



In 2015, a Fagaitua High School football team travelled to Hawai'i to compete against high schools in Hawai'i — games included one with the St. Louis Crusaders.

In this file photo Crusader QB, Tua Tagavailoa, ran fearless all night vs. the Fagaitua Vikings. American Samoa's Fagaitua Vikings were defeated 55-6 by the St. Louis Crusaders, with the 2nd half played under running time, at Aloha Stadium, Hawai'i.

Tagavailoa has since gone on to a 'bigger' field: The Saint Louis alum and freshman Alabama quarterback came off the bench in the second half of Monday night's game of the College Football Playoff national championship to lead the Crimson Tide to a 26-23 overtime win over Georgia. The way he did it is still reverberating among island fans. The family is from the village of Vatia.

[photo: Barry Markowitz, 8/21/15]



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018

\$1.00

American Samoa closing in on the booming wedding market

JUST NEED TO CHANGE THOSE LAWS...

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoa is looking at tapping into the wedding market — a booming industry in the Pacific — by amending local laws, hence allowing foreigners to exchange vows in the territory.

Current local marriage laws are a "big deterrent" for American Samoa to be a potential destination for weddings, for foreigners who want to wed in the territory, American Samoa Visitors Bureau executive director David Vaeafe told Samoa News yesterday, in a phone interview.

A call to the Office of Vital Statistics by Samoa News elicited the following: To get a marriage license, you must have a valid Immigration ID, unless you are an American Samoa National or US citizen. As a foreigner, you must also obtain a letter from your sponsor approving the marriage.

Vaeafe said, "A village can do it with a chapel in which the whole village can participate; not just the hotels can do it." He added, "This is another financial opportunity at the village level and it could be a great opportunity."

Among the many developments dealing with tourism cited in the governor's Comprehensive Report to the Fono and the feds, is the "marriage market".

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga notes that in order to tap into the booming wedding industry in some of the most sought after wedding destinations in the Pacific like Fiji and Samoa, the local Visitors Bureau is working closely with the Department of Legal Affairs (which includes the Attorney General's Office) to amend local marriage laws to make it easier for foreigners to get married in American Samoa.

"Revamping the local marriage program will attract couples from abroad to share their wedding vows in American Samoa, and possibly open new opportunities for the Territory to tap into this growing marriage market in the Pacific," the governor said.

Vaeafe told Samoa News this is an issue the Visitors Bureau and Legal Affairs have been discussing for some time. "The wedding market is a multi-billion-dollar market in the Pacific, that almost all of the island countries have," he said.

"Now things are progressing with our discussions; and with the governor publicly mentioning the issue, this is the opportune time to move this forward," Vaeafe said.

According to the ASVB executive director, there have been inquiries made at the American Samoa booth during recent trade and travel shows off-island about getting married in the territory, and there is interest off island from foreigners wanting to tie the knot on island.

"The possibility of having this wedding market opportunity is

(Continued on page 4)

Governor says feds are confused on how to handle issues re Am Samoa

by Samoa News Staff

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga says now is the time to vigorously address the issue of the territory's political status and our political relationship with the United States, "because the federal government is itself confused on how to handle issues" pertaining to American Samoa, as "we are in a very unique position, different from all the other territories of the United States."

Lolo's comments were part of his State of the Territory Address delivered during the opening of the 3rd session of the 35th Legislature earlier this week at the Fale Laumei in Utulei.

"I look to you for support on this issue because you will have to take the lead in determining the type of political status and relationship with the United States the people of American Samoa want fashioned," Lolo said.

"Last year we made bold steps to assert our authority over our ocean resources and to reclaim our sovereignty, and we challenged and invali-

dated the decision by NOAA and the Fisheries Council to reduce our 50-mile Large Vessel Protected Area (LVPA) to 12 miles," Lolo pointed out. "While the court decision is under appeal, the Hawaii Federal Court recognized the legitimacy of our Deeds of Cessions."

Highlights from the Governor's State of the Territory Address are:

MONIES COLLECTED FROM FINES

Lolo said questions have been raised about the fairness of the current practice by the US Justice Department to use monies received by the federal government on fines levied against vessels and facilities that violate environmental laws incurred in American Samoa, and not sharing the proceeds with the us, the victims.

He said the Attorney General and a local legal team composed of staff from the AG's Office and the governor's legal counsels "successfully compelled" the US Justice Department to share with

(Continued on page 4)



Winners of this year's Filipino Community Dance Competition was the Youth For Christ (YFC) crew, who beat out 4 other groups during an event hosted last month at the Tafuna HS gymnasium.

[photo: courtesy]



NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the FAUTANU Family and to all whom these present may come!
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that FA'AAO & FONOTAGA FA'ANU of MASEFAU has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land LALOFAU, allegedly belonging to FAUTANU FAMILY of the village of MASEFAU. Said land LALOFAU is situated in or near the village of MASEFAU in the County of SUA, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: JANUARY 3, 2018 thru FEBRUARY 2, 2018

SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

FA'AALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU'U'ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa FAUTANU, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina leni fa'aaliga!

O le fa'aaliga leni ona o FA'AAO & FONOTAGA FA'ANU o le nu'u o MASEFAU ua ia fa'aulufaleina mai i leni ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa'ailoa ai se mana'oga fia tu'u'eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa'atua i luga o le fanua o LALOFAU e fa'asino i le aiga sa FAUTANU, o le nu'u o MASEFAU. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o MASEFAU, itumalo o SUA, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.

O le fa'aaliga fo'i e fa'apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i leni mata'upu e mafai ona fa'atu'i'iese ile fa'amauna o leni feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana fa'atu'ese tusitusia. O fa'atu'eseiga uma lava e ao ona fa'aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faituina mai i le aso na fa'ailoa ai leni fa'aaliga.

Afai ole a leai se fa'atu'eseiga e fa'aulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta'ua i luga, o le a fa'amauna loa leni feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'a'afia ai tagata uma. 01/11 & 01/25/18

Plethora of proposals being planned for submission to the Fono

by *Fili Sagapolutele*
Samoa News Correspondent

Proposals to amend local tobacco law to include e-cigarettes and raise the smoking age to 21; as well as the protection and rights of all senior citizens, are some of the planned measures the Lolo Administration is looking at submitting to the Fono for review and consideration.

The proposals are cited in the Governor's 94-page Comprehensive Report to the Fono and the federal government. The report also reiterates the importance of the administration's revenue package submitted to the Fono in the last session — not all of them were approved.

According to the report, the Department of Human and Social Service's Program Evaluation and Tobacco Licensing and Enforcement Division (PETLE) successfully demonstrated and operated its new FDA Tobacco contract and received funding approval for FY2018 totaling \$147,378.

PETLE is planning to submit proposals to the Fono to amend the current Tobacco Law to cover e-cigarettes, increase tobacco license annual fees, and raise the legal smoking age to 21, it says. (The Associated Press reported last week that effective Jan. 1, 2018, the legal age for smoking cigarettes or 'vape', or access tobacco products in Guam is raised from 18 to 21.)

Current law says that it is prohibited for any person below the age of 18 years to sell or distribute tobacco products.

The comprehensive report also states that DHSS's Special Projects and Community Assistance Division (SPCA) is currently planning to launch its Prevention of Opioid Program with the medical professions, including a submission proposal to the Fono to create a law for alcohol advertising to include warning messages.

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, "Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers avail-

able by prescription such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, and others.

For the Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA), the report says the Lolo Administration has taken further steps to improve the protection and rights of all senior citizens in American Samoa through proposed legislation. A set of specific proposed legislation has been drafted and prepared for submission to the Fono for approval.

It also says that TAOA is now enrolled in the National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS) database. Its inclusion in the database will ensure American Samoa has complete access to all available resources to prevent neglect and abuse among senior citizens in the Territory.

REVENUE PACKAGE

Five revenue measures were submitted during the last Fono session and only three were approved, including amendments to the 5% miscellaneous excise tax, which was later vetoed by the governor; but he did sign into law two other legislation — establishing the 1% alternative minimum business tax and hiking port fees and charges.

In his report, Lolo said the Administration made a crucial effort to increase the revenue generation capacity by preparing and submitting to the legislature a new comprehensive revenue package for its consideration.

Lolo explained that the "underpinning economic philosophy anchoring" the recommended new revenue package is to sustain the growth of consumption for goods and services, which is expected to trigger more job creation and correspondingly expand sales for private businesses.

In formulating these new revenue measures, Lolo said the Administration took great caution to minimize invasive financial impacts on business viability.

"The effort of the Legislature to support the restructuring of the Territory's economic and

financial landscapes is commendable, although it took a different pathway to accomplish our collective vision to become financially self-reliant to the maximum extent possible," he said.

According to the governor, it's impractical to expect financial self-reliance to be achieved continually by increasing taxes and fees for government services.

"It must be accomplished through a parallel and aggressive development of the local economy," he said. "It is not because of the lack of recent efforts to achieve the targeted level of substantial success in growing the economy, but the forceful and vigorous attempts constantly being made to remove several economic development barriers that are stymieing the Administration's current struggles and progress to expand the economy."

Part of the administration's old revenue package included the 7% sales tax bill from the administration, which was tabled by the Fono last September; and it is unknown at this time, if it will ever come out of committee.

Lolo had hinted late last year about submitting amendments to the 5% miscellaneous excise tax, that he had vetoed — disagreeing with the changes made by the Fono.

Local residents are hopeful that the House will take action during the current session on another Administration revenue bill, which updates the American Samoa individual income tax table to mirror the federal code. ASG officials who testified before the Senate last September said updating the tax table would mean taxpayers would be giving less money to the government. The bill updates the local tax table starting in tax year 2018, by adopting the US Internal Revenue Service tax table for standard deductions and dependent exemptions for the year 2004.

The Senate version of the bill is pending in a House committee, which also has the House version.

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One of the five groups that participated in the Filipino Community Dance Competition last month. [photo: courtesy]

Fono to vote on DHSS and DPR director appointees this week

BOTH NOMINEES ARE CURRENT DEPUTY DIRECTORS

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga's appointments of Muavaefa'atasi John Edward Suisala as director of Human and Social Services, and Kenneth Soala Tupua as director of Parks and Recreation were introduced this week in both the Senate and House.

Senate confirmation hearings begin today at 9a.m. for Tupua followed thereafter by Muavaefa'atasi. In the House, today's confirmation at 8a.m. is for Muavaefa'atasi and tomorrow for Tupua.

In his nomination letter for Muavaefa'atasi, the governor said the director-nominee has over 20 years of management experience in both the territorial government and private sector.

Muavaefa'atasi earned a degree in Administration of Justice in 1983 and immediately began working for ASG until 1989. He returned to government in 1994 to serve as director of the Agency on Aging, Food and Nutrition Services (AAFNS) during the Lutali Administration and the first year of the Tauese Administration.

In the private sector, Muavaefa'atasi's management experience includes serving as

president and general manager of Polynesia Shipping Services for nine years. He has worked at DHSS for 14 years, serving as deputy director since 2009.

From 1990-1994, Muavaefa'atasi was the Legislative Assistant and Federal Grants coordinator at the Washington D.C office of the late former Congressman Faleoma-vaega Eni.

According to Lolo, Muavaefa'atasi's "wide range of management experience" and his current post of deputy director "uniquely qualifies him to serve" as DHSS's new director. Additionally, his "management experience and expertise on the subject matter of DHSS makes him the ideal candidate for the director position." For Tupua, the governor said in his nomination letter that the director-nominee has over 30 years of experience in administrative management positions with the US Air Force, in the private sector, and ASG.

Lolo said Tupua served in the Air Force for 20 years and was honorably discharged in 1984. He also served in management positions for close to 10 years at Samoa Packing and has worked at Parks and Recreation since 2005, moving up to

deputy director in 2013.

Lolo said Tupua, with his wide range of management experience, is "uniquely qualified" to serve as director.

Tupua has been involved in sports for many years, specifically as an International Level 2 Basketball Coach with 20 years experience, according to his resume, which also states that he served as the American Samoa National Olympic Committee secretary general from 1993 to 2009, and president from 2010 to 2011.

OTHER FONONOMEES

In other news from the Fono, both the Senate and House approved this week a House Concurrent Resolution that conveys the deepest condolences of the Fono and the people of American Samoa to Mrs. Vaofu'aomalo Soliai Solomona and the Solomona and Soliai families on the passing of DHSS director, Taeaofua Fofogaoaiga Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona. The resolution, which also pays tribute to Taeaofua's extensive service to his family and the people of American Samoa, was read and presented during last week's funeral service for Taeaofua, who passed away Dec. 11, 2017.



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17 dead in California mudslides, more than a dozen missing

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) — Anxious family members awaited word on loved ones Wednesday as rescue crews searched grimy debris and ruins for more than a dozen people missing after mudslides in Southern California destroyed an estimated 100 houses, swept cars to the beach and left at least 17 victims dead.

"It's just waiting and not knowing, and the more I haven't heard from them — we have to find them," said Kelly Weimer, whose elderly parents' home was wrecked by the torrent of mud, trees and boulders that flowed down a fire-scarred mountain and slammed into the coastal town of Montecito in Santa Barbara County early Tuesday. The drenching storm that triggered the disaster gave way to sunny skies, as hundreds of searchers carefully combed a messy landscape strewn with hazards. "We've gotten multiple reports of rescuers falling through manholes that were covered with mud, swimming pools that were covered up with mud," said Anthony Buzzerio, a Los Angeles County fire battalion chief. "The mud is acting like a candy shell on ice cream. It's crusty on top but soft underneath, so we're having to be very careful."

Buzzerio led a team of 14

firefighters and six dogs in deep debris. They used long-handled tools to search the muck in the painstaking task.

Teams rescued three people Wednesday, but they also discovered two more bodies, raising the death count to 17, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. Seventeen people were reported missing.

A dozen people were hospitalized at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and four were in critical condition, Dr. Brett Wilson said. "Most injuries we saw were related to fast-moving debris," Wilson said. "You can't even fathom what these poor patients went through to finally make their way to the emergency department."

The deluge destroyed 100 houses and damaged 300 others, Santa Barbara County authorities said. Eight commercial properties were destroyed and 20 damaged. Some 500 firefighters and other rescue workers were searching debris spread across a wide swath of Montecito, a wealthy enclave of about 9,000 people northwest of Los Angeles that is home to such celebrities as Oprah Winfrey, Rob Lowe and Ellen DeGeneres.

Helicopters were used to hoist more than 50 people to safety from roofs, where they

scrambled to escape the mud or because debris had blocked roads and left them stranded.

FA'ASILASILAGA MO FALETAMA UMA O LE SUAFA ASOAU AFIOAGA O FALEASAO, MANU'A

Ae ou te le'i asaasa fa'ava'atiu o 'au'au loloa ma ou seu matato'aga lupe o le fuifui lea ua toto i le fogatia, e ao ina ou tafili le vaosa ma filitagaga le vaogagana, aua o Samoa o le ao mamala, tulou, tulou, tulouna lava. E'e la'ia i fuialoa ma fata i le Mauga o Ao ou paia Samoa, mai Saua, se'ia pa'ia Falealupo. O pa'ia e leai se na te toe suia, tulou, tulou, tulouna lava.

Talu ai ona ua iai se talosaga a nisi faletama o le suafoa Asoau ina ia toe suia le aso mo la tatou talanoaga e pei ona fuafuaina mai le fonotaga lona tolu (3) lea sa faia lava i Malae, le mea e faasino iai le suafoa, e faia i le Aso Faraile, Ianuari 13, 2018, i le itula e iva i le taeao, ae suia i le aso 5 o le masina o Me, 2018. O le mea lea, matou te fa'amalulu atu ia i latou uma sa auai atu i fontoaga e tolu ua mavae, ua iai se manatu, ona o le fia fai aiga lelei ma le nofo fealofani, o le a le fa'ataunu'uina le fonotaga e pei ona fuafuaina mo le Aso To'ona'i, Ianuari 13, 2018 i le itula e iva (9:00am) i le taeao, i Faleasao, ae ua fa'atulagaina nei mo Me aso lima (5) 2018 i le itula e iva (9:00am) i le taeao, i Faleasao, le nofoaga e fa'asino iai le suafoa.

Fa'amoemoe le taofi vaivai, o le a faasopolia atu iai lo outou soifua manuia mai le Atua fai mea tonu, o lo tatou Mata'isau, ma Le e ona mea uma i le lalolagi.

O la matou tatalo, ia fa'agagaina e le Atua fetalai lou finagalo i lea malama o muamua, ina ia 'autasi ai lo tatou aiga i se ua agava'a, e alofa i le aiga, e fai ma tautai matapalapala, aua le va i fale ma le va i fafo o lo tatou aiga, ae matau lava i le Atua ma lona finagalo paia. Fa'amolemole atu, o le a le aveva lou le afio mai, ma ala e toe tolopoina ai le finagalo 'autasi o aiga. Ma ua matou manatu fo'i, o la tatou toe fonotaga fo'i lea, aua le talanoaina o le suafoa o le aiga.

Faia ma le Fa'aaloalo e tatau ai,

Sainia: Ale T. Filoiali'i

Le'aai M. Filoiali'i

Fuiava B. Fuiava

► Governor...

Continued from page 1

us the \$6.5 million fine that was recently levied against StarKist. Through this effort, said Lolo, American Samoa is entitled to half of the money.

EDUCATION

According to the governor, significant investments have been made in building the support infrastructure to improve the learning environment in all schools, including incentivizing teachers.

He said investments have also been made in promoting the physical well being of the young ones, evident in the construction of gymnasiums in major elementary schools.

And because not all local high school graduates will get the chance to access off island postsecondary education, Lolo said investing in the American Samoa Community College has become necessary; but added that like the LBJ Medical Center, "its financial stability requires close attention."

INFRASTRUCTURE

The governor reported that efforts to upgrade and expand the economic and social infrastructural system have been maintained. He referred to the completed inter island service wharf and said work is still in progress to improve harbor and dock areas in both Tutuila and Manu'a.

Ongoing improvement projects at the airport include the new jet fuel tank farm, the apron project, runway resurfacing, and other work funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Lolo made known that he has established the CIP Task Force "to compile all our CIP needs going forward to be submitted for consideration under President Trump's proposed infrastructural development initiative."

YOUNG ADULTS

According to Lolo, the development of young adults is an important priority because of its impact on the social and economic progress of the territory.

He said they have established programs to improve employability of young adults with no jobs, and they are working

aggressively to establish new businesses with the aim of creating jobs for young people.

"Recognizing the absolute need to build the intellectual capacity of our human resource pool, to incentivize the attraction of high paying jobs into the territory, and to reverse the alarming trend of our college graduates not returning home, the Management Apprenticeship Program was established towards the end of 2013, guaranteeing a full time position within the government and private sector for any college graduate who returns home," Lolo said.

At the end of 2017, he continued, close to 300 college graduates have returned home and are working for ASG and the private sector, earning a starting annual salary of \$23,000.

Lolo said the challenges that lie ahead in 2018 are "monumental" and will demand the reaffirmation of our commitment to grow our economy and improve the lives of our people.

"After 5 years, I am convinced that the surefire pathway to accomplish our vision and inspirations, particular to sustaining the process of improving our people's quality of life, is through empowering our young people by instilling the required skill sets to attract minimum wage immune jobs and to ingrain, implant, and inoculate the core values that will perpetuate our identity and continue to align all their actions and to set their moral and ethical campus in line with our Christian values," Lolo said.

He concluded by saying that with the multitude of challenges that will punctuate 2018, "it is imperative that we recommit ourselves to the principle of full cooperation and collaboration; refraining and abstaining from second guessing or questioning our individual motives rather than focusing on benefits that our people will realize from any action that we take ... God has been good to American Samoa but we must do our share to harvest the blessings God has in store for us."



One of the Alabama coaches recently shared video of a team meeting in which Honolulu native Tua Tagovailoa sang and played. The star QB credits his musical talent to his family, and that he grew up playing songs on the ukulele with his brothers and cousins. He also sang in his church choir. [screenshot from video]



compiled by Samoa News staff

HE CAN SING! TUA TREATS BAMA COACHES TO CONCERT

Not only can Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa play football, but he also has a hidden talent: He can sing and play the ukulele.

Before leading his team to win the national college football title on Monday, the former Saint Louis standout treated his coaches to a Christmas performance on Dec. 22.

It was the team's final practice before Christmas break and before traveling to New Orleans for the Allstate Sugar Bowl semifinal.

Video of him singing "Noqu Lewa" by Na Drua and "Honi Honi" by Laga Savea was shared on Twitter, but it wasn't until the Crimson Tide won the championship that the clip started going viral.

Link to the video from our website: www.samoanews.com

(Source: Hawaii News Now)

CALLS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DENGUE IN SAMOA

There is mounting pressure for Samoa's Ministry of Health to increase awareness about the dengue outbreak especially during the tourist season.

So far the Ministry has revealed the number of cases affected by the mosquito-borne disease increased from 1,700 to nearly 2,500 since October 2017 and there have been five deaths so far.

But it is uncertain whether these deaths included people who travelled to Samoa from New Zealand but then died after contracting dengue fever and were buried back in Aotearoa.

RNZI correspondent Autagavaia Tipi Autagavaia said that health officials seemed very reluctant to release more details, especially to media.

"There's a lot of speculation with people talking about how this is not the right figure of deaths from dengue fever and they suspect it should be more than five. The mentality that we have here in Samoa and how to keep things or to make people calm down or not to give any information that might cause panic."

(Source: RNZI)

HAWAIIAN AIR EMPLOYEE FILES SUIT AFTER FINDING NOOSE

A Hawaiian Airlines employee has filed a racial harassment and discrimination suit against the carrier, saying that his life was threatened by colleagues who placed a noose and a lynching rope near his locker.

Timothy Degrate, who is black, alleges the incident happened in August 2016.

"What that means to me, murder, death, intimidation," Degrate tells Hawaii News Now. "It was just a hostile environment to work in."

Degrate said it started with a few derogatory comments years ago, then co-workers started harassing him.

He says he suffered psychological trauma as a result.

In a statement, Hawaiian Airlines denied the allegations of workplace violence, but said it has taken steps to bolster staff training.

"We are sorry that Mr. Degrate felt disrespected in any way," said Ann Botticelli, senior vice president of corporate communications at Hawaiian Airlines, in an emailed statement.

"An independent investigation of Mr. Degrate's allegations was unable to verify actions by specific individuals as described by Mr. Degrate, and we vigorously deny all allegations of workplace violence. Having said that, because Hawaiian Airlines is committed to maintaining a fair and safe work environment we have taken additional efforts to improve workplace interaction at our Kona station, including mandatory staff-wide training on communicating and interacting with respect."

Degrate has been with Hawaiian Airlines since 2000, and is a lead line service supervisor at the Kona International Airport.

He is seeking damages and attorneys' fees. (Source: Hawaii News Now)

TUNA TRACKING TECH COULD BE HARD TO IMPLEMENT

A Fiji company says new technology to make the tuna fishing industry more transparent could be difficult for some Pacific island states to implement.

The firm, TraSeable, is involved in trialing the block-chain technology that tracks tuna from when it's caught to when it's sold.

Founder and managing director Ken Katafono

(Continued on page 8)

► American...

Continued from page 1

huge for American Samoa," Vaeafe said, adding that other popular Pacific destinations for weddings include Tahiti and Fiji. "A wedding can be held on Tutuila or the Manu'a Islands."

Besides the government benefiting from the wedding market — through fees paid for marriage licenses issued by the Office of Vital Statistics — industry officials told Samoa News that the private sector, through businesses such as florists, bakeries, and sewing

shops — can also benefit from this market.

"This means employment for American Samoa," an official said yesterday afternoon.

Of note, many locals have been getting married in Samoa, and have cited being able to be married in the church there — as well as the variety of hotels and venues available for reception and honeymoon. Affordable airfare has also been mentioned.



Lolo approves build-out plan for First Responder Network

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND SOLUTION WILL MODERNIZE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS AMERICAN SAMOA

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — RESTON, Va. - Jan. 10, 2018 — American Samoa is modernizing communications technology for its first responders.

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga accepted the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T plans to deliver a wireless broadband network to the territory's public safety community.

FirstNet will bring advanced tools that will help American Samoa's first responders save lives and protect communities.

"In weighing this important decision to join FirstNet or deploy our own system, our team came to the conclusion that opting-in to FirstNet was the better solution for American Samoa and our first responders," said Governor Lolo. "I wish to express my appreciation to the Director of Homeland Security, Samana Veavea, and Commissioner of Public Safety Le'i Sonny Thompson, and their respective staffs, for their contributions to the making of this well-informed decision. We look forward to working with AT&T and the First Responder Network Authority to deploy this network."

AT&T, in a public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority, will provide a highly secure wireless broadband communications network for American Samoa's public safety community at no cost to the territory. The FirstNet network will drive innovation and create an entire system of modernized devices, apps and tools for first responders.

FirstNet will transform the way American Samoa's fire, police, EMS and other public safety personnel communicate and share information. Specifically, it will:

- ¥ Connect first responder subscribers to the critical information they need in a highly secure manner when handling day-to-day operations, responding to emergencies and supporting large events like Flag Day festivities.

- ¥ Create an efficient communications experience for public safety personnel in agencies and jurisdictions across the territory during natural disasters, such as earthquakes and flooding.

- ¥ Enhance and expand network coverage across American Samoa's diverse landscape, benefitting first responders and

residents throughout the territory's rural or remote areas.

- ¥ Provide first responders with access to dedicated network assets that can be deployed for additional coverage and support when needed.

- ¥ Drive infrastructure investments across the territory.

- ¥ Usher in a new wave of dependable innovations for first responders. This will create an ever-evolving set of life-saving tools for public safety, including public safety apps, specialized devices and Internet of Things technologies.

The First Responder Network Authority and AT&T designed American Samoa's network solution with direct input from the territory and its public safety community. This helped to address the territory's unique communications needs, including:

- ¥ Extending coverage to the areas where island topology currently creates gaps.

- ¥ Making deployable network assets available to the territory.

- ¥ Leveraging existing infrastructure assets as appropriate.

- ¥ Offering feature-rich services at competitive prices.

"Governor Lolo's decision to join the First Responder Network Authority will deliver innovative tools and state-of-the-art technologies to the territory's fire, police and emergency medical services," said First Responder Network Authority CEO Mike Poth. "With FirstNet, American Samoa's first responders will gain access to a reliable and redundant connection over the first-ever nationwide broadband network for public safety."

The decision enables the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T to begin offering an entirely new wireless ecosystem for public safety communications. American Samoa's first responder subscribers will have access to quality of service, priority and preemption to voice and data across the FirstNet network.

"It's been a pleasure working with Governor Lolo to bring FirstNet to American Samoa's first responders," said Stephanie Tyler, president, AT&T Pacific Northwest. "We're honored to serve public safety here on the island and across the United States."

(Source: First Responder Network Authority)



Employment Opportunity in Banking

ANZ Guam, Inc dba ANZ Amerika Samoa Bank is hiring and establishing a list of candidates for the following full time position:

IT OFFICER

- Our successful candidate would be accountable for providing effective management and governance of IT services
- Minimum of two years of industry experience in Technology preferably in Banking and Finance
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- Experience identifying and implementing IT solutions to suit business needs
- Technical knowledge to effectively assess and implement technical solutions.

This employment opportunity is open to all qualified candidates, individuals with disabilities, and military veterans who are willing, able and available to perform the job, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex and citizenship.

If this is an opportunity that interests you, all resumes are to be received before Friday, January 12, 2018 to kathy.manipol-mcdonald@anz.com. All resumes will be handled confidentially and confidential calls may be made directly to Kathy Manipol-McDonald, Head of HR at 671.479.9023.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB-2461-18

Issuance Date: January 9, 2018

Closing Date: January 19, 2018

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

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide **Cargo Delivery Vans** for the Department Education-School Lunch Program.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until **10:00a.m. (local time), Friday, January 19, 2018** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. BID DOCUMENTS

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

4. CONDITIONS

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



PACIFIC YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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TRAINING MODULES:

Module 1: Normal Aging and Cultural Aspects of Caregiving:

- Understand the general principles in caring for the disabled/elderly;
- Strengthen the cultural aspects of caregiving in American Samoa; and
- Increase knowledge on the physical changes associated with aging and living with a disability;

Module 2: Gait and Transfer Training and Fall Prevention

- Learn strategies to prevent falls at home;
- Training on gait and transfers; and
- Proper use of durable medical equipment such as canes, walker and wheelchairs.

Module 3: Pain and Symptom Management/Managing Difficult Behaviors

- Understand the World Health Organization (WHO) approach to pain management;
- Learn non-pharmacological approaches to managing difficult behaviors; and
- Improve communication with persons who have dementia.

Module 4: Activities of Daily Living Part 1

- Learn importance of proper hygiene;
- Increase confidence in performing activities of daily living; and
- Competence in giving a bed bath.

Module 5: Activities of Daily Living Part 2

- Understand the importance of oral care and dental hygiene;
- Learn dietary recommendations for chronic diseases; and
- Describe strategies to stimulate appetite for disabled/elderly with poor appetite.

Module 6: Wound care and Bedsores Prevention/Common Medical Problems

- Increase knowledge on prevention of bed sores;
- Learn signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke; and
- Understand common medical problems affecting the disabled/elderly.

Module 7: Relieving Family and Caregiver Stress

- Describe stress management strategies;
- Recognition of caregiver burnout; and
- Increase knowledge of resources available for disabled and elderly caregivers in American Samoa.





PACIFIC YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Program Orientation

January 31, 2018

On Site Instruction provided by University of Hawaii Medical Team (40 Hours)

February 5 to 9, 2018

On Site Practicum & Experiential Learning at Hope House Home for the Elderly (480 Hours)

February 19 to August 3, 2018

Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Bi-lingual in Samoan and English
- Able-bodied, Health Clearance
- Commitment to complete all hours of training and education

Benefits:

- Skills and knowledge in providing proper care for elderly & severely disabled individuals
- Access to professional expertise in geriatric and end of life care
- 6 months of hands-on, practical training experience
- Opportunity to provide contracted caregiving services for those in need
- Earn a stipend of \$1,920 after successfully completing all training modules



HOW TO APPLY: Email or contact PYCD Office 699-7923 for an Application. All Completed Applications must be submitted to the office in hard copy or by email to info@pycd.com on or before Friday, January 26, 2018. For more information, please contact PYCD Executive Director, Kathryn McCutchan.



Judge: Seattle in compliance with police reforms



FILE - In this May 1, 2017 file photo, Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole, left, talks with an officer before a march for worker and immigrant rights at a May Day event in Seattle. U.S. District Judge James Robart ruled Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018, that Seattle's police department is in "full and effective compliance" with court-ordered reforms imposed on the city more than five years ago. The department began to move toward compliance under the leadership of former police Chief O'Toole, an ex-Boston police commissioner who was hired by Seattle in 2014. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson,

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge ruled Wednesday that Seattle's police department is in "full and effective compliance" with court-ordered reforms imposed on the city more than five years ago.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge James Robart marks a milestone recognizing the city's efforts since entering a consent decree with the U.S. Justice Department to address allegations that officers had routinely used excessive force and shown troubling evidence of biased policing.

Robart granted a motion filed by the city in September seeking to be found in compliance with the agreement. The DOJ and Community Police Commission, a citizen body created as part of the consent decree, joined in the city's request. The city has worked to overhaul nearly all aspects of

its police department, including how officers are trained, how and when they use force, and how such episodes are documented and reviewed.

Next for the city is a two-year review period in which it must show the sweeping reforms are maintained.

"Fulfilling Phase I is an enormous milestone and one in which the city and SPD should take pride," Robart wrote. "Nevertheless, the court cautions the city and SPD that this does not mean their work is done."

The Justice Department began investigating Seattle police following a series of questionable uses of force, including the unjustified shooting of a Native American woodcarver after he crossed the

street in front of a patrol car in 2010.

A year later, DOJ attorneys said they had found that officers were too quick to resort to force, especially in low-level situations.

Police brass and city officials initially disputed the DOJ's assertions but then entered the consent decree in 2012 after difficult negotiations. The move was aimed at reducing unnecessary uses of force, curbing biased policing and improving residents' trust.

The department began to move toward compliance under the leadership of former police Chief Kathleen O'Toole, an ex-Boston police commissioner who was hired by Seattle in 2014.

▶ Pacific...

Continued from page 4



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA
 P. O. BOX 9, Pago Pago A. S. 96799
 Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.
 Website: www.dbas.as

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: LEGAL COUNSEL

Responsibilities:

- Provide legal advice to the Board, management and staff on all matters pertinent to the Development Bank of American Samoa.
- Provide legal representation of the Development Bank of American Samoa before American Samoa Courts, Legislature and executive departments.
- Supervise the Legal Department and Legal Department staff.
- Provide in-house advice on borrower and lender compliance.
- Design and implement appropriate legal remedies, including suit and foreclosure, for delinquent loans referred to the Legal Department.
- Draft contracts, leases, manuals, policies, loan documents and other DBAS documents for the Development Bank of American Samoa.

This position supervises Legal Dept. Manager and Legal Collection Officers while reporting to the President.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education/Experience/Qualification:

Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited law school with five to seven (5-7) years experience as an attorney in relevant areas of practice. Must be admitted to practice in any state and a member in good standing of a state bar. Must be eligible for admission to practice in American Samoa and must either be admitted to practice and licensed to practice in American Samoa or obtain admission and license to practice within thirty days of commencement of employment. All hired employees are subject to background and credit checks.

Skills/Abilities:

- Excellent problem solving, analytical and negotiating skills. Strong leadership, management and supervisory skills.
- Excellent interviewing, communications and public relations skills.
- Excellent ability to work with President, Bank Management and Development Bank Board of Directors.
- Proficient in computer applications, including MS Word and MS Excel.

Please submit your Resume & Application to the Development Bank of American Samoa located in Pago Pago - 2nd floor. This job posting will expire January 15, 2018 @ 4:00pm.

Development Bank of American Samoa is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer

said strengths of the technology are that it's difficult to hack and no one person or entity holds all the data.

But Katafono said it was likely to be hard getting all countries to buy in and provide key data.

He said slow Internet speeds could also be a problem.

"Pacific island countries they are at different areas of development and they have access to different resources and infrastructure. I think implementing technology like this can be challenging for some of them that don't have good Internet connections."

Katafono said while there's a lot of work being done by regional agencies in the Pacific in terms of digitizing fisheries data, there's still some way to go.

He said the technology that is essentially a digital ledger, was still at a pilot stage but was expected to be commercially available this year.

(Source: RNZI)

BORDALLO BACKS VOTERS' SUPPORT OF MED MARIJUANA

Supporting the decision Guam voters made in 2014 to legalize medicinal marijuana, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo this week responded to the letter from Grassroots Guam sent to her office on Tuesday.

The group shared concern after US Attorney General Jeff Sessions reversed a memo that gives marijuana a pass in states where it's legal. The new guidance gives federal prosecutors more discretion in how they enforce the federal law.

Bordallo states, "I do not believe the federal government, and specifically the Justice Department, should implement regulations that supersede the express will of voters on this matters." She says she will work with her colleagues to ensure decisions are made at the local level.

(Source: KUAM.com)

CHINESE GOVT TO FUND ANOTHER SAMOA PROJECT

The Chinese government is expected to start building a major training center for Samoa's police as part of a multi-billion dollar aid package for the region.

Samoa's Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, said the regional package included direct grants and soft loans but Samoa was looking at maximizing the former for major projects.

Tuilaepa said his government was still in negotiations with China for funding other major projects.

One project could potentially be looked at is the Apia wharf reconstruction which is partly funded by the Japanese government.

(Source: RNZI)

SCATHING ATTACK ON CHINA'S 'USELESS' PACIFIC PROJECTS

Australia has sharply criticized China's efforts to build influence in the Pacific, accusing Beijing of "duchessing" politicians and pumping money into useless infrastructure projects.

"You've got the Pacific full of these useless buildings which nobody maintains, which are basically white elephants," Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Australia's minister for international development and the Pacific, told The Australian newspaper.

"I've gone to islands and you'll be driving along on some back road and all of a sudden you see this Chinese road crew building a road to nowhere and you think 'hmm, what's all that about'," she added.

"We want to ensure that the infrastructure that you do build is actually productive and is actually going to give some economic benefit or some sort of health benefit."

(Source: Today Online)

Canada launches trade complaint against US over duties

TORONTO (AP) — Canada has launched a wide ranging attack on U.S. trade practices with an international complaint over Washington's use of punitive duties. The U.S. called it ill-advised.

The complaint, which was filed last month but not released until Wednesday, ramps up tensions amid talks on renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement by the three member countries — the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

A senior government official said Canada is under no illusion that there is a risk President Trump might pull the U.S. out of the trade agreement, while another senior official said the government is prepared for that possibility while not being certain it will happen. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Canada is asking the World Trade Organization to examine the use of duties in the United States, alleging they violate international law. Canada cited 122 cases in which it says the U.S. unfairly imposed duties on foreign countries, not just Canada.

The U.S. just announced duties of up to 9 percent on Canadian paper. It follows a series of similar penalties as the U.S. alleges unfair trade practices by Canada in the form of softwood lumber and Bombardier subsidies.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement that Canada's complaint is a "broad and ill-advised attack on the U.S. trade remedies system." He said it would damage Canada's own

interest and only benefit China.

"Canada's claims are unfounded and could only lower U.S. confidence that Canada is committed to mutually beneficial trade," Lighthizer said. "Even if Canada succeeded on these groundless claims, other countries would primarily benefit, not Canada. For example, if the U.S. removed the orders listed in Canada's complaint, the flood of imports from China and other countries would negatively impact billions of dollars in Canadian exports to the United States."

Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, said Canada's complaint might have been made public Wednesday because Canada could be signaling to the Canadian public not to expect anything from the coming round of NAFTA talks in Montreal later this month, which he says may well be the last round.

"I think Trump will give the six-month notice required under NAFTA because he will see it as a negotiating tactic," Wiseman said. "Trump prefers bilateral negotiations with each of Canada and Mexico."

The U.S. and Canada typically enjoy a friendly trade relationship, but things have soured this year as Trump has demanded big changes to NAFTA, which is in its 24th year.

Trump's demands, which range from requiring that more auto production be in the U.S. to having more government contracts in the NAFTA bloc go to U.S. companies, will likely be unacceptable to Canada and Mexico.

Fallout from Louisiana teacher's arrest rages on

ABBEVILLE, La. (AP) — The Louisiana teacher whose widely viewed arrest at a school board meeting sparked online outrage has returned to work even as fallout from the incident rages on.

Gov. John Bel Edwards said he saw nothing on videos of Deshia Hargrave's arrest that warranted her rough treatment. Meanwhile, the superintendent of Vermilion Parish Schools said he, his staff and his family have received death threats.

Hargrave returned to the classroom Wednesday. The local prosecutor said he won't pursue charges against Hargrave, who was appalled by her treatment and grateful for support from students, parents and others. A rally of support for the teacher was planned Thursday afternoon.

"By taking away my voice they've taken away — or tried to take away — my First Amendment rights to speak," Hargrave said in a video posted on the Louisiana Association of Educators' Facebook page. "Go to your local school board meetings," Hargrave said. "Speak out. Be vocal."

Edwards, who is married to a teacher and gets support from

teacher unions, said he "didn't see anything that warranted that type of action."

Superintendent Jerome Puyau said the hate emails and phone calls began pouring in after videos spread.

"I've stopped reading them because they're just so bad and disgusting," Puyau said, at times struggling to compose himself in an interview with The Associated Press. He said the school system offices went into temporary lockdown, and his daughters had to delete threats on their social media.

The turmoil follows the board's 5-3 vote Monday night approving a new 3-year contract raising Puyau's salary by roughly \$30,000, to about \$140,000 annually, with incentive targets that could add 3 percent per year.

He said the raise matches what other school officials make in similar jobs.

Hargrave, a middle school English teacher, said she felt like she was representing all teachers in the parish by questioning the raise, at a time when teachers haven't received an increase in 10 years, despite growing class sizes and other demands.

Video of the meeting shows that Hargrave addressed the superintendent directly after raising her hand to speak and being recognized. After a verbal exchange, school board member Kibbie Pillette said Fontana beckoned to a school resource officer hired by the board, who confronted Hargrave, ordering her to get her things and go.

"I'm going," she said, making her way out. Moments later — after briefly leaving the view of any cameras — she was on the hallway floor with her hands behind her back, being handcuffed and complaining that the officer was hurting her.

"Stop resisting," the marshal said, lifting Hargrave to her feet.

"I am not, you just pushed me to the floor," Hargrave said.

Puyau said he did not order Hargrave's removal or arrest. While refusing to comment on details, Puyau made clear that he was unhappy with how things played out.

"It was not good in any way," he said. "We are a good community. It took everybody by surprise. I'm having a hard time with this, but we care about our teachers and our support staff."

Fontana did not return phone messages Wednesday.



In a Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 photo, Mark Newson of Pleasant Hill, Ore., who has been a Lane County recycler for over 40 years, drops off plastic at the Glenwood Transfer Station in Springfield, Ore. Lane County was the only Oregon county to recycle more waste than it threw away as garbage last year, according to a state Department of Environmental Quality report released this month. (Brian Davies/The Register-Guard via AP)



AMERIKA SAMOA HUMANITIES COUNCIL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Amerika Samoa Humanities Council is opening its Grant Program for the public non-profit organizations and public institutions in the Territory to submit program proposals. Applicants must employ important and thoughtful approaches to disseminate knowledge and information to our communities from those aspects of the social sciences that can apply to everyday lives. Program themes should focus on goals that would support the ASHC program theme of "Re-Imagining the American Samoa Dream".

Two Deadlines are scheduled for this year:

- February 2, 2018
- August 31, 2018

For more information please contact our Office at 633-4870 or 258-2384.

FAASILASILAGA FAALAU'ITELE

Ua tatala avanoa o Polokalama Faatupe a le Amerika Samoa Humanities Council mo sosaiete faitele ma faalapopotoga mo tagata uma e faaulu atu ai talosaga mo polokalama o lenei tausaga. E ao ina fa'aaoga auala poo faiga e matua lelei ma atoatoa e a'oa'o ai ma faasoa atu le poto ma faamatalaga aoga i tagata nuu, e faatatau i mataupu e sailiilia le soifua lautele i aso faisoo. O sini ma autu o polokalama e faaulu mai e tatau ona tulimata'i le autu ua faataoto mai e le Komiti Faafae ua faapea: "Toe Afua Se Taeao o le Li'a a Amerika Samoa".

E lua aso faatulagaina e faamuta ai le talia o pepa talsosaga mo lenei tausaga faalegaluega:

- Fepuari 2, 2018
- Aukuso 31, 2018

Mo nisi faamatalaga faafesoota'i mai le Ofisa: 633-4870, 254-2384

This ad is paid for by the Amerika Samoa Humanities Council, the local affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



In this Dec 20, 2017, photo, customers write their names on a waiting list to get a table at the restaurant of 72-year-old Thai cook Supinya Jansuta, better known as "Jay Fai," in Bangkok, Thailand. Jay Fai's once relatively quiet restaurant is now busier than ever. The restaurant serves renditions of ordinary Thai dishes, like crab omelet or stir-fried noodles, all packed with fresh crab meat and super-size shrimps. (AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe)

Michelin star boosts chef at outdoor Thai kitchen to stardom

BANGKOK (AP) — After spending more than three decades cooking in an unassuming outdoor kitchen, a wok-wielding, goggles-wearing Thai chef has been propelled to international culinary stardom by having her restaurant awarded a Michelin star.

Supinya Jansuta, better known as "Jay Fai," is among 17 Bangkok-based chefs whose venues received the coveted honor from Michelin in a guidebook released last month — its first foray into the country.

Jay Fai, as her restaurant is also known, is often featured in foreign travel guides but is mostly shunned by Thais for its high prices of what is generally considered cheap local food.

But a closer examination of the 72-year-old chef's dishes reveals an abundance of fresh seafood and prime ingredients.

"The No. 1 thing with Jay Fai is people say it's too expensive," said Oliver Irvine, editor of the English-language weekly BK Magazine, which regularly critiques Bangkok's food scene. "This is an old classic hole-in-the wall place which charges 800-1,000 baht (\$24-31) for its famous crab omelet, which is nowhere near street-food prices. But when you cut that thing open, it's literally bursting with the freshest crab in the whole city."

Jay Fai is the only restaurant in the Bangkok guide listed under the "street food" classification to receive a star.

"Jay Fai is a place that both taxi drivers and foodies wax lyrical about and it's easy to see why," the Michelin guidebook says of the restaurant.

Bangkok is renowned for its street food, with cart-wielding vendors selling everything from Thailand's signature noodles to spicy tom yum goong soup.

The stalls, with their metal folding tables and rickety plastic stools, serve as a gastronomic go-to for budget-conscious locals and adventurous tourists alike.

In recent months, however, officials in the military-ruled country who see street food as an illegal nuisance have warned hawkers to clear out of some of the city's neighborhoods.

While Jay Fai is one of 14 Bangkok restaurants to receive a single star, none got three stars, the highest Michelin honor. Three were awarded two stars — the Indian restaurant Gaggan, French venue Le Normandie and European establishment Mezzaluna.

Following the lead of several other Asian nations, Thailand's government earmarked \$4.1 million last year to commission five years of Michelin Guides dedicated to the country.

Michelin says the Bangkok guide was "solely, independently and anonymously" produced by its team of critics.

Jay Fai said she was happy about receiving the Michelin honor, but questioned why it came so late in her career.

"I've been cooking for 30 to 40 years, so I don't know why I've only just got it," she said. "I'm happy that they're starting to recognize Thailand and Thai chefs." "I hope more Thai people will win the award next year, and they don't just give it to Jay Fai again," she said as she expertly flipped and tossed vegetables in a flaming wok.

Since receiving the accolade, Jay Fai's once relatively quiet restaurant has been busier than ever. Her shop is open from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m., but many people start queuing up well before opening time. By afternoon on most days, a "full house" sign is hung up, indicating that no further customers can be accommodated.

After waiting in line for over two hours, David Goldman, a tourist from Los Angeles, left the restaurant satisfied.

"The food was really fresh. It was probably the best Thai food I've ever had," Goldman said. "The only advice I have for anyone coming here is bring a book" given the long wait, he added.

Police search for shooter who fired near California college

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Authorities say a gun was fired and a bullet hit a building on a Southern California college campus, but there are no reports of any injuries.

Officials at California State University, San Bernardino said the gunfire was reported at

about 6 p.m. Wednesday near the visual arts building.

Police Lt. Mike Madden tells the San Bernardino Sun that a single shot hit a campus building, and police are searching for the shooter.

The building is on the edge of campus, and police say the

shot may have come from the outside.

Classes are canceled for the night and students on campus are on lockdown.

The school about 60 miles east of downtown Los Angeles has about 20,000 students.



Court rules in favor of Trump over fate of consumer watchdog

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge ruled late Wednesday in favor of President Donald Trump and the White House over the control of the national financial watchdog agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In a 46-page opinion, Judge Timothy Kelly denied Leandra English, the deputy director of the CFPB, a preliminary injunction that would have stopped Mick Mulvaney, Trump's budget director, from taking on a second role as acting director of the agency.

The conflict arose late last month when Richard Cordray, named by President Barack Obama to lead the CFPB, stepped down and named English as his replacement. In response, the White House named Mulvaney as the replacement for Cordray.

This is the second time Kelly ruled has against English, who sought an emergency restraining order against Mulvaney to keep him from taking over the agency. In that first ruling last month, Kelly, a

Trump appointee who took the bench last year, expressed skepticism about whether English would prevail in her case.

"Because the court has determined that English is not likely to succeed on the merits, the balance of the equities would necessarily weigh against granting her an injunction," Kelly said in his opinion.

Both English and Mulvaney have claimed to be the rightful acting director of the CFPB. But since he took over the agency, Mulvaney has been appeared far more in charge of the bureau than English. He has made some policy changes over how the bureau operates and announced last week he was bringing in his own chief of staff.

The CFPB was created in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. It was the brainchild of Elizabeth Warren, who at the time was a Harvard University law professor, and now is a U.S. senator from Massachusetts. The bureau was designed to be powerful and independent, getting its funding from the Federal Reserve rather than Congress in

order to shield it from political infighting. Since its creation, the bureau has clawed back billions of dollars in unfairly paid fees and penalties for consumers and has fined major banks for wrongdoing — including Wells Fargo, which was fined \$100 million for its sales practices scandal in 2015. At the same time, the bureau's work has made it a top target of congressional Republicans, who want to see the agency's powers curtailed — or even eliminate it altogether. Mulvaney, when he was a member of Congress, expressed similar opinions about the bureau, which made consumer advocates fearful that he would undo much of what Cordray accomplished during his tenure.

In a statement, a lawyer for English said they were "disappointed" with Kelly's decision.

"Mulvaney's appointment undermines the bureau's independence and threatens its mission to protect American consumers," said Deepak Gupta, a lawyer with the firm Gupta Wessler.

Lead detective in San Francisco Zodiac killer case dies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Dave Toschi, the San Francisco police detective who led the unsuccessful investigation into the Zodiac serial killing a half-century ago, has died. He was 86.

Toschi died Saturday after a lengthy illness, his daughter, Linda Toschi-Chambers, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Toschi was put on the Zodiac case after a San Francisco taxi driver was shot to death in 1969. He was removed nine years later when he acknowledged writing and mailing anonymous fan letters to the Chronicle lauding his own work.

Five people were fatally stabbed or shot to death in Northern California in 1968 and 1969, and their killer sent taunting letters and cryptograms to the police and newspapers.

The killer was never caught. He was dubbed the Zodiac killer because some of his cryptograms included astrological symbols and references.

Duffy Jennings covered the

killings for the Chronicle and grew close to Toschi.

Jenning said Toschi visited the San Francisco murder scene on the anniversary of the killing for many years in a row to see if he overlooked any clues.

"The Zodiac case gnawed at him," Jennings said. "He said it gave him an ulcer."

Actor Mark Ruffalo portrayed Toschi in the 2011 movie "Zodiac."

Toschi was born in San Francisco and graduated from Galileo High School before serving in the Korean War with the Army. He returned to San Francisco in 1953 and was hired at the Police Department, where he worked until retiring in 1985.

Toschi's family said the retired inspector enjoyed music and books.

He "could sing with the best of them," said his daughter. "His greatest pleasure was his loving family, and we will miss his keen sense of humor, his gentle guidance and his unconditional love."

Toschi is survived by his wife, Carol Toschi of San Francisco; two daughters, Toschi-Chambers of San Francisco and Karen Leight of San Mateo County; and two granddaughters, Sarah Leight of Pacifica and Emma Leight of Los Angeles. Private services were held Wednesday.

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Issa's retirement hints at GOP's woes in California

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP) — Rep. Darrell Issa of California announced Wednesday that he will not seek re-election, the latest sign that Republicans could face another grim year at the ballot box in the nation's most populous state.

With his decision to step aside after nine terms, Issa joins a string of GOP lawmakers who are retiring rather than take on what would be difficult re-election battles.

The risks for Republicans are especially acute in California, where the party has been fading away for years. Democrats hold every statewide office and control both chambers of the Legislature by hefty margins. In the 2016 presidential election, Democrat Hillary Clinton crushed Republican Donald Trump in the state by more than 4 million votes.

Democrats with plans to retake control of the House hope to oust a handful of California Republicans whose districts Clinton carried. Issa's seat, the coastal 49th District north of San Diego, is among them.

In San Clemente, a hillside city overlooking the Pacific Ocean that was home to Richard Nixon's Western White House, voters greeted Issa's announcement with sadness or relief, reflecting the closely divided politics of the district.

"That's like a Christmas present," said Donna Martin, a retired community college teacher and registered Democrat.

But Tanya Johnson, also a retired teacher, said she would be disappointed to see Issa leave, crediting him with keeping an open door for constituents. She recalled sending Issa an email expressing her concerns about the recent federal tax overhaul, and Issa responded. He voted against the proposal, saying residents in his district could see higher taxes.

"I really believe he ... cared," said Johnson, a Republican.

The GOP's troubles in California reflect the party's broader challenges in holding control of the House, as Republican retirements pile up. Issa's announcement followed that of Rep. Ed Royce, the Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who said Tuesday that he would not seek a 14th term. Democrats had made defeating Issa one of their top priorities for 2018.

The risks were obvious for the incumbent. Issa survived by about 1,600 votes in his last election and Democratic challengers have lined up to take him on in a midterm election that generally favors the party not in control of the White House.

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