enterococci concentrations are within acceptable water quality standards.

The presence of Enterococci in the water indicates contamination by human and/or animal wastes. Swimming in water with high levels of Enterococci may cause stomach problems, skin rashes, and ear, eye, and wound infections. To reduce your risk: avoid swallowing beach water, be sure to rinse or towel off after a swim, and shower once at home. If you are ill, or think you may be ill, AS-EPA advises that you consult a physician before making any water contact in the beaches cited above.

Note: AS-EPA monitors the water quality of 44 recreational beaches on Tutuila, the wharf in Aunu'u, and five beaches on Manu'a. Tutuila advisories are issued weekly on Wednesdays. Aunu'u and Manu'a advisories are issued monthly. Advisories are issued when bacteria concentrations exceed levels determined safe for human exposure. Should you have any questions, please contact the AS-EPA Water Program at 633-2304.



DOC director reveals ...

Continued from page 2

“I believe that when all of them come into play, we will have very competitive Internet rates. At that time the US based companies will be looking at us to be based here,” the acting DOC director said, adding that ASG is not waiting until internet costs come down, as “we’re working on enticing those technology based companies to come here.”

It works well with US President Donald Trump’s idea of relocation for some of the foreign based branches of US companies back to US soil — and American Samoa “is US soil,” he pointed out, and “that’s what attracted Datamatics to us, this is US soil and the service that they provide” is to keep data strictly on US soil.

And “that’s what sold them to us, US soil. They came here twice to try to set up,” Lafaele said, but “the deal breaker was the cost of the internet.”

He later told Samoa News

that it was Datamatics’ plan to first start out with 50 jobs and in the second year perhaps add 100 more jobs and build up to 2,000 employees over a period of five years.

“So that was their plan. But it’s just that they couldn’t make it with the cost of Internet here,” he said. “But we’re keeping them at arms length. The moment that we have our Internet cost... brought down to a competitive level, we’ll re-engage them.”

Samoa News will report on other issues from Lafaele’s presentation in future editions.

BACKGROUND

As previously reported by Samoa News, the Tui Samoa cable is expected to be launched the end of this year; while Moana Cable and Hawaiiki by next year. Additionally, the Bluesky group is one of the shareholder investors of the Tui Samoa Cable.



tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

FINAU TA’ALOGA VOLI-POLO SAILIA SIAMUPINI 2017

I le tamia nei, ua amata ta’aloga e sailia ai ‘au e 4 mau-luluga e sailia ai le Siamupini o le Samoa Volleyball Challenge League lea o lo’o fa’aauau pea i le fale taalo a Samoana High School.

I se va’aiga i le ituaiga ta’alo ua tauva ai nei le fanau talavou, ae maise i le Under 19, ua matua suia lava le tomai ua latou fa’aogaina ai le polo.

“Afai e oso atu i le isi fika ae poloka mai ona ua lelei foi le puipui mai a le la itu, ia suia le aikia e fa’aoga, pe fa’aoga loa le fai’ai ma le iloa i le ta’aloga, na ia maua le ‘ai, o le sini atoa lea,” o se apoapoiga lea a le faia’oga o le ‘au a le Mizuno i lana ‘au, ina ua matauina ua fita le ta’aloga i le va o si ‘au nini’i ma le ‘au masii mai Samoa All

Stars U19.

O le vae vave fo’i o le fanau talavou ia piki mai le polo pe a oo ina masasau tu’i a le isi ‘au, e matua iloga lo latou taumafai e fa’aoga soo se avanoa ia sao le polo ma fa’aauau ona toe molita’i atu i le isi ‘au mo se ‘ai. “E sa le fo’i, e oki lava o fusu ma le polo,” o se tala ata lea a le ali’i Kolone Alefosio, Mizuno.

Peita’i i le latou ta’aloga na fa’atautaia i le afiafi o le aso Lulu ma le Au Masii mai Samoa, ua malolo ai i latou i le malosia tele o tauau o tama mai sisifo. E lua seti soso’o na avea e le ‘au mai Samoa, ae tasi le seti na maumalo ai Mizuno i le latou fetauiga lea. O lona uiga ua aga atu nei le ‘au mai Samoa ina ia sailia le siamupini ma se ‘au e manumalo mai a Pavaiai ma le All Sports lea e le’i faia lona ta’aloga faitaulia.

I vaega matutua, sa mua’i tatala malae ai le ‘au malosia a le

Laumua o Tuma, siamupini o le Tutoatasi a Samoa ma le latou Teuila Week o le 2016, ma le ‘au a Pavaiai Men’s Team. E lua seti na malo ai Laumua o Tumua ma ua tatala nei e i latou se isi ‘au e latou te fetau i le 4 ‘au pitoaluga e latou te fetau mo le siamupini o le Samoa Challenge.

Ona o le taimi fa’atulaga nei mo le fa’aogaina o le malae i Samoana mo ta’aloga uma e faia ai ta’aloga e muta i le itula e 8:00 i le afiafi, o lea ua le gafatia ai ona faaauau ta’aloga na soso’o ai, peita’i o le a soso’o fo’i mo le afiafi o le aso Tofi, taimi masani, ma ua vala’auina fo’i le au a le Laumua o Tumua ina ia toe talosaga le latou nonofo pea seia mae’a le ta’amilosaga Volipolo a le Samoa Challenge ona fa’ato’a tu’uva’a atu lea i Samoa.

FANAU FA’AFAIGALUEGA E LE SPORTS COMPLEX

Sa mua’i finau mai nisi o fanau e to’a 15 na fa’afialuega e le Sports Complex lea e va’aia le Veterans Memorial Stadium i Tafuna, ua fai si umi ae le maua mai ni a latou siaki totogi, ae o lea ua fa’ailoa mai ua maua nei siaki mo i latou uma.

Peita’i, mo se tasi o leni fanau e le’i taliaina e lona sui le aofaiga o itula sa fa’afialuega ai o ia, sa ia toe fa’auia fo’i le isi ana faitioga i le faigamalo, ma ua toe fa’aulu nei ona itula fou ina ia totogia.

Fa’ailoa mai, o nei fanau e ala usu atu i le stadium i le itula e 6:00 i le taeao, ae fatato’a manava fo’i i le 6:00 i le afiafi mo lona vaiata. Lea fo’i ua toe fa’atula’i ese mai nei galuega sa fa’afialuega ai.

Ina ua fa’afeso’ota’i le vaega a le Sports Complex mo se fa’amaoniga sa faigaluega nei fanau ma ua totogia fo’i i latou, ae fa’ailoa mai e le sui, “Toe sa faigaluega, ua mae’a totogia i latou, e le o toe faigaluega fo’i i le taimi nei i latou na, ae tatau ona talanoa sa’o i le ali’i fa’atonu Henry Tavake, mo se fa’amalamalama atoatoa o le ituaiga faigaluega na fa’afialuega ai nei fanau.”

Na fa’ailoa mai fo’i, “E moni e i ai le sui e to’atasi na le malie i ona itula faigaluega, peita’i, ua toe fa’aulu ona taimi o loo manatu o ia e ao ina totogia, peita’i e le’i faigaluega ai.” O le fa’apupulaga, o le pepa pani lava latou e le o i ai nei itula, ae ua faatonuina ina ia totogia, le 120 itula o totoe.

Ua fesiligia fo’i le Matagaluega o Tagata Faigaluega a le Malo i leni aofai na faigaluega mai a le Sports Complex, ae fa’ailoa mai e i latou, o ni konekarate poo nisi faigaluega tumau na latou taliaina e faigaluega mo le malo.

E le i mafai ona maua le susuga ia Tavake mo sana fa’amatalaga e tusa o lea vaega sa fa’afialuega i lana pulega i lea vaiata ma ala fo’i o totogia ai.

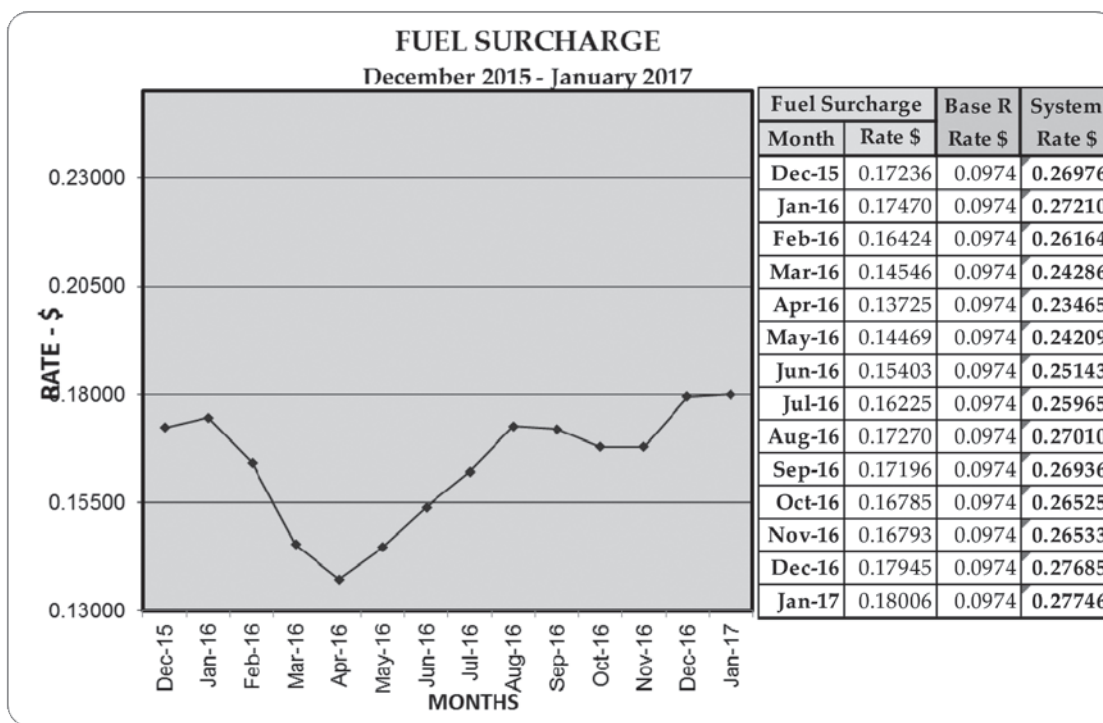


American Samoa Power Authority

January 25, 2017

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

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



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

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

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

Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for January 2017			
Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.18443	0.18443	0.18443
Renewable Reduction	-0.00437	-0.00437	-0.00437
Fuel Surcharge	0.18006	0.18006	0.18006
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.27746	0.28656	0.26966

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



Esteban Santiago, center, leaves the Broward County jail for a hearing in federal court, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Santiago is accused of a Jan. 6 shooting rampage at a Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport baggage claim area that left several people dead and others wounded.

(Amy Beth Bennett/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP)

Florida airport shooting suspect indicted on 22 counts

MIAMI (AP) — A federal grand jury returned a 22-count indictment against the man accused of a shooting rampage at a South Florida airport that left five people dead and six wounded. The indictment Thursday charges Esteban Santiago, 26, with 11 counts of causing death or bodily harm at an international airport, five counts of causing death during a crime of violence and six counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence. Santiago could face the death penalty if convicted in the Jan. 6 shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

The indictment contains no terrorism-related charges despite Santiago's claims to the FBI after the shooting that he was inspired by videos and chat-rooms affiliated with the Islamic State extremist group, which agents have not been able to corroborate. Santiago also told authorities in that interrogation he was the victim of some form of government mind control, the FBI has said.

Santiago, an Iraq war veteran who lived in Anchorage, Alaska, is scheduled to enter a plea to the charges Monday. He is being held without bail.

The indictment adds no new details about the shooting but lays out the legal framework of the crimes Santiago allegedly committed and the names of each person who died.

"They have made the necessary allegations to seek the death penalty," said David S. Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor now in private practice. The Justice Department has not yet announced whether it will seek capital punishment.

Investigators say Santiago legally brought a gun box con-

taining his weapon and ammunition as checked luggage for a flight from Anchorage to Fort Lauderdale. Once on the ground, Santiago retrieved the box, took it to a bathroom, loaded the Walther 9mm handgun and came out firing.

After firing 15 shots, authorities say Santiago exhausted his ammunition and laid down on the floor where he was arrested. An FBI agent testified at a recent bond hearing that Santiago confessed and that most of the shooting spree was captured on several airport surveillance cameras.

The FBI previously said Santiago visited its office in Anchorage last year complaining about hearing voices and supposed CIA mind control, which led to Anchorage police temporarily seizing his gun and Santiago's brief stay in a mental hospital.

At the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, records show Santiago was given anti-anxiety medications but no prescriptions for drugs that would treat serious mental conditions such as schizophrenia. He was released after a five-day stay with no restrictions that might prevent him from possessing a gun, and his weapon was returned by police. That same gun was used in the airport shooting.

An Anchorage police report obtained Thursday by The Associated Press shows that Santiago allowed police to hold his gun for safekeeping while he was committed for the mental evaluation. The report of the Nov. 7 encounter said Santiago was worried the gun would be stolen from his vehicle.

The report sheds little light on the mental state of Santiago.

FAASALALAUGA OLE FEILOAIGA O SULI MA FEOI OLE SUAFA TOGOI'U I SOLOSOLO

O le a ta'oto a'o se alao'o ou pa'ia sausaugatā Samoa e afua mai i le Taisamasama na alofisā ai Malietoa ma Tuimanu'a se'ia pa'ia Fili ma Puletuu na to ai manū o malō. Tulou, tulou, tulouna lava.

Ae faasino tonu lenei faasalalauga i Suli ma Feoi o le suafa "TOGOI'U" i Solosolo.

Ona ua autausagā e lē o nofoia lenei suafa o lo tatou Aiga, o lea ua a'e ai se manatu i ē o loo nonofo i lo tatou Aiga, e fia faia sa tatou feiloaiga i lo tatou Aiga lava i Solosolo, se'i saili ai se e tausia le Aiga.

O lea e valaau faaaloalo atu ai i Suli ma Feoi o le Suafa TOGOI'U i Solosolo, o loo alaala ma papa'aoa i itu e fia o Samoa, faapea atunuu mamao, 'ina ia outou affio mai ma talaaao mai se'i o tatou feiloa'i fiafia i lo tatou Aiga i Solosolo, i le **Aso Toona'i 28 o Ianuari 2017 ile itula e 9 i le taeao.**

O le a le avea lou le auai mai, e taofia ai se finagalo o le a autasi iai si o tatou Aiga i lenā aso. E avatu malū i pu'ega i lau faatofalaiga ma lau faafofogaaga Samoa i se lafoga ua le tautamalii. Faamoemoe o le a taitai atu e le Tama oi le Lagi, lo outou soifua ma so matou ola i lea aso.

Faafetai ma le faaaloalotele,

Sainia e: **Suli ma Feoi o le Suafa TOGOI'U i Solosolo**

Mo nisi faamatalaga, valaau Vaitinasa Salu i le 684-252-5050.

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Donald Trump's choice for labor secretary outsourced jobs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick for labor secretary outsourced his fast-food company's technology department to the Philippines, a move that contradicts Trump's vow to keep American jobs in the U.S. Trump has blasted, threatened and tried to charm American companies that have so much as contemplated moving jobs overseas, saying he's sticking up for American workers who aren't feeling the economic recovery and form his political base.

But a filing with the Labor Department on CEO Andrew Puzder's company — and a spokesman's acknowledgment that CKE continues to use

the IT operation in the Philippines — provides a window into a key contradiction raised by the nomination.

Democrats and their allies are rushing to exploit Puzder's record on a big increase in the minimum wage, overtime rules and more as they question how well he would advocate for American workers.

"President Trump has said that he will put American workers first, but it increasingly appears this was just empty campaign rhetoric — and we saw this so clearly in who he nominated to lead the Department of Labor," said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the senior Democrat on the committee planning to

consider Puzder's nomination on Feb. 7.

Puzder's company, CKE Restaurants Inc., notified the government in August 2010 that it was outsourcing its restaurant information technology division to the Philippines. Doing so, the agency found, "contributed importantly" to the layoffs of both CKE employees and those of an outside staffing firm at an Anaheim, California, facility. The agency's finding made workers eligible for federally funded benefits meant to dampen the impact of globalization on employees.

"By outsourcing the function to a firm that employs hundreds of Help Desk specialists,

CKE was able to improve the quality of service levels to their restaurants," the company said in a statement Wednesday to The Associated Press.

There's nothing illegal, or even uncommon, about CKE's decision to move its help desk overseas and lay off about 20 workers.

"This filing showing jobs being outsourced overseas is yet another troubling example of workers being squeezed by companies under Andrew Puzder's leadership," Murray said.

During his first week in the White House, Trump warned that he would impose a "substantial border tax" on companies that move their manufacturing out of the United States.

He also promised tax advantages to companies that produce products domestically.

"All you have to do is stay," Trump said during a meeting in the White House's Roosevelt Room. His companies have regularly outsourced supply purchases and sometimes used guest workers.

Trump's anti-outsourcing message, begun during the presidential campaign, is based on the idea that the practice has hurt middle- and lower-income working Americans who feel left behind in the nation's economic recovery. Trump handily won this group of voters in the 2016 election over Democrat Hillary Clinton, and he's said from his inaugural speech on that bringing jobs back to the U.S. economy is a top priority.

In its statement, CKE defended its decision to move its IT division overseas. "The existing CKE restaurant support staff was insufficient to adequately cover the disproportionately high volume of help desk calls that occur during the early morning hours and to provide full, 24 hours per day, seven days per week coverage. So, CKE shifted its small help desk services team to a firm that provides both off-shore and onshore support."

The Labor Department's determination that outsourcing cost the CKE Restaurant employees their jobs was one of more than 2,400 such certifications made in 2010.

Committee Democrats have offered up current and former employees of his companies to tell unflattering stories about their treatment while working for Puzder's companies.

At a 2013 American Enterprise Conference, Puzder said Hardee's Restaurant operators in the Southeast and Midwest were jealous of the immigrant-heavy workforce in California.

"In other parts of the country you often get people that are saying, 'I can't believe I have to work this job,'" he said. But in California, he added, "with the immigration population you always have the, 'Thank God I have this job' kind of attitude."

Puzder also has talked about deploying robots to replace American workers who demand higher wages. Robots, he said, are always polite, never late and don't sue their employers for discrimination, according to an interview with Business Insider.

A statement from Puzder released by the Trump campaign in December struck a different note, promising that he'd be "the best champion American workers have had."



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Man gets 20 years for plotting New Year's machete attack



In this Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017 photo, tourists from the U.S. and Spain eat at a restaurant near the entrance to Karak Castle, Jordan. The recent Islamic State shooting rampage at Karak Castle, a popular tourism site in Jordan, could signal a more aggressive campaign by the extremist group to destabilize the pro-Western kingdom. A senior security official says members of the Karak cell, who were killed during the attack, had planned New Year's Eve attacks in Jordan, using five explosives belts. Jordan's government tries to allay concerns, saying its security forces can contain any threat. (AP Photo/Raad Adayleh)

CAROLYN THOMPSON, Associated Press

An ex-convict who plotted a foiled New Year's Eve machete attack at an upstate New York restaurant in the name of the Islamic State group was sentenced Thursday to 20 years in prison, provoking a courtroom outburst in which he shouted "there's going to be more of us."

Emanuel Lutchman, 26, wrote before the sentencing that he had moved on from a "radical Islamic ideology," but after drawing a sentence twice as long as his lawyer had sought, became agitated.

"You think because I'm going to be incarcerated there aren't going to be more of us that rise up?" he said while shouting and swearing at U.S. District Judge Frank Geraci.

In response, Geraci increased Lutchman's supervised release after serving his time from 30 years to 50 years.

Lutchman pleaded guilty in August to conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization.

At the direction of a now-deceased recruiter for the Islamic State group in Syria, Lutchman planned a knife and machete attack inside Merchants Grill in Rochester on Dec. 31, 2015, according to the plea agreement. The attack never happened.

The goal was to give the terror group an attack to claim and prove Lutchman worthy of joining the organization when he traveled overseas, court documents said.

"Viewed in this context, it would be hard to overstate the danger that Lutchman presented," Acting United States Attorney James Kennedy, Jr. said Thursday.

The FBI used informants to uncover the plot, including one who went with Lutchman to a store two days before the planned attack. They bought two black ski masks, two knives, a machete, zip-ties, duct tape, ammonia and latex gloves.

Lutchman was arrested the next day, after covering his face with a scarf and making a video in which he said: "The blood that you spill of the Muslim overseas, we gonna spill the blood of the kuffar," or non-believers.

In a pre-sentencing letter to the court, Lutchman called the plot "twisted" and said his history of mental illness and "abandonment issues" led him toward terrorism. Lutchman

was a former gang member who converted to Islam while in prison for a 2006 robbery conviction and was influenced by other inmates' religious extremism, his lawyer said in court documents.

"I was never certain on this path I didn't really want to tread," Lutchman wrote.

Geraci said Lutchman's behavior in court showed otherwise and that he still adheres to his old beliefs.

"Yes I do," Lutchman responded. "There's going to be more of us."

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Female Marines to sleep next to male Marines in field

JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

Female infantry Marines will be sleeping in makeshift shelters next to their male counterparts when out in the field and no special accommodation will be offered to them, a Marine Corps official said Thursday.

Marines in the field stay in everything from a large, single room shelter filled with dozens of cots to sleeping under tarps or nothing at all, said Maj. Charles Anklam III, executive officer for 1st Battalion, 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina — the first gender-integrated Marine infantry battalion.

Female Marines have private rooms and bathrooms in their living quarters, and female bathrooms have been added to buildings where Marines work. But female Marines will be expected to share any living spaces with male squad members in the field to keep unit cohesion and replicate battle-field conditions, he said.

“We’re not changing our tactical posture or changing how we operate to accommodate the inclusion of female Marines,” Anklam said.

The battalion accepted its first three females in early January, marking the first time the Marine Corps has put three enlisted women in a ground combat unit once open only to men. They will serve as a rifleman, machine gunner and mortar Marine.

Anklam said female Marines

deployed to conflict zones have shared tents with their male counterparts at times. But this marks the first time female Marines will be doing so during their regular training with their combat unit.

Their entry into the unit was part of efforts to comply with the Pentagon’s directive in December 2015 to open all military jobs to women. That decision also formally recognized the thousands of female servicewomen who fought in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, including those who were killed or wounded.

Opponents of the Obama administration’s policy change voiced concern about the two genders sharing tents.

“You’re going to have sex, you’re going to have love, you’re going to have relationships, and it’s going to overly complicate the command structure,” Marine veteran, Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, told the Marine Corps Times.

Another opponent, Elaine Donnelly of the Center for Military Readiness, said the three women will serve separately within units of men. Small teams traditionally sleep together in tents on deployment but having mixed genders will affect the atmosphere, she added.

“Policy makers should be held accountable for creating conditions that will encourage indiscipline rather than discipline,” she said in a statement.



In this Jan. 20, 2017, photo, President Donald Trump hands over his pen after signing his first executive order in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. It’s the first full work week for the Trump administration, and the talk is all about emoluments, executive orders, a border tax, TPP and much more. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

In Trump’s White House, a day of confusion and change

WASHINGTON (AP) — A meeting with a senator vanished from the White House schedule. A ceremonial executive order signing abruptly canceled. A dramatic walk-back from the press secretary on how a signature campaign promise will be funded.

The first days of a new president’s term are disorderly, as a sprawling government bureaucracy and overwhelming global responsibilities are suddenly thrust upon an administration that is trying to hit the ground running and, in some cases, simply getting the phones to work.

By any measure, Thursday was a chaotic day in President Donald Trump’s White House.

The confusion began early,

when the president left the White House nearly an hour late for his first trip out of Washington, a quick jaunt to Philadelphia for a Republican congressional retreat.

While airborne, White House aides confirmed that a meeting between Trump and Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Kevin Brady that was scheduled for the president’s return had been postponed until next week — and that Hatch, unbeknownst to the press, had actually met with Trump the night before.

On the return flight to Washington, White House press secretary Sean Spicer announced to reporters on the plane that the administration was working with Congress to impose a 20 percent tax on Mexican imports to pay for the southern border wall that Trump had made the centerpiece of his campaign.

“By doing that, we can do \$10 billion a year and easily pay for the wall just through that mechanism alone,” Spicer said. “This is something that we’ve been in close contact with both houses in moving forward and creating a plan.”

The surprise announcement, meant to fulfill Trump’s declaration that Mexico would pay for the wall, led to breaking news alerts lighting up phones across Washington.

But less than an hour later, reporters in the White House press room were hurriedly escorted to Spicer’s office. He walked back his earlier comments, explaining that the tax on Mexican imports to pay for the option “was just one option” and that no final decision had been made.

Spicer also announced that an executive order signing — traditionally a staid, painstakingly planned affair, complete with briefing papers and detailed memos — that was scheduled for the Oval Office just minutes later was being postponed because Trump had

arrived back at the White House too late in the day.

Spicer said the administration was still sorting out the “sequencing” of upcoming orders and that Trump was still making suggestions.

“As you probably can tell, he’s very hands-on when it comes to these executive orders,” the press secretary said.

And the order itself, which would commission an investigation into unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud, stemmed not from a campaign promise, but rather Trump’s public musings on the subject in recent days.

An environment of chaos is not new for Trump, who at times seems to thrive on disorder.

He sowed it in the campaign, pitting factions of aides against each other, and he frequently changed his mind on issues based on his most recent conversation. His aides often woke up surprised to Trump’s early morning, out-of-nowhere pronouncements via Twitter. The candidate himself frequently made outlandish proclamations — like his insistence that President Barack Obama was the

literal “founder” of the Islamic State group or his invitation for Russia to hack Hillary Clinton’s emails — only to moderate them in the following days.

But the Trump administration is far from the first to experience some early growing pains.

It took more than a day for staffers in President George W. Bush’s press office to be able to get all their phones and computers to work in 2001.

And the very first moments of Obama’s term in 2009 were muddled when Chief Justice John Roberts bungled the oath of office, forcing Obama to retake it the next day at the White House. Staffers had to rely on reporters to guide them to the Diplomatic Room for the ceremony.

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Questions abound after US President Donald Trump says tax will pay for wall

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is promising Mexico will pay for his massive border wall. On Thursday, his administration finally suggested how: a 20 percent tax on products imported from south of the border.

The new measure could be part of a comprehensive tax reform package that Trump and Congress will work out, the White House said. But there was great ambiguity about the proposal. White House officials later clarified that the tax was but one possible way Trump could finance the wall.

Much was left unanswered. Would Mexico be footing the bill or American consumers? What items would become more expensive? Is this even legal?

Some of the details Trump's proposal still has to work out: **IS IT A TAX, A TARIFF OR SOMETHING ELSE?**

It's unclear.

The White House said Congress' tax overhaul would place a 20 percent tax on imports from any country enjoying a trade surplus with the United States. In other words, countries selling more goods and service to the U.S. than buying from it. The idea is to rebalance the playing field for U.S. companies by discouraging Americans from importing.

The idea appears to overlap with a plan House Republicans are pushing called "border adjustment." Under this plan, the U.S. would refrain from taxing American companies' exports, but would tax imports.

The new revenues are projected to top \$1 trillion over a decade. The money had been envisioned as an offset for lowering U.S. corporate income tax rates, though House Republicans say it could also pay for a wall.

Trump, however, recently said he didn't like the "border adjustment" idea.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR AMERICANS?

Mexican products would become more expensive.

That means pricier tequila, but also things Americans need: cars, eyeglasses and many basic groceries.

A Toyota Camry? About \$1,000 more, according to Jim Lentz, CEO of Toyota North America, noting that a quarter of the car's parts are imported.

U.S. exporters are behind the House plan because it would



FILE - In this Nov. 19, 2016 file photo, President-elect Donald Trump walks Labor Secretary-designate Andy Puzder from Trump National Golf Club Bedminster clubhouse in Bedminster, N.J. Puzder was CEO of a fast food empire that is outsourcing jobs on his watch, a stark contrast with his boss' threats and tweeted slaps at companies that outsource jobs. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

reduce their taxes.

Here's the flip side: Importers, including big retailers and consumer electronics firms, say the higher prices for Mexican products could hurt sales. And that means American jobs.

Retailers such as Wal-Mart also could face higher tax burdens.

WOULD MEXICO REALLY BE PAYING?

Not quite.

The U.S. could recoup some of the wall's costs by changing the tax and trade policies with Mexico. But the money wouldn't necessarily be coming from Mexican taxpayers or the Mexican government.

While the tax would land first on companies exporting from Mexico, the costs would likely be passed on to consumers. That leaves Americans footing much of the likely bill.

Trump has said he's OK with being "reimbursed" at a later point because he is keen to start building the wall immediately.

WOULD IT RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE WALL?

Probably.

Various estimates put the wall's cost at up to \$15 billion. House Republicans expect their plan to pull in much more than that in its first year. They say that could easily cover the costs of the wall.

IS IT LEGAL?

To be determined.

The U.S. has a range of obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and at the World Trade Organization. And Mexico is likely to challenge any new tax that penalizes its economy.

Trump has said he plans to renegotiate NAFTA. Mexico, however, is under no obligation to soften the agreement for his sake.

Other countries may also object, if their products and services are targeted.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said the border adjustment is essentially a tariff that would be struck down by the WTO if it targets Mexico.

HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT THE ECONOMY?

A topic of great dispute.

The White House said the plan would increase U.S.

wages, help U.S. businesses and consumers, and deliver "huge economic benefits." With so much of the plan ill-defined, it's impossible to substantiate those claims.

Any turbulence in the U.S.-Mexican trade relationship could have implications for the entire world.

Mexico is the second-largest exporter to the United States, after China. The United States imported roughly \$271 billion of goods from Mexico during the first 11 months of 2016, according to the Commerce Department, and ran a trade deficit of almost \$60 billion.

DO REPUBLICANS LIKE TRUMP'S PLAN?

Not all of them.

Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan said on Twitter it would be a "tax on Americans to pay for the wall." Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said he was "mucho sad" and that "any policy proposal which drives up costs of Corona, tequila or margaritas is a big-time bad idea."

Even Trump's pick for commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, dismissed the idea of using tariffs as a trade ploy.

Republicans have traditionally hailed themselves as the party of free trade.

WHAT OTHER WAYS COULD TRUMP GET MEXICO TO PAY?

During the campaign, Trump floated a number of possibilities without committing to any in particular.

He proposed changing a rule under the USA Patriot Act to block some of the roughly \$25 billion in remittances that Mexicans living in the U.S. send home each year. He said he would refuse to free up the money until Mexico agrees to pay the U.S. between \$5 billion and \$10 billion.

Opponents of that plan say Mexicans in the U.S. would likely find other ways to send money back. They could take cash with them when traveling, wire money to a non-Mexican bank or use off-the-books transfers that are difficult to police.

Trump also suggested increasing visa fees for Mexicans to raise money, or canceling business and tourist visas issued to Mexicans until their country pays for the wall.

Teens charged with sharing child porn on social media

PATERSON, N.J. (AP) — Six teenagers in New Jersey who may have been inspired by a movie about crime being legalized for one night a year have been charged with sharing nude photos of other teens online.

The Passaic County prosecutor's office says a 14-year-old boy and two 15-year-old girls created social media accounts seeking nude photos. Three boys, ages 14 and 15, provided images of a 13-year-old and two 15-year-old

girls without their consent.

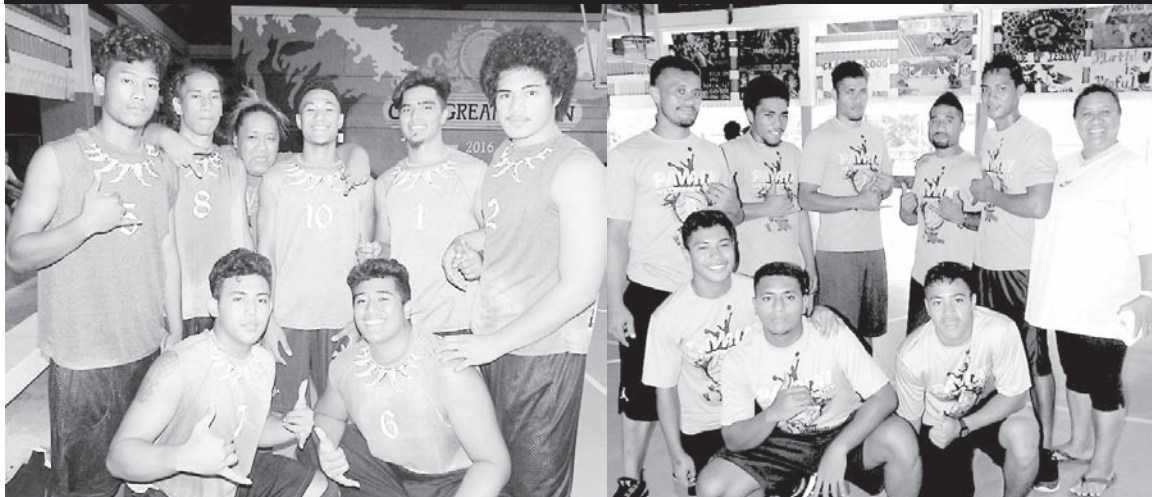
The accounts had the name "Purge" in some form as the title. Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Michael DeMarco says that appears to be a reference to "The Purge" horror film series. Law

enforcement elsewhere have reported similar incidents since the first of the three movies were released in 2013.

The six teens face child pornography and invasion-of-privacy charges.



IN THE COMMUNITY



Serena, Venus say all-Williams Aussie final is a win-win

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — When a euphoric Venus Williams picked up the pace of her celebratory pirouette and the crowd responded with thunderous applause, Serena Williams waited quietly in the adjacent corridor for the buzz to subside.

She was thrilled that her older sister beat CoCo Vandeweghe and was returning to a Grand Slam final for the first time since their Wimbledon decider in 2009, but couldn't really react because she had a job to do, too.

When one Williams walked out the exit, the other entered for her semifinal against Mirjana Lucic-Baroni and the sisters barely exchanged glances. An hour later, Serena ensured there'd be a ninth all-Williams Grand Slam final — and first in Australia since 2003.

It couldn't have been easy, surely, just to look away from a sibling who had been through so much coming back from illness and being written off as a Grand Slam contender?

"It's a semifinal of a Grand Slam, and I was playing someone that is really good," Serena said. "So it's just a moment."

"In sport, you have to focus. It's also a great moment because you realize that we're so close, we're family. But it's that focus that you have to have, and the discipline."

The Williams sisters often travel together and practice together, just as they have on tour for two decades.

And so Friday, the eve of the Australian Open women's final, the sisters practiced together again at Melbourne Park.

Serena finalizing her bid for an Open-era record 23rd Grand Slam. Venus targeting her eighth major title — and first since Wimbledon in 2008.

"We definitely talk. I think now more so than anything," Serena said. "Nothing can break our family. If anything, this will definitely bring us closer together, knowing that I want to see her do the best that she can possibly do. I know that she definitely wants to see me do the best that I can do."

"This is a story. This is something that I couldn't write a better ending. This is a great opportunity for us to start our new beginning."

Serena is on the cusp of all-

time greatness. She tied Steffi Graf's mark of 22 Grand Slam singles titles in the Open era by winning Wimbledon last year. She missed her chance to break Graf's record with an upset semifinal loss at the U.S. Open — for the second year running — and hasn't wanted to talk about the number 23 since arriving in Australia. Margaret Court, who has a show stadium named in her honor at Melbourne Park, has the all-time record of 24 major titles, but 13 of those were before the Open era.

Since losing the 2008 Wimbledon final to Venus, Serena has won 14 more majors. One of those, at Wimbledon the following year, was the last all-Williams final and gave Serena a 6-2 cushion over her sister at that stage of a Grand Slam.

Until this trip, Venus hadn't reached another major final in seven years. She didn't make the second week for a few years as she came to terms with an energy-sapping illness since being diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome in 2011, and made her comeback to the semifinals at Wimbledon last year.

"I just really feel fortunate to have been there for the highs and the lows and everything," Serena said. "I never lost hope of us being able to play each other in a final."

"This probably is the moment of our careers so far. For me, I can definitely say for me."

The odds are stacked in favor of six-time Australian Open champion Serena, who can also regain the No. 1 ranking from Angelique Kerber by winning the title. She's 16-11 in the Williams head-to-head meetings at tour-level, including 9-5 at Grand Slam tournaments and 6-2 in major finals. She's 22-6 in major finals against all-comers.

They'll also set some age records, for oldest combined age of a final in the Open era, and the winner will be the oldest champion. Serena set that mark at 34 years, 287 days when she won Wimbledon last year. Navratilova remains the oldest Grand Slam finalist in the modern era, reaching the 1994 Wimbledon final at 37, 258 days — more than a year older than Venus is now.

Venus was asked if there was a flaw in her sister's game she could expose in the final.



Hearings begin for suspended Minnesota football players

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Ten Minnesota football players suspended for their alleged involvement in a sexual assault faced a panel of university employees on Thursday and Friday in an attempt to avoid expulsion and other punishments recommended by the school's Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action office.

The players have denied any wrongdoing and remain enrolled.

The university presented its findings and called its witnesses to testify before a three-person panel during a meeting that lasted more than nine hours on Thursday. The players were scheduled to present their sides of the case on Friday.

"I am pleased that the panel asked different witnesses thoughtful and clarifying questions," Ryan Pacyga, an attorney representing Antoine Winfield Jr., said in a phone interview early Friday morning after the hearing concluded. "So I think the panel is taking their duties seriously."

Among those who testified on Thursday were the woman who alleged that she was pressured into having sex with multiple players at an apartment after the team's season-opening win over Oregon State in September and the author of the 80-page EOAA report, Pacyga said.

Authorities twice declined to charge any of the players, citing a lack of evidence. But the school conducted a Title IX investigation, which carries a lower burden of proof. The

investigation concluded that the players violated the student conduct code and recommended expulsion for Ray Buford Jr., Carlton Djam, KiAnte Hardin, Dior Johnson and Tamarion Johnson; one-year suspensions for Seth Green, Kobe McCrary, Mark Williams and Winfield; and probation for Antonio Shenault.

The other nine players are represented by Lee Hutton, a former Gophers receiver.

The panel will have one week to come to a decision, which can be appealed to the university provost and then, if need be, in federal court.

The guidelines require that a majority of the panel decide it was "more than likely" that the accused violated the conduct code. That is far different from a court of law requiring a unanimous ruling from a jury that a crime was committed beyond a reasonable doubt.

Attorneys for the players have expressed concerns about the proceedings, saying that they have been unable to interview the three-person panel that will preside over the case to see if any of them have any potential biases or past history with sexual assault.

They also argued that each player should get his own hearing, but the school denied that request. And lawyers also said the 18 hours of time dedicated to hearings over two days was far shorter than what is normally allowed in the Title IX process.

"We're asking for due process and we're being denied at



FILE - In this Oct. 29, 2016, file photo, Minnesota coach Tracy Claeys watches from the sideline during the second quarter of an NCAA college football game against Illinois at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Ill. Two people with knowledge of the decision tell The Associated Press on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, that Minnesota has fired coach Tracy Claeys. The move comes two weeks after the football program became embroiled in a standoff with the administration over the suspension of 10 players in connection with allegations of sexual assault. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the school has not announced the move.

(AP Photo/Bradley Leeb, File)

every turn," Pacyga said before the hearing began.

The suspensions in December caused an uproar in the football program. The entire team argued that the process was unfair and threatened to boycott the Holiday Bowl against Washington State. Two days later, the team decided to play the game, and the Golden Gophers went on to beat the Cougars. But coach Tracy Claeys was fired in part because his public support of his players differed from the stance of both university President Eric Kaler and athletic director Mark Coyle.

In agreeing not to boycott the bowl game, the team pushed for assurances from the university that the panel hearing the case would be diverse. All 10 players are black. The panel included one woman of color and two white men, with a white woman serving as an alternate, Pacyga said.

The incident has received exhaustive coverage locally and nationally, leading Pacyga to say that it would be difficult for the university to find three members for a panel that have not been influenced by what they have seen in the media or heard on campus.

He also said that the players are still entitled to due process even though the closed hearings are not taking place in the court system.

University officials have said repeatedly throughout the process that they cannot comment on the case or the procedures that examine them.

There is no subpoena power in Title IX proceedings, so Pacyga said they were unable to call the Minneapolis police officer who investigated the case to testify and were denied by the university in their request to play a 90-second video that they say proves the woman had consensual sex with two men

present in the apartment that night.

Five of the players, including Winfield, were not alleged to have had sexual contact with the woman that night. Pacyga said Winfield came into the apartment to get a 17-year-old recruit out of the situation and left shortly after doing so.

Pacyga also said the author of the report clarified on Thursday that she did not find that Winfield was involved in the sexual activity, but instead was found to have violated the student conduct code for being present outside the bedroom at the time.

"All in all, this is still a very daunting task for these students," Pacyga said. "This is a scary process because it's just so much different than the due process we're all used to in courts. But that being said, I'm still hopeful for Mr. Winfield Jr."



FILE - In a Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016 file photo, San Francisco 49ers head coach Chip Kelly talks to his players during the first half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, in Orchard Park, N.Y. San Francisco snapped a franchise-record 13-game losing streak by winning 22-21 last week in Los Angeles and need another win on Jan. 1 to avoid tying the franchise record for losses in a season reached in 1978, '79 and 2004.

(AP Photo/Bill Wippert, File)

Cal Poly snaps 10-game skid, gets first conference win

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Victor Joseph scored 22 points and Cal Poly snapped a 10-game losing streak while dealing UC Irvine its first Big West loss of the season 79-66 on Thursday night.

The win gives the Mustangs their first conference win, and avenges a 70-48 drubbing at the hands of the Anteaters on Jan. 18.

Donovan Fields scored 15 points and Ridge Shipley added 12 for Cal Poly (6-14, 1-5), which also broke a six-game skid against UC Irvine.

The Mustangs, who outshot UC Irvine 52.6 percent to 43.1 percent, are undefeated this season when shooting a higher percentage.

Cal Poly held just a two-point lead with 7:10 to go but pulled away down the stretch. Luke Meikle hit a jumper, followed by a Fields layup, which sparked a 15-2 Mustangs run and a 73-58 lead. UC Irvine (13-10, 6-1) never got back within single digits.

Jaron Martin hit 10 of 18 for 20 points to lead the Anteaters.



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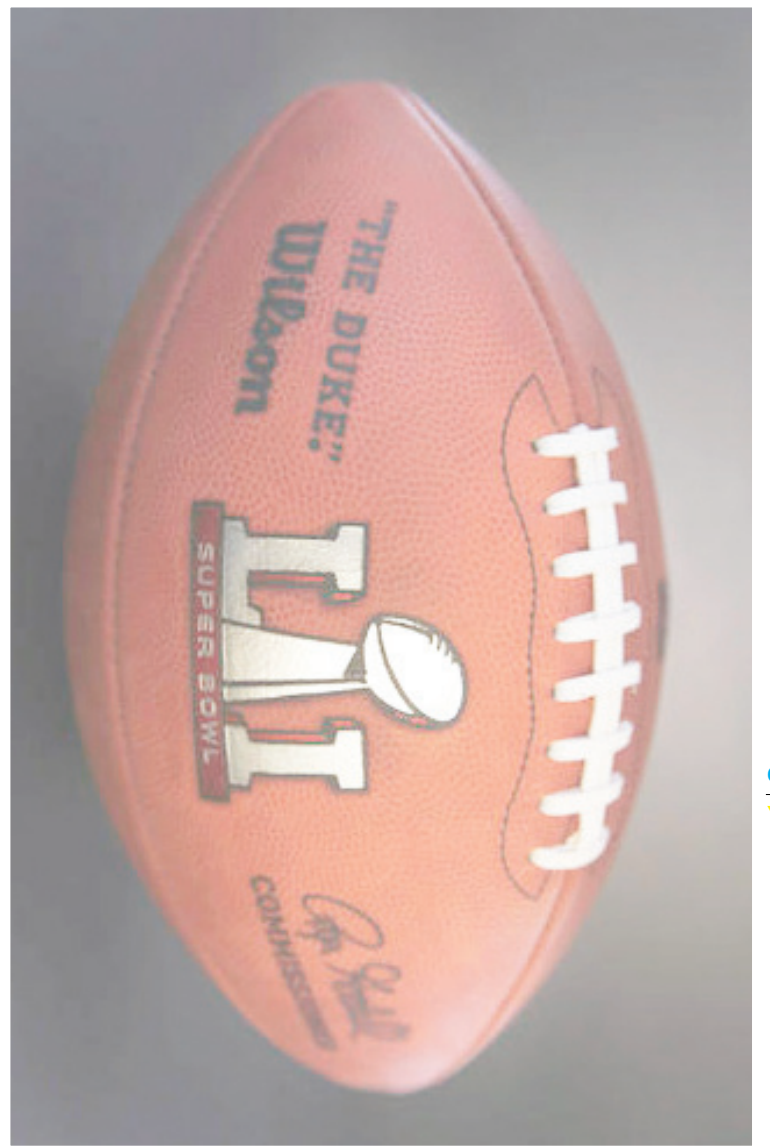
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In this Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, photo, an NFL Super Bowl LI football is shown in Chicago. There is a quintessential American story behind the footballs used by the National Football League, one that dates to the early days of the sport. About how a family of Ukrainian immigrants opened a Chicago tannery in 1905 and came to provide the leather for the game balls used from the lowliest preseason game to the Super Bowl, including the Feb. 5 showdown between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

It's not pigskin! How the NFL gets its footballs

The Associated Press

When the Patriots and Falcons meet in the Super Bowl on Feb. 5 in Houston, they will use approximately 120 footballs, including those selected for the kickers. All of them will have been produced by Wilson Sporting Goods at its plant in Ada, Ohio, using leather from the Horween Leather Co. in Chicago, just like every other Super Bowl dating back to the first on Jan. 15, 1967. Here is a look the balls at the center of the action:

— The hides used by the Horween family are heavy native steer, not cowhides or — shudder to think of it — pigskins. Many hides come from ranches in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

— The Horween family also produces leather for other football manufacturers, such as Nike, Under Armour and adidas, but only the leather sent to Wilson will be turned into NFL game balls.

— There are four panels on a game ball, and each of the 250 stitches holding them together is done by hand. And it's not "laces" — one lace is threaded

by hand through 16 holes.

— Along with the embossing of the Super Bowl logo and team logos, there is also a watermark "W" on each football to prove its authenticity. The words "Commissioner," "Wilson" and "Made in the USA" also have been printed on every Super Bowl ball ever used.

— Each team receives 108 footballs within 48 hours of the conference championship games, half to use in practice and half in the game. That gives equipment managers and players time to break them in.

— Each ball is 71 centimeters long, 55 centimeters wide and weighs about 425 grams. And as every fan has come to learn over the past couple years, they are inflated to between 12.5 and 13.5 psi.

— Official balls, called "The Duke" in honor of former New York Giants owner Wellington Mara, have been carried, thrown or returned for 32,341 yards in Super Bowl history. That's the equivalent of about 18 miles. The balls have also been used to score 2,298 points.

