

Business tax bill raises questions from senators

Page 3

Fa'ailoa Kamupani ACE la latou tulaga i lafoga fa'ae a le malo

Le Lali

Samoa will host the 2019 Pacific Games

Sports

Representing American Samoa at the Teuila Volleyball Tournament 2017 in Samoa last week were the Sassy Sisters Volleyball Club, who made it all the way to the championship game, where they played against their local counterparts - the Original Sisters - the defending champs who brought home the title for the second year straight. The two local teams enjoyed themselves, playing against other faafafine teams from Samoa and New Zealand. Go girls!

[photo: courtesy]



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Court sentences man to 30 years for armed robbery

KRUSE: THERE ARE A LOT OF AIMLESS YOUTH IN OUR SOCIETY

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

The young man who robbed 9 Asian stores, including a store in Malaemi at gunpoint, and making off with the cash register containing \$260 last year, was sentenced last Friday to 30 straight years behind bars — meaning no conditions for probation, no work release. But, he was not ordered to pay restitution of any amount for his crime.

The sentence was handed down by Chief Justice Michael Kruse, accompanied by Associate Judges Fa'amausili

Pomele and Muasau T. Tofili. David Fo'a was convicted of one count of armed robbery — a class A felony — punishable by life imprisonment, and/or a prison term of not less than 10 years, and not more than 30 years; and 8 counts of misdemeanor stealing — a class A misdemeanor, punishable by not more than 1 year imprisonment, or a fine of not more than \$1,000 or both for each count.

Fo'a was initially charged with nine counts of first degree armed robbery. However, under a plea agreement with the government, the defen-

(Continued on page 8)

Special election set for next month

PULELEIITE'S MOVE TO ASTCA LEAVES VACANT SEAT IN THE HOUSE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A special election is set for next month to fill a seat in the House of Representatives, now vacant following the resignation of Rep. Pulele'iite Li'amatua Tufele Jr. who has served, for several years, District No. 5, Sua No. 1 - which is comprised of Fagaitua, Amatau, Auto, Avaio, Alega, Aumi and Laulii.

Last Thursday, House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale officially announced Pulele'iite's resignation in the House.

A Sept. 1st statement from the American Samoa TeleCommunications Authority announced that the lawmaker has resigned as a faipule and will commit to his role as CEO at ASTCA.

Provision of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa states in part that when vacancies occur in the Senate or House, the governor

shall issue a writ of election to fill such vacancies except that if any such vacancy shall occur within three months of the next regular election, no special election shall be held and the Governor shall appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy.

Pulele'iite's current two-year term with the 35th Legislature expires at 12noon on Jan. 3, 2019.

In a statement yesterday, chief election officer, Uiagalelei Dr. Lealofi Uiagalelei, announced that on Sept. 1st - pursuant to the local Constitution - the governor called for a special election for Representative District No. 5, Sua No. 1

According to Uiagalelei, the special election will be held Oct. 24, 2017 for 12-hours starting at 6a.m. to be held at designated polling places. The term for office will commence immediately and expire Jan. 3, 2019.

Uiagalelei's statement also serves as a notice

(Continued on page 9)



Youngsters of Marist St. Francis Catholic School in Lepua were among the thousands of local school kids who officially started the 2017-2018 school year this past Tuesday.

[photo: courtesy]





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Budget hearings underway

A LOT IS RIDING ON THE YET-TO-BE REVIEWED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

During the first day of the Fono joint budget committee review of the new fiscal year 2018 Basic Budget yesterday, ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaiepa emphasized to lawmakers that revenue sources to fund the new fiscal year are estimates or projections, and this is especially important for local revenues.

Tonumaiepa also revealed that the ASG Debt Service account, which includes monies

to repay the bonds, now has its own separate bank account.

Tonumaiepa, along with Office of Budget and Planning director, Catherine D. Saelua testified on the overall FY 2018 budget, and were questioned on the budgets of their respective agencies.

Of the total FY 2018 budget of \$395.26 million, more than \$96.8 million is from local revenues, which Tonumaiepa said are estimates based on the current collection trend.

Sen. Magalei Logovi'i, chairman of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, inquired about Debt Service in FY 2018, and Tonumaiepa explained that this budget item is separate from the regular budget, and now included in the Enterprise Fund budget category.

He said Debt Service includes repayment of the bonds, and has its own bank account. This revelation was pleasing to lawmakers, who are keen on making sure that the government has sufficient funds for bond repayments.

According to the basic budget document, ASG is allocating \$8 million for Debit Service and Tonumaiepa told lawmakers that the amount is an estimate for FY 2018. "We're conservative" with the estimate, he said.

Funding sources for the repayment of bonds, issued in 2015 by the American Samoa Economic Development Authority, is through a certain percentage of revenues collected from current excise taxes.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

With no other specific questions on the overall basic budget, lawmakers then reviewed Treasury Department's proposed \$4.5 million budget with 156 employees, compared to the FY 2017 budget of \$5 million with 173 workers.

Tonumaiepa said the reduction of workforce is attributed to employees who have resigned, retired, or relocated off island.

Treasury's basic budget covers only personnel costs, with no allocation for the rest of its expenditures such as materials & supplies, contractual services, and travel. Tonumaiepa told the committee that he is hopeful the Fono will pass the revenue measures submitted by the governor which will fund the FY 2018 Supplemental Budget, that will cover these Treasury expenses.

Some lawmakers voiced their concerns about what will happen if the Fono does not approve the revenue measures. Tonumaiepa reiterated that the administration is hopeful the bills will pass.

In the proposed supplemental budget, not yet introduced in the Fono, the Treasury Department is seeking \$900,000 with \$855,500 going towards personnel costs for 31

employees - 19 workers for the Customs Division and 12 for the Tax Office.

Rep. Vailoata Eteuati Amituana'i wondered about the Customs Border Agents cited in the budget, and Tonumaiepa explained that these employees are assigned to the newly established Border Security Scanner Unit - dealing directly with x-ray scanners, which was one of the projects funded with bonds proceeds.

Tonumaiepa said the salaries of these employees - five border agents and a compliance officer - are currently paid by the off-island contractor that was awarded the scanner project as part of their contract.

However, come the new fiscal year, these employees will have to be paid by ASG through local funds, and their salaries are included in the FY 2018 supplemental budget, said Tonumaiepa.

Amituana'i voiced his concern about what will happen to these employees, and the service they provide, if the supplemental budget does not go through because the revenue measures failed to garner Fono endorsement.

As to who is handling maintenance for the scanners, Tonumaiepa said the contractor is required under contract to provide maintenance for three years, but Treasury is trying to recruit and train local workers to take over this responsibility once the contract expires.

(No information was revealed as to when the contract with the off-island firm for maintenance expires, but Samoa News understands there's about 2 years left.)

The Treasury Department, as well as all other Executive branch offices, all show funding allocations for increment payments to employees. Saelua explained that since the current administration took office in 2013, the governor had placed a freeze on all increments and this remains in place today - as part of cost containment measures.

She said that executive entities were informed to still include increments in their budgets and maybe later, when the Fono approves the proposed revenue measures, there will be funds to cover the increments.

BUDGET OFFICE

It was a very brief hearing when it came to the Fono's review of the Budget Office's proposed \$650,000 budget for FY 2018

Their FY 2017 budget was \$720,000. Saelua said her office complied with the governor's directive to reduce the budget by 10% of the approved FY 2017 budget - in local revenues.

And there is funding allocation in the basic budget to cover expenditures such as materials and supplies, travel and equipment.

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(Continued on page 9)

Business tax bill raises questions from senators

SEN. SATELE: LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT LAWS APPEARS TO BE THE PROBLEM

by *Fili Sagapolutele*
Samoa News Correspondent

ASG Revenue Task Force senior officials contend that an Administration proposal setting a 1% alternative minimum business tax (AMBT) ensures that all businesses subject to taxation in American Samoa will pay their fair share of taxes, to help with the government's financial woes.

The AMBT, which becomes effective in tax year 2018 if approved by the Fono, was the subject of a hearing Monday by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, whose chairman Sen. Magalei Logovi'i, asked several pointed questions to ensure that senators have a full understanding of the reasons behind the measure, which is one of the revenue bills submitted by the Lolo Administration.

Task force chairman, Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, said the measure ensures that all businesses pay their fair share of taxes to the government.

He shared with the committee what he had said in July to Fono leaders and some lawmakers, as well as early last month to the Chamber of Commerce. ASG Treasurer, Uelinitone Tonumaie'a who is also the task force vice chairman, provided the same explanation, when asked later by the committee as to why the AMBT is being proposed.

According to the task force, over a 3-year period, on average, only 13% of corporate tax filers paid over 1% income tax of gross revenues, leaving 87% paying less than 1% on the adjusted gross income.

The AMBT bill is estimated to collect about \$2.3 million annually and the estimate is based on historical data over a 3-year period.

During the Senate hearing, Talauega said that the AMBT bill, as well as other revenue measures submitted by the Administration, is a proposal - a request, and the Senate makes the final decision. He believes that the bill is good in that all businesses - especially those who have been operating in the territory for many years and paying less or no tax at all - will pay their fair share of taxes, thereby contributing to the government which is struggling financially.

Magalei responded that the Senate fully understands the financial woes faced by the government, but at the same time, does not want something that in the end will become burdensome to the public.

Magalei sought a clear explanation from the task force, as to which type of businesses will be required to pay the AMBT, saying that it's very important that senators fully understand

the proposal, before making a decision on the bill

Talauega explained that the measure targets corporations or "other business entity subject to taxation in American Samoa" - which is also stated in the bill.

Magalei inquired if the proposal applies to farmers, who obtain business licenses in order to supply local produce for the federally funded school lunch program, and pay taxes at the end of the year.

Talauega responded that many of them file taxes as personal income at the end of the year, and therefore this measure does not apply to them.

"But once you are issued a business license, then you file business tax [return]. Isn't that right?" Magalei asked, to which Tonumaie'a replied that a sole proprietor, with a business license can file tax returns as individual income and this has happened over the years.

Responding to more questions from Magalei, the Treasurer explained that the AMBT is similar to the current 4% minimum individual tax paid by workers - with the business required to pay a 1% minimum on gross revenue.

Tonumaie'a reiterated that many businesses don't pay their "fair share of taxes", while the government has spent money providing services to the private sector, such as improvement to infrastructure.

With such a large percentage, about 87% businesses not paying their fair share of corporate taxes, Sen. Misaa-lefua J. Hudson asked how the government is monitoring and enforcing the collection of taxes.

Tonumaie'a explained that businesses usually file taxes quarterly, as well as annually, and that's one way the government monitors business activities. ASG can also conduct an audit of a business, if there are questions when compared to government records, and Customs also has records of businesses that bring in goods.

Sen. Satele Galu Satele Sr., told the ASG witnesses that the lack of enforcement of current laws appears to be the problem. He said that with more new laws being proposed by the Administration, he wonders how the government will be able to fully enforce all laws, including the proposed AMBT.

He cited an example of what he believes is "lack of enforcement" of current law, with many foreigners being brought here to take up jobs, which are "not specialized skills" when these jobs can be filled by local residents.

For example, Satele said, at local stores, foreigners are cashiers, stock clerks, sweepers and current law allows foreigners to be employed in the

(Continued on page 10)

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NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to ASCA 37.1105 that Development Bank of American Samoa intends to foreclose a mortgage recorded in the Office of the Territorial Registrar in Lease Agreement Volume No. LA-96, Page 51 on June 17, 1999, and that the property subject to the mortgage will be sold at public auction.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD ON "AS IS BASIS": All of the mortgagors' interest in that certain Communal Land Leasehold including structure and improvement situated in the village of Asili, American Samoa.

All that certain real property and improvements thereon situated on Land Square 26, Unit G, Village of Asili, County of Lealataua, being a portion of land known as "Maloseo'o", owned by the Maugaotega family and more particularly described as follow:

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Run thence on azimuth

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122° 30' 00" 90.00 feet to a point;

212° 30' 00" 60.00 feet to point of beginning.

Containing 0.110 acre more or less.

Date of Sale: Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 2:30 pm, at the property unless postponed by public announcement.

Location: Village of Asili, American Samoa

Minimum Bid: \$23,000

Contact: For more information please contact Tavailau Ieremia at 633-4031 ext. 224 @ Development Bank or email tavai@dbas.as.



Local Red Cross response team kept busy over last week of August

FIVE DIFFERENT FIRES DISPLACE 5 FAMILIES — THEIR HOMES ARE A TOTAL LOSS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Local American Red Cross disaster response team members were kept busy over a one-week period responding to calls for assistance following house fires in five villages.

Red Cross office manager Val Tuilefano said last Friday afternoon that between Aug. 24th and Aug. 31st, the local Red Cross office received calls from 5 different families - victims of house fires - whose homes couldn't be saved.

"Fortunately, there were no injuries or deaths," Tuilefano told Samoa News.

He explained that on Aug. 24th there was a house fire in Lauli'i.

More homes went up in flames in four other villages: Ili'ili, Petesa, Fagasa and Pago Pago.

The cause of the fires are still under investigation.

"Our local Disaster Team responded to calls from the families themselves, and referrals from the Department of Public Safety," he said.

The Red Cross Disaster Team members are Fa'asaei Davenport and Etuati Ene.

"Our standard immediate assistance is basic necessities such as cases of water, coolers, cleaning supplies, etc.," Tuilefano explained. "Based on a

physical assessment of the house damage, interviewing the head of household to obtain the number of occupants/possible special needs and circumstances, we are able to assess financial assistance to help with other basic necessities to help the family at least for the next 48 hours."

Samoa News understands that displaced family members are either staying with relatives or are being housed at a local hotel, until they are able to secure other housing arrangements.

Tuilefano said the local Red Cross has been working overtime since the Ili'ili fire on Aug. 28th and they didn't get a call until a few days after that.

He said Red Cross has been informed that the family was either unaware or did not think of calling the Red Cross right away for assistance.

"Red Cross will do a better job in connecting with the DPS Fire Bureau on this, so we can be in a position to help and render assistance in a more timely manner for a family," he said, and emphasized that "Red Cross stands ready to assist our community in time of disasters."

The local Red Cross also issued a "message of caution," with Tuilefano saying that "since we are experiencing unprecedented windy condi-

tions [in the past week and half], we seem to be subjected to many fires destroying homes from simple burners/ stoves inside and outside of the home if left unattended.

"Some families report electrical wiring outside near overgrown vegetation blowing near their home structures," he added. "We must watch children playing with matches/lighters and also, lit cigarette butts being discarded in highly combustible areas near households.

"We all have the responsibility to prevent what we can by simply heeding these cautionary measures," he continued.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross welcomes anyone interested in becoming an official Red Cross Volunteer by registering online at <volunteerconnection.red-cross.org>

It normally only takes 10 minutes, as it is basically an online registration form with vast information regarding options of choice with the American Red Cross.

The local Red Cross depends on public donations from the community to help those in need; and Red Cross donation boxes can be found on the check out counters of many retail stores in the territory.

They can be reached at 699-6011 or check out their Facebook page.



Members of a Fagasa family, who lost their home to a fire on Aug. 30th, taking coolers packed with emergency supplies and cases of bottled water and other necessities from the local American Red Cross office.

[photo: local Red Cross]



What remains of a home in Fagasa that was destroyed by fire on Aug. 30th. Meanwhile, local authorities continue their investigation of the incident.

[photo: local Red Cross]

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Special mention to the Hardworking Man and Women of Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, Hawaii, headed by **Consul General Gina Jamoralin & Consul Robert T. Bernardo** and its team; to the Officers, Board of Directors and working Committees of FCAS, headed by its **President, Renato A. Sello** and **Board Chairman Michael Jay J. Balbuena**.

Special thanks to our **PLATINUM SPONSORS**:



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For sponsoring our 2017 Consular Night and accepting our invitation to be the event's closing remarks speaker.

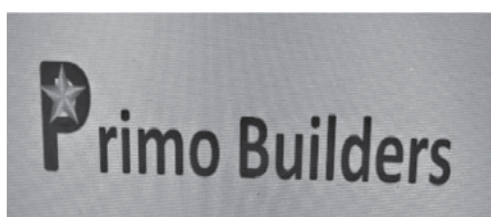


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For sponsoring the joyous and sumptuous "BOODLE FIGHT" Lunch treats on Monday, August 28, 2017 at SHAN-J Restaurant & Pizza Park Sushi Bar & Cake Shop in Malaeimi Village

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ASPA signs 2-year supply agreement with A-TFPL

(PRESS RELEASE) APIA, SAMOA - September 4, 2017 – On the first day of the 48th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, the American Samoa Power Authority signed a two-year supply agreement for 500 30-foot Class 4 and 100 40-foot Class 1 Caribbean Pine power poles with the Aotearoa-Tonga Forest Products Limited.

The contract is valued at USD \$205,000, and was endorsed by Chairman Fonoti Perelini Perelini, Executive Director Utu Abe Malae, and Managing Director Paul Michael Young on behalf of the American Samoa Power Authority, and Director Soane Ramamlal and Chief Executive Officer Penisimani Ve'a for the Aotearoa-Tonga Forest Product Limited.

The American Samoa Government Director of Commerce Fuiavalili Keniseli Lafaele,

American Samoa Shipyard Authority Chief Executive Officer Moefaauo Bill Emmsley and American Samoa Government Tongan Liaison Officer Mafi Sione Lousiale Lotolua Kava also attended the signing ceremony.

The supply agreement is pursuant to a "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga and the Government of the Territory of American Samoa on Principles of Economic Cooperation" dated April 21, 1986 and signed by former Governor of American Samoa Honorable A.P. Lutali and His Majesty, the King of Tonga Taufa'ahauTupou IV.

It is a direct result of an official visit to the Kingdom of Tonga by an American Samoa Government delegation led by Director Lafaele between May

2 and 4, 2017. The importance of the contract is underscored by the speed the deal was negotiated, reviewed, and executed after a thorough due diligence of the products by the American Samoa officials.

The American Samoa Power Authority is a semi-autonomous unit of the American Samoa Government, which provides power, water, wastewater and solid waste utility services to the Territory.

Previously, it purchased 30 and 40-foot power poles from vendors located in the United States' Pacific Northwest.

The Power Authority's cost of power poles and shipping is significantly reduced under this contract. Moreover, the Kingdom of Tonga's close proximity to the Territory permits the Authority to have a ready supply of power poles in the event of a natural disaster. The quality of power poles meets international electric utility industry specifications and requirements.

The Aotearoa-Tonga Forest Products Limited is a management company that manages the 'Eua Forestry Reserve, and the production and supply of timber products and power poles from this forest estate and other private forest owners, on behalf of the Government of Tonga.

The company currently produces construction framing timber products and furniture to the local construction industry in Tonga.

It is the sole local producer of lumber and construction timber utilizing local wood stocks, particularly Caribbean Pine. Furthermore, the company is the sole supplier of power and transmission poles to Tonga Power Limited, the state-owned enterprise that is responsible for the management of the power utility network in Tonga.

The potential for bilateral trade between the Territory of American Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga has been long recognized but largely unrealized.

The Honorable Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga of American Samoa and HE Prime Minister 'Akilisi Pohiva of the Kingdom of Tonga met during the 48th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting to fulfill this promise.

Both parties hope to build upon the momentum created by this agreement and pursue the trade of other goods and services. Direct flights by Talofa Air between the two destinations began in July 2017 and the American Samoa Shipyard Authority will be performing repairs on a Kingdom of Tonga vessel starting in October 2017.

In 1986, the governments of American Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga exchanged lands to facilitate bilateral trade. (Source: A-TFPL/ASPA)



Aitulagi Alofa, with her sister Georgina, during a brief rehearsal moments before Aitulagi and her cousin Dorvida Fuiava (not pictured) belted out the US and American Samoa national anthems during last Friday's Workforce Appreciation Day celebration, held at the Veterans Memorial Stadium. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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Members of Manumalo Baptist Church, along with the staff of Manumalo Academy, and employees of Paramount Builders collaborated to deliver special hymns at last Friday's ASG Workforce Appreciation Day.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

► Court sentences man to...

Continued from page 8

dant pled guilty to one count of first degree armed robbery, and the rest of the charges were amended down to misdemeanor stealing.

According to the government, the defendant began his robbery spree on Nov. 28, 2016 up until the evening of Dec. 4, 2016. During that time period, Fo'a burglarized nine Asian stores - located in Nu'uuli, Iliili, and Tafuna - using a stone and knife to threaten cashiers and storeowners, before taking off with money and items, such as cigarettes.

The robbery spree became heinous when the defendant, accompanied by co-defendant, Fa'asi'i Aupaau, used a small handgun to threaten the cashier at a store in Mala'eimi, while Aupaau took the cash register containing \$260.

During sentencing, Fo'a apologized to the Court for his actions and begged for a second chance to return home to care for his mother because his father passed away in April while he was incarcerated.

Fo'a told the Court that he is truly remorseful for what he did, and he assured the judge that he will never break any laws, adding that if he is given another chance, he will do everything he can to change his life and look for a job, so he can pay restitution.

The eldest of four children, Fo'a said he really wants to go back home to help his sister - the only one working at this time - and continue his service to his family, village and church.

His mother and uncle took the stand, apologizing to the Court for Fo'a's wrongdoing, and begged the Court for leniency and a second chance for him to return home to care for their family.

Fo'a's mother said there's been a huge change in the family, especially in Fo'a's life, since his father passed away.

"My son was the right hand man of our family," she said. "He cared for his father while he was fighting cancer, and when his father died this year, everything changed so quick in our family. Perhaps this is why my son's life changed, because there is no one who can look after us and provide for us. Please, give my son a second chance. I really need him to come home to care of me and my younger children."

The defendant's uncle asked the Court to release Fo'a to him, so he can teach him a lesson and help him with his life. He told the Court that he was so shocked to hear about what happened, because this is not the kind of life this young man was living when his father was alive.

"He is a very quiet kid. He loved to go to church, he joined the youth choir, and loved to look after his father ever since his father was diagnosed with cancer. I know prison is not a good place for Fo'a, and I beg the Court to please allow him

to come home so that I can help him with his life," the uncle said.

Fo'a's attorney, Douglas Fiaui told the Court that in the more than 20 years in his practice, this is the first time he has come across a case like this, where a young man in facing serious charges for burglarizing almost ten stores.

Fiaui said he believes everyone is affected by his client's actions, not only the victims but also his family. He has a hole in his life and it will take time for him to come out from the darkness.

He then asked the court to sentence his client to 30 years in prison, under the condition that he serves 10 years behind bars, and 20 years probation.

Prosecutor, Woodrow Pengelly disagreed and asked the Court to order a straight sentence.

"The defendant was targeting Asian stores by burglarizing nine stores at night, using a knife, a stone, and a shotgun to threaten store owners and cashiers, and stole money and other stuff," said Pengelly.

Kruse intervened and told the prosecutor that he just wanted to clear up something, saying that a straight sentence and a probated sentence are quite the same thing.

"Straight sentence is, after you've served one-third of your sentence, then you're out - the outcome is actually the same - but a probated sentence is under the Court's supervision. I can do 30 years, but I can't dictate terms because the law is clear," said Kruse.

Kruse said someone needed to explain to the Court why this young man made such a horrible move, to target only Asian stores and stealing money and goods for himself.

He said there are a lot of aimless youth in our society, who don't aim to do good things in the future, and a lot of them are either immigrants - or children of immigrants.

"We need to ask why these things continue to happen in our society," said the Chief Justice. "The Court found out that only a few children of immigrants are employed by the government. Why are we continuing to be the host? I have my own reason as to why, but I'm not going to give it out," Kruse continued.

After a 40-minute deliberation, Kruse announced the sentence for Fo'a.

He said the only two factors the Court is taking into consideration is the age of the defendant, and that he is from the class of those aimless youth who have no hope for a good future, unless the government does something about it.

Speaking about what happened, Kruse said the reason why the defendant was caught was because the Asian stores had video cameras. Police were able to take the video footage from one of the affected stores,

(Continued on page 9)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT "PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING"

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

Date: September 11-15, 2017
Time: 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
Place: ASCC Land Grant Training Room

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

Thank You.

FAAALIGA FA'ALAU'ITELE

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

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

Aso: Setema 11-15, 2017
Taimi: 12:00 - 4:00 i le afiafi
Nofoaga e fai ai: Potu mo A'oa'oga, a le Vaega o Laufanua ma Atina'e a le Kolisi Tu'u Faatasi ma Alaalafaga a Amerika Samoa

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

Fa'afetai.



Last Thursday, Mrs. Regina Meredith-Fitiaio (2nd right) of the ASCC Fine Arts Department received official recognition for serving 30 years as an educator in American Samoa at Samoana High School and ASCC.

Pictured (l-r) are: ASCC Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Lina Galea'i Scanlan, ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato, Mrs. Meredith-Fitiaio, and Mrs. Sereima Asifoa of the Human Resources Office.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

▶ Court sentences man to...

Continued from page 8

with a picture of the defendant inside, and aired it on KVZK-TV - appealing to the public for someone to help identify the person on tape.

According to Kruse, it was Foa's co-defendant who saw the footage on TV, and agreed to call the police. He said that if the defendant had not been caught, he would continue to rob more Asians stores.

"To the Attorney General, who is the face of the community in the Court, this is our recommendation. Unless you dig deep to find the cause of this problem, you'll need to build a big jail," said Kruse. "While the government is asking for a straight sentence, that is our sentence; but we want to point out that a probated sentence and a straight sentence are not different."

For first degree armed robbery, Fo'a was ordered to serve 30 years in jail - a straight sentence. For eight counts of misdemeanor stealing, he was ordered to served 1 year in jail for each

count - both sentences will run concurrently.

Kruse ordered the prosecutor to direct the Police Commissioner to look into Chapter 46.2001 of the American Samoa Code Annotated - dealing with restitution - and also chapter 46.2501 dealing with treatment.

Kruse said that under 46.2521 - the Commissioner is to provide a rehabilitation program for prisoners.

And because Fo'a did not graduate from high school, Kruse also ordered the prosecutor to direct the Commissioner to provide an education program for the defendant while in custody, to make sure he registers for the GED program at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC).

"The bottom line is, every time the government asks for a straight sentence, you're giving the Commissioner and the Parole Board work to do," Kruse concluded.

▶ Special election set for next month...

Continued from page 1

that candidate nomination petition forms and materials for special election are now available at the Election Office in Tafuna and must be filed with the Election Office no later than 4:30p.m on Friday, Sept. 22nd.

Uiagalelei also announced that voter registration is now open and will be closed at 4:30p.m. on Monday, Oct. 2nd.

The Election Office is now accepting requests for off island absentee ballots for uniformed

service voters, overseas voters, and students attending institutions of higher learning outside of American Samoa. The last day to request an off island absentee ballot is 4:30p.m. on Oct. 10th.

To request an off island absentee ballot, visit the Election Office website: <www.americansamoaelectionoffice.org> to download and complete the form. Uniformed Service

voters and overseas voters -

outside the US and territories - may use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to request an absentee ballot.

Upon completion and certification of the request form, send it to fax: 684-699-3574, email <asg.eo.absentee@gmail.com> or send it to: Election Office, P.O. Box 3970, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

For additional information, call the Election Office at 684-699-3570.

▶ Budget hearings underway...

Continued from page 2

According to the budget document, the agency has 12 employees.

HEARING CHANGES

It was announced at yesterday's budget hearings that

the Governor's Office budget, which was set for review yesterday afternoon, is moved to this morning. Furthermore, all budget hearings will start at the scheduled time of 9:30a.m, and

will continue throughout the day until hearings for all ASG entities scheduled for that day are completed, to avoid afternoon hearings.

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Ua fa'aalia mai i su'esu'ega le taua o togafiti fofo e fesoasoani ia fa'aleleia atili ai:

- Fa'agasologa...
- Tigā o musela ese'ese o le tino
- Atuatuvaile ma le pagatia o le mafaufau
- Le mafai ona moe (e mafua i le popole)
- So'ona pa'u o pauna

"Fa'avanoa se taimi e te afio mai, e faafilemu ai le tino ma le mafaufauga."

Fa'afesoota'i mai loa!

Le Hunza Wellness & Longevity Center,

Fagatogo Market

(Across from Tumu's Fale Coffee)

(684)-770-0138



Members of the Spanish NGO ProActiva Open Arms distribute life jackets to migrants as they rescue them from a rubber dinghy on the Mediterranean Sea, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017. ProActiva Open Arms rescued more than 200 migrants Wednesday morning from foundering rubber dinghies about 25 miles north of the Libyan coastal town of al-Khums. (AP Photo/Bram Janssen)

Business tax bill...

Continued from page 3

territory for “special skill” jobs.

And by bringing in more foreigners, to take up jobs that can be filled by local residents, more money is going off island instead of staying in American Samoa, he said, and reiterated that he believes the issue at hand is the lack of enforcement of local laws.

Sen. Muagututia requested the task force to look at imposing a higher AMBT percentage to businesses operated by foreigners, which he claims are sending a lot of money off island instead of keeping it here. The task force responded that it’s up to the Senate if they want to make such an amendment to the bill.

More questions arose as some senators wanted to know the specific types of businesses targeted by the AMBT bill, after Talauega repeated that all businesses subject to taxation in American Samoa will pay the proposed AMBT. “How about small mom & pop stores?” Sen. Fai’ivae Iuli Godinet asked.

Tonumaie’ua replied that corporations are targeted under the AMBT but not sole proprietors or partnerships. However, the bill exempts non-profit organizations, he said, adding that a new business operating within a two-year period, from the time it started, will not be subjected to the AMBT.

Some senators argued that corporations may end up changing their type of business set-up to a “sole proprietor” or partnership just to avoid paying the AMBT.

Magalei added that American Samoa is trying to attract new businesses and investors but this new mandatory 1% on gross revenue could prevent them from looking to the territory.

Misa suggested that the government hire a comptroller to help ASG with the difficult task it faces with the enforcement of current laws, as well as collections. He asked the task force to relay his message to the governor.

Towards the end of the hearing, Magalei said the committee will call another hearing soon, to hear testimony from the private sector.

In his parting remarks, Talauega said that if the measure is fully approved by the Fono without any amendments, the AMBT affects a corporation or other business entity subject to taxation in American Samoa. And he sees no problem in the language of the bill, as submitted by the Administration.

Migrants still risking Mediterranean’s perils as rescues dip

ABOARD THE OPEN ARMS (AP) — While the number of Europe-bound migrants rescued on the main Mediterranean Sea route has dropped off dramatically this summer, hundreds are still risking their lives in hopes of reaching Italy — and still being plucked to safety.

The rescue vessel run by Spanish humanitarian group ProActiva Open Arms picked up more than 200 migrants on Wednesday from several flimsy dinghies that human smugglers had launched from Libya’s shores. Among them was a 9-months’ pregnant woman from Ghana who ended up giving birth to a daughter aboard the Open Arms as it patrolled some 25 miles north of the Libyan coastal town of Al Khums. “She started to labor. After 10 minutes’ labor the baby was born, but there was no crying,” rescue volunteer Francisco Gencico told The Associated Press. “It was really hard because we thought she was dying but, finally and luckily, she’s alive and beautiful.”



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.
Website: www.dbas.as

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Faatili, President.
Date of issuance: August 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: September 15, 2017
No later than 2:00 pm local time

DBAS requests proposals for financial audits and the related single audits for a period of three years, beginning with the audit of fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2019. Fiscal and calendar years are coincident at DBAS.

Document: Requests for proposal packet outlining requirements will be available for pick up at DBAS on Friday August 18, 2017 or emailing charmaine@dbas.as for information regarding the RFP. It can also be accessed through the DBAS website: www.dbas.as (click public notice)

The Request for Proposals (RFP) describes the specifications for the services to be provided in sufficient details to permit competition and allow the interested party to properly respond to the RFP.

This RFP is issued under Title 28, Chapter 1, of the *American Samoa Code Annotated*.

DBAS invites the submission of proposals to include pricing and other details as indicated in the specifications. Attachments will be provided as an aid in presenting a comprehensive proposal consistent with the requirements of DBAS.

DBAS will select a contractor who best meets the needs of DBAS. The factors for selection will include, but not be limited to the following: understanding of the requirements of the financial and single auditors; verifiable ability to perform well; good reputation; flexibility, including ability to respond quickly to needs of a small client in a remote location and throughout the year; and reasonability of costs.

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from DBAS management and board. The committee may request interviews with potential contractors after reviewing the proposals before the final selection is made.

Submission: Proposals must be received by DBAS no later than 2:00pm local time on September 15, 2017. They may be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:

Development Bank of American Samoa
PO BOX 9
Attention: Charmaine Faleaana
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

They may also be emailed to charmaine@dbas.as, as an attachment in Word Format with a confirming email required to confirm receipt; or faxed to DBAS at (684) 633-1163 with a confirming fax to confirm receipt. The original is to follow by airmail first class.

US adds launchers to THAAD as dozens hurt in SKorea protests

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Dozens of people were injured in clashes between South Korean protesters and police Thursday as the U.S. military added more launchers to the high-tech missile-defense system it installed in a southern town to better cope with North Korean threats.

Seoul has hardened its stance against Pyongyang after its torrent of weapons tests, the latest a detonation Sunday of what North Korea said was a thermonuclear weapon built for missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

The clashes came as South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met in eastern Russia and repeated their calls for stronger punishment of North Korea over its nuclear ambitions, including denying the country oil supplies. The demand contradicted the stance of their host, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who in an earlier meeting with Moon dismissed sanctions as a solution.

In the rural town of Seongju, thousands of police officers in riot gear swarmed some 400 protesters who since Wednesday night had been occupying a road leading to a former golf course where the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense System is installed.

The officers also broke the windows of several cars the protesters were using to block the road and towed the vehicles away. A fire department official in Seongju said 38 people, including six police officers, were injured, none seriously. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules. Several U.S. military vehicles, including trucks carrying payloads covered in black sheets that appeared to be launchers, had been seen heading toward the site. A THAAD battery normally consists of six launchers capable of firing up to 48 interceptor missiles, but only two launchers have been operational so far. South Korea's Defense Ministry couldn't immediately confirm when the four launchers added on Thursday will be operationally capable. Seongju residents and activists have worried over rumored health hazards and the possibility of being targeted in North Korean attacks.

In their meeting in Vladivostok, Moon and Abe agreed to cooperate on seeking tougher United Nations sanctions against North Korea and

pledged to strengthen efforts to persuade Beijing and Moscow into cutting off oil supplies to the North, said Yoon Youngchan, Moon's chief press secretary.

Moon earlier met with Putin and urged Moscow to support stronger sanctions, but Putin called for talks with North Korea, saying sanctions are not a solution. Putin also expressed concern that cutting off oil supplies would hurt regular North Koreans, Yoon said.

"We should not give in to emotions and push Pyongyang into a corner," Putin said in a news conference after meeting with Moon on the sidelines of a conference on economic development of Russia's Far East. "As never before, everyone should show restraint and refrain from steps leading to escalation and tensions."

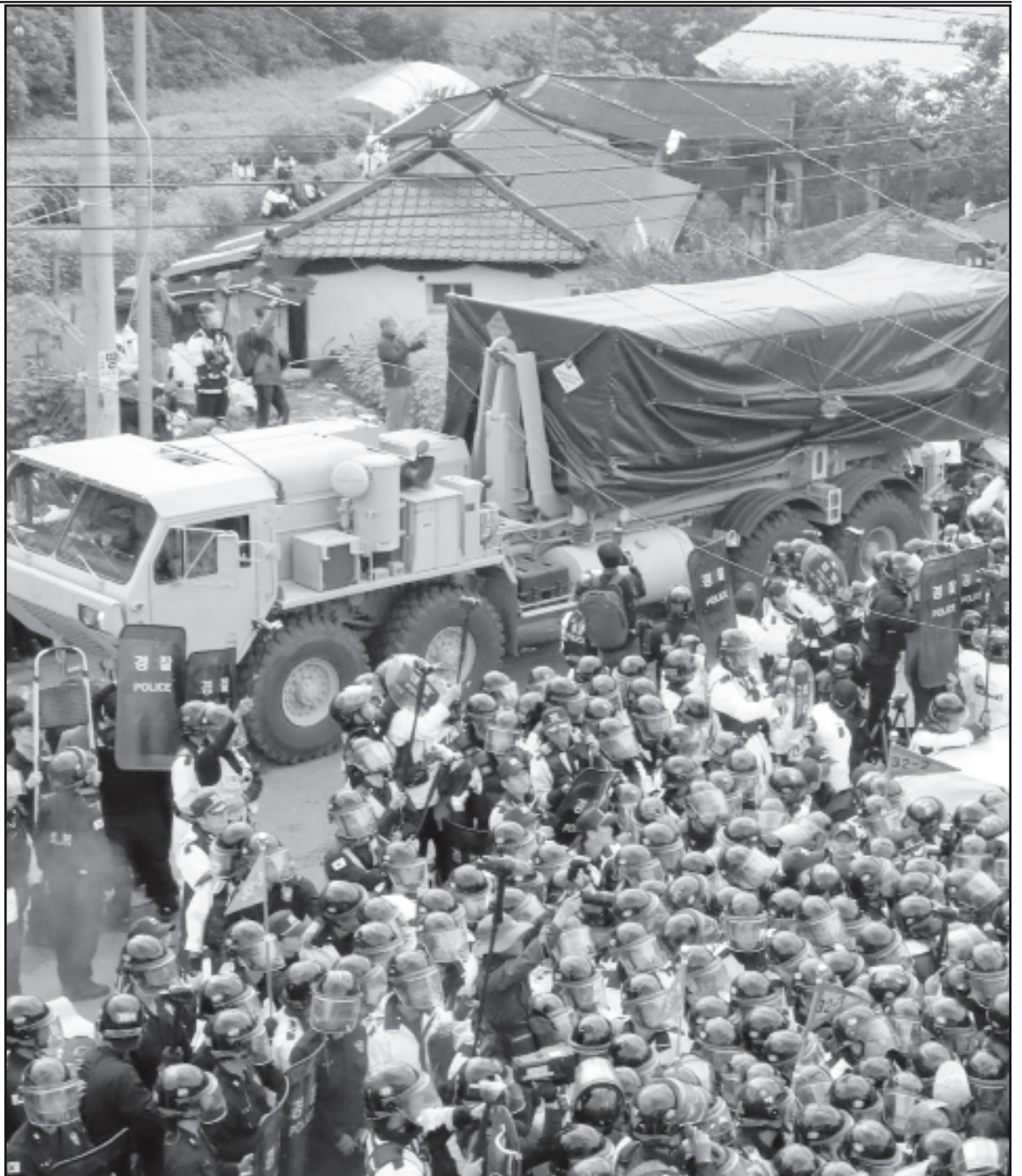
Moon earlier called for a ban on overseas North Korean workers, who are a key foreign currency source for the North, but Putin said problem should be solved diplomatically, according to Seoul's presidential office. Abe, who will meet later in the day with Putin, said before his departure from Japan that "we must make North Korea understand there is no bright future for the country if it pursues the current path."

Washington and Seoul began deploying THAAD before a conservative South Korean government was ousted in a corruption scandal. The liberal Moon took office in May calling for diplomacy with Pyongyang but the escalation in weapons tests has been the North's only response.

Moon had temporarily halted the installment of THAAD to conduct more environmental reviews and ease residents' concerns. But after North Korea conducted its second flight test of a developmental intercontinental ballistic missile in July, Moon ordered his military to work with U.S. commanders in South Korea to temporarily place more launchers before the reviews are conducted.

South Korean officials say THAAD will strengthen the country's missile defenses, which now rely on Patriot-based systems, and will deter North Korea, which has missiles that can be fired from road-mobile launchers or submarines.

They also the health rumors are groundless and no such issues have been reported at other THAAD sites.



U.S. military vehicle move as South Korean police officers try to block residents and protesters who oppose a plan to deploy an advanced U.S. missile defense system called Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, in Seongju, South Korea, Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017. The U.S. military on Thursday began the process of adding more launchers to a contentious U.S. missile defense system in South Korea to better cope with North Korean threats. (Lee Sang-hak/Yonhap via AP)

FA'ASALALAUAGA o le talatalaga o le Suafa SA'OLE

O le a taoto ia fa'apāpā e lē gae'e, ma mamau faapa le sopo'ia ou paia, sā ma faigā Samoa, auā o oe o le ao mamala i le faasouga o ao o le atu folasa. Mai le Taisamasama o le Tuimanu'a na alofisā ai tupu, se'ia pa'ia le Taiulaula o Nafanua na tauilo ai malō...TULOU, TULOUNA LAVA!

Ae ua sausau fialele ma faaosofia le manu nai Utufiu, ina ua a'e se manatu i suli o le suafa SA'OLE o lo'o nonofo i le aiga, mai le afio'aga o Aunu'u:

Paia lava lea i le afio Lupega, Afio Ma'opu, Sa'o ma le Tama Aiga; Fetalaiiga maualuga ia i la'ua Fuiava ma Taufi, Tainane Sale'aumua, Fofoga o Sagatu ma le Lauti na Laulelei...

E le o nofoia le nofoa o Tavita; o lo'o talaivao pea le suafa Saole o le tatou aiga; o lea ua a'e ai se manatu, ua alagatau ona saili se tasi e tulai mai i le foe e taitai ma tausi lo tatou aiga.

O le mea lea, e taalo atu ma le ava tele, i suli uma ma faleao o loo papa'aao i itu e fia o Samoa ma le lalolagi atoa, a'o feoi o gafa na sausau sema o le suafa "SA'OLE"...afio mai ma tala mai aao, sei o tatou mulumulu aufoe faatasi, ae ā le faamoemoe o se fa'asa'osa'o o le tatou aiga.

O le polokalama e faapea: O le a faia le talatalaga a le tatou aiga potopoto i le Maota o Sauma i Aunu'u, ia Setema 16, 2017 i le 9:00 i le taeao. Faamalūlū atu, o lou le auai o le a le taofia ai se finagalo autasi o aiga i lea aso.

Matou te tatalo i le Atua ia maua se laolao lelei i ala ma le vasa, auā le fetalaloloa'i o le tatou aiga i lea aso. O le toese o nuu potopoto o le mea tāua, ina ia maua pea le nofo fealofani, e pei o le igoaipu a le tatou aiga.

Ua faia leni faasalalauaga i le agaga maualalo ma le ava tele e tatau i ai. O suli uma o le suafa Sa'ole o lo'o nonofo i le aiga.

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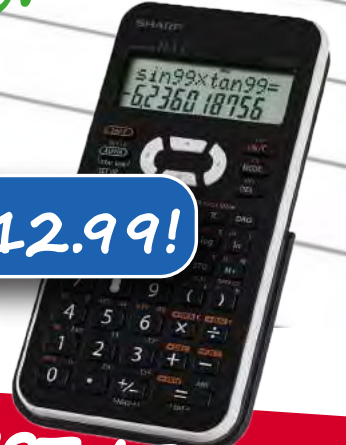
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