

Routing number for TBAS depends on Fono approval of ... **Page 2**

Gatland: All Blacks are not vulnerable **In Sports**

Silia \$140,000 foa'i a le atunu'u mo tagata mafatia atunu'u i fafo **Le Lali**



The Sau Ia Bodybuilding Club departed yesterday morning to compete in the Samoa Bodybuilding competition set to be held at the Tanoa, Saturday night (Samoa Time).

Aunese Tauinaola (front row, far left), who medaled in the Ikaika Body Building competition in Hawai'i is a strong contender for a medal in Samoa. Ursula Te'o Martin, the territory's female bodybuilding champion, will be a judge and will also strike a "guest pose" for the event. Club president Peter Reid III, Sala McMoore, along with Floyd Scanlan are escorting the team. [photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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'88 FHS REUNION IN VEGAS CONTINUES

More like a couple's retreat, the Class of '88 celebrated 29 years since they graduated from Fagaitua High School with endless fun activities for four days in Las Vegas. Classmates from Alaska, Hawai'i, Seattle, and California traveled far to celebrate the class reunion in Sin City.

FHS Class of '88 Reunion in Vegas is a tradition, which began in 2008 when they celebrated 25 years, which spearheaded the FHS Alumni Association's annual scholarship mission, now moving to its 10th year. The 2017 Class Reunion commemorated friendships, strengthening family, celebrating life, and especially thanking our spouses for the many years of love and support.

Despite the sniper attack that happened at the beginning of October 2017 in Vegas — 59 people were killed — the Class of '88 wore their Viking uniform and walked the popular Vegas strip wearing ie lavalava showcasing their Fagaitua & Samoan pride.

'88 is the year the Vikings broke the curse in football — making school history — by bringing the championship to FHS, with other sports to follow, after many years of struggle.

Most importantly at the time, academic excellence was top notch for the eastern side. Those are proud memories for FHS '88 classmates. Fagaitua High School will celebrate its 50th Jubilee, July 1- 8, 2018. Class of '88 commemorated its efforts by donating \$1,988 — their class year number — when FHS fundraising efforts began last year in August. It marks a commitment from a strong-willed class, which also spearheaded FHSAA's efforts via the first Marquee on island project inception, along with the Class of 1979 and others. The Viking pride still shines from the mountains to the ocean as we journey to live outside of American Samoa. "E lele le toloa ae ma'au ile vai" echoes the true pride as a Viking graduate and most importantly, as Samoans living outside of the territory. Wherever we reside the Viking pride of the Class of '88 never dies. "Thanks to our classmates who coordinated all of our Vegas fun-filled activities throughout the week. Our committee was headed by Julie Afe Faataualofa & Herman Faataualofa, the California crew Tauvaaga & Vince Tautianga, Patricia Moana Letoi & Mose Letoi.

The next Class of '88 Reunion will be held in Seattle Washington, August 2019. GO VIKINGS!

[photo: Herman Faataualofa]

Overstayer from Samoa pleads guilty to sex with a 15-yr-old girl

HE ASKED THE JUDGE IF HE CAN GO HOME, BECAUSE HE HAS NO ID

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News reporter

A man from Samoa pled guilty on Wednesday to sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl over a span of nearly five months.

Ashley Afamasaga, 24, is an overstayer who was initial slapped with 8 felony charges, including two counts of rape, two counts of sodomy, and 4 counts of sexual abuse in the first degree — all felonies.

However, under a plea agreement with the government, the defendant pled guilty to 2 counts of sexual abuse in the first degree and the remaining charges were dismissed.

With his guilty plea, Afamasaga admits that between Mar. 24 and Aug. 14 this year, he sexually assaulted a young girl who was under 16 years of age by engaging in sexual activities with her.

(Continued on page 10)

ASPA rate hikes for water, waste water, solid waste services postponed for 6 months

IT CITES TOUGH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AS THE MAIN REASON

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

With the territory already facing difficult times — including the 5 week temporary closure of StarKist Samoa and the previous reduction in ASG working hours — the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) Board of Directors has "unanimously" approved a recommendation to delay the the rate hike for water, waste water, and solid waste service.

The rate hike for the three ASPA services were to become effective last month. For example — the base charge for residential rates for water was to increase from \$14.62 to \$14.91 while the "volume rates" increases from \$2.81 to \$2.87 for usage of 10,000 or less gallons of water.

For wastewater, the base charge for the "ground water fee" was to be hiked from \$20.05 to \$23.56 for residen-

(Continued on page 11)



Shoppers mobilize on Thanksgiving, as retailers branch out

NEW YORK (AP) — Shoppers are hitting the stores on Thanksgiving as retailers under pressure look for ways to poach shoppers from their rivals.

As the holiday shopping season officially kicked off, retailers are counting on a lift from a better economy. But they're also looking beyond economic data and mapping out ways to pick up sales from other retailers as Amazon expands its reach. That can mean opening earlier than rivals on the holidays or even jumping into new product categories. So shoppers may find some surprises: toys and TVs at J.C. Penney, Barbies at Best Buy, kitchen appliances like wine refrigerators at B.J.'s.

At Macy's Herald Square in Manhattan, it was the deals like cosmetic and perfume sets from \$10 to \$20 as well as 40 percent off on boots and shoes that drew attention. Its Apple shop was packed too, with deals on gadgets like the Apple Watch.

Tiffany Lloyd, in town from Columbia, Maryland, was visiting tourist sites when she realized stores were open.

"This is not a traditional Thanksgiving. We ate pizza," said Lloyd, who was buying a pair of Naturalizer shoes at 40 percent off and said she planned to buy three more pairs. She said she also picked up sweaters on sale at Old Navy. Despite the early crowds at stores, analysts at Bain say Amazon is expected to take half of the holiday season's sales growth. And Amazon is the top destination for people to begin

holiday shopping, according to a September study by market research firm NPD Group.

"The retailers are in survival mode. It's about stealing each other's market share," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at NPD. "Amazon is the Grinch. They're stealing the growth." Abi and Sush Gyawali — both 27-year-old biology graduate students at the University of Missouri — were among hundreds of people who lined up outside J.C. Penney in Columbia, Missouri, before the store opened at 2 p.m. Thursday. Abi Gyawali normally shops online on Amazon or Best Buy for Cyber Monday, where he said he finds some of the best deals. But he said the couple wanted to check out the scene at the mall before friends came over to share a meal. He and his wife planned to just collect coupons that were being handed out, but ended up getting a discounted air fryer.

With the jobless rate at a 17-year-low of 4.1 percent and consumer confidence stronger than a year ago, analysts project healthy sales increases for November and December. The National Retail Federation trade group expects sales for that period to at least match last year's rise of 3.6 percent and estimates online spending and other non-store sales will rise 11 to 15 percent. Amazon is expected to be a big beneficiary as it cements loyalty among its Prime members and moves into new services and private-label merchandise.

Routing number for TBAS depends on Fono approval of proposed amendments

GOVERNOR ALSO SAYS 50%- 60% OF THE MONEY GENERATED LOCALLY GOES OFF ISLAND

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga is hopeful for an expedited Fono approval of proposed amendments to local statute, which established the Territorial Bank of American Samoa, that would allow the government-owned commercial bank to obtain a long awaited routing number.

If the Fono takes swift action, Lolo predicts the routing number to be received by the end of next month or early next year from the Federal Reserve, which would also be sent the approved amendments.

Samoa News understands from industry sources that not only does TBAS need to get a routing number — needed to expand its banking service, in areas such as checks and online transactions — the bank is also required to set up an account with the Federal Reserve.

Lolo returned last Friday night following several meetings in the US and during Wednesday's cabinet meeting, he provided a summary verbal report on two of those meetings including the one held in Salt Lake City, Utah where the ASG delegation met with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and other state officials.

Lolo and his delegation, on a separate occasion, met with Federal Reserve Board vice chairman Randy Quarles, who was recently confirmed by

the US Congress. Also at the meeting was Congresswoman Aumua Amata.

During the cabinet meeting, Lolo said the meeting with Utah officials was an effort to move TBAS forward by expanding its banking services and this was also the same reason for the meeting with Quarles, who has only held the post for three-weeks after receiving Congressional confirmation.

He said it was only appropriate that the meeting was held in Salt Lake City, which is where the idea of a charter bank for American Samoa was born.

Lolo described the meeting with Quarles as uplifting and good, adding that the vice chair was close to telling them that the ASG delegation can take home with them the TBAS routing number; however, he said there are some weakness in the current TBAS statute that need to be addressed first.

"We learned many things at that meeting" Lolo said, adding that because American Samoa is considered under federal law as an unincorporated and unorganized territory, it is separated from states and other territories when it comes to federal banking laws.

He explained, "Federal banking laws established for states and other territories, with a different political union with the US, do not include American Samoa because of the different type of financial operations when it comes to TBAS, which is a charter bank, mirrored after a similar bank in North Dakota — the only current charter bank in the nation."

Lolo said the proposed amendment to local statute being sent to the Fono for review and hopefully passage, during the special session that opens next Monday, will address these issues discussed with the Federal Reserve. The governor didn't provide specific details of those issues; but he did say that once the proposed amendments are approved, they will be sent to the Federal Reserve Board, which would then make a decision on the TBAS routing

number. According to Lolo, the Federal Reserve now has a better understanding of what TBAS is all about, adding that the previous federal administration didn't have time to fully review TBAS's request and identify weaknesses in local statutes that need to be amended.

Lolo is hopeful for expedited passage of the proposed amendment by the Fono and if all goes as planned, he believes the routing number will be issued either by the end of December or beginning of January.

He said the feds have been made aware that the government stepped in to set up a bank, not because it wants to get into the banking business, but to help the public and the business community. According to Lolo, the feds were also informed that about 50% to 60% of the money generated locally goes off island, and this is based on a report from the ASG Office of Financial Institution, which is headed by Commissioner Robert Ho Chee. Lolo estimates — based on the OFI report — that more than \$100 million goes off island, but the governor didn't clarify if the estimate is based on a yearly basis, and if he is referring to payment of goods & services purchased off-island, including remittances sent to 'family' off-island. Also based on the OFI report, according to Lolo, not less than \$10 million goes out of American Samoa to countries like China, Philippines, Samoa, Australia and New Zealand. The money should have stayed in American Samoa, said Lolo, adding that the feds want to also do business with a US based financial institution.

Those who accompanied Lolo to the meetings in Utah were Ho Chee, Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele and TBAS president, Philip Ware. Samoa News notes that the Senate has requested several times for the government to provide a report from OFI on how much money goes to foreign countries on a yearly basis.



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Three-member task force appointed to rehabilitate the Stadium field

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent Concerned with the “steady decrepit condition” of the Veterans Memorial Stadium field, where high school football games are played, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has appointed a three-member task force to carry out resurfacing of the field.

There have been concerns raised with the administration over the condition of the field, which is also used for rugby tournaments and other major events on island. Parents of some high school football players have raised similar concerns with the media, suggesting that the government upgrade the field to ensure the safety of players.

In a Nov. 21st memo appointing the stadium field rehabilitation task force, Lolo said the “steady decrepit condition of the Veterans Stadium field attributed to over utilization is creating a hazardous environment which subjects football players to potential grave injury.”

According to the governor, it appears that the field has not had proper maintenance which accelerated its deterioration. It also appears that the grass surface lacks endurance and durability to withstand constant use for high school and community games.

“There is no option but to resurface the field to mitigate potential hazardous conditions,” Lolo wrote in the memo to cabinet members.

Lolo explained that the primary purpose of the task force is to develop plans and strategies to ascertain the proper surface material for the field, raise funds, and oversee the project’s implementation.

“This is a community project”, said the governor, who told cabinet members that their support is needed and they are to provide such support when assistance is solicited.

“To facilitate proper orches-

tration and planning to forge the achievement of our resurfacing project,” Lolo named the three-member task force: JR Prep Sports (JPS) Football League president and chief executive officer, Robert Faleafine; Department of Youth & Women’s Affairs director, Jonathan Fanene; and Moeiletuasivi Filipo Ilaoa, the Legislative Liaison for the ASG office in Hawai’i.

At Wednesday’s cabinet meeting, Lolo said he conducted a site visit of the stadium about five weeks ago and found that the field is not in good condition and therefore needs rehabilitation.

He said the field will probably be closed after the current high school football season ends and he estimates that it will take about six to eight months for the rehabilitation project to be completed, whether ASG has money or not — it’s something that needs to be done.

Lolo noted that planning has begun for the project, including looking for funding sources. He reminded directors that many American Samoans playing football in the US were “born out of this field” — and therefore the government should not ignore the importance of the field.

STADIUM IMPROVEMENT FUNDING

According to the fiscal year 2018 budget, \$200,000 is allocated for Veterans Stadium Improvement and the funding is under the Special Programs category, administered by the Governor’s Office.

The administration notes in budget information sent to the Fono that these funds will support activities dedicated to improving conditions at the Veterans Stadium. Such improvements could be done through purchases of necessary equipment for ground upkeep and repair, and maintenance for both the stadium and the golf course, as well as other operational costs.



171117-N-KH151-061 PHILIPPINE SEA (Nov. 17, 2017) A C-2A Greyhound assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 launches from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) on Nov. 17, 2017. (Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Eduardo Otero/U.S. Navy via AP)

Search ends for 3 US sailors missing in Navy aircraft crash

TOKYO (AP) — The search has ended for three sailors missing in the Philippine Sea since a U.S. Navy aircraft crashed on Wednesday, the navy said Friday. The C-2A “Greyhound” transport aircraft was traveling to the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier when it crashed. Eight people were rescued quickly and are in good condition, but Japanese and U.S. ships and aircraft had continued searching for the

others. The Navy’s 7th Fleet said details of the three missing sailors were being withheld pending completion of notification of next of kin procedures.

The Navy is investigating the crash. The twin-propeller plane crashed about 500 nautical miles (925 kilometers) southeast of Okinawa while bringing passengers and cargo from Japan to the aircraft carrier.

The Reagan was participating in a joint exercise with

Japan’s navy when the plane crashed. It was leading the search and rescue efforts along with Japan’s naval forces.

The Navy describes the Nov. 16-26 joint exercise in waters off Okinawa as the “premier training event” between the U.S. and Japanese navies, designed to increase defensive readiness and interoperability in air and sea operations.

The Navy’s Japan-based 7th Fleet has had two fatal naval accidents in Asian waters this year, leaving 17 sailors dead and prompting the removal of eight top Navy officers from their posts, including the 7th Fleet commander.

El Salvador arrests ringleader in black widow killing scheme

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Police in El Salvador have arrested the alleged ringleader of a “black widow” killing scheme that forced women into arranged marriages and made them collect insurance policies on their husbands.

Suspect Esmeralda Flores Acosta allegedly hired the women to do housework. Gang members then allegedly offered the women to potential husbands as American citizens who

could get them visas. The gang told the husbands the insurance was a requirement to get visas, then killed them to collect.

Flores Acosta told reporters Thursday she is innocent, saying “a former employee and a policemen are trying to hurt me by linking me to homicides.”

Police arrested three other women in the case earlier this year. If convicted of human trafficking and conspiracy and fraud charges.

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Thanksgiving — What are you thankful for?

by Mene Tauaa
Special for Samoa News

The tablecloth is spread on the table. Each note, print, and message penned a memorable thankful moment of God's blessings on our lives. It is a display of reflection and recognition to each member of the family for the wonderful family experience shared throughout the years. At Thanksgiving this year, new cherished moments are added to the display of fond memories each person is thankful for. The tablecloth was filled with new milestones. These imprints add on to the recorded memories of blessings from God and for the love of family. As my family gathered around the table to enjoy the lavish feast and to enjoy each other's company this Thanksgiving, I take this time to sift through my pages of thankful moments to thank the two men who made a difference to my family.

My father, Tauaa Li Vaouli and his brother Afuiai Faititi Vaouli began a tradition where their wives and children would gather on White Sunday and Christmas to enjoy the abundance of food and share a wonderful time with each other.

It is a tradition that goes beyond feasting on lavish meals and sharing of memorable stories. It is about "Family" and "Peace." The message of this meaningful tradition sinks deeper in our hearts today because it mattered to them. It is through this tradition that the promises of God's blessings,

goodness, and faithfulness are enjoyed.

Who would even think that these two men would come up with such an idea when they were drinking beer in the afternoon until sunset? Many times we would hear them reminisce about their childhood memories, reflect on their struggles and accomplishments, share family histories, and admire their children. At times they would argue but made peace with a simple hug. Whatever it was, it was definitely a great idea to cherish.

Although they left us after battles with cancer, the tradition continues. Thanksgiving, New Year, and first Sundays of every month are added to the list and each year we look forward to sharing family experiences and stuffing ourselves with the delicious meals. My family continues to live in peace and find comfort in the teachings my dad and uncle instilled in us.

It was a moral lesson that grew from the depth of their hearts and expressed through their daily proceedings.

As I enjoy the presence of peace and family, I am reminded of those who do not receive the same.

I pray that they received the peace and comfort of God on this Thanksgiving. The tablecloth is now folded with my family's thankful memories. It is a sentimental legacy that was started by our forefathers and strengthened our existence in this world.

What are you thankful for?



A street vendor eats lunch outside a local market in Harare, Zimbabwe, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017. Zimbabweans prepare for their new president in waiting, Emmerson Mnangagwa's swearing in on Friday after 37-years of rule by Robert Mugabe. (AP Photo/Bram Janssen)

Ruling party assured Mugabe he wouldn't face prosecution

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwe's ruling party assured Robert Mugabe that he wouldn't be prosecuted if he resigned, a party official said Thursday, as the fate of the 93-year-old became clearer and the country prepared to move on.

"Prosecuting him was never part of the plan," ZANU-PF chief whip Lovemore Matuke told The Associated Press. "He is safe, his family is safe and his status as a hero of his country is assured. All we were saying is resign or face impeachment."

As Zimbabwe prepared to witness the swearing-in of new president Emmerson Mnangagwa on Friday morning, its citizens circulated on social media a new photo showing what appeared to be Mugabe at the end of his 37-year rule.

Mugabe and his wife are shown sitting on a sofa with advisers standing behind them. A dejected-looking Grace Mugabe, who just days ago had been poised to replace Mnangagwa after his firing as vice president and even succeed her husband, looks off camera. A listing Robert Mugabe's eyes are closed. The photo could not immediately be verified.

Mugabe, who resigned on Tuesday as lawmakers began impeaching him, has not spoken publicly since his stunning speech on Sunday defying calls from the military, ruling party and the people to step down.

But it appears he and his wife will remain in the capital, Harare.

According to protocol, Mugabe could even be present at the 75-year-old Mnangagwa's swearing-in on Friday morning at a 60,000-seat stadium after making a triumphant return to the country. He fled shortly after his firing, claiming threats to his life. Mnangagwa's speech upon his return Wednesday night outside ruling party headquarters promised "a new, unfolding democracy" and efforts to rebuild a shattered economy. But he also recited slogans from the ruling ZANU-PF party, unlikely to reassure the

opposition.

The opposition party MDC-T, which supported Mugabe's removal, said it had not been invited to the inauguration. Spokesman Obert Guru said the party was closely watching Mnangagwa's next moves, "particularly regarding the dismantling of all the oppressive pillars of repression."

In a new statement Thursday, Mnangagwa urged Zimbabweans against "vengeful retribution."

The pastor who led large anti-government protests last year, Evan Mawarire, says Zimbabweans should let Mnangagwa know that the country should be for everyone and not just the ruling party.

Mnangagwa, a former justice and defense minister with close ties to the military who served for decades as Mugabe's enforcer, remains on a U.S. sanctions list over allegations of violently cracking down on opponents.

He fled Zimbabwe after being fired on Nov. 6 and was in hiding during the week-long political drama that led to Mugabe's resignation. His appearance on Wednesday, flanked by heavy security, delighted supporters who hope he can guide Zimbabwe out of political and economic turmoil.

Mnangagwa will serve Mugabe's remaining term until elections at some point next year. Opposition lawmakers who have alleged vote-rigging in the past say balloting must be free and fair, a call the United States and others have echoed. Mugabe's resignation was met with wild celebrations by people thrilled to be rid of a leader whose early promise after taking power at the end of white minority rule in 1980 was overshadowed by economic collapse, government dysfunction and human rights violations.

On Thursday, an editorial in the privately run NewsDay newspaper said Mnangagwa has "an unenviable task" and that he should set up a coalition government that represents all Zimbabweans.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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In this Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 photo, supporters cheer during the closing campaign rally for Honduras' President Juan Orlando Hernandez and current presidential candidate, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Hernandez appears likely to win a second term in the Sunday, Nov. 26 election. His popularity is based largely on a drop in violence in a country whose homicide rate was once among the world, A&S worst.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

compiled by Samoa News Staff VIKING CADETS SHOW TRUE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING

Although the 'Love Thy Neighbor' food drive ended last week, with the distribution of hundreds of care packages for cannery workers, the cadets of the JROTC program at Fagaitua HS donated a huge amount of nonperishable food items, as part of their annual Thanksgiving food drive. Coordinator of the Love Thy Neighbor project, Tapumanaia Galu Satele, said Sgt. Fiso contacted him about the Vikings' annual Thanksgiving food drive, usually carried out to help residents in the eastern villages.

This year, however, the cadets agreed that the collected items will be donated to the Lobe Thy Neighbor project, which solicited food items presented as care packages to the workers of Starkist Samoa and Talofa Systems Inc. who are without a paycheck for 5 weeks as the company carries out upgrades to its facilities.

Tapumanaia told Samoa News that a good number of StarKist employees didn't show up to pick up their care packages a last weekend, due to various reasons. Therefore, there were leftover items.

He said since the Fagaitua JROTC specifically want their donated items to go to the cannery workers, he will combine what they collected, with the care packages he has left over, and they will be distributed to the employees who didn't show up on distribution day.

HOPE HOUSE GETS DONATION OF FISH FROM NMSAS AND ITS PARTNERS

Outreach/Communications coordinator for NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, Apulu Veronika Molio'o Mortenson thanked all the workers and staff of Hope House at Fatu'aiga when she presented the 'catch' from the Buds and Suds Tournament to the facility's residents.

The two-day fishing event

was a partnership between NMSAS and SOPAC, with about 20 recreational and 'alia fishing boats joining in on the fun last weekend.

Cash prizes were awarded for various categories including heaviest wahoo, masimasi, yellowfin, etc. Apulu, during her presentation, said the donation of fish is for them to use for a Thanksgiving meal.

GOV APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS FOR MUSEUM

The proposed two-story extension to the Jean P. Hayden Museum in Fagatogo is moving forward as planned. As the museum undergoes major reconstruction work to the existing building and the erection of a new one, Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga has made changes of his own, appointing new members for the Museum's Board of Trustees. They are: Regina Meredith, Robert Soliai, Danielle King, and Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga. Historic Preservation Officer David Herdrich will serve as an advisor to the board.

Lolo, in a memo announcing the new board members, noted that Robert Soliai will serve as chairman, and each of the new members shall serve a term of one year. They are to remain on the board until such time that their successors are appointed.

As part of their new role, the board members are tasked with finding money to hire a curator for the museum. Meanwhile, workers from the Department of Public Works are at the site everyday, working on the erection of a new extension that Herdrich said will feature a two-story structure that will provide additional exhibit space.

The existing building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, meaning its historical character has to be preserved but it can be refurbished.

According to Herdrich, the job will be paid for by 'special projects' funding, although ASHPO, the Department of Commerce and other agencies are looking for other grant funding sources.

Police documents detail grisly gang slaying in Maryland

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — Police in Maryland say they have charged an alleged MS-13 gang member with first-degree murder in the death of a man stabbed more than 100 times.

Montgomery County police say 19-year-old Miguel Angel Lopez-Abrego was charged in the death of a man whose body was discovered buried in a park in Wheaton in September.

The Post, citing Immigra-

tion and Customs Enforcement officials, said Lopez-Abrego is a citizen of El Salvador and is in the United States illegally.

Police documents made public in a court hearing Wednesday and cited by the Washington Post say the victim was decapitated and dismembered. Court papers said the killers cut the victim's heart out and threw it in the grave.



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APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The American Samoa Power Authority announces an excellent opportunity for young technically minded individuals who want a challenging, profitable career in American Samoa.

ASPA is looking for its next generation of technicians and engineers. Over the next few years, ASPA will be developing young technicians and engineers for key positions within the organization. It needs skilled specialists in a number of fields.

ASPA will provide employment and professional training for successful applicants. Apprentices will receive training both on the job and in formal apprenticeship classes. Qualified apprentices will receive an all-expense paid education at a technical school or university in Fiji or equivalent. Applicants must be willing to commit to spending 2 - 3 years off-island in pursuit of a diploma or degree. The focus for this apprentice program will be on mechanical and electrical trades or a related field.

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

Applicants must have the following qualifications:

Educational Requirements: High School graduate (minimum); Associate degree or better preferred. Must have a cumulative GPA minimum of 2.5 or maintained at least a B or better grade average in the following courses:
(1) Physics, Chemistry, General Science
(2) Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus
(3) English (TOEFL score of 500 or better)

Skills and Aptitudes: Intermediate level computer skills. Ability to work independently, disciplined, self-starter, technically minded (confirmed by required references). Other desirable skills include hand-eye coordination, motor skills, attention to detail, and work well in a team environment.

Citizenship: US National or Citizen.

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

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

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

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

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

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AS-EPA completes inspections in the Manu'a Islands

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — November 22, 2017 — The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has completed a week of inspections in the Manu'a Islands. The main focus of the visitation was to conduct piggery inspections, educational outreach in schools, and perform joint inspections with field office on the islands of Ta'u and Ofu, Manu'a.

According to AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato, "This was a great opportunity for capacity development with our field office representatives in Manu'a and also an opportunity to collaborate on some of the unique environmental challenges there. Ultimately, AS-EPA's goal is to work with our field offices in Manu'a and other government agencies to identify ways to improve our services in these remote islands to protect human

health and the environment."

In Manu'a, the AS-EPA team from Tutuila met with field office representatives and various village pulenu'u to conduct a series of joint piggery inspections. The goal of AS-EPA's piggery compliance program is to protect water quality and more importantly public health by ensuring that piggeries are in compliance with local laws and regulations.

In order to effectively regulate piggeries, all piggeries are required to have a Land Use Permit — this includes ones on Tutuila, Aunu'u and the Manu'a islands.

The joint piggery inspections focused on 61 documented piggeries on the islands. Of the 61 piggeries, 22 were either voluntarily closed or voluntarily complied. The remaining piggeries received warnings to address unsanitary conditions and set-

back requirements.

During the education outreach in schools, AS-EPA visited elementary and high schools in Fitiuta, Faleasao, and Ta'u, Manu'a.

AS-EPA shared information regarding the importance of protecting and safeguarding our drinking water resources, near shore water quality (Beach Advisory), and AS-EPA's piggery compliance program. Students were actively engaged during the discussion and proud to learn that the beaches in Manu'a were very clean.

AS-EPA monitors 5 beaches in Manu'a on a monthly basis for a bacteria indicator called Enterococcus.

These beaches are located in the villages of Ofu, Olosega, Fitiuta, Ta'u and Faleasao. Water quality monitoring data over the course of 7 years has shown that Manu'a beaches rarely exceeded the American Samoa Water Quality Standard (ASWQS) for Enterococcus. The good water quality in Manu'a can be attributed to site location (not near streams), low population density and generally well flushed coastal areas.

Overall, AS-EPA was able to accomplish its mission and the team looks forward to future visitations in the Manu'a islands.

AS-EPA is scheduled to send another team early next year with a focus on solid waste, pesticides, and hazardous materials and waste.

The Director expressed his sincerest appreciation to the Office of Samoan Affairs, pulenuu, and school principals for assisting AS-EPA staff while in Manu'a. He also reiterated the importance of working with the community and residents in Manu'a.

AS-EPA field offices are located in Ta'u and Ofu, Manu'a. The point of contact for the Ta'u office is Alice Leulua'i at 677 3157 or 770 1435 and the Ofu office point of contact is Tumaulealofa Leatiota at 655 1198 or 731 2638.

For more information regarding AS-EPA programs in Manu'a and Tutuila, please call 633-2304. (Source: AS-EPA)



FILE - In this Feb. 26, 2013 file photo, Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City, talks to the South Dakota House Transportation Committee about teen driving safety in Pierre, S.D. Tieszen and his brother-in-law drowned in an apparent kayaking accident in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific, where they were attending a wedding for the lawmaker's daughter, officials said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Chet Brokaw, File)

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Pacific Island News in Brief

compiled by Samoa News staff
SAMOA JOINS FIGHT AGAINST NEGATIVE PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE COCONUT

At its annual meeting held in Kiribati last month, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) declared its fight by signing the TARAWA ACCORD, against the negative propaganda on the health and nutritional attributes of coconut and its products, emerging from the American Heart Association (AHA) release in April this year on the Presidential Advisory on Cardiovascular Disease and Saturated Fats.

This statement singled out coconut oil as not recommended for consumption due to its potential increase towards risk of heart disease. Between April and June this year, the APCC through its Scientific Advisory Committee on Health prepared and submitted three rebuttals to the release by AHA.

The rebuttals were directed to the WHO, FAO and to AHA with copies furnished to all 16 APCC member countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, India,

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Samoa).

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon Lopao Natanielu Mu'a, signed the Accord on behalf of the Prime Minister and Government. The principal objective of the TARAWA ACCORD is to promote the health and nutritional attributes of coconut products.

Coconut occupies about 12 million hectares of land with an annual production of 10 million metric tonnes in copra equivalent accounting for 85% of the world coconut production that directly affects the socio-economic lives of more than 150 million of the world's population.

The Accord recognizes that the coconut is grown in over 90 countries and is endowed with multifaceted health and nutritional attributes making it highly beneficial for human consumption to achieve overall health, nourishment and wellness for peoples.

It also recognizes that many people lack this important knowledge and the urgency to effectively inform, educate, promote, and conduct con-

(Continued on page 12)



Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Pro Tempore, Marie A. Alailima during Wednesday's cabinet meeting, where Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga announced that he and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga have appointed her to the post of ALJ.

Lolo says they recommended to Alailima to put people first during her tenure. Additionally, the nomination of the new ALJ will be submitted in January 2018 for confirmation when the Fono convenes for the 3rd Regular Session of the 35th Legislature, Under local law the Office of the Administrative Law Judge, which is headed by the ALJ, is part of the Executive Branch; and the ALJ is subject to Senate confirmation only. The term is six years.

If confirmed by the Senate, Alailima takes over the post from former ALJ, Toetagata Albert Mailo, who served for two consecutive six-year terms and has since retired due to medical reasons.

The ALJ deals mainly with government personnel issues — in areas such as transfers, termination, demotion and promotions — when there are differences between a director, supervisor and employee. The ALJ also deals with procurement matters as well as workmen's compensation cases.

Alailima was first appointed by former Gov. Togiola Tulafono and confirmed by the Senate in early 2007 as the ALJ pro tempore. She operates the law firm of Ala'ilima & Ala'ilima in Nu'uuli, and has been a practicing attorney on island for many years, dealing in matters not only in the High Court, but also with the Office of Administrative Law Judge.

[photo: FS]

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A wooden boat is moored at a nearby marina, in Yurihonjo, Akita prefecture, northern Japan, Friday, Nov. 24, 2017. Japanese police are investigating eight men found on Japan's northern coast who say they are from North Korea and washed ashore after their boat broke down. Akita prefectural police said Friday they found the men late Thursday after receiving a call that a group of suspicious men were standing around at the seaside in Yurihonjo town. Police also found the wooden boat at the marina. (Kyodo News via AP)

8 thought to be North Korean fishermen wash ashore in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese police said Friday they are investigating eight men found on Japan's northern coast who say they are from North Korea and washed ashore after their boat broke down.

Akita prefectural police found the men late Thursday after receiving a call that suspicious men were standing around at the seaside in Yurihonjo town. Police said they also found a wooden boat at a nearby marina.

Police said the men were in good health and spoke Korean. They identified themselves as North Koreans who were fishing before the boat broke down and washed ashore.

The investigation underway will include the possibility of illegal fishing, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

A week earlier, the Japanese Coast Guard rescued three North Korean men from a cap-sized fishing boat off Japan's northern coast. They were transferred hours later to another

North Korean vessel that was to return them home.

Japan and North Korea have no diplomatic ties and tensions are often high due to their colonial and wartime history and Pyongyang's missile and nuclear threats.

Waters between Japan and the Korean Peninsula is known for its rich fishing ground, where poachers from North Korea and China have been spotted.

Wreckage believed to be North Korean boats regularly washes ashore in northern Japan during winter due to seasonal winds.

In 2015, a wooden boat drifted ashore in another coastal town in Akita and skeletal remains of two men were found — one inside the vessel and another one nearby. Three North Korean boats with 10 bodies inside also washed up on the Noto Peninsula.

This year, more than a dozen cases of wreckages were reported in three northern prefectures facing the Sea of Japan, according to the Coast Guard.

overstayer from Samoa...

Continued from page 1

The defendant admitted to the Court that he had sexual intercourse with the 15-year-old girl several times, and he did it to satisfy his sexual desires.

Under the plea agreement, both sides are free to make their own sentencing recommendations, including a recommendation for a probated sentence, but the defendant understands and agrees that he cannot withdraw his guilty plea if the Court renders a different sentence.

During court proceedings, Acting Associate Justice, Elvis P. Patea informed the defendant that by pleading guilty to the 2 offenses, he is waiving his right to a jury trial, and once the Court accepts his guilty plea, he will be convicted of both offenses, and he will be sentenced according to the law.

When Patea asked the defendant if he understood what was going to happen if he pled guilty, Afamasaga shook his head and asked, "What happens if I don't have an I.D? Should I be allowed to go back home now?"

Patea asked the defendant what I.D he was referring to,

and Afamasaga replied, "My Immigration I.D because I came here on a 30-day permit, and I don't have a I.D or legal papers to stay in American Samoa."

Judge Patea responded, "That's not the issue before us right now. I'm talking about your constitutional right, whether you understand it or not. Do you understand that if you waive your right to a jury trial and wish to enter a guilty plea, you will be found guilty whether you have an Immigration I.D or not?"

Afamasaga replied affirmatively.

The defendant has been remanded back to custody, as he is unable to post a \$10,000 surety bond.

His will be sentenced on Dec. 21st.

According to the government's case, the 15-year-old victim told police she and the defendant had sexual intercourse numerous times between Mar. 14 and Aug. 24 this year.

When questioned by police, Afamasaga confessed to the sex acts but added, he thought the victim was over 18 years old.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT "PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING"

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

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

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

Thank You.

FAAALIGA FA'ALAUUA'ITELE

"A'oa'oga mo i lātou o lo'o fa'aaogā ina vailā'au o'ona"

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

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

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

Fa'afetai.



FAIRNESS

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German gets suspended sentence for attack on refugee shelter

BERLIN (AP) — A court has handed a 21-year-old German man a two-year suspended sentence and 200 hours of community service for an arson attack on a building housing child refugees.

The Potsdam regional court convicted the defendant Thursday of attempted murder, attempted serious arson and property damage for the October 2016 attack in Juetebog, south of Berlin.

Nobody was injured.

Judges concluded the man,

who wasn't named due to German privacy rules, was motivated by a hatred of foreigners and wanted to impress his father.

The 41-year-old father, who allegedly supplied fuel used in the attack, is being tried separately.

The verdict was delivered on the 25th anniversary of a notorious arson attack in the northern town of Moelln, in which neo-Nazis killed three people of Turkish origin.



This image provided by Refugee Action Coalition shows the ransacked immigration camp on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017. Papua New Guinea authorities on Thursday ratcheted up pressure on more than 300 asylum seekers to abandon a decommissioned immigration camp, where refugees reported their shelters, beds and other belongings have been destroyed. (Refugee Action Coalition via AP)

▶ ASPA rate hikes...

Continued from page 1

tial, while home collection for solid waste (trash) increases to \$12.57 from \$11.98, according to the ASPA public notice in 2015, which is also available on its website <www.aspower.com>

Speaking at Wednesday's cabinet meeting, ASPA managing director Paul Young said that over a period of one-year, the rate hikes for water, wastewater and solid waste would raise revenues for ASPA by about \$844,000.

He explained that ASPA management presented a recommendation at a board of directors meeting last week Friday to "delay the third year of a four year" rate hike for the three services by six months. "So we would be foregoing about \$422,000" in revenue, he said.

Young explained that the management's recommendation was "based on economic modeling that show that the rate increase would increase household expenditure on utilities by a tenth of a percent" and that ASPA also took into "consideration current the economic situation" in American Samoa.

"This rate increase was supposed to go into effect on Oct. 1st and this is just when government employees were returning back to a full 40-hours a week," he said. "Additionally, we are taking into consideration, the fact that the canneries closed for five weeks and we are now heading into the Christmas season."

(The canneries referred to are StarKist Samoa and American Samoa Talofa Systems Inc., the Satala-based plant that manufactures cans for StarKist Samoa. The five-week shutdown of production, put around 1,600 workers from both companies out of work with no paycheck)

"So based on all of that, the recommendation was made to the board, that we postpone the rate increase by six months," Young said, adding that the

"board has unanimously voted to accept the recommendation."

Young acknowledged that the rate hike "would probably decrease our accounts receivables."

However, "we felt that... this [rate hike] would create undue hardship [and] we also felt that it was inappropriate at this time, given the circumstances of families that are struggling [with] the five week furlough and other things, to impose a rate increase that would cause that level of increase in utility expenditures," he said.

In response to the ASPA announcement, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga told cabinet members, "I know this is the most difficult time in our economic moment" and "we would strongly suggest that ASPA find every means to do away with any increase in rates."

"We are dealing with some serious economic issues and we would like to see that we make sure that any increase now, will have to be well calculated before we implement [them]," he continued.

ASPA executive director Utu Abe Malae is reportedly off island for meetings.

BACKGROUND

Following a 2014 rate study by US-based firm, Economists.com, ASPA announced in May 2015 rate hikes starting in June of that year up to 2018, but no rate hikes for electricity, according to ASPA's public notice at the time. The rate hikes for 2015 and 2016 covered only wastewater and solid waste.

The third scheduled rate changes were set for October 1, 2017, affecting Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste, with the fourth change slated for October 1, 2018 for all three services.

"The implementation of the new rate plan for the respective services will fund expansion and maintenance costs for these services in order to continue to provide quality service to our customers," according to ASPA.

Papua New Guinea officials remove last refugees from camp

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Papua New Guinea authorities said Friday they had relocated the last asylum seekers who had refused for three weeks to leave a closed immigration camp for fear they would face violence in the alternative accommodations.

Police Chief Superintendent Dominic Kakas said police and immigration officials removed all 378 men from the male-only camp on Manus Island over two days and took them by bus to residences in the nearby town of Lorengau. "Everybody's gone. Everybody got on the buses, they packed their bags and they moved over," Kakas said.

Refugee advocates say officials used force and destroyed

asylum seekers' belongings to make them leave Manus.

Video was released of officials in the camp wielding what appeared to be wooden sticks.

Water, power and food supplies ended when the Manus camp ended officially closed on Oct. 31, based on the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court's ruling last year that Australia's policy of housing asylum seekers there was unconstitutional. But asylum seekers fear for their safety in Lorengau because of threats from local residents. Australia pays Papua New Guinea, its nearest neighbor, and the tiny Pacific nation of Nauru to hold thousands of asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and Asia who have

attempted to reach Australian shores by boat since mid-2013.

Before confirmation that Manus Island had been emptied, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull welcomed news that asylum seekers were leaving. "I'm please to say in terms of Manus, that the reports we have are that busloads of the people at Manus are leaving, they're complying with the lawful directions of the PNG authorities and moving to the alternative facilities available to them and that's as they should," Turnbull told reporters.

"That is precisely what you should do, if you're in a foreign country. You should comply with the laws of that other country," he added.

FA'ASALALAUGA O LE SUAFA LUALEMAGA

Ou te fa'atalofa atu ma ou fa'afeiloa'i i le Paia o Samoa, i lau fa'afofaga ma lau fa'asausauga i lenei afiafi, ae maise le taeao ma le aso, mai fetu maualuluga se'ia paia mauga iti, mai i le Tai Samasama o Tuimanu'a, seia paia le Tai Ulula o Nafanua. O le Paia i le Ekalesia, a'o o le Mamalu o le Aaufaigaluega galulue, Pa'ia o le Atua, o e o lo'o latou agaia ma fa'asoasoa le Alofi Sa, o le Atua, e ala i lana feau o le Tala Lelei. Ua a'e le faiva, ua i'o le upega, ua tapega mea matutu i le fale, ma ua lafo i le talitali, aua uo to Pule, i so tatou olo tali matagi, o le mea lea le Ali'i, ua fai lava oe ma mea matou te nonofo ai i lea Tupulaga ma lea Tupulaga, Tulou.

Ae, ua laga se leo o le auauna, ou te fa'asilasila atu ai ma le ava ma le fa'aaloalo tele, e tatau ai e fa'apea. Ua tasi nei le tofa ma le fa'autautaga i le Tina Matua ia Aofetalaigaupuosamoa Lualemaga Vaolo Pita Lauti, o le toe Ulumatua o le aiga, ma le fanau, o le a faia se talanoga, aua le sailiga o se tasi e nofoia le Nofoa o Tavita. Ma, o lenei fa'asilasilaga e fa'asinotonu lava i Suli uma e tau i le Suafa o le LUALEMAGA.

O le a fa'atinoina lenei fa'amoemoe i le itula e 10:00 i le taeao, o le Aso To'ona'i, luni 23, 2018, i le Maota i Tupapa i Aasufou, Amerika Samoa.

I le ava ma le fa'aaloalo, e tatau ai, o la outou auauna:

Leatoa Eneliko Vaolo Pita Lauti,





IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



Samoa joins fight against negative propaganda against the coconut and its products emerging from the American Heart Association release in April this year. [Courtesy photo]

▶ Pacific Island Brief...

Continued from page 9

tinuous awareness of the health and nutritional benefits of coconut, coconut oil and other healthy products of coconut.

Further, it recognizes that there is a need for further conclusive studies that would provide uncontested scientific evidence as absolute proof of the health and nutritional attributes of coconut, coconut oil, and other healthy products of coconut to assure consumers and effectively counter the negative propaganda of all opposition to coconut and its products.

By signing the Accord, all 16 member countries of APCC have declared their commitment to affirm, support and effectively promote the health and nutritional benefits of coconut, coconut oil and all healthy products of coconut and their uses within their respective countries and internationally.

In his keynote remarks at the Darwin Coconut Initiative workshop that was held in Samoa recently, Prime Minister Hon Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, reemphasized the importance of coconut in Samoa for the sustenance of families, whether it is in healthy consumption or shelter or furniture or for personal care in its oils.

“It has been a tree that has also held many solutions for sustaining small cottage industries, that sustains families, women and youth welfare as seen in the production of arts and crafts, and also the small family stalls on the roadside selling fresh coconuts which are enjoyed by tourists and citizens alike,” he said.

The prime minister was very supportive of the TARAWA ACCORD that affirms collective support and actions to promote the health and nutritional benefits of the coconut, as well as its personal care oils elements internationally, and reiterated that our Government will play its part in the enhancement of national policies and the awareness programs.

Tuilaepa also reminded the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, farmers and the private sector, that we should not be complacent with development efforts in researching new technology for production, and the propagation of improved varieties and the quality of coconuts that are pest and disease immune to name a few of the outcomes we wish to achieve.

(Source: Samoa Press Secretariat)

CHARGES RECOMMENDED AGAINST ONE PERSON FOR SAMOA FALSE PASSPORTS

The criminal investigation into allegations on the issuing of false passports has now resulted in a recommendation that charges against one individual should be filed.

Police have completed their investigation referring to the files submitted for their consideration by the Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet, (MPMC) that were passed to the Attorney General for a review of the recommended charges.

The Attorney General has finalized the advice to the police, and it is anticipated that charges will commence by the end of this week. At this

stage one person will be charged.

Meanwhile the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has completed its internal investigation of a member of the Immigration Division, as to alleged breaches of the Public Service Act and has subsequently issued termination of service against that employee.

Further enquiries are now proposed, to evaluate the systems in place for the issuing of new passports, in order to ascertain what changes need to be implemented, to help prevent this from occurring in the future.

Commenting on the issue, Immigration Minister and Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi stated, “There will always be those who try to cheat the system.

“However the speed in which this matter has been dealt with is to be commended with the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet working closely with the Ministry of Police and the Attorney General’s Office.

“The message should be clear, that any such passport offending will result in quick action and an investigation, and where the evidence supports, the individuals involved will be charged,” the prime minister said.

(Source: Press Release from CEO of the Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet)

SAMOA AIRWAYS CLARIFIES FARE STRUCTURE

Samoa Airways has moved to clarify that they still issue the lowest airfares in the country and the 599 tala roundtrip is just for their Christmas specials.

This is according to Samoa Airways Marketing Manager, Dwayne Bentley, in response to questions from the Samoa Observer.

Complaints had been received from members of the public who believed the \$599 roundtrip airfares was the standard airfare for all time.

Several women contacted the Samoa Observer raising their frustrations that they had made bookings to travel in January and return in February and then they found that the airfare was 1,800 tala each.

According to the women, this was actually more expensive than other airlines, thus defeating the purpose of having Samoa Airways for cheaper airfares for the traveling population.

Not so, said Dwayne Bentley.

“Kindly note that the \$599 fare is our Christmas Malaga Special for travel Apia-Auckland-Apia.”

“The applicable conditions on flights are that travel Apia-Auckland needs to be made in December 2017, with return travel Auckland-Apia in January 2018.

“With the Christmas special in particular, the airline has actually extended the ticket sale period a couple of times now for the benefit of the traveling public, and at the moment, sales end on 30th November.

“Please note that all Samoa Airways fares including our special deals, include 7kg carry-on, 23kg checked baggage, a hot meal, drink selec-

(Continued on page 14)



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| Aho, Tagiilima | Iavai, Siale "Cece" | Mapu-Togiola, Tuailevaoola | Sao, Kuini | Te'i, Lafoaina |
| Alaelua, Kapeteni | Ieremia, Chanel | Mapu, Vitale | Saolele, Petelo | Teve, Fa'olaina |
| Alalamua, Danny | Ieremia, Faaloloi | Mareko, Tairoto | Sasa, Simoe | Thiel, Mathew Vincent |
| Alasi, Patric | Ieremia, Mamere | Marquez, Aveta | Sasala, Isapela | Tiapula, Lenora |
| Alesana, Simealai | Ieremia, Marlana | Masui, Junior | Satele, Suafai | Tiapula, Raymond |
| Aliivaa, Taumasina | Ikenasio-Taliaoa, Ioane | Matalima, Alieta | Satele, Uaea | Tili, Benjamin |
| Allen, Lidwina | Iliili, Laki | Matamua, Fitulua | Satui, Lea | Tini, Timena |
| Alo, Tautua | Ilimaleota, Levelevei | Matamua, Lei | Sauaso, Joyce | Tinoifili, Kanana |
| Alosio, Saline Ana | Ilimaleota, Mikaele | Matau, Esau | Saufoi, Lauina | Titialii, Millie |
| Alosio, Tuloto | Ioapo, Calvin | Matau, Ramona | Sauia, Tanya | Tiumalu, Nafanua |
| Aporosa, Bridgette | Isaia, Monte | Matau, Tikeri | Saunoamalii, Maliliga | Tiumalu, Saimua |
| Atanoa, Soliga | Iosefo, Makerita | Mauga, Palepoi Ernie | Sauta, Paul | Toala, Suilefaiga |
| Atonio, Atonio | Itulauifi, Bryan | Mauigoa, Seepa | Savaiinaea, Aukuso | Toatelegese, Nofoaagatotoa |
| Atualevao, Patricia | Iupeli, Pepelini Filemu | Maulupe, Roanna | Save, Suani | Toeava, Spencer |
| Auelua, Caroline | Kaulave, Vaigalepa | McGraw, Stephen | Savea, Edward | Togiaso, Patisepa |
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Continued from page 12

tion and inflight entertainment.”

Bentley also itemized the airfares for travel in January and February 2018.

“Earlier today, we did a quick online search for travel Jan/Feb and below are the economy class fares which were available 02 January–Apia/Auckland and returning 02 February.

For Samoa Airways, the airfare is \$1,421.34 ; while Fiji Airways \$2,927.40 and for Air New Zealand- \$2,086.84 tala.

“Samoa Airways fare is the lowest and is approximately \$600 tala less than that of the next carrier (which is \$2000+),” he pointed out.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

WE DON'T GROW WHEN WE AVOID THE AWKWARD RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCES

Are you a grown-up? Your relationships are the laboratory in which to find out, mental health counsellor Jenny Brown says.

Brown's work expands on the theories of American psychiatrist Murray Bowen, who regarded a relationship as a single unit, like an organism.

“We're part of a system all the time. We're affecting others, they're affecting us.”

Within each of us is a combination of 'pretend adult' [which Bowen called pseudo-self] and 'solid adult', she says.

Often we're not aware of the 'pretend' part, though.

“The 'pretend adult' changes like a chameleon according to what we perceive will be acceptable in the group. The 'solid adult' has inner convictions and changes from within through thoughtful examination of facts, rather than relationship pressure.”

Learning about ourselves and how we relate is the pathway to growing up, Brown says.

Bottom line – keep yourself calm (as much as possible) and stay connected.

“Distance is the easiest way to ease pressure in a relationship, but we don't grow when we avoid the awkward relationship experiences.”

To keep peace in a partnership, couples often

fall into a pattern where one is frustrated that the other has no initiative and the other complains their partner has become bossy and controlling, which Brown calls 'over-responsibility and under-responsibility'.

Over time, equality is lost.

“One person gives up their own decision-making to keep the peace and allows the other to feel secure by being the helpful one who is paving the way for both of them.”

Both blame the other, but these patterns are co-created, Brown says.

What the individual can change is the part they're playing in it.

“If you recognize 'Oh, I'm always mind-reading in my marriage, I'm always guessing what I think my partner needs without asking them', that's not helping develop intimacy and friendship. So I'm gonna work on asking my spouse what they think, what their thoughts are, rather than always take the lead.”

When it comes to parenting, the key mistake people make is over-focusing on their child and under-focusing on their responsibilities as a parent, she says.

She concedes defining yourself as a 'parent leader' isn't easy.

“We can lose ourselves with our children. We can parent in reaction to their behaviors and their moods. We can focus on what will make them happy in the short term, rather than 'what's my job is giving them an experience that will help them cope with life outside the family, to cope with rejection, to cope with that word 'no'. We've forgotten, as parents, to say in a calm and principled way, no.”

The relationships that really put our maturity to the test – you guessed right – are those with our own parents, Brown says.

A handy checklist for aspiring grown-ups:

Don't let your feelings dominate, refrain from blame, accept people have different views, be responsible for solving your own problems, hold onto your principles and see the bigger picture.

(Source: RNZ)

Italian anti-mafia prosecutor says mafias now cooperating

MILAN (AP) — Italy's new national anti-mafia prosecutor said Thursday that Italian organized crime gangs are increasingly cooperating to control international drug trafficking.

Prosecutor Federico Cafiero De Raho told an anti-mafia conference in Milan that the Italian mafias “are not isolated. By now, they move together. The 'ndrangheta, Cosa Nostra, Camorra, also the groups from Puglia” work together, coordinating, for example, ports they use for heroin and cocaine shipments.

“They are able to change the commander on a ship in Panama, and insert their own commander, so the ship can handle a big transport of drugs,” Cafiero De Raho said, illustrating their reach.

While in southern Italy organized crime “occupies the entire territory,” in the north the mafia is making inroads by entering the real economy by preying on business people in difficulty who accept financial help to keep their business alive, until eventually they are forced out.

Cafiero De Raho urged Italian law enforcement and magistrates to cooperate on exchanging data and other information, saying it was “the first step in the strategy” to defeat organized crime.

Outgoing national anti-mafia prosecutor Franco Roberti said while everyone wants to know who the new “boss of bosses” of the Sicilian Mafia could be now that Salvatore “Totò” Riina has died after nearly a quarter-century in jail, the real question is why the mafia persists and gains strength.

“How is it possible, after all the work to fight the mafia the

last 25 years that the mafia is still strong? They have spread to areas beyond their origins,” he said. “Why has the mafia not been defeated?”

While strides have been made in drafting more effective legislation, Roberti said the justice and law enforcement systems must work together to bring down the mafia, and that one key is to focus on hard drugs, cocaine and heroin, and not be distracted by soft drugs.

A common theme of the panel discussion was that the mafia has proven very adaptable to new scenarios, preying on weakness and looking for economic crises as sources of opportunities.

Italy's justice minister, Andrea Orlando, said the mafia “is a blemish on our competitiveness,” and impacts the nation's ratings.

“The mafia hasn't won, but nor has it lost,” Orlando said. “There cannot be only celebrations. We are seeing an intolerable growth in a gray area in the inattention of public opinion.”

Italy's Finance Minister, Pier Carlo Padoan told the gathering that Italian organized crime finds new opportunities for wealth in new instruments created by the financial industry to evade regulation.

“In these operations, the mafia finds space to profit,” Padoan said. “The velocity with which institutions responds is always insufficient.”

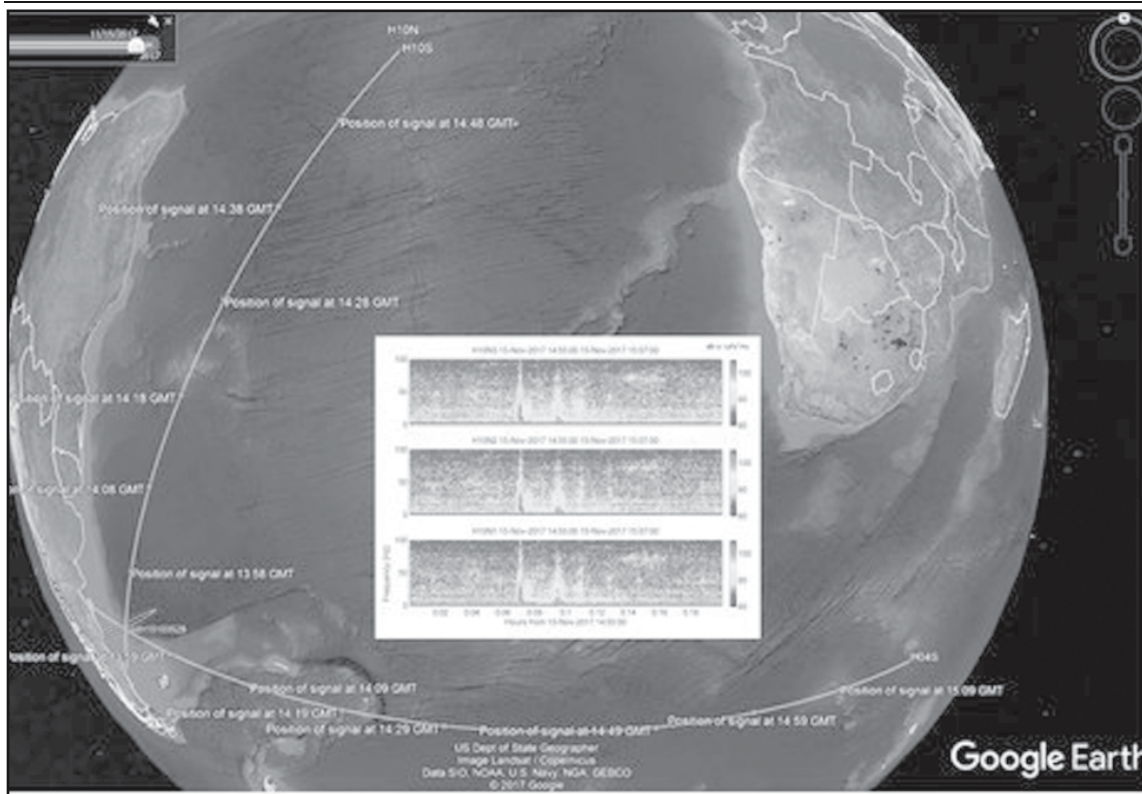
He warned that Brexit could provide new opportunities for the mafia, as financial investments move from London to other European capitals.

“The evolution of the financial geography can attract the criminal world,” he said.



Italian anti-Mafia and counterterrorism prosecutor Federico Cafiero De Raho delivers his speech during a meeting in Milan, Italy, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017. Italy's top anti-mafia prosecutors gathered in Milan for a conference “Stati Generali Lotta alle Mafie” (General States on the Fight against the Mafia).

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



This Google Earth image provided by CTBTO shows a visualization of the hydro-acoustic anomaly, consistent with an explosion, that was recorded on Nov. 15, 2017, near the time and place of the disappearance of the submarine ARA San Juan. Argentina's navy reported the ominous development Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017, that prompted relatives of the 44 crew members to burst into tears, and some to say they had lost all hope of rescue. (CTBTO via AP)

Sound heard in Argentine sub search was likely 'explosion'

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina (AP) — An apparent explosion occurred near the time and place an Argentine submarine went missing, the country's navy reported Thursday, prompting relatives of the vessel's 44 crew members to burst into tears and some to say they had lost hope of a rescue.

Navy spokesman Enrique Balbi said the search will continue until there is full certainty about the fate of the ARA San Juan, despite the evidence of an explosion and with more than a week having passed since the submarine disappeared. It was originally scheduled to arrive Monday at Argentina's Mar del Plata Navy Base.

The U.S. Navy and an international nuclear test-ban monitoring organization said a "hydro-acoustic anomaly" was produced just hours after the navy lost contact with the sub on Nov. 15. It was near the submarine's last known location.

"According to this report, there was an explosion," Balbi told reporters. "We don't know what caused an explosion of these characteristics at this site on this date."

The navy spokesman described the "anomaly" as "singular, short, violent and non-nuclear."

Relatives of the crew who had gathered at the Mar del Plata base to receive psychological counseling broke into tears and hugged each other after they received the news. Some fell on their knees or clung to a fence crowded with blue-and-white Argentine flags, rosary beads and messages of support. Most declined to speak, while a few others lashed out in anger at the navy's response.

"They sent a piece of crap to sail," said Itati Leguizamon, wife of submarine crew member German Suarez. "They inaugurated a submarine with a coat of paint and a flag in 2014, but without any equipment inside. The navy is to blame for its 15 years of abandonment."

Balbi defended the Argentine Navy, saying that "with respect to the maintenance and state of our naval and air units, no unit ever leaves port or takes off if it isn't in operating conditions to navigate or fly with total security."

The German-built diesel-electric TR-1700 class submarine was commissioned in 1985 and was most recently refitted in 2014.

During the \$12 million retrofitting, the vessel was cut in half and had its engines and batteries replaced. Experts say that refits can be difficult because they involve integrating systems produced by different manufacturers and even the smallest mistake during the cutting phase of the operation can put the safety of the ship and the crew at risk.

The Argentine navy and outside experts have said that even if the ARA San Juan is intact, its

crew might have only enough oxygen to be submerged seven to 10 days. It lost contact as it was sailing from the extreme southern port of Ushuaia. The submarine's captain had reported a battery failure.

Authorities said late Wednesday that Argentine navy ships as well a U.S. P-8 Poseidon aircraft and a Brazilian air force plane would return to the area to check out the abnormal sound, which originated about 30 miles north of the submarine's last registered position.

The search location straddles the edge of the continental shelf, with widely varying ocean depths, some as great as 10,000 feet (3,000 meters). Experts say the submarine could not have supported pressures that far down.

"If a submarine goes below its crush-depth, it would implode, it would just collapse," said James H. Patton Jr. a retired Navy captain. "It would sound like a very, very big explosion to any listening device."

Whatever it was, U.S. Navy Lt. Lily Hinz said the sound detected "was not a whale, and it is not a regularly occurring sound."

Claudio Rodriguez, brother of crew member Hernan Rodriguez, said his family suspects "the explosion was so strong that they were not able to rise to the surface or shoot any flares. They didn't have time for anything."

"As a family, we're grateful to all the people who prayed for us and for the families of all the 44," he said.

More than a dozen airplanes and ships have been participating in the multinational search despite stormy weather that has caused waves of more than 20 feet (6 meters). Search teams are combing an area of some 185,000 square miles (480,000 square kilometers), which is roughly the size of Spain. The U.S. government has sent two P-8 Poseidons, a naval research ship, a submarine rescue chamber and sonar-equipped underwater vehicles. U.S. Navy sailors from the San Diego-based Undersea Rescue Command were also helping with the search.

Britain's Ministry of Defense sent a special airplane with emergency life support pods to join the hunt that includes planes and ships from a dozen nations. Hopes were buoyed after brief satellite calls were received and when sounds were detected deep in the South Atlantic. But experts later determined that neither was from the missing sub.

"They haven't come back and they will never come back," said Jessica Gopar, wife of submarine officer Fernando Santilli, choking back tears. "I had a bad feeling about this and now it has been confirmed."



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Silia \$140,000 foa'i a le atunu'u mo tagata mafatia atunu'u i fafo

tusia Ausage Fausia

E silia i le \$140,000 le aofa'i o le foa'i mai le atunu'u atoa e aofia ai ekalesia, pisinisi, nu'u, fa'alapotopotoga, tagata ta'ito'atasi ma vaega eseese o le malo ua mafai ona tu'u fa'atasia mai le latou sailiga tupe sa faia i le masina na te'a nei, e fesoasoani ai i tagata na mafatia i fa'alavelave fa'alenua e pei ona a'afia ai setete o le malo tele ma ona teritori e lua - Puerto Rico ma US Virgin Islands.

O le fonotaga a le Kovana ia Lolo Malatasi Moliga ma lana Kapeneta i le vaiaso nei, na mafai ai ona fa'alaulo aloaia le aofa'i o lenei foa'i.

I le ripoti na tauaaina e le Komiti sa gafa ma le tu'u fa'atasia o le foa'i atoa, o lo o taua ai le aofaiga e \$147,255.24, lea e aofia ai ma se vaega tupe e le i mae'a ona aoina mai i totonu.

O le afoaga i le Maoputasi ia Mauga Tasi Asuega na fai ma sui o le latou Komiti sa fa'amaopoopoina lenei sailiga tupe e fa'aleo le agaga fa'afetai i le atunu'u atoa ma le malo, ona o le fesoasonai ua mafai ona fa'amaopoopo.

I le fai ai ma sui o ta'ita'i fa'aleaganu'u, na taua ai e le Failautusi o le Ofisa o Mataupu Tau Samoa, le matagofie o se atunu'u ae galulue fa'atasi ona tagata, e atagia mai ai le fealofani atoa ai ma le felagolagoma'i o tagata uma e fesoasoani i le malo.

Saunoa Mauga e fa'apea, o le fa'ata'ita'iga lelei lea e manaomia ona fa'atinoina e Ta'ita'i o le atunu'u mo fanau ma tupulaga, e le gata ia aoao i latou ia iloa alofa, a ia aoao fo'i i latou ina ia iloa ona faia faaiuga lelei ma avea ai i latou ma ta'ita'i fa'atuatuaina o le atunu'u i le lumana'i.

Na fa'afetaia e le ali'i kovana ia Lolo Matalasi Moliga le tupe ua mafai ona tu'u fa'atasia e le Komiti mai le atunu'u.

O lo o atagia i le ripoti le maualuga o le tupe na mafai ona ao mai i Ekalesia eseese uma lava i totonu o le atunu'u, sosoo ai loa ma isi fa'alapotopotoga eseese e aofia ai matagaluega ma ofisa a le malo, pisinisi ma faalapotopotoga, seia oo lava i tagata ta'itasi.

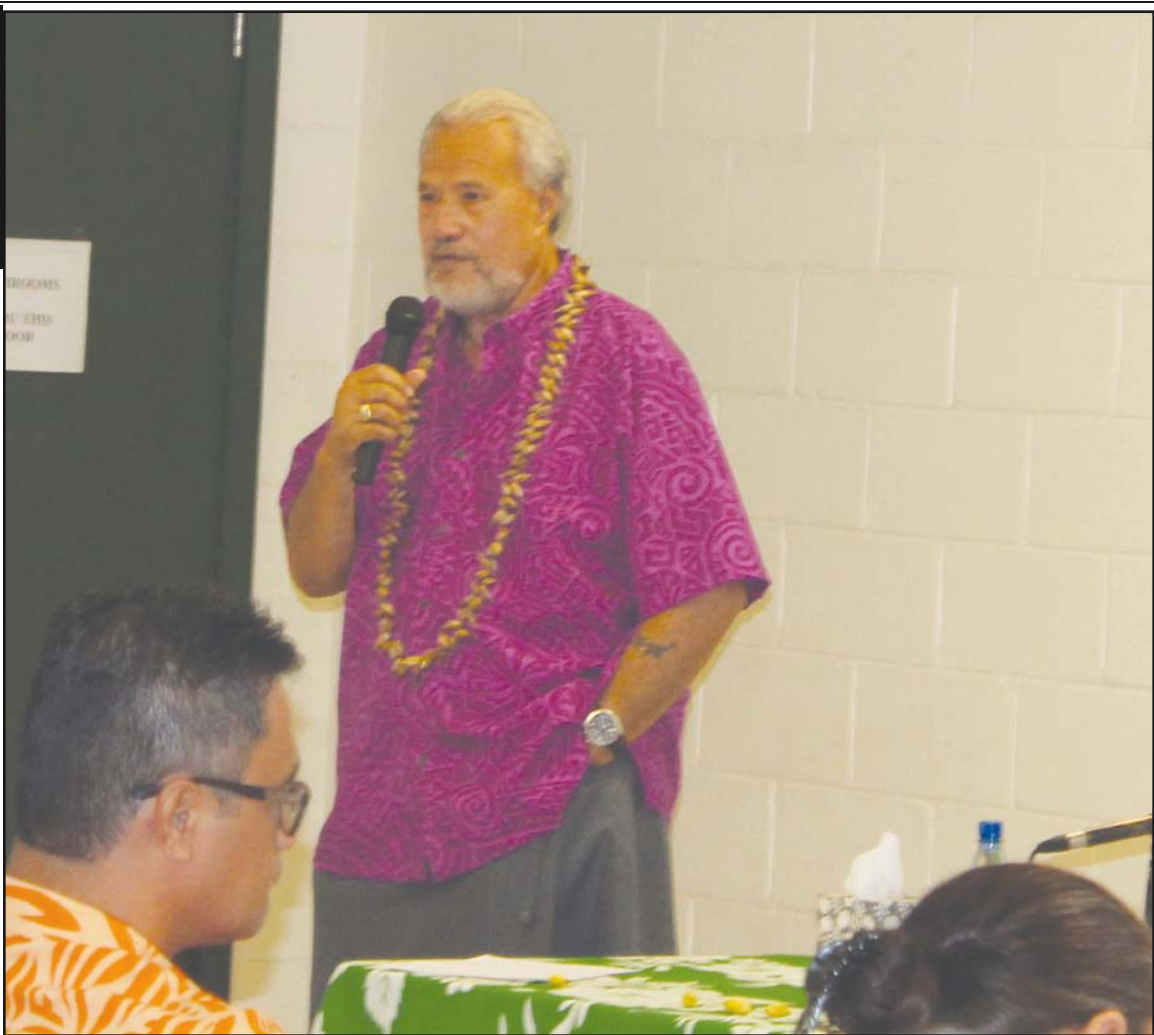
Saunoa Lolo e fa'apea, o le tulaga o lo o atagia mai i le ripoti, e pei ona maualuga ai le foa'i mai Ekalesia i le atunu'u, o le ata vaai lenei o le faigamalo ma le soifuaga o lo o soifua ai Amerika Samoa i le taimi nei.

"Ua lava le ata lea e ta'u mai ai le soifuaga o le atunu'u, tatou te fa'amuumua lava le Atua i soo

se mea tatou te faia, o lana foa'i mo i tatou, tatou te toe fa'afetai atu e ala i fesoasoani mo tagata mafatia," o le saunoaga lea a le ali'i kovana.

O le afa o le tupe na mafai ona aoina, o le a tauaao atu e fai ma sao a Amerika Samoa i le Ofisa o le Koluse Mumu a le malo tele o Amerika, e fesoasoani ai i tagata uma sa a'afia i mala fa'alenua e pei ona saunoa le ali'i kovana. O le isi afa o le foa'i, o le a tu'u atu lea e fesoasoani ai i le fa'atinoina o

(Faaauau itulau 18)



Le taimi na saunoa fa'apitoa ai afoaga i le Maoputasi ia Mauga Tasi Asuega i le fonotaga a le kapineta i le aso Lulu, e fa'afetaia le foai a le atunu'u mo tagata i Amerika na mafatia i fa'alavelave fa'alenua.

[ata: FS]



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Le taimi na tauaao ai e sui o le malo meaalofa mo Tama ma Tina matutua i le polokalame o le kerisimasi o le tausaga ua mavae.

[ata AF]

Meaalofa ma Fa'afiafiaga faapitoa mo Tama ma Tina matutua

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua fa'atulaga le suiga lea ua sauni le malo e fa'atino ai lana polokalame faapitoa o le Kerisimasi o lenei tausaga mo Tama ma Tina matutua o le atunu'u, lea ua atoa nei le 5 tausaga talu ona fa'atinoina mai e le faigamalo a Lolo ma Lemanu.

O le suiga o le polokalame e pei ona fa'amoemoe, e faia i le taeao o le aso 7 o Tesema i le nofoaga autu o Tupulaga Talavou i Pago Pago, e le gata o le a tauaoina ai meaalofa masani o le a saunia e le malo, ae o le a faia ai fo'i ma se tauvaga fa'apitoa e sailia ai se Tupu ma le Masiofo mai tagata matutua.

Na taua e le Faatonusili o le Ofisa o Tagata Matutua (TAOA) ia Evelyn Satele i le fonotaga a le Kapeneta i le vaiaso nei e fa'apea, o le suiga e pei ona fuafuaina i le polokalame o lenei tausaga, na fa'avae mai lea i se fautuaga sa tuuina atu e le afoia i le ali'i Kovana ia Lolo Matalasi Moliga, ina ia i ai ni fa'afiafiaga malie mo nai Tama ma Tina matutua.

O le tauvaga la e sailia ai se Tupu ma le Masiofo, o le a faia e pei lava fo'i o tauvaga o lo o sailia ai se Lalelei o Amerika Samoa, e aofia ai taleni, o laei eseese, atoa ai ma le siva Samoa.

Na lagolagoina e le ali'i Kovana le suiga e pei ona fa'aalia i le polokalame, ma ia

talosagaina ai lana Kapeneta ina ia fa'aalia lo latou lagolagoina o le polokalame mo tagata matutua.

“O le 5 ai lenei o tausaga talu ona tatou fa'amanatuina pea ma fa'ataua Tama ma Tina matutua, e mafua lea tulaga ona e talitonu la tatou faigamalo i le taua o le sao atoa ai ma le tautua sa fa'atinoina e i latou nei mo le atunu'u ma le malo i tausaga ua mavae,” o le saunoaga lea a le ali'i kovana.

Sa ia taua fo'i le tatau lea ona fa'atino e Ta'ita'i o le malo fa'ata'ita'iga lelei e vaavaai ma mulimuli i ai tupulaga talavou, e aofia ai le fa'ataua lea o tagata matutua poo matua, aua o le isi lea fa'amanuiaga tele e ala ai ona soifua umi fanau, o le 'ava i matua e pei ona fai mai ai le Tusi Paia.

E le gata i le suiga i le polokalame, ae o le a i ai fo'i se suiga i meaalofa faapitoa o le a tauaoina atu mo tagata matutua i lenei tausaga.

Na fa'afetaia e Lolo lana Kapeneta i lo latou lagolagoina lea o le polokalame mo tagata matutua i tausaga ua mavae. Sa ia toe talosagaina i latou ina ia sauni e toe tautua mo tagata matutua i le polokalame o lenei tausaga, ina ia fa'aailoa atu ai le amanaia e le malo o le tautua a Tama ma Tina matutua o le atunu'u.

► Silia \$140,000...

Mai itulau 17

le tautuaa le Ofisa o le Koluse Mumu i Amerika Samoa.

Saunoa le ali'i kovana e fa'apea, e mana'omia fo'i le fa'aleleia atili o le tautua a le Ofisa o le Koluse Mumu i le teritori, lea ua molimauina le si'itia o le tele o tulaga talu ai le

lagolago ma le fesoasoani a le malo ma le atunu'u atoa.

O se taimi e le o toe mamao ua fa'amoemoe e tu'u aloaia atu ai se saunoaga mai Ta'ita'i o le malo ma le atunu'u, e fa'afetaia ai le atunu'u atoa e tusa ai o lenei foa'i maoa'e.



tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

MATAFAO ELEMENTARY FOA'I MO AIGA MOTUSIA GALUEGA

O le fa'ataua a Matafao Elementary i lenei Aso Fa'afetai, ua fa'atino lea i le foa'i mo Aiga uma o fanau a'oga i Matafao o lo'o a'afia o latou aiga i le motusia o galuega i le StarKist Samoa lea sa galulue ai latou matua.

E to'a 130 fanau i totonu o lea Laumua, peita'i ina ia tofusua lelei i le fa'asoa i le aotelega o mea uma sa taua'oina e le fanau a'oga mai le Level K5 e o'o i le Level 8, ua toe taga'i toto'a le vasega o le Komiti Fa'afaoe o le Social Studies i le aofai o aiga ta'itasi e o mai ai nei fanau.

“Ua le faia se fa'aaliga tele e pei ona masani ai isi a'oga tulaga muamua i lenei tausaga mo le aso Fa'afetai, peita'i, ua le manatu i matou ina ia fa'amaumauina atoa le aso o fanau i lenei faiga, ae ua tuu tasi i le Komiti o le Social Studies latou te fa'atino le tu'ufa'atasiga o mea uma ua taua'ao e le fanau aoga, ona fa'avasega ai fo'i lea o fa'amomoli alofa i nai aiga o lo'o a'afia i le motusia o galuega,” o se finagalo fa'aalia lea o le tama'ita'i pule a'oga Dr. Tino Roberts.

“Ua taumafai pea e ave le fa'amuumua i a'oa'oga a le fanau i potu a'oga, ia fa'aleleia atili togi o le fanau, ae ia maua fo'i e i latou uma le agaga fa'afetai i lenei tausaga, lea e ala i le latou foa'i ma le lotu alofa i nai aiga o pagatia le fa'asoa ona o le motusia o galuega.”

O i latou ua aofia i lenei tu'ufa'atasiga o le foa'i e aofia ai le tama'ita'i Taitaifono o le Social Studies: Sootaga Tua'au, Faufautua o le Komiti: Aitofu Lomu, Failautusi Fa'aui Vait-

autolu, ma sui iloga uma lava e aofia ai: Tupou, Jewel, Gina, Maryangie, Eleni, Vinnie ma Anne Posala.

FOA'I FAGAITUA JROTC TAGATA MOTUSIA GALUEGA

Ua mae'a ona taua'ao le tele o foa'i na fa'atautaia e le Vasega o Faia'oga a le Polokalama JROTC i Fagaitua High mai le aotelega o afio'aga i le Falelima i sasa'e. Ina ua tu'ufa'atasia foa'i i le lua vaiaso ua te'a i le malae o le Suigaula a le Atuvasa i Utulei, sa le'i tu'ufa'atasia i ai ma lea sao mai le itu i sasa'e o le motu.

Lea ua fa'aailoa mai o lea sao, mo le “Alofa i lou tuaoi” o lo'o fa'atautaia e le susuga Tapumanaia Galu Satele Jr, na fa'afeso'ota'ia e Sgt Fiso, ma latou fa'aailoa ane ai, “O le Love Thy Neighbor” o le a avea ma fa'alapotopotoga e auina atu i ai le latou sao mo lenei Aso Fa'afetai, e fa'auia atu ai fesasoani i aiga uma o motusia galuega i lenei vaiatai.”

E le gata la i le sao mai le falelima i sasa'e lea na saunia mai e Faia'oga uma o le JROTC Fagaitua, ae ua tu'ufa'atasia fo'i ma isi meaalofa na tuai ona fa'ao'o mai ona sa fa'alavelavetia nisi o fa'alapotopotoga ma Ekalesia i le aso na atofa mo le taua'oina atu o foa'i muamua a le “ALofa i Lou Tuaoi”.

Ua aofia i lenei tu'ufa'atasiga o le Ekalesia Aso Fitu, ona sa auai i latou i sauniga o le Sapati i le aso na tu'ufa'atasia ai le isi meaalofa muamua, o le isi vaega o le to'a 50 Tagata Faigaluega a le Talofa Samoa, le sao o le Vasega Political Science, le vasega Social Science ma le Vasega History a le tatou Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi o Amerika Samoa.

Ua fa'aailoa mai o le anoanoa'i o mea'ai tu'uapa, ma

le tele o ituaiga mea e gaosia ai mea taumafa, o fa'atasi ai mea mata na foa'ia mai e nisi o aiga faifa'ato'aga.

“O le fa'afetai e fa'afetai i le Atua atoa ma so'o se tasi na foa'i i le alofa i e o pagatia ona ua motusia galuega sa maua ai le tamaoiga tausi o latou aiga i lenei vaiatai o le tausaga,” o se tala lea a Tapumanaia.

LAVEA LIMA AVELOLI PUSA OLOA LUGA O LE UAFU

Ua fa'aailoa mai o lo'o taoto i le falema'i o le LBJ i Faga'alu se tasi o aveloli Pusa Oloa tetele a le Peter Reid Stevedoring ina ua afaina lona alofilima ua pa'u tonu i ai le Pusa Oloa tele, [container] ona ua vave ona tu'u atu e le ave lifi le pusaoloa i luga o lana loli toso pusa oloa.

Ua mae'a ona va'aia e le ali'i foma'i o Dr Ladua le lima o lenei sui, ma ua fa'aailoa mai, “E mafai ona toe fa'aleleia lona lima matua ma le lima tusi o lo'o manu'a i le esikegi. E mafai lava ona toe fa'aleleia ivi uma aua e toe tupu lelei lava, ae o le taotoga afai e mana'omia se auai o se tasi o ali'i foma'i fa'apitoa o le ponaivi lea e malaga mai i Shriners, ua fa'afetai fo'i le auai mai i le fa'auiaga o lenei vaiaso.”

O le fa'alavelave na tupu i le aoauli o le aso Lua, ma sa molimauina fo'i e sui o le Samoa News, le tele o le pa'o i le taimi tonu na tupu ai lea esikegi.

“Ua le va'ai mai fo'i le ali'i ave lifi ia te a'u, ua vave ona ia tu'uina i lalo le pusa oloa, ae le'i avatua la'u fa'aailo ua lelei mea uma i la'u loli. Fa'afetai e le o tele se afaina o lo'u lima, ae ua tele fo'i le toto masa'a ma le tiga o ivi. O lea ua fa'aailoa mai e toe mafai ona fa'aleleia, e fa'afetaia ai lea tulaga! O aga lava o le galuega,” o se tala lea a le sui na manu'a i lona aiga sa

(Faaauau itulau 19)

E LE O OE O SE SULI MONI

by Sam - Vaega 98

Na atili ai ona pati pati le motu o tagata aemaise ai le ulugali'i o Meki ma Lucy faapea ai ma matua o Laneseleta i le taimi na vaaia ai le maligi fa'avai ifo i lalo o loimata o Ianeta, ina ia fa'alototeleina ai o ia e fa'aleo sana fa'amatalaga i luma o le aofia.

E le i toe i ai se mea na toe gase poo se isi na toe gagana i le taimi na amata ai le fa'amatalaga a le tama'ita'i o Ianeta. Sa ia faafetai i ona matua fai lea ua avea nei ma ona matua moni, le ulugali'i o Meki ma Lucy, i lo la alolofa fa'amaoni ia te ia ma le naunau e avea o ia ma la tama moni.

"Fa'afetai i lo oulua alolofa i lenei tama'ita'i pologa ma le ola mativa .." Na fa'auau le fa'amatalaga umi a le tama'ita'i e fa'atatau i lona olaga pologa, ma le mafua'aga na ala ai ona avea Lucy ma Meki ma ona matua, ona o le taimi na fa'apologaina ai o ia e le fafine sauua o Mekala, e aofia ai le sasa o ia ao matamata tamaiti aoga, atoa ai ma le lafo atu o upu mamafa e fa'a maasiasi ai o ia i luma o tamaiti aoga, aemaise ai ma lana faiaoga, le fafine o Lucy, lea ua avea nei ma ona Tina.

Na matua maofa tagata sa fa'alogologo i le tulaga pologa sa oo i ai le olaga o Ianeta, e le gata i lona tupu tupu a'e i totonu o le aiga o le fafine milionea o Mekala ma lona to'alua o Pulusi, ae fa'apea fo'i i le taimi na fa'afuase'i ai ona ave fa'agaoi o ia ma faapologa i totonu o le aai o tagata uli, lea o lo o pulea e le Tupu sauua ma le fasioti tagata o Eteuati II.

O se tasi o itu na fia faalogologo i ai le aofia aemaise lava matua o Laneseleta, o le taimi na toe fo'i mai ai Ianeta i ona matua ma maua ai le avanoa e fa'auau ai lana aoga.

Sa na o le pupula to'a o tagata fa'alogologo ao fa'amatala ma loimata e Ianeta le taimi na aga'i atu ai le tamaloa o Meki, o le Leoleo nana sinia lea i totonu o le malo ma lana vaega faapitoa e saili mai o ia mai totonu o le malo o tagata pologa, ae na avea ma itu na pu'e faapagota ai o ia e fitafita a le Tupu sauua o Eteuati II, ma taofia ai o ia i le falepuipui mo le vaiaso atoa e fa'atali

ai le taimi e fa'aoo ai le fa'asalaga o le oti ia te ia, ina ua ia taumafai e foua le malo.

"O se ali'i meauli sa faapologaina fo'i i totonu o le maota o le Tupu o Eteuati, o ia lea sa ia tatalaina le faitoto'a o le fale na loka ai Meki, ma amata mai ai loa iina le solaaga seia oo lava ina la mauaina a'u ma matou o ese mai ai loa mai totonu o le aai o tagata uli .."

O le fa'amatalaga lea a Ianeta na vaaia ai le maligi ifo i lalo o loimata o le tamaloa o Meki, ona ia tu lea i luga ma savali atu ua fusi lona afafine ma musumusuu atu i ai, "Ianeta, aua e te toe mafaufau fua i mea ua tuana'i ma le mafatia o lou mafaufau. Pau lo'u lagona ua i ai, o le loto fiafia ina ua fa'ai'uina ma le manuia lau aoga, ma ua avea fo'i oe o se tama'ita'i ua matua ma aga'i atu i tulaga manuia lou olaga."

O le fa'aiuga o le fa'amatalaga faaumiumi a le tama'ita'i o Ianeta, sa ia fa'afetaia ai loa le ali'i o Laneseleta ma lona loto fesoasoani i le ulua'i taimi na fa'atoa la feiloa'i ma masani ai.

E le gata ua atili ai ona lauiloa o ia e tagata, ae ua mafai ai fo'i ona salalau atu se vaega tele o kopi o lana ulua'i Tusi sa tusia i Fale Tusi eseese a le malo, ma ua oo lava fo'i i aoga eseese uma i totonu e aofia ai aoga mo tamaiti papa'e ma tamaiti uli, ua latou fa'aaogaina uma lana tusi o se vaega o a latou aoga.

"Avea ai fo'i lenei avanoa ou te fa'afetai atu ai i matua o Laneseleta, i lo oulua finagalo malamalama ia te a'u, aua o a'u nei, ua na o se tama'ita'i meauli pologa e le tualofa ma amanaia e tagata.

Ae o lenei aso, a o molimauina e uo ma aiga faapea ai matua, ou te fiafia ai e fa'a'ailoa atu lo'u naunau ina ia avea Laneseleta o se uo mamae ia te a'u, ma ia amata fo'i i le aso nei ona aloaia la maua mafutaga."

O le fa'amatalaga mulimuli lea a Ianeta na vaaia ai le tau fai fiafia o la aiganalua ina ua aloaia le lau faigauo i luma o uo valaaulia ma matua, ma ua vavala mai ai fo'i ma le tulaga manuia o lona olaga i le lumana'i, ina ua mafai ona fa'auo atu o ia i le ali'i o milionea o Laneseleta.



O le afioga le Fa'amasino Lagolago, Satele Lili'o ma le faletua - le fa'atonusili o le TAOA - Evelyn Satele ma o la'ua alo o lo'o malaga i Samoa ina ia tapua'ia faiva o le ali'i talavou o lo'o tauva ma auai i le au Alo Va'a a Amerika Samoa lea e tauva i Samoa. Ua fa'a'ailoa mai e to'a 12 i latou o malaga atu, o ia lava lea e fa'ato'a tu'ua le atunu'u. Ia o ou mama na!

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

► Tala i Vaifanua...

Mai itulau 18

auai atu ia te ia i le falema'i.

Ua mae'a asia fo'i e le ali'i pule sili o le Kamupani le sui ua afaina, ma ua fa'a'ailoa ia te ia, o lo'o lelei mea uma e tausia ai o ia i le falema'i fa'atasi ma lona aiga ona ua fa'amanu'alia a'o faia tiute e ao ina fa'atino.

Afai na fa'ataunu'u i le aso

Lulu ona faia le taotoga o le a'ao o lea sui, ua fa'a'ailoa mai e Dr. Ladua, "E mafai lava ona te'a i tua i le aso Gafua, pe a sologa lelei lona taotoga. Ae lelei fo'i o le a asia lava e i latou ma foma'i Shriners le taotoga na faia mo se latou tala mai, po'o atoatoa ona lelei."



O se va'aiga i le tu'ufa'atasiga o le foa'i a le Matafao Elementary School i Faga'alu mo i latou o lo'o motusia galuega a latou matua i lenei vaiata. Na faia lea foa'i i le aso Lulu na te'a nei.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



FILE - In this Aug. 11, 2016, file photo, United States' Aly Raisman performs on the balance beam during the artistic gymnastics women's individual all-around final at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Six-time Olympic medalist Aly Raisman, 23, has set the stage for what she believes is the next chapter in her life: as a spokesperson for victims of sexual abuse. The 23-year-old detailed her own history of abuse by a former USA Gymnastics team doctor in her recently released autobiography. Raisman says the book is just the beginning in her quest to bring change to her sport.

(AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell, File)

Raisman embraces role as 'Fierce' advocate for abuse victims

The people come forward to Aly Raisman almost daily now. Random strangers. Men and women of various ages, races and backgrounds. They see the six-time Olympic medal-winning gymnast out in public and approach with a hug to give and a story to tell.

It was jarring at first, if Raisman is being honest. When she pitched her autobiography "Fierce" to publishers last summer shortly after the 2016 Olympics, she intended to focus on her journey from tenacious prodigy to champion. And while all of that is in there, the part of her experience that's resonated the most since the book's release earlier this month is the one she wasn't sure she'd be able to share.

It's Chapter 22, titled "The Survivors." In it, Raisman outlines how she was abused by former national team doctor Larry Nassar, how he "groomed" her by presenting himself as a friendly ear and how she feels he was empowered to continue over the course of years by those in charge at USA Gymnastics.

Raisman spent weeks working on the section, revisiting it again and again, trying to get it just right. Or at least as close to right as she can get.

"I put in a ton of thought whether how I wanted to come forward about this," Raisman told The Associated Press. "What I realized at the end of the day is that I want change and I want people to understand what exactly abuse is. It's very complicated. It's very confusing. I didn't know that I was being abused because I was manipulated so horribly."

In the process, Raisman discovered the abuse Nassar committed against other female athletes — including allegations from Olympic teammates McKayla Maroney and Gabby Douglas — is a very small part of a much larger problem that extends far beyond the actions of just one man. It's why she took those painful memories and put them on paper, to share with the world that, as she says over and over again: "It's not OK. It's never OK."

The 23-year-old's new calling makes thinking about a return to competition in time for the 2020 Olympics seem trivial.

"This is the focus," Raisman said.


A focus that has turned her into an unexpected symbol of strength for others who share their experiences.

"Unfortunately sexual abuse is far too common," Raisman said. "I've realized how many people are affected by it and it's disgusting. That's why I want change."

Raisman has become an increasingly outspoken critic

of USA Gymnastics, blaming the governing body for a lack of oversight on Nassar's conduct. The 54-year-old spent nearly 20 years as the team doctor for the U.S. women's elite program, often working with athletes one on one. Raisman declined to get into specifics about the abuse she was subjected to, but her experience falls in line with what many other have claimed against Nassar: that he touched them inappropriately while describing it as proper treatment. Nassar pleaded guilty to multiple charges of sexual assault in Michigan on Wednesday and will face at least 25 years in prison. He still faces additional criminal charges and has been named in more than 125 civil lawsuits filed by former athletes. Nassar's downfall began following reporting by the Indianapolis Star in 2016 that highlighted chronic mishandling of abuse allegations against coaches and staff at some of USA Gymnastics' more than 3,500 clubs across the country. Raisman has not taken any legal action against Nassar, though she's not ruling it out. Her larger concern is educating young athletes and their parents on the warning signs while loudly clamoring for change. She has seen a familiar pattern repeat itself over the last 18 months: another gymnast comes out claiming abuse by Nassar, and USA Gymnastics follows with a news release attributed to no specific individual that praises them for their courage.

One of the most decorated Olympic athletes of her generation doesn't just want words. She wants action. USA Gymnastics has taken several steps in recent months. President and CEO Steve Penny resigned under pressure in March and was replaced by Kerry Perry, who takes over on Dec. 1. The organization hired Toby Stark, a child welfare advocate, as its director of SafeSport over the summer. Part of Stark's mandate is educating members on rules, educational programs and reporting. The federation also adopted over 70 recommendations by Deborah Daniels, a former federal prosecutor who oversaw an extensive independent review. It's not enough for Raisman. She points out Penny wasn't fired but instead forced out. Though Nassar's relationship with USA Gymnastics officially ended in 2015 after an athlete came forward about potential abuse, he was still allowed to continue working at Michigan State University while also volunteering at a USA Gymnastics-affiliated club. "That is just unacceptable to me," Raisman said. "(That gym) is a part of USA Gymnastics."



**AMERICAN SAMOA
POWER AUTHORITY**

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

PUBLIC JOB POSTING

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

Major Duties & Responsibilities

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

Minimum Requirements

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

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

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3 get prison in strangling death of alleged overdose victim

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — Three people who pleaded guilty in the death of a man strangled with a pair of jumper cables and dumped over an embankment after an apparent overdose are headed to prison. Authorities say 20-year-old Preston Layfield and 23-year-old Tyler Mirabelli were sentenced Wednesday to 20 to 40 years in prison. The third defendant, 21-year-old Amanda Wayda, was sentenced to 15 to 40 years.

Layfield pleaded guilty in August to third-degree murder, while Mirabelli and Wayda each pleaded guilty to third-degree murder as an accomplice. Authorities say the three drove 21-year-old Joshua Rose to Susquehanna County in August 2016 after the apparent overdose, and passed by a hospital. Rose was then strangled and his body was dumped. The coroner ruled his death homicide by asphyxiation.

Corrections officer severely hurt in Kansas City jail attack

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A jail inmate in Kansas City, Missouri, has been charged with first-degree assault and armed criminal action after authorities say he attacked a corrections officer, critically injuring him. The Jackson County prosecutor's office says court documents show 20-year-old Johnny R. Dunlap attacked the officer with a plastic cone and other objects Wednesday night at the Jackson County Detention Center. The name of the officer, who is in a hospital as a result of his injuries, hasn't been released. The prosecutor's office says the officer was unconscious during most of the assault and he suffered fractured facial and nasal bones. Prosecutors want Dunlap's bond set at \$250,000 for the attack. Dunlap faces up to life in prison if convicted. Online court records did not list an attorney for him Thursday.

Study to look at long-term health risks of playing soccer

LONDON (AP) — A major study into whether soccer players are at risk of degenerative brain disease was commissioned on Thursday amid concerns that the sport's authorities in England haven't done enough to tackle the issue. The Football Association and Professional Footballers' Association appointed an independent research team, based in Scotland, to undertake a study entitled "Football's Influence on Lifelong Health and Dementia Risk" from January 2018. "This new research will be one of the most comprehensive studies ever commissioned into the long-term health of former footballers," FA chief executive Martin Glenn said. "Dementia can have a devastating effect and, as the governing body of English football, we felt compelled to commission a significant new study in order to fully understand if there are any potential risks associated with playing the game." Researchers will address the question: "Is the incidence of degenerative neurocognitive disease more common in ex-professional footballers than in the normal population?" The study should produce initial results within the next two to three years. The issue regarding a potential threat of long-term brain damage to former players was given a bigger profile this month when former England captain. Alan Shearer fronted a BBC documentary, in which he expressed concerns about the effects of heading a ball during his career. The FA has been criticized for its apparent lack of interest into understanding whether heading a football is linked to dementia. Among those wanting more research undertaken is the family of ex-England and West Bromwich Albion striker Jeff Astle, who died in 2002 from brain injuries.



HEALTH SURVEY 2017

The Department of Human and Social Services and the Department of Health are working together to conduct a very important survey in the community.

This entails surveying a selection of adults ages 18 and older from each county. Adults will be selected based upon a random sample of electric meters of households throughout the island.

Representatives in blue will be out to identify electric meters, collect vitals signs and other information that relate to general and mental health.

By taking this survey, you are helping to paint a picture of health for our people.

If you are selected to participate, please help us to address the health needs of American Samoa by consenting to take part in the survey. For more information contact DHSS at 633-1157 or DOH at 633-1602.

Villages to be surveyed: Fagatogo, Utulei, Gataivai, Fagaalu, Malaeimi, Mapusaga, Mesepa, Nu'uuli & Tafuna.





AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY
Materials Management Office

PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
 American Samoa 96799
 Phone No.: (684) 248-1234
 bids@aspower.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA18.002.ESD-WTR
 Issuance Date: November 24, 2017

Closing Date & Time: December 20, 2017
 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

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

“Faga’alu Surface Water System”

Submission

An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **“RFP No. ASPA 18.002.ESD-WTR Fagaalu Surface Water System.”** Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Wednesday, December 20, 2017:**

Procurement Office
 American Samoa Power Authority
 P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
 Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

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

Document

The RFP package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA’s New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

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

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director

Bannon insurgency stresses loyalty to Trump, not policy test

WAUKESHA, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Senate candidate Kevin Nicholson, a consultant for Fortune 500 companies, doesn’t look much like the renegade outsiders whom political strategist Steve Bannon says he’s recruiting for his war on the Republican establishment. But Nicholson has Bannon’s backing anyway, thanks to his loyalty to President Donald Trump.

As Bannon drafts his team of challengers to the old guard, the new guard is increasingly aligned not by ideology, but by its history of support for the president. Republicans who have criticized the president or been slow to embrace him are out.

One particular test for the Breitbart News chairman and former Trump White House strategist is how such Republicans reacted during the campaign to the 2005 “Access Hollywood” video showing Trump bragging about sexually imposing himself on women. Those who kept quiet about it or stuck with him earn Bannon’s favor now even if it means looking the other way on some policy positions and affiliations. Nicholson, for example, has backing from wealthy free-trade advocates, an awkward policy fit with Trump’s economic nationalism.

“If you were never-Trump, refused to ever endorse the president or withdrew your endorsement following ‘Access Hollywood’ weekend, don’t even bother walking through Bannon’s door,” said Bannon adviser Andy Surabian.

Bannon hopes chiefly to topple Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whom he has blamed for obstructing Trump’s agenda, especially efforts to dismantle Barack Obama’s 2010 health care law. Bannon has threatened to find a Republican primary opponent for almost every GOP senator seeking reelection in 2018.

“The United States Senate in particular has done, I think, a terrible job in supporting President Trump,” Bannon told the California Republican convention last month.

In Wisconsin, state Sen. Leah Vukmir is opposing Nicholson for the GOP’s U.S. Senate nomination. In last year’s presidential campaign, she first supported Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s short campaign before shifting to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. She helped record a pro-Trump radio ad a week before the election — perhaps too little, too late, in Bannon’s eyes.

“The voters know I have been a supporter of Donald Trump,” she told The Associated Press last month.





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IN THE COMMUNITY
(Photos: Evaga)



This undated photo provided by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shows Craig Richard Coley. Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, pardoned Coley, a man convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend and her 4-year-old son nearly four decades ago after modern DNA tests suggested he was probably innocent. Coley, 70, has consistently maintained his innocence since he was arrested the same day 24-year-old Rhonda Wicht and her 4-year-old son, Donald Wicht, were found dead in her Simi Valley apartment on Nov. 11, 1978.

(California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation via AP)

Man freed decades after double killing that rocked LA suburb

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Simi Valley was a sleepy Southern California suburb in 1979, one frequently ranked near the top of surveys of America's safest cities — in large part because hundreds of police officers from nearby Los Angeles lived there.

The city, however, was shaken when residents awoke on Nov. 11, 1978, to learn of the slaying of a 24-year-old woman and her 4-year-old son. Rhonda Wicht had been strangled and her son, Donald, smothered in his bed.

Wicht's former boyfriend, Craig Richard Coley, was arrested on the same day police found the bodies and eventually convicted.

For the next 39 years he steadfastly maintained that he had never killed anyone. Earlier this week, the police chief and district attorney indicated they believed him. On Wednesday he was pardoned by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Coley, now 70, walked out of a high desert prison just hours before Thanksgiving, becoming the latest of numerous prisoners to be freed after advanced forensic technology that analyzes DNA showed they either didn't commit the crime or someone else did.

Neither Coley nor a representative for him could be immediately located.

In an application for clemency that Coley himself filed from prison four years ago, he said a former police detective had framed him by destroying crucial evidence.

"The crimes were not committed by me and had the detective not destroyed the exonerating evidence (including semen and hair), the real suspect(s) could have been apprehended," Coley said. He named a retired Simi Valley police detective he said could corroborate his story.

On Monday, Simi Valley Police Chief David Livingstone and Ventura County District Attorney Gregory Totten told reporters they had begun reviewing Coley's case last year after a retired detective expressed concerns about the conviction. "As district attorney, I must tell you I look forward to the day when I can shake Mr. Coley's hand, apologize to him for the injustice he suffered," Totten said.

The trial judge had ordered evidence destroyed after Coley exhausted his appeals, but investigators retrieved records from Coley's relatives and located biological samples at a private lab.

Using advanced techniques not available at the time of his trial, technicians didn't find Coley's DNA on a key piece of evidence used to convict him. Instead they found DNA from other people, whom authorities have not publicly named. The evidence was not identified.

"I am also hopeful," Totten said, "that one day soon we will bring to justice the violent man responsible for this most horrific crime."

Coley's arrest was a media sensation in Simi Valley in 1978, when the population of 75,000 was half what it is now. Some public officials complained at the time that newspapers seemed to be attempting to exonerate him in stories that suggested someone else might be involved.

The 24-year-old restaurant manager and son of a retired police officer had never been in trouble. But authorities maintained Coley was angry and despondent after learning Wicht was breaking up with him.

She was strangled, apparently with a macrame rope, and her son was suffocated. Their bodies were found in their apartment.

Coley's first trial resulted in a hung jury, with jurors split 10-2 in favor of conviction. He was tried again in 1980, found guilty and sentenced to life without parole.

During his decades in prison Coley was cited as a model inmate, avoiding gangs and violence and embracing religion.

"The grace with which Mr. Coley has endured this lengthy and unjust incarceration is extraordinary," Brown wrote in his pardon.

The governor said he asked the state parole board more than two years ago to look into Coley's conviction. He said former law-enforcement officials believed Coley was either wrongfully convicted or framed. "This case is tragic," Livingstone and Totten said in a news release. "An innocent woman and small child were murdered. Craig Coley has spent 39 years in custody for a crime he likely did not commit."



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Congressional Russia probes likely to head into 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Republicans are hoping lawmakers will soon wrap up investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 election that have dragged on for most of the year. But with new details in the probe emerging almost daily, that seems unlikely.

Three congressional committees are investigating Russian interference and whether President Donald Trump's campaign was in any way involved. The panels have obtained thousands of pages of documents from Trump's campaign and other officials, and have done dozens of interviews.

The probes are separate from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. Mueller can prosecute for criminal activity, while Congress can only lay out findings, publicize any perceived wrongdoing and pass legislation to try to keep problems from happening again. If any committee finds evidence of criminal activity, it must refer the matter to Mueller.

All three committees have focused on a June 2016 meeting that Trump campaign officials held in Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer and others. They are also looking into outreach by several other Russians to the campaign, including involvement of George Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty this month to lying to the FBI as part of Mueller's probe. New threads continue to emerge, such as a recent revelation that Donald Trump Jr. was messaging with WikiLeaks, the website that leaked emails from top Democratic officials during the campaign.

A look at the committees that are investigating, and the status of their work when they return from their Thanksgiving break:

SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

The Senate intelligence panel, which has been the most bipartisan in its approach, has interviewed more than 100 people, including most of those attending the Trump Tower meeting. Chairman Richard Burr of North Carolina and the panel's top Democrat, Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, have said they plan to bring in Donald Trump Jr. The president's son was one of several Trump campaign officials in the meeting.

The committee has looked broadly at the issue of interference, and called in executives from Facebook, Twitter and Google, pushing them to take steps to prevent Russian election meddling on their platforms. Warner told The Associated Press the committee is still looking for more information from those companies, which were initially reluctant to

cooperate.

Burr has said that he wants to wrap up the probe by early spring, when congressional primaries begin. While there are many areas of bipartisan agreement on the meddling, it's unclear whether all members will agree to the final report. It's also unclear if the report will make a strong statement on whether the Trump campaign colluded in any way with Russia.

Warner said it's plain there were "unprecedented contacts" as Russians reached out to the Trump campaign but what's not established is collusion.

HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

In the House, Democrats hope the intelligence committee can remain focused on the Russia probe as the panel's GOP chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, and other Republicans have launched new, separate investigations into Democrat Hillary Clinton and a uranium deal during President Barack Obama's administration. Nunes stepped back from the Russia probe in April after criticism that he was too close to the White House, but remains chairman of the committee.

Some Republicans on the panel have grown restless with the probe, saying it has amounted to a fishing expedition and pushing for it to end. Still, the committee has continued to interview dozens of witnesses involved with the Trump campaign, among them several participants in the 2016 meeting. On Nov. 30, the panel will interview Attorney General Jeff Sessions behind closed doors. Lawmakers are interested in Sessions' knowledge about interactions between Trump campaign aides and Russians, and also his own contacts.

The top Democrat on the panel, California Rep. Adam Schiff, told AP the committee has multiple interviews before the New Year. He said the Republican investigations into Clinton and Obama could be "an enormous time drain," but they have not yet fully organized. He says the committee must be thorough and he doesn't believe the Russia investigation should end soon.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The Senate Judiciary Committee has also divided along partisan lines as Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the panel's top Democrat, haven't agreed on some interviews and subpoenas. But as in the House, the panel has proceeded anyway, conducting bipartisan, closed-door interviews with several people who were in the 2016 meeting.



AP source: Flynn lawyers make a break with Trump team

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for former national security adviser Michael Flynn have told President Donald Trump's legal team that they are no longer communicating with them about special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference. The decision could be a sign that Flynn is moving to cooperate with Mueller's investigation or negotiate a deal for himself. Flynn's legal team communicated the decision this week, said a person familiar with the move who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation. In large criminal investigations, defense lawyers routinely share information with each other. But it can become unethical to continue such communication if one of the potential targets is looking to negotiate a deal with prosecutors. Robert Kelner, a lawyer for Flynn, didn't respond to a request for comment Thursday. A lawyer for Flynn's son, Michael Flynn Jr., who has also come under investigation from Mueller's team of prosecutors, declined to comment. The New York Times first reported the decision.

Flynn was forced to resign as national security adviser in February after White House officials concluded that he had misled them about the nature of his contacts during the transition period with the Russian ambassador to the United States.

He was interviewed by the FBI in January about his communications with the ambassador, Sergey Kislyak. The deputy attorney general at the time, Sally Yates, soon advised White House officials that their public assertions that Flynn had not discussed sanctions with Kislyak were incorrect and that Flynn was therefore in a compromised position.

Flynn was facing a Justice Department investigation over his foreign business dealings even before Mueller was appointed as special counsel in May to investigate potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election. Mueller has since inherited that investigation.


Flynn, a prominent Trump backer on the campaign trail, has been a key figure in Mueller's probe and of particular interest to Trump. Former FBI Director James Comey, for instance, said that Trump encouraged him to end an FBI investigation into Flynn during a private Oval Office meeting in February. In addition to scrutinizing Flynn's contacts with Russia during the transition and campaign, Mueller has been investigating the retired U.S. Army lieutenant general's

role in \$530,000 worth of lobbying work his now-defunct firm performed for a Turkish businessman during the final months of the 2016 presidential campaign. The lobbying campaign sought to gather derogatory information on Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish cleric and green-card holder living in Pennsylvania. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused Gulen of being behind a botched coup and has sought his extradition. Gulen has denied the allegations, and U.S. officials have rebuffed Turkey's extradition demands, citing a lack of evidence.

Flynn and his firm, Flynn Intel Group, carried out the lobbying and research work for several months, meeting with officials from the U.S. and Turkish governments.



FILE - In this Feb. 1, 2017 file photo, National Security Adviser Michael Flynn speaks during the daily news briefing at the White House, in Washington. A lawyer for former national security adviser Flynn has told President Donald Trump's legal team that they are no longer communicating with them about special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference, according to a person familiar with the decision who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)



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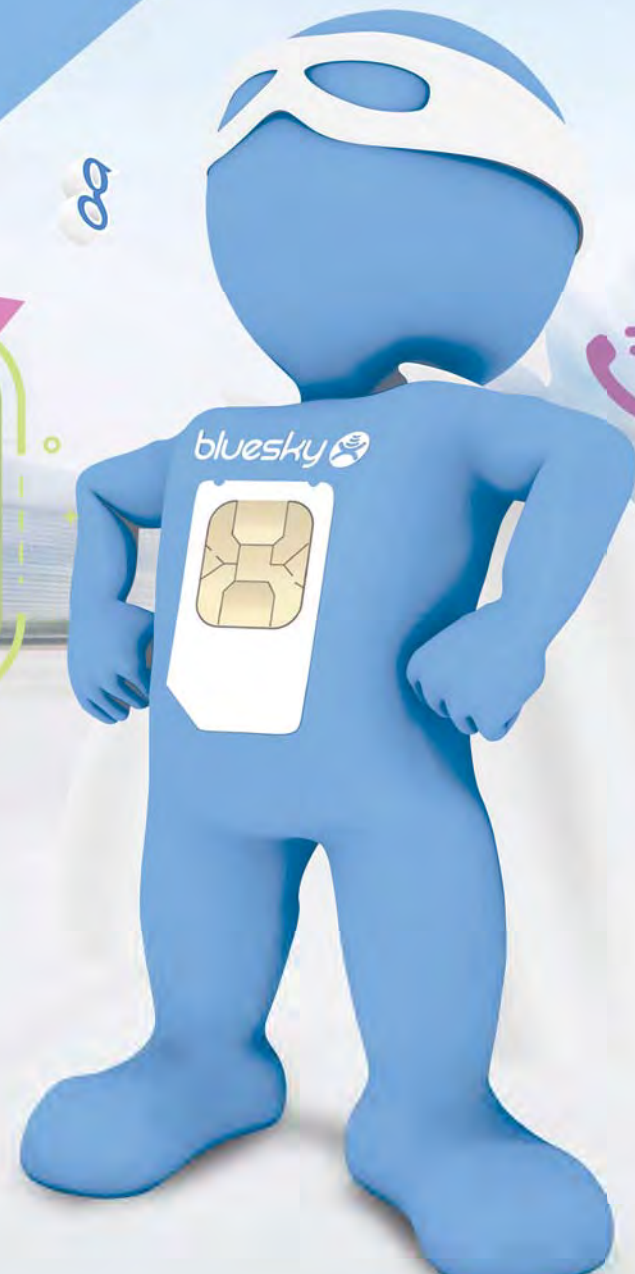
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Macy's Thanksgiving parade revels on amid tight security

NEW YORK (AP) — The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade featured balloons, bands, stars and heavy security in a year marked by attacks on outdoor gathering spots.

With new faces and old favorites in the lineup, the Americana extravaganza made its way through 2 1/2 miles (3.22 kilometers) of Manhattan on a cold morning.

"The crowds are still the same, but there's a lot more police here. That's the age we live in," Paul Seyforth said as he attended the parade he'd watched since the 1950s.

"Not a lot's changed — the balloons, the bands, the floats — and that's the good thing," said Seyforth, 76, who'd flown in from Denver to spend his 50th wedding anniversary in New York and see this year's parade.

The televised parade was proceeding smoothly, though about midway through, a gust of wind on a largely calm day blew a candy-cane balloon into a tree branch, and it popped near the start of the route on Manhattan's Upper West Side. No one was injured.

In 2005, one of the parade's signature giant balloons caught a gust, hit a Times Square lamp-post and injured two people. The candy cane was smaller than the giant balloons.

Timothy McMillian and his wife, their 9-year-old daughter and his in-laws started staking out a spot along the route at 6:30 a.m. They'd come from Greensboro, North Carolina, to see in person the spectacle they'd watched on TV for years.

McMillian, a 45-year-old schoolteacher, booked a hotel months ago, but he started to have some concerns about security when a truck attack on a bike path near the World Trade Center killed eight people on Halloween.

"With the event being out in the open like this, we were concerned," he said. "But we knew security would be ramped up today, and we have full confidence in the NYPD."

Authorities say there is no confirmation of a credible threat to the parade, but they were taking no chances after both the truck attack and the October shooting that killed 58 people at a Las Vegas country music festival.

Four activists jumped over barriers and briefly sat down in the street at about 9:10 a.m. to protest the end of a program that extended protections to immigrants brought illegally to the U.S. as children, according to a spokesman for activist group Cosecha. Police quickly escorted them back. No one was

arrested and the parade was not delayed.

New York Police Department officers with assault weapons and portable radiation detectors were circulating among the crowds, sharpshooters were on rooftops and sand-filled city sanitation trucks were poised as imposing barriers to traffic at every cross street. Officers also were escorting each of the giant balloons.

The mayor and police brass have repeatedly stressed that visitors shouldn't be deterred. And Bekki Grinnell certainly wasn't.

"When your kid from Alaska is marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, you come," said Grinnell, whose daughter was marching with the band from Colony High School in Palmer, Alaska.

Grinnell said she wasn't worried about security because of the police presence: "I think we're in a safe spot."

Other parade-goers also showed their appreciation for police:

The NYPD marching band and a group of mounted officers got some of the biggest cheers from spectators lined up as many as 15 deep along barricades. Among other crowd favorites: as did the SpongeBob SquarePants balloon.

The 91st annual parade featured new balloons including Olaf from the Disney movie "Frozen" and Chase from the TV cartoon "Paw Patrol" will be among the new balloons Thursday, along with a new version of the Grinch of Dr. Seuss fame.

Smokey Robinson, The Roots, Flo Rida and Wyclef Jean were among the stars celebrating, along with performances from the casts of Broadway's "Anastasia," "Dear Evan Hansen" and "SpongeBob SquarePants." The lineup included a dozen marching bands, as well as the high-kicking Radio City Music Hall Rockettes — and, of course, Santa Claus.

"This is my favorite thing ever," musician Questlove told The Associated Press as he got ready to ride the Gibson Guitars float with his bandmates in The Roots and late-night host Jimmy Fallon of "The Tonight Show," where The Roots are the house band. Questlove said being in the parade is "probably my favorite perk" of the job.

"To go from being a spectator to being up here, it's kinda cool," he said.

Added singer-songwriter Andy Grammer as he got on the Homewood Suites float: "It's kind of like being at the center of Thanksgiving."

The Olaf balloon glides over Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017. (AP Photo/Craig Ruttler)



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First lady Melania Trump listens as her husband, President Donald Trump, speaks to members of the U.S. Coast Guard at the Lake Worth Inlet Station, on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017, in Riviera Beach, Fla. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Trump credits troops, and himself, for military advances

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump thanked U.S. troops for their service on Thursday, assuring them “we’re really winning” against America’s foes as he celebrated Thanksgiving at his private club in Florida and provided lunch for Coast Guard men and women on duty for the holiday.

Using the occasion to pat himself on the back, Trump told deployed military members via a video conference that they’ve achieved more progress in Afghanistan and against the Islamic State group under his watch than had been made in years of the previous administration.

“Everybody’s talking about the progress you’ve made in the last few months since I opened it up,” he told the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, whose members are conducting operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan. “We’re being talked about again as an armed force — we’re really winning.”

Speaking from a gilded room at his Mar-a-Lago club, Trump said: “We’re not fighting anymore to just walk around, we’re fighting to win, and you people are really, you’ve turned it around over the last three to four months like nobody’s seen, and they are talking about it, so thank you very much.”

Turning to the 74th Expeditionary Fighters Squadron based at the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, Trump suggested the Obama administration hadn’t allowed soldiers on the ground to do their jobs.

“They say we’ve made more progress against ISIS than they did in years of the previous administration,” he said. “And that’s because I’m letting you do your job.”

Throughout the day — at events and on Twitter — Trump boasted about the economy’s performance since he took office, pointing to recent stock market gains and the unemployment rate, along with his efforts to scale back regulations and boost military spending.

“So you’re fighting for something real, you’re fighting for something good,” he told the service members

Trump and his wife, Melania, also made a trip to a

nearby Coast Guard station in Riviera Beach, Florida, where they delivered a lunch of turkey sandwiches, giant muffins, heaping baskets of fruit, chips and cookies to men and women on duty for the holidays.

During his remarks, Trump, singled out the service for its hurricane relief efforts during Harvey and the other storms that battered the country earlier this year.

“There’s no brand that went up more than the Coast Guard,” Trump told them “What a job you’ve done.”

Trump praised the superiority of U.S. military equipment, too, yet said he tries to make sure that equipment the U.S. sells abroad — even to allies — is not quite as good as that kept at home.

“I always say, make ours a little bit better,” Trump said. “Keep about 10 percent in the bag.” He added: “You never know about an ally. An ally can turn.”

Among the equipment admired by Trump is the F-35 stealth fighter jet, which he recalled asking “Air Force guys” about once.

“In a fight, you know a fight like I watch on the movies ... how good is it?” he recalled asking. “They said, ‘Well, it wins every time because the enemy cannot see it, even if it’s right next to it,’” Trump recounted, prompting laughs.

The F-35, plagued by development problems and cost overruns, is in fact not invisible to people nearby. Its stealth technology is designed to evade detection by radar and other sensors.

At the earlier video conference, Trump cleared the room of press after about 10 minutes so he could have “very confidential, personal conversations” with those on the line.

Borrowing a line from his “Apprentice” days, he told the reporters “You’re fired,” then wished them a happy Thanksgiving, too. On the Trumps’ own Thanksgiving menu for family and friends at Mar-a-Lago: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, red snapper, Florida stone crab, baked goods, local produce and cheeses, and a selection of cakes and pies for dessert.



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) RFQ-018-2018

Issuance Date: November 13, 2017

Date & Time Due: December 13, 2017

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

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

“Design of Pago Pago International Airport - Parking Lot Expansion”

Submission

Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFQ: Design of Pago Pago International Airport - Parking Lot Expansion.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), December 13, 2017:

**Office of Procurement
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO**

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

Document

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

Review

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

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Government or the public, as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government or the public.

Oreta Mapu Crichton
DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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Thanksgiving feasts in Texas cater to refugees, the homeless

DALLAS (AP) — Seven years ago, Samira Page and a small group of fellow refugees sat around her table where the guests experienced their first traditional American Thanksgiving Day feast.

This year, the Iranian native invited about 400 refugees for the meal that has outgrown her home and become an annual event.

“For some of these people, this is their first Thanksgiving. We have refugees who have been here less than a month. And we have some who have been here five years,” said Page, founder and executive director of Gateway of Grace, a Christian outreach ministry for refugees.

The guests at her feast are from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. Elsewhere in Texas, communities served Thanksgiving meals to the homeless and victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Page’s own journey came 19 years ago, when she traveled from Iran to Turkey, to Mexico, to the United States. She converted to Christianity and studied for the ministry at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

One of her outreach methods is to present traditional feasts, including Christmas and Easter. But she starts with Thanksgiving.

“Imagine being brand new in a country at the start of the holidays,” Page said. “No extended

family, no one to share it with. And every day you see people and stores gear up for a celebration you’re no part of.”

What started with four or five fellow refugees gathered around her dining room table for turkey and sides seven years ago has grown to fill the parish hall of St. John’s Episcopal Church near White Rock Lake in northeastern Dallas.

Some of the refugees are not accustomed to the taste of turkey, Page said, so she serves them an alternative: chicken.

Other Thanksgiving feasts in Texas cater to the homeless and residents still recovering from Harvey, which made landfall in the state as a Category 4 hurricane on Aug. 25 and brought massive flooding.

In Southeast Texas, the Cajun Army emergency volunteer group prepared hundreds of meals in Houston and Orange for families still without kitchen facilities because of damage from Harvey.

The annual Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Day Dinner prepared more than 25,000 meals Thursday in San Antonio. The first Jimenez Thanksgiving dinner served about 100 dinners in 1979.

In Austin, Operation Turkey provided about 40,000 Thanksgiving meals to the homeless.

Houston held the Thanksgiving Superfeast for about 10,000 homeless people outside City Hall.



Elizabeth Luna receives a plate of food during the 38th annual Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio on Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017. The event is named after a restaurateur and businessman who started the event in 1979.

(Billy Calzada/The San Antonio Express-News via AP)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Academic Affairs

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSTRUCTOR**

Employment Status: **10 Months Full Time/Career Service**

General Description:

The Health and Human Services Department supports and prepares students who are interested in pursuing a career and majoring in the fields of allied health or human services. The department offers an Associate degree in Health, Human Services, a Certificate of Proficiency in Guidance and Counseling, and a Certificate of Proficiency in Public Health for students who plan to transfer to a four year institution off-island or seek local employment in the related professions. The Health and Human Services Department is directly under the Academic Affairs Division and supervised by the Chairperson.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Collect, prepare, and present instructional materials for all classes taught
- Prepare and distribute all syllabi / outlines in a timely manner, as requested by the Academic Affairs.
- Teach a full instructional load of 15 credit hours or 225 instructional contact hours per semester. Note that loads may vary between 14 and 16 credit hours per semester.
- Teach each class as scheduled and supervise examinations, field trips, internships, service learning activities, and practicum
- Maintain attendance and scholastic records, and submit the required records to the Admissions and Records Office at the assigned date every semester/session.
- Develop, implement, and assess Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each course taught.
- Use data collected from taught on SLOs to share with department and other college stakeholders, and provide recommendations for improvement of student learning.
- Participate as an active member in the Student Learning Outcome (SLO) review process
- Participate in the different levels of student learning outcome review, program review, and student assessment.
- Academically advise assigned students regarding their chosen program of study
- Assist and provide students with information on career, academic referrals, and transfer opportunities
- Assist with the registration process. Participate in faculty orientation, commencement exercises, and professional development activities.
- Post and maintain class schedules and office hours for student assistance
- Provide safety measures and fully exercise the enforcement of these measures in the classrooms
- Actively participate and contribute to any college committee and extra-curricular functions
- Assist and enforce all college rules and regulations
- Perform other duties assigned by the Department Chairperson or the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Minimum Requirements:

- Master’s Degree in Health related disciplines (Medicine, Nursing, or Public Health).
- All credentials must be from a U.S accredited institution.
- Three (3) years of teaching experience at a two or four year university/college.
- Must be computer literate.

Salary: Salary to be commensurate with experience, qualification, and credentials.

Application Deadline: December 01, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 ext. 428/441/429, online at <http://www.amsamoa.edu/employmentopportunities.html> or by email at ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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Texas state trooper shot and killed; suspect being sought

FAIRFIELD, Texas (AP) — Authorities say a Texas state trooper has been killed and they’re looking for a man in connection to the shooting.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said on Twitter that the shooting occurred before 4 p.m. Thursday on Interstate 45 south of Fairfield, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of Dallas. The agency said the suspect shot and killed the trooper with a rifle during a traffic stop. The suspect then

fled the scene.

The trooper has not been identified.

Hours later, the Waller County Sheriff’s Office said the suspect’s vehicle was spotted in Hempstead, more than 100 miles (161 kilometers) south of Fairfield. Waller County authorities said shots were fired, but did not indicate who opened fire.

Authorities from multiple agencies are searching for the suspect.



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Honduras president seeks 2nd term despite constitutional ban

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Less than a decade ago, even talk of re-election was enough to get a Honduran president overthrown.

Now Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez appears likely to win a second term on Sunday as well as bolstering the strength of his conservative National Party across the board.

“Hernandez is not just trying to win presidential re-election, he’s trying to expand his power from top to bottom, including in the legislature and at the mayoral level,” said James Bosworth, the founder of Hxagon, a consulting firm that does predictive analysis in emerging markets.

Fears of just that sort of consolidation — but by leftist rivals — led Hernandez’s own party to back a military coup in 2009 against a president it accused of plotting to violate Honduras’ seemingly iron-clad constitutional ban on re-election.

The country’s highest court backed the 2009 ouster of Manuel Zelaya. But the current court — packed with Hernandez’ supporters — ruled in 2015 that the constitution could

not prevent him from running again — outraging opposition leaders.

“This ruling was a betrayal of the country,” said union leader Carlos H. Reyes. “It is humiliating to live in a country where a dictatorship that answers to the oligarchy is trying to install itself.”

Some opposition leaders formed the leftist Opposition Alliance Against Dictatorship precisely to oppose the re-election bid. The Alliance is running Salvador Nasralla, while the traditional Liberal Party is running Luis Zelaya, a middle-of-the-road candidate. There are another six candidates from tiny opposition parties, but the president remains the clear front-runner.

His popularity is based largely on a drop in violence in a country whose homicide rate was once among the world’s worst. The country’s National Autonomous University says the homicide rate has dropped to 59 per 100,000 from a dizzying high of 91.6 in 2011.

Still, Hondurans among the hemisphere’s poorest people, and even if killings have tapered off somewhat, street gang violence

has frightened many people into trying to flee to the United States.

And corruption remains a major problem for Honduras, casting a shadow across Hernandez’s administration.

A convicted drug trafficker testified in a New York courtroom this year that he met with Hernandez’ brother Antonio to get the Central American country’s government to pay its debts to a company that the trafficker’s cartel used to launder money.

Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga, ex-leader of the cartel known the Cachiros, testified that Antonio Hernandez asked him for a bribe in exchange for government contracts. The brother has denied that allegation.

And in September, the son of a former president from Hernandez’s party, Porfirio Lobo was sentenced in New York to 24 years in prison after revealing his role in a cocaine trafficking conspiracy. Fabio Lobo, 46, pleaded guilty in May 2016, admitting he worked with drug traffickers and Honduran police to ship cocaine into the United States.



FILE - In this June 14, 2017, file photo, Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, about the incident where House Majority Whip Steve Scalise of La., and others, were shot during a Congressional baseball practice. Barton is apologizing after a nude photo of him circulated on social media. Barton released a statement on Nov. 22 to the Texas Tribune acknowledging that while separated from his second wife, prior to their divorce, he had sexual relationships “with other mature adult women.” (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

BEACH ADVISORY



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
AS-EPA

Supporting efforts to clean our shores

Release Date: November 22, 2017

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

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on November 14, 2017, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

Fagatogo Stream Mouth
Fagasa Beach

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

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

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

Governor’s staffer resigns after sexual misconduct claim

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A staff member in Democratic Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards’ office is denying any wrongdoing after being accused of sexual harassment.

Johnny Anderson told The Associated Press that he resigned as deputy chief of staff for programs and planning to avoid becoming a “distraction” to the governor.

Anderson said he is innocent

of any wrongdoing and intends to fight the allegation. He said he is aware of only one claim. No specific allegation has been made public. Deputy Chief of Staff Richard Carbo was quoted by LaPolitics as saying that Anderson stepped down Wednesday. Carbo was quoted as saying that an investigation was continuing and that the governor has “zero tolerance” for sexual harassment.

Loose pigs wander near interstate in Florida following crash

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Florida drivers are being warned to watch out for the possibility of escaped pigs on a busy interstate following a crash between two trucks that let the livestock loose.

The Times-Union of Jacksonville reports that two semi-tractor trailer trucks were traveling south on I-95 in northeast Florida just before 4 a.m. when they collided.

The Highway Patrol said

one of the trucks carrying the pigs veered off the right side of the highway and overturned, spilling the livestock out onto the right shoulder. The second truck continued down the side of the highway and also partially rolled over.

No one was injured and all lanes are open after efforts to corral the pigs.

But troopers warn that some of pigs may be wandering loose and drivers should be vigilant.



Johnny Cash boyhood home considered for historic nomination

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The boyhood home of country music icon Johnny Cash is being considered as a nominee for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's review board is to meet Wednesday to consider 14 state properties for nomination to the list of the nation's historic places, including the Cash home that was built in 1934 in Dyess in northeastern Arkansas, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Memphis, Tennessee.

The house and 40 acres (16 hectares) were provided to the Cash family as part of a federal government economic recovery program during the Great Depression.

Preservation Program spokesman Mark Christ told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that a final decision on whether the property is included on the list will be made by the National Park Service.

"They go through a rigorous internal determination of eligibility before going to the (Arkansas) board, so if a nomination makes it through both of those processes, it's definitely a property that should be

listed," he said in an email to the newspaper.

The home, which is under the control of Arkansas State University, would not have qualified for nomination without the completion in 2014 of a restoration project that brought it back to its 1934 appearance, said Ruth Hawkins, director of ASU's Heritage Sites.

The home was sold by the Cash family in 1954, and subsequent owners installed paneling, wallpaper and modern tile flooring, which had to be torn out, Hawkins said. She added that most of the original material was still there.

"The house retains much of its original 1930s vernacular/ Colonial Revival design," the nomination form says. "The property retains the feeling of a farmhouse from the 1930s-era Dyess Colony."

Cash was born in 1932 in Kingsland, Arkansas, according to the official website devoted to the musician. His family later moved to Dyess.

He began his music career as a rockabilly singer in Memphis on the same Sun Records label as Elvis Presley and is a member of both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



FILE - In this Friday, Aug. 8, 2014 file photo, rain clouds gather over the childhood home, dating to the mid 1930s, of singer Johnny Cash, in Dyess, Ark. The country music icon Cash's boyhood home is being considered as a nominee for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's review board is to meet Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, to consider 14 state properties for nomination to the list of the nation's historic places, including the Cash home that was built in 1934 in Dyess in northeastern Arkansas, about 30 miles northwest of Memphis, Tenn. (AP Photo/Danny Johnston, File)

Inmate taken for hospital treatment recaptured next day

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio (AP) — Sheriff's deputies in Ohio captured a corrections center inmate they say escaped custody after being transported for hospital treatment. Warren County Jail records show 31-year-old Robert Langford was arrested Thursday afternoon, some 17 hours after deputies were called Wednesday night. Deputies say he had escaped custody and ran away from Community Corrections Center staff at Atrium Medical Center in Middletown.

No details were available immediately on his arrest, within a few miles of the hospital. He was jailed without bond on a charge of escape. No attorney information was listed.

It wasn't clear why he was taken to the hospital.

A hospital spokeswoman says he hadn't been treated by any hospital staff. Langford was sentenced to the corrections center in southwestern Ohio after being convicted of drug offenses.

Pilot found dead after crash had flown planes his whole life

PITTSFORD, Vt. (AP) — A pilot found dead after a small-plane crash in Vermont has been identified as an 89-year-old Massachusetts man who had been flying planes his entire life.

is believed to have crashed Wednesday in Pittsford, Vermont, 25 miles south of Middlebury. The crash site was discovered Thursday by a landowner walking in a wooded area of his property.

Police say Windsor, Massachusetts, resident Norman L. Baker was the only person on the four-passenger plane, which had been reported missing. Baker had been flying from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, to Middlebury, Vermont, 125 miles north.

Police say the plane was heavily damaged and the pilot was found dead nearby. They say the pilot had done the trip successfully about 20 times and they don't know why he crashed this time.

The 1966 Cessna plane

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Academic Affairs

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: **ADJUNCT NURSING INSTRUCTOR**

Employment Status: **Part-Time**

General Description:

The Adjunct Nursing Instructor reports to the Nursing Department chairperson. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching ASCC Nursing courses in clinical and theoretical for Practical Nursing / Nurse Aide and Associate Degree in Nursing.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Collect, prepare, and present instructional materials for all classes to be taught
- Prepare and distribute course syllabi/outlines for each class taught during the first week of instructions.
- Prepare and distribute a comprehensive syllabi for all courses taught in a timely manner as requested by Academic Affairs.
- Teach each class as scheduled and supervise examinations, field trips, internships, service learning activities, and practicum.
- Maintain attendance and scholastic records and submit these to the Admissions and Records Office by the assigned date every semester / session.
- Develop, implement, and assess Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each course taught.
- Share data on SLOs collected from courses taught with the department and other college stakeholders, and provide recommendations for improvement of student learning.
- Participate in the different levels of student learning outcome review, program review, and student assessment.
- Provide students with information on career, academic referrals, and transfer opportunities
- Post and maintain class schedules and office hours to assist students.
- Provide safety measures and fully exercise the enforcement of these measures in the classrooms.
- Observe and enforce all ASCC rules and regulations, policies and mandates.
- Perform other duties assigned by the Department Chairperson or the Dean of Academic Affairs

Minimum Requirements:

- Master's Degree in Nursing and licensures.
- Five (5) years of teaching Nursing classes and seven (7) years of in clinical supervisory experience
- Demonstrates knowledge in curriculum development, and has good analytical and interpersonal skills.
- Must also be computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.)

Salary: Salary to be commensurate with experience, qualification, and credentials.

Application Deadline: December 01, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 ext. 428/441/429, online at <http://www.amsamoa.edu/employmentopportunities.html> or by email at ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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- AVE DESIGNS - TIMOTHY TELESO

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- SAMOANEWS - BLUE CHEN
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

- AYFS FOOTBALL - PRES VICTOR AVALOS
- ROTARY CLUB - PRES JOHN RAYNOR
- LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS MINISTRIES - REP CAROL BAQUI
- ICEBREAKER GOLF CLUB - - TREASURER EMAU AMOSA

CHURCHES:

- LDS PAGO WEST STAKE - PRES ADNEY REID
- LDS PAGO MAPUSAGA STAKE - PRES FA'APITO AUAPAAU
- LDS PAGO MALAE'IMI STAKE - PRES SONNY AIONO
- LDS PAGO CENTRAL STAKE - PRES STARLIGHT LOTULELEI
- LDS PAGO SAMOA STAKE - PRES MICHAEL LAVEA
- LDS PAGO WEST STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY - PRES FONOFILI MUAAVA
- LDS MIW WARD - BISHOP GOODWIN
- LDS TAFUNA 2ND WARD - BISHOP SUI TALATAINA

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS:

- LEONE HIGH SCHOOL - NHS, CLOSE-UP
- FAASAO/MARIST HIGH SCHOOL - NHS
- KANANA FOU HIGH SCHOOL - NHS
- SOUTH PACIFIC ACADEMY - NHS
- TAFUNA HIGH SCHOOL - NHS, FBLAS, JROTC
- NUUULI VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL - NHS
- SAMOANA HIGH SCHOOL - NHS, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
- FAGAITUA HIGH SCHOOL - NHS, JROTC
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- JIMMY AND MINA TOGAFAU
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