



A look at the "TOP 5" for this year's Territorial Science Fair competition, high school division. Pacific Horizons took off with three of the TOP 5 Awards, including overall first place Gloria Park (far left). 2nd and 5th place honors went to South Pacific Academy, while Faasao Marist walked away with 3rd place.

Samoa News notes that there was a tie for second place overall, which was shared by PHS and SPA.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

Faipule want church services recorded in the village, not at the KVZK studio

SAYS EXCUSES NOT ACCEPTABLE — STOP DOING FAVORS FOR THE GOV'T

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Rep. Vailuama Steve Leasiolagi told KVZK-TV deputy director, Tautinei Misioka Olo during a hearing before the House Government Operations committee last Friday, that Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga should not be involved in making decisions about how the government's television station conducts their daily business. That is up to the Legislature and the Director to decide.

Olo appeared on behalf of KVZK-TV director, Tuimavave Tauapa'i Laupola to answer questions from lawmakers as to why the recording of church service program is no longer being conducted in the villages but instead each church has to record their program at the KVZK-TV studio in Utulei.

Rep. Gafatasi Afalava, at the insistence of his constituents from Aoloau, raised the issue during a House Session two weeks ago and asked for a hearing, requesting the director appear before the committee to explain the changes.

Vailuama told Olo that he supports faipule objections to recording at KVZK rather than in the villages.

Olo told the committee that the only church services that the governor instructed their office to conduct in the villages were the church services sponsored by the government, such as the church service of the Toa o Samoa, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Thanksgiving, and any other church service that has to do with the government.

"For church services, the governor has instructed our office that all these programs should be conducted at our office studio in Utulei — not only to protect our equipment from damage if we take it out, but also to avoid our staff from working after hours and overtime and not getting that pay," Olo said.

Olo told the committee that there are reasons why these changes were made — one of them being that all of the equipment is more than 50 years old and the staff has to be very careful when they take equipment out to the villages to record church service programs. To keep the equipment in good running order, it's better to keep them all inside the studio.

"If a church service program was recorded but we later found out that the quality was not good because the equipment we're using is old, there is no time for us to inform the church in such a short notice and ask them for their program to be recorded again," said Olo, who stated that recording these church service programs at the studio is more convenient than conducting them

(Continued on page 9)

Steps being taken for educational reform in American Samoa

PROPOSAL RECOMMENDS DOE BECOME A SEMIAUTONOMOUS AUTHORITY

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

The Educational Reform Task Force (ERTF) has drafted a proposed bill that, according to ERTF chairman Utu Abe Malae, "significantly restructures the form of public education in the Territory, and further updates the current statutory scheme which dates from the 1960s and 70s."

As part of its outreach, Task Force members have been getting airtime at schools across the territory, and their most recent presentation — with recommendations — was made before the Leone High School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the school gymnasium.

"The comments and questions from the PTA displayed a keen understanding of issues and a passion to make a sea change in the way educational services are delivered to our children," Utu said.

The most far reaching recommendation is to convert the Department of Education (DOE) from a government department to a semi-autonomous authority similar — but not identical — to the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), the Public School System of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and school districts in the United States.

According to Utu, the recommendation garnered overwhelming support from speakers, including senators, principals, teachers, retirees, and parents.

The ultimate goal is this: The authority would be governed by

a seven-member board of directors — five elected by constituents of each of the five high school districts, and two at-large members appointed by the Governor with Fono confirmation.

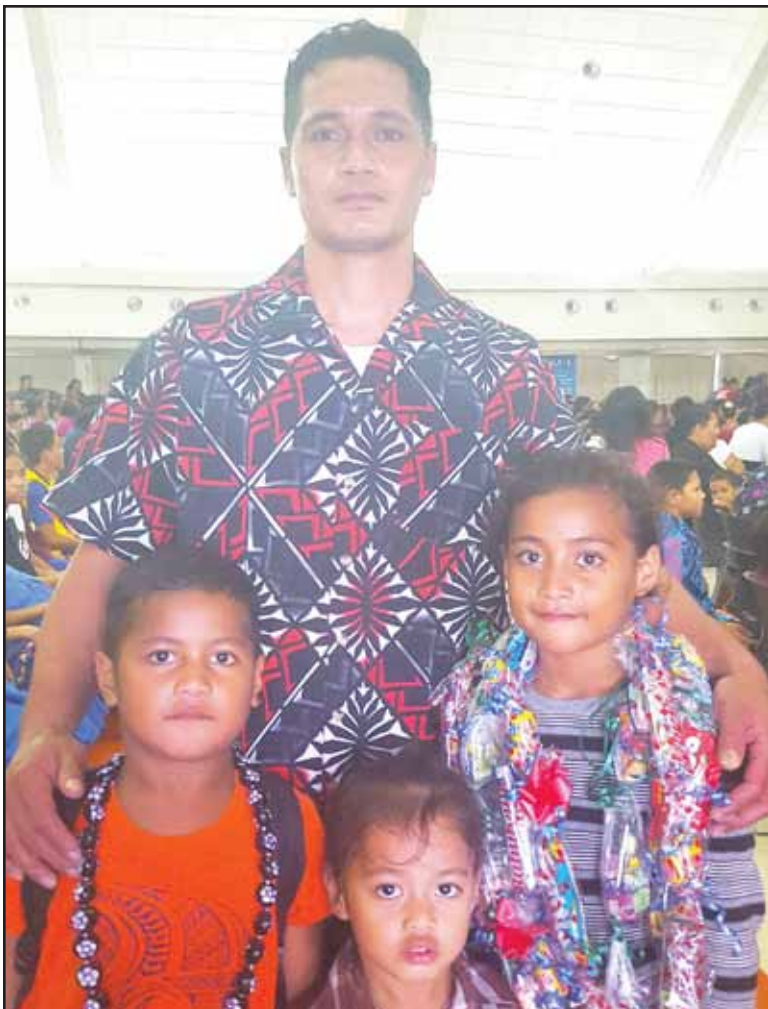
Utu explained, "The board hires the Superintendent of Education. Twenty percent of annual local government revenues or \$20 million, whichever is greater, will be slotted the local share of overall DOE

funding. The rest of the budget will be from grants and other sources. In terms of the budget split, \$20 million represents 30% of the present DOE budget and 70% is from grants."

Other recommendations include:

- More parental involvement memorialized by an Agreement of Expectations;
- A five-year planning

(Continued on page 8)



Representing Aua Elementary School in this year's Territorial Math in Art competition was 3rd grader Lisa Filipino, who took third place overall in the Level 3-5 cluster in the Poster division. Lisa is pictured with her proud dad and her siblings. See tomorrow's Samoa News for the official results of the math and science fair competitions, both elementary and high school divisions.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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House committee grills Le'i over using firemen as prison guards

FAIPULE SAY "NOT RIGHT"



DPS officials after the House Public Safety hearing last week, where issues at TCF and the Fire Division were discussed.

[photo by AF]

by Ausage Fausia

Samoa News Reporter

Firemen who were assigned to guard inmates at the Territorial Correction Facility (TCF) have been returned to their regular jobs, according to Police

Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson during a hearing with the House Public Safety committee last week.

Rep. Manumaua W. Wilson, chaired the hearing, with several representatives in attendance.

Fofo Faipule, Fagaoatua Dorian Salavea requested the hearing with the Police Commissioner Le'i to explain the reasons behind these decisions. In his response, Le'i first apologized to the committee for what was published in the newspaper about this issue, saying that his decision to assign firemen to guard the two inmates was a result of a discussion with TCF Warden, Tauese Va'aomala Sunia, and was due to the fact that there is a need for additional manpower at TCF.

"There are a lot of issues at TCF that DPS needs to address, and one of these issues is the shortage of prison guards and the need to prevent inmates from continuing to escape from confinement," Le'i said. And although the new prison facility is equipped with a security camera system inside, Le'i told the committee that this does not stop inmates from escaping. "The best way to stop inmates from escaping is to have prison guards present inside the prison 24/7. Not only to watch them but also to monitor all of their actions, and that is the main reason why I asked the Fire Chief to allow some of his firemen to help with the situation at the TCF," Le'i said.

The firemen who were assigned to guard the inmates

were instructed to look after these particular inmates only. According to Le'i they were not asked to perform any other duties of a police officer nor to do anything that they were not trained to do — they were asked to just be present and look after the inmates. If anything happened such as inmates trying to escape again or inmates fighting, the firemen were told to contact the TCF main office immediately.

"I understand that these firemen were not trained to guard prisoners, nor can they deal with any types of situations happening at TCF. They have their own academy and training pertaining to their field, but my hat goes off to the Chief of Fire Division especially to those firemen who were assigned to do the task," the Commissioner said.

On the issue of removing the firemen and the fire truck from the Leone Substation, Le'i defended his decision, saying that the fire truck was taken to the mechanic shop for repairs, and it and the firemen are now back at the Leone Substation to continue their daily schedule.

Vice Speaker, Rep. Fetu Fetui Jr referring to the shortage of guards at TCF, told Le'i that he thanked God that nothing has happened at TCF between inmates and police officers, and who knows, maybe it was the work of the Holy Spirit inside the hearts of the inmates, which prevents anything bad from happening to any police officers at TCF.

As a former cop, Fetu said that he understands the need for more prison guards at TCF because the last 12 of his 20 years of service with DPS were at the TCF.

(Continued on page 10)



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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Cultural mediation touted to resolve “misunderstanding” between alia and longliners

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Cultural mediation is being recommended as a way to address differences between the local alia fishers and the US longliners based in American Samoa, as there’s a “misunderstanding” between the two fisheries in the territory, according to Danika Kleiber of the Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC).

And during the PIFSC’s survey last month in the territory on “cultural fishing” practices, local alia fishers also suggested infrastructure improvements for this fishery, and they oppose opening up the large vessel prohibited area (LVPA) in territorial waters for the US longline fleet based in American Samoa.

At the recent Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting in Honolulu, Kleiber presented the results of the PIFSC survey that interviewed 14 people — 13 of them through in-person interviews — regarding the definition of cultural fishing (see last Thursday’s story for other details).

According to Kleiber, there was disagreement on whether the LVPA should be opened or not. She explained that local alia want it to remain closed but US longline fishers disagreed. At the discussions during the survey, Kleiber said there was a “recommendation for cultural mediation between these fisheries” — alia and longline.

“... Repeatedly we were told, that there’s misunderstanding between the two fisheries, misrepresentation and there’s a need for these two fisheries to be able to discuss together their shared values and needs,” she points out.

In the Cultural Fishing in American Samoa Report presented at the Council, PIFSC noted that in one of the coordination discussions, the idea of cultural mediation was suggested. And this could include having the matai-led commu-

nity discussions regarding the tension between alia vessel owners and longline owners.

According to PIFSC, this is similar to recommendations in a report by Severance and Franco in 1989 - ‘Justification and design of limited entry alternatives for the offshore fisheries of American Samoa, and an examination of preferential fishing rights for native people of American Samoa within a limited entry context’.

“Given that the dispute is framed as being about cultural fishing practices,” the PIFSC report said, “utilizing cultural practices to make that determination could be more satisfactory to those involved.”

“Engaging the matai to broker the discussion would also address some of the concerns over the US Federal government ultimately making decisions about fishery resources in the American Samoa Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ),” according to the report, which echoed long standing concerns of the governor and local leaders over US decisions that impact local fisheries and the economy.

As in many natural resource controversies, the stated dispute — protection of cultural fishing practices — “may mask deep-rooted or identity-based conflicts,” it says citing a quote from the 2014 study by Madden & McQuinn.

PIFSC cited Gov. Lolo Matatalasi Moliga’s previous remarks to the Council that, “The LVPA issue has far reaching implications for the people of American Samoa particularly on the principle of sovereignty, and the responsibility of the United States to honor its promises inherent in the ratification of the Deeds of Cession by the Congress of the United States.”

And the governor’s remarks are an indication that the “issue of cultural fishing practices sits within a larger governance question of who should make

decisions about the American Samoa EEZ, and how those decisions should be made.”

During her presentation, Kleiber noted some of the ideas that were suggested by alia fishers, such as a “protected market for the smaller boats” — the alia — “so they wouldn’t have to compete with the longline vessels.”

According to the PIFSC report, alia fishers were frustrated that US longliners could sell their miscellaneous catch locally and at what, alia fishers, “characterized as a lower price, securing contracts with restaurants, schools, and prisons and competing within the limited local market.”

The PIFSC survey found that there were concerns from alia fishers about the local Saturday fish market at the Fagatogo Market place. (The fish market is now overseen by the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, which continues to work closely with alia fishers.)

“Many alia fishers mentioned selling their catch on the side of the road because rent was too high at the local government-run market to make it worthwhile to sell there, although there was hope that new management [of the fish market] would bring needed changes,” the report said.

“From the... longline [fishers] perspective, because they often operate with a thin margin or sometimes at a loss, the ability to sell on the local market can make a difference to their operations,” PIFSC said.

Kleiber’s presentation also outlined infrastructure issues listed by alia fishermen:

- Dedicated market and/ or improved market access — including the banning of longline catch to be sold locally and cheaper rent at the fish market
- Freezer space to store catch
- Ice machine
- Assistance in vessel upgrades

‘Vote them out!’: Hundreds of thousands demand gun control

By ASHRAF KHALIL and
CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a historic groundswell of youth activism, hundreds of thousands of teenagers and their supporters rallied across the U.S. against gun violence Saturday, vowing to transform fear and grief into a “vote-them-out” movement and tougher laws against weapons and ammo.

They took to the streets of

the nation’s capital and such cities as Boston, New York, Chicago, Houston, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, in the kind of numbers seen during the Vietnam era, sweeping up activists long frustrated by stalemate in the gun debate and bringing in lots of new, young voices.

They were called to action by a brand-new corps of leaders: student survivors of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida,

that left 17 people dead Feb. 14.

“If you listen real close, you can hear the people in power shaking,” Parkland survivor David Hogg said to roars from the protesters packing Pennsylvania Avenue from the stage near the Capitol many blocks back toward the White House. “We’re going to take this to every election, to every state and every city. We’re going to make sure the best people get in

(Continued on page 11)

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Letter to the Editor

OP ED: Chair Ebisui's Response to Gov. Lolo's statements in www.talane.com article

After reading the article titled "Governor defends ASG's no vote on LVPA" posted on www.talane.com (March 22, 2018), I am compelled to correct what appear to be misconceptions of the Council's actions taken on the LVPA.

First, the article says that the "rule that was instigated by the Council to allow longliners to fish within 12 miles from shore in local waters." The Council's 2015 action was to allow longline vessels to fish outside of 12 nm, not within 12 nm from shore and not within local waters.

Second, US-flagged longline vessels operating out of American Samoa target albacore tuna, a pelagic stock that is sold to the local cannery. American Samoa longline vessels do not target or incidentally catch bottomfish such as snappers, groupers, and jacks. There is simply no evidence to suggest that longline vessels would impact bottomfish stocks. It's like equating cricket to rugby — both are sports, but clearly much different.

According to the most recent stock assessment for bottomfish in American Samoa, bottomfish stocks are healthy and fished well below Maximum Sustainable Yield.

Third, the LVPA was developed by the Council in 2002 to address the potential for gear conflict and catch competition among commercial fishing vessels greater than 50 feet and smaller coastal fishing sectors, including pelagic troll, alias, and recreational fishers. However, since developing the LVPA, the longliners have experienced severe economic turmoil, with increasing costs and significantly reduced catch rates of albacore, while the alia longline fishery has virtually disappeared.

Under the Magnuson Stevens Act, the Council is required to manage fisheries utilizing the best scientific information currently available. Here, the Council is proposing to adjust the size of a prohibited area that it created in 2002 to respond to significantly changed circumstances.

Last October, the Council considered the LVPA issue at its meeting held in American Samoa and recommended as initial action, an exemption for longline vessels greater than 50 feet permitted under the American Samoa longline limited entry program to fish seaward (outside) of: 12 nm around Tutuila; 12 nm around Manua; 12 nm around Swains; and 2 nm around the offshore banks. The Council's initial action on providing a 2 nm buffer around the offshore banks was to accommodate troll vessels that fish near the banks for pelagic species such as yellowfin and skipjack tuna, wahoo, and masimasi.

I have concerns with the Governor's statement that "if the council withdraws its appeal, we are willing to sit down and talk with them. But don't force what they want on us." The Council is not forcing anything on the American Samoa Government.

At its 173rd meeting held last week in Honolulu the Council requested that the American Samoa Government consider relevant information and meet with longline and alia fishermen and other interested parties; and further, that the American Samoa Government forward its recommendation to the Council for its consideration prior to taking final action.

The Council is sincerely interested in hearing the Government of American Samoa's concerns for the preservation of cultural fishing and believes that resolution of this dispute cannot be achieved without constructive dialogue among the stakeholders.

Ed Ebisui Jr.,

**Chair, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
March 23, 2018**

Congressman: Bombing suspect called himself a 'psychopath'



ADDS THE YEAR 2010, WHEN THE PHOTO CREATED - This 2010 student ID photo released by Austin Community College shows Mark Anthony Conditt, who attended classes there between 2010 and 2012, according to the school. Conditt, the suspect in the deadly bombings that terrorized Austin, blew himself up early Wednesday, March 21, 2018, as authorities closed in on him, bringing a grisly end to a three-week manhunt.

(Austin Community College via AP)

By **RYAN J. FOLEY, Associated Press**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The suspected Austin bomber called himself a "psychopath" in a recorded confession and said he felt no remorse for deadly explosions that killed two people and terrorized the city, a U.S. congressman said Saturday.

Investigators are still looking into what motivated 23-year-old Mark Anthony Conditt, but the recording he left on his cell phone shows that he was a "sick individual," U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul said.

"He did refer to himself as a psychopath. He did not show any remorse, in fact questioning himself for why he didn't feel any remorse for what he did," McCaul said.

Conditt makes no mention of a racial motivation on the recording, but investigators are still looking into that as a possibility, he said. The first three victims were minorities.

McCaul, a former federal prosecutor who chairs the House Committee on Homeland Security, spoke at a news conference where he thanked law enforcement officials for bringing the three-week spree to an end. He called the investigation, which included more than 800 officers, a textbook example of how local, state and federal agencies should work together.

Beginning March 2, police say Conditt planted bombs in different parts of Austin, killing two people and severely wounding four others.

He began by placing explosives in packages left overnight on doorsteps, killing 39-year-old father Anthony Stephan House and 17-year-old musician Draylen Mason and critically injuring 75-year-old Esperanza Herrera. He then rigged an explosive to a tripwire along a public trail, injuring two young men who crossed it. Finally, he sent two parcels with bombs via FedEx, one of which exploded and injured a worker at a distribution center near San Antonio.

Conditt died after detonating a explosive device early Wednesday as SWAT team officers ran toward his vehicle to arrest him in an Austin suburb. Investigators discovered a roughly 25-minute recording that Conditt had made on his cell phone allegedly confessing to the crimes.

Interim Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said the department will continue withholding the recording from the public as investigators look into Conditt's motive and whether anyone else was involved. He noted that Conditt's two roommates have been questioned and said that several more people will be interviewed. Releasing the recording now could jeopardize any future prosecutions, although no one else has been arrested or charged, Manley said.

For days, Manley has been under fire for calling Conditt "a challenged young man" and not a terrorist. He struck a different note Saturday, saying: "The suspect in this incident reined terror on our community for almost 3 weeks."

Austin Mayor Steve Adler said Herrera, who suffered broken legs and other severe injuries in a March 12 blast, remains hospitalized in critical but stable condition. Herrera's grandson, Josh, wrote on his Facebook page that she has undergone several surgeries and is fighting for her life.

The identification of Conditt as the bomber continued to baffle residents in Pflugerville, the Austin suburb where Conditt had been home-schooled and grew up in a Christian family.

Mark Roessler, 57, lives across the street from where Conditt moved in last year, a mile from his parents. Conditt and his father had purchased the home in a quiet neighborhood known as Old Town, and spent months remodeling it together. Roessler said he got to know Conditt's father, Pat, during the project and said he was "kind of envious" of the time he got to spend working with his son. He said Mark Conditt was "polite, very quiet and respectful."

Roessler said he last saw him some time after the first bomb had exploded, but didn't talk with him. He said he never had any idea his neighbor was allegedly using supplies such as batteries and nails to assemble bombs in his home.

"People died and it's a horrible tragedy. My feelings move from shock and disbelief to going to the 'what-ifs,'" he said. "What if I tried to reach out to him that last time I saw him? 'Hey Mark, how are you doing?'"



Uifaatali Peter Coleman Elementary School in Pago Pago made noise this year in the Territorial Math in Art and Science Fair competitions. For the Math in Art competition, the school placed in the Top Three for all categories: Poster, Model, and Tessalation. Congratulations to all the students, parents, and teachers for a job well done!

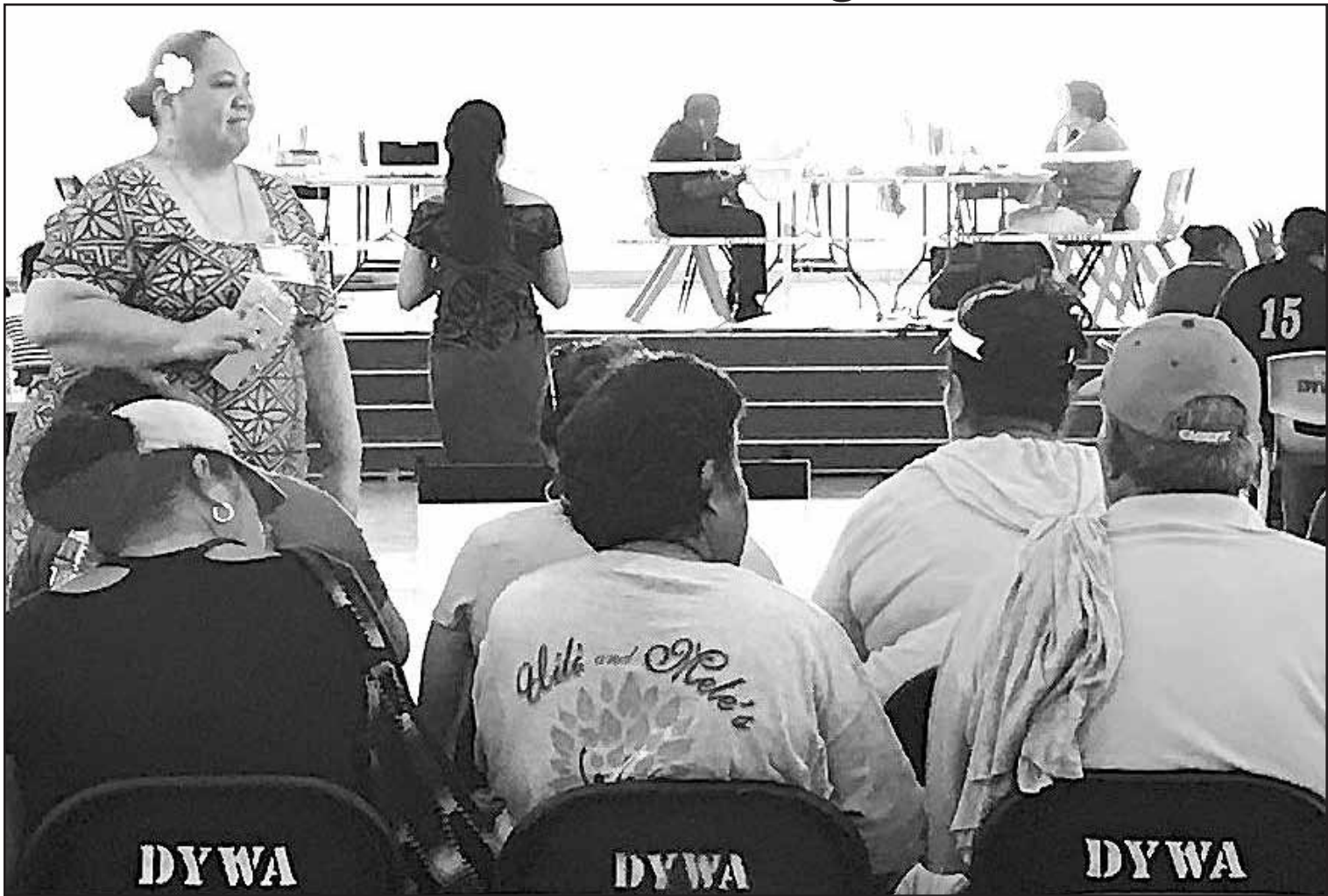
[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



Elzira Noga was one of the 5 local students who took First Place in the DOE's 21st Annual Elementary Mathematics Competition SY 2017-2018. Elzira shared the honor with her Manumalo classmate Jasmine Mondelo; South Pacific Academy's Michael Sun and Lily Feng; and Angela Chen of Pacific Horizons.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

GITA UPDATE: Nat’l Red Cross personnel head home, while DRC registration continues



This Mar. 22, 2018 photo shows residents waiting to register for federal assistance at the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) inside the DYWA Pago Pago Youth Center. [photo: FEMA]

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Red Cross personnel and volunteers deployed to American Samoa following last month’s Tropical Storm have returned to the US, with their disaster recovery work completed and turned over to the local Red Cross as registration for assistance at the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) inside the DYWA Pago Pago Youth Center, continues this week with more villages.

RED CROSS

American Red Cross San Diego/Imperial Counties, which includes American Samoa, announced two weeks ago that it would officially complete disaster relief operations on Mar. 21 following the Feb. 9 storm.

Red Cross staff, disaster workers and volunteers who were deployed to Pago Pago returned to their US bases and hometowns last Thursday night — which is also when Hawaiian Airlines officially changed its Friday flights to Thursdays, while still maintaining the Monday night regular flight.

“We have completed the relief operation and returned the local Red Cross office to its normal day-to-day operations,” said Red Cross regional communications director Emily Cox over the weekend in response to Samoa News inquiries.

However, “comfort kits, clean-up kits and welcome kits are still being distributed by local [American Samoa] volunteers as new tents are installed by the American Samoan government at locations of destroyed homes,” Cox said via email from San Diego.

Cox, who had been on

island for nearly two weeks before returning to the mainland, also says that the Red Cross worked closely with the American Samoan government to receive damage assessment information.

(And that ASG information is how Red Cross follows up with its response to local residents, says ASG officials and two local Red Cross volunteers — who noted that Red Cross workers had received some very angry responses from residents who said they had not been served although their homes had suffered damage.)

Cox explained that more than 220 Red Cross disaster workers were involved in the American Samoa disaster relief operation, including staff and volunteers deployed from across the United States, local American Samoa residents, and Red Cross disaster workers supporting the operation remotely.

Some final information from Cox on the overall Red Cross disaster response:

- More than 1,650 cases were opened for families affected by Gita, including more than 11,000 family members. Roughly 20% of the population of American Samoa received Red Cross assistance

- Red Cross supported feeding efforts in shelters with more than 15,300 meals served.

- Red Cross hosted 13 points of distribution (PODs) throughout American Samoa to distribute supplies including nearly 600 “Jumpstart to Recovery” kits, nearly 1,300 clean-up kits, and more than 2,300 comfort kits. Several thousand emergency supply items including mosquito nets, tarps, flashlights, and more

were also distributed to families affected by the storm.

- Nearly 2,500 phone calls were fielded at the Red Cross office

DRC REGISTRATION

More villages have been added to the list for registration for federal disaster assistance at the DRC — which is jointed operated by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and ASG — for this week, Mar. 26 to Wed. Mar. 28. The public is reminded that only heads of household

need attend to the registration process and the DRC is open 8a.m. to 4p.m.

For today, Monday, Mar. 26 - Faleniu numbers 0001 – 0098 and 0501 – 0653.

For Tuesday, Mar. 27:

- Faleniu numbers 0654 – 0762

- Matu’u numbers 0001 – 0043

- Faganeanea numbers 0001 – 0021

- Mesepa numbers 0001 – 0060.

On Wednesday, Mar. 28:

- Fatumafuti numbers 0001 – 0006

- Faga’alu numbers 0001 – 0081

- Futiga numbers 0001 – 0080

Applicants should have the following information at hand for registration:

Social Security number; Address of the damaged primary residence; Description of the damage; Information about insurance coverage if applicable; current contact telephone number; a PO Box where they can receive mail; and Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds.

For future village dates and times to register at the DRC, a schedule will be provided by the Territory and FEMA.

A reminder from FEMA: Individuals with access and functional needs who are heads of household and still need to register should call the Crisis Hotline at (684) 633-9017. FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Teams will come to your home to register you — you do not need to come to the DRC. Those in Ottoville already visited by DSA, with slips that have DSA written on them, do not have to come to the DRC, as they are already registered with FEMA.

FEMA have already started fieldwork inspection of those who have already registered at the DRC and homeowners are reminded to have someone home, when FEMA contracted inspectors show up.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Individuals with access and functional needs affected by the storm, people with disabilities, seniors, children, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals and families who are transportation disadvantaged who are heads of household and still need to register should call the Crisis Hotline at (684) 633-9017.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams will come to your home to register you — you do not need to come to any registration sites. If it is hard for an individual to use the telephone (hearing loss), please ask a family member or a friend to make the call on behalf of that individual.

FA’ASILASILAGA

Mo i latou uma e le atoatoa le mafaufau po o le tino ma e iai ni manaoga fa’apitoa ua mafua ai ona le mafai ona o’o mai i nofoaga o le tusigaigoa mo fesoasoani a le FEMA, fa’amolemole valaau mai ile 633-9017 e fa’ailoa mai ile au-faigaluega\lou suafoa mo le resitala a le FEMA. Aua ete alu i nofoaga o tusigaigoa, ae lava mai le onosa’i e asiasi atu sui o le FEMA i o outou maota po o laoa e fa’ataunu’uina le resitala.

Fa’asilasilaga: Afai o oe o se tagata matua po o se tasi e iai ni manaoga fa’apitoa, valaau mai i le numera 633-9017 E i ai le vaega fa’apitoa o le FEMA e o’o atu i lou maota po o lou laoa e resitala oe mo fesoasoani a le FEMA. Aua e te alu i nofoaga o tusigaigoa, e asiasi atu sui o le malo ma FEMA.

Afai e faigata ona e feso’ota’i mai i le telefoni, fai i se tasi o lou aiga e valaau mai i le numera mo le fesoasoani.



Representatives of the business community attending last Thursday's Chamber of Commerce meeting where officials from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the US Small Business Administration (SBA) spoke on federal disaster assistance programs available to businesses and others impacted by last month's Tropical Storm Gita.

Standing in the background of the meeting at DDW Restaurant are officials from FEMA.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

No clear historical record of why marriage age for females is set at 14 in Territory

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Current law setting the marriage age for females at 14-years old, with the consent of a parent or guardian, was passed by the Fono many years ago during the Seventh Legislature, says Senate legal counsel, Mitzie Jessop-Ta'ase in testimony before a Senate committee recently.

However, the lingering question remains — why is it set at 14 years old for females — even when the move to raise the marrying legal age began some six years ago?

The Senate rejected the approved House bill setting the marriage age of both females and males at 18 years old last week Monday, and 24-hours later the House requested a conference committee that was later rejected by the Senate because senators didn't make any changes to the House bill.

Conference committees are usually called and convened to iron out final language of a bill, if both sides don't agree on changes made by the other chamber. In this case, the Senate didn't make any changes to the bill, which was rejected with seven senators in support and nine opposing it.

During the Senate committee, Sen. Fai'ivae Iuli Godinet asked if research was done into why the marriage age for females was set at 14 years old to which Jessop-Ta'ase said she researched the initial law, which was approved by the Fono during the 7th Legislature.

However, she said she couldn't locate written records for any other information.

It was noted by some senators that “our [Samoan] ancestors” were married at a very young age many years ago, but no one offered any other information.

Later in the hearing, Fai'ivae asked if there are any states that legalize marriage at age 14, to which Jessop-Ta'ase explained that her license to practice law is from Utah, where 14-year olds are allowed to marry under special conditions. She was not asked and she didn't go into details on the specific conditions.

Samoa News has reached out to several senior citizens in the community about the law allowing marriage at 14, and those who responded could only say that it wasn't uncommon many years ago, when Samoans were married young, such as 16 or 17 years old.

However, those who spoke with Samoa News declined to speculate as to why our forefathers set the marriage age at 14 for females. One female senior

citizen told Samoa News that decisions made by “our forefathers in those days shouldn't be second guessed, or even questioned today, as they made the best decision they saw fit at the time” and it's the responsibility of future generation to make necessary changes in a continually changing world.

Some long-time political observers agreed with the assessment, but also noted that current existing laws, and today's environment take very seriously cases where a 14-year old becomes the victim of a sexual offense.

One political observer pointed to Jessop-Ta'ase's testimony during the Senate hearing that allowing a 14-year old to marry, with consent of a parent/guardian, conflicts with the current criminal code where the consent age for a sexual relation is 17-years old (see Samoa News edition Mar. 21st for details).

Another political observer noted that, “statutory rape is a more important issue as far as the age of girls and sexual consent.”Among the concerns raised during the Senate hearing is what would happen, if current law is changed, to a 14-year old girl who is pregnant, and the parents want her married to the father of the unborn child.

ASG digital archives compiled by the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office and available online, show that the 7th Legislature was from 1961 to 1962. At the time, the US Interior Department appointed-governor submitted an annual fiscal year report to the Interior Secretary.

The reports from the governor, includes a section on the Legislature and summarized the number of bills and other measures introduced, passed and enacted into law. The bill gives only brief titles of each measure but no further explanation. Samoa News could not identify in reports specific issues pertaining to a bill approved at the time for female marriage at 14 years old.

However, the 1962 report says that of the 29 bills signed by the governor that became public law, is a bill on “Domestic Relations” — but again, no additional information was provided in the report.

Samoa News notes: current American Samoa Code Annotated, or statute shows Title 42 — “Domestic Relations”, and Chapter 01 outlines the specific provisions of the law on “Marriage”, with provision 42.0101 for Requisites of Valid Marriage. And under this provision shows the marriage age of females at 14 years old.



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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	ICT Technician I	Posting Date	March 21, 2018
Department	ICT	Deadline	April 3, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$7.28/hour - \$7.58/hour
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation	Job Grade/Status	D/1/A - D/2/A, Non-Exempt
Reports To	Information Systems Manager		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

Provide PC, Windows Server and Network help desk support to Senior Network Technicians. WAN/ LAN experience. Install setup and configure PC systems to meet or exceed client requirements. Install setup and configure Microsoft based server and network based environments to meet requirements. Provide remote and/or onsite diagnosis, repair and troubleshooting as required. Install, configure and maintain client software as required. Perform product research, development and testing to determine feasibility of deployment of technology. Provide user training/assistance as required. Other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements

Education	High School diploma; Associate's degree in related field preferred.
Experience	One to three years of experience in a technical capacity in Information Systems.
Skills, Abilities, Job Requirements	<p>Skilled in: Microsoft Technologies; LAN/WAN; Hardware installation; Software and Help Desk Systems.</p> <p>Ability to: Use Information Technology to solve pc/network issues; identify and evaluate new technological developments; gauge their appropriateness; and trouble-shoot.</p> <p>Must be a team player that contributes proactively to the team. Varying work hours may be required from time to time.</p>

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Congress increases American Samoa's Insular Budget at Amata's Request

Washington, D.C. — Friday, March 23, 2018 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata announced the passage of H.R. 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, the major yearly government funding bill, including an increase in the ASG operations account and a 2.4% military pay raise.

The negotiators in the House of Representatives and Senate leadership, at Amata's request, rejected a proposed cut of over \$1.2 million to the American Samoa Government's (ASG) operations account and instead adopted Amata's proposed \$250,000 increase — a combined difference of over \$1.45 million to the ASG account in the Department of Interior's (DOI) Office of Insular Affairs (OIA).

The change was adopted in the House passed bill after her testimony to the Appropriations Subcommittee that handles the DOI and OIA Budgets as the summary chart shows:

- FY 2017 Enacted
- FY 2018 Request
- Final Bill
- Final Bill vs. Enacted
- Final Bill vs Request
- ASG Operations
- 22,752,000
- 21,529,000
- 23,002,000
- +250,000
- +1,473,000

The Bill accordingly secures and increases the ASG's fiscal year 2018 funds from the Interior Department with an overall increase of \$250,000 to the ASG operations account.

Signed into law Friday, the Omnibus spending also provides:

- The largest investment in the Armed Forces in over 15 years with an increase of over \$61 billion in support of our troops;
- A military pay increase of 2.4% and an additional increase of \$764 million for the Defense Health and Military Family Programs for cancer, traumatic brain injury and psychological health research and treatment as well as additional funds for sexual assault prevention and response;
- Robust funding for military housing construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an increase of over \$7 billion or 9.5% for VA programs and medical care services, including additional funds to help speed up the process to address the backlog in disability claims, something Amata advocated for and supported in her role on the House

Veterans Committee.

"This legislation restores \$1.2 million in funding for American Samoa that was threatened early in the budget process, and then adds \$250,000 more than the previous year," said Aumua Amata.

"The federal government has fiscal responsibilities to American Samoa, and I appreciate that House leaders understood the negative impact that cuts would have had in American Samoa and we were able to secure this funding.

"Already, I've expressed concerns for the next fiscal year and we're laying the groundwork to preserve the territory's funding going forward. In addition, the funding bill provides a much-needed increase in pay for our troops and more money for better housing and health-care for those who protect us," she concluded.



세계인과 함께 하는 bluesky KBS WORLD m@na CHANNEL 47									
"Channel 47" KBS WORLD Program of American Samoa									
*The programs listed below may change without notice due to copyright issues.(Mar 25 ~ 31, 2018) *									
Time of American Samoa	Sunday (3/25)	Monday (3/26)	Tuesday (3/27)	Wednesday (3/28)	Thursday (3/29)	min	Friday (3/30)	Saturday (3/31)	min
10 : am	00' The Beauty A Week	10' Hello Counselor (E,R)	One Night Sleepover Trip (E,R)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	00'	Music Bank	Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)	00'
11 : am	30' Battle Trip (E,R)	Encore Drama Blade Man				00'	The Beauty Season2	Encore Drama	10'
12 NOON	50' Music Bank (E,R)	Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper"(E,R)				50'	The Beauty A Week	Snowy Road (E,R)	
1 : pm	50' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E,R)							
2 : pm	30' Happy Together (E,R)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	The Miracle We Met (E,R)	My Golden Life Special (E,R)	Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E)		K-RUSH Season 3		30'
3 : pm	50' Happy Together (E,R)	Hello Counselor (E,R)	One Night Sleepover Trip (E,R)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	40'	Battle Trip (E,R)	Music Bank	30'
4 : pm	50' Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R)	Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R) Final	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R)	50'	Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
5 : pm	00' Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R)	Weekend Drama Marry Me Now? (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)	KBS Sprcial Asia is 20 Years Old (E,R)	00'	Mon-Tue Drama The Mirade We Met (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama	00'
6 : pm	10' Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R)	Weekend Drama Marry Me Now? (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)		My Golden Life Special (E,R)	Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)	10'
7 : pm	20' Gag Concert	Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper"(E,R)						Hello Counselor (E,R)	20'
8 : pm	40' KBS World News Today	Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E)							
9 : pm	00' The Beauty Season 2	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	The Miracle We Met (E,R)	My Golden Life Special (E,R)	Music Bank (Live)	40'	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E)	Battle Trip (E,R)	40'
10 : pm	00' 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	00'	Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)	00'
11 : pm	40' Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper"(E,R)	Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E)				20'	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Two Day and One Night (E)	40'
12 : 00	20' Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E)								
Next Day	KBS 9 News (Live)				KBS 9 News (Live)				00'
1 : am	50' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	The Miracle We Met	My Golden Life Special	Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E)		20'	Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E)		20'
2 : am	00' Hello Counselor (E)	One Night Sleepover Trip (E)	Hyena on The Keyboard (E)	Happy Together (E)	Music Bank (E,R)	30'	The Miracle We Met (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R)	30'
3 : am	20' Blade Man	Encore Drama Blade Man					My Golden Life Special (E,R)		
4 : am	30' The Beauty Season 2	Battle Trip (E,R)	KBS Sprcial Asia is 20 Years Old The Beauty A Week	K-RUSH (E,R)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	50'	Gag Concert (E,R)	The Return of Superman (E,R)	50'
5 : am	40' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	10'	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Two Day and One Night (E,R)	30'
6 : am	20' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	The Miracle We Met (E,R)	My Golden Life Special (E,R)	Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		50'	Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
7 : am	30' Hello Counselor	One Night Sleepover	Hyena on Keyboard	Happy Together	Music Bank	00'	Blade Man (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles	00'
8 : am								Guerilla Date (E)	50'
9 : am									

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



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► **Steps...**
Continued from page 1

process;

- Dual language, especially in the early grades;
- School fees implemented by rule-making for extra-curricular activities;
- Emphasis on vocational education with articulation to other educational/training institutions;
- Accommodations for charter schools, home schools, the gifted and education at the Juvenile Detention Center;
- A format for summer school; and
- A substitute teacher system.

When asked the looming question, “Why change?” Utu told Samoa News over the weekend, “We must change because whatever system we are following at present isn’t working. In essence, the Governor asked the Task Force to find out why we continue to get poor results as measured by the performance metrics of our children in the public education system and to recommend

solutions.”

According to Utu, “Year after year, no matter who is Governor or Director of Education, the education outcomes as measured by standardized tests are sub-par and not improving. Parents are getting desperate but most cannot afford to send two or three children at the same time to a private school. It is a huge disservice to our children and to society to put kids through a dysfunctional public education system. ‘E atamamai a tatou fanau, ae faaletonu le “system”.’”

Utu continued, “Since one famous definition of insanity is doing something over and over with the expectation of getting a different result, it became clear — and has been for years — that we have to Change (that is with a capital “C”) the system.”

To help get the message out, Utu said he and other Task Force members are speaking to educators and PTAs at town hall type gatherings.

“We would also like to speak to churches and organizations such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). After that, we will submit our final recommendations to the Governor who will then work with the Fono,” Utu explained.

“Title 16 of the American Samoa Code Annotated will need to be revised in order to take into account the recommendations. The feedback from the educators, PTAs, legislators (who are members of PTAs) have been invaluable and, so far, the support for semi-autonomy has been immense,” he said.

So how is all this going to make it better for the territory’s children? Utu responded, “The goal is to get all our children educated and then be able to thrive in society. We cannot have a public education system where 80% of the students matriculating into the community college take remedial courses in language and mathematics. Even if one does not plan to go to college, there should be opportunities in Career Technical Education and the basics of literacy and numeracy must have been met upon graduation from high school. Not everyone can be a sports star or join the military.”According to Utu, semi-autonomy gives the organization the tools to make decisions with less red tape. “For example, year after year, we continue to have problems getting textbooks to arrive on time or replacing teaching vacancies. The support functions (e.g. procurement, budget, treasury, personnel) in the present system fall under the purview of other agencies who may have other priorities.”The Educational Reform Task Force members are Utu Abe Malae (chairman); ASDOE Director Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga; Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale; Port Administration Director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele; the Governor’s Legal Counsel Steve Watson; Vaitinasa Dr. Salu Hunkin-Finau; and Dr. Etuale Mikaele.



Teen meal

Filet-O-Fish, Small Fries, Small Drink & Apple Pie



***Limited time offer**

► Faipule...

Continued from page 1



Rep. Vailiutama Steve Leasiolagi

[photo by AF]

out in villages.

She also told the committee that their staff is not getting paid when they go out to record these programs, and that's another reason why the governor advised their director to stop recording church service programs in villages.

Olo further told the committee that leaders of several churches had already been informed about these changes and they are well aware of it.

"As you all know, KVZK-TV was established over 50 years ago, so all equipment inside our studio is old. We have to be very careful when taking our equipment out to record these programs, and our vehicles that are used to transport the equipment back and forth are not in good condition. So, the best thing to protect our equipment from damage and to avoid our staff from working overtime without getting paid is to bring all the church service programs to record at our studio in Utulei", Olo concluded.

Gafatasi, who raised this issue, did not mince words when telling Olo that her statement did not satisfy him.

"I don't accept your excuse that church programs are being recorded in the studio because it is more convenient as far as equipment transfer. Why is it so hard to transfer your equipment when recording church service programs, but when it comes to the Toa o Samoa prayer services every month, you're able to transfer your equipment to wherever village the service is being held," Gafatasi said.

"I respect the governor and the changes he made, but this is my own opinion and I can't hold back my opinion about this issue because from what I have just heard from your statement,

the government is only thinking about themselves and wanting to make things easier for them, but not for the people," Gafatasi said.

"If this is what the governor wants, recording only government programs in villages but the churches and the villages have to use your small, hot and crowded space studio to record their church service program, I believe that it's about time for the KVZK-TV to be privatized. If the government is not willing to make things easier for the community, so let a private company own our only television station and run it, hoping that it (a private company) will hear our cry and respond accordingly," Gafatasi said.

Rep. Veevalu Meauta L. Mageo asked the witness what are they going to do with the old equipment they have — will they continue to rely on the old equipment and continue to use it for another 50 years or are there any plans to buy new equipment because the world's technology is moving forward and our local television station needs to upgrade? Olo quickly responded and changed her answers, saying that all the cameras and other equipment used to record programs is all new equipment, only some equipment inside the studio is old.

"... but you just said that all of your equipment is more than 50 years old and that's one of the reasons why you plan to keep all the church service programs recording at your studio in Utulei, to protect your equipment from damage. Our television station needs to upgrade and should be using new technology to help out with your programs," Veevalu said to the witness.

In response, Olo said that

KVZK-TV is working together with ASTCA with some of the new technology such as the live streaming, so that people living abroad can watch some of the events happening on our island live, such at the Flag Day fautasi race.

Vice Speaker, Rep. Fetu Fetui Jr told the witness that he does not agree with the changes the governor has made, saying that Toa o Samoa prayer service is not a government event — it's a Marist Brothers' monthly event for the Toa o Samoa and their families.

"If your staff can go out to the villages and record the government's program, why can't you do the same to the church service programs in villages," Fetu said. "Something is not right over here. If you're allowing the government program to be recorded in the villages, you must do the same to the church service programs. If not, I instruct you to tell your director to stop doing favors for the government if he can't do the same for the people."

Rep. Faimealelei Anthony Fu'e Allen, who is the chairman of the committee made a motion that the committee introduce a resolution asking the governor to consider a way to let church service programs be conducted in the villages.

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Fa'afetai, Fa'afetai Tele.

Ia toe sasa'a mai Lagi manu mo outou uma, ma ia toe fa'atutumu e le Atua mea ua to'esea ona o le manu'a o si o'u tuagane o Kenneth.

God Bless,

Alaimalo J. Porter-Woo ma le Aiga



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



Iowa family died of gas asphyxiation at Mexican resort



In this undated photo provided by the Quintana Roo Prosecutors Office, a firefighter examines a gas stove in the rented condo where an Iowa couple and their two children died in Tulum, Mexico. Mexican authorities said on Saturday, March 24, 2018 that autopsies indicate the Iowa couple and their two children died from inhaling toxic gas at the rented condo on Mexico's Caribbean coast, but there was no sign of foul play or suicide.
(Quintana Roo Prosecutor's Office via AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Autopsies indicate an Iowa couple and their two children died from inhaling toxic gas at a rented condo on Mexico's Caribbean coast, but there was no sign of foul play or suicide, Mexican authorities said Saturday.

The prosecutors' office in the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo said that "the cause of death was asphyxiation from inhaling toxic gases." It said the type of gas hadn't yet been determined, but added that "any violent act or suicide has been discounted."

Photos released by the office showed investigators in anti-contamination suits and firefighters with air tanks examining gas connections to a stove in the condo in Tulum. The office said investigators "carried out a physical investigation of the gas connections in the room," and the civil defense office of Tulum would issue a technical report on the findings.

In 2010, the explosion of an improperly installed gas line at a hotel in the nearby town of Playa del Carmen killed five Canadian tourists and two Mexicans.

Iowa officials identified the family as Kevin Sharp, 41; his wife, Amy Sharp, 38, and their children Sterling, 12, and Adrianna, 7. They were from Creston, Iowa.

The family was reported missing by relatives in their hometown about a week after the family left for vacation. Creston police contacted the U.S. State Department, and the bodies were found during a welfare check at the condo in Tulum, on the Yucatan Peninsula.

The Quintana Roo prosecutors' office said the family had been dead for between 36 and 48 hours by the time they were found Friday at the Tao condominium complex.

Contacted Friday, the developer of the condo complex where the deaths occurred declined to comment.

The Creston News Advertiser newspaper in Iowa reported that the family flew to Cancun on March 14. According to her sister, Amy Sharp texted their mother the next day to say they had reached Tulum, but relatives didn't hear any more from the family.

The sister, Renee Hoyt, said the Sharps were scheduled to return to the U.S. this week. They were scheduled to depart from the Cancun airport on Wednesday and fly to St. Louis on a non-stop flight. The family had planned to then drive about 200 miles (322 kilometers) to Danville, Illinois, to watch a basketball game Thursday, Hoyt said.

When the family didn't arrive in St. Louis, family members contacted authorities, she said.

House...

Continued from page 2

"I have been at TCF and I know exactly what you're taking about Mr. Commissioner. I thank you for looking at every side to find ways to solve the situation at TCF, but to me as a representative, that does not excuse you for doing what you did," Fetu said.

Fetu said his only concern was that these firemen were trained to be firemen and they have to perform work as firemen, not guard prisoners.

"What happens if these inmates manage to escape again under the watch of these firemen? What happens if there is a big fight amongst the inmates inside the prison, or if prisoners start attacking the guards and escape? Who is responsible for that? Who is going to take the blame and what is the government going to say if the lives of these firemen are affected?" Fetu asked Le'i.

Fetu told Le'i that he heard

that one of the firemen carries a pocketknife for his protection every time he's at the TCF, and it was something that really bothered him.

Several lawmakers voiced the same issue. Although they thanked Le'i for the hard work, they also said that his decision to assign firemen to guard inmates was not right, and there are other options DPS should consider instead of using firemen as prison guards.

► Vote...

Continued from page 3

our elections to run, not as politicians but as Americans. “Because this,” he said, pointing behind him to the Capitol dome, “this is not cutting President Donald Trump

roster of speakers will create a tipping point, starting with the midterm congressional elections this fall. To that end, chants of “Vote them out!” rang through the Washington crowd. Emma Gonzalez, one of the first students from Florida’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Gun violence was fresh for some who watched the speakers in Washington: Ayanne Johnson of Great Mills High School in Maryland held a sign declaring, “I March for Jaelynn,” honoring Jaelynn Willey, who died Thursday two days after being shot by a classmate at the

quarters, standing quietly with signs such as “Armed Victims Live Longer” and “Stop Violating Civil Rights.” Other gun-control protests around the country were also met with small counter-demonstrations.

The president’s call to arm certain teachers fell flat at the protest, and from critics as young as Zoe Tate, 11, from Gaithersburg, Maryland.

“I think guns are dumb. It’s scary enough with the security guards we have in school,” she said. “We don’t need teachers carrying guns now. I find it amazing that I have to explain that idea to adults.”

Parkland itself was home to a rally as more than 20,000 people filled a park near the Florida school, chanting slogans such as “Enough is enough” and carrying signs that read “Why do your guns matter more than our lives?” and “Our ballots will stop bullets.”

Around the country, protesters complained that they are scared of getting shot in school and tired of inaction by grown-ups after one mass shooting after another.

“People have been dying since 1999 in Columbine and nothing has changed. People are still dying,” said Ben Stewart, a 17-year-old senior at Shiloh Hills Christian School in Kennesaw, Georgia, who took part in a march in Atlanta.

Callie Cavanaugh, a 14-year-old at a march in Omaha, Nebraska, said: “This just needs to stop. It’s been going on my entire life.”



Protesters fill Pennsylvania Avenue, as seen from the Newseum, during the “March for Our Lives” rally in support of gun control in Washington, Saturday, March 24, 2018.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

it.” Some of the young voices were very young. Yolanda Renee King, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 9-year-old granddaughter, drew from the civil rights leader’s most famous words in declaring from the stage: “I have a dream that enough is enough. That this should be a gun-free world. Period.”

By all appearances — there were no official numbers — Washington’s March for Our Lives rally rivaled the women’s march last year that drew far more than the predicted 300,000. The National Rifle Association went silent on Twitter as the protests unfolded, in contrast to its reaction to the nationwide school walkouts against gun violence March

was in Florida for the weekend and did not weigh in on Twitter either. White House spokesman Zach Parkinson said: “We applaud the many courageous young Americans exercising their First Amendment rights today.” He pointed to Trump’s efforts to ban bump stocks and his support for school-safety measures and extended background checks for gun purchases. Since the bloodshed in Florida, students have tapped into a current of gun control sentiment that has been building for years — yet still faces a powerful foe in the NRA, its millions of supporters and lawmakers who have resisted any encroachment on gun rights.

Organizers are hoping the electricity of the crowds, their sheer numbers and the under-18

High School to speak out after the tragedy there, implored those of voting age to vote.

In her speech, she recited the names of the Parkland dead, then held the crowd in rapt, tearful silence for more than six minutes, the time it took the gunman to kill them.

“We will continue to fight for our dead friends,” Delaney Tarr, another Parkland survivor, declared from the stage. The crowd roared with approval as she laid down the students’ central demand: a ban on “weapons of war” for all but warriors.

Student protesters called for a ban on high-capacity magazines and assault-type weapons like the one used by the killer in Parkland, comprehensive background checks, and a higher minimum age to buy guns.

school. The gunman also died.

About 30 gun-rights supporters staged a counter-demonstration in front of FBI head-

LAPATA'IGA
MO MATAFAGA

American Samoa
Environmental
Protection
Agency
ASEPA

Lagolagoina le fa'amamaina o matafaga

Aso o le Fa'asalalauga: 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 siama (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

Asili Stream Mouth
Leone Pala
Nuuuli Pala Lagoon
Nuuuli Pala Spring
Coconut Point
Fagaalu Beach
Utulei Beach
Fagasa-Fagalea
Fagasa-Fagatele
Afono Stream Mouth
Aua – Pouesi
Vatia Stream Mouth
Aua Stream Mouth

Laulii Stream Mouth
Alega Stream Mouth
Alega Beach
Fagaitua Stream Mouth
Sailele Beach
Masausi Stream Mouth
Alofau Stream Mouth
Amouli Beach
Aoa Stream Mouth
Aganoa Beach
Utumea East
Alao Beach
Tula Beach

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu'u o lo'o fa'aogaina 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 siama (Enterococci) mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina i le tulafono i ia vaega o ogasami. O nei siama e afua mai otaota po'o suavai lafoa'i o tagata ma meaola. Afai ae o'o atu le faitau aofa'i o siama 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 siama. Mo lou saogalemu: 'ava le inuina le suasami, ia fa'alanu 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'aogaina 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'asalalauga mo fautuaga mo le motu o Tutuila o lo'o auina atu i vaiaso ta'itasi, ae o Manu'a 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.

Steven Rothman, left, and Dan Knorowski attend the “March for Our Lives” rally in support of gun control in Washington, Saturday, March 24, 2018.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

(Continued on page 14)

A black and white photograph of a woman and a man sitting in a room, facing each other. The woman is on the left, wearing a light-colored top and dark skirt, sitting on a chair. The man is on the right, wearing a suit and glasses, sitting on a chair. They are in a room with a patterned rug, a round coffee table, and a side table with a vase of flowers.

(CBS News/60 Minutes via AP)

(Continued on page 16)

[illegible]

Trump plans to oust Shulkin as VA secretary

By HOPE YEN and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is planning to oust embattled Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin amid an extraordinary rebellion at the agency and damaging government investigations into his alleged spending abuses, three administration officials told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Two officials said an announcement on Shulkin could happen this week, subject to Trump's final decision as the White House hones in on possible replacements to head the Department of Veterans Affairs. One of the officials rated Shulkin's chances of being pushed out in the next day or two at "50-50." The three officials demanded anonymity to discuss a sensitive personnel matter. Trump, who spent the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago estate, told associates that he would keep two other administration officials who had been under fire: White House chief of staff John F. Kelly and Housing Secretary Ben Carson.

"He did say that he's expecting to make one or two major changes," said Newsmax CEO Chris RuMonday, March 26, 2018, a Trump confidant who spoke with the president over the weekend, on ABC's "This Week."

"Now, other White House sources, not the president, tell me that Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin is likely to depart the Cabinet very soon," RuMonday, March 26, 2018 said. The White House did not immediately comment. Shulkin did not respond to a request for comment Sunday.

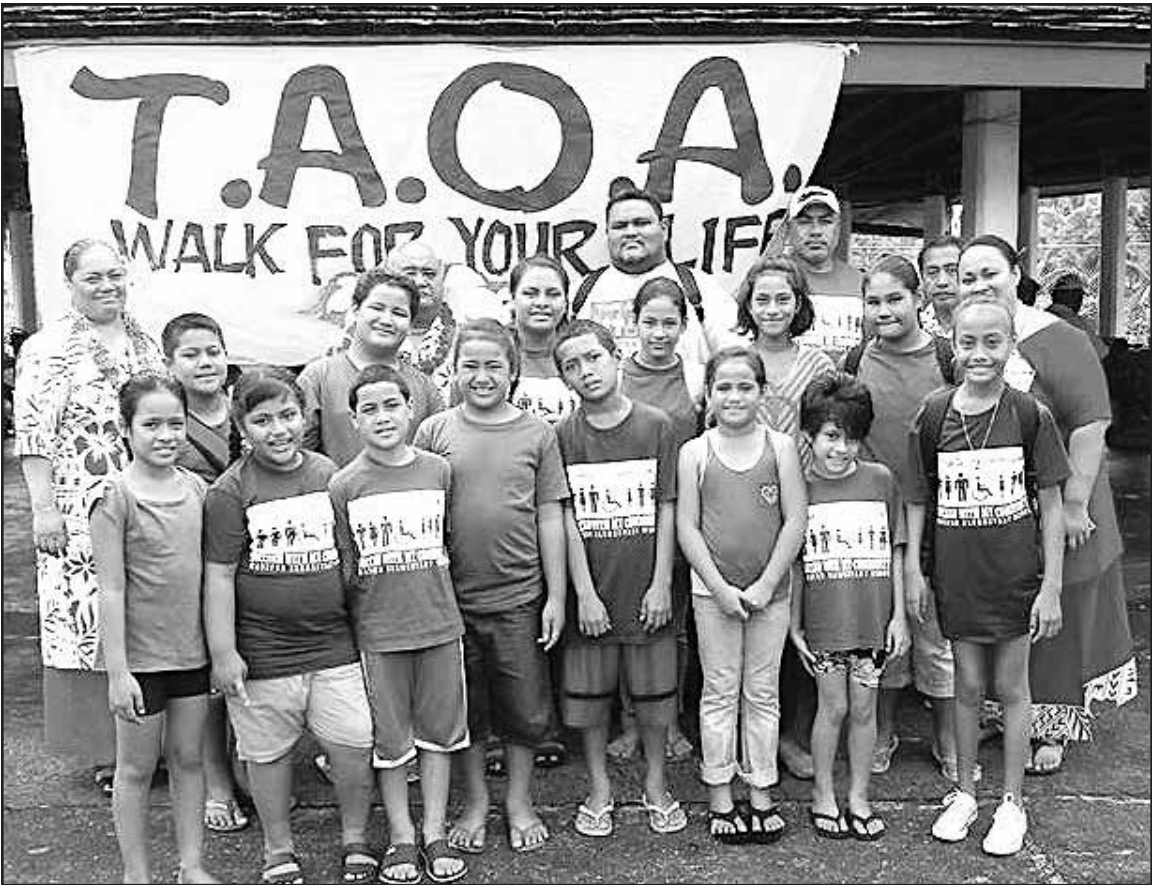
Speculation over Shulkin's fate has ramped up in recent weeks following a blistering report by VA's internal watchdog in February that found he had improperly accepted Wimbledon tickets and his staff had doctored emails to justify his wife traveling to Europe with him at taxpayer expense. Earlier this month, two people familiar with the White House discussions told the AP that Trump increasingly viewed Shulkin as a distraction as the White House floated the names of possible candidates to replace him, including conservative "Fox & Friends" contributor Pete Hegseth.

A separate VA watchdog investigation, due out in the coming weeks, is also looking into a complaint that Shulkin asked his security detail to accompany him to a Home Depot store and cart furniture items, according to two people familiar with the allegation who requested anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

One person familiar with the

White House discussions told the AP on Sunday that the White House was looking closely at roughly half a dozen candidates to head the VA, the government's second-largest department with 370,000 employees.

Among the candidates being vetted include Hegseth, a former military officer and former CEO of the conservative Concerned Veterans for America; former Rep. Jeff Miller, who had been chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee; retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg; Michael Kussman, a former VA undersecretary of health; Toby Cosgrove, a former president and CEO of the Cleveland Clinic; and Leo Mackay Jr., a former VA deputy secretary who is now senior vice president at Lockheed Martin Corp.



March 8 was "Purple Day" at Masefau Elementary School, in recognition of their continuing campaign to raise disability awareness. As part of their Disability Awareness Week agenda, the special education students, as well as administrators and select staff members wore themed shirts provided by Congresswoman Aumua Amata. The day ended with a visit to the Territorial Administration on Aging Office (TAOA) where the youngsters learned about cultural arts and crafts, in addition to interacting with the elderly folks there.

{photo: courtesy}



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 Faauifono Vaitautolu at faauitolu@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 (USD OE).

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 fono 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 ia nisi manatu ma fautuaga, e mafai ona imeli mai ia Fa'auifono Vaitautolu faauitolu@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

Pussy Riot targets Trump in Republican stronghold of Idaho

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI**, Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Idaho is not the most obvious place to attract members of the Russian punk collective Pussy Riot.

But even in the Republican stronghold that strongly supports President Donald Trump, Pussy Riot members carved out time late Saturday to swing by the largest city in the state, Boise, during their first North American tour.

“There is power in doing what we want, and not what they want,” said Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, who spent nearly two years in prison with another group member for a protest against Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2012. “Thank you for supporting us.”

The balaclava-clad women who rose to global prominence with daring outdoor performances in their home country brought a show to Idaho that was more political rally than traditional concert, featuring anti-fascist, anti-Trump messages. It comes as a special counsel investigates Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and whether there was any collusion with the Trump campaign. Idaho is the only Republican-dominant state that Pussy Riot is visiting during their North American tour, which has consisted of stops in bigger, left-leaning cities like Portland, Oregon; Seattle; and Chicago. They were drawn to Idaho by the small but increasingly popular Treefort Music Fest, which launched in 2011 as a hyper-local indie-rock music festival but has since attracted worldwide interest. Other groups pushed a political agenda, but Pussy Riot is one of the most contentious to appear at the five-day event. They played their political music videos on a screen on a dark stage as audience members raised their fists in solidarity. Attendees danced and cheered as the group played “Police State,” which came out on the anniversary of Trump’s election, and “Make America Great Again,” a 2016 hit released a week before the presidential election that focuses on a call to action.

“Pussy Riot has been on my radar for several years,” said Boise resident Adnan Muminovic, who was standing in line for nearly two hours to ensure he got a spot for the show. “I’m Bosnian, so I’m not fan of the leadership in Russia.”

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LAND COMMISSION

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

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

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

KOMISI O LAU'ELE'ELE

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

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

02/23 & 03/23/18

Mueller...

Continued from page 12



Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin testifies on FY2019 and FY2020 budgets for veterans programs before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in Washington. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

attempts to influence these longstanding views would have been unsuccessful,” he said.

In October, Broidy also raised the issue of Qatar at the White House in meetings with Trump and senior aides.

The details of Broidy’s advocacy on U.S. legislation have not been previously reported. The AP found no evidence that Broidy used Nader’s funds for the campaign donations or broke any laws. At the time of the advocacy work, his company, Circinus, did not have business with the UAE, but was awarded a more than \$200 million contract in January.

The sanctions bill was approved by Royce’s committee in late 2017. It remains alive in the House of Representatives, awaiting a review by the House Financial Services Committee.

__MEETINGS PROBED

The backstory of the legislative push is emerging amid continuing concerns about efforts by foreign governments or their proxies to influence American politics. While reports about possible Russian links to Trump’s campaign and his presidential administration have been making headlines since 2016, questions are now arising about efforts during the Trump era to influence U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The U.S. has long been friendly with Saudi Arabia and the UAE as well as Qatar, which is home to a massive American air base that the U.S. has used in its fight against the Islamic State. But as political rifts in the Gulf have widened, the Saudis and Emiratis have sought to undercut American ties with Qatar.

Qatar and UAE have also exchanged allegations of politically motivated hacks. Scores of Broidy’s emails and documents have leaked to news organizations, drawing attention to his relationship with Nader. Broidy has alleged that the hack was done by Qatari agents and has reported the breach to the FBI.

“It’s no surprise that Qatar would see me as an obstacle and come after me in the way it has,” he said in a statement.

A spokesman for the Qatari embassy, Jassim Mansour Jabr Al Thani, denied the charges, calling them “diversionary tactics.” Representatives of the UAE did not respond to requests for comment.

The timeline of the influx of cash wired by Nader, an adviser to Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the de facto leader of the UAE, may provide grist for U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller’s legal team as it probes the activities of Trump and his associates during the 2016 campaign and beyond. However, it is not clear that Mueller has expanded his investigation in that direction.

Mueller’s investigators are looking into two meetings close to Trump’s inauguration attended by Nader and bin Zayed. The pair joined a meeting at New York’s Trump Tower in December 2016 that included presidential son-

in-law Jared Kushner and Steve Bannon, who was Trump’s chief strategist at the time. A month later, Nader and bin Zayed were a world away on the Seychelles island chain in the Indian Ocean, meeting with Erik Prince, the founder of the security company Blackwater, and the Kremlin-connected head of a large Russian sovereign wealth fund, Kirill Dmitriev.

Nader, a Lebanese-American businessman, agreed to cooperate with Mueller’s team after investigators stopped him at Dulles International Airport, according to a person familiar with his case. That person and others who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity said they could not be identified because of the sensitivity of the issues surrounding the Mueller investigation.

A lawyer for Nader declined to comment for this story.

__POLICY PUSH

Broidy and Nader first met at Trump’s presidential inauguration on Jan. 20, 2017, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

Both men have checkered legal histories. Nader was convicted in a Czech Republic court in 2003 of multiple counts of sexually abusing minors. Broidy, a businessmen and prolific Republican fundraiser, was sidelined for a few years after he pleaded guilty to bribery in a case stemming from an investment scheme involving New York state’s employee pension fund.

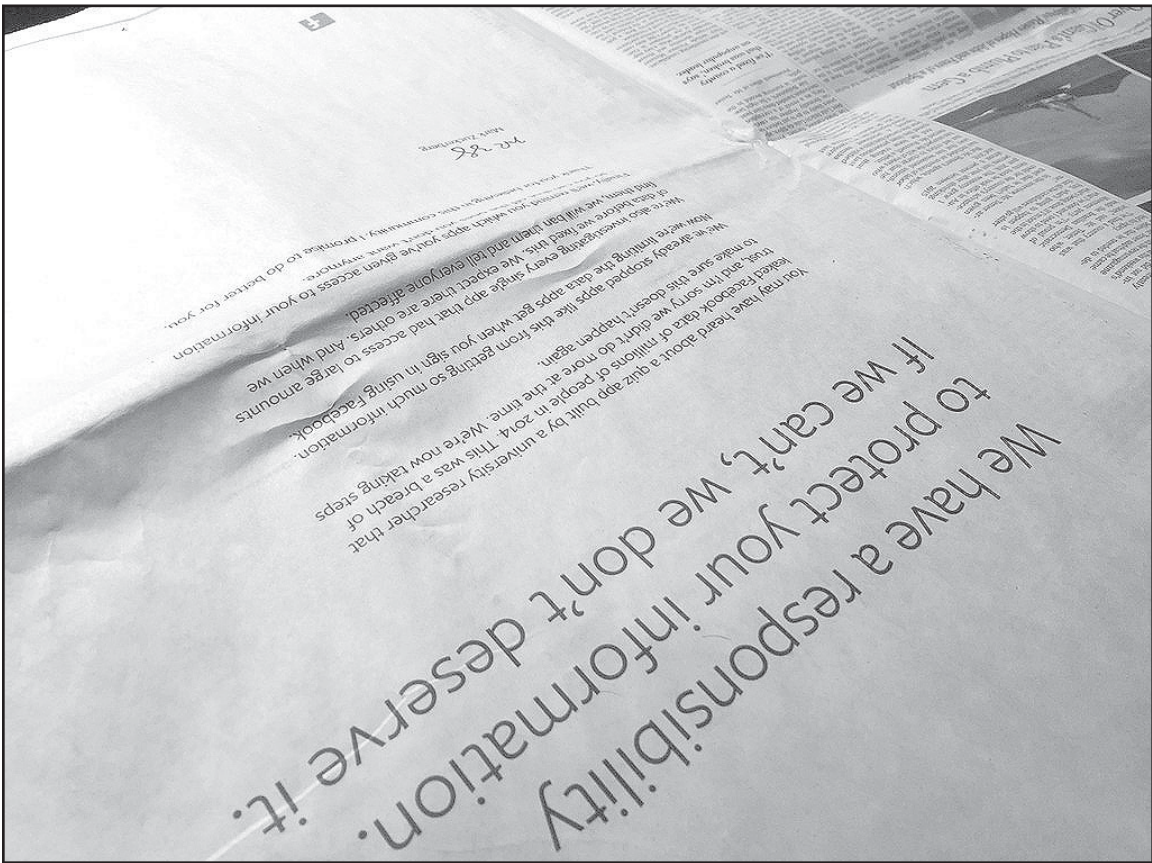
Broidy later re-emerged as a player in GOP politics. During the 2016 Republican presidential primary, he raised money for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. Marco Rubio and Sen. Ted Cruz. After Cruz bowed out of the race, Broidy signed on to help Trump during the 2016 election and beyond, co-hosting fundraisers across the country. The meeting between Broidy and Nader at the dawn of Trump’s presidency soon led the two to work together in an effort to shift U.S. policies on the Middle East.

On April 2, 2017, Nader asked Broidy to invoice his Dubai-based company for \$2.5 million, according to someone familiar with the transaction who spoke on condition of anonymity.

On the same day, Broidy attached an invoice for that amount from Xiemen Investments Limited, a Canadian company directed by a friend. The money was forwarded to his own account in Los Angeles from the Canadian account, the person said. It was marked for consulting, marketing and advisory services, but was actually intended to fund Broidy’s Washington advocacy regarding Qatar, two people familiar with the transaction said. The financial transaction and the White House meetings were first reported by The New York Times.

It was on May 23, 2017, when Royce, a 13-term Congressman, appeared at a conference on Qatar’s ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and announced that he was introducing the sanctions bill that would name Qatar a state sponsor of terrorism.

Facebook questioned about pulling Android call, text data



An advertisement in The New York Times is displayed on Sunday, March 25, 2018, in New York. Facebook, Ås CEO apologized for the Cambridge Analytica scandal with ads in multiple U.S. and British newspapers Sunday. The ads signed by Mark Zuckerberg say the social media platform doesn, Åt deserve to hold personal information if it can, Åt protect it.

(AP Photo/Jenny Kane)

By **TOM KRISHER, AP Business Writer**

On the same day Facebook bought ads in U.S. and British newspapers to apologize for the Cambridge Analytica scandal, the social media site faced new questions about collecting phone numbers and text messages from Android devices.

The website Ars Technica reported that users who checked data gathered by Facebook on them found that it had years of contact names, telephone numbers, call lengths and text messages.

Facebook said Sunday the information is uploaded to secure servers and comes only from Android users who opt-in to allow it. Spokeswomen say the data is not sold or shared with users' friends or outside apps. They say the data is used "to improve people's experience across Facebook" by helping to connect with others.

The company also says in a website posting that it does not collect the content of text messages or calls. A spokeswoman told the Associated Press that

Facebook uses the information to rank contacts in Messenger so they are easier to find, and to suggest people to call.

Users get the option to allow data collection when they sign up for Messenger or Facebook Lite, the Facebook posting said. "If you chose to turn this feature on, we will begin to continuously log this information," the posting said.

The data collection can be turned off in a user's settings, and all previously collected call and text history shared on the app will be deleted, Facebook said.

The feature was first introduced on Facebook Messenger in 2015 and added later on Facebook Lite.

Messages were left Sunday seeking comment about security from Google officials, who make the Android operating system.

Reports of the data collection came as Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg took out ads in multiple U.S. and British Sunday newspapers to apologize for the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

The ads say the social media platform doesn't deserve to hold personal information if it can't protect it.

According to the ads, a quiz app built by a Cambridge University researcher leaked Facebook data of millions of people four years ago. Zuckerberg said this was a "breach of trust" and that Facebook is taking steps to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Facebook's privacy practices have come under fire after Cambridge Analytica, a Trump-affiliated political consulting firm, got data inappropriately. The social media platform's stock value has dropped over \$70 billion since the revelations were first published.

Among the newspapers with the ads were The New York Times and The Washington Post in the U.S., and The Sunday

Times and The Sunday Telegraph in the United Kingdom.

The ads said Facebook is limiting the data apps received when users sign in. It's also investigating every app that had access to large amounts of data. "We expect there are others. And when we find them, we will ban them and tell everyone affected," the ads stated.

Cambridge Analytica got the data from a researcher who paid 270,000 Facebook users to complete a psychological profile quiz back in 2014. But the quiz gathered information on their friends as well, bringing the total number of people affected to about 50 million.

The Trump campaign paid the firm \$6 million during the 2016 election, although it has since distanced itself from Cambridge.



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Members of Chamber of Commerce and officials from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the US Small Business Administration (SBA) following a Chamber general membership meeting last Thursday evening at the DDW Restaurant where FEMA and SBA officials shared with the members of the business community, the federal disaster assistance programs in the wake of Tropical Storm Gita last month.

Among the federal officials in the photo are FEMA federal coordinating officer, Benigno B. Ruiz (far left-first row) and SBA public information officer Yolanda Stokes (second from right- second row). Both Ruiz and Stokes spoke at the Chamber meeting, which was also open to the public. Leading the meeting was Chamber chairman, Paul Young (third from left-back row).

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



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Porn...

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a job offer making more than they've been making, doing the same thing that they've always done?"

"60 Minutes" correspondent Anderson Cooper noted during the interview that Melania Trump had recently given birth just a few months before. "Did he mention his wife or child at all in this?" Cooper said. "I asked. And he brushed it aside, said, 'Oh yeah, yeah, you know, don't worry about that. We don't even, we have separate rooms and stuff'" Daniels said.

The CBS interview came as Trump deals with allegations about his sexual exploits long before he ran for president.

Former Playboy model Karen McDougal told Cooper in a CNN interview broadcast Thursday that her affair with Trump began at a bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel in 2006. McDougal said she ended the relationship in 2007 out of guilt.

McDougal has filed suit in Los Angeles seeking to invalidate a confidentiality agreement with American Media Inc., the company that owns the supermarket tabloid National Enquirer. It paid her \$150,000 during the 2016 presidential election.

The lawsuit alleges that McDougal was paid for the rights to her story of an affair, but the story never ran. It also alleges that Cohen was secretly involved in her discussions with American Media.

Trump is also facing a New York defamation lawsuit filed by Summer Zervos, a former contestant on "The Apprentice." Zervos has accused Trump of unwanted sexual contact in 2007 after she had appeared on the show with him, and sued after he dismissed the claims as made up.

