

GUAM DAILY POST • MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

Admissions scandal probe widens

(Tribune News Service) - The college cheating scandal has rocked elite sections of California and beyond, with Silicon Valley business leaders, CEOs, Hollywood actresses, a best-selling self-help author and a famous fashion designer swept up in it.

There are signs that more charges could be coming.

Federal authorities have said the investigation is continuing, but have not provided details. They did say the colleges involved are not criminal targets.

- **Subpoenas:** One sign of where the investigation is going comes from several elite Southern California prep schools, which have been subpoenaed by prosecutors seeking information about some of the students involved in the fraud case. Although the prep schools are not targets of the investigation, prosecutors want to know whether the parents and others accused in the case sought or received help from the schools, sources told the Los Angeles Times.

- **Far-reaching scheme:** It remains unclear how many parents took part in the college admissions scam.

The scheme, which began in 2011, centered on a Newport Beach, California, college placement firm run by Rick Singer. Wealthy parents paid Singer to help their children cheat on college entrance exams and to falsify athletic records of students to enable them to secure admission to elite schools, including UCLA, the University of Southern California, and Stanford, Yale and Georgetown universities, according to court records.

Prosecutors allege that Singer



UNDER SCRUTINY: The University of Southern California, pictured on May 17, 2018, is embroiled in a far-reaching college admissions scandal.

Mel Melcon/Los Angeles Times/Tribune News Service

instructed parents to donate money to a fake charity he established as part of the scheme. Most of the parents paid at least \$200,000, but some spent up to \$6.5 million to guarantee their children admission to top universities, authorities said. The parents were then able to deduct the donation from their income taxes, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The scheme was fairly simple, prosecutors said: Singer instructed parents to seek extended time for their children on ACT and SAT exams. In at least one instance, a student claimed to have a learning disability to obtain medical documentation required by the College Board and ACT Inc. to grant additional time to take the tests, according to court documents.

- **Large clientele:** Court documents said Singer had more than 700 clients.

But it is believed that a much smaller group of very wealthy parents took part in the scheme. Some parents interviewed by the Times said they used Singer's firm for typical college placement services and had nothing to do with bribes.

- **More investigations:** In addition to federal prosecutors, several universities and at least one Los Angeles prep school have opened their own investigations into what happened.

USC interim President Wanda Austin, for example, wrote in a letter Thursday that the university had opened an investigation, which would include looking for suspect donations and determining what to do about students and applicants involved in the scam.

Harvard-Westlake School in Studio City said it has also begun an internal review.

'Historic' flooding threatens Midwest

(The Washington Post) - Authorities in the Midwest declared states of emergency amid what they called "historic" flooding, which forecasters warned would stretch through the weekend.

The flooding shut down roads, forced scores of people to evacuate their homes and cut off access to some towns and cities. In Nebraska, which has seen some of the most significant flooding, Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts said the impacts of the "devastating flooding ... could last for quite some time."

Even the forecasters were not immune: The National Weather Service in Omaha reported Friday that it had to evacuate its offices because of rising waters.

Forecasters said Saturday that at least five states still were facing the flood threat. "Major and historical river flooding will continue this weekend focused across Iowa, southern Minnesota and Wisconsin, eastern Nebraska and southeast South Dakota," the National Weather Service reported.

The surging water was fueled by a powerful winter storm - a "bomb cyclone" - that battered the region with strong winds and heavy rainfall. The resulting flooding was particularly intense because the heavy rain fell on snow that had not melted yet, said Brian Barjenbruch, the science and operations officer for the weather service in Omaha.

56th Annual Meeting

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- 6 pm | Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort
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The Coast360 FCU Nominating Committee approved three candidates for the board of directors. With three vacant seats and no valid nominations received via petition, there will be no election by ballot or nomination by the floor accepted. As a result, incumbents Mt. Johnny P. Iaitano, Angelita P. Mendiolala, and Raymond F.Y. Blas have retained their seats on the Board of Directors.

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GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR DENTISTRY

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 3:00 PM

at the Terleje Professional Building, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagatna, Guam

For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

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GUAM DAILY POST • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

1,106 killed in deadliest year for Syrian children

By Heba Kanso
Thomson Reuters Foundation

BEIRUT - Last year was the deadliest yet for children in Syria, with more than 1,100 killed by fighting, the United Nations said on Monday, with the bloody conflict about to enter its ninth year.

U.N. children's agency UNICEF said it had been able to verify 1,106 child deaths from the fighting in 2018 - the highest annual toll since war broke out in 2011 - but that the true figure was likely to be much higher.

"Today there exists an alarming misconception that the conflict in Syria is drawing quickly to a close - it is not," said executive director Henrietta Fore in a statement.

White House calls for deep cuts to refugee assistance, humanitarian aid

WASHINGTON (The Washington Post) - The Trump administration is proposing slashing the budget for the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development by almost 24 percent, with particularly steep cuts to humanitarian aid, refugee assistance and global health programs.

The proposed 2020 budget would take three funds that collectively are funded by more than \$9 billion and consolidate them into an International Humanitarian Assistance fund that would be allotted about \$6 billion, a one-third drop. In addition, the administration proposes cutting global health programs from \$8.7

"Children in parts of the country remain in as much danger as at any other time during the eight-year conflict."

Unexploded ordnance

The biggest cause of child casualties was unexploded ordnance, which accounted for 434 deaths and injuries last year, UNICEF said.

Syria's war has killed an estimated half a million people and driven about 5.6 million people out of the country. Another 6.6 million people still in the country have lost or fled their homes.

Turkey and Russia, one of the Syrian government's staunchest allies, brokered a deal in September 2018 to create a demilitarized zone in the northwest Idlib region that would be

billion this year to \$6.3 billion next year, a cut of almost 28 percent.

The White House budget request reflects the priorities of the administration, which has not been successful at getting its proposals past a Congress in which foreign spending enjoys wide bipartisan support. The administration submitted even deeper drops in foreign spending during each of the previous two years, and Congress largely restored them.

Algeria's president will not run for fifth term

TUNIS, Tunisia (The Washington Post) - Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on Monday said he would not seek a fifth term in office and delayed next month's elections, a stunning turnaround that came after weeks of massive street protests in



DISPLACEMENT CAMP: Children look through a chain-link fence at al-Hol displacement camp in Hasaka governorate, Syria, on March 8. Issam Abdallah/Reuters

free of all heavy weapons and jihadist fighters.

The deal helped avert a government assault on the region, the last major bastion of opponents of President Bashar al-Assad.

But Fore said she was concerned about the intensification of violence in Idlib, where 59 children have been reported killed in recent weeks.

'Another day stolen'

"UNICEF again reminds parties to the conflict and the global community that it is the country's children who have suffered most and have the most

to lose. Each day the conflict continues is another day stolen from their childhood," said Fore.

Since January about 60 children have died trying to get to al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria, which is now home to more than 65,000 people fleeing Islamic State, according to the U.N.

Thousands have flooded al-Hol camp as the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces lay siege to the last vestige of Islamic State's territorial rule at the besieged village of Baghouz near the Iraqi border.

the North African nation.

Tens of thousands of Algerians packed the streets of the capital, Algiers, celebrating the political demise of their ailing leader who has rarely been seen in public since he suffered a stroke six years ago. Some waved the national flag, while countless others blew car horns, according to video and photos posted on social media.

"Our protests have borne fruit! We defeated the supporters of the fifth term!" taxi-driver Mohamed Kaci, 50, told Reuters.

Last chance? May wins Brexit assurances from EU on eve of crucial vote

LONDON/STRASBOURG (Reuters) - Prime Minister Theresa May won legally binding Brexit assurances from the European Union on

Monday in a last ditch attempt to sway rebellious British lawmakers who have threatened to vote down her divorce deal again.

Scrambling to plot an orderly path out of the Brexit maze just days before the United Kingdom is due to leave on March 29, May rushed to Strasbourg to agree additional assurances with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Brexiters in May's party have accused her of surrendering to the EU and it was not clear if the assurances she agreed would be enough to win over the 116 additional lawmakers she needs to reverse the crushing defeat her deal suffered on Jan. 15.

"Today we have secured legal changes," May said in a late night news conference in Strasbourg beside Juncker, exactly 17 days before the United Kingdom is due to leave the EU.

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