



GITA UPDATE: FEMA to begin field inspections soon

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Warriors win Girls J-V soccer championship

In Sports

Faila moliaga fa'asaga i pagota na sosola i tua mai le toese

Le Lali



ASCC Student Government Association president Christina Toilolo (center) sorts through donated clothing, with assistance from Jennifer Si'ilata (left) of Operation Love, during the College's assistance drive last week for students affected by Cyclone Gita. See story inside for details.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

Deported from the US, returned Samoans learn a new way of life

By Radio New Zealand

For some of the men aboard this US chartered plane, it would be the first time they have been back to Samoa since they were young. But a new life lays ahead for them now, after they were deported from the United States for crimes ranging from assault to being armed with a dangerous weapon.

The planeload landed in Apia last week, and the men arrived to leis and warm embraces from extended family many hadn't seen for years. But then came the hoard of police, immigration, quarantine and customs officials, as well as the transnational crime unit.

Among them was Faafetai Koria, the director of the Samoa Returnees Charitable Trust, a not-for-profit that helps rehabilitate the returnees and offers some reassurance to the public that they will not recommit crimes back in Samoa.

The planeload came after a move by the US in January, when the Department of Homeland Security removed Samoa from its temporary work visa list alongside Haiti and Belize, barring Samoans from temporary or seasonal work visas.

Though no such visa had been issued to Samoan nationals in the 2016 fiscal year, the move was provoked, the department said, by Samoa's refusing to take back nationals ordered removed from the US.

At the time the chief immigration officer, Agafili Tomaimano Shem Leo, said, the government was committed to working closely with the US to facilitate the return of Samoans who had served prison terms for serious criminal offences.

Then, last week, the plane arrived.

But for many of the returnees, Koria said, it would be a struggle. Many of them had been in the United States for many years, and face a battle to turn their lives around within a Samoan context.

"True rehabilitation is for the Trust to provide support and view each person's potential to be a good citizen," Koria said.

"I think the whole experience was important for the returnees themselves for them to see that there were procedures and mechanisms in place that were in line with their own interests and rights as citizens of Samoa, as brothers of Samoa, fathers and sons of Samoa."

While some in the community would look down on the

(Continued on page 7)

Faipule says quit talking about nonsense issues, cut to the chase

ONE ESSENTIAL ISSUE IS THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF SAMOAN AFFAIRS

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Manu'a #2 Faipule, Rep. Toeaina Fafano Autele told the House of Representatives last week that there are many essential issues lawmakers should bring to the Fono's attention for discussion, instead of wasting their time talking about nonsense issues, over which they know they have no control.

The comment from Toeaina came after Rep. Vailiua Steve Leasiolagi brought up the issue of the settlement between the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and StarKist Samoa for a violation related to the discharge of wastewater in Pago Pago Harbor.

Vailiua said that he would like to know if there's a share for the American Samoa Government from this settlement, and if there is — he supports Paramount Chief Mauga Tasi Asuega's

statement that if there is such a share for ASG, that money should go straight to the Maoputasi District, because the action of StarKist Samoa took place inside Fagaloa Bay, which is part of that district.

Samoa News should point out that the settlement is for \$6.2 million, with ASG to receive \$2.6 million in civil penalty, and the rest would go to the federal government. Money for emergency equipment also remains intact in the revised decree, which added ASG to the settlement. Court approval is still pending.

It should also be noted that Mauga, through his attorney wrote directly to the feds asking that the settlement come directly to Maoputasi, and the request was denied. The feds cited lack of legal right for the District to receive the money.

"Since the American Samoan Code [Anno-

(Continued on page 10)



A.P. Lutali Elementary School students and one of their teachers (far right) from Early Education School on Aunu'u last Friday, posed for a photo, following a week of activities for Special Education students.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



GITA UPDATE: FEMA to begin field inspections soon

THEY WILL RECORD LOSSES; THEY DO NOT DETERMINE HOW MUCH ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

by Samoa News staff

With more than 600 residents who have already registered and asked questions about federal assistance following last month's Tropical Storm Gita, contracted inspectors with the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be conducting field inspections soon.

Tafuna village residents, whose homes were affected by the storm, began registration for federal disaster assistance last week Monday at the FEMA and ASG jointly operated Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), located inside the DYWA Pago Pago Youth Center.

All Tafuna village subdivisions completed DRC registration last week, while more are registering today to Wednesday (See Samoa News last Friday for the list of villages.)

And once the person completes the registration process at DRC, the next step, now is that inspectors with valid identification will contact the individual to check damage to the structure such as heating, plumbing, electrical, flooring, wallboard and foundation, according to FEMA.

The inspectors will also record damage to major appliances — washer, dryer, refrigerator — and other serious needs such as clothing lost or damaged in the disaster.

In a news release, FEMA stressed that its inspection should not be confused with other assessments that residents

may have received. (Two days after the storm ASG and its federal partners including FEMA carried out preliminary damage assessment, and a week later, ASG conducted another round of assessment on its own.)

Responding to Samoa News questions, FEMA public information officer, Victor Inge explained that these are FEMA contracted inspectors with identifications conducting inspections.

"We have 10 inspectors who have already begun setting appointments and doing inspections. There are 10 more inspectors inbound," said Inge who has been on island, three days after the storm.

Asked how many impacted residents have registered at the DRC since last Thursday, Inge said, "more than 648 people have registered or asked questions through the DRC."

"We have approved more than \$59,000 for homeowners and renters, more than \$47,000 of which is for housing assistance," he points out.

According to FEMA, its inspectors use specialized software so that every applicant gets the same inspection.

Additionally, inspectors record losses but do not determine how much assistance the person may qualify for.

What's needed, says FEMA, when an inspector arrives:

- You or member of your household who is at least 18 years old must be present.
- You will need to show

a photo ID, such as a driver's license, etc.

- Proof of occupancy such as title, mortgage payment record in name of resident.

- Owners need to present evidence of ownership such as insurance in owner's name, title, mortgage receipts.

- Renters need to present proof of rental such as rent receipts, lease agreement, utility bill in name of renter, landlord's name and phone number.

And thereafter, what's next: Within a few days, you will receive a letter, text, or email to tell you the decision about your claim. If you are eligible for assistance, you will receive funds by check or electronic transfer.

[Note: Samoa News should also point out that it would seem for families who live on land as 'tautua' — owning the house, not the land — need to have a notarized letter from the owner or sao of the land explaining the situation and giving permission for FEMA assistance to said person(s).]

REGISTRATION REMINDER

Residents of Nu'uuli and Malaeimi are scheduled for registration Monday to Wednesday this week, starting today, with residents of Nu'uuli, Numbers 0001 – 0250

- Tuesday, Mar. 20 residents of Nu'uuli, Numbers 0251 – 0369

- Tuesday, Mar. 20 residents of Nu'uuli, Numbers 0501 – 0633

- Wednesday, Mar. 21 residents of Nu'uuli, Numbers 0634 – 0731

- Wednesday, Mar. 21 residents of Malaeimi, Numbers 0001 – 0143

The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Only heads of household need to attend.

ASG and FEMA will announce a schedule soon for other villages to register at the DRC for federal assistance.

PRE-REGISTRATION

ASG and FEMA have released the latest list of villages up for pre-registration today and the location:

- Aua at the Catholic Church Hall;
- Onesosopo at Catholic Church hall;
- Vatia at Gaoteote Tapatonu guest house;
- Afono at Laupola guest house;

Trump-linked data analysis firm taps 50M Facebook profiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — A data analysis firm employed by President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign tapped the Facebook profiles of more than 50 million users without their permission, allowing it to capitalize on the private social media activity of a large portion of the U.S. electorate, newspapers reported Saturday.

One of the largest data leaks in Facebook history allowed Cambridge Analytica, which had ties to Trump campaign strategist Steve Bannon, to develop techniques that formed the basis of its work on the Trump campaign, The New York Times and The Guardian reported.

Facebook said it suspended Cambridge Analytica over allegations that it kept the improperly obtained user data after telling Facebook it had been deleted.

In a blog post, Facebook explained that Cambridge Analytica had years ago received user data from a Facebook app that purported to be a psychological research tool, though the firm was not authorized to have the information. Roughly 270,000 people downloaded and shared personal details with the app.

Cambridge Analytica later certified in 2015 that it had destroyed the information it had received, according to Facebook, although the social network said it received reports "several days ago" that not all the data was deleted. Facebook says it is investigating.

Facebook has also suspended the access of Cambridge Analytica's parent company, Strategic Communication Laboratories; University of Cambridge psychology professor Aleksandr Kogan, the academic who created the app in question; and another individual, Christopher Wylie of Eunoia Technologies, who also allegedly received

user data from the app. Wylie is a former Cambridge Analytics employee who has emerged as a primary source for the Times report.

Cambridge Analytica denied wrongdoing in a statement. It said the parent company's SCL Elections unit hired Kogan to undertake "a large scale research project in the U.S.," but subsequently deleted all data it received from Kogan's company after learning that Kogan had obtained data in violation of Facebook policies. The firm said none of Kogan's data was used in its 2016 election work for the "avoidance of doubt."

Kogan did not immediately reply to an emailed request for comment. Wylie could not immediately be located.

The Facebook blog post, written by deputy general counsel Paul Grewal, cited the "public prominence" of Cambridge Analytica, called the alleged data retention an "unacceptable violation of trust" and said the social network will take legal action if necessary to hold all parties "responsible and accountable for any unlawful behavior."

Cambridge Analytica is probably best known for its political work during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. The company claims to build psychological profiles based on personal details from millions of Americans that can categorize individual voters. It worked for both the primary campaign of Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, and Trump's general-election campaign.

Trump's campaign Saturday denied using the firm's data, saying it relied on the Republican National Committee for its data.

"The campaign used the RNC for its voter data and not Cambridge Analytica," the

(Continued on page 9)

FA'ASILASILAGA

O le a taoto ia le laau ma ona la, i ou paia sautuafafafa Amerika Samoa. E leai se vave na te gafataulima ou sa ma faiga. Ua taoto a'o se i'a mai vasa ua maea ona tuulaupua. E le faagaloina foi le au faigaluega paia a le Atua o loo nono manū ma faafaletulu'ia i fata faitaulaga e fia o si o tatou atunuu. Ona o le tauasuina o le ipu vai o le ola. Auā se manuia mo Samoa ia e le aunoa.

Tulou Tulou Tulouna lava.

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APRIL 14, 2018

PLACE: ILIILICATHOLICCHURCH

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PLACE: Iliili Catholic Church

Afio mai ma talamai aao. Ma le fa'aaloalo lava,

Sainia Susuga i le Fa'afeagaiga, ma le mamalu o le Ekalesia Iesu Le Malamalama.

Fisheries council postpones action on LVPA amendment after ASG rep votes “no”

ASG REP REFUSES TO ANSWER COUNCIL’S REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF IT’S “NO” VOTE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoa Government voted “no” on all four recommendations relating to the Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA), at last Friday’s final day of the three-day 172nd meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Honolulu.

Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources director, Va’amua Henry Seseapasara, the ASG representative on the Council, made known ASG’s vote way in advance of the discussion and vote that was postponed from Thursday, following Va’amua’s request to allow him time to talk to his colleagues back home on the recommendations.

According to the meeting’s agenda, the Council was to take action on the LVPA — after conducting public hearings late last year and presentations of recommendations from the advisory panels of the Council made last week. The move is to reduce the size of the LVPA to help the struggling US flagged longline fleet based in American Samoa.

But instead, the Council on Friday delayed final action on an amendment to modify the LVPA, until its 173rd Meeting on Maui, Hawai’i, from June 11-14.

DISCUSSION

When the LVPA recommendations were taken up, Va’amua explained that he had spoken the night before with the “legal team” in American Samoa and “we had a good conversation about it.”

To sum it up, “there are common grounds” for agreement of both sides; however, “we cannot agree” to the recommendations, he said, adding that the advice given to him was that “because there is ongoing litigation” on the LVPA, ASG is not supportive of all the recommendations.

“To be sure, the ‘no vote’ is based on, [that] there is ongoing litigation?” Council chairman Edwin Ebisui Jr., asked for clarification, and Va’amua responded that “there are some common grounds” on the recommendations but “we did not agree with all” of them.

A request was made to read the recommendations in their entirety, followed by discussion and then carry out the vote.

“I’ve been advised by the legal counsel [of] the government of American Samoa, the vote will be no,” on all the recommendations, said Va’amua, adding that the Council can move forward with its discus-

sion and vote but reiterated his vote is “no”.

Ebisui said he didn’t want to put Va’amua “on the hot spot” but there needs to be “some kind of resolution.”

“I think it’s critical, very important, that we understand where the American Samoa Government’s coming from [to see] if we can address those concerns,” Ebisui said, noting that it’s wonderful there are areas of agreement, but “work on what we don’t have agreement on.”

Va’amua responded that, “I’ve being advised, that [it’s] safe for us to say ‘no’ on all the issues, because there’s litigation, that’s ongoing now. And they didn’t want me to say anything that would (put) the American Samoa government situation (at a) disadvantage in the litigation.”

Ebisui responded, “I think the American Samoa government’s contributions to the definition of cultural fishing practices is a big piece of the puzzle”, and it makes it “very difficult if the government just takes the position that ‘we’re just going to say no and we’re not going to tell you why.’”

“That’s what I’m trying to address. I’m trying to do it diplomatically. But I also understand, and I don’t want to put you in a hot-spot Henry. To the extent you can, it’s greatly appreciated, if you could articulate the reasons for the ‘no vote,’” Ebisui pointed out.

However, Va’amua continued to say that ‘I’m being advised by our legal counsel to say ‘no’.

US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of General Counsel for the Pacific Islands chief section, Fred Tucher, reminded Council members of the “litigation”, which he says “it’s a record review of a prior decision” on the LVPA exemption 2016 final rule.

“That record is completed, it is closed and that record” — along with the Honolulu federal court’s decision on the 2016 final rule — is before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, Tucher said and explained that the Council’s current action, is to address the lower court’s decision, and to take into account the preservation and protection of cultural fishing.

“I just wanted to make sure that everybody understands when referred to litigation, this issue that you’re acting on, is a related rule but it’s not the rule that’s in litigation,” he said.

Christinna Lutu-Sanchez, another American Samoa

member on the Council, asked if perhaps the legal counsel — as referred to by Va’amua — offered alternate language that’s agreeable regarding the LVPA amendment.

While there was no suggested language offered by the legal counsel, Va’amua reiterated that there are “common areas for agreement” in the recommendations but — again — not all of them.

One of Hawai’i’s members on the Council, Dean Sensui notes that “as an outside observer, I can see that this is a very large shared resource, and considering the economic situation... in American Samoa, it would be kind of nice if all parties come to a reasonable agreement... for something that would be workable for everyone that would really help the people of [American] Samoa.”

Another American Samoa member on the Council, Taotasi Archie Soliai, inquired of Va’amua if there are certain parts of the text of the recommendations that can be removed that would be acceptable.

Va’amua responded that “there’s not been any written statement [from ASG] to say that, ‘this is what we want,’” and repeated again that there is “common interest to both parties” in part of the recommendations, except that the entirety of the proposed recommendations are “not acceptable.”

The Council then moved on to read each recommendation, followed by discussion and vote — where Va’amua’s cast a “no vote” on all of them.

Samoa News will report in tomorrow’s edition, on more comments from Council members — including American Samoa’s members — during the discussion of the four recommendations:

- Council reiterates its previous recommendation that it supports all fishing activities that occur in American Samoa waters and within US exclusive economic zone. The Council recognizes that the longline fishery, which targets albacore for landing at the local cannery, has experienced poor economic conditions for over a decade and dozens of vessels have left the fishery. Remaining longline vessels continue to face declining catch rates and increasing operating costs, and available information indicates that the current LVPA restricts fishing operations and adversely affects efficiency.
- Council also recognizes that alia fishermen who troll for yellowfin, skipjack and

(Continued on page 9)

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Program managers and specialists from the Pacific Southwest Region of the United States Forest Service meet with the ASCC president during the ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program Review.

(Left to Right) Barbara Geringer-Frazier, Cooperative Fire Specialist Prevention; Richard Straight, Agro-Forestry Specialist; Sherry Hazelhurst, Director of State & Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service; Dr. Rosevonne Pato, ASCC President; David Bakke, Pesticide-Use Specialist, Invasive Plants Program Manager; Miranda Hutten, Urban & Community Forestry Program Leader; Luava'asi'itia Mary Taufete'e, ACNR Forestry Program Manager and Katie Friday, Forest Legacy/Stewardship Program Manager, Hawai'i and Pacific Islands.

[Courtesy photo]

ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program completes 2018 program review

By Daniel Helsham, ASCC-ACNR

The Forestry Program of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) — Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources (ACNR) Division successfully completed its' program review on March 2, 2018.

Held every five years, the weeklong review was conducted by program managers and specialists from the Pacific Southwest Region of the United States Forest Service (USFS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Program Review helps the program improve its effectiveness and inform programing decisions. It also helps develop organizational and staff capacity to enhance program success. The USFS review team followed up on the programs' activities, and provided assistance in overcoming barriers or issues regarding the program.

The USFS review team consisted of Sherry Hazelhurst, Director of State & Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service; David Bakke, Pesticide-Use Specialist, Invasive Plants Program Manager; Katie Friday, Forest Legacy/Stewardship Program Manager, Hawaii and Pacific Islands; Miranda Hutten, Urban & Community For-

estry Program Leader; Barbara Geringer-Frazier, Cooperative Fire Specialist Prevention; and Richard Straight, Agro-Forestry Specialist.

"With the review, we are able to objectively examine our program and services which in turn helps us strengthen the quality of our program services and improve outcomes for the people of American Samoa whom we serve," said ASCC-ACNR Forestry Manager Luava'asi'itia Mary Taufete'e. The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program and Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta were commended for successfully completing all 13 Recommendations from the 2013 Program Review.

Many Forestry Program success stories and successful partnerships with local landowners, the Department of Public Safety, National Parks of American Samoa, the Natural Resources Conservation Services and other government environmental agencies and non-governmental agencies contributed to the success of the 2018 Program Review.

Aside from meeting and discussing program progress, the USFS review team and ASCC-ACNR Forestry program staff ventured into the public to engage in community outreach

and conduct site visits.

They presented and planted native trees at the Fagali'i Elementary School, and visited the Leone watershed and the National Park of American Samoa Visitor Center.

The USFS review team also met with ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato, commending her support and leadership of the ACNR Forestry Program.

The review team stated that American Samoa has one of the best programs in the Pacific, which is also used as a pilot program to guide other Pacific Islands Forestry programs and how they look forward to visiting the island again.

The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program is divided into three areas: Forest Health Protection - Invasive Plants for forest health activities, monitoring, and reporting on the health of all forest lands; Forest Stewardship for assisting landowners with forest and wetlands management; and Urban and Community Forestry for management of trees and forests within populated areas from small villages to large cities, community outreach and tree planting. Each program is dedicated to the protection, conservation and restoration of forests in American Samoa.

Russian vote problems: Ballot stuffing, coercion, gimmicks

By FRANCESCA EBEL, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Social networks buzzed all day Sunday with videos, photos and firsthand accounts of voting violations in Russia's presidential election.

Election authorities said they will investigate all irregularities and annul results where needed. But the breadth of the reports was striking, and they may cast a shadow on the victory by incumbent Vladimir Putin.

Video authenticated by The Associated Press showed some of the apparent irregularities. Some also were reported by observers including representatives of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the Golos monitoring group and ordinary Russians. Some examples:

BALLOT-BOX STUFFING

CCTV footage of a voting station in the Moscow suburb of Lyubertsy shows a woman taking a ballot from a table, looking around to see if anyone is watching, then putting it in the box. She repeats the action, again and again. Another woman, apparently a colleague at the station, joins her.

A video from Ilskhan-Yurt in Chechnya shows a man in a white cap repeatedly putting ballots in the same box.

In the Primorsky region of the Far East, a woman pulls papers from her jacket and stuffs them in the box.

Dozens of other examples of apparent ballot box stuffing were posted online.

The regional election commission said the results from the Lyubertsy station would be invalidated. Authorities sealed a ballot box in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don where ballot stuffing was reported, and are investigating similar allegations in Artyom in the far east.

ASSAULTING OBSERVERS

Video from a polling station in Makhachkala in the Caucasus Mountains republic of Dagestan showed local official Magomet Rasulov appearing to punch observer Malik Butaev before being led out by police.

Aida Mirmaksumova, who is collecting violations in Makhachkala, said burly men dressed in black dragged an observer for Communist Party candidate Pavel Grudinin on the ground as he shouted, "Help!" Others yelled: "Get out of here!" Amid the melee, people were seen stuffing what appeared to be ballots into a ballot box.

Zukhrab Omarov, an observer for liberal candidate Grigory Yavlinsky, said he was dragged away by police as he was trying to shoot video of violations in Makhachkala.

"They asked me to show my passport with my registrations, they were asking what I were doing and why, and they said that they would break my nose. They asked me why we were filming and they destroyed all the videos of the violations that we had taken, but some of them are already online," Omarov said, displaying bruises and ripped pants from the incident.

FORCED VOTING

Residents in Perm, Yekaterinburg and Moscow showed the AP

(Continued on page 11)

ASCC assists students in need after cyclone

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) Marketing Committee, in collaboration with the Student Government Association (SGA) and student clubs on campus, last week concluded an a food drive to provide assistance to students at the College whose homes were damaged by February's Cyclone Gita.

Even a month after the cyclone, a number of ASCC students continue to struggle with its aftermath, challenged to provide basic necessities like food and clothing. The ASCC Marketing Committee, assisted by the SGA and the student clubs launched a weeklong collection effort both on and off campus, and then organized the distribution of the donated food, clothing and other items according to the identified needs of individual students.

Before beginning collection efforts, the Marketing Committee got word through to affected students by making announcements at classes and student assemblies, asking for students in need to add their names, contact numbers and other information to a list on which the overall donation activities would be based.

The resulting list identified a high number of students coping with misfortunes ranging from minor damage to residences and property to homes completely destroyed with all belongings lost.

Shortly after the completion of the data base of students in need, the SGA and other student clubs volunteered their time and efforts to staff drop-off stations for food, clothing and other items at several locations on the ASCC campus. KS Mart also agreed to let ASCC students and staff set up a drop off point on their premises, which gave the public an opportunity to contribute. A highly generous contribution to the ASCC food drive also came from Operation Love, a recently formed community assistance organization led by Mrs. Carol Hong.

The ASCC students who had signed-up on the list of those in need were contacted and asked to meet this past Monday afternoon in the auditorium of the College's Multi-Purpose Center.

The Marketing Committee, SGA and other student clubs had previously sorted all of the donated food, household items, toiletries and other items into bundles intended for individual students based on their indicated degree of need. In addition, each recipient received a large bag, which they could fill from the selection of used clothing. Once again, Operation Love contributed to the effort by showing up with additional

food and clothing.

When all of the students on the distribution list, along with some last-minute additions, had been given an assistance package, a small amount of items were left over, which the Marketing Committee intends to return to Operation Love for their use in other relief activities.

"On behalf of our President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato, the SGA and all the student organizations on campus, I would like to thank you for your donations made to our food drive," wrote Marketing Committee chairman Peteru Lam Yuen in a memo to the ASCC faculty and staff. "We called on you to support of our students affected by Cyclone Gita, and your donations have helped them as they face the challenge of rebuilding their lives."



ASCC student Feliciamere P. Elisara, whose Vailoa home was destroyed by Cyclone Gita, receives food, water and clothing during the College's assistance drive last week for students affected by the cyclone. The ASCC Marketing Committee organized effort, with assistance from the Student Government Association and the College's student clubs. [Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Request for Public Comment on Special Education Funding Application

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

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

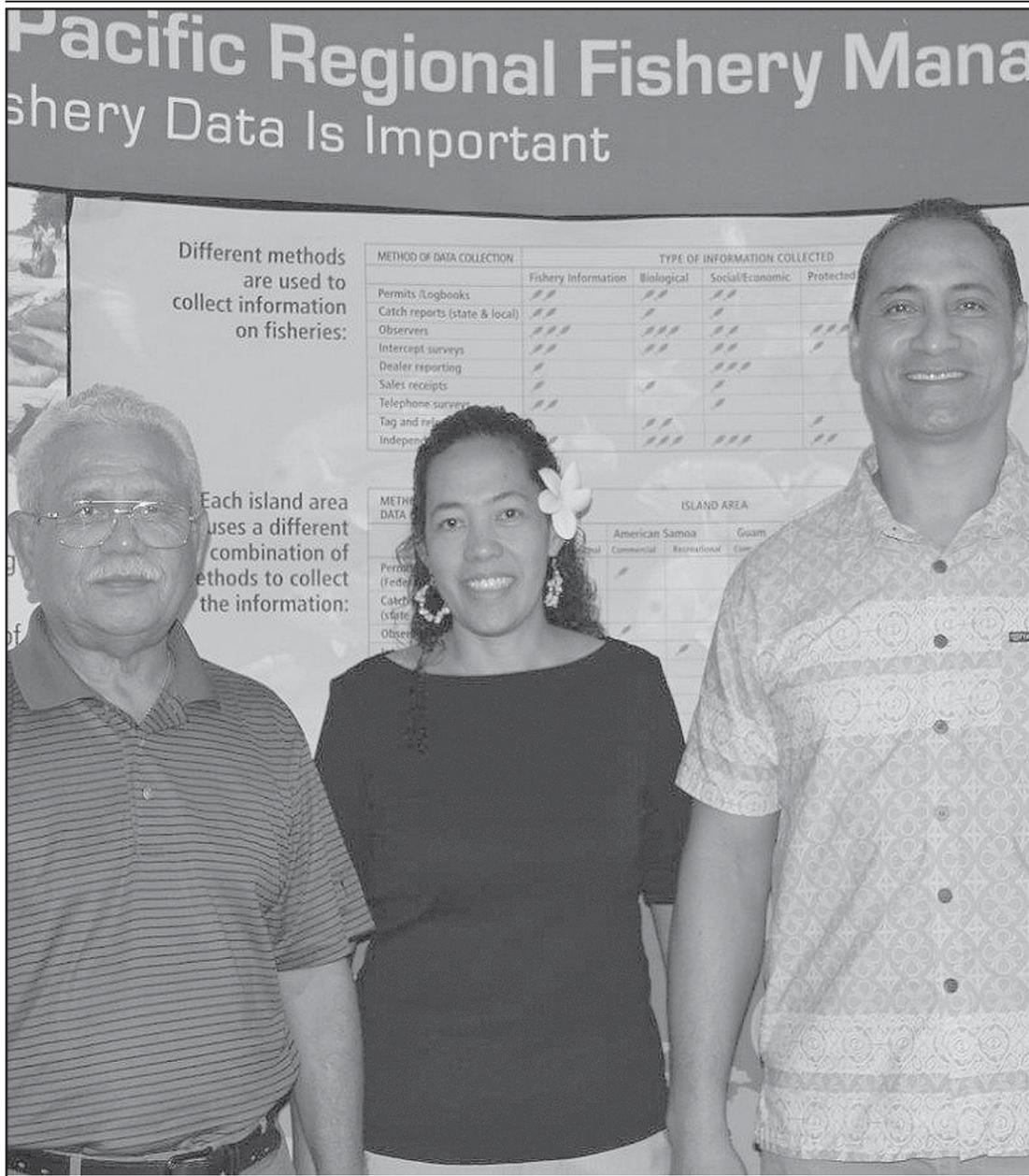
Copies of the application are available at the Special Education Office located in Faga'alu. All persons interested in the application are encouraged to pick up a copy between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. Written comments will also be taken during these hours. Comments and suggestions may also be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

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

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

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

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



[l-r] Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources director Va'amua Henry Sesepasasra along with Christinna Lutu-Sanchez and Taotasi Archie Soliai, are American Samoa's three members of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) pictured last Friday in Honolulu on the final day of the three-day 172nd Meeting of the Council. Samoa News was able to follow the 3-day meeting via live-stream and is reporting the issues throughout the week.

[photo: WPRFMC]

ASPA's new Tafuna building is now LEED platinum certified

by Blue Chen-Fruean

Samoa News Correspondent
Less than a year after it was commissioned, the American Samoa Power Authority's (ASPA) new operations building in Tafuna has achieved LEED platinum status, making it one of only two buildings in the territory to be certified as such. The AS Environmental Protection Agency building in Utulei is the other.

ASPA Executive Director Utu Abe Malae has been informed of the news, and the certification serves as testament to rigorous efforts in trying to steer the territory into being more environmentally responsible.

ASPA's building was awarded 81 out of 110 points, according to the LEED certification review report, a copy of which has been obtained by Samoa News.

(LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a rating system devised by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to evaluate the environmental performance of a building and encourage market transformation towards sustainable design).

The 25-page LEED certification review report for the ASPA operations center contains the results of the technical review of an application for LEED certification, submitted for the project.

"LEED certification is an official recognition that a project complies with the requirements prescribed within the LEED rating systems as created and maintained by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). The LEED certification program is administered by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI)."

According to the report, for water efficiency, the ASPA building scored a perfect 10 out of 10 in areas including "water efficiency landscaping", "innovative wastewater technologies", and "water use reduction".

As for indoor environmental quality, the building attained a perfect 10 out of 10 score in thermal comfort (design), thermal comfort (verification), and controllability of systems lighting.

ASPA scored 25 out of 26 in the sustainable sites category, achieving a perfect score in every element except for one: Brownfield Redevelopment.

For "regional priority credits", the semi-autonomous agency scored a perfect 4 out of 4 in water efficient landscaping, water use reduction, and storm water design (quality control).

According to the report, construction application decisions are classified as follows: Certified (score of 40-49); Silver (50-59 points); Gold (6-79 points); and Platinum (80+ points).

At gay nightclub, Russian election draws apathetic response

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

YEKATERINBURG, Russia (AP) — From the stage of a gay nightclub, a performer in drag reminded those in the crowd of their civic duty as Russians.

"Do you know what's happening tomorrow?" asked Andrei. "I'm going to the election tomorrow. If anyone wants to join me, I can lend you my makeup, we'll go together."

The 30-year-old appeared to be the only person at the club in this industrial city 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) east of Moscow who was enthusiastic — even if in a joking way — about voting Sunday and what the re-election of President Vladimir Putin would mean for the LGBT community in Russia.

As he put on his makeup before the show, Andrei was asked what he expects the next

six years would be like.

He echoed Putin's mantra: "Some kind of stability."

In 2013, Putin signed legislation that banned "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations among minors," making it a crime to hold gay rights rallies or to openly discuss homosexuality in content accessible to children.

In reality, that has meant a "don't-ask-don't-tell" agreement of sorts with the state. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, homosexuality could be punished by up to five years in prison.

While some of the men said they never found acceptance in their families, they insisted that they can be safe as long as they are discreet. The performers interviewed at the club would not give their last names because they had day jobs elsewhere and feared repercussions.

(Continued on page 12)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

Human Resource Department, Tafuna
PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
Phone No: (684) 248-1234 Option #6
humanresource@aspower.com

PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	WW Treatment Plant Operator I	Posting Date	March 16, 2018
Department	Wastewater	Deadline	March 29, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Division	Environmental Services Division	Pay Rate	\$7.28/hr
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation	Job Grade/Status	D/1/A Non-Exempt
Reports To	WW Operator Foreman		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The primary objective of the position is to perform as an assistant operator within a wastewater treatment plant; to undertake work involved in the pretreatment and primary treatment of sewage; to perform operational custodial duties necessary to keep the plant operating efficiently; to monitor and record the status of various equipment throughout the treatment process including the regular sampling of influent and effluent; to perform mechanical and electrical preventative maintenance work; to ensure the plant operates continuously and in compliance with all environmental regulations and safety standards.

Minimum Requirements

Education	High school diploma or equivalent; will be required to undergo training in theory and practical work leading up to mandatory certification examination.
Experience	No additional work experience is required where the minimum educational requirement has been obtained. On-the-job training will be provided to ensure the incumbent is familiar with company policy and procedures regarding the work involved and as a result is effective in their assigned duties.
Ability To:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good planning/organizational skills, attention to detail, ability to prioritize and handle a number of different demands. • Skills in verbal and written communication • Ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions including special investigations on request • Required to walk, stoop, bend, lift, or climb depending on the operator's duties and the preventative maintenance work being undertaken • Occasional light to medium heavy lifting is required in conducting preventative maintenance work

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

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SRCT staff and members after a hard day's work at Goshen Trust in 2012.

[Photo: Samoa Returnees Charitable Trust]

▶ Deported...

Continued from page 1

deportees or view them as potential law enforcement threats our correspondent, Autagavaia Tipi Autagavaia, said, on the whole, most people would welcome them back.

"The good thing is that in Samoa, it is a small place and the support of aiga or family is always there no matter what has occurred in the past," said Autagavaia.

Since the Returnees Charitable Trust was set up in 2011 more than 100 deportees — mostly from New Zealand and the United States — have been helped to resettle in Samoa.

Koria said Samoa had strict conditions in accepting deportees, but once there, one of the hardest things for them would be to find work.

"The roles of looking for money and being breadwinners is transferred to mothers or children or other members of the family," said Koria. "The second challenge is the barriers created by stigma, and social isolation."

"A lot of these returnees find that they were not brought up in the social networks that Samoa provides and so they have no cultural bearings, they find it difficult to communicate because the language isn't strong, and so they become isolated and separated."

"They are just very eager to just move on with their lives as anyone else would and our role at the Trust is to accommodate them and provide opportunities," he said.

Ten years ago, Vaaimalu Omar Benjamin Toilolo was one of those returnees. When he arrived, he said, there was no such support.

He believed coming back from the US would be a lot harder to adjust to than arriving from Australia or New Zealand, which is why he makes a point of meeting those who arrive from the United States.

"It is always, I guess, a blessing to see other returnees on arrival come to the airport, and after being locked up and having waited so long you have your guards up and you are paranoid about what is going to happen when you are handed off to officials or people in uniform," he said.

"So to me, that is not a good start."

Vaaimalu said while the donor funded trust was doing its best, it was in urgent need of more financial support for its programs.

The returnees have already been released to the care of families.

Their orientation in Samoa begins next week.



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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6. Contact customers by mail, telephone or in person concerning acceptance or rejection of applications.
7. Conduct follow ups with Immigration, Territorial Registrar Office, ANZ Bank for applicant clearances.
8. Check value of customer collateral to be held as loan security.
9. Answer questions and advise customers regarding loans and transactions.
10. Schedule closings of mortgage loans transactions.
11. File and maintain loan records.
12. Perform day to day administrative/clerical tasks such as maintaining information files and processing paperwork.
13. Develop constructive and cooperative working relationships with others.
14. Perform other assigned duties by Supervisor/Manager.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be fluent in English and Samoan with the ability to effectively communicate information.
- Must have good organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Must have experience with computers and word processing packages.
- Must have good written communication skills.
- Must be a self – starter.
- Must have a professional attitude and appearance.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

- High school diploma or GED with six (6) months experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.

Applications available on the second floor of Development Bank Building located in Pago Pago. Please submit Resume and Application at the Development Bank Office; Deadline to apply:

March 30, 2018.

No phone calls please.

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C M
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Students from ECE to Level 8 along with teachers at A.P. Lutali Elementary School on Aunu'u gathered last Friday morning to release balloons capping off a week of activities for Special Education students.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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► Fisheries...

Continued from page 3

wahoo perceive that their fishing would be harmed if LVPA regulations are modified; however, available information while the 2016 LVPA Rule was in effect shows no adverse impacts to the catch rates of pelagic troll vessels, including alia.

• LVPA issue has resulted in disagreement within the American Samoa fishing community and is the subject of litigation between the governments of American Samoa and the United States.

The Council notes that last year's court decision requires the consideration and protection of American Samoa cultural fishing. To this end, the Council requested that Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) conduct research on American Samoa cultural fishing to facilitate understanding and potential impacts under a changed LVPA. The Council notes that all fishing in American Samoa has cultural importance, whether longline, alia vessels, other small vessels,

because catch from these vessels is flowing into the community for cultural purposes.

• On July 6 and Nov. 11 of last year, the Council requested consultation with the Government of American Samoa on preserving and protecting cultural fishing under a new LVPA Rule. Consistent with this request, the Council requests that the American Samoa Government consider all relevant information, including the PIFSC research paper, available data on fishing impacts under the 2016 LVPA Rule, and input from longline and alia fishermen and other stakeholders, and identify an option consistent with the Magnuson Stevens Act that might resolve this disagreement.

The Council requests that the American Samoa Government forward its recommendation to the Council by May 30, 2018 or sooner for action at its June meeting.



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► Trump...

Continued from page 2

campaign said in a statement. "Using the RNC data was one of the best choices the campaign made. Any claims that voter data were used from another source to support the victory in 2016 are false."

Cambridge Analytica is backed by the family of billionaire donor Robert Mercer, a hedge fund manager who also supported the Trump campaign and other conservative candidates and causes, including Bannon, the Trump campaign strategist. Trump campaign officials have downplayed Cambridge Analytica's role, saying they briefly used the company for television advertising and paid some of its most skilled data employees.

The firm had secured a \$15 million investment from Mercer and wooed Bannon with the promise of tools that could identify the personalities of American voters and influence their behavior. But Cambridge Analytica did not have the data to make its new products work. So the firm harvested private information from the Facebook profiles of more than 50 million users without their permission.

A representative for Bannon did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The company has surfaced in the U.S. probes into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. British officials are also investigating the firm in connection with the June 2016 EU referendum.

Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, disclosed an advisory role with Cambridge Analytica last August. SCL later said that position never materialized. Flynn is cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's .

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Last Friday, in Utulei, Health Director Motusa Tuileama Nua, with employees of the Department of Health, carried out a special 'wave' on the roadside, in an effort to raise awareness about dengue fever. Some of the handheld signs included messages like: "Fight the Bite"; "Stop Dengue"; and "Dengue Patrol".

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruenan]

► Faipule...

Continued from page 1

tated] is insufficient to provide the [Maoputasi] County with the legal right to seek civil penalties, the United States is not authorized to share penalties with the County," said Henry S. Friedman, assistant chief of Environmental Enforcement Section of USDOJ in court filings.

Vailuama's statement about the settlement was a follow up from the hearing between the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee and StarKist last month.

Representatives of StarKist present during the hearing included the President and CEO of StarKist Co. Andrew Choe; General Manager of StarKist Samoa Mr. Sandong Kwon, Vice President Michelle Faist and Taotasi Archie Soliai.

OFFICE OF SAMOAN AFFAIRS ROLE IN GOV'T QUESTIONED

When given the chance to speak, Toeaina pointed out that one of the essential issues that he wanted faipule to address and take action on while they have the chance, is the role of the Office of Samoan Affairs within the American Samoa Government (ASG) system, and why this system is so important to the role of our local villages and districts.

"If we look at the way the United States Government system is set up, we can see from that picture that each section of the government such as the states, district and city are all separate from each other. What we see in our Local Government's system is different because villages and districts all fall under the Office of Samoan Affairs and all movements and action are under the discretion of the Secretary of such office," Toeaina said.

He said that the Samoan system is unique and straight forward, but because of the way things are run in the ASG system — by letting the Office of Samoan Affairs have control of all villages' and districts' business, not only does it take away the rights and the authority from each village and district to made their own decisions, but it seem like the Secretary of Samoan Affairs is dictating to each village and district what to do.

Toeaina, who is the chairman of the House Judiciary & Legal Affairs Committee, said he would call a hearing with the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Paramount Chief Mauga Tasi Asuega later on this month, to discuss this issue and many other issues pertaining to the role of Samoan Affairs inside ASG.

He stated that he strongly believes that one of the main reasons why these things happen — giving over of village and district authority to Samoan Affairs — is because most of

those who hold high ranking matai titles in each village and district are now employed by the Office of Samoan Affairs. Their employment status with the Office stops them from doing what is right for their village and district.

Tualauta Faipule, Rep. Vui Florence Saulo supported Toeaina's comment about essential issues that lawmakers needs to prioritize, and said it was not the settlement, but instead what ASG and the Fono should do to keep the cannery in American Samoa.

During last month's hearing, Mr. Choe spoke candidly of the problems confronting StarKist Samoa and what needs to happen for the cannery to remain competitive in the global tuna market.

The hearing which lasted for nearly two hours included a power point representation by the CEO on the operations of the local cannery, its workforce, the products manufactured here and their value, advantages and disadvantages of operating a tuna plant here and factors that are causing StarKist to lose its ability to compete in the global tuna market.

When asked by committee members whether StarKist will continue to remain in the territory, Mr. Choe said that he told StarKist employees that his wish is for StarKist to celebrate its 100th anniversary in American Samoa in 2063.

Speaking about the many challenges the cannery is facing, Mr. Choe said that with more than 70% of the American Samoa economy tied to the tuna industry, a solution to keeping the tuna cannery competitive must also include assistance for business that provide support services for StarKist Samoa.

He said that costs like minimum wage hikes, custom fees, port charges, and utilities should be affordable to the cannery as well as the businesses that support it. He further stated that the recent increases in port fees and the new scanner fees present additional cost to their canning operations.

When asked by Vui during the hearing last month if he had discussed the fees with Governor Lolo M. Moliga, Mr. Choe said yes, he did speak with the governor about the issue and the governor is willing to support them.

He also told the committee that the whole purpose of trying to get assistance from the governor is not about helping StarKist but it's about the overall business industry in American Samoa.

Mr. Choe told representatives that a lot of businesses in American Samoa exist because of StarKist, such as small businesses and stevedoring companies, and without StarKist, these businesses don't operate.



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP 030-2018
Issuance Date: March 16, 2018

Date & Time Due: April 2, 2018
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide the:

"Department of Education - School Lunch Program: Consultant and Project Management Services for the Water Heater & Repiping Project"

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP: Department of Education - School Lunch Program: Consultant and Project Management Services for the Water Heater & Repiping Project." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), April 2, 2018:

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

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

REVIEW

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

▶ Russian...

Continued from page 4



who came to our polling station," he told the AP. He followed one group getting on a bus, but as he filmed, he said members of the group tried to shield their identities from the camera and refused to answer his questions.

Central Election Commission deputy chief Nikolai Bulayev defended the practice of busing voters to voting stations as "help" for those in remote areas poorly served by public transport.

GIMMICKS

There also were turnout-boosting gimmicks and state-funded campaigns, which were not technically illegal but tacitly helped the incumbent.

In Moscow, health officials offered cancer screening and discounted food products at polling stations. Some towns staged dancing, sports competitions and clown acts.

Prizes were offered at some polls for voters who wore the best costumes, and some people came dressed as bears, folk characters and medieval knights.

In the Leningradsky region, one man was photographed dressed as a Sarmat ballistic missile — perhaps hoping to capture the attention of the Kremlin as it expands its nuclear arsenal.

In this screen grab taken from video provide by the Central Election Commission (CEC) via Navalny Opposition Group on Sunday, March 18, 2018 in Tambov, Russia, a man allegedly stuffs ballots into a ballot box at a polling station. Russian election officials say they are looking into several incidents of ballot stuffing in the presidential vote.

(Navalny Opposition Group via AP)

messages from employers pressuring workers to vote and requiring them to report on when and where they cast ballots. One worker said he feared he wouldn't get his monthly bonus if he didn't.

Ingradsky region outside St. Petersburg, observer Sergei Dzhus discovered people apparently bused in to a traditionally low-turnout area to boost participation.

"From the very beginning, there were many, many people

Some wanted shooting suspect forcibly committed in 2016

By CURT ANDERSON, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Documents show some officials were so concerned about the mental stability of the student accused of last month's Florida high school rampage that they decided he should be forcibly committed. But the recommendation was never acted upon.

Cruz is accused of the shooting rampage that killed 14 students and three school employees at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Feb. 14. In addition, 17 people were wounded.

A commitment under the law would have made it more difficult if not impossible for Nikolas Cruz to obtain a gun legally.

The documents in the criminal case against Nikolas Cruz, which were obtained by The Associated Press, show school officials and a sheriff's deputy recommended in September 2016 that Cruz be involuntarily committed for a mental evaluation.

The documents are part of Cruz's criminal case in the shooting. They also show that he had written the word "kill" in a notebook, told a classmate that he wanted to buy a gun and use it, and had cut his arm sup-

posedly in anger because he had broken up with a girlfriend. He also told another student he had drunk gasoline and was throwing up. Calls had even been made to the FBI about the possibility of Cruz using a gun at school.

The documents were provided by a psychological assessment service initiated by Cruz's mother called Henderson Behavioral Health. The documents show a high school resource officer who was also a sheriff's deputy and two school counselors recommended in September 2016 that Cruz be committed for mental evaluation under Florida's Baker Act. That law allows for involuntary commitment for mental health examination for at least three days.

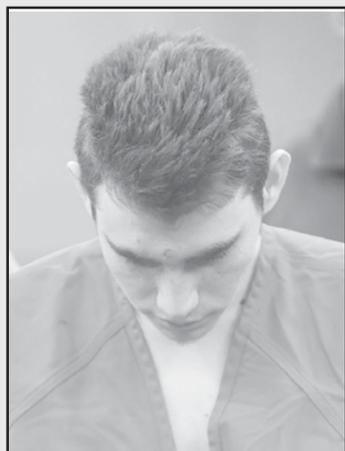
Such an involuntary commitment would also have been a high obstacle if not a complete barrier to legally obtaining a firearm, such as the AR-15 type rifle used in the Stoneman Douglas massacre on Feb. 14, authorities say.

There is no evidence Cruz was ever committed. Coincidentally, the school resource officer who recommended that Cruz be "Baker Acted" was Scot Peterson — the same Broward Sheriff's Office deputy

(Continued on page 13)

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Evaga)

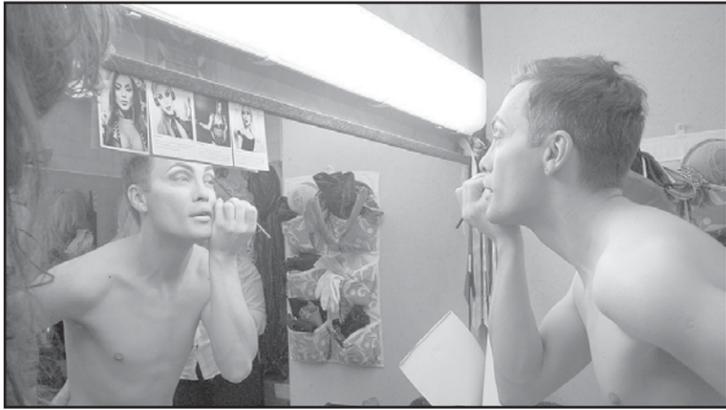


FILE - In a Wednesday, March 14, 2018 file photo, Nikolas Cruz is lead out of the courtroom after an arraignment hearing at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Cruz is accused of the shooting rampage that killed 14 students and three school employees at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Feb. 14. In addition, 17 people were wounded. More than a year earlier, documents in the criminal case against Nikolas Cruz and obtained by The Associated Press show school officials and a sheriff's deputy recommended in September 2016 that Cruz be involuntarily committed for a mental evaluation. But the recommendation was never acted upon. (Amy



▶ At gay...

Continued from page 6



In this photo taken on Saturday, March 17, 2018, performer Andrei applies make-up before a Saturday night drag show at a gay club in Yekaterinburg, Russia. The prospect of President Vladimir Putin winning another six years in office drew an apathetic response at a gay nightclub in the Ural mountains city of Yekaterinburg. Despite harrowing reports last year of killings of gay men in the predominantly Muslim republic of Chechnya, those at the nightclub insist gay men in Russia can be safe as long as they are discreet.

(AP Photo/Nataliya Vasilyeva)

Markus, 26, left home in his early teens after dropping out of a military boarding school. For him, as for the other performers, going onto the streets of Russia's fourth-largest city in drag is out of the question.

"I can't just put on the heels and walk the streets," he said. "My upbringing won't allow it. I'm just an ordinary man like everyone else except for my sexual orientation, but I shouldn't be telling everyone about it. It's my private business."

Markus added: "If you don't put it on display, if you don't show off, it's OK."

A year ago, reports began

emerging from the predominantly Muslim republic of Chechnya in southern Russia that men were tortured and killed on the mere suspicion of being gay.

A government investigation found no proof to back the accounts of dozens who spoke about torture at secret prison facilities overseen by the allies of Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. He has claimed there are no gays in Chechnya.

For the LGBT community in Yekaterinburg, those horror stories seem like something from a foreign country — unconceivable in this city in the Ural mountains.



In this photo taken on Saturday, March 17, 2018, performer Bomba dresses before a Saturday night drag show at a gay club in Yekaterinburg, Russia. The prospect of President Vladimir Putin winning another six years in office drew an apathetic response at a gay nightclub in the Ural mountains city of Yekaterinburg. Despite harrowing reports last year of killings of gay men in the predominantly Muslim republic of Chechnya, those at the nightclub insist gay men in Russia can be safe as long as they are discreet.

(AP Photo/Nataliya Vasilyeva)

Among the performers at the Fame nightclub, Andrei was the only one who said he would vote, although he refused to say for whom. One of the veteran performers, 51-year-old Gera, said he has never voted because he has "neither confidence nor faith" in elections, and Markus also said it was pointless.

Markus said he does not hold a grudge against Putin for monopolizing power. Like many Russians, he credited him for bringing stability despite worsening relations with the West. "Compared to the Soviet Union and the 1990s when there were gangs, life is much easier now," he said.

The era when some of Yekaterinburg's neighborhoods were outdoor drug dens at night may

be gone, but security at Fame illustrated the lingering jitters in the gay community. Three men at the entrance searched patrons' belongings at the metal detector more meticulously than security officials at some Russian airports. Most of the patrons did not want to be photographed or interviewed, saying they feared repercussions from neighbors or colleagues. Zakhur Naumov, a 32-year-old marketing manager at a flower company, said he could understand the need for heightened security. He was beaten by guards at a club hosting a gay party in 2008 "because I was walking out of their club, holding someone by the hand."

Unlike most victims of anti-gay violence that largely goes

unreported in Russia, Naumov went to the police and filed charges. His attackers were given brief prison sentences.

Naumov said another six years of Putin is "going to be the same as before," with gays opening up about their sexuality only to immediate family members or at clubs.

"It's like they exist, but at the same time, it's as if they don't," he said. But he draws hope from a younger generation that appears to be far more accepting of gays than people who grew up in the Soviet Union. Attitudes won't change until the government is "as young as we are."

Naumov said he would vote — but only to spoil his ballot, "because there is no choice, no choice at all."

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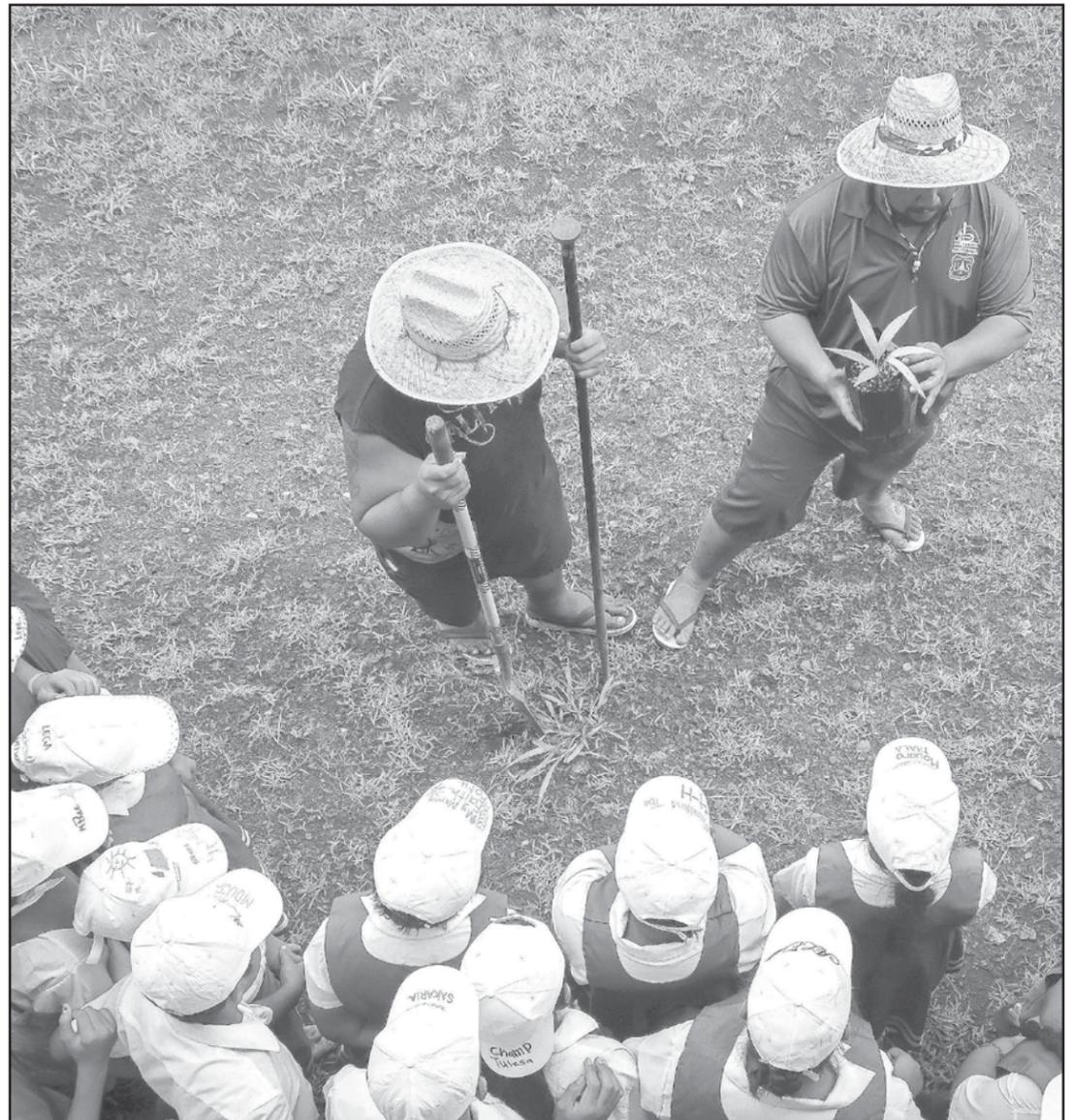
Aso o le Fa'asalalauaga: Mati 05, 2018
Fa'afeso'ota'i: AS-EPA Polokalama a le Vai - 633-2304

Fa'asilasilaga mai le Ofisa o le Puipuiga o le Si'osi'omaga mo le mamalu o le atunu'u: sa faia su'esu'ega o gataifale ia Mati 06, 2018, ma fa'amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

Aua Stream Mouth Alega Stream Mouth

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu'u o lo'o fa'aaogaina ia ogasami mo ta'elega ma fagotaga: talu ai ona o su'esu'ega o ia vaega o ogasami sa faia i le vaiaso ua mavae, sa molimauina ai le maualuga o le faitau aofa'i o siana (Enterococci) mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina i le tulafono i ia vaega o ogasami. O nei siana e afua mai otaota po'o suavai lafoa'i o tagata ma meaola. Afai ae o'atu le faitau aofa'i o siana mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina, o lona uiga, e i ai le avanoa e ono afaina ai lou soifua maloloina ini fa'ama'i e pei o le manava-tatā, o fofoga fa'apea fo'i ma manu'a o le tino pe a sao i ai le siana. Mo lou saogalemu: 'aua le inuina le suasami, ia fa'alana lelei, ma fa'amālū pe a mae'a ta'elega. O le fautuaga mai le Ofisa o le AS-EPA, fa'afeso'ota'i muamua se foma'i, a'o le'i fa'aaogaina ia ogasami, auā le puipuiga o lou soifua maloloina.

Fa'amolemole, fa'autagia mai nei fautuaga. O le a toe maua atu se isi ripoti, pe a mae'a nisi o su'esu'ega mai le Potu Su'esu'e a le AS-EPA i le vaiaso fou. O lo'o i lalo o le va'ava'aiga a le AS-EPA matafaga mo tafaoga e 44 i le motu o Tutuila, e 5 i Manua ma le uafu i Aunu'u. O fa'asalalauaga mo fautuaga mo le motu o Tutuila o lo'o auina atu i vaiaso ta'itasi, ae o Manua ma Aunu'u e fa'asalalau atu i masina ta'itasi. Mo ni fesili pe fia malamalama atili, fa'amolemole, vala'au mai i le telefoni (684) 633-2304.



ASCC-ACNR Forestry staff (left) Galutau Aga and Tony Maugalei demonstrate proper tree planting techniques to Fagalii Elementary School students during the Forestry Program 2018 Review.

[Courtesy photo]

UK art teacher wins \$1M teaching prize for inner city work

By AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A British art teacher won a highly-competitive \$1 million teaching prize on Sunday for her work with inner-city children in London, helping students feel welcome and safe in a borough with one of the highest murder rates in the country. Andria Zafirakou, 39, beat out some 30,000 applicants from around the world to win the Global Teacher Prize, which honors one exceptional teacher a year who's made a significant contribution to the profession. The Alperton Community School teacher was awarded for her work in the London borough of Brent, one of the most ethnically diverse places in the country. Her students come from some of the poorest families in Britain with parents who don't necessarily speak English. She was credited for her efforts beyond the classroom, which include establishing relationships with parents, riding with students on the bus and standing at school gates with police officers to welcome stu-

dents at the start of the day.

"It's always a nice thing sometimes to say hi to them in their language and then that just automatically makes them smile and it makes the connection with the child," she told The Associated Press.

Zafirakou is the first British teacher to win the award. Prime Minister Theresa May congratulated her in a video recording at the award ceremony.

"Being a great teacher requires resilience, ingenuity and a generous heart," the prime minister said. "These are the qualities that you share with your students every day. So, thank you for all you have done and continue to do."

Stunned and excited, the secondary school (high school) teacher began her speech saying, "Wow!"

She thanked her parents, who were in the audience, saying with laughter: "The Greek family have arrived."

Zafirakou, who is born in London, also praised the "beautiful" diversity of her school's population and said the students are intense in their pursuit



British school teacher Andria Zafirakou receives the Global Teacher Prize trophy from comedian Trevor Noah at a ceremony in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, March 18, 2018. Zafirakou won the \$1 million prize for teaching excellence awarded by the Varkey Foundation.

(AP Photo/Jon Gambrell)

of education despite living in crowded homes where it is hard to find a quiet place to study and where many have to care for their siblings after school.

"For many of our students, English is not the main language spoken at home. It's also a community where many of our students unfortunately live in challenging circumstances," she said on stage. "What is amazing is that whatever issues they are having at home, whatever is missing from their lives or causes them pain: Our school

is theirs," she said. Zafirakou, who works as an art and textiles teacher, stressed the importance of funding arts programs in schools. She said the arts help students think creatively, and teaches them resilience and perseverance. She told the AP that with the million-dollar prize she'd like to think about a project for her community that celebrates creativity. The Global Teacher Prize was awarded in a star-studded ceremony in Dubai on Sunday hosted by Trevor Noah of the "Daily Show".

Other celebrities present included Hollywood star Charlize Theron and Indian actress Priyanka Chopra.

Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was on hand to present the prize. The award is presented by the Varkey Foundation. Its founder, Sunny Varkey, established the for-profit GEMS Education company, which has more than 250 schools around the world.

Some wanted...

Continued from page 11

who resigned amid accusations he failed to respond to the shooting by staying outside the building where the killings occurred.

David S. Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor, said that an involuntary commitment would have been a huge red flag had Cruz attempted to buy a firearm legally.

"If he had lied, hopefully the verification of the form would have pulled up the commitment paperwork," Weinstein said.

The documents do not say why Cruz was not committed under the Baker Act or whether he may not have qualified for other reasons. The law allows a law enforcement officer such as Peterson to initiate commitment under the Baker Act.

An attorney for Peterson did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Sunday.

Cruz, 19, is charged in a 34-count indictment with killing 17 people and wounding 17 others in the attack. He faces the death penalty if convicted, but his public defender Melisa McNeill has said he would plead guilty in return for a life prison sentence.

In the Henderson Behavioral Health documents, Cruz's mother Lynda is quoted as saying she had fresh concerns about her son's mental state after he punched holes in a wall at their home in Parkland. The clinicians at Henderson came to the home for interviews and said Cruz admitted punching the

wall but said he did so because he was upset at a breakup with his girlfriend.

Cruz also admitted cutting his arm with a pencil sharpener.

After a Sept. 28, 2016 interview, the documents say Cruz "reports that he cut his arms 3-4 weeks ago and states that this is the only time he has ever cut. (Cruz) states that he cut because he was lonely, states that he had broken up with his girlfriend and reports that his grades had fallen. (Cruz) states that he is better now, reports that he is no longer lonely and states that his grades have gone back up."

He also told the clinician he owned only a pellet gun and was not capable of doing "serious harm" to anyone.

The documents show that Cruz was very much on the radar screen of mental health professionals and the Broward County school system, yet very little appears to have been done other than these evaluations.

Other red flags have also surfaced, including calls to the FBI about Cruz's potential to become a school shooter and numerous visits by county law enforcement officials to his home - both before his mother died in November and after, when he lived briefly with a family friend in Palm Beach County.

Again, very little was done.

It's not clear from the documents who the recommendation was forwarded to or why it was not followed up.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP 029-2018
Issuance Date: March 16, 2018

Date & Time Due: April 2, 2018
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide the:

"Department of Education - School Lunch Program: Consultant and Project Management Services for the Electrical Transformer Relocation Project"

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP: Department of Education - School Lunch Program: Consultant and Project Management Services for the Relocation of Electrical Transformer." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), April 2, 2018:

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

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

REVIEW

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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Greece: 16 migrants die as smuggling boat sinks in Aegean



A coast guard vessel arrives with the bodies of migrants at the port of Pythagorio on the eastern Greek island of Samos, Saturday, March 17, 2018. Greece's coast guard said Saturday the bodies of fourteen people have been recovered from the sea off a Greek island in the eastern Aegean following the sinking of a suspected migrant smuggling boat. (AP Photo/Michael Svarnias)

By ELENA BECATOROS and DEMETRIS NELLAS, Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A smuggling boat sank Saturday off a Greek island, killing at least 16 migrants including children, and a search-and-rescue operation was underway to find two others believed missing.

The wooden boat was believed to have been carrying around 21 people when it sank for reasons that were not immediately clear off the coast of the eastern Aegean island of Agathonisi, the Greek coast guard said. Three people — two women and one man — managed to swim to the island and alert authorities.

A massive search operation involving aircraft, the Greek navy and coast guard and a vessel from the European border agency Frontex was underway.

A coast guard spokeswoman said the recovered bodies had not been identified yet and they included six children.

Despite a two-year deal between the European Union and Turkey designed to stop migrants and refugees from pouring into Europe from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek

islands, dozens and sometimes hundreds of people still make the journey each week. Most cross in rickety inflatable boats or other unseaworthy vessels.

The U.N. Refugee Agency released a statement saying it is "deeply saddened" at the sinking.

"Some 4,000 people, mainly women and children from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, have arrived by sea to Greece so far this year. Today's tragic incident is the first shipwreck in the Aegean of 2018, but some 500 refugees and migrants lost their lives or went missing in the Greek Aegean Sea over the past two years," it said.

The U.N. refugee agency said "renewed efforts are needed to combat smuggling and trafficking and to strengthen safe alternatives to the perilous sea journeys."

Also Saturday, demonstrators marched through central Athens protesting the EU-Turkey migrant deal, whose second anniversary falls Sunday. About 2,000 protesters ended the march outside EU offices, decrying Europe's closed borders, but Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkey's military incursion into Syria.

"The latest tragedy at Agathonisi underlines in the worst and saddest way that human life cannot depend on the interests of smugglers, nor on the 'policies' of states," Greek Migration Minister Dimitris Vitsas said.

He said the solution to the problem is providing safe procedures for refugees and migrants while also cracking down on smuggling rings.

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"Channel 47" KBS WORLD Program of American Samoa

*The programs listed below may change without notice due to copyright issues. (Mar 18 ~ 24, 2018) *

Time of American Samoa	Sunday (3/18)	Monday (3/19)	Tuesday (3/20)	Wednesday (3/21)	Thursday (3/22)	Friday (3/23)	Saturday (3/24)
10:00 am	The Beauty A Week	Hello Counselor (E,R)	One Night Sleepover Trip (E,R)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	Music Bank	Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)
11:00 am	Battle Trip (E,R)		Encore Drama Blade Man			The Beauty Season 2	
12:00 NOON	The Unit (E,R)	Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper" (E,R)					
1:00 pm	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E,R)					
2:00 pm		Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Radio Romance Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E)		K-RUSH Season 3
3:00 pm	Happy Together (E,R)	Hello Counselor (E,R)	One Night Sleepover Trip (E,R)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	Music Bank
4:00 pm	Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R)	Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R)	My Golden Life	Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E,R)
5:00 pm	Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R)	Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama	Wed-Thu Drama
6:00 pm	Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R) # 10, 11, 12.	Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R) # 12, 13, 14.	Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R) # 50, 51, 52 Final.	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R) # 4, 5, 6.	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Radio Romance (E,R)	Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)
7:00 pm	Gag Concert	Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper" (E,R)					
8:00 pm		Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E)					
9:00 pm		KBS World News Today					
10:00 pm	The Beauty	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Radio Romance Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Music Bank (Live)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E)	Battle Trip (E,R)
11:00 pm	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Hello Counselor (E,R)	One Night Sleepover Trip (E,R)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R)	K-RUSH Season 3 Danding Beauty (E,R) Office Watch Season The Beauty A Week	Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)
12:00 Next Day	Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper" (E,R)						Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)
1:00 am	KBS 9 News (Live)						Two Day and One Night (E)
2:00 am	KBS 9 News (Live)						Hello Counselor (E,R)
3:00 am	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Radio Romance Mon-Tue Drama (E)		Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E)		Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E)	
4:00 am	Hello Counselor (E)	One Night Sleepover Trip (E)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E)	Happy Together (E)	Music Bank (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)
5:00 am	Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)						K-RUSH Season 3 The Beauty Season 2
6:00 am	KBS World e-Today						Entertainment Weekly (E,R)
7:00 am	The Beauty	Battle Trip (E,R)	jisook's Table for One The Beauty A Week	My Neighbor Charles	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	The Return of Superman (E,R) Two Day and One Night (E,R)
8:00 am	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E,R)	
9:00 am	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Radio Romance Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		Blade Man (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles Guerilla Date (E)
	Hello Counselor	One Night Sleepover	Hyena on Keyboard	Happy Together	Music Bank		

*Note: If you need this Schedule, e-mail <hyunhwilee@gmail.com>. and I will send it to you every week!

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US probes 4 deaths in Hyundai-Kia cars when air bags failed

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Air bags in some Hyundai and Kia cars failed to inflate in crashes and four people are dead. Now the U.S. government's road safety agency wants to know why.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it's investigating problems that affect an estimated 425,000 cars made by the Korean automakers. The agency also is looking into whether the same problem could happen in vehicles made by other companies. In documents posted on its website Saturday, the safety agency says the probe covers 2011 Hyundai Sonata midsize cars and 2012 and 2013 Kia Forte compacts. The agency says it has reports of six front-end crashes with significant damage to the cars. Four people died and six were injured.

Polish archbishop criticizes priest wishing Francis death



Pope Francis celebrates a mass at the St. Padre Pio Sanctuary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Southern Italy, Saturday, March 17, 2018. Pope Francis is making a pastoral visit to the places where Padre Pio was born and lived Saturday.

(AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's leading archbishop deplored on Sunday comments by a senior conservative priest who had wished Pope Francis a quick death if he does not open to "wisdom."

Krakow Archbishop Marek Jedraszewski said he heard about the comments with "great pain and regret" and has discussed them face-to-face with Msgr. Edward Staniek, who made them in a Feb. 25 church speech in Krakow.

Krakow was the seat of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the late Pope St. John Paul II. Poland's

church remains attached to John Paul's conservative stance, which largely differs from Francis' inclusive message. A majority of Poland's bishops see their mission as preserving the traditional Catholic values from the pressure of secularization.

In his speech, Staniek, who is a prominent theologian, said he was praying for wisdom for Francis and a "heart open to the Holy Spirit, and if he does not do that, for a quick passage to the House of the Father," meaning death.

He said that Francis has departed from the teaching of

Jesus and was wrongly interpreting mercy as opening up to Muslims and allowing communion for divorced Catholics, who, according to the church, live in mortal sin and are not allowed communion.

A former seminary rector, Staniek suggested Francis was an "alien body" in the Catholic Church and said his words were used by media that are hostile to the church. His superior, Archbishop Jedraszewski, insisted in his statement that the full Krakow diocese was praying ardently every day with the best intentions for Francis.

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Cap Taputapu	039	TBA	03/23	03/25	04/05	---	04/10	04/10
Polynesia	495	TBA	04/08	04/10	04/21	---	04/26	04/26
Cap Taputapu	040	TBA	04/24	04/26	05/06	---	05/11	05/11
Polynesia	496	TBA	05/10	05/12	05/23	---	05/28	05/28

SOUTHBOUND ARRIVAL					
VESSEL	VOY	PPT	N/ALOFA	APIA	PAGO
Polynesia	494	03/19	---	03/24	03/24
Polynesia	495	05/18	---	04/10	04/10
Cap Taputapu	039	04/21	---	04/26	04/26
Polynesia	496	05/06	---	05/11	05/11
Cap Taputapu	040	05/23	---	05/28	05/28

Note: All Schedule dates are estimated



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