



Picture in Auckland, New Zealand, during the Pasifika Festival 2018 is Miss Pacific Islands, Matauaina Toomalatai (middle), flanked by Miss Samoa, Alexandra Iakopo (right), who was the First-Running up in the Miss Pacific Island, and Miss Samoa New Zealand (left). Toomalatai is also the reigning Miss American Samoa. [courtesy photo]

Attorney for Corina Ifopo plays the cultural obligation card in tax fraud case

SAYS IRS AND ASG ARE TO BLAME FOR NOT EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON ILLEGAL TAX FILINGS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The defense attorney for Corina Ifopo, the American Samoa woman accused of filing false tax returns with the US Internal Revenue Service, argues that the defendant's conduct should be viewed through the lens of the economic challenges in the territory, where many homes are without running water and electricity, and many children receive their only meal at school.

Assistant Federal Public Defender, Jamie McGardy appears to blame the IRS and the American Samoa Government for failing to post public warnings that it's illegal for local residents to file off island, according to the defense's sentencing memorandum — which includes photos of Ifopo's home in the territory which was destroyed by Tropical Storm Gita last month.

Ifopo's sentencing memo was filed Tuesday with the federal court in Anchorage, Alaska, where she will be sentenced next week after pleading guilty last year to 28 counts of filing false tax returns for residents of American Samoa who don't quality

(Continued on page 12)

Faipule want to know why teachers and students are fundraising for school supplies

DOE DIRECTOR DENIES THE ALLEGATIONS

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Last week, Ituau faipule, Rep. Sataua Dr. Mataese Samuelu requested the chairman of the House Education Committee for a hearing with ASDOE director, Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, to discuss the issue of fundraising in some schools.

According to the faipule, teachers and students are engaged in fundraising activities to raise money to purchase school supplies for the kids.

Sataua, an educator by profession, told lawmakers during a House session last week that he was very saddened when he heard about what's going on, and he wants to find out why these things are happening in schools when there are funds allocated to buy school supplies.

The faipule said he never thought anything like this would occur in local schools but he has received information that teachers are using a game called "Hit 3" to raise money every week to buy school supplies for the students.

"The question is, where is the budget that was passed by the Fono for DOE to buy school supplies?" Sataua asked.

(Hit 3 is a common game played every Friday in general in the territory and is based on the first three numbers — and the bonus number — of the Samoa National Lotto. Samoa News should point out that it is a game of chance, and therefore gambling — which is illegal in American Samoa.)

Sataua told lawmakers the only way to get an answer is to call a hearing with the DOE director to discuss the issue.

Several lawmakers supported Sataua's request and asked House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale for a hearing.

Manu'a faipule, Rep. Toeaina Faufano Autele echoed Sataua's concerns, saying he too has a lot of issues that need clarification from DOE, pertaining to their services, especially the School Bus Division. Toeaina wants to know why is there a shortage of DOE school buses.

This past Monday, following a meeting with the DOE director, Chairman of the House Education Committee, Rep. Vaetasi Tuumolimoli Saena Moliga had answers to some of the concerns that were raised by lawmakers last week.

According to Vaetasi, the DOE director has denied allegations that teachers are engaging in fundraising activities to buy school supplies for students.

"According to the meeting with the director, DOE has enough school supplies and there are no reports from any schools regarding fundraisers to buy supplies for students. Fundraising such as selling food and other things are not allowed in schools, as the School Lunch Program is providing food for the students," Vaetasi told lawmakers.

He added that if any faipule has questions with regards to DOE services, the director's office is not far from where they're at — it's only 100 feet away. They can walk to the director's

(Continued on page 9)

Aumua says a balanced approach is needed on the US citizenship issue

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Congresswoman Aumua Amata maintains her position on the US citizenship issue, when it comes to persons born in American Samoa, for the individual to have the "freedom" to remain a US national or seek citizenship.

As reported yesterday by Samoa News, three American Samoans living in Utah have asked the federal court in Salt Lake City, Utah to declare them US citizens — in accordance with the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution — because they were born in American Samoa, a US territory.

This is the second federal case on this same issue, with the first filed more than two years ago, and led by local resident Leneuati Tuaua.

Aumua had joined ASG in arguing that, among other things, it's an individual's right to choose citizenship and it should be decided in American Samoa, not a federal court hundreds of miles away.

Samoa News sought a reaction from Aumua on the new lawsuit — led by John Fitisemanu — and also the status of her proposed federal legislation that would, among other things, allow US nationals living in American Samoa to apply from the territory for US citizenship — if they choose to do so.

"My position on this issue is the same as last time. American Samoans should continue to have the freedom to remain Nationals or seek Citizenship, as their personal circumstances dictate," Aumua said yesterday.

(Continued on page 10)

Samoa News will not publish tomorrow — GOOD FRIDAY — March 30, 2018. We will publish on Monday, April 2, 2018.



Congratulations

YOLANDA MATAGIA

First Place Overall -
Territorial Science Fair
Levels 3 - 5
"Zoology"

Also for placing in the Top 5
in the Territorial Mathematics
Competition

We Love You Baby Girl!!

Your Dad; I. Matagia



Deadline to apply for FEMA Public Assistance is this weekend

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The deadline for submission of applications to the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance is only a few days away and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga says it's important that the private sector — including businesses and non-profit groups — submit their requests on time so they get the needed help following Tropical Storm Gita.

Lemanu, who is also the Governor's Authorized Representative, revealed that more than 7,000 local residents, impacted by the storm, have already pre-registered for federal disaster assistance, with the Manu'a Islands completed last week.

"We ask for the public's patience as we work with FEMA and our other federal partners to assist all sectors of our community, affected by Gita," said Lemanu.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Two weeks ago, FEMA and ASG hosted the Public Assistance applicant briefing at the Gov. Rex Lee Auditorium for

all government entities, non-profit groups, churches, and other businesses. The deadline to submit applications for Public Assistance from FEMA is Apr. 1st — which is a Sunday.

In a joint Samoa News/KSBS-FM interview yesterday, Lemanu issued a verbal reminder of the looming deadline, with applications for Public Assistance being accepted at the ASG Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) in Tafuna.

Aside from ASG, Lemanu said it's "very important that our private sector, including businesses and private schools, as well as non profit groups and churches are reminded of this important deadline" for Public Assistance.

Applicants will be informed at a later time on when they can register for federal disaster assistance at the Disaster Recovery Center, inside the DYWA Pago Pago Youth Center.

"For Public Assistance, the applicant will first register with the US Small Business Administration and then FEMA," Lemanu explained and noted that the DRC registration for impacted residents starts with FEMA, before SBA.

Lemanu explained that Public Assistance shouldn't be confused with Individual Assistance — which targets residents.

ASG urges all private sector entities including churches to please submit their applications as soon as possible, before the deadline.

MANU'A PRE-REGISTRATION

Lemanu was accompanied by other ASG officials, who traveled to the Manu'a Islands for Gita pre-registration that was completed last week. The next phase now for Manu'a is registration for federal disaster assistance. The planned desig-

nated DRCs in Manu'a at this point are the ASG executive office building (EOB) on Ofu — for Ofu and Olosega islands — and the EOB on Ta'u island as well as a site at the Fitiuta Airport for Ta'u residents.

ASG and FEMA are looking to start DRC registration in Manu'a early next week — probably Monday — with a more specific timeframe to be announced soon.

OVERALL NUMBERS

As of Tuesday this week, more than 7,500 residents have pre-registered so far and about 2,500 have already registered at the DRC, said Lemanu, adding that although the pre-registration period is done for Tutuila, residents who missed the pre-registration dates for their villages can still do so at two locations — local Department of Homeland Security office at Tafuna and in front of the DYWA Pago Pago Youth Center.

Pre-registration for Manu'a will also be allowed for those who missed it last week, as soon as locations for the DRCs on Ofu and Ta'u islands are confirmed.

At this point, some 20 inspectors from FEMA have already started conducting site inspections for homes of residents already registered at the DRC.

"The FEMA inspection is very important," said Lemanu.

Meanwhile, registration continues at DRC, which is open from 8a.m. to 4p.m. Monday to Saturday. See yesterday's Samoa News edition for villages up for registration throughout the rest of the week.

Samoa News will not publish tomorrow — Good Friday — but updates will be available on its website: samoanews.com Publication will resume Monday, April 2, 2018.

Tensions high as city mourns unarmed man killed by police

By DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Family, friends and strangers, some expressing anger and frustration, gathered in Sacramento on Wednesday for a public wake for 22-year-old Stephon Clark, an unarmed man shot by police in his grandparents' backyard.

Some attendees wore black shirts calling for justice, while one woman held up a clenched fist as she exited the Bayside of South Sacramento church. The wake was largely quiet until Clark's brother, Stevante Clark, shouted at the media to leave before being picked up and car-

ried away.

The outburst came a day after he disrupted a Sacramento City Council meeting and chanted his brother's name at Mayor Darrell Steinberg.

Some said the two police officers who shot Clark should be criminally charged, while other mourners said they could envision their own families in Clark's family's place.

"This feels like the '60s, it doesn't feel like 2018. We've definitely regressed," said Cynthia Brown, a friend of Clark's grandfather who brought her 10- and 15-year-old grandsons to the wake. "To me, (they)

(Continued on page 10)

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Contact Michelle P. Agaimalo or Grace Ma'alona-Uiagalelei at Dept. of Human Resources, Employment & Training Division with any questions.

Ph: 633-4485



COURT BRIEFS

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

KARISI TIAALII

Karisi Tiaalii has admitted to assaulting his girlfriend.

The 25-year-old was initially charged with first-degree assault, second-degree assault, felonious restraint, and felony stealing. But under a plea agreement with the government Tiaalii pled guilty to second-degree assault and stealing, both felonies, and the remaining charges were dismissed.

With his guilty plea, the defendant admits that on Dec. 12, 2017 he struck the victim's face on the vehicle dashboard multiple times. He also admits that he pulled the victim's hair to avoid her from exiting the vehicle.

Tiaalii remains in custody while awaiting sentencing on Apr. 26th.

Prosecuting the case is Assistant Attorney General Christy Dunn while Public Defender Douglas Fiaui is representing Tiaalii.

MARK UATI

The government has charged a young man with two felonies after he allegedly forced his way into a home in Pago Pago — along with a juvenile — and stole the homeowner's belongings, including cash.

Mark Uati was charged last week in District Court with second-degree burglary and stealing. Both counts are class D felonies and each count is punishable by not more than 5 years in prison, or a \$5,000 fine.

Court documents state that the homeowner discovered that his house had been ransacked, and told police that he found in his home, a t-shirt, which he recognized as belonging to the son of one of his employees.

It also states that a 14-year-old boy told police that he and Uati had broken into the home and allegedly stole the owner's belongings including a laptop, important documents, and cash.

Police searched for Uati and found him at a home not far

from the crime scene. When questioned, Uati allegedly told police that he and the minor broke into the home and stole items from there.

He also directed police to an abandoned shack where the stolen items were being stored. According to court documents, the stolen items have since been returned to the owner.

Uati is expected back in court next week. It's unclear if the government will charge the minor.

FATU SAGOTE

A man who was found guilty of misdemeanor burglary has been sentenced to 12 months probation, under several conditions that include being a law-abiding citizen and not returning to the crime scene.

The government's case against Fatu Sagote surfaced two months ago, when a man reported to police that equipment in his truck, which was parked in front of a store, had gone missing. The man was inside the store when his equipment was stolen.

A witness who saw Sagote taking the equipment contacted police, who then questioned Sagote. The defendant admitted to the crime.

Sagote told police that he wanted to sell the equipment to a neighbor for cash to buy beer for himself and his friends. The equipment was recovered and returned to the owner.

Besides probation, the defendant was ordered to pay a fine of \$125 to the court.

FILISI SETEFANO

A man, who was convicted in 2013 for unlawful drug possession, has been ordered to depart American Samoa and return to his home country for the duration of his 15-year probation sentence.

Filisi Setefano appeared in High Court last week for a probation violation hearing where the head of the Probation Office testified that among the conditions of probation, Setefano was to find a job.

When he was sentenced in August 2013, Setefano was to serve 60 months in jail but after serving 34 months, the defendant sought release so he could find a permanent job to care for his family.

In May 2016, the court decided to release Setefano from jail under the condition that he find a permanent job. He found employment at a local bakery and was able to get a paycheck, according to information revealed in court. However, he was taken into custody under order from the Immigration Office after his immigration ID expired.

Court information states that twice, Setefano submitted requests to the Immigration Board to renew his immigration papers so he could remain in American Samoa, but both times, the board rejected it.

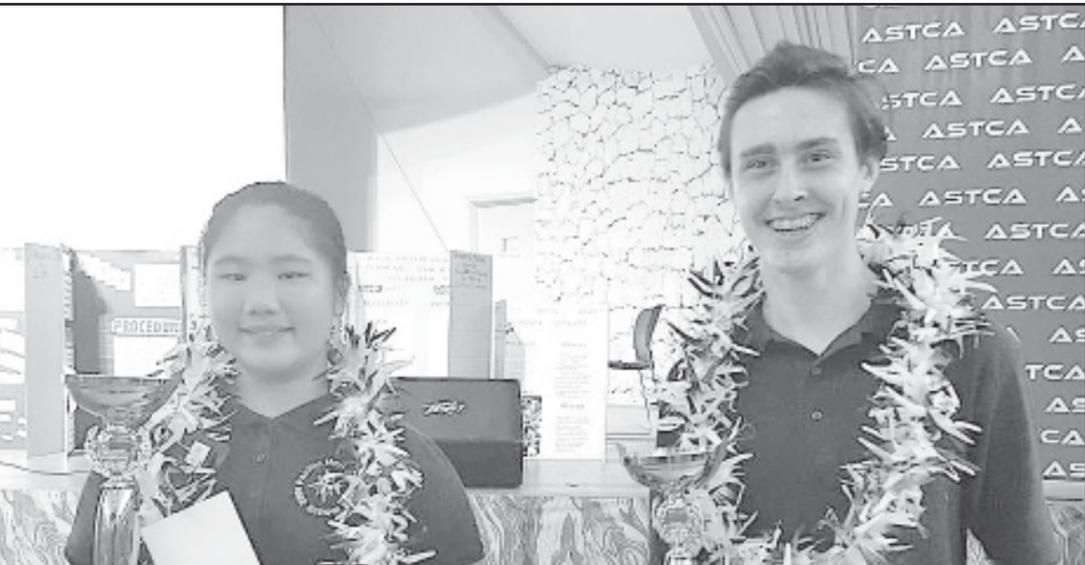
And, now that Setefano is no longer permanently employed, the Probation Office has filed a motion in High Court to revoke his probation.

Setefano's attorney, Public Defender Douglas Fiaui asked the court to give the defendant two weeks so his client can work on renewing his immigration papers.

The court rejected the request. Acting Associate Justice Elvis Patea said the court has no authority to keep a foreigner in American Samoa when that person's immigration papers are not in order; only the Immigration Office has this authority. It was revealed during the hearing that Setefano has two children who were born in American Samoa and are still in the territory, although his wife is currently living in Alaska.

In the end, the court amended Setefano's probation and he was ordered to depart the territory and remain outside of its borders for the 15-year probation sentence that was handed down in 2013.

Until he departs, Setefano will remain in custody at the TCF.



The honor of "First Place Overall" in the Technology Category of this year's DOE-STEM Fair (high school division) was shared by Pacific Horizons students Michelle Lo and Ryan De Saullles. The annual event officially closed last Friday with the announcement of winners and a special awards ceremony at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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REWARD FOR STOLEN ITEMS

If you have any knowledge of the following items that were stolen from my home in Fogagogo (Bowles Residence) early Wednesday morning, March 28th, please contact me at 258-4252.

- Lenovo Laptop (has an ASCC sticker on it)
- JBL Portable Stereo Player (silver in color)
- Lenovo smart phone
- Native instruments portable hard drive (small/black)

Very important years worth of work are in that Government laptop. No questions will be asked.
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CORRECTION

A Letter to the Editor was published without identifying the letter's author in yesterday's Samoa News publication. "WE'VE COME THIS FAR AND THE 'SYSTEM' ISN'T WORKING?" was signed by Poe Mageo.

We apologize to Poe Mageo and our readers for the layout error.

Noncompliance to signage laws is getting out of hand, says DOC director

UNDER THE LAW, A SPECIAL SIGN PERMIT IS REQUIRED — THEY ARE ENFORCING

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

With non-compliance with local signage laws "getting out of hand", the Commerce Department has launched a public awareness campaign to educate all sectors of the community on local laws which regulate putting up signs or billboards, says DOC director Keniseli Lafaele.

The move comes amidst growing discussions in some sectors of the community as well as amongst lawmakers, who have questioned the legality of billboards or large signs erected at certain sites on island, including the Tafuna/Airport Road stretch. Some concerns center on the large signs blocking the natural beauty of the island.

In a full-page paid advertising on Tuesday's Samoa News edition, DOC points to local statute - A.S.C.A. Title 26 Chapter 5, "Except as otherwise allowed or permitted in this chapter, it is unlawful to erect, maintain, or display outdoors in American Samoa, any sign, including any billboard, ground sign, wall sign, roof sign, illuminated sign, projecting sign or display illustration, for the announcement or the advertisement of any business, product, service or event."

For more information on how to obtain a special sign permit, contact DOC at 633-5155, notes the ad, which is in both Samoan and English, and cites the American Samoa Bar Association website (www.asbar.org) as the place to find full details of the law.

The advertisement has captured the attention of some in the community, specifically the part that notes a "special sign permit".

Asked for further explanation on the "special sign permit", Lafaele told Samoa News that all prohibited signs per law need a special

sign-permit. "Signage has important public and private purposes hence should be allowed, but regulated and controlled through permitting, otherwise the natural beauty of our territory would be compromised."

As to why DOC paid for the ad in the newspaper, Lafaele explained that the "advertisement is part of our efforts to educate the public, business owners, NGOs, and government agencies about the law regulating signage in the territory."

"Next we will go on KVZK to explain the same," he explained. "Non-compliance with the signage law abounds in the territory; thus the need to correct the situation as it is getting out of hand."

Samoa News asked if DOC has any data on businesses or individuals violating the signage law.

"You drive from Utulei to Tafuna and you can see signage on roofs exceeding the highest point of a building, billboards constructed inches from the side walk, billboards constructed on the ocean side of the road, or ground signs placed on sidewalks — all non-compliant with the signage regulation," was Lafaele's response.

Local statute - ASCA 26.0502 — allows for signs without permit — for example — any sign attached to, painted upon, or otherwise placed upon a building where the business announced or advertised is actually carried on, or the product announced or advertised is actually manufactured, assembled, or sold, or the service announced or advertised is actually available, or the event announced will actually take place.

No such sign may project higher than the highest point of the building, nor wider than the widest point of the building to which it is attached, it says.

Deadly riot, fire hit Venezuela police station; no numbers

By JUAN CARLOS HERNANDEZ, Associated Press

VALENCIA, Venezuela (AP) — Authorities released little information on a deadly riot and fire at a Venezuelan police station Wednesday, as relatives said dozens of detainees were kept in squalid conditions and expressed fear that their loved ones were dead.

Officials confirmed Wednesday night that there were fatalities but said they were still determining the exact number. They said they would not provide any estimates "out of respect for the families."

"In the right moment we will provide information on the total number of victims that today puts the state of Carabobo in mourning," said Jesus Santander, secretary general of the local government.

The scant information came hours after a large crowd of angry relatives demanding to know if their loved ones had survived clashed with officers in riot gear. Police launched tear gas to disperse the crowd of screaming men and women in Valencia, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of Caracas.

"I don't know if my son is dead or alive!" cried Aida Parra, who said she last saw her son a day before, when she went to deliver him food. "They haven't told me anything."

A Window to Freedom, a nonprofit group that monitors conditions at Venezuela's jails, said preliminary but unconfirmed information. (Continued on page 13)



Students from Masefau Elementary School, as part of their Developmental Disability Awareness Month 2018 activities, paid a special visit to the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center in Fagatogo for a brief tour of the facilities.

[photo: courtesy]

COOLstuff

Pacsafe solidly delivers



A United Airlines employee checks in two Pacsafe rolling duffels at Vancouver International Airport for Cool Stuff's journey back to the islands, after coverage of the 2018 Canada 7s. The blue Pacsafe backpack has two pro bodies, lenses, flash, memory cards, batteries and MacBook Pro laptop... all compressed to fit properly in the overhead.

[photo: Barry Markowitz]

by Barry Markowitz

Sometimes you gotta keep raving about the solid gear that keeps you going, and keeps dynamic images in the Samoa News. Pacsafe, as the name clearly implies, keeps your gear secure from vandals and the goofy TSA inspectors at LAX that are professional zipper busters.

Pacsafe's internal security mesh guarantees if your bag goes, all your goodies arrive. The low net weight of the Pacsafe rolling duffels saves you overweight fees and your back.

The blue backpack has additional superior security features, which allows we Samoa News photogs to lock it to a chair, so we can sweat it out on the field with no worries, bangin' out your favorite Manu Samoa, All Blacks, and USA Eagles.

Pacsafe will be accompa-

nying me to the Hong Kong 7s where I anticipate I can meet at their HK company HQ to try to pry out future products updates.

I was sincerely devastated by our loss of Samoa legend, Alan Grey, last week.

Many of you don't know that Alan could not travel to the US due to an American tourist's slip & fall lawsuit... yet Alan & family were deeply loved by so many Americans (particularly WW2 Vets and their generations of descendants). Alan and his family deeply appreciated those Americans with links to Aggie. Alan was so special that he could nurture guys like Peter Fatialofa, to become a national team leader, and upon retirement "Fats" helped coach up so many youngsters... frequently staying at cousins Sita & Tomasi Mariner's Salelologa, Savaii compound (Cool Stuff's

in-laws).

My long-term buThursday, March 29, 2018 is Alan's daughter, Tanya Grey, who I hope with her Mom, brother, and sister can savor Alan's magic moments that we have always cherished.

Our love to the Grey Family, a class-family — that always put Samoa in a good light.

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FREE BBQ hot off the grill provided by KS Mart.
Specialty cocktails compliments of TMO Beverage available for \$4 each.
\$20 entrance fee includes a mix of DJ and live music! Come early - BBQ and Draft end promptly at 9pm!



American Samoa ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

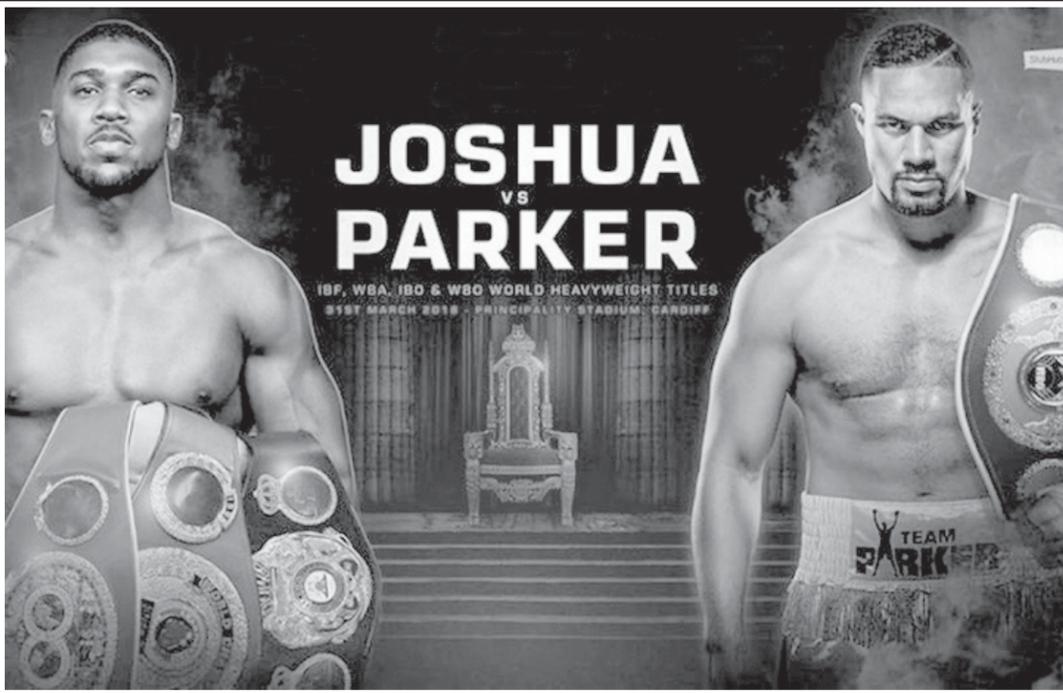
In collaboration with the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has recently prioritized the **Water Project Priority List (PPL)** in accordance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

A copy of the PPL is available to the public for review at the AS-EPA office in Utulei or online at www.epa.as.gov. Comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the published date of this notice. Submit comments to the AS-EPA office or by mail to the AS-EPA Water Program, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. For more information, please contact Christianera Tuitele at 633-2304 or christianera.tuitele@epa.as.gov.

Ameko Pato, AS-EPA Director

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**LBJ TROPICAL MEDICAL CENTER
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

March 20, 2018

The Department of Human Resources is accepting applications for the following position.

Job Title: Assistant Facilities (Civil Engineer)
Department: Plant Operation
Reports to: Director of Plant Operation
Salary: \$ 50,738 - \$ 58,109

Summary:

This position reports to the Director of Facilities and Engineering. Supports engineering projects by adapting and applying engineering techniques; conducting tests and inspections preparing reports.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Analyze survey reports, maps, drawings, blueprints, aerial photography, and other topographical or geologic data to plan objects
 - Plan and design hydraulic systems and structures, following construction and government standards, using design software and drawing tools
 - Compute load and grade requirements, water flow rates, and material stress factors to determine design specifications
 - Inspect object sites to monitor progress and ensure conformance to design specifications and safety or sanitation standards
 - Direct construction, operations, and maintenance activities at project site
 - Direct or participate in surveying to lay out installations and establish reference points, grades, and elevations to guide constructions
 - Estimate quantities and cost of materials, equipment, or labor to determine project feasibility
 - Prepare or present public reports, such as bid proposals, deeds, environmental impact statements, and property and right-of-way descriptions.
- 1) **Qualifications:**
 - Licensed as a Civil Engineer with a Bachelor's Degree in related field, and 5 years' experience in project management-building construction and renovations preferably at a Hospital facility.
 - 2) **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**
 - Analytical skills and must be able to communicate effectively and collaborate with team members. Solve problems, manage multiple projects and use their time wisely and perform these skills with minimal supervision.
 - 3) **Core Skills**
 - Communicating technical ideas to non-technical audiences, such as residents or local government officials
 - Determining project costs based on the bids submitted by vendors
 - Preparing reports and proposals with Microsoft Word Excel
 - Developing projects [plans according to local building codes
 - Performing hand calculations to ensure the feasibility of project
 - Experience with various computer assisted engineering and design software, such as AutoCAD and Civil 3D
 - 4) **Advanced Skills**
 - Rehabilitating existing buildings, such as historical structures
 - Using CAESAR software to analyze the effects of stress on piping systems
 - Analyzing the suitability of building materials for specific projects
 - Understanding the physical and chemical properties of building materials
 - 5) **Physical Demands**
 - Physically fit to climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl
 - Occasionally lift and/or move up to 50lbs
 - Specific vision abilities required include close, distant, peripheral, depth and ability to focus
 - Walk and sit for long periods.

Deadline for filing applications with the LBJ Office of Human Resources will be April 6, 2018 at 4:00 pm. Application forms are available at the Office of Human Resources.



The Apia Maroons Sport Club, with the blessings of the Village Council, paid homage to their fatherly figure with Club President and Minister of Justice Faaolesa Katopau Ainu'u and Club Executives attending the funeral Mass for La'auli Alan Grey at the Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Mulivai.

[courtesy photo]

**Compiled by Samoa News staff
APIA MAROONS PAYS
HOMAGE TO LA'AULI
ALAN GREY**

In the eyes of the Apia Maroons Sports Club, the late La'auli Alan Grey represents more than just a successful hotelier, former rugby coach, and fautasi captain.

La'auli was a fatherly figure, a mentor, who provided the anti-dote of inspiration.

His impeccable involvement with the development of the Apia youth through rugby and fautasi racing in the 1970s and '80s was a god sends.

The brainchild behind the Kionasina fautasi longboat, the first local longboat to defeat the modernized design fautasi with their spoon like oars from American Samoa, La'auli resurrected pride into the youth.

For that, La'auli was and will remain a legend.

La'auli also provided much needed employment for the youth of Apia and neighboring villages who were not academically gifted through his family hotel business, Aggie Grey's Hotel. And he also served as Counselor.

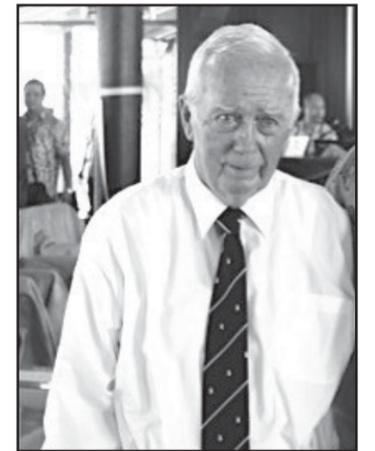
"His (La'auli's) unyielding strength of character became a beacon to hundreds of young people in many of the surrounding urban villages from Vaiala out to Apia and beyond. Some were already straying towards the path of criminal lawlessness when he came along and hauled them back to the straight and narrow," wrote Newsline Newspaper.

"But this is only one of many more stories of an amazing man that he was known for and told by many who knew him or of him. He is gone. His passing is indeed a sad day for Samoa. He takes with him the love, respect and the gratitude of a grateful nation.

La'auli Alan Grey was truly one of a kind.

Manuia lau malaga Alan." Yesterday, the Apia Maroons Sport Club with the blessings of the Village Council paid homage to their fatherly figure with Club President and Minister of Justice Faaolesa Katopau Ainu'u attending the funeral Mass for La'auli at the Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Mulivai.

(source: Press Secretariat)
**MANU SAMOA TO
HONOR LA'AULI ALAN
GREY**



Manu Samoa 7s is dedicating the Hong Kong IRB 7s leg next week to the late La'auli Alan Grey.

[courtesy photo]

Manu Samoa 7s is dedicating the Hong Kong IRB 7s leg next week to the late La'auli Alan Grey.

They will be wearing black armbands to honor La'auli celebrated as the man responsible for propelling Manu Samoa 7s Sir Gordon Titjens, who attended the funeral services yesterday with the Manu Samoa 7s to pay homage to one of Samoa's greatest rugby icons.

"He's an exemplary man," are the compliments from Manu Samoa 7s Sir Gordon Titjens, who attended the funeral services yesterday with the Manu Samoa 7s to pay homage to one of Samoa's greatest rugby icons. "He has left behind a huge pair of shoes to fill and as the man responsible for taking the Manu Samoa brand to the world, Samoa should be proud."

Sir Gordon says it's a sad day for Samoa and extended his condolences to the Grey family.

(source: Press Secretariat)
**PACIFIC WOMEN
WRITERS HAVE THEIR
SAY ON CLIMATE
CHANGE**

Pacific women and their challenges in coping with climate change have been highlighted in a new Commonwealth anthology.

A mix of new and established authors from the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the Indian and Pacific Oceans contributed to the anthology.

Little Island co-owner, Tony Murrow, said it had been a collaborative effort with overseas publishers but the book highlights work from both well-known authors as well as new writers.

"It's been brought together

(Continued on page 8)

ASCC Marine Science QUEST Program trains Future Coral Reef Managers

By Kelley Anderson Tagarino, ASCC-ACNR & Hawai'i Sea Grant

March 20, 2018 — How are American Samoa's coral reefs doing? With coral (amu) bleaching in the news so often, and American Samoa's reefs featured in the documentary "Chasing Coral", many American Samoa Community College (ASCC) students have been wondering what they can do to help. One of the most important things anyone can do for our reefs is to learn more about them, including how to monitor them.

This is exactly what ten students in the ASCC Marine Science Program learned last week in the Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques (QUEST) field course, a component of the class MSC 280, Marine Science Special Projects. The QUEST course took place from March 12-17, in Nu'uuli uta, with surveys conducted at Avao.

The students were joined by two of ASCC faculty, Meagan Curtis and Kelley Anderson Tagarino, and University of Hawai'i at Manoa Marine Option Program coordinator, Jeffrey Kuwabara. Many local agency staff, representing the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), and the National Park of American Samoa (NPSA) donated their time to help students in QUEST gain new skills in monitoring the health of our coral reefs and reef fish. By the end of the week, all participants said they had gained a great deal of knowledge and skills related to coral reef health and monitoring.

"It is great to see this program still going strong in its eighth year," said instructor Kuwabara, "and I'm particularly impressed with how many of the past QUEST students have returned home with their Bachelors degree and are working in marine management positions now."

He went on to say, "This shows QUEST is achieving its goal of building real capacity in marine management in American Samoa, and is something ASCC, ACNR, and UH should all be very proud of."

ASCC ACNR & Hawai'i Sea Grant extension agent Anderson Tagarino said, "QUEST is a labor of love — we all work 16-hour days to make it happen, and at the end we all feel it is time well spent. I am so proud to see five of our past ASCC Marine Science QUEST students now working for the Coral Reef Advisory Group, National Park of American Samoa (NPSA), American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS EPA), and interning with the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS)."

This year, two previous QUEST students participated as QUEST interns, acting as mentors and guiding the current QUEST group through the week of intensive studies. By mentoring first-year QUEST students, the mentors improve their leadership skills and reinforce their knowledge of surveying techniques through teaching them.

Darleen Meli, a new QUEST student, said, "QUEST was definitely hard work, but I learned a lot and enjoyed it. Not only did I learn about our coral reefs, but I am now confident snorkeling and look forward to doing more reef surveys soon!"

The American Samoa QUEST is modeled after the highly successful course of the same name offered by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The local QUEST has students using snorkels and masks (Continued on page 13)



QUEST students and staff pose for a photo after a successful day of reef fish surveys in the water, last week, as part of the Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques (QUEST) field course, a component of the class MSC 280, Marine Science Special Projects. The QUEST course took place from March 12-17, in Nu'uuli uta, with surveys conducted at Avao. (Courtesy photo)

세계인과 함께 하는 **KBS WORLD** **bluesky** **m@na** **CHANNEL 47**

* (E) English Subtitles
* (L)-Live Programming/News
* (R)-Rerun

"Channel 47" KBS WORLD Program of American Samoa

*The programs listed below may change without notice due to copyright issues. (Apr 01 ~ 07, 2018) *

| Time of American Samoa | Sunday (4/1) | Monday (4/2) | Tuesday (4/3) | Wednesday (4/4) | Thursday (4/5) | min | Friday (4/6) | Saturday (4/7) | min |
|------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|-----|--|---|-----|
| 10 : am | The Beauty A Week | Hello Counselor (E,R) | One Night Sleepover Trip (E,R) | Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R) | Happy Together (E,R) | 00' | Music Bank | Encore Drama | 00' |
| 11 : am | Battle Trip (E,R) | Encore Drama Naeil's Naeil's | | | 00' | | The Beauty Season2 | Naeil's Cantabile | 10' |
| 12 NOON | Music Bank (E,R) | Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper" (E,R) | | | | | | | |
| 1 : pm | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E,R) | | | | | | | |
| 2 : pm | Happy Together (E,R) | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | The Miracle We Met Mon-Tue Drama (E,R) | | Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E,R) | | K-RUSH Season 3 | | 30' |
| 3 : pm | Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R) | Weekend Drama Marry Me Now? (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R) | Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R) | 40' | Battle Trip (E,R) | Music Bank | 30' |
| 4 : pm | Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R) | Weekend Drama Marry Me Now? (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R) | My Neighbor Charles (E,R) | 50' | Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E,R) | | 50' |
| 5 : pm | Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama Radio Romance (E,R) | Weekend Drama Marry Me Now? (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R) | Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R) | 00' | Mon-Tue Drama | Wed-Thu Drama | 00' |
| 6 : pm | Encore Drama Blade Man (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama The Miracle We Met (E,R) | Weekend Drama Marry Me Now? (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R) | Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R) | 10' | The Mirade We Met (E,R) | Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R) | 10' |
| 7 : pm | #16, 17, 18 Final | Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper" (E,R) | | | | | | | |
| 8 : pm | Gag Concert | Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E) | | | | | | | |
| 9 : pm | KBS World News Today | | | | | 40' | Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E) | Battle Trip (E,R) | 40' |
| 10 : pm | The Beauty Season 2 | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | The Miracle We Met Mon-Tue Drama (E,R) | | Music Bank (Live) | 00' | Gag Concert (E) | "The Return of Superman" (E) | 00' |
| 11 : pm | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Hello Counselor (E,R) | One Night Sleepover Trip (E,R) | Hyena on The Keyboard (E,R) | K-RUSH Season 3 Danding Beauty(E,R) Office Watch Season The Beauty A Week | 20' | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Two Day and One Night (E) | 40' |
| 12 : 00 | Daily Drama "Mysterious Personal Shopper" (E,R) | | | | | | | | |
| Next Day | Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E) | | | | | | | | |
| 1 : am | KBS 9 News (Live) | | | KBS 9 News (Live) | | 20' | KBS 9 News (Live) | | 00' |
| 2 : am | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | The Miracle We Met Mon-Tue Drama (E) | | Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E) | | 30' | Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E) | | 20' |
| 3 : am | Hello Counselor (E) | One Night Sleepover Trip (E) | Hyena on The Keyboard (E) | Happy Together (E) | Music Bank (E,R) | 30' | Mon-Tue Drama The Miracle We Met (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Myystery 2 (E,R) | 30' |
| 4 : am | Encore Drama Naeil's Naeil's (E,R) | | | | K-RUSH Season 3 | | The Return of Superman (E,R) | | 50' |
| 5 : am | KBS World e-Today | | | | | | | | |
| 6 : am | The Beauty Season 2 | Battle Trip (E,R) | KBS Sprcial Asia is 20 Years Old The Beauty A Week | My Neighbor Charles | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | 50' | Gag Concert (E,R) | The Return of Superman (E,R) | 50' |
| 7 : am | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Gag Concert (E,R) | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R) | Battle Trip (E,R) | 10' | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Two Day and One Night (E,R) | 30' |
| 8 : am | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | The Miracle We Met Mon-Tue Drama (E,R) | | Queen of Myystery 2 Wed-Thu Drama (E,R) | | 50' | Marry Me Now? Weekend Drama (E,R) | | 50' |
| 9 : am | Hello Counselor | One Night Sleepover | Hyena on Keyboard | Happy Together | Music Bank | 00' | Encore Drama Naeil's Naeil's (E,R) | Guerilla Date (E) | 00' |

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

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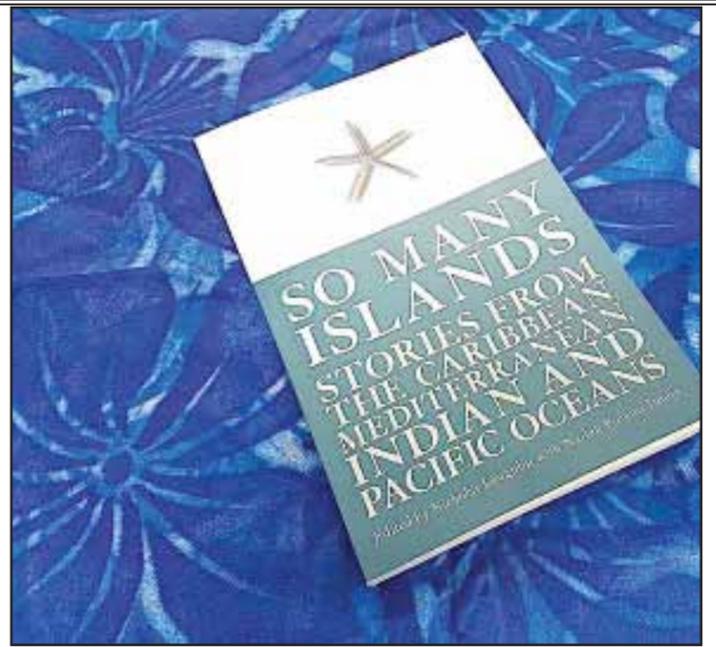
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▶ Pacific...

Continued from page 6



L-R Sia Figiel, Mere Taito, Karlo Mila and Janet Steele. [photo: Ash Miles/Unity Books Wellington]



Little Island Press is the Pacific publisher of the So Many Islands Commonwealth book [photo: RNZ Pacific Sela Hopgood]

by the Commonwealth Foundation and based in London and they ran a program last year where they reached out to African communities and produced a collection of short stories, poems and so what we have here is a collection from our island communities in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Malta, the Indian ocean and

the Pacific ocean, so the largest geographic area of the world.” Little Island press publisher Evotia Tamua said the seed for this anthology has just grown. “They put out a call out in 2016 for submissions for poems and short stories and they chose a select few. They had very very hard criteria... and they loved a few of the stories but just couldn’t use everything and so they used one story from every island and what we have got are those final stories.”

Tamua said it’s no surprise the voices from the Pacific are predominantly female.

“It is inspiring and it’s about time. It is their time. It is our time and things don’t happen because they just happen. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes and a lot of our voices are being heard now.”

One of those voices is Samoan writer, Sia Figiel, whose fiction includes ‘Where we Once Belonged’ and ‘The Girl in the Moon Circle’.

She said any reader will be easily able to identify and connect with the themes here, as no matter where, at the heart of any island is its people, and the ocean.

“Whether they are about sexuality, desire, dispossession, intellectual property, takeover, but at the core of it, is a very island perspective.”

Figiel said women are also at the heart of any family, who do their best to give their children a better future even in the face of climate change and other challenges.

“Because they are the most vulnerable, women have also been hurt. Women are also living in poverty. They aren’t all at university. They don’t all have degrees. A vast number are uneducated.”

Poet Mere Taito is a Rotuman islander who moved to New Zealand in 2007 and is now based in Hamilton. She said there is something for everyone.

“But also land issues, issues of identity they are all here in this book and anyone who has lived on any island will be able to pick it up and find something in there that is relevant to them and that is the beauty of the book.”

Taito’s work has been published widely in literary journals in Fiji and New Zealand.

(source: RNZI)



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► Faipule...

Continued from page 1

office anytime they want and she will welcome anyone who wants to speak with her about DOE-related issues.

The director's response, voiced by Vaetasi, didn't sit well with Toeaina.

He told Vaetasi that although the director's office is not far from them, he believes every concern must go directly to Vaetasi, as he is the Chairman of the House Education Committee, and therefore, he should communicate with the director to find answers to these questions.

On the issue of school buses, Toeaina recommends that the Fono find ways to avoid the shortage of bus service when school is in session.

He said the government must use the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) fund not only to purchase new school buses but also pay for bus maintenance.

"It's really sad to see that ASG is using CIP money to fund many useless projects rather than using it on essential projects including the purchase of new school buses for DOE. We need to ask the DOE director if she's planning to use some of her department's funds to buy new school buses for the students," Toeaina continued.

"It's sad to see students walking on the road after school in the sun because there are no school buses to transport them home. Some students catch the aiga bus to go to school at their own expense, because DOE has failed to provide transportation for them.

"These are some of the essential issues that ASG must consider as first priority, and the only way ASG will do something to avoid these problems is if the Fono pushes government leaders to work hard on these issues. I believe it's about time for the government to find a solution to the problem of not having enough school buses. In order for our children to have a good education, we have to make sure transportation is always available for them."

The House Speaker chimed in and said the worst part of all this, is that the issue regarding teachers fundraising for school supplies was raised inside the chamber by lawmakers.

"It seems like the director's

response contradicts what has been said in the chamber and I believe the only way we can find the right answer is to call a hearing and let the director testify and explain whether these allegations are true or not," Savali said.

"The law is clear, fundraising in school is prohibited and in order for us to get to the bottom of this, we must hear from the director."

On the issue of school buses, Savali said he's shocked to hear about the shortage of school buses, as new school buses were bought for DOE not long ago.

He said if the problem stems from the lack of funds, lawmakers should look at ways to resolve it. He suggested that lawmakers look for funding to purchase new school buses, instead of voicing the concern and not doing anything about it.

"The only way we can find a solution is to draft a money bill with a solid source of funding," Savali said.



Pictured are several faipule after one the House sessions earlier this week.

[photo: AF]



2018-2019

McDonald's Scholarship

McDonald's American Samoa's \$36,000 Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship awarded to 4 High School Seniors continuing to ASCC and 1 Graduating ASCC student to continue to an accredited U.S University.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- High School Seniors planning to attend ASCC
- ASCC Graduates (Fall 2017/Spring 2018)
- Cumulative GPA of at-least 3.50
- SAT Score 1,000 or better (High School)
- US Citizen/Nationals or AS Permanent Resident

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Call us at 699-8686 or 8699 for more information.

DUE: April 27th at 4pm!




ACCURACY

We make an issue of it every day.

If you want to comment about our accuracy, call Samoa News at 633-5599



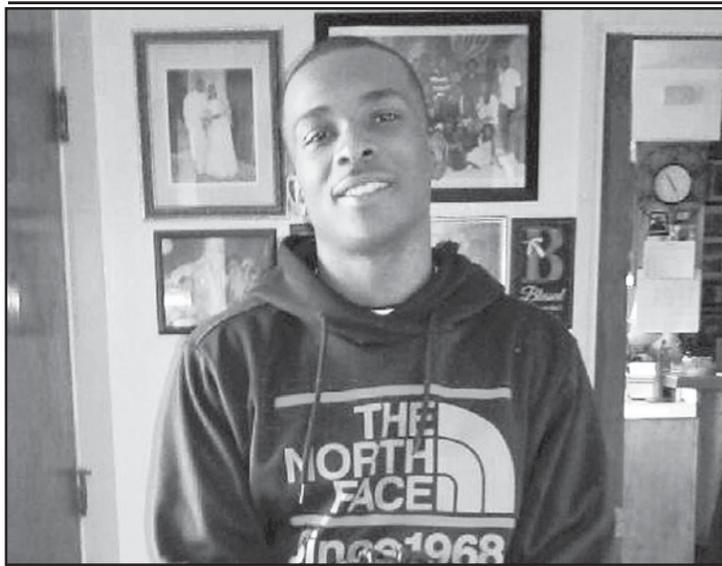


IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)

► Tensions...

Continued from page 2



This March 18, 2018 photo, courtesy of the family, shows Stephon Clark at 5:20 p.m. in the afternoon before he died in a hail of police gunfire in the backyard of his grandmother Sequita Thompson's home in Sacramento, Calif. On Monday, March 26, Thompson called for changes in the way police confront suspects, such as sending in a police dog, using a Taser, or aiming for an arm or leg when shots are fired. (Family courtesy photo via AP)

could be Stephon Clark.”
The Rev. Al Sharpton plans to deliver the eulogy at Clark's funeral on Thursday.

Tensions remain high in California's capital city following the March 18 shooting. Two police officers who were responding to a report of someone breaking car windows fatally shot him in his grandparents' backyard. Police say they believe Clark was the suspect and he ran when a police helicopter responded, then did not obey officers' orders.

Police say they thought Clark was holding a gun when he moved toward them, but he was found only with a cellphone.

Many mourners weren't buying that narrative.

“You always feel threatened — you're a law enforcement officer, it comes with your job title,” said Rahim Wasi. “That doesn't give you a right to go running around like Clint Eastwood in a movie.”

Some of Clark's relatives

were more conciliatory.

“We're not mad at all the law enforcement. We're not trying to start a riot,” said Shernita Crosby, Stephon Clark's aunt. “What we want the world to know is that we got to stop this because black lives matter.”

Cousin Suzette Clark said the family wants Stephon Clark remembered as “more than just a hashtag.”

He was outgoing, funny, loving, a good-looking man who liked to dress sharp and the doting father of two young sons.

“He made some mistakes in his life, but he was genuinely a good person,” she said.

Protests have been held almost daily in town and on Wednesday, hundreds of people marched in New York City to protest the shooting. Police there said someone threw a bottle at an officer and at least 11 people were detained as tensions flared.

Sacramento marchers have twice blocked fans from

entering the NBA arena downtown for Sacramento Kings games.

The Kings warned Wednesday that there will be a “significant” police presence in and around the Golden 1 Center on Thursday to keep protesters from reaching the plaza and blocking fans for a third time.

Sgt. Vince Chandler said officers would be ready to respond in protective gear, according to The Sacramento Bee.

There also will be additional stadium security and barriers along with ticket checks at the plaza outskirts.

On Wednesday, about 50 protesters took over the intersection near the Sacramento district attorney's office as part of a protest organized by the local Black Lives Matter chapter to urge the district attorney to file charges against the officers.

They disrupted midtown rush hour traffic as they marched through the streets. Latavia Ross, pushing her 2-year-old son Jayceon Hurts in a stroller, said she attended the protest because she thinks it's good for the community to come together to end to gun violence.

Meanwhile, Steinberg said disruptions like Stevante Clark's at Tuesday's council meeting won't happen again.

“That sort of demonstration in the council chamber cannot happen again. It won't happen again. But in that moment, that was a brother grieving for the loss of his brother,” he said.

For all the angst and raw emotions, some grieving and weary family members are skeptical that any substantive change will result before the next young black man dies from police gunfire and siphons away the national media and banner headlines.

► Aumua...

Continued from page 1

She noted that the same lawyers “unanimously lost” the Tuaua case by a vote of 3-0 in the Court of Appeals in Washington D.C.

“So 4 Judges — including the original [federal] District Court Judge — have ruled against these lawyers,” she said, but didn't identify the “same attorneys” by name, although court documents in both the Fitisemanu and Tuaua cases show local attorney Charles Alailima and US based attorney Neil Weare as part of the legal teams in both cases.

“And the majority of the elected and traditional leaders in American Samoa filed briefs in opposition to their attempts to mandate their own solution. Their solution was rejected,” she said. “And I don't think the same lawyers running to another Court on the other side of the country is going to change the outcome.”

“Because of that, I don't think a blanket declaration of citizenship for everyone in or from American Samoa is the right approach, nor do the [federal] Courts, because that would take away that choice,” Aumua pointed out.

The Congresswoman said she “very much understands that American Samoans who relocate to the states have a real need for a better path to citizenship.” Additionally, “far too many employers don't understand that a US national has the right be treated exactly as a US citizen on

employment matters, and that's frustrating, so I sympathize with the plaintiffs.”

She said she believes the “balanced approach is to let the individual decide for themselves and make the Citizenship process easier and less costly for U.S. Nationals who choose to take the citizenship path, but not make it a mandatory road that everyone has to go down.”

And that's what her sponsored federal legislation, H.R. 5026, does. “It protects the Samoan cultural and traditional way of life, Fa'a Samoa; it allows individual choice; it removes cost impediments such as the need to move or travel to another jurisdiction in order to apply for citizenship; and it allows for hardship waivers on a case by case basis for application fees,” Aumua explained. According to the Congresswoman, her bill is pending in the US House Committee on Judiciary. “I anticipate the bill going through the Committee process in regular order which will give everyone an opportunity to have input during that process,” she concluded.

Text of HR 5026, co-sponsored by Guam Congresswoman Madelaine Bordallo, can be found at www.house.gov

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale has yet to respond to a Samoa News request for comments or if ASG will file a “friend of the court” brief in this case as ASG did in the Tuaua case.



THANK YOU!

Fa'afetai Tele Lava!

"TOGETHER WE MATTER"

On behalf of our Principal, Staff, Students and especially our SPED Teachers at Matafao Elementary School, we would like to express our sincere THANKS, FA'AFETAI, A BIG FA'AMALO AND APPRECIATION to everyone who HELPED, SUPPORTED, DONATED AND CONTRIBUTED to the success of our Developmental Disability Awareness Month Celebration, which kicked off March 1, 2018 and ended March 23, 2018.

Thank You ALL for helping us in honoring our students and individuals in American Samoa with a Developmental Disability.

Your generous support helped in making/promoting Disability Awareness, not only in our school but in our community as well.

A Special THANK YOU to ALL the Parents of our Special Needs Students.

Again, Thank You So Much and God Bless.

Respectfully Yours,

Tu'ugasala Mu Apelu
Matafao Elementary School
Resource Specialist

INDIVIDUALS

- Honorable First Lady Cynthia Moliga
- Honorable Congresswoman Aumua Amata
- Mrs. Puna Tanielu-Central District Elementary Program Director
- Ms. Moegalafo Faumuina - Elementary Program Director
- Dr. Teresa L. Atuatasi - Assistant Director
- Jonathan Fanene - Director of DYWA
- Frances Leau - Central District Program Director
- Dr. Fa'aletino Roberts-Matafao Elementary School Principal
- Mrs. Katerina Tualala-Matafao Elementary School Vice Principal
- Mrs. Atalina Coffin-Matafao Elementary school Vice Principal
- Mrs. Tiana Aumoeualogo-Matafao ECE Site Supervisor
- Mrs. Siulepa Grey-Matafao PTA President
- Mr. Hofeni Fitiao-Matafao ECE PTA President
- Mrs. Vinnie Afoa
- Ms. Koleki Maria Afoa
- Mr. And Mrs. Ben & Tutuila Sauvao
- Mr. And Mrs. Dave & Patricia Tautai
- Mr. Phil Love - Carl's Jr. - Marketing Manager
- Mr. Peter Crispin - Owner of Tool Shop on behalf of Jaden Mia
- Mrs. Tasi Scanlan - President of ANZ Bank - Partnership with Special Ed
- Mr. Charlie Tautolo - McDonald's Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Peter Soskitt - Manager for Cost U Less
- Mr. and Mrs. Tu'ugasala Mu & Laina Apelu
- Mr. Young Sun Kim - Young Mart
- Mrs. Terry Auva'a - Samoa News Marketing Manager



AGENCIES

- Department of Public Health - Maternal Child Health (Children with Special Need) partnership with Special Ed
- ANZ Bank and Staff - Partnership with Special Ed
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Governor's Office
- Special Ed. Main Office
- Special Ed. Bus Drivers
- Samoa News Advertisement Department

BUSINESS

- Carl's Jr. Restaurant
- McDonald's Restaurant
- Milovale Fast Food Restaurant
- Paradise Pizza Restaurant - Pago Pago
- Tautai Car Rental
- O&O Inc. Ko Store
- Young Mart Store - Utulei
- Panamex Pacific Product
- Tool Shop
- Cost-U-Less
- Tutuila Printing
- Tutuila Store-3
- MHJ Airport Way Gas Station - Tafuna
- Skyview Fagaalu
- ACE Hardware Store

FA'AFETAI TELE LAVA!



Attorney...

Continued from page 1

to receive the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

Through her attorney, Ifopo is requesting a mitigated sentence of one year and one day in custody, followed by three years supervised release — conditioned on payment of restitution of \$167,574.00

In the sentencing document, McGardy outlined justification for the sentence being sought, saying this “case is unique in several respects”.

McGardy first acknowledged that the defendant “exercised extraordinarily poor judgment in connection with this case” and when confronted, she fully cooperated with authorities, and assumed full responsibility by pleading to all 28 counts of the indictment.

“Ms. Ifopo’s conduct should be viewed through the lens of the economic challenges that face American Samoa,” the defense said, adding that the local average wage is just \$2-\$3 an hour; while unemployment rate hovered around 24%

in 2010.

Over 60% of households with children under 18 years of age live in poverty in American Samoa, argued the defense, citing economic data on American Samoa posted on the South Pacific Community website (spc.int)

“Many homes are without running water and electricity, and many children receive their only meal at school,” McGardy said, adding that the tuna canneries is the island’s main industry and most of the “good jobs” are with the local government.

“In addition to crippling poverty, the residents of American Samoa also have to deal with extreme weather events on a regular basis — cyclones, earthquakes, and tsunamis are not uncommon,” the defense said and noted that Ifopo’s own home was completely destroyed by Gita last month.

There’s no mention in the document on why the defense submitted the photos of Ifopo’s destroyed home, which sustained severe damage. There’s no mention either if Ifopo or her family has applied for federal disaster assistance.

McGardy did reveal that Ifopo learned how to file off-island tax returns from her brother, who was filing off-island tax returns for friends and family. The defense didn’t identify the brother by name, but noted that once word spread that Ifopo knew how to file off-island tax returns, friends, neighbors, and extended family approached her for help.

“They were people who had to pay for funerals, an extraordinary expense in American Samoa; people who needed help with repairs on their homes; people who were struggling to pay their bills and living in challenging conditions,” McGardy said. “It was unthinkable that Ms. Ifopo would turn them away, in a culture where helping one’s neighbors is so paramount.”

For further understanding of the court, when it comes to local funeral expenses, the defense explained in a footnote that according to two local funeral homes — “funerals in Samoa are multi-day events where entire tribes gather to mourn and celebrate the dead; costs range from \$15,000 to \$60,000 per funeral, and the expense is

divided among the family.”

The defense also summarized information from www.funeralwise.com/customs/Samoan - about Samoan funerals, which are “flooded with gifts for the family. In return, families return gifts to the visitors. This practice can be quite a financial burden on Samoan families—particularly if there are a number of funerals in a short amount of time. Gifts include money and fine hand woven mats.”

McGardy went on to blame the lack of public awareness programs as the reason local residents file taxes off island.

Samoa News points out that McGardy was the defense attorney for another American Samoa woman, Pepe Anetipa, who was charged at the Anchorage federal court in December 2014 and sentenced to jail in November the following year, for crimes similar to what Ifopo is charged for.

In Ifopo’s sentencing memo, McGardy recalled that local residents were interviewed in 2015 for a prior case (referring to Anetipa’s case), and recipients — referring to those who received money for filing off island — had no idea whether filing off-island tax returns was legal at the time they did it. Additionally, the IRS has no office in the territory and McGardy says the agency “does nothing to educate the general public about the dangers of this practice.”

The defense also blamed ASG for “no incentive to discourage residents from filing off-island tax returns.”

(Samoa News notes that since the Togiola Administration, the government has consistently warned the public — through the local media — that it’s illegal to file taxes off island. And Samoa News had published many stories on the issue — going back 10 years).

In fact, McGardy said, ASG “receives a twofold windfall when residents file off-island returns”. First, most residents who file off-island tax returns do not file local tax returns, so the local government enjoys a significant savings in the form of unpaid returns.

Second, those residents who do receive refunds from the federal government use that money on the island and infuse the local economy with much needed revenue, according to the defense.

“If the local government actually wanted to deter local residents from filing off-island tax returns, they could easily, and cheaply, plaster the walls of the [tax] office with admonishments and warnings about the consequences of filing Federal Tax returns,” it says, adding that there are no billboards on the roadside discouraging such practice, while there are a lot of billboards for other matters.

“In fact, on an island where the average resident has no television in their home, and many residents don’t read or speak English, there is no evidence whatsoever of a campaign to educate local residents about this practice,” argues the

defense, adding that it “found only a few mentions of the scheme in the local newspaper.”

(The scheme referred to by the defense is Anetipa’s case. However, Samoa News has reported several times in the past decades, warnings from local officials — including former Gov. Togiola Tulafono — that it’s illegal to file with the IRS.)

“This deficient notification severely compounds a problem in a culture marked by extreme poverty and deprivation,” said McGardy, adding that the defense had found during local interviews in the 2015 case that recipients had friends and family members who received returns from the federal government with no adverse consequences.

“The only campaign that the IRS has undertaken, it would seem, is to offer up the few preparers who are selectively prosecuted, as sacrificial lambs for the community as a warning, after the fact,” the defense said.

As to “Ifopo’s culpability,” the defense said her involvement “began innocently enough” and explained that once her name spread as an off-island tax preparer, “go-betweens would bring her W-2s and she would prepare the returns”.

The defense explains that at first, Ifopo would charge a percentage per return, but often would not be paid. Later, she started splitting the refunds, or depositing the refunds into her bank account and then giving the cash to the go-betweens for disbursement.

The defense alleges that “IRS agents never asked Ifopo about these go-betweens, but Ifopo would give the returns back to these folks and assume that the returns would then be given to the correct recipients. It appears from IRS interviews with the actual filers that these folks often times kept the returns, and were enriched, without assuming any of the risk.”

“Although Ms. Ifopo was also unjustly enriched by the scheme, much of the total amount of loss to the government went directly back to the island,” McGardy argued, adding that Ifopo “was not living an extravagant lifestyle of travel and luxury goods.”

She didn’t buy a new house or a new car, or make significant home repairs; but instead used the money to support her extended family and gave a significant portion back to the residents of American Samoa.

“What Ms. Ifopo did was wrong — at some point, she became aware that filing the returns was illegal and she persisted at the behest of friends and family. She now takes responsibility for this decision and asks the Court to view her transgressions in the context of the larger issue,” the defense said adding that Ifopo has many positive attributes that contribute to her potential for rehabilitation and which suggest that a minimum period of incarceration is the most appropriate.”

According to court records, the federal government filed — under seal — a response to the defense’s sentencing memo.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Agriculture Community and Natural Resources (ACNR)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: COMPUTER LAB TECHNICIAN
Employment Status: Full Time 12 months (Career Service)

General Description:

Under the supervision of the ASCC ACNR Network Specialist, the Computer Lab Technician assists ACNR students who need access to a computer in order to fulfill course requirements and to keep current with the growing research and information resources found on the Internet. The successful candidate will be responsible for monitoring the daily operations of the ACNR Computer Lab as well as assisting students with its use. He/she will work with the Network Specialist on the procedural and operational functions of the computer lab.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Monitor the daily operations and functions of the lab, and use of the computers and equipment.
- Assist students in use and care of the computers.
- Keep daily records on the usage of the lab, write and submit reports, request forms, and provide feedback and evaluation on the operations and functions of the computer lab.
- Setup and maintain lab hardware and software. Familiar with MS Windows 7, 8.1, 10; Mac OS X up to current version; MS Office 2013 and later.
- Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Associate of Arts/Science degree in an Information Technology-related field from an accredited community or technical college or equivalent combination of relevant education and experience.
- Ability to recognize, analyze and resolve computer and network problems.
- Ability to support the technical architecture of ASCC ACNR Local Area Network.
- Must be physically able to lift heavy equipment and flexible for network installation.

Salary: GS:12/03-07: \$ 15,073.00 - \$ 17,673.00 per annum.

Application Deadline: April 5, 2018 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by emailing Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

Authorities: Mom tried to shift blame for deaths of children

ANITA SNOW, Associated Press
 SUPERIOR, Ariz. (AP) — The mother of two small children found dead after being left strapped in car seats in a vehicle tried to blame their deaths on someone else who was supposed to be watching them, authorities said Wednesday.

A narrative of events released by the Pinal County sheriff's

office says there is no proof for 20-year-old Brittany Velasquez's story that she dropped the children off with someone who was to care for them. That person's name is blacked out in the document.

Velasquez is being held on \$2 million bond on suspicion of two counts of first-degree murder in the Monday deaths

of her 2-year-old son and infant daughter in Superior, a hard-scrabble mining town of about 2,900 people some 60 miles (97 kilometers) east of Phoenix.

Authorities say Velasquez was the last person to see her children alive, when she left them in a car outside a family home at about 9:30 a.m. Monday and went to work. The

(Continued on page 15)

▶ ASCC...

Continued from page 7

rather than SCUBA gear like the University of Hawai'i does. Though the gear is different, the methods and science learned are the same. Students spend the week studying methods for counting fish, algae, corals, and other invertebrates, having first learned to identify 170 species by their scientific name prior to QUEST. After studying each method, they take to the water, working in groups collecting the data to answer a research question each group comes up with. Data is then analyzed and presented by each group at the end of the week.

The intense workload of this field course led the students to push themselves to learn many new techniques in a short period

of time. Despite spring break being cancelled due to Cyclone Gita, the instructors were still able to hold QUEST with a full class. Partners from the ASCC ACNR, ASCC Marine Science Program, NPSA, CRAG, NMSAS, and the University of Hawai'i Marine Option Program assisted in teaching the methods and in conducting in-water surveys.

Many local agencies donated time, materials, and services to make QUEST possible.

These include the Office of the Governor, ASCC-ACNR, the UH Manoa Marine Option Program, and Nu'uuli Village.

In addition, the QUEST instructors extend their appreciation to the NSF-ATE program

run by Dr. Robert Richmond at UH Manoa, which funded the American Samoa QUEST program this year.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program and the American Samoa Community College and ACNR, the instructors sincerely thank these sponsors for making QUEST possible. The QUEST course will continue to be offered every year over ASCC's Spring Break, which is the second week of March. Those interested in participating as students or sponsors can contact Kelley Anderson Tagarino at 699-3353 (office) or 258-2967 (cell), or at KelleyAT@Hawaii.edu on email, or via post mail at P.O. Box 2609 for more information.

▶ Deadly...

Continued from page 4

mation indicated the riot began when an armed detainee shot an officer in the leg. Shortly after that a fire broke out, with flames growing quickly as the blaze spread to mattresses in the cells, it said. Rescuers apparently had to break a hole through a wall to free some of the prisoners

inside. Photos shared by the group showed prisoners being taken out on stretchers, their limbs frozen in awkward positions as skin peeled off.

A Window to Freedom's director, Carlos Nieto Palma, said officials should be held

accountable for failing to address deteriorating conditions in police station jails. The group said overcrowding has become common throughout the country as detainees are kept long past customary brief holding periods before being sent to other larger jails before trial or freed.



A woman is overcome by tear gas that was used to disperse the relatives of prisoners who were waiting to hear news about their family members imprisoned at a police station where a riot broke out, in Valencia, Venezuela, Wednesday, March 28, 2018. In a state police station housing more than one hundred prisoners, a riot culminated in a fire, requiring authorities to open a hole in a wall to rescue the inmates. (AP Photo/Juan Carlos

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

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

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

FA'ASILASILAGA

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

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

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



One of the biggest things the Special Education (SPED) teachers and administrators at Samoana HS are proud of, is the fact that students in regular classes are always understanding and patient with their counterparts with disabilities - those in the SPED program. They treat them as equals and make time to visit them, as witnessed in this photo, where some members of the Sharks Close-Up Club stopped by with goodies and treats to share with SPED students during Developmental Disability Awareness Week.

[photo: BC]

Stormy Daniels seeking Trump's answers under oath

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cranking up pressure on the president, porn actress Stormy Daniels wants Donald Trump to answer her attorney's questions under oath about a pre-election payment aimed at keeping her quiet about their alleged tryst.

If she's successful, it would be the first deposition of a sitting president since Bill Clinton in 1998 had to answer questions about his conduct with women.

Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, is seeking sworn testimony from Trump and his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, about a \$130,000 payment made to Daniels days before the 2016 presidential election as part of a nondisclosure agreement she is seeking to invalidate. Avenatti filed the motion in U.S. District Court in California on Wednesday.

Trump has kept a low profile all week, as has first lady Melania Trump, who is spending the week in Florida. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump had denied the allegations and directed further questions to outside counsel. Cohen's attorney, David Schwartz, told CBS that the filing was a "reckless use of the legal system."

Despite the pushback, the persistent focus on Daniels is a troubling distraction for a White House already struggling with an exodus of top staffers, a floundering agenda and the looming threat from the Russia investigation.

Avenatti is just one on a growing list of lawyers looking to question Trump. Attorneys for a former "Apprentice" contestant have said they want to depose the president as part of a defamation suit. And the president's legal team continues to negotiate with special counsel Robert Mueller over the scope and terms of an interview with the president.

A hard-charging attorney maintaining a near-constant presence on television news, Avenatti wants to question Trump and Cohen for "no more than two hours." In the filing, he says the depositions are needed to establish if Trump knew about the payment, which Avenatti refers to as a "hush agreement," and if the future president consented to it.

"We're looking for sworn answers from the president and Mr. Cohen about what they knew, when they knew it and what they did about it," Avenatti told The Associated Press.

While he noted that "in every case you always have to be open to settlement," Avenatti said that "at this point we don't see how this case would possibly be settled."

A former businessman, Trump is no stranger to high-stakes litigation, sitting for depositions in contract and defamation lawsuits over the

years. Those interviews show his deep experience in giving statements to lawyers, but also reveal a witness who could be voluble, boastful and, at times, combative.

Georgetown University law professor Naomi Mezey said a deposition presented risks because it is the way to get the president in a vulnerable position. "And President Trump is a particularly vulnerable president," Mezey said.

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, detailed her alleged 2006 tryst with Trump in a widely watched interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" broadcast Sunday. She said she'd had sex with him once, shortly after Melania Trump gave birth to the president's youngest son.

Daniels also said that a man approached her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011 when she was with her infant daughter, and threatened her with physical harm if she went public with her story.

The interview prompted a flurry of new legal action, with a lawyer for Cohen demanding that Daniels publicly apologize to his client for suggesting Cohen was involved in her intimidation. Daniels responded by filing a revised federal lawsuit accusing Cohen of defamation.

Cohen has said he paid the \$130,000 out of his own pocket and that neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was part of the transaction. Avenatti has argued that the "hush agreement" Daniels signed in October 2016 is invalid because it was not signed by Trump.

A hearing before Judge S. James Otero in the federal court's Central District in Los Angeles is set for April 30.

The motion notes that Clinton was deposed while in office in 1998 during Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit. That came after the Supreme Court ruled that a sitting president was not immune from civil litigation on something that happened before taking office and was unrelated to the office.

In that deposition, Clinton sat at an oval conference table at a law firm and answered questions for six hours on Jones and other women her attorneys hoped would prove a pattern of sexual misconduct.

Jones' case was dismissed by a judge, then appealed. The appeal was still pending when Clinton agreed to pay \$850,000 to Jones to settle the case. He did not admit wrongdoing. Later in 1998, Clinton also gave grand jury testimony about his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Clinton was impeached by the House later that year. One of the approved charges alleged that he committed perjury before the grand jury when asked about Lewinsky. He was acquitted in the impeachment proceedings.

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ASG only able to recoup just over \$2MM of NEG funds defrauded by NHC

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Paramount Builders Inc. was one of the sponsors of this year's DOE-STEM and Math competitions via a generous monetary donation and t-shirts for all the participants and DOE staff. The announcement of this year's winners, and the prize giving ceremony, was held last Friday at the Fale Laumei in Utulei. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



TRANSAM PAGO PAGO LTD. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Transam Pago Pago Ltd., a local shipping company, has an opening for the following position:

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Employment Opportunity

LV Inc is looking for a **General Manager** with more than 5 years of independent management experience. Please send resume to PO Box 7171 or email lvinc2011@hotmail.com

Authorities...

Continued from page 13

children were dead when Velasquez returned to the car nearly 14 hours later. They were still in the car seats and wearing the same clothes they had on in the morning.

A cause of death for the children has not been determined.

The National Weather Service says the temperature in the region reached 75 degrees (23.8 Celsius) on Monday. "It is NEVER safe to leave a toddler, disabled person or pet locked in a car," the National Weather Service says on its web page.

The advocacy group KidsAndCars.org estimates an average of 37 children die in hot cars each year in the United States.

"There was no proof that Brittany actually dropped the children off," the document said. "It is known that the kids spent several hours in the vehicle as there was condensation on the inside windows of the vehicle and the children were cold to the touch."

The document said Superior Police officers were called to the scene Monday night by Velasquez, who reported finding her two children unresponsive in a vehicle in front of the house. She told them the children were not breathing and blood was coming from their mouths.

They were pronounced dead at the scene.

The unidentified person Velasquez tried to blame for the

children's deaths denied there was any arrangement for her to care for them, authorities said.

The other person "stated she had no idea what was happening and did not know what Brittany was talking about," according to the sheriff's document.

A Superior Police Department report from January cited an unidentified relative saying Velasquez left the toddler and infant with relatives for days at a time.

Superior police called Arizona child protection officials in early January because of those concerns about the children after the relative claimed Velasquez had stolen a \$3,500 fur coat.

But the coat was later returned and the relative did not seek prosecution.

The police report also indicated that in that incident, Velasquez would not be investigated for child neglect or abuse unless the unidentified family member stated she was no longer willing to care for the children.

Pinal County Superior Court Administrator Todd Zweig said Velasquez would be represented by the county public defender's office. A specific attorney has not yet been assigned to her case. Velasquez could not be reached at the jail.

Autopsies were being conducted to determine causes of death of the children, whose names have not been released.



American Samoa Government DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Tel: (684) 633-5155 • Fax: (684) 633-4195



PUBLIC NOTICE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
Substantial Amendment to the Program Years (PYs)
2014 to 2017 Annual Action Plans
and
Reprogramming of CDBG Funds
From PYs 2014 to 2017

This Public Notice is posted to advise the community that a request will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development to reprogram funds listed below.

| From: | Amount | Status |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Fire Trucks for Manu'a & Aunu'u | \$6,580.00 | Existing Project |
| Fagatogo Playground | \$27,109.13 | Existing Project |
| Multipurpose Trades Building | \$1,283.66 | Existing Project |
| Land Acquisition HOME Partnership | \$229,219.89 | Existing Project |
| School Vans for Manu'a | \$13,402.00 | Existing Project |
| Manu'a HS Greenhouse | \$10,000.00 | Existing Project |
| Matatula Greenhouse | \$7,000.00 | Existing Project |
| Pago Pago Harbor Boardwalk | \$205,405.32 | Existing Project |
| TOTAL: | \$500,000.00 | |
| To: | Amount | Status |
| Debris Removal & Gita Disaster Relief Efforts | \$500,000.00 | New Project |
| TOTAL: | \$500,000.00 | |

In accordance with the American Samoa Government citizen participation plan the public is invited to comment during normal business hours for 30-days following the date of publication at the Department of Commerce, located on the 2nd floor of the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei. Comments must be submitted in writing to Lina Petaia-Suisala, CDBG Manager.

As a result of damages caused by Cyclone Gita and President Trump's disaster declaration, ASG has requested a waiver of the 30-day comment period noted above. Should HUD approve the waiver, the comment period for this notice will be 7 days from the date of this publication. If HUD does not approve the waiver, the comment period will be the 30-day comment period noted above.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact the Department of Commerce at 633-5155, Ext. 271

Keniseli F. Lafaele
Director of Commerce



C M
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⊗

The smiling faces of Special Education staff members from the Blue Empire who escorted SPED students during a recent field trip to the Governor's Mansion.

[photo: BC]

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