

Members of local Drug Control Commission appointed to combat our “drug crisis” **Page 3**

2 teine Samoa kapeteni au lakapi saili siamupini ipu lalolagi **In Sports**

Galulue fa’atasi uma malo saili auala taofia ai ulufale mai fualaau fa’asaina **Le Lali**

Youngsters from all over the territory spent their summer break participating in various activities and programs offered by different local agencies and organizations. Pictured are some little ones who learnt how to make ‘elei prints using breadfruit leaves, under the guidance of local artist Reggie Meredith-Fitiao.

[photo: courtesy]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

\$1.00

Next week Friday is cut off date for purchases for all government agencies

Anything after the date, will have to be resubmitted for FY 2018

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The ASG Office of Budget and Planning has set Aug. 18th as the cut off date for purchases for all government agencies for the current fiscal year (FY 2017), as the Lolo Administration works on ensuring there is no overrun. This year’s cut off date is about two weeks earlier than last year’s deadline of Aug. 31st.

At yesterday’s cabinet meeting at the Agriculture Department conference room, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga requested directors to contain spending for the remainder of FY 2017, which ends before midnight on Sept. 30th.

“We’re making every effort to make sure that we do not overrun the FY 2017 budget,” he said, adding that it may appear that this will be a difficult task or cannot be an accomplished task, but “it can be done.”

Lolo reminded his cabinet members that the government had been able to achieve this — no overrun — in

previous fiscal years, which were difficult times, and there is no reason it cannot be done again.

Budget Office director Catherine Saelua added that a letter has been sent to all departments regarding the cut off date for purchases and closing out accounts for FY 2017.

She said “you cannot undermine the importance of our closing for FY 2017.”

“So any purchases that you might want after that, will have to be resubmitted in the new fiscal year,” she added and reiterated to directors, that this is time to “concentrate on closing out, revisit your accounts, [and] close our encumbrances.”

Samoa News notes that it’s always some time in August ever year that the Administration sets a specific date for cut off for all purchases for a particular fiscal year. However, there have been some complaints to the Fono over the years from senior ASG officials that because of the cut off deadline, other emergency

purchases cannot be made, until the start of the new fiscal year.

The cut off date for purchases — or for agencies to submit invoices for payment — for FY 2016, was Aug. 31, 2016.

Meanwhile, Saelua says the final FY 2018 budget is to be submitted soon to the Fono and hopefully it will be at the Legislature when lawmakers reconvene on Aug. 21st after their four-week mid session recess.

She reminded cabinet members that it’s the Fono that will set up budget hearings — dates and times — for each ASG entity and that information will then be submitted to the Governor’s Office.

Lolo reminded directors again to remain on island during budget hearings, because the Fono won’t accept any other witnesses to testify on a department’s budget, except the director. In the case of authorities — such as the LBJ Medical Center — it’s the executive director or the chief executive officer.

Falepuipui ali’i overstayer na faia uiga mataga i se teineititi 5 tausaga

tusia Ausage Fausia

O le ali’i mai Samoa lea na ulufale mai i le pemita e 14 aso ma nofo fa’asolitulafono ai lava i le atunu’u talu mai le tausaga na te’a nei, ua fa’asala e le fa’amasinoga maualuga o ia e taofia i le falepuipui i Tafuna mo le umi e 5 tausaga, o se tasi lea o tuutuuga o lana fa’asalaga fa’anofovaavaia e 15 tausaga, ina ua ta’usala o ia i le moliaga mamafa o lona faia lea o uiga fa’asotoma (sodomy) i se teineititi e 5 tausaga le matua.

O le ali’i o Mua’iga Siatuu poo “Povi” fo’i e pei ona valaau ai o ia e tagata, na ulua’i tu’uaia o ia e le malo i moliaga mamafa e 4, lea e aofia ai le moliaga o le tagofia o itutinosa o se teineititi (sexual abuse 1st degree), faia o uiga fa’asotoma (sodomy), faia o uiga mataga fa’afeusuaiga i se teineititi (deviate sexual assault) fa’apea ai ma le moliaga e sili atu ona mamafa lona fa’asalaga o le faia o uiga mataga i se teineititi e i lalo o le 12 tausaga le matua (child molesting), lea e mafai ona fa’asala ai o ia i le falepuipui mo le olaga atoa, poo le fa’a falepuipui i le umi e le ititi ifo i le 10 tausaga ae le sili atu i el 30 tausaga, fa’apea ai ma le moliaga mama o le faia o gaioiga e lamatia ai le saogalemu o fanau laiti.

O le fa’alavelave e pei ona ta’usala ai Siatuu e le fa’amasinoga na alia’e mai i le aso 10 Tesema 2016, ina ua o le ua molia ma le uncle o le teineititi na a’afia e tafafao i le aiga o le teineititi i Auasi, ae tula’i mai ai loa le fa’alavelave ina ua tagofia e le ua molia le itutinosa o le teineititi i totonu o le fale o le aiga.

O le toe aga’i ese mai ai o le ua molia ma le uncle o le teineititi na a’afia mai Auasi, na fa’atoo iloa ai e le Tina le fa’alavelave sa tupu, ina ua fa’ailoa atu e lana tama ia te ia vaega o lona itutinosa o loo tiga, e mafua mai ina ua tago i ai le ua molia, ma logo ai loa e le Tina le Ofisa o Leoleo i le taimi lava lea ma fa’ailoa i ai le mataupu, lea na i’u ai loa ina taofia faapagota le ua molia.

E 2 aso talu ona taofia Siatuu i le toese ae tula’i mai ai loa le fa’alavelave lea na fasi ai o ia e ni isi

(Faaauau itulau 10)



Le ali’i o Mua’iga Siatuu, po’o Povi, e pei ona valaau ai o ia e tagata, ma manu’a o ona foliga ina ua fasi o ia e pagota, a o lea ua fa’asala i le toese i Tafuna mo le 5 tausaga, i i lona faia o uiga mataga i se teineititi e 5 tausaga le matua. [ata AF]



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Over-stayer from Samoa sentenced for sexual contact with a five-year-old

Translated by Samoa News staff

An over-stayer from Samoa, accused of having sexual contact with a five-year-old girl, has been sentenced to a 5-year stay in prison, off of a 15-year probation sentence, while the Chief Justice continues to draw attention to Immigration's apparent inability to stop over staying by people entering the territory on permits, and then committing crimes, which in this case, is against a child.

Muaiga Siatu, aka Povi, was charged with one count each of child molestation, sodomy, deviated sexual assault, first-degree sexual abuse — all misdemeanors — and the misdemeanor of endangering the welfare of a child.

The most serious of the felony counts is child molestation, a Class A felony, punishable by imprisonment of at least 10 years, according to court documents.

Siatu, who is from Fagatogo, was visiting the victim's family at a village on the east side of the island on Dec. 10 when he committed the sexual act against a five-year-old girl by touching her private parts.

The victim was taken to LBJ Medical Center to be checked, according to court documents, but it didn't provide any other information.

When confronted by police, the defendant allegedly admitted to putting his finger inside the victim's private parts.

Under a plea agreement with the government, and accepted by the court, the defendant pled guilty to sodomy. He has been in custody unable to post a \$22,000 bond.

Two days after his arrest last December, Povi was allegedly assaulted by two other inmates at the Territorial Correctional Facility, resulting in him being transferred to a holding cell at the Central Police Station for his safety.

The defendant, who entered the territory on a 14-day permit early last year, was in High Court yesterday for sentencing where he apologized to the victim and her family as well as asked for their forgiveness. He also apologized to the court and the people of American Samoa for his crime.

He sought leniency that would allow him to return home to Samoa to care for his family. He also requested the court to continue its previous order, which allowed him to be held in custody at the holding cell at the Fagatogo police station because

TCF remains unsafe for him.

Both the defense and government sought a probative sentence with Public Defender Douglas Fiaui arguing that the defendant is remorseful and has learned a lesson from what happened.

He also noted that his client has suffered injuries to his face following his being assaulted by inmates last December.

Assistant Attorney General Robert Morris requested that the probative sentence includes a court order for the defendant to return to Samoa.

Chief Justice Michael Kruse said the court still has questions and among them is why the defendant entered the territory under a 14-day permit and how he ended up overstaying in American Samoa, resulting in him committing this crime against a child.

Kruse said the court continues to be faced with this problem of foreigners entering the territory under a permit and then remaining in the territory illegally.

He said the safety and welfare of the 5-year-old victim was in jeopardy because the defendant remained in the territory illegally.

Kruse then told Morris to "tell your boss" about these problems that continue to surface from the Immigration Office.

(The Attorney General oversees the Immigration Office).

The defendant was then sentenced to 15 years probation, under several conditions including that he serves a 5-year prison term.

Upon completion of the jail term, he is to depart the territory immediately and remain outside of American Samoa during the probation period. He's to serve his sentence at the police station holding cell.

Siatu was also ordered to register as a sex offender and take an HIV test, as required under local laws, for those convicted of these types of cases.

Kruse also directed that the court's order and decision be given to the Immigration Office.

The Chief Justice said the government must know that problems of foreigners coming here and then remaining here illegally, and then committing crimes, affect the safety and well-being of children and the people of American Samoa.

(Original Samoan story published in today's front page of Samoa News)



Learning the basic technique for performing CPR was one of the procedures that was taught to participants of this year's AS Adult Health Education Center (ASAHEC) summer program which concluded last week. [photo: Mark Espiritu]

Members of local Drug Control Commission appointed to combat our “drug crisis”

IN THE MEANTIME, SENATE LOOKING TO AMEND DRUG LAW TO 5-YEAR MINIMUM

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

To combat the “drug crisis” the territory is suffering from, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has appointed the American Samoa Drug Control Commission (ASDCC) and tasked it to among other things, “reducing and eliminating the supply of illicit drugs” in American Samoa.

Appointment of the ASDCC, which is made up of representatives from 13 government entities, comes after the governor for several months has urged the entire community to work with the government to rid the territory of the drug problem that has spread to schools. This has also been the same message from certain directors, including traditional leaders and lawmakers.

“American Samoa is suffering from a drug crisis,” Lolo wrote in his Aug. 2nd memorandum appointing the ASDCC.

“Our families are being ravaged by drug use and abuse. We must take immediate action to battle this epidemic and while we may have government and private programs operating, we need to combine resources and tackle the problem in its entirety.”

According to the governor, the ASDCC shall be tasked with the goal of:

- reducing and eliminating the supply of illicit drugs;
- reducing drug-related consequences-crimes, violence and healthcare impacts;
- strengthening prevention, enforcement and treatment systems;
- collecting relevant data to better allocate limited resources; and
- mobilizing communities to be more proactive in preventing drug use and abuse.

The governor specifies the

ASG entities that are members of the ASDCC: Governor’s Office, Office of Samoan Affairs, Agriculture, Education, Health, Human Resources, Youth and Women’s Affairs, Port Administration, Public Safety, Treasury, Human and Social Services, Homeland Security, and Legal Affairs.

Each government stakeholder would provide a representative to the commission, and is to give its time and resources to achieve the ASDCC’s goals.

Additionally, the lead ASDCC agencies are DHSS, DoH and Samoan Affairs, and at their discretion, a governing body would be established from the group to meet regularly to discuss the progress of ASDCC and to create plans to meet ASDCC goals. Lolo directed that the ASDCC governing body shall meet at least once a month and shall provide the Governor’s Office monthly progress updates to ensure the goals are being achieved. Furthermore, ASDCC shall include community stakeholders including but not limited to religious organizations, community coalitions, village councils and organizations, and other non-government organizations.

“Drugs are poisoning our way of life and we must act now to root it out,” the governor said, and directed that governmental departments and agencies are to assist ASDCC in any way needed to help them achieve this goal.

He asked community organizations and the public for their assistance with these efforts “as we all strive to make American Samoa safer and healthier.”

During yesterday’s cabinet meeting, held at the Agriculture Department conference room, Lolo said the issue that has become very serious in American Samoa is illegal drugs.

He said that upon research, it was found that there is no map or guidelines in the government to combat this serious problem.

Lolo said the Attorney General as well as the ASDCC is working on various ways to combat illegal drugs, which is affecting families, students, children, churches, and even inside government.

He notes that the commission, which is meeting next Tuesday, is the working group but combating this problem is an issue for the entire cabinet, community, churches, and every single individual in American Samoa. The governor stressed that the directors should be part of the commission because it’s the director who makes the final decision for the department or office.

SENATE DRUG SENTENCING BILL

Meanwhile, Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie is sponsoring a bill that amends current provisions of the law (ASCA 13.1020) Prohibited Actions, which states in part that it is unlawful for any person to deliver, dispense, distribute, possess with intent to deliver, dispense, or distribute, produce, or manufacture a controlled substance.

Additionally, any person who violates this section is guilty of a crime, and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or fined not more than \$20,000 - or both.

However the Senate bill seeks to amend that, saying, any person who violates this section is guilty and upon conviction “shall” be imprisoned “for not less than 5 years” and not more than 20 years, or fined not more than \$20,000 - or both.

In other words, the bill allows a minimum sentence of 5 years in jail for convicted drug offenders.



Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis answers questions while speaking at the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental in Mountain View, Calif., Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017. Not backing down, President Donald Trump warned Kim Jong Un’s government on Thursday to “get their act together” or face extraordinary trouble, and suggested his earlier threat to unleash “fire and fury” on North Korea was too mild.
(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)



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NAPA SAMOA
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THE CONVERSATION

By Benjamin Hampton

Welcome back to The Conversation! It's great to be back with you.

There is so much to discuss regarding our current topic, the OMV registration error, and what is currently being done to address it.

Fortunately this first challenge is strongly connected to the next topic: the upcoming taxes and fees about to be levied against those in American Samoa.

Now that we've had some practice as a group we collectively can better address this MUCH BIGGER cost issue.

But let us first try to finalize this one.

OMV CONTINUATION:

We've had some interesting developments since we last met here; some were good, others not so good.

RECAP AND REWIND

June 30 is the day that you the public learned via Samoa News that they had been overcharged on their license plate renewals for well over 30 years.

The statute on the books clearly states that when an individual goes in to register their vehicle at the OMV the FIRST time, they are to be charged a registration fee as well as a fee based on the vehicle's weight. That fee is to be \$12 per ton of vehicle weight. If your vehicle weighs 4000 pounds, that would be \$24 in additional charges for the weight. (We'll discuss more about this aspect in a second; stay tuned in!)

However for ALL registration renewals, the person is only directed to pay a one-time fee of \$32 in addition to a \$9 inspection fee totaling \$41 for the whole transaction.

People were understandably outraged that this problem had occurred and had not been corrected. There were nearly 10,000 views on The Conversation FB page, and at least double that on the Samoa News FB page as a result of that story breaking, demonstrating the public's interest in an issue that was this far reaching.

People now realized that their vehicles and those of their relatives had been overcharged in some cases for this entire nearly 50-year period, dating back to 1977 when the statute was written.

In addition to those private vehicle owners, commercial business owners' vehicles had been overcharged at a substantially higher rate than private owners vehicles based on their size and weight. (Additionally this issue of course dramatically affects those business owners with rental vehicles, or taxi fleets.)

Once this OMV matter was made public, we all waited to see what would be done about this as a group. Many of the public voiced their concerns that government officials would ignore the fault and continue moving forward with business as usual.

Others including myself believed that if people are

given the benefit of the doubt, good things will happen and a resolution can be reached that benefits all.

So far, both views have been confirmed "correct", as both good and bad has resulted. The goal of course is that more good than bad is achieved, so we can all avoid the ugly.

"THE GOOD"

The statute once read and used in its proper context by OMV has shifted the registration fees to be in line with the statute. Many who have gone to renew their vehicle registration have been pleased to spend much less than they have in the past.

So, this is great in 2 ways:

1) This change in practice is in itself an admittance to wrongdoing by this agency,

2) People have been thrilled to pay less than what they're used to paying each year putting Savings in the public's pocket.

One well-known local business owner shared with me that after the registration had been corrected, the vehicle they normally had been registering at a cost of nearly \$350 was then charged the correct amount of \$41. (You can imagine the refund amount that is due to come back to them for this and their other company vehicles is going to be quite high.)

"THE BAD"

On Thursday, July 13, Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompsen addressed the Fono and briefed them regarding the registration statutory matter. It was on that day that the Attorney General also addressed the Fono, and stated that no refunds would be granted, while jokingly thanking those in the public for "helping the government".

Not cool...

Rather than reacting strongly to both the lack of apology, and the insulting cursory dismissal of something that affected so many families and businesses, Samoa News and I chose to wait and see what else would be done before addressing the matter.

Thankfully, on Friday July 14 Senators Magalei and Mautututi'a took the lead on this matter and agreed that people were wronged and need to be reimbursed.

Most importantly, it was stated and agreed by the Senators and the current Treasurer that it was not the AG's place to decide whether or not refunds were to be issued. That is the case unless the Treasury Department led by Treasurer Tonumaipea required additional guidance from the AG's office to interpret laws and perform their duties. Both parties agreed the public is owed a refund.

So in this case, even the bad has headed in a good direction. However if that is to continue, we the public must continue moving forward, lest this becomes ugly. And so far — there has been no mention of the owed 'reimbursement' to the people who have been over-

charged by OMV, this includes a process that would get the ball rolling, i.e. use the 'proven' overcharge as an offset to future OMV charges such as for registrations, change of ownership, etc.

NEW INFO: OMV BILL INTRODUCED

On July 27, it came to our attention that Governor Lolo forwarded a bill to the Senators and requested that it be approved. This bill requests that the tonnage be added to each and every registration, regardless of whether it is a renewal or not. It also designates 50% of the tonnage charged to each vehicle for Road repair and maintenance. (The underlined portions in the code are the portions to be amended IF it is voted through.)

This has not been finalized yet, but if there are to be changes made to the bill, that will later become law, we the public must act NOW!

This law will affect your money and your family. How do you want your money to be spent?

Do you want these charges to be permanent as they have been in the past (but charged illegally)?

If you agree to make these charges permanent, do you want 50% of the charges to be dedicated towards road maintenance and repair?

If I'm you, my first question would be "What funds have already been dedicated to Road repair and maintenance?"

I know that an amount has been designated somewhere otherwise no road work would have been done over the last few years. Do you feel that those funds been used properly? If not, why would more money being funneled into the same fund be used properly?

Have you contacted your Senator or Fono Representative about this? This is our money, and you and I have every right to specify how it is spent or if it is spent at all!

If the weight is to become a permanent part of the registration renewal, we NOW need to raise the question of the weight being utilized to generate these tonnage fees.

One can easily find the weight of their vehicle by making a simple Google search that includes the vehicle's year make and model. For example, you could enter "2005 Ford F150 Lariat Curb Weight" and that would give you a vehicle weight.

As an example, when I took my vehicle in to be inspected, I was told at first that my family vehicle weighed 7700 lb. I already knew that my vehicle weighed closer to 4500 lb. So that was an extra 2,200 pounds I was to be charged for, or an extra \$13. I challenged their weight assessment and the extra money was eventually dropped after 30 minutes.

- What have you been told your vehicle weighs?
- Are you aware that all of the family vehicles I took in to be registered were said to have weighed more than they did, resulting in a higher fee?



FILE - In this July 12, 2017 file photo, rescue workers use a crane to lift a vehicle that drove into a sinkhole on a highway in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where a father and son were killed when the deep sinkhole swallowed their car. A panel of experts in Mexico have determined that an old drainage pipe was to blame for washing out a section of highway and causing the sinkhole that killed two men.

(AP Photo/Tony Rivera, File)

Wake Up Samoa!

**Public Works, please...
STOP butchering trees
on public land *before* you get
permission from the
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**Show some
Respect!**

**ASCC
Land Grant
should have
representation
on the PNRS
Board**



"Pulu Tree at Fagatogo Marketplace."

SAVE OUR OLD GROWTH TREES!!!

Use the \$200,000 elsewhere. Put the 1,280sqft. building in the Industrial Park!

We don't need 5 fish stalls in a building 80' long X 16' wide,
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Put it in the Industrial Park where the population is!



AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Tel: (684) 533-4155 Fax: (684) 533-4195



Notice for Public Comment
Community Development Block Grant
Reprogramming of CDBG Funds
For Program Years (PYs) 2013 to 2016
and
Substantial Amendment to the
Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019)/ Annual Action PY 2016

The Department of Commerce announces the availability for public review and comment, the Substantial Amendment of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019)/Annual Action Plan Program Year 2016 and the reprogramming of funds for PYs 2013-2016.

DOC is seeking the public's comment to amend the Plan and to reprogram CDBG funds for an ongoing and new project. A request will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development on or about August 14, 2017 to reprogram funds to the following:

From:	
HOME Land Acquisition	\$200,000.00
Small Business Incubator	\$25,002.33
Fagatogo Square Playground	\$27,109.13
School Vans for Manu'a	\$13,114.00
Matafua Greenhouse	\$7,000.00
Fire Trucks Manu'a and Aunu'u	\$6,589.00
Afono Elementary Playground	\$56.24
TOTAL:	\$279,761.70
To:	
Marketplace Fish Stalls	\$200,000.00
Community Swimming Pool	\$79,761.70
TOTAL:	\$279,761.70

The public is invited to provide oral or written comments on the proposed substantial amendment and/or reprogramming. A public meeting will be held at the Department of Commerce (DOC), located on the 2nd floor of the S.F. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei on August 11, 2017 in the DOC Conference Room at 4:00pm. Comments must be submitted in writing to Lina Petala-Suisala, CDBG Manager by August 11, 2017 at 4:00pm.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact
Lina Petala-Suisala, CDBG Manager at 633-4286 or via email at linapetala@doc.as

Keniseh La'aele
Director of Commerce

This notice was not published in the Samoa News



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAN WHO DIED IN ALEGA IDENTIFIED

The military serviceman who died following a drowning accident in Alega last Sunday has been identified as SFC Albert Chung.

Samoa News has confirmed that the 32-year-old is of Korean ancestry and this wasn't his first visit to the territory.

Chung was one of a five-member enlistment support team that arrived in the territory last Friday to provide temporary assistance for the local US Army Recruiting Station.

Arrangements for the return of SFC Chung's body to his family are in the works, and a special ceremony has been scheduled for next Friday at the Veterans Memorial Stadium

in Tafuna where US Army personnel are expected to be present.

SFC Chung and a group of colleagues were snorkeling in Alega when he was reportedly swept off the edge of the reef. Despite efforts to revive SFC Chung, he didn't make it.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR KICKS OFF NEXT MONDAY

Next Monday, August 14th, the new school year officially opens for the students of Manumalo Academy, the first school in the territory to kick start classroom learning for school year 2017-2018.

Other private schools will open their doors the week after, although all public school students aren't scheduled to be in class until Tuesday, September

5th, the day after Labor Day.

Workshops and training sessions for all DOE personnel begin next week.

DOE is coming off a very active summer, with hundreds of kids participating in this year's Aoga Samoa I Afioaga (A.S.I.A. Program), which is held at various church halls across the island and aims to teach young kids the basics of math, penmanship (writing) and reading in the Samoan language.

AMATA ANNOUNCES \$3 MILLION DOT AIRPORT GRANT

Washington, D.C. — Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata is pleased to announce a \$3 million revitalization grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for the Pago Pago International Airport.

"I welcome this continuing financial support for this important project," Amata said. "American Samoa depends heavily on airport access that can support long-distance travel, and revitalization efforts help ensure a great airport for the future."

Specifically, this \$3,027,755 grant is designated for the Government of American Samoa's runway rehabilitation project at Pago Pago International Airport.

"I appreciate the DOT's recognition of this vital infrastructure on American Samoa," Congresswoman Amata continued. "Thank you also to the ongoing work of Port Administration Director, Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele, and the entire team in American Samoa that is responsible for this improvement effort."

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata's Office, Washington D.C.)



American Samoa Power Authority

July 26, 2017

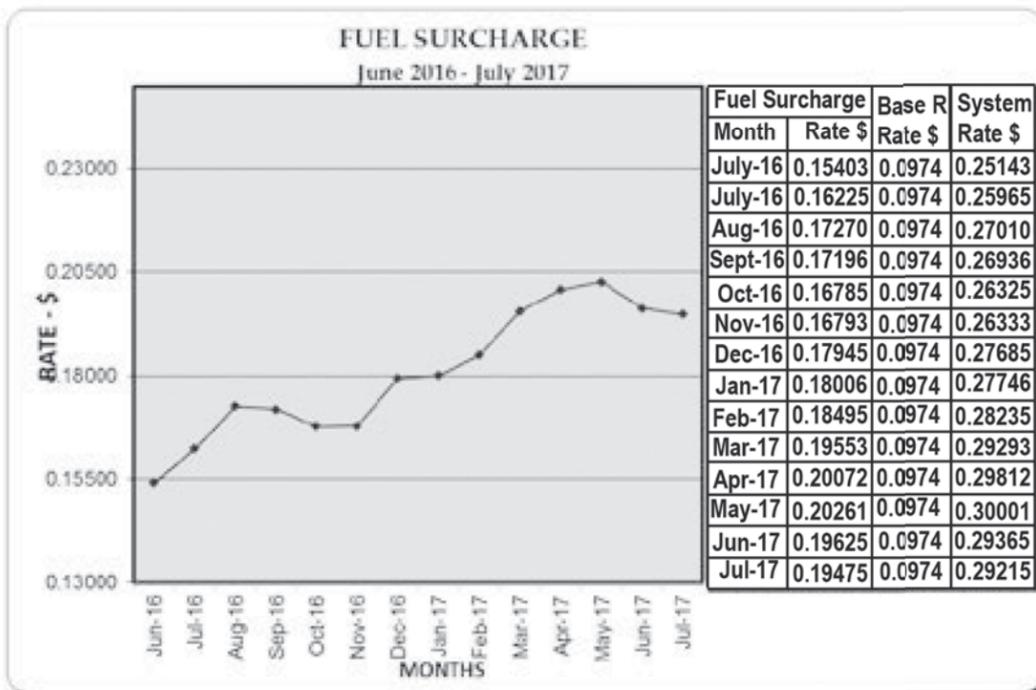
Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

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

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

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

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



Rate \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.19924	0.19924	0.19924
Renewable Reduction	-0.00449	-0.00449	-0.00449
Fuel Surcharge	0.19475	0.19475	0.19475
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.09740	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.29215	0.29215	0.28435

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



ACCURACY

We make an issue of it every day.

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Pacific Island News in Brief

Compiled by Samoa News staff
2018: PARKING METERS WILL BE A PERMANENT FIXTURE IN APIA TOWN AREA

Come 2018 parking meters will be a permanent fixture in the Apia town area.

Cabinet recently has given the green light for Land Transport Authority to proceed with their long awaited plans to install parking meters starting in the Apia town area and other public places.

The reform has long been on the drawing board.

But this week in a press conference, LTA senior officials acknowledged that with the Cabinet's blessing they will now proceed with the preparation and installation of parking meters set to be up and running in 2018.

"Apia is a rapidly growing economy and can quickly turn into a traffic nightmare for the downtown area, if traffic is not managed properly," says LTA's Assistant Chief Executive Mataafa Sepilini Poufa.

"With the growing number of vehicles year in and year out, the parking meters will somewhat alleviate the overcrowding of public parking spaces, minimize traffic congestions as well as traffic accidents."

And if pieces of the puzzle fall together, the meters should be commissioned sometime in 2018.

(Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary)

KAHUKU WATER BOY WITH DISABILITIES "KICKED OFF" FOOTBALL FIELD

A family is upset after they say their special needs son was embarrassed during Friday night's scrimmage at Kahuku High School. 15-year-old Jacob To'oto'o, a water boy for the Red Raiders, was told to leave the football field, according to his family.

"Basically, my son was kicked off the field by Kahuku High School's athletic director. How she handled the situation was just very sad and unfortunate. Jacob was extremely embarrassed running off the field," Jacob's mother, Ursel To'oto'o said.

The incoming sophomore's mother says her son has intellectual disabilities, and when the school's athletic director told him to leave the field during the Kahuku versus Mililani scrimmage, he didn't understand and walked off emotionally hurt.

To'oto'o had been waiting all summer to step out on the field after showing up to every football practice, Jacob's uncle, Mike Garcia said.

The teen's mother said after her son was "kicked off" Kahu-

ku's home field, she approached the school's athletic director, questioning her actions. The director indicated that he was a liability, and "they only allow three approved names to be on the field."

To'oto'o says after the scrimmage, Kahuku's football coach paid them a personal visit to their home to inform Jacob that he's been cleared to be back on the field for the rest of the season. "The coaches made it happen for him, like they did from the beginning, and they stuck up for him and I so appreciate that," To'oto'o said.

(Source: kitv.com)

WHAT ABOUT US?

(Apia, Samoa) — They fear the worst. As the growth of foreign-owned businesses continue at an alarming rate, small busi-

ness owners, from lei makers to corner shop operators, are worried that they will soon be squeezed out completely.

One place where these fears are openly discussed on a daily basis is Samoa's industrial area at Vaitele where there is a marked growth in the number of Asian-owned businesses from restaurants to retail stores.

For example, down at what used to be the Vaitele market, the progress of what appears to be a large store being built inside the market where farmers used to sell their produce is making vendors there very nervous.

The store belongs to the owner of Coin Save; one of the fastest-growing Chinese owned and operated businesses in the country. The owner,

(Continued on page 13)



Come 2018 parking meters will be a permanent fixture in the Apia town area.

(Courtesy photo)



Back to School SALE HEADQUARTERS

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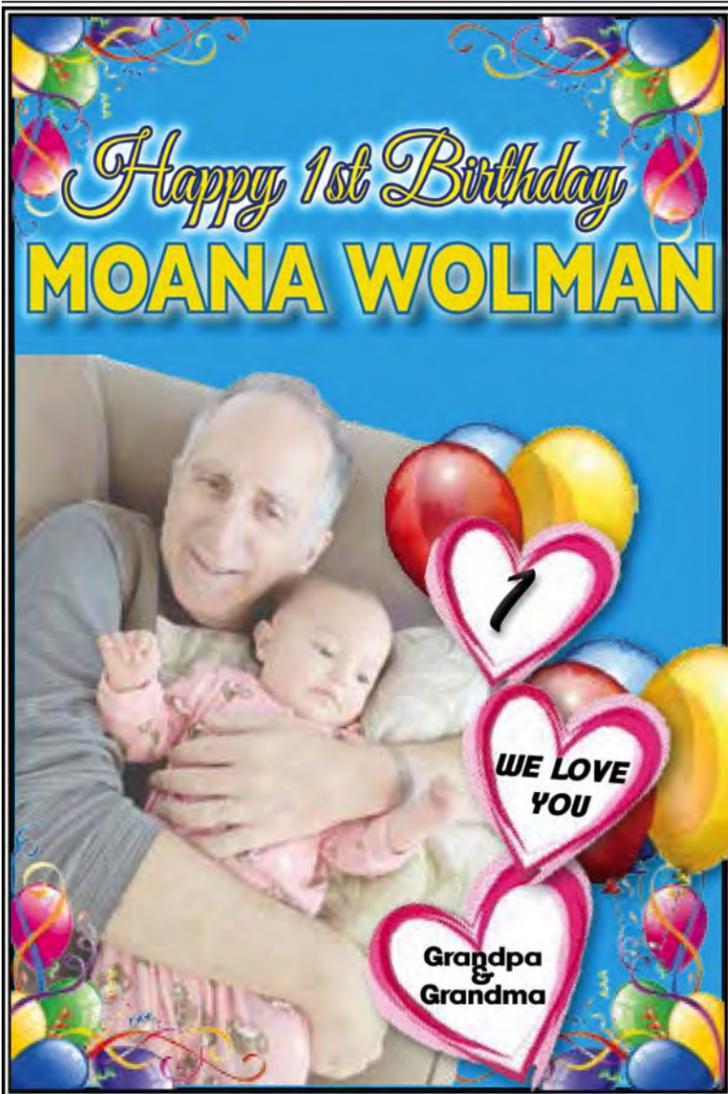
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Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga's birthday cake, on display at a table during yesterday's cabinet meeting, where his cabinet sang "Happy Birthday" for the governor, who is no 70-years old. Lolo thanked the cabinet for his birthday cake. [photo: FS]

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Police officer wounded in New York City responding to call

NEW YORK (AP) — Police said a New York City officer was shot and wounded in Brooklyn on Thursday by a gunman who later took his own life.

Police Commissioner James O'Neill said at a news conference that two officers responded Thursday afternoon to a call about an emotionally disturbed 29-year-old man in an apartment in Brooklyn's Cypress Hills neighborhood. When the officers entered, the man opened fire, striking one in the right arm as he entered a bedroom.

Two other shots hit his bulletproof vest. He did not return fire.

The 30-year-old officer, who has been with the New York City Police Department for two years, was stable at Jamaica Hospital, O'Neill said.

The gunman barricaded himself in. Police were held at bay for hours, standing outside with their guns drawn.

When police stormed the apartment, they found him dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. "What could have been just another day, just another call, turned into something much worse," Mayor Bill de Blasio said during the news conference at the hospital. "This officer was definitely saved by his vest."

The commissioner said the shooter's mother had first called 911.

Neither the identity of the officer nor the shooter were immediately released.

De Blasio and O'Neill visited the officer at the hospital.

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A snapshot of Guam before US-North Korea conflict and now

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — North Korea has announced a detailed plan to launch a salvo of ballistic missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to U.S. bombers. If carried out, it would be the North's most provocative missile launch to date.

Here's a closer look at Guam and its role in the U.S. and North Korea's ongoing war of words.

THE LATEST

North Korea warned that they are finalizing a plan to fire four Hwasong-12 missiles over Japan and into waters around Guam. Japan and South Korea vowed a strong reaction if the North were to go through with the plan. The North said the plan, which involves the missiles hitting waters 19 to 25 miles (30 to 40 kilometers) from the island, could be sent to leader Kim Jong Un for approval within a week or so. It would be up to Kim whether the move is actually carried out.

President Donald Trump responded that perhaps his 'fire and fury' warning "wasn't tough enough." North Korea "better get their act together or they are going to be in trouble

like few nations have ever been in trouble," the president told reporters while on vacation at his New Jersey golf club before a security briefing with top advisers.

GEOGRAPHIC BASICS

The strip of land in the western Pacific Ocean is roughly the size of Chicago, and just 4 miles (6 km) wide at its narrowest point. It is about 2,200 miles (3,500 km) southeast of North Korea, much closer than it is to any of the United States. Hawaii is about 4,000 miles (6,500 km) to the east. Its proximity to China, Japan, the Philippines and the Korean Peninsula has long made the island an essential possession of the U.S. military.

U.S. RELATIONSHIP

Guam was claimed by Spain in 1565 and became a U.S. territory in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. Japan seized it for about 2½ years during World War II. In 1950, an act of Congress made it an unincorporated organized territory of the United States. It has limited self-government, with a popularly elected governor, small legislature, and non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Rep-

(Continued on page 12)

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A look at several cabinet members at yesterday's cabinet meeting when they sang "Happy Birthday" to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga for his 70th birthday.

[photo: FS]

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- Supervision of all Human Resource activities and Payroll.
- Supervise human and environmental safety compliance with applicable Federal and Territorial regulations.
- Controlling costs, ensuring costs within budget and monthly reconciliations of various balance sheet items.
- Year-End financial statements preparation for accountant's review.
- Assist management in data information and ad-hoc projects as may be required.

Requirements:

- Masters in Business Administration, or undergraduate degree in Accountancy / Finance or equivalent.
- 5 to 10 years related experience.
- Strong analytical skills and technical knowledge.
- Attention to detail and the ability to meet timelines, strict adherence to processes.
- Experience on large ERP Systems and normal office software tools.
- Proficiency with MS-Server 2012r2, MSSQL 2014, and Crystal Reports 2012 a plus.
- Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment on a schedule.
- Team player, as well as ability to work autonomously, and be proactive with strong problem solving and organizational skills.
- Good analytical, written and verbal communication skills in English, with additional fluency in Samoan preferred.
- If needed, able to work all seven days of the week and all hours as required by the job at hand.

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► Falepuipui ali'i...

Mai itulau 10

ali'i pagota, ma manu'a tigaina ai ona foliga, ma poloaina ai loa e le fa'amasinoga fa'aumalo le aveese mai o ia mai le falepuipui i Tafuna, ae taofia o ia i le potu taofia o loo i totonu o le Ofisa autu o Leoleo i Fagatogo e pei ona taofia ai pea o ia seia oo mai i le taimi nei, o iina fo'i lea ua tuli ai lana fa'asalaga fa'a falepuipui.

Na maua le avanoa o le ua molia e fa'aleo ai lana talosaga i le fa'amasinoga mo se isi avanoa mo ia, a o le i tu'uina atu lona fa'asalaga e ali'i fa'amasino.

Na muamua fa'atoese le ua molia i le teineititi na a'afia ma lona aiga ina ia fa'amagalo lana solitulafono, sosoo ai loa ma le fa'amasinoga aemaise ai tagatanu'u uma o Amerika Samoa, i lona soliina lea o le tulafono a le malo.

E le gata sa ia talosaga mo se avanoa e toe fa'afo'i ai o ia i lona aiga e tausi ona matua, ae sa ia talosaga fo'i ina ia fa'aauau pea le taofia o ia i le potu taofia a le ofisa autu o Leoleo i Fagatogo, ona e le saogalemu lona aumau ai i le toese i Tafuna, e mafua mai i le fa'alavelave lea na fa'ao'olima ai ni ali'i pagota ia te ia.

Na tutu fa'atasi loa a itu e lua e finau i le fa'amasinoga mo se fa'asalaga fa'anofovaavaaia mo Siatu.

Na taua e le ali'i loa ia Douglas Fiaui e fa'apea, o Siatu o se ali'i fa'atoa solitulafono,

ua ia aoaina se lesona taua mo lona olaga ma ua ia ta'utino fo'i ua ia lagona le salamo moni. Fai mai Fiaui, o le ulua'i taimi na la talanoa ai ma Siatu ina ua fa'atoa taofia o ia e Leoleo, sa ia molimauina ai ni manu'a i ona foliga, e aofia ai ma ni filo sa su'i ai se manu'a tuga i lona mata taumatau, e mafua mai i le taimi na fasi ai o ia e ali'i pagota i le tausaga na te'a nei.

Na talosaga le loa a le malo ia Robert Morris mo se fa'asalaga fa'anofovaavaaia, e aofia ai le tuutuuga e poloaina ai le toe fa'afo'i atu o ia i Samoa mo le umi o lana nofovaavaaia.

O se tasi o itu sa fia malamalama i ai le fa'amasinoga, o le autu tonu na mafua ai ona ulufale mai Siatu i le atunu'u i le pemitā e 14 aso, ma le mafua'aga na ala ai ona ova aso na nofo ai iinei, ma i'u ina tula'i mai ai le fa'alavelave e pei ona a'afia ai o ia.

“O le fa'afitauli lenei o lo o fetaia'i pea ma le fa'amasinoga i ituaiga mataupu nei, o le fia malamalama i le mafua'aga e ala ai ona o mai tagata mai fafo i pemitā tafafafo ma nonofo fa'asolitulafono ai lava iinei e le toe fo'i i o latou atunu'u”, o le saunoaga lea a le afioga i le fa'amasino sili ia Michael Kruse.

“Ua mafua ona a'afia le saogalemu o lenei teineititi laitiiti ona o le ua molia, ina ua ulufale mai i le atunu'u ma nofo

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We seek applications for the above position from qualified and experienced technician to assume responsibility for design and supervision of major project work currently being undertaken in American Samoa. The person we require should have had a minimum of 10 years' experience as a design/project supervisor for the FIRE ALARM field with specific experience in Resort and Medical facility applications.

Qualifications would be: Mechanical or Auto: CAD Draughting with practical experience with Contract Supervision.

The Employment Period would be for two years with sound opportunity for extension within the Kooline Pacific Group branches. Top negotiated Salary and General Conditions.

Applications with CV/Resume to:
Kooline American Samoa Office
Attention: Manager-Michael Kamoe
Email: mijokam@yahoo.com
Email: kooline.americansamoa@gmail.com
Kooline Pacific Office: Suva
Attention: Director, Malcolm Macaskill
Email: msmacaskill@kooline.com



A man watches a television screen showing U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program at the Seoul Train Station in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017. North Korea has announced a detailed plan to launch a salvo of ballistic missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to U.S. bombers. If carried out, it would be the North's most provocative missile launch to date.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

▶ A snap shot of Guam...

Continued from page 9

representatives. Residents do not pay U.S. income taxes or vote in the general election for U.S. president. Its natives are U.S. citizens by birth.

MILITARY HISTORY

The U.S. keeps a Naval base and Coast Guard station in the south, and an Air Force base in the north that saw heavy use during the Vietnam War. While already taking up 30 percent of the island, the American military has been seeking to increase its presence by relocating to Guam thousands of Marines who are currently based in Okinawa, Japan. Protecting the island is the U.S. Army's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, which is used to shoot down ballistic missiles. While there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the U.S. military's presence, it is also essential to the island's economy, second only to tourism in importance.

PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT

The island was first populated about 4,000 years ago by the ancestors of the Chamorros, still the island's largest ethnic group. Now, about 160,000 people live on Guam. Its capital city is Hagatna and its largest city is Dededo. Its chief languages are English and Chamorro. It has seen various popular movements pushing for greater self-government or even U.S. statehood, most notably a significant but failed effort in the 1980s to make it a commonwealth on par with Puerto Rico.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

There are two major bases on Guam: Andersen Air Force Base in the north and Naval Base Guam in the south. They are both managed under Joint Base Marianas. The tourist district of Tumon, home to many of Guam's hotels and resorts, is in between. The air base was built in 1944, when the U.S. was preparing to send bombers to Japan during World War II. Today, Naval Base Guam is the home port for four nuclear-powered fast attack submarines and two submarine tenders.

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▶ Pacific brief...

Continued from page 7

Tu'itu'itoaiga Teeking Weng, has been given permission by the government to develop the \$5.7million complex.

A business owner who only wanted to be identified as "Lae" said he is worried about his future. "When this shop opens, they too will get into selling clothes and elei," he said. "As a businessman, I'm worried about the effect of this big one (business) on my small shop here at Vaitele."

The small business owner is aware of Coin Save's popularity with the latest styles sold at cheap prices.

"We stand no chance with these big businesses," Lae said. "There's no way we can compete with the Chinese nowadays, and we all know that, many of our people are now on the road selling BBQ to earn a living."

He blames the government for making it too easy for big businesses to squeeze out the little ones. "The government is babysitting these foreigners by granting them big loans, giving them buildings to house their businesses but letting our people stand in the sun and the rain to sell what we have on the side of the road."

Frustrated, he said the government continues to push foreign businesses, such as those belonging to Asians, ignoring the needs of the locals.

"The fact is, if they allow them to occupy the whole of Samoa and give them loans from people's contributions to the N.P.F. and leave us to sell on the road, that's really sad.

"Nowadays, if we (businesses) are looking at getting a loan it takes ages for us to wait and in the end ...nothing is approved, but we are the people of this country.

And yet the government allows foreigners to loan from our money, to improve their way of life and living."

Another stall owner agrees.

Ioane said he is considering closing his business altogether. "I think that's the only option now," he said. "I have to find another way to earn money for a living especially (since) I have children to be fed and put in school.

"How am I going to get profits if this Chinese is going to run the whole of this area?" According to Ioane, "The government don't care about us, Samoan people, all they care about is money."

It was not possible to get a comment from the government at press time; and attempts to get a comment from Coin Save were also unsuccessful.

But Ioane and Lae say something has to be done.

"It's heartbreaking," Lae said. "Now, the problem could be even worse if this Chinese business opens here soon, and to tell you the truth I believe many of us here will be closed.

"And where will we go? What about us and our families?"

(Source: Samoa Observer)

REPORT UNRAVELS TRUTH BEHIND MANU'S DEMISE

Poor fitness, alcohol issues, disrespect for the blue jersey are some of the reasons identified as key factors in the Manu Samoa's failed campaign which has led to the resignation of the Head Coach.

The issues are highlighted in a report by a Review Committee appointed by the Samoa Rugby Union (S.R.U.) Board following the team's recent form which has seen Samoa's international ranking slump to an all time low of 16th in the world.

Having finished bottom of the Pacific Nations Cup, Samoa has also yet to qualify for the Rugby World Cup.

The Review Committee is comprised of members Leituala Dr. Ben Mataleava, Su'a Peter Schuster, Namulaulu Sami Leota and Mike McGovern of World Rugby, and chair Masoe Norman Wetzell.

A copy of the review obtained by the Samoa Observer shows that the Committee recommended changing the Head Coach. The report also details a disastrous campaign plagued by numerous problems. "There were five players that left the campaign before it was completed. This had greatly disrupted the team's preparation. Two of these players that left was due to family and personal reasons, whilst the other two stated pressures from their clubs. One had left without any communication with team management. "This is understood to have never happened before in any MS campaign and we believe it shows a level of disrespect, pride and priority from these players to the HC and his management, the players, the people and country they represent."

When the players turned up for the international season, many were unfit.

"This was evident when they turned up to the campaign unfit and some left without advising management. As clearly stated by one of the TAs, "some players have agendas and some treated playing for the team as an opportunity to get home for holiday."

He further added, "as usual the clear majority if not all the squad assemble in very poor condition aerobically... the step from Club rugby to TEST rugby is massive and never was this more evident than during the All Blacks test. We are kidding ourselves if we intend moving forward as a nation and do not address these key issues"

The TA also went on to suggest that players should be more involved making them accountable for their own futures and that at no stage of the campaign did he (TA) get the feeling that the boys would walk over broken glass to win for each other.

"The disrespect for the jersey is also evident with reports coming in of certain players drinking at the hotel and out in local pubs, although this was denied by management as rumors. The Manager's report showed that there was a no drinking policy but obviously this was poorly managed by him, as this was not adhered to."

The Committee was given two weeks for the review and to submit their report.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

NAVIGATING THE SEAS OF MY CULTURE

First Person — Every year for the past six, one week has been set aside to celebrate Cook Islands Maori in New Zealand as part of a government initiative to support Pacific languages. As Daniela Maoate-Cox writes, it's



Tamariki at te Punanga o te Reo Kuki Airani enjoy a shared lunch of Cook Island food to wrap up Cook Island language week 2016. [Photo: RNZ/Daniela Maoate-Cox]

a time to connect with her culture but also a reminder of what has been lost.

Maoate-Cox is New Zealand-born of Cook Island and English descent. Her mother is Takitumu from Rarotonga, Cook Islands and her father is from Ellesmere Port in England.

Pieces of language have come to me over the years.

I can say hello (kia orana), how are you? (pe'ea koe?) and thank you (meitaki maata) but as far as having a conversation goes I'm with the majority of Cook Island Maori in New Zealand who can't.

There were a few language-nest sessions when I was little and some reo Maori Kuki 'Airani classes in recent years but te reo hasn't stuck and it turns out many are in the same boat.

There are a number of dialects throughout the 15 islands: Atiu; Ma'uke and Mitiaro; Mangaia; Manahiki and Rakahanga; Rarotonga; Tongareva; and also the Pukapuka language.

Even without the pressure of learning Bible passages in every dialect, the sounds tumbled like foreign lumps on my tongue and I struggled to form a sen-

tence. Why is it so hard?

"I think it's a struggle because you live in a culture where there's a lot of diversity, the main language here is New Zealand (English) and Maori," says the other Cook Island MP and Minister for Pacific Peoples Alfred Ngaro.

"So if it's not every day and common to what you are using, then it makes it hard to retain that."

That might explain the low numbers of Cook Island Maori speakers. In the 2013 census just under 62,000 people identified themselves of Cook Island Maori descent, with 13 percent saying they can speak the language.

The stats aren't surprising considering nearly an entire generation was told not to talk in their parents' native tongue. "My parents chose not to teach us the language when we were children. I always have that sense of loss," Poto says.

"I believe that culture is most beautifully expressed through language and if you don't have language then you don't always fully understand the context and

(Continued on page 14)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.037.WW

Issuance Date: July 25, 2017

Closing Date & Time:

August 24, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for:

"UV Disinfection and East Side Village: Additional Works Addendum"

Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal to provide professional services for the "UV Disinfection and East Side Village: Additional Works Project". The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA's website, www.aspower.com

For more information about this RFP, you may contact:

Ioana S. Uli
ASPA Procurement Manager
ASPA Procurement Office
PH: 684-248-1234
bids@aspower.com

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to:

1. Reject all proposals and reissue a new or amended RFP;
2. Request additional information from any Offeror
3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than "least cost" (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2413-17

Issuance Date: August 01, 2017

Closing Date: August 16, 2017
No later than 10:00am (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide **“DOE-Warehouse SY 17-18 Supply”**.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 10:00a.m. (local time), **WEDNESDAY, August 16, 2017** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. BID DOCUMENTS

Bid documents, including Specifications, may be examined at the Office of Procurement or obtained there from free of charge during normal hours of operation.

4. CONDITIONS

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

- not accept the lowest or any bid.
- reject all bids and reissue and amended IFB.
- request additional information from any bidder submitting a bid.
- waive any informalities in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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FILE - This March 16, 2017 photo released by the Bannock County Sheriff's Office shows a cyanide device in Pocatello, Idaho, Environmental groups have started a legal process to ban predator-killing cyanide traps used mostly in the U.S. West after one of the traps sickened a boy in Idaho and killed his dog. The Center for Biological Diversity and other conservation groups petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday, Aug.10, 2017 to outlaw the spring-activated devices called M-44s.

(Bannock County Sheriff's Office via AP/File)

► Pacific brief...

Continued from page 13

so I always get a sense of ‘oh, if only.’”

That sense of “if only” hits hard while recording interviews at a Samoan early childhood center on the New Zealand Government’s Support for Pacific languages.

Attached to a church the center’s architecture is a modern take on a fale and the supervisor tells me parents are attracted by the immersive bilingual program.

The children gather around in a circle and small hands sneak a finger out to tap the microphone as the teachers try to calm them down enough to sing.

Directly in front of me is a blonde, blue-eyed German toddler proudly bellowing out “If you’re happy and you know it” in Samoan.

“Afai ua e fia fia pati ou lima! - pati pati” he sings and I feel tears blur my vision — when my mother was his age she didn’t know any language but Cook Island Maori.

Like many families, hers

moved to New Zealand for a better quality of life and with that, came a decision most parents made for the good of their children — they told her to speak only English. At the time it was thought to be the best advice but we’ve since learnt that knowing your reo has value.

“It’s about our history and our heritage that’s captured in our language,” says Minister Ngaro. The word “kia orana” he explains doesn’t mean hello but rather, ‘may you live long’.

“Those little nuances are important because they capture the essence of those stories that have been told from generations back by our ancestors. So the language is the vessel that carries that.”

Ferrying us to the past can create a strong foundation from which to succeed he says. “It makes people confident. Often, as people say, if you learn one or more languages it actually makes you brainy, it makes you articulate and confident.”

(Source: RNZI)

		SOUTHBOUND ARRIVAL							SOUTHBOUND ARRIVAL					
VESSEL	VOY	SEA	L/BEACH	OAK	PPT	NUKALOFA	APIA	PAGO	VESSEL	VOY	PPT	N/ALOFA	APIA	PAGO
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Cap Taputapu	032	TBA	SAILED	08/10	08/21	---	08/26	08/26	Cap Taputapu	032	08/21	---	08/26	08/26
Polynesia	488	TBA	08/26	08/24	09/04	09/09	09/11	09/11	Polynesia	488	09/04	09/09	09/11	09/11
Cap Taputapu	034	TBA	10/09	10/11	10/22	---	10/27	10/27	Cap Taputapu	033	10/22	---	09/27	09/27
New Guinea Chief	488	TBA	08/25	08/27	09/06	---	09/14	09/11	New Guinea	488	09/06	---	09/14	09/11

Note: All Schedule dates are estimated



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Florida day care driver charged in boy's hot van death

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A Florida day care driver was charged Thursday in the death of a 3-year-old boy who authorities say was left in a van for nearly 12 hours.

Deborah Denise St. Charles, 51, was arrested and charged with aggravated manslaughter of a child, Orlando police announced on social media. The Florida Department of Children and Families also announced that it is revoking the day care center's operating license and fining it \$2,750.

St. Charles picked up Myles Hill at his home Monday morning. She was supposed to take him and five other children to Little Miracles Academy II in Orlando.

After dropping off the children, St. Charles drove the van to another Little Miracles location and left it there. Myles was found dead Monday night

after spending the entire day in the summer heat. A medical examiner has called the death an accident, listing its cause as hyperthermia as a result of environmental exposure.

The DCF report lists multiple violations committed by St. Charles and other staff members. St. Charles reportedly failed to conduct a sweep of the van after dropping off the children, and day care staff failed to perform a secondary sweep. The report says too many children were riding in the van, and an 11-year-old was sitting in the front passenger seat, a violation of Florida rules. Myles was marked present Monday when he wasn't actually in class.

Audrey Thornton, the owner of the two Little Miracles locations, apologized to Myles' family during a news conference at her attorney's office Wednesday.



Flowers and balloons are left outside at a makeshift memorial Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017, in Orlando, Fla., in front of a day care center where a young boy was found dead after being left in a van. Orlando Police officials say the child was found in the van Monday night. Orlando Police officials say they don't know how long the child was in the van. (AP Photo/John Raoux)

More video shows Penn State pledge stumbling before death

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) — Prosecutors in the criminal case against a Penn State fraternity and 18 of its members related to the death of a pledge after an alcohol-fueled hazing ceremony played new video footage of the pledge in the hours before help was summoned, and the lead detective revealed that critical security video may have been intentionally erased.

The preliminary hearing wrapped up its fourth day on Thursday as cross-examination of State College police Detective Dave Scicchitano continued, and it was unclear whether the marathon proceeding will wrap up on Friday. A judge has to decide if there is sufficient evidence against now-closed Beta Theta Pi and 16 of its members to send their cases

to county court for trial. Two defendants previously waived the hearing.

The new footage showed 19-year-old Tim Piazza, of Lebanon, New Jersey, stumbling and unsteady on his feet about three hours before he was found unconscious in the basement. The four-minute excerpt was played by prosecutors to illustrate his medical condition before he died at a hospital. A shirtless Piazza was able to walk to close a door but then fell into the curtains. He had trouble keeping his pants up and then collapsed into a large chair in the Beta Theta Pi house's great room. Members of the fraternity later realized Piazza was missing and found him in the basement, where no video has been recovered.

► Falepuipui ali'i...

Mai itulau 10

fa'asolitulafono ai lava".

"O lo o fa'aauau pea tulaga malepe i le Ofisa o Femalagaaga a le atunu'u e oo mai i le taimi nei, ma ia e talu e fai i lou Pule ina ia foia tulaga fa'aletonu ia", o le saunoaga lea a Kruse i le loia a le malo o Morris.

O ni isi o tuutuuga o le nofovaavaaia a Siatu, a mae'a ona tuli lana fa'asalaga fa'a falepuipui e 5 tausaga, ona ia tuua lea o le atunu'u ae toe fo'i atu i Samoa mo le umi o lana nofovaavaaia e 15 tausaga.

Ua poloaina le lesitala o lona igoa i le lisi o tagata ua

ta'usala i le faia o uiga mataga i fanau laiti, faia se suega i lona tino e siaki ai poo ia tauave le siama o le fa'ama'i o le HIV, ma ia tu'uina atu fo'i se kopi o le fa'aiuga a le fa'amasinoga mo lana mataupu i le Ofisa o Femalagaaga.

"Ia iloa lelei e le malo, o lo o fa'aauau pea ona outou faia lenei tulaga o le aumai o tagata mai fafo ma nonofo fa'asolitulafono ai i le atunu'u, ma latou faia ai solitulafono eseese e a'afia ai le soifua saogalemu o tagatanu'u ma fanau a Amerika Samoa", o le saunoaga fa'ai'u lea a Kruse.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.045.WTR
Issuance Date: July 18, 2017

Closing Date & Time:
August 17, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

"Upper Amouli Tank Replacement Project"

Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal for the provision and construction of a 320,000 gallon replacement tank at Upper Amouli in American Samoa. This project is part of ASPA's effort to improve its service to the people of American Samoa. This project is fully funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA's website, www.aspower.com. For more information about this RFP, please contact the following person(s):

Ioana S. Uli
ASPA Procurement Manager
ASPA Procurement Office
PH: 684-248-1234
bids@aspower.com

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to:

1. Reject all proposals and reissue a new or amended RFP;
2. Request additional information from any Offeror
3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than "least cost" (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance:

Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director



FAAFETAI TELE - THANK YOU

The American Samoa STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Partnership brings together educators, professionals, businesses, and community leaders to support student success in STEM pathways. We are working to build a 21st Century Ready American Samoa – where all students are STEM Literate, STEM College, STEM Career and STEM Trades Ready. Thank you to all the Sponsors, Guests, Summit Exhibitors, Workshop & Hands-on-Activity partners, and the American Samoa STEM Partners for your contribution and efforts to bring STEM to our community. Thank you to the students, families, businesses and the community for “Exploring STEM College, Career & Trades Pathways Through Partnership” with us at the 1st American Samoa STEM Summit.

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For more information about the American Samoa STEM Partners, please contact Chairwoman, Edna Asalele Noga at enoga@aspower.com or 684.770.9153.