



Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga (third from left), and Chief Associate Judge, Mamea Sala Jr., (far right), pictured with the Southern Oregon University delegation that arrived last Friday and departs tonight, after talking to local students and parents about what SOU offers in academic and ROTC programs, during a SOU-2-YOU event being held today at Sadie's by the Sea. See story inside for details.

[courtesy photo]

ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

Gov. Lolo has completed FEMA damage assessments in hand

FINAL DECISION TO REQUEST A "MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION" RESTS WITH HIM

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

The joint preliminary damage assessment (PDA) following Tropical Storm Gita is completed and the data has been turned over to the Governor's Office to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who makes the final decision for requesting a major disaster declaration to the federal government.

The joint PDA, carried out early last week, involves the ASG Emergency Operation Center, the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the US Small Business Administration, which makes low interest disaster loans to business owners if a major disaster is declared by the US President, says FEMA public information officer Victor Inge.

"The preliminary assessment is completed, with data put together and handed over to the Governor's Office," Inge said in a Samoa News interview yesterday.

Asked if the PDA would qualify the governor's request for a major disaster declaration, Inge responded, "That's what we don't know. We go out and conduct the assessment and collect the data. We hand it over to governor who decides whether to make a request or not. So the governor makes that decision."

And in all likelihood, "we have an indication that he will make the request" which if made, goes first to the FEMA regional office in Oakland, California, then it's processed to FEMA headquarters in Washington D.C., before its goes to the US Homeland Security Department and to the US President's desk, according to Inge, who has been on island since early last week.

It's unclear at this point as to when the governor will make a decision on whether or not to request a major disaster declaration, which Inge said early this week would trigger federal programs, which would help the territory rebuild its infrastructure and provide assistance to homeowners, renters and business owners.

It's also unclear at this point as to an estimated cost of damages to infrastructure, homes and other property.

Inge doesn't have an estimate of the dollar amounts of damages caused by Gita, saying that their assessment focused directly on collecting the PDA data to be presented to the governor.

(Continued on page 7)

DOE EXTENDS CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR BY ONE ADDITIONAL WEEK

By Samoa News staff

The local Department of Education is adding one more week to the current school year after public schools were closed for 8 school days before and after Tropical Storm Gita. ASDOE is also changing official graduation dates for the public high schools.

Public schools were closed Feb. 7 and 8 due to heavy rain and strong winds as a result of a monsoonal trough and continued to be closed Feb. 9 — after the announcement that Gita was heading to the territory. This was then followed by a week of closure with clean up being carried out and repairs, due to damage by the storm.

After consultations with ASDOE deputy directors, Education director Dr. Ruth Matagi-

Tofiga said in a letter to the governor yesterday that due to the missed classroom time, the department would extend the school year for one additional week.

So — instead of Jun. 8 being the last day of instruction, it will be June 15, and this should make up for the lost instructional time.

Matagi-Tofiga also made an official public announcement in a separate statement, providing the updated graduation dates for public high schools:

Manu'a High School on June 15; Tafuna High School on June 18, Fagaitua High School on June 19; Samoana High School on June 20; Nu'uuli Voc-Tech High School on June 21; and Leone High School on June 22.

Judge questions arrests for traffic violations and use of a cell phone in court

by Ausage Fausia

Samoa News Reporter

In two cases held over from December, Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson and former KHJ Radio reporter Tauva Esera were ordered by District Court Judge Fiti Sunia to appear yesterday for Show Cause hearings.

In the hearing regarding Le'i, a driver of a vehicle was pulled over by a police officer for a traffic violation and when the driver failed to provide a valid I.D. the police officer arrested the female driver and held her in prison for two nights before she appeared in court.

Le'i was subpoenaed to appear in court and explain DPS procedures for police officers when engaging with the community on public highways.

In the Esera case, she is accused of using her cell-phone to allegedly record a hearing inside the courtroom on November of last year. Esera's cellphone was confiscated and it was later turned over to the court I.T. person to review the recording inside.

The use of a cell phone and other electronic devices during court proceedings is strictly prohibited, with an admonition from the court before the beginning of a court session that all electronics devices must be turned off.

Esera did not appear in court for the Show Cause hearing, Le'i did.

The commissioner was accompanied by some of his senior staff officials including deputy commissioner, Fala-

naipupu Taase Sagapolutele.

Assistant Attorney General Christy Dunn appeared for the government.

LE'I SUBPOENA

In the matter involving the police commissioner, Judge Sunia stated that it started when a police officer arrested a motorist after pulling over her vehicle for a broken taillight and no license plate. According to Sunia, the motorist was identified as Dorah Sua of Pago Pago, who is a U.S citizen.

When asked for her driver license, Sua gave her expired driver license to the police officer. That was the only I.D. in Sua's possession, according to Sunia. And because Sua did not have a valid I.D. on her, the police officer then arrested and held her at the Territorial Cor-

(Continued on page 12)



Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title I'AUUALO of the village of AFONO by FAIMEASOO TUIAFONO of the village of AFONO, county of SUA, EASTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title I'AUUALO shall be registered in the name of FAIMEASOO TUIAFONO in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: FEBRUARY 15, 2018 thru APRIL 16, 2018

SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga leni ua faasalalaina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o I'AUUALO o le nu'u o AFONO e FAIMEASOO TUIAFONO o AFONO faalupega o SUA, falelima i SASAE.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai leni fa'aaliga. Afai o lea lea se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o FAIMEASOO TUIAFONO e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

02/23 & 03/23/18



The five member Southern Oregon University delegation that arrived last week Friday and returns to Oregon tonight, talking to local students and parents about what SOU offers in academic and ROTC programs. [l-r back row] Lt. Col. Travis Lee; Sgt. First Class Joe Watson; ROTC Cadet Alyssa Moutsatson. [l-r front row] SOU director of admissions Kelly Moutsatson; SOU admissions counselor Erin Doering. [photo: FS]

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title TAITUUGA of the village of TAPUTIMU by PETERU M. SATARAKA of the village of TAPUTIMU, county of TUALATAI, WESTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title TAITUUGA shall be registered in the name of PETERU M. SATARAKA in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: FEBRUARY 20, 2018 thru APRIL 23, 2018

SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga leni ua faasalalaina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o TAITUUGA o le nu'u o TAPUTIMU e PETERU M. SATARAKA o TAPUTIMU faalupega o TUALATAI, falelima i SISIFO.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai leni fa'aaliga. Afai o lea lea se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o PETERU M. SATARAKA e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

02/23 & 03/23/18

Motorcycle Squad being trained to establish a DPS DUI Task Force

LOOKING AT ELEVEN MOTORCYCLES TO BE ON THE ROAD

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Adding another layer to the Territory's fight against alcohol and drug abuse, a Department of Public Safety motorcycle squad is currently being trained to establish a DPS DUI Task Force.

Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson told Samoa News, "... DUI is a person who is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. So we are moving forward to make sure we have the right tools to tackle those who are dealing with alcohol and drugs."

Over 10 police officers from DPS are participating in the training that's now underway at the Office of Motor Vehicles in Tafuna. Responding to Samoa News inquiries, Le'i said, "We're looking at establishing a motorcycle squad from this training so that we can establish our DUI Task Force within our department, and we are looking at eleven motorcycles on the road right now."

"The main focus is to get our police officers certified. Police officers need to be well equipped to carry out their duties and without training, they will not be able to expand their knowledge on how to fulfill their tasks."

Lt. Tolia Solaita, who was recently certified with several other police officers, when three federal instructors were on island to conduct an ARIDE & DWI TRAINING, is conducting the 4-week training.

Le'i said, "As you know we now have the Vice & Narcotics Unit to deal with drugs, so part of this training is to become drug recognition experts."

The Police commissioner is hoping that before the end of this year, DPS will be together their DUI Task Force and continue to move forward.

As part of the ongoing training to establish the DUI Task Force, Le'i said that several police officers would attend training in the states, in April of this year. "We're working together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the FBI National Academy and many other federal agencies, to help provide training for our men and women. We're also sending our police officers to train at the Federal Motorcycle Squad and become certified to do the job," he said.

"These are a must ... we need to continue with these trainings. There's no question about things happening on our shores and we need to go with the time and make sure the general public feels secure and safe, not only on the highway but also from domestic violence and public disturbances in schools, villages and homes."

Le'i pointed out, "Our duty is to make sure the whole community is safe. As I mentioned before, police officers will always be seen on the road everyday to make sure the public is safe."

He concluded, "So our motorcycle squad team will be led by senior officers and individuals ... to protect our people — day and night — to combat the alcohol and drug problem in our territory. I just want to let the community know that we're very serious and we mean business."



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-033-2018

Issuance Date: February 15, 2018

Closing Date: February 28, 2018

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

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide the "Soil Remediation Work for the Fono Building" located in the village of Fagatogo, Territory of American Samoa.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. PRE-BID MEETING

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the Pre-Bid Meeting.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

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

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

Southern Oregon University hosting a SOU-2-You event today

APPLICATION FEE IS WAIVED; OUT-OF STATE TUITION IS REDUCED

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Southern Oregon University (SOU) is reducing the out-of-state tuition for students from American Samoa, for the Ashland, Oregon based university, where a student has “a sense of belonging, a sense of community,” according to SOU’s Director of Admissions, Kelly Moutsatson.

The university, which also has a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program in partnership with the Oregon Army National Guard, is hosting today, from 3p.m to 6p.m at Sadie’s by the Sea hotel, an event where perspective students and their parents can learn more about SOU and ask questions.

Moutsatson arrived last week Friday along with SOU Admissions Counselor Erin Doering, SOU sophomore and ROTC cadet Alyssa Moutsatson, Oregon National Guard Lt. Col. Travis Lee and Oregon National Guard Sgt. First Class Joe Watson for a one-week visit on island sharing with local students what SOU offers in educational and ROTC programs.

In a joint Samoa News/KSBS-FM interview, Moutsatson, the director of admissions, said SOU which is located at a “fantastic area” — the southern most part of Oregon — is a “great campus” that offers about 36 different majors and over 100 different programs.

“One of the nice things about being a small university of about 6,100 students is that our students have many opportunities. They have unique relationships with their professors,” she explained, and the delegation wants to share with perspective students from American Samoa these opportunities.

SOU is “a place that’s built around family feeling, a place of connection. There’s a family type of feeling at SOU, a sense of belonging, a sense of community. We want to make sure that students feel connected, those are all (our) priorities as a university,” Moutsatson said adding that Ashland, is a small community of about 25,000 as far as permanent residents.

The first step to getting into SOU, is to submit an application, which is also available online [www.sou.edu] where the student and/ or parents will be able to get more details. Additionally, SOU is “waiving” the application fee, she said.

Before the delegation departs tonight, they’re hosting the SOU-2-You event, this afternoon at Sadie’s by the Sea, for individuals interested in attending the university.

“And we can talk a little bit more on whether or not this is a

good fit [for a student] and how to take those next steps,” she said, such as transcripts, and test scores from SAT, which “I know is a scary topic for many.”

“But I want to encourage students, not to get too hung up on that. We’re really looking at the totality of what a student has and their potential. And sometimes, test scores don’t always reflect that and we’re aware of that. So we’re willing to work with that,” the admissions director said.

She also revealed a reduction in tuition for student from the territory, saying that “we really fought for all of American Samoa regardless of whether the students are born and raised here, or from Samoa or Fiji or New Zealand — they’ll all be able to come in at the reduced tuition and that’s lower than our average out-of-state tuition.”

“So I’m very blessed to have a [SOU] President, whose been able to get behind this initiative and we’re here to share that,” she pointed out.

Doering, the admissions counselor, spoke further on the admission process.

“We have what’s call, holistic view,” she said, adding that for admission, SOU requires the official high school transcript, and the SAT or ACT “but we are very understanding that it is a harder test. Your GPA and test score don’t always define the student, don’t show their full capability.”

“So we look at the full picture. We like to know a little bit more about a student. So if they want to get a letter of recommendation, write a personal essay — anything like that, so that we can get to know the student a little bit better,” she explained.

Regarding scholarships, SOU has the “Southern Online Scholarship Application (SOSA)” [www.sou.edu] with access to over 80 scholarships. There are also scholarships for international students.

“What I tell students is find a campus that you will feel comfortable in, [and for] the next four years, it will be your home,” Doeing said.

Watson added that SOU also has a ROTC program, which has been in place several years, and the university is “very supportive of the ROTC and ROTC students.”

“And that’s one of the reasons we’re in partnership with SOU and they allow us to come down here ... and provide another path for [students] to go to that school,” he said.

“Along with the reduced tuition, we’re going to provide a way to pay for that tuition 100%,” he said. “We’ll provide you [the student] with a free place to stay while you’re on

campus, and you focus on your schooling.”

“I think we’re more welcoming to students. SOU is laying out the red carpet for students [from] here and we’re helping them through. It’s unusual for a school to be ...this generous. We’re happy to be a part of [SOU],” he said, and confirmed that cadets coming from high schools under the JROTC program can attend and continue with this military program under the SOU’s ROTC program.

Watson is charged with growing the ROTC program, finding perspective students, while

Lee is responsible for oversight.

Both men are active duty with the Army National Guard.

Lee confirmed that there are about 4 Polynesian students enrolled with the ROTC program, including Cadet Commander, Jeffery Chun, who was born in Samoa and graduated from a Hawai’i high school.

“He is very good kid, great leader,” he said of Chun, adding that another Polynesian student, and this one is from American Samoa is Simone Sanitoa, a Freshman and “I understand that she is doing very, very well.”

(Samoa News notes that Simone’s sister, Savannah also attends SOU; they are the children of Deanna Fuimaono and Larry Sanitoa.)

ROTC program at SOU is “an environment that’s inviting, taking on a family feel to it. Cadets live together at the barracks. It’s kind of a family club-almost atmosphere,” he said.

“What I’ve been telling parents and students in the last 15 years, service is great,” he said.

“As a leader, I desire a more rounded educated soldier, whether or not the student becomes an officer is irrelevant to me because I want — just like every employer — a more higher educated employee.”

He said the ROTC provides the military experience and discipline, while SOU provides the education.

ROTC cadet Alyssa Moutsatson said SOU’s ROTC program is “kind of a family atmosphere. Its really a unique and amazing experience.”

And she joined the program to help further her planned civilian career in law enforcement, which is what’s she is also studying.

While training is “tedious,” she said, it’s also rewarding, because “training comes with discipline” and helps with her academics.

“Military taught me time management and also to further myself and show me, what I’m capable of.”

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LAND COMMISSION

NOTICE is hereby given that AOELUA V. SOLOMONA of AFONO, American Samoa, has executed a LEASE AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT to a certain parcel of land commonly known as TAFATAFA & FAILAFUA which is situated in the village of AFONO, in the County of SUA, EASTERN District, Island of Tutuila, American Samoa. Said LEASE AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT is now on file with the Territorial Registrar to be forwarded to the Governor respecting his approval or disapproval thereof according to the laws of American Samoa. Said instrument names CORPORATION PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS as LESSEE.

Any person who wish, may file his objection in writing with the Secretary of the Land Commission before the 16TH day of APRIL, 2018. It should be noted that any objection must clearly state the grounds therefor.

POSTED: FEBRUARY 13, 2018 thru APRIL 16, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

KOMISI O LAU’ELE’ELE

O LE FAASALALAUAGA leni ua faia ona o AOELUA V. SOLOMONA ole nu’u o AFONO, Amerika Samoa, ua ia faia se FEAGAIGA LISI MALE AUALA, i se fanua ua lau-iloa o TAFATAFA & FAILAFUA, e i le nu’u o AFONO i le itumalo o SUA, Falelima i SASA’E ole Motu o TUTUILA Amerika Samoa. O lea FEAGAIGA LISI MALE AUALA ua i ai nei i teuga pepa ale Resitara o Amerika Samoa e fia auina atu ile Kovana Sili mo sana fa’amaoniga e tusa ai ma le Tulafono a Amerika Samoa. O lea mata’upu o loo ta’ua ai CORPORATION PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

A iai se tasi e fia fa’atu’iese i lea mata’upu, ia fa’aulufaleina mai sa na fa’atu’iesega tusitusia ile Failautusi o lea Komisi ae le’i o’o ile aso 16 o APERILA, 2018. Ia manatua, o fa’atu’iesega uma lava ia tusitusia manino mai ala uma e fa’atu’iese ai.

02/23 & 03/23/18

Employment Opportunity

LOOKING FOR CREATIVE WALL PAINTING ARTIST.

Please send resume to P.O Box 3838

Letter to the Editor

"BE VIGILANT"

Dear Editor,

Let us all be on 'heightened awareness' to the whereabouts and safety of our children at all times. Be watchful and sensitive towards our elderly looking at the devastation. They will most likely be very emotionally and mentally distressed for the future.

I'm sure many children are still experiencing emotional and mental trauma from the cyclone effects and high winds.

For a child seeing the devastation can probably shift their minds to another level of being disoriented due to the damage and loss of what's familiar to them. Their normal behaviors may be altered.

During evening times, please take the time to allow the children to process what they went through. Allow them to express their fears, insecurities or fascinations of what happened during and after the cyclone/ monsoon.

Lets be sensitive enough to understand that during unresolved fears, it can cause a child to become attracted or clingy to any source they trust. A source they believe will give them comfort, attention or security. With all the recovery noise of yelling, banging, sawing, cutting, engines running, etc. children find it easy to wander away in their own little world.

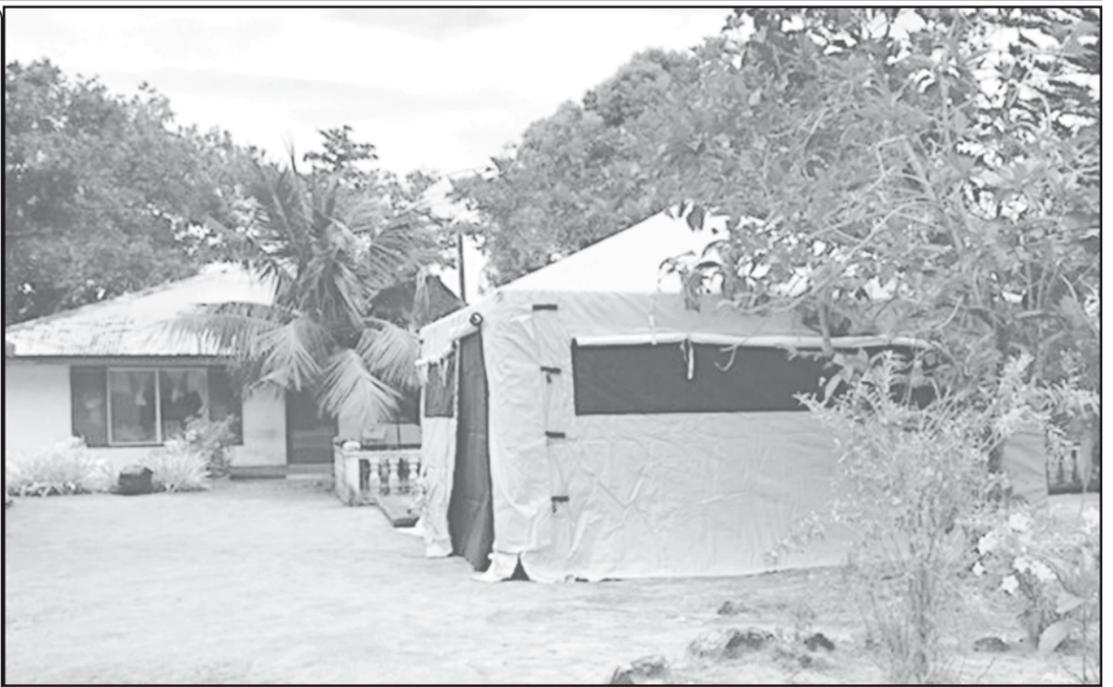
At these points our children can be very vulnerable to unpleasant situations. They are innocently easy victims to those who seek to harm them. Predators are always quietly waiting for any opportunity to strike.

Recovering from any disaster, can be very dangerous if we do not remain vigilant. Seeing our child with a known adult or stranger may seem okay since we're so busy trying to repair our homes or clear the land. (What can possibly happen? It's daylight and the neighbors are all outside.)

Carelessness while clearing the lands and damaged homes can claim life, limb and sight. It can also take our attention away from our children and incapacitated elders.

Let us all be advocates for the safety of our children; advocate for our elderly folks' peace of mind. It only takes a blink of an eye for disaster to strike. It takes only you and I, to drop-kick the community ball to start it rolling, to prevent and stop further damage.

Ipu Avegalio Lefti
Famly Victim Advocate



This photo provided by a local resident, shows the temporarily emergency shelter, in the form of a tent, provided by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a family in Nu'uuli whose home was destroyed or severely damaged by Tropical Storm Gita.

The FEMA tents are part of the direct federal assistance under the presidential emergency declaration for American Samoa.

FEMA presented the tents to ASG, which is in charge of distribution and installation. According to EOC, the American Red Cross will visit with families receiving tents to provide 'Welcome Kits' that will help make the tents livable.

[Courtesy photo]



by **Asuage Fausia**
Samoa News Reporter

DHSS CASE: VINCENT TOEAVA

District Court Judge Fiti Sunia has bound over to the High Court the case against one of the defendants in the Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS) alleged food stamp fraud case, after the defendant waived his right to a preliminary hearing (PX) this week.

Vincent Toeava, who is still in custody unable to post his \$450,000 bond, appeared in District Court on Wednesday afternoon for his PX, and private attorney David Vargas represents Toeava, while Assistant Attorney General Robert Morris appeared on behalf of the government.

When Toeava's case was called, his attorney informed the court that his client wished to waive his right to a PX, and wanted his case bound over to the High Court for further proceedings.

Toeava, who is facing 19 criminal counts, is scheduled to appear in High Court this morning at 9 a.m. for arraignment before Chief Justice Michael Kruse.

The alleged fraud at the DHSS was discovered during a review of why funds for the American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program (ASNAP) for the first quarter of FY 2018 quickly ran out.

According to court affidavit ANZ bank redeemed \$667,555 more for that period that the amount of food coupons ASNAP issued.

A subsequent review by the DHSS and ASNAP management team discovered a high amount of counterfeit ASNAP food coupons redeemed by three ASNAP vendors during that period, according to court documents.

The other two co-defendants in the case are Jane Vasa and Liren Zhang a.k.a Kevin.

Defendant Vasa is released on her own recognition to await her sentencing, after she pled guilty to misdemeanor stealing.

Defendant Zhang, the owner of two of the

ASNAP vendors, is still in custody unable to post his \$450,000 bond.

The owner of the third ASNAP vendor to date has not been charged.

TASI TUPUOLA

A man accused of possession of illegal drugs as well as possession of an unregistered gun — a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunitions appeared in District Court this week, where Judge Fiti Sunia has set a \$40,000 surety bond for his release.

Tasi Tupuola is charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; and unlawful possession of marijuana with intent to distribute — both felonies.

He is also charged with two misdemeanor counts of possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition.

Charges against the defendant stem from a traffic stop during the early morning hours of Feb. 20, when police officers allegedly confiscated from the defendant's vehicle a weapon, narcotics, a firearm and ammunition.

According to court documents, the defendant's car was allegedly traveling at an unknown high rate of speed and was the reason why police stopped the vehicle.

Following the traffic stop, police escorted the defendant along with his vehicle to the Tafuna police substation, where one of the officers inspected the rear of the vehicle and allegedly saw the barrel of what appeared to be a rifle.

According to police documents, they searched the vehicle and found a 12-gauge shotgun.

Also found inside the vehicle was a backpack that police searched and found baggies containing a crystalline substance believed to be methamphetamine and a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana.

The defendant is still in custody unable to post bond.

His PX hearing is set for next week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email news.newsroom@samoatelco.com Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599 Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864 or by Email at news@samoanews.com Normal business hours are Mon. thru Fri. 8am to 5pm. Permission to reproduce editorial and/or advertisements, in whole or in part, is required. Please address such requests to the Publisher at the address provided above.

Science Says: European art scene began with Neanderthals

NEW YORK (AP) — From the murky depths of Spanish caves comes a surprising insight: Neanderthals created art.

That's been proposed before, but experts say two new studies finally give convincing evidence that our evolutionary cousins had the brainpower to make artistic works and use symbols.

The key finding: New age estimates that show paintings on cave walls and decorated seashells in Spain were created long before our species entered Europe. So there's no way Homo sapiens could have made them or influenced Neanderthals to merely copy their artwork. Until now, most scientists thought all cave paintings were the work of our species. But the new work concludes that some previously known paintings — an array of lines, some disks and the outline of a hand — were rendered about 20,000 years before H. sapiens

moved into Europe.

That's a surprise that "constitutes a major breakthrough in the field of human evolution studies," said Wil Roebroeks of Leiden University in the Netherlands, an expert on Neanderthals who didn't participate in the new work. Now, he said in an email, Neanderthal "ownership of some cave art is a fact."

The second study provided evidence that Neanderthals used pigments and piercings to modify shells some 115,000 years ago, which is far earlier than similar artifacts are associated with H. sapiens anywhere. That shows Neanderthals "were quite capable of inventing the ornaments themselves," said Paola Villa of the University of Colorado Museum in Boulder, who also didn't participate in the new work.

Neanderthals lived in Europe and Asia before disappearing about 40,000 years ago, around the time H. sapiens moved into Europe from Africa.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Compiled by Samoa News staff

CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVEAGA ENI HUNKIN ... HIS LEGACY LIVES ON

Before the advent of social media and the ease of access to information on events beyond our reef, the late Honorable Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, was championing the causes of his beloved homeland throughout the corridors of Washington, D.C.

The impact and reverberations of this advocacy were even felt by marginalized communities beyond our own in territories, states, and countries afar. Amongst his critics, and colleagues including those at the highest level of governments across the globe, he was venerated as a mountain of a man with a heart of gold.

Ever concerned for his beloved homeland and the future of its people, his legacy of service lives on as Congressman Faleomavaega before his passing organized a scholarship fund for American Samoa.

His hope, with this scholarship fund, was to lift and lengthen the trajectories of American Samoa's promising students. Uncle Eni, as he was affectionately called, so loved the youth. His feverish work ethic across 40 years of service for American Samoa was spurred in part by his prodigious hopes for their future.

To memorialize the one-year anniversary of his passing, the late congressman's wife, Hinanui Hunkin and their children arrived on island, Monday, Feb. 19, 2018 and met with ASCC President, Dr. Rosevonne Pato, to coordinate preparations for the Faleomavaega Scholarship.

With this assistance, the late congressman hoped to be able to continue his efforts of lifting others beyond the confines of their current circumstances.

More information on this scholarship will be released as it becomes available.

(Source: The Kuaea Group)

IGIA 2018 MEETING POSTPONED — NO NEW DATE SET

The annual federal Inter-agency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) meeting set for next week Monday is postponed, based on a decision by the group's co-chairmen — the US Interior Department Secretary and the White House director of Intergovernmental Affairs. No new date is set.

"All territorial governors have recently informed us that they had to make the difficult decision this year not to travel to Washington D.C. to attend the National Governors Association Winter Meeting and the IGIA Senior Plenary Meeting," wrote US Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas and International Affairs, Douglas Domenech, in a brief memo released yesterday.

As previously reported by Samoa News, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga had decided not to travel to Washington D.C. to save money and due to American Samoa being under a State of Emergency following Tropical Storm Gita.

PUBLIC FORUMS ON NEW ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM

BUSINESS TAX

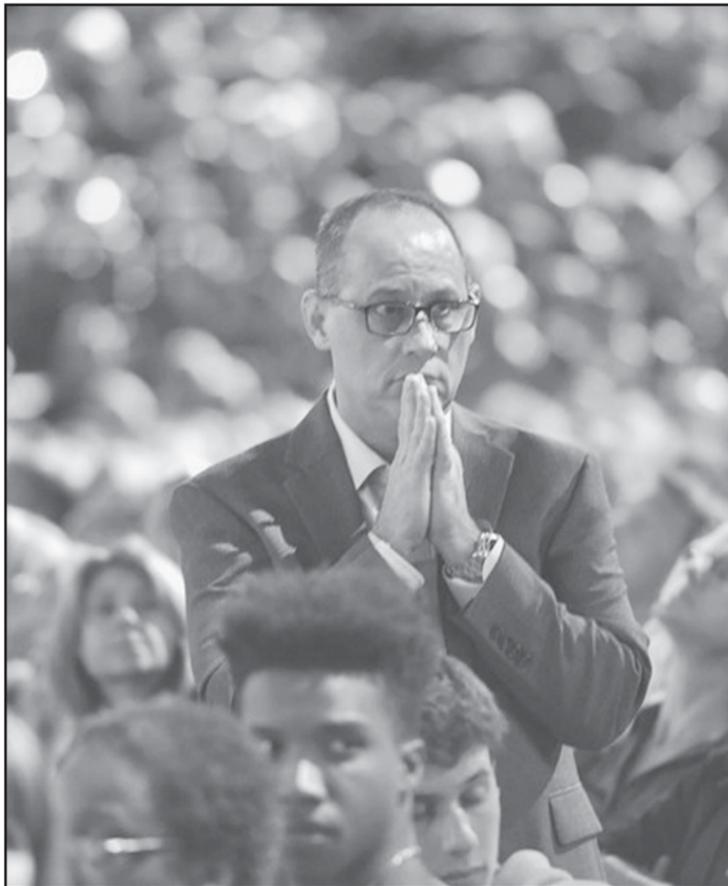
ASG Treasury Department has scheduled three public forums next month with the business community to discuss the 1% alternative business minimum tax (AMBT), which went into effect on Jan. 1 this year, after the bill was signed into law, on Oct. 30 by the governor.

The forum, or hearings, will held 2p.m. on Mar. 13, Mar. 14 and Mar. 15 at the Department of Commerce Conference room, second floor of the Executive Office Building, in Utulei, according to a brief statement from Treasury Uelinitone Tonumaipe'a.

The business community can use this forum to ask questions and raise concerns regarding this law, which ASG had claimed was necessary as many businesses have avoided paying their fair share of corporate taxes despite posting substantial annual gross revenues year after year.

Private sector executives have argued against the measure, telling lawmakers that the AMBT punishes honest businesses that pay their corporate taxes and suggested that the ASG Tax Office

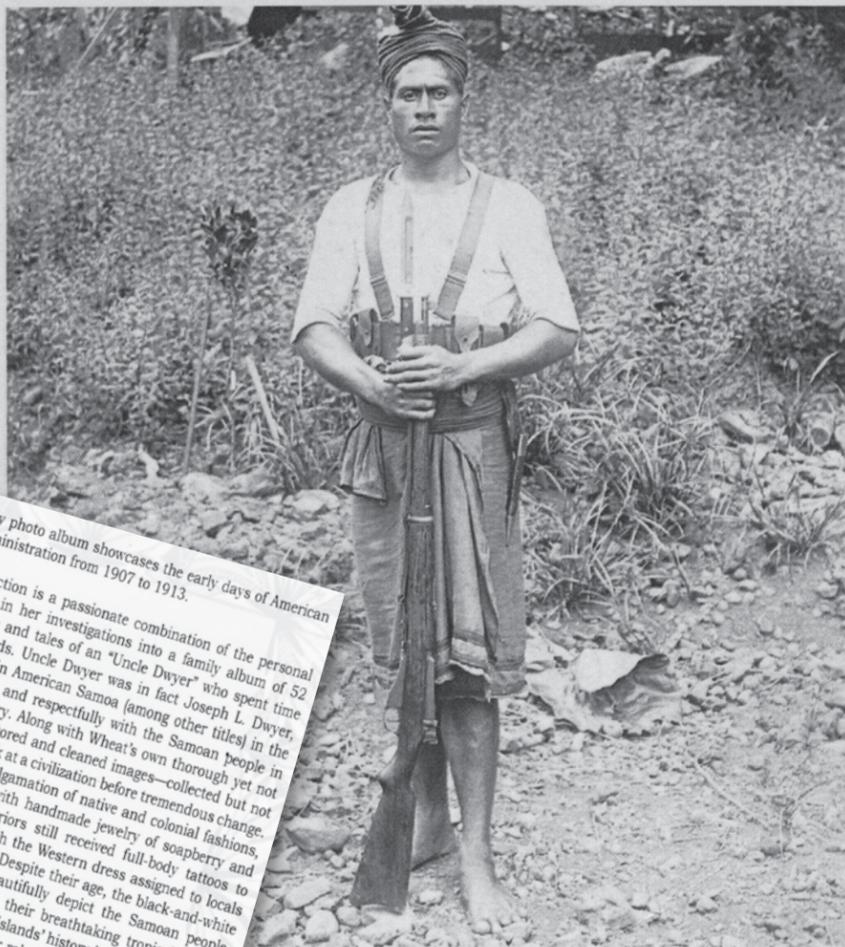
(Continued on page 13)



Parent Fred Guttenberg watches a monitor honoring the 17 students and teachers who were killed at Marjory Douglas Stoneman High School, during a CNN "Stand Up" town hall meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, in Sunrise, Fla. Guttenberg's 14-year-old daughter Jaime Guttenberg was killed on Feb. 14 with 16 others.

(Michael Laughlin/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP)

PICTURES OF CHANGE IN PARADISE At the Turn of the 20th Century in American Samoa



A recovered family photo album showcases the early days of American Samoa under a naval administration from 1907 to 1913.

Wheat's debut collection is a passionate combination of the personal and historical, culminating in her investigations into a family album of 52 black-and-white photographs and tales of an "Uncle Dwyer" who spent time in the American Samoa Islands. Uncle Dwyer was in fact Joseph L. Dwyer, secretary to the commandant in American Samoa (among other titles) in the early 1900s. He worked closely and respectfully with the Samoan people in the early days of the U.S. territory. Along with Wheat's own thorough yet not overwhelming research, these restored and cleaned images—collected but not taken by Dwyer—present a rare look at a civilization before tremendous change. Samoan chiefs appeared in an amalgamation of native and colonial fashions, their beautiful daughters adorned with handmade jewelry of soapberry and pandanus fruit. Traditional toa warriors still received full-body tattoos and signify rank, only to be contrasted with the Western dress assigned to locals in the Navy-established Pitafita Guard. Despite their age, the black-and-white photos and accompanying captions beautifully depict the Samoan people, figures of interest, dress, activities, and their breathtaking tropical homes. The book provides a concise primer of the islands' history before the territory's creation, detailing the natives' origins, their roles as warriors and sailors, the eventual arrival of Western missionaries, and the warring for the area between the German, British, and American forces. The author comments little on the effects of colonialism, offering only the history, to accentuate but not co-opt the photos with editorializing. Some will find the collection somewhat conservative in the history it chooses to share, yet ultimately that is part of its charm, making this enticing snapshot an excellent starting point for those readers it grabs.

A simple, uniquely intimate gateway resource into the early history of American Samoa as well as the influences of colonialism. *Kirkus Reviews*

by
Karen Wheat



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Digicel first to sign up with Tui Samoa Cable

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – Apia, Samoa – Digicel today announced, it's the first company to sign up with the Tui Samoa cable. This announcement follows the announcement made earlier this month about it investing WST \$25-million in upgrading its network.

The official contract signing ceremony took place at the Samoa Submarine Cable Company landing station today and was presided by Digicel Samoa CEO, Mr. Farid Mohammed and SSCC Board Chairman, Leiataua Alden Godinet.

"This is a historical moment and exciting news for the people of Samoa and our customers. The activation of this cable network is yet another first-to-market for Digicel and a significant investment designed to equip Samoa with the most modern and world-class communications and entertainment infrastructure and service.

"Our ambition is to continue to work with the Government of Samoa to improve the country's rate of Internet penetration, a key driver of economic growth," said Digicel Samoa Chief Executive Officer, Farid Mohammed.

SSCC Board Chairman, Leiataua Alden Godinet commented, "The vision of the

Government of Samoa and its 6-partner investors in the Tui-Samoa submarine cable was to provide fast, reliable and affordable internet for the people of Samoa. Today, is a significant milestone as it represents the Tui-Samoa first long-term commitment from a major customer and provides evidence that the Tui-Samoa has been able to deliver upon its promise.

"I am very excited to welcome Digicel Samoa Ltd onboard the Tui Samoa Cable with its 7-year commitment to ensure fast, reliable and affordable Internet connectivity for Digicel customers. "Samoa submarine would like to acknowledge the Government of Samoa for its leadership, Samoa submarine investors for their vision and our development partners for their support (ADB, World Bank) in making the Tui Samoa Cable project a reality," Leiataua said.

The signing of the agreement brings Digicel one step closer to being the proud operator of the network that will provide a dramatic increase in broadband with the most reliable and efficient internet available in the market.

The next step is to complete the technical connectivity between the Digicel network and the Tui Samoa cable following a series of tests before the service is made available to

the customers. For more information, Visit the Digicel Samoa Facebook page or www.digicel-group.com

ABOUT DIGICEL GROUP

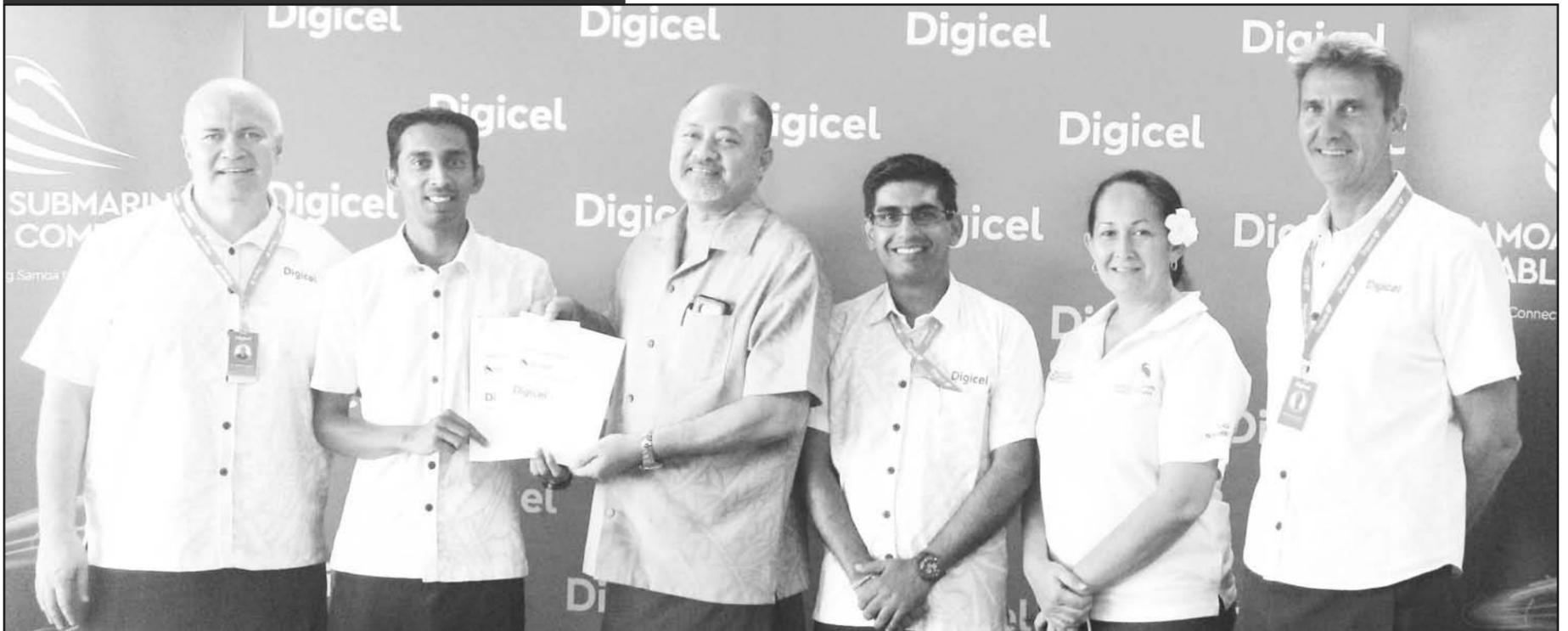
Digicel Group is a total communications and entertainment provider with operations in 31 markets throughout the Caribbean, Central America and Asia Pacific. Digicel also runs a host of community-based initiatives across its markets, including Digicel Foundations in Haiti, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and Trinidad and Tobago which focus on educational, cultural and social development programs.

Visit www.digicelgroup.com for more information.

About Samoa Submarine Cable Company Limited

SSCC is a private company incorporated in Apia Samoa and will build, manage and operate the Tui-Samoa submarine cable between Apia Samoa, Suva Fiji and Wallis & Futuna. SSCC will operate a Cooperative Sustainable Wholesale Model (CSWM) with the mandate to deliver fast, reliable and affordable internet services to stimulate ICT innovation and development as an enabler of economic growth and social prosperity for the people of Samoa.

Visit <http://ssccsamoa.com> for more information



(2nd from right) Digicel Samoa CEO, Mr. Farid Mohammed and (3rd from right) SSCC Board Chairman, Leiataua Alden Godinet with Digicel and SSCC officials announced on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018 that it's the first company to sign up with the Tui Samoa cable. [Courtesy photo]

Amata urges ongoing Mental Health Research funding for Veterans

Washington, D.C. –Congresswoman Aumua Amata is urging the VA to keep an ongoing commitment to mental health research funding as a priority for veterans during the Committee's examination of the Department's budget plan.

"Along with our high enlistment rate in the Armed Forces, we naturally have a large percentage of veterans among our population," said Aumua Amata. "The veterans I know in American Samoa are very proud of their service, but it's a fact that some encounter

ongoing challenges associated with those years in the military. The country has made important steps forward in understanding and treating PTSD and other needs that occur with time in the Armed Forces, but we must ensure that we put the needs of these veterans front and center."

The oversight hearing in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is the initial examination of the yearly budget request from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The federal government has increased veterans

funding at higher rates than other government expenditures over the past decade, and this fiscal year's VA request is a \$12 billion increase over the prior year for veterans' services.

"Veterans still face obstacles in getting access to all the health care they need," continued Congresswoman Amata.

"I appreciate that these needs are a priority for the Members of the Committee and its leadership, and I urge the VA to remain focused on this effort."



Costa Luminosa

This screen shot from the Costa Cruise Line website shows the cruise ship Costa Luminosa, which is docking at 7a.m. today from Hilo, Hawai'i with 2,260 passengers and 1,050 crew members. It departs at 5p.m. for Suva Fiji. The Costa Luminosa is on a 102-day cruise starting from Marseille, France and ending in Venice, Italy.

With the cruise ship in port, the American Samoa Visitors Bureau encourages and reminds all commercial bus & taxi tour drivers to wear clean "elei" or Polynesian printed shirts and lavalava/s lacks when soliciting tour services for visitors off the ship. "Let's WELCOME and showcase American Samoa's HOSPITALITY to our guests and visitors for the day," ASVB deputy director Vaitoa Hans Langkilde said yesterday. The cruise ship market vendors will be set up at the Fagatogo malae. Cultural activities, handicraft demonstrations and entertainment are encouraged to entertain our visitors. The Fagatogo Marketplace will feature island printed fabric, clothing, handicrafts and displays of local fresh produce, chilled "Niu" and cooked Samoan food for sampling and sales. In the parking lot of the Samoa News building, ... will be highlighting their Polynesian wares, as well as t-shirts, lavalavas, and clothing. Samoa News would also like to remind bus & taxi drivers that the Samoa News parking lot is private. It is reserved for customers of Samoa News and businesses in the building.

[photo: Costa Cruise Line]

Governor...

Continued from page 1

Samoa News understands that details of the information would become available when the governor makes a request for an emergency disaster declaration.

Inge reiterated yesterday that FEMA is still operating under the first presidential emergency declaration, adding, "we've had our federal partners here" working with FEMA. Federal partners, include SBA, US Department of Human and Social Service, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

He noted that FEMA has provided direct federal assistance (as cited in the first presidential declaration) to the territory and some assistance was in the form of tents, or temporary shelters for storm victims.

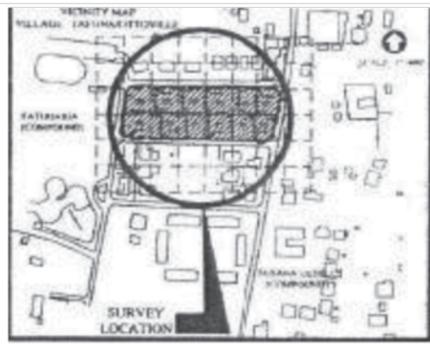
The FEMA tents, according to a picture reviewed by Samoa News yesterday, are similar to those that FEMA distributed local residents impacted by the 2009 earthquake and tsunami.

In its 6pm post-storm bulletin Feb. 21, the EOC noted that FEMA is providing tents as temporary shelter as Direct Federal Assistance to the ASG.

"We are providing temporary shelter to disaster survivors with homes that have been destroyed," said EOA, adding that the families that will have tents set up on their property will be contacted by Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA) when contractors are ready to install them.

Additionally, the American Red Cross will visit with families receiving tents to provide 'Welcome Kits' that will help make the tents livable.

Families with homes that have major damages or were destroyed are in the villages of Afono, Vatia, Nuuli and Faga'ima, Tafuna.



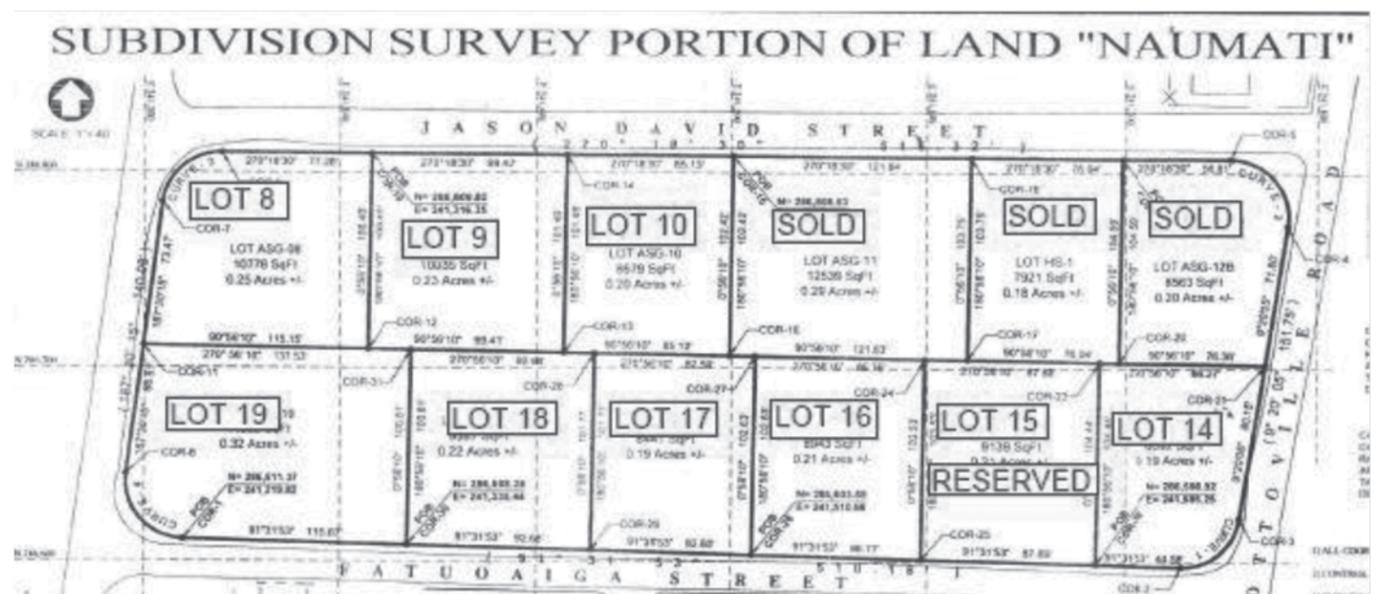
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PET OF THE WEEK

Uliuli a nice spayed female dog that was looking for a home was adopted yesterday afternoon. She was sterilized and treated for fleas and ticks before being put up for adoption.

In the meantime, please: **REMEMBER YOUR PETS DURING CYCLONE PREPARATION**

As we all recover from Cyclone Gita, now is a good time to review our cyclone and disaster preparedness checklists. Be sure if you have pets to include preparing for them as you prepare for your family.

After a disaster, familiar surroundings can become altered and potentially dangerous. Landslides, downed power lines, flooding, roofing metal, etc can cause injuries and death to dogs, cats, and livestock. Pets can become disoriented and lost easily. Water can become contaminated with sewage, bacteria, and parasites and make animals sick when they drink it.

As many animals in Amer-

ican Samoa live outside, it is very important to provide them some sort of shelter if it is not possible to bring them inside a house. Animals should not be left tied or chained during cyclones or tsunami watch. Additional information can be found at FEMA's website: <https://www.fema.gov/helping-pets>

Here is a useful and practical checklist when considering your pets here in disaster preparation:

1. **Identification:** Make sure your pet is collared and licensed in case it gets lost. Animals spayed and neutered here receive a tattoo in their right ear, which can also help identify a lost animal. Microchips are another means of identifying pets, but require a scanning device used here at the veterinary clinic.

2. **Leash, harness, or rope to secure dogs, and a kennel or box to secure your cats if you need to move in an emergency.** Cats can be moved in a pillowcase in an emergency.

3. **Food and water:** As you store plenty of food and water for your family, make sure you will have enough to feed your animals for at least a week or more. Pets need clean water just like we do, as they are susceptible to the same organisms that make us sick when water is contaminated.

4. **Medications:** If your pets are on any special medications be sure to stock up in advance.

5. **Shelter:** The safest place for your pet is inside the house with your family, however, if this is not possible, be sure to find another secure building or shelter for the animals to be protected from high winds and flying debris, flooding, and downed power lines.

Please contact us at the vet clinic at 699-9445 if you are looking for a pet to adopt or find an animal in need of help.

[Courtesy photo]



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Florida man yells 'murderers!' as he's executed for slaying

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida inmate convicted of raping and killing a college student decades ago screamed and yelled "murderers!" three times, thrashing on a gurney as he was being put to death Thursday.

The governor's office said Eric Scott Branch, 47, was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m. Thursday after receiving a lethal injection at Florida State Prison. Branch was convicted of the 1993 rape and fatal beating of University of West Florida student Susan Morris, 21, whose naked body was found buried in a shallow grave near a nature trail.



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Avea 'ava malosi ma fa'apogai tele o solitulafono eseese

tusia Ausage Fausia

E foliga mai o le 'ava malosi le fa'apogai o le tele o solitulafono eseese o lo o mafua ai ona molia ni isi o tagatanu'u ma tutula'i ai i luma o le Fa'amasinoga.

Mai i le silia i le to'a 10 i latou na taofia e Leoleo ma tutula'i ai i luma o le Fa'amasinoga Fa'aitumalo i le vaiaso nei i solitulafono eseese, o le to'a 8 o i latou nei sa a'afia le 'ava malosi i le taimi na fa'atinoina ai a latou solitulafono.

VINCENT AUKUSITINO

Na taofia mai e Leoleo le ali'i o Vincent Aukusitino i le moliaga o le tu fua i le fanua o le isi aiga faapea ai ma le faatupu vevesi i nofoaga faitele. Na 'ona Aukusitino i le taimi na tula'i mai ai le fa'alavelave e pei ona tu'uaia ai o ia e le malo.

O se fiafia a se aiga sa faia i Leone i le vaiaso na te'a nei, na tula'i mai ai se vevesi ma taofia faapagota ai loa e Leoleo ia Aukusitino. Na taua e le aiga i Leoleo e fa'apea, ao fa'auau le fiafia o le aso fanau, na fa'afuase'i ona afe atu le ua molia e fia auai, ma sa faapea fo'i ona talia e le aiga le auai atu o le ua molia.

A o fa'agasolo le fiafia o le aso fanau, na fa'afuase'i ona faatupu e le ua molia le vevesi, ma faatonuina ai loa o ia e alu ese ma le fanua. Na tuua e le ua molia le fanua peita'i na toe fo'i ane ma amata loa ona ia fa'atupu ni gaoiga e save'u ai le nonofo filemu o le aiga, ma logo ai loa e le aiga Leoleo mo se fesoasoani.

E \$500 le ua faatulaga e tofogi ona faatoa mafai lea ona tatala le ua molia. Afai e mafai ona tatala le ua molia, ua faasa ona ia toe tu i le fale poo le fanua o le aiga na a'afia. Ua faasa fo'i ona ia toe tagofia le 'ava malosi pe na te toe soli se tulafono a le

malo.

TU'UAIA SE ALI'I I LONA FA'AOOLIMA I LONA TO'ALUA

O le ali'i lea na tu'uaia i lona fa'aoolima i lona to'alua, ua poloaina e le fa'amasinoga o ia e aua ne'i toe alu i le fale o loo latou nonofo ai ma lona to'alua ma lana fanau, a ia saili se isi nofoaga e nofo ai mo le taimi nei ao fa'agasolo taulumaga o lana mataupu.

O le vevesi na tula'i mai i Utulei i le faaiuga o le vaiaso na te'a nei, ina ua 'ona atu le ua molia ma fa'aoolima i lona to'alua i luma o lana fanau. O le faalogoia ai e aiga tuai o le vevesi, na latou logoina ai loa Leoleo ma mafua ai ona taofia le ua molia i le toese.

Na taua e le fafine na a'afia i Leoleo, e le o se taimi muamua lea ua faia ai e lona to'alua lenei gaoiga ia te ia, o le fasi o ia i soo se taimi e 'ona atu ai i le fale.

Na ave a le ita o le ua molia ina ua manava atu e leai se meaai ma itu na tauupu ai ma lona to'alua, seia oo lava i lona aapa atu ma futi mai lona ulu ae tatu'i ona foliga i luma o lana fanau.

Na taumafai le fafine e sola ese peita'i na taofi e le ua molia o ia ae fa'auau pea ona ia faaoolima ia te ia.

Na teena e le ua molia moliaga o le faaoolima i le tulaga tolu ma le faatupu vevesi i totonu o lona aiga ua molia ai o ia e le malo, ma ua toe faatulaga lana mataupu e valaau i le masina fou.

O ni isi o tuutuuga ua tatala ai o ia i tua, o le fa'asa lea ona toe nofo i le latou fale ma lona aiga, faasa ona ia toe tagofia le 'ava malosi pe toe soli se tulafono a le malo, a ia ave a o ia ma tagatanu'u e tausisi i tulafono a le malo.



Meet A Spelling Champ!

The student at the right will represent Siliaga Elem. School in the American Samoa Spelling Bee to be held March 07, 2018.

The winner of that Bee will represent American Samoa in the 90th annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held in Washington, D.C.



BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?
Ngaire Fuimaono
What is your school name?
Siliaga Elementary School
What grade are you in?
Grade 8
Who is your English Teacher?
Sina Alapati-Mataafa & Kiso Aab
Who are your parents?
Fagatele & Mili Fuimaono
What village are you from?
Aoloau
What was your winning word?
COGNITION

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.



Territorial Spelling Bee

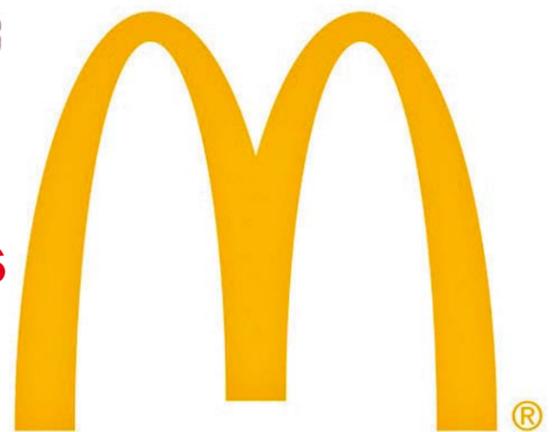
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BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?
Cil-Darla Livi
What is your school name?
Olosega Elementary School
What grade are you in?
Grade 8
Who is your English Teacher?
Claire Launay
Who are your parents?
Anita & Tui Livi
What village are you from?
Olosega
What was your winning word?
INTROSPECTIVE

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.



Territorial Spelling Bee

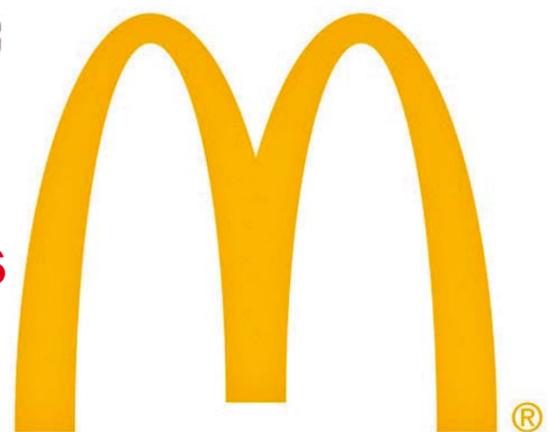
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Toe maua pagota na sosola i tua mai le toese i Tafuna

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua faamaonia mai e le Komesina o Leoleo le toe maua o al'i pagota e to'alu na sosola ese mai i le toese i Tafuna i le 2 vaiaso talu ai, ma ua toe taofia nei i laua i se nofoaga faapitoa ina ia taofia ai le toe sosola ese mai le falepuipui.

I se fa'atalatalanoaga ma le afioga i le ali'i Komesina ia Le'i Sonny Thompson, sa ia faamaonia mai ai i le Samoa News lenei mataupu.

O le faaiuga o le vaiaso na te'a nei na toe maua ai e Leoleo ia Joe Togitogi ma Iosefa Iakopo, talu mai le taimi na la sosola ese mai ai i le toese. Saunoa Le'i e fa'apea, sa galulue malosi ali'i ma tama'ita'i Leoleo i le tau sailia o i laua na sosola i tua, ina ia mautinoa e vave maua ma toe auina atu i totonu o le toese.

Talu ai le le malupuipua o le vaega o le falepuipui fou na taofia muamua ai i laua na sosola i tua, ua faia ai loa le faaiuga ina ia sui se isi nofoaga

e loka ai i laua, atoa ai ma le tofia lea o ni Leoleo e tiute ai i le ao ma le po. Na faafetaia e Le'i le lagolago a le atunu'u i le tau sailia o Togitogi ma Iakopo.

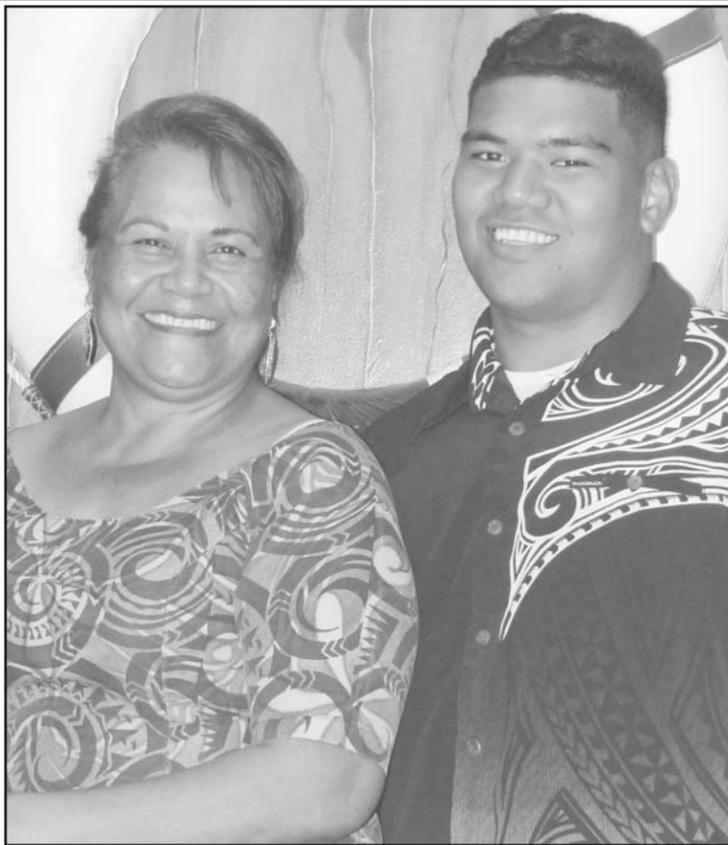
O le masina o Ianuari na te'a nei na alu ai le ulua'i solaaga a pagota e to'afa, lea fo'i na aofia ai Togitogi ma Iakopo. O isi pagota na aofia ai i le solaaga muamua e aofia ai Timata Naea ma Ryan Pite. E lei atoa se vaiaso na sosola ai i latou i tua ae maua. O le masina lenei i le 2 vaiaso talu ai na alu ai le solaga lona lua, lea na aofia ai na o Togitogi ma Iakopo.

O le vaiaso nei na faila ai e le malo moliaga mamafa o le sola ese mai le toese faasaga i le ali'i pagota ia Naea, ma le fa'amoemoe o se taimi o le vaiaso fou e faila ai moliaga fa'asaga i isi pagota sa auai i le solaaga. O le taeao ananafi na tula'i ai Naea i luma o le fa'amasinoga faaitumalo, ma faatulaga ai loa lana ulua'i iloilogaga e faia lea i le vaiaso fou. O le masina o Novema o le

tausaga na te'a nei na ulua'i taofia ai e Leoleo ia Naea ona o tu'uiga i le talepe fale ma le gaioi, e mafua mai i le faalavelave lea na ia osofaia ai se fale o se aiga i Tafuna i le masina o Oketopa ae ave faagaioi le tele o oloa ma meatotino sa i totonu e ova ma le \$100 le tau aofa'i pe a fa'atupe.

I faamaumauga a le malo o lo o taua ai e fa'apea, i le aso 14 Ianuari o le tausaga ne'i, na sola ese ai Naea mai le toese ao taofia ai o ia e fa'atali ai le aso e faia ai lana fa'amasinoga autu, e mafua mai i tuuaiga o le gaioi ma le talepe fale o lo o tu'uiga ai o ia e le malo.

Na ta'utino Naea i Leoleo e fa'apea, o le faaiuga sa faia ina ia sola i tua mai le toese, na mafua mai lea ina ua faaososo atu ana uo pagota ia te ia, ma ia ioe ai loa e auai i le solaaga. Sa ia teena le manatu na mafua ona latou sosola i tua ona o se taumafaiga ina ia fa'atino ni isi solitulafono mamafa e pei o le talepe fale ma le gaioi.



Le ali'i talavou o Apefai Taifane Jr ma lona tina, le tofa Taula Niualama Taifane ua mafuta mo sina taimi, ina ua asiasi mai le atali'i e o'o mai fo'i i lona aiga, ona toe taliu ai lea i le vaiaso nei mo ana a'oa'oga i le Cal Poly Univesirsity lea o le a ta'alo ai ma fa'aaoga ai lana sikolasipi mai le CCCAA. Fa'amalo le fai o le faiva i lea fo'i alo o le atunu'u.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Apefa'i Taifane Jr ma Melody Nua - tama fanau a Amerika Samoa

E LE O OE O SE SULI MONI

BY SAM - VAEGA 108

Na ona vaai atu lava o Meki o lo o fa'atuatusi uma meli o loo i totou o le pusa meli i le igoa o le fafine o Mekala, tago atu loa i lana uaealesi ma fesoota'i i le isi a latou ta'avale o loo paka mai i le isi tulimanu o le auala, e faailoa i ai le vaaiga lea ua ia maua.

"O lea ua ou mauaina tusi o loo i totonu o le pusa meli, o loo faatuatusi uma i le igoa o Mekala, ma ua lava lea e ta'u mai ai, o loo nonofo pea Mekala ma Pulusi i totonu o le nofoaga lenei, ae tatau ona tatou matua mautinoa lelei e moni ma fa'amaonia masalosologa, ina ne'i tatou osofaia le lotoa ae emo ane e ese tagata o loo nonofo i totonu o le fale".

O le talanoa atu lea a le tamaloa o Meki i lana vaega o Leoleo nana. Na umi se taimi o tu le tamaloa ma uu i lona lima tusi sa i totonu o le pusa meli o loo i luma o le pa, ona ia toe tuu lea i totonu ma savali atu i lana ta'avale ma nofonofo ai.

E lei leva ae faalogo atu ua fesootai mai lana vaega i le uaealesi. "Meki, o lea ua ou vaaia ni tagata o loo feoa'i mai totonu o le lotoa. E le o kilia la'u vaai poo ai ae foliga mai o se ulugali'i o loo savavali i totonu o le lotoa.

O tua atu o le fale o loo feofeoa'i ai le ulugali'i i luma, o loo tu mai ai le isi fale tele lava, e foliga mai o loo tu ai ni Van lanu uli soloatoa i luma ae leai ni tagata o o'u iloaina atu i lea fale".

O lea ua vavae tolu le vaega a le tamaloa o Meki, ua ta'i to'alu a latou i le vaega. O le isi vaega o loo paka i luga o le isi tulimanu o le pa o le fanua sa nonofo ai Mekala ma lona to'alu, o le isi vaega o loo i totonu o le ofisa, ma le vaega a le tamaloa o Meki o loo i luma o le faitoto'a e ulufale ai i totonu.

Talu ai le naunau tele o Meki na te fia maua se faamaoniga o loo nonofo pea Mekala ma lona to'alu a latou i totonu o le lotoa, na ia fesoota'i atu ai loa i le ali'i foma'i o Lavi, le tuagane o le tama'ita'i meauli o Ianeta lea ua avea nei ma ona afafine, ma ia talosagaina i ai se fesoasoani, i se auala e mafai ai ona aga'i atu ni tama'ita'i foma'i i totonu o le lotoa e faafoliga o loo faia se asiasiga i nofoaga o tagata matutua, ina ia mautinoa ai o loo i ai Mekala ma lona to'alu a latou i le nofoaga tuai lava lea.

Na ioe le ali'i foma'i o Lavi ma ia talia ai loa le talosaga a Meki, ma ia faatonuina ai loa ana tama'ita'i tausima'i e to'alu ina ia aga'i atu i totonu o le lotoa e fa'afoliga o loo faia sa latou asiasiga i tagata matutua, ina ia faamaonia ai poo ai o loo nonofo i totonu o le lotoa lea.

E malama ane loa le taeao o le aso na sosoo ai, pe tusa o le itula e 9:00, ae taunuu loa le ta'avale a tama'ita'i tausima'i e to'alu i luma o le faitoto'a e ulufale ai i le lotoa, ma la oomiina loa le ki e fesoota'i atu ai i totonu o le lotoa.

"O ai lea fa'amolemole", o le tali ane lea a le tagata o loo i totonu o le lotoa. "O a'u o se tama'ita'i tausima'i mai le Falema'i a le malo, e fia ulufale atu mo le faia o se asiasiga i tagata o loo nonofo i totonu o le lotoa, ina ia mautinoa ua faia a latou tui puipui mai se tasi o fa'ama'i oti o loo matua pipisi lava i totonu o le malo i le taimi nei".

O le tali atu lea a le tama'ita'i tausima'i, ma faapea mai ai loa ma le tagata, "Matou te le mana'omia ni tui puipui, e leai fo'i se isi o i matou o maua i se ma'i".

Na ona uma lava o tala a le tagata lea tapuni loa ma le telefoni, ma faigata ai ona toe fai atu se isi fa'amatalaga a le tama'ita'i tausima'i.

Na toe oomi e le tama'ita'i tausima'i le ki ma toe faapea atu i le tagata o loo tali mai i le isi itu, "Afai e le taliaina le talosaga, e ono avea lea ma itu e faasala ai e le malo lo outou aiga, i lo outou le taliaina o le poloaiga mai le Ofisa o le Soifua Maloloina".

E lei toe tali mai le tagata, ae na fa'afuase'i ona matala le faitoto'a o le pa ma faatonuina ai loa tama'ita'i tausima'i ina ia ulufale atu i totonu.

Na aga'i atu le ta'avale ma paka tonu lava i luma o le fasitepu e aga'i atu ai i le fale o le ulugali'i o Mekala ma Pulusi.

E lei umi ona paka le ta'avale a tama'ita'i tausima'i ae la vaaia loa le aga'i ane o se fafine ia tei laua.

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost
APEFAI TAIFANE JR. - FILIFILIA SIKOLASIPI A LE CCCAA I LE FOOTBALL

Mai Sacramento, Kalefonia ua fa'alauiloa ai le ausia e se tasi o atali'i o Amerika Samoa mai Amanave, Apefai Taifane Jr, ona o le fa'auau pea ona ausia e ia i le 4.0 GPA, ua mauaina ai le sikolasipi e totoa ia i lana a'oga faatasi ma ta'alo i le Football i le Kolisi a California Polytechnic University i le amataga o le tausaga nei.

O se mea e mata'ina ai le taumafaiga a lenei alo o le atunu'u, ona e to'alu ia te ia i la'ua na ausia le 4.0GPA i le vasega o tamaiti ta'a'alo uma i le California Community College Athletic Association, ma ua atoatoa la'ua Sikolasipi ua taua'aoina nei mo le 4 tausaga.

O le isi sui agava'a o le tama'ita'i o Breanne Dubberke, lea sa a'oa'oina i le Kolisi a Fresno City, ae o Taifane Jr sa a'oga i le Kolisi a West Hills Coalinga. O le ta'alogaga a Breanne o le Volley Ball, ma o nei sikolasipi, na fa'alauiloa ia Fepuari 20.

O Taifane Jr., o le alo o Apefa'i Taifane ma le tofa Taula Niualama Taifane o lo'o avea ma Fa'atonu o le Amerika Samoa Humanities Council.

Mo le taualoaina o nei avanoa fa'asikolasipi atoatoa a Apefai ma Breanne, o le a faia se tauaofiaga a le CCCAA i Concord ia Mati 2018 e fa'atasi atu ai ma le isi to'a 18 o fanau a'oga ua ausia fo'i avanoa fa'apenei mai isi Kolisi i Kalefonia, ma ua auai fa'atasi i latou i le Scholar -Athlete Honor Roll lea e amata mai i le 3.5GPA.

O Taifane Jr, sa amata na ta'alo Football i le tulaga o le

"tight end" a le Kolisi o West Hills Coalinga, lea na maua le 2016 Golden Coast League Championship ma sa tele fo'i lona sao i le toe fa'amautuina o le latou manumalo i le Northern California Football Conference American Division Title.

I lona tausaga lona lua sa ta'aalo i le "Offensive Line". I le tausaga lena sa mauaina ai e ia le fa'aailoga All-Golden Coast, All-State Region II First-Team na fa'atoa maua fo'i e lana 'au. E fa'aopoopo i ai i lena lava tausaga na maua ma le Ipu o le First-Team All America. Ma ua avea Taifane Jr., ma Kapeteni o le Falcons a lana kolisi, ma maua ai le fa'aailoga "WHCC's Commitment to Excellence Award," ina ua palota uma lana 'au ta'a'alo, e fa'ae'e ia te ia lena fa'aailoga taua.

I aoga i le potu a'oga, na mafai e ia ona maua le 54 units i le GPA 4.0 i ana semester e tolu o le amataga o lona olaga a'oga i West Hills. Na toe fa'aopoopo le isi 24 units a Taifane i le toe afa tausaga mulimuli i lana kolisi, ae le avea ai lava le ausia e ia o le 4.0 GPA. O le a taumafai e sailia lona fa'aailoga Associates of Arts i le Social & Behavioral Science. O ia o le totino o le Phi Theta Kappa.

I le taimi nei ua mae'a ona ia taua'aoina lana talosaga - National Letter of Intent a Ianuari 2018, o le a amata ai ona ta'alo Football i California Polytechnic University ma a'oga ai fo'i.

MELODY NUA-TAMAITA'I TA'ALO "REBELS UNLV", AVEA MA SUI FAIAOGA

Mai Las Vegas, ua lipotia ai se tama'ita'i e tupuga atu i Amerika Samoa, Melody Nua,

(Faauauu itulau 11)





Le tamaita'i o Melody Nua, [ogatotonu] ma ana uo Samoa fo'i sa latou a'òga ma ola fa'atasi ane i Lakewood, Tapu Masoe ma Courtney Taotai, ua fiafia fa'atasi aua o le a toe fo'i Melody i lana Iunivesite na a'òga ai, e faia'òga ai i le Volley Ball, lana ta'àloga sa tauva ma lauiloa ai.

[ata: fo'a'i]



A'ò le'i tulaueelele mai le Ma'ema'ea o Gita, o se va'aiga lea i le fanau talavou ua matua fiafia e faia koleniga fa'apitoa i le Paka i le VA Center - O lea malae e fa'aaoga fo'i e le Aoga Maualuga a Nu'uuli Voc Tech mo a latou koleniga o le Football. Masalo o lea vaiaso toe sos'o'o ta'àloga nei a le fanua i a'òga tulaga muamua.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O se va'aiga i le a'òa'òina fa'apitoa o tatou sui o lo'o fa'amoemoe fo'i i ai se pine i le tu'uaga a'au a le Special Olympics. O le susuga Justin Lutu lena ua fa'atasi ma ana faia'òga a'au mo fanau fa'apitoa. Ua fa'ailoa mai ua toe faia nei a'òga a'au nei i le Sadies ma le Utulei Beach se'ia toe fa'ataga mai le Pala Lagoon Swimming Pool mo ia a'òga fa'apitoa.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

► Tama Fanau...

Mai itulau 10

ua toe fo'i i lana Iunivesite sa ta'alo Volley Ball ma a'oga ai, University of Las Vegas (UNLV).

Peita'i, ua mae'a lana a'oga, ae ua toe fa'afaigaluegaina e le UNLV, e avea ma Sui Faia'oga i le Ta'alogaga Volley Ball a le UNLV. O Nua o se alo e fa'asino ia Maligi ma Minnie Nua mai le Alataua fo'i. O i latou o lo'o alaala i Torrance ma fanau ai le tama'ita'i lenei ia Novema 27, 1987.

Na amata ona ta'alo i le Volley Ball a'o a'oga i le Lakewood High School i Kalefonia lava. Ma sa iloga ai fo'i lona ma'ema'ea o lana ta'alo i lea fa'agatama. I lona tausaga lona fa i lana Iunivesite i Las Vegas na toe avea ma Seti fa'amoemoeina, a le UNLV 'Rebels'. O lana matati'a i le a'oga, na tulaga lua o ia i le tagata na sili ona ia sefea le polo i ana ta'alogaga uma. E na'o le to'alua lava seti ua ausia lea ituaiga o matati'a, o Nua le tasi o ia sui.

Na amata ona ta'alo i UNLV i le 2005 sei'a o'o i le 2008, ae o lea ua avea ma sui faiaoga o le volleyball ia Dawn Sullivan lea e Coach i le tausaga nei.

A'o le'i maua e ia lea avanoa i Las Vegas sa avea o ia ma Fa'atonu o le Volley Ball i le Loyola Maramount i le tausaga na te'a.

I se toe tepa i le amataga o le soifua ta'alo o Nua i le UNLV na fa'ailoa mai ai, "O ia lenei na amata loa ona seti mo le Rebels, e le'i toe fa'ataututu mai se 'au i ai ma i'u ai ina mautu mai le Ipu o le siamupini 2007 Mountain West Conference Championship. E iloa lelei e Melody Nua le naunauta'iga i le malo e le faigofie, ae faigata le ala i le siamupini."

Ua iloga i a'oga sa faia'oga ai o ia, e le o misia lava ma le si'itia o le tulaga o le Volley Ball i na a'oga, e tofu maua lava siamupini a ana 'au sa faia'oga ai i Desert Elite ma Club Vegas i le 2010-12. Na soso'o lea ma le si'itia Los Alamitos High School ma faia'oga i le JV Volley Ball ma o'o fo'i ina avea e ana 'au le tulaga o 'au pitoaluga e lua o lea ta'amilosaga. Na avea lea o Nua ma Head Coach i Valley Christian High School i Cerritos ma na maua e lana 'au lea le siamupini 2016.

O pine fa'amau ia o lona iloa i le ta'alogaga ua toe amia ai e lana Iunivesite e toe fo'i ane i Nevada e toe saili se manumalo a le Rebels e afua i lenei tausaga. E fa'afetaia fo'i le tele o alo o le tatou nei malo, ua fa'amau fa'ailoga ai le tatou igoa i fa'agatama ua iloga ona fiafia i ai tatou talavou iinei e ta'a'alo fa'atauva ai.

Texas governor accepts recommendation, spares inmate

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Thursday spared the life of a convicted killer shortly before the man's scheduled execution for masterminding the fatal shootings of his mother and brother.

In sparing the life of Thomas "Bart" Whitaker about an hour before he was scheduled for lethal injection, Abbott accepted the state parole board's rare clemency recommendation. Whitaker's father, Kent, also was shot in the 2003 plot at the family's suburban Houston home but survived and led the effort to save his son from execution. Abbott commuted the sentence to life without parole.

"I'm thankful not for me but for my dad," Bart Whitaker told prison officials after getting the word in a tiny holding cell a few feet from the death chamber. "Any punishment that I would have or will receive is just, but my dad did nothing wrong. The system worked for him today. And I will do my best to uphold my role in the system."

The seven-member Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, whose members are appointed by the governor, recommended unanimously Tuesday that Abbott commute the sentence.

Abbott, a Republican had the option of accepting the recommendation, rejecting it or doing nothing.

"Mr. Whitaker's father, who survived the attempt on his life, passionately opposes the execution of his son. Mr. Whitaker's father insists that he would be victimized again if the state put to death his last remaining immediate family member," Abbott said in a proclamation issued Thursday evening, adding that Whitaker had also agreed to waive all further rights to parole.

Abbott, also citing the parole board's recommendation, added: "The totality of these factors warrants a commutation of Mr. Whitaker's death sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole."

It was only the fourth time since the state resumed executions in 1982 that the parole board has recommended clemency within days of an inmate's scheduled execution.

In the previous cases, then-Gov. Rick Perry, also a Republican, accepted the board's decision in one case and rejected the other two, who subsequently were put to death in the nation's most active capital punishment state.



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Courtesy Photos)

California senator quits as Legislature grapples with #MeToo

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A California state senator accused of sexual misconduct resigned Thursday just ahead of a possible vote to expel him, delivering a scathing resignation letter that called the investigation a farce and underscored the Legislature's struggle to respond to the #MeToo movement.

Democratic Sen. Tony Mendoza of the Los Angeles area said he may still run for the seat this fall, putting his party in an uncomfortable spot.

His resignation letter takes aim at the leader of the Senate, a fellow Democrat and his former roommate in Sacramento who was leading the effort to kick him out.

"It is clear that Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon will not rest until he has my head on a platter to convince the MeToo movement of his 'sincerity' in supporting the MeToo cause," Mendoza wrote as he resigned.

De Leon, who is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Dianne Feinstein, said the Legislature "won't tolerate abuse of power and a pattern of behavior that violates our harassment standards."

An investigation found that Mendoza likely engaged in unwanted "flirtatious or sexually suggestive" behavior with six women, including four subordinates, a lobbyist and a young woman in a fellowship with another lawmaker.

He is the third California lawmaker to resign over sexual misconduct allegations since the #MeToo movement erupted nationally last fall, leading millions of women to share their experiences on social media.

Mendoza has consistently denied wrongdoing and blasted an investigation that he claimed was unfair, illegal and racially motivated.

His complaints illustrate the Legislature's struggle to respond to growing demands for a change in a culture perceived as burying complaints and sheltering offenders.

"Removing senators from the process of deciding cases of sexual harassment involving their friends and roommates is imperative," said Sen. Andy Vidak, a Republican who first moved to expel Mendoza in January.

"The Mendoza mess has brought to light all of the flaws of our sexual harassment poli-

cies but hopefully will lead us to some resolution."

The Legislature still hasn't adopted fair and transparent policies for sexual misconduct four months after dozens of women who work at the Capitol sent a letter calling for a change in culture, said Samantha Corbin, a lobbyist and co-founder of a group called We Said Enough that formed in the wake of the letter.

"There's a lot of room for interpretation, there's a lot of ambiguity, and it does neither the victims nor the perpetrators any type of justice," she said. "It's unfair for everyone."

Mendoza's resignation was the best solution for the women who accused him of misconduct, but it hasn't delivered justice or due process, Corbin said.

Leaders of the Legislative Women's Caucus said more work remains to be done to ensure clear sexual harassment policies.

Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman and Sen. Connie Leyva said the Legislature must ensure harassment claims are dealt with transparently and "no one is beyond reproach."



Judge questions arrests...

Continued from page 1

rectional Facility (TCF) for two nights before she appeared in court.

"Sua was brought in court on that day wearing a jumpsuit with handcuffs on her hands for a traffic violation and not providing a valid I.D. to the police officer, and that's why the court issued an Order to Show Cause, so that the police commissioner could inform the court what policy DPS is using to assist police officers with their job," Sunia said.

Prior to Sua's case, Sunia stated that there was a similar case that happened in August of last year, when an individual by the name of Silafau Sioeli was arrested by a police officer and held at TCF for one night, after Sioeli refused to sign a citation for a seat belt violation.

Sunia stated that the court was confused and at the same time trying to understand, why an individual would be arrested after refusing to sign a citation, or have a valid I.D.

"Sua is a U.S citizen from Pago Pago while Sioeli is a registered alien and the court believes that the government must have records of a valid I.D for these two individuals," Sunia said.

"How can a police officer arrest a motorist for no identification or refusing to sign a citation?"

Sunia recalled the testimony from deputy commissioner Sagapolutele when he was called on the witness stand this past December, where he told the court that DPS "does have a standard operation to guide police officers on how to conduct their daily duty."

"During all these proceedings, what we found out is that there wasn't a policy in place for DPS police officers to guide them during their daily duty," Sunia said.

Another thing Sunia mentioned was that since the court issued this Order to Show Cause late last year, there have been more cases like this coming before the court.

"It's not the court's job to tell police officers how to do their job — it's our duty to make sure the law has been followed. It's also not the court's job to protect the rights of everyone, it's the duty of a sworn police officer to protect the rights of everyone," Sunia said.

The judge then ordered that if there are any more such incidents coming before the court in the future involving police officers arresting individuals for traffic violations, the court will order the arresting police officer to testify before the court and explain the reason for such an arrest. However, if a policy were put in place to guide DPS police officers re their daily duties, then there would be no need for such an action.

TAUVA ESERA

In Esera's case, Sunia stated that after the court reviewed all the evidence of the case and also the testimony from Esera, the court was satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to go forward.

Sunia did not say when the court is going to issue a decision in regards to Esera's case, nor did he mention anything about Esera not appearing in court yesterday.



O se va'aiga i le laina a i latou uma na fa'amau fa'ailogaina latou taumafaiga i le itupa o Ali'i i le tauvaga Tinolelei sa fa'atautaia e le IFBB Sau Ia Body Building i le fa'aiuga o le vaiasa na te'a nei. Malo le taumafai ma le tauva fa'atausala.

[ata: foai]

► Community Briefs...

Continued from page 5

conduct audits of businesses suspected of being dishonest.

According to Treasury Department, seats are limited to twenty participants during the three days and the Tax Office will accommodate interested participants on a first come first serve basis.

For seating availability and other info contact: (684) 633-4181, Email: jasmine.kupu@tr.as.gov

NO USCG INVESTIGATION INTO AMMONIA LEAK

The US Coast Guard says it is not conducting an investigation into the ammonia leak last Thursday morning that caused the evacuation of the main dock and closed the entrance to the Port of Pago Pago.

As previously reported by Samoa News, Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele says the source of the ammonia leak came from the engine room of the Captain Vincent Gann purse seiner — which was docked at the port. The vessel was then moved to another location and the port reopened 30-minutes later.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries, US Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Scott Carr said they were aware of the ammonia leak and Coast Guard has talked with the crew of the vessel.

“There is not an investigation,” he said last Friday from Honolulu when asked if USCG is conducting an investigation. “The threshold for an ammonia leak to meet the level of a marine casualty is 100 pounds. The amount leaked from the vessel is estimated at 5 pounds.”

AG JOINS CALL ON CONGRESS TO ADDRESS WORK-PLACE ISSUES

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale has joined attorneys general from all states, territories and the District of Columbia calling on top leaders of the US Congress to support enacting federal legislation to protect sexual harassment victims in the workplace.

“Specially, we seek to ensure these victims’ access to the courts, so that they may pursue justice and obtain appropriate relief free from the impediment of arbitration requirements,” according to the letter from the attorneys general under the National Association of Attorneys General.

According to the letter,

many employers require their employees, as a condition of employment, to sign arbitration agreements mandating that sexual harassment claims be resolved through arbitration instead of judicial proceedings.

They pointed out that the employers in boilerplate “take-it-or-leave-it” fashion present clauses, concerning arbitrations, among other things. “As a consequence, many employees will not even recognize that they are bound by arbitration clauses until they have been sexually harassed and attempt to bring suit,” they argued.

“We are aware that the Senate and the House are considering legislation to address this issue. Whatever form the final version may take, we strongly support appropriately-tailored legislation to ensure that sexual harassment victims have a right to their day in court,” according to the Feb. 12 letter to top Democrat and Republican leaders in both the US Senate and US House.



FILE - In this Jan. 3, 2018 file photo, state Sen. Tony Mendoza, D-Artesia, stands at his desk after announcing that he will take a month-long leave of absence while an investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against him are completed, during the opening day of the Senate in Sacramento, Calif. Mendoza announced Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 that he is resigning over sexual misconduct allegations just ahead of a possible vote by his colleagues to expel him. In his resignation letter, Mendoza called the Senate’s process “farcical” and unfair and is still considering running for re-election in the fall. (AP Photo/Steve Yeater, File)



American Samoa Government DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Request for Public Comment on Special Education Funding Application

The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) Special Education Division (SPED) has for public review its application for funding under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the US Department of Education.

These funds are used to provide special education services to all school age children, ages 3 - 21 years, in the territory of American Samoa who have a disability that adversely affects their classroom achievements. As a condition for granting the funds, each State or Territory proposing the application must submit the application for public review and comment. The public must be afforded reasonable opportunities for comment 30 days prior to the submission of the application on May 14, 2018. The public hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2018 at the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Conference Room in Utulei at 2:00pm. The Department of Education must review and give due consideration to all comments and suggestions prior to the submission of the application for funding.

Copies of the application are available at the Special Education Office located in Faga’alu. All persons interested in the application are encouraged to pick up a copy between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. Written comments will also be taken during these hours. Comments and suggestions may also be made via email to Faaufono Vaitautolu at faauitolu@yahoo.com or Dr. Teresa Le’iatio Atuatasi at atuajjj_1999@yahoo.com or may be sent surface mail to Dr. Teresa Le’iatio Atuatasi, Assistant Director Special Education Division, PO Box ASDOE-SPED, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

Talosagaina Finagalo Lautele mo le Tusi Talosaga mo Alagatupe Fuafuaina o le Ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa

Ua tu’uina mai e le Matagaluega o A’oga Amerika Samoa (ASDOE) Ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa (SPED) se avanoa e fa’alia ai finagalo fa’alau’itele a le mamalu o le atunu’u mo le alagatupe talosaga i lalo o le Maga B Tulafono mo Tagata o iai Manaoga Fa’apitoa (IDEA) ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa (OSEP) o le Matagaluega o A’oga a le Malo Tele o Amerika (USDOE).

O ia alagatupe ua fuafuaina e fa’atino ai a’oa’oga fa’apitoa tu’uina atu mo tamaiti a’oga uma, e amata mai i le 3 - 21 tausaga, i totonu o le Teritori o Amerika Samoa o lo’o iai manaoga fa’apitoa ua fa’afaigata ai taumafaiga taua’oa’oga i totonu o potu a’oga. O se tasi aiaiga mo le taliaina o le talosaga, e tatau i Setete ma Teritori uma o lo’o talosagaina ia alagatupe ona fa’asalalau a latou tusi talosaga mo se finagalo fa’aalia o tagata lautele. E tatau ona lava se avanoa e silasila lelei ai le atunu’u mo le silafia ma tu’uina mai so latou finagalo fa’aalia e tusa e 30 aso ae le’i tu’uina atu le tusi talosaga ia Me 14, 2018. O le a faia se fonu fa’alau’itele ia Aperila 12, 2018 i le potu fonotaga i le Ofisa ASDOE Early Childhood Education i Utulei i le itula e 2:00pm. O le a iloiloina e le Matagaluega a A’oga Amerika Samoa finagalo ma manatu fa’aalia a le lautele ma tu’uina atu ni fautuaga ae le’i o’o i le aso fa’atapula’aina o tusi talosaga.

O lo’o maua kopi o lenei tusi talosaga i le Ofisa o A’oga Fa’apitoa i Faga’alu. Mo i latou e mana’omia se kopi o le tusi talosaga, e avanoa le ofisa mai le itula 8:00am i le 4:00pm. O manatu fa’aalia e tauala mai i tusitusiga e mafai ona tu’uina mai i taimi ua fa’atulagaina. A iai nisi manatu ma fautuaga, e mafai ona imeli mai ia Fa’auifono Vaitautolu faauitolu@yahoo.com po’o Teresa Le’iatio Atuatasi atuajjj_1999@yahoo.com pe tusi mai ia Teresa Le’iatio Atuatasi, SPED Assistant Director, PO Box ASDOE-SPED, Pago

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Indicted Missouri governor had been rising politically

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, a former Navy SEAL whose victory in his first run for public office made him a rising Republican political figure, was indicted Thursday on a felony invasion of privacy charge stemming from an affair he had in 2015. Greitens has acknowledged an extramarital relationship, but denied an allegation that he blackmailed the woman.

ALLEGATIONS AND INDICTMENT

Prosecutors say a St. Louis grand jury indicted Greitens for allegedly taking a compromising photo of a woman with whom he had an affair in 2015.

The indictment states that Greitens took a picture of a woman "in a state of full or partial nudity" without her knowledge or consent. A spokeswoman for St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner says Greitens was taken into custody Thursday and released on his own recognizance.

In January, the governor and his wife, Sheena, issued a statement acknowledging that he'd been "unfaithful" in his marriage, but denying allegations that he blackmailed the woman so that she would stay quiet.

The statement followed a

report by KMOV-TV in St. Louis that Greitens had a sexual relationship with his former hairdresser in 2015. The report said the woman's ex-husband alleged Greitens photographed her nude and threatened to release the images if she spoke about their relationship.

QUICK RISE

The 43-year-old Greitens was a one-time prospect to run for Congress as a Democrat but switched to the GOP to run in its 2016 primary to replace term-limited Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon. He emphasized both his past military service and his outsider status. Greitens won the governor's race with 51 percent of the vote. During his campaign, Greitens portrayed himself as a family man, saying in his announcement: "I'm a Navy SEAL, native Missourian and most importantly, a proud husband and father." He and his wife married in 2011 and have 3- and 1-year-old sons. Greitens was pegged as highly ambitious. He reserved the web address ericgreitensforpresident.com years ago.

MILITARY SERVICE

Greitens is a former Rhodes scholar who joined the Navy in 2001 and had tours of duty in Afghanistan, Southeast

Asia, Africa and Iraq. His last deployment came while he was serving as a White House fellow in President George W. Bush's administration. He once was chlorine-gassed in a suicide bomb attack but returned to duty three days later. He's been awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He later founded and ran a veterans' charity, The Mission Continues, and became a motivational speaker and best-selling author.

COURTING CONTROVERSY

The governor's fiscally conservative, anti-abortion, pro-gun rights politics have played well in conservative Missouri, but his criticism of elected officials as corrupt, career politicians has rubbed many legislators the wrong way. His administration has also gained a reputation for being less than transparent because of its stiff-arming of reporters and several senior staff members' use of the secretive Confide app.

He signed legislation last July to raise the legal standard for proving discrimination in housing, employment or public accommodations, which prompted an advisory against traveling to the state from the Missouri NAACP.

Judge: Ads can run in Uber, Lyft vehicles in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge gave the green light Thursday to a Minnesota company that wants to put advertising in vehicles driven for companies like Uber and Lyft in New York City.

U.S. District Judge Ronnie Abrams released her written ruling in the First Amendment case brought by a company that was blocked from putting ads in vehicles affiliated with companies summoned by electronic devices. She said the city was unable to justify its regulations.

Vugo Inc. sued New York City in 2015 after the Taxi and Limousine Commission prohibited the ads in vehicles that were not medallion taxis or street hail liveries.

The company, formed in 2015, places digital content including advertising, entertainment content and public service announcements in vehicles driven for companies such as Lyft and Uber across the country. Abrams said passengers cannot turn off the displays but can reduce the volume to make them nearly mute. Advertisers pay Vugo to display content and the company passes 60 percent of the advertising revenue to the drivers.

Nicholas Paolucci, a spokesman for the city's law office, said the ruling was being reviewed.

In her decision, Abrams wrote that the city was being unreasonable, in part, because "large swaths of the vehicles" it regulates are permitted to display advertisements. The city has said about 20,000 vehicles in the city carry digital taxi content while more than 73,000 vehicles are banned from doing so.

The judge noted that the city had shown the advertising is viewed negatively by some. She said nearly one-third of respondents to a 2011 city survey of taxi passengers indicated "Taxi TV is annoying." Passengers complained the blinking screen causes motion sickness, the buttons to lower the volume and turn off content often do not work and the content is repetitive and boring.

But she said the city had failed to show a sufficient rationale for excluding medallion taxis or street hail liveries from the regulation since "there is no basis for concluding that advertisements in the exempted vehicles are somehow less annoying or that those passengers are any less vulnerable."




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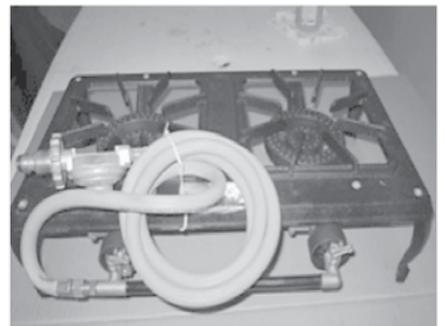
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Department of EDUCATION

Drugs likely in deaths of 3 found on San Francisco street

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Public health authorities are warning against the dangers of buying drugs potentially laced with fentanyl after three men were found dead near a school in San Francisco's historic Haight-Ashbury neighborhood.

It's unlikely the medical examiner's office will determine the cause of death Thursday, but the department wanted to alert health care officials and drug users, said Rachael Kagan, a spokeswoman for the city's Department of Public Health.

check on three unresponsive men on the street. Officers attempted life-saving measures and called medics, but the three men could not be revived.

There is no evidence of foul play and the deaths do not appear to be weather-related, Rueca said. He said police do not know where the men lived, but it was not at the location where they were found.

"People who buy drugs on the street are at risk of purchasing drugs contaminated by fentanyl, which is a very strong opioid, much more potent than heroin," said Dr. Tomas Aragon, San Francisco Health Officer.

"It is essential for their safety to carry naloxone in case of overdose. It is a matter of life and death," he said.

San Francisco has been going through a cold snap and authorities have increased overnight shelter space for the week.

The bodies were found near The Urban School, a private \$45,000-a-year high school one block away from Haight Street and its colorful shops selling tie-dye T-shirts and pot paraphernalia. The school sits across from a church on a residential street of well-kept houses and apartment buildings, and next to a preschool where kids could be heard playing.

The bodies were discovered Thursday morning by a security guard at an elite private high school.

San Francisco Police Officer Robert Rueca said officers received a call at 4:35 a.m. to

Urban School spokeswoman Kristen Bailey said in a statement that the three men have "no connection to Urban, and the police assure us there is no danger or threat to our students, or faculty and staff."



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