



Flowers with photographs are in place at the site where three Manu'a Store employees died during a work-related accident on January 14, 2017. One year later, Toese Ume, who was a member of the local US Army Reserve at the time; Josefa Elia and Saito Paulo, are being remembered. The tragic incident occurred next to Manu'a Store, which is currently under construction, at the Tafuna Industrial Park. [photo: TG]



ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM

samoa news

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

\$1.00

FOUR ESCAPED PRISONERS STILL AT LARGE, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

by Rhonda Annesley
Samoa News editor

Four prisoners escaped Sunday night from the Territorial Correctional Facility, and as of late yesterday afternoon, one had been found, while three (3) were still at large, according to Police Commissioner Lei Sonny Thompson.

Le'i did not say how or why the prisoners escaped, and did not identify who they were.

Samoa News received a phone call yesterday, from a 'friend' of a prisoner still in TCF — the friend wished to remain anonymous — he said he was told the prisoners escaped due to conditions at TCF. He said allegations are that there is no drinking water, barely any food, no toilet paper, etc.

An unconfirmed report says the prisoners escaped when they were let out of their cells to take showers.

The Command Post directing the search for the prisoners is located at the TCF, Lei said.

Thursday's airplane incident not generally considered an "emergency" FAA says

GIVES PILOTS DISCRETION TO CALL IN THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT AS AN EMERGENCY OR NOT...

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating an incident involving a Talofa Airways aircraft last week at Pago Pago International Airport, for which Sen. Magalei Logovi'i has voiced concerns over the slow emergency response from the airport's rescue crew.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the incident is not considered an emergency by the FAA.

He explained that the Talofa Airways plane landed without incident around 8:30 a.m. Thursday (Jan. 11th) on

Runway 5.

"While the Twin Commander aircraft was taxiing, the main landing gear collapsed," Gregor said last Friday morning from Los Angeles. He said there were eight passengers on board and nobody was injured.

Gregor also said that the airline reported the incident to the FAA, which is conducting an investigation.

Magalei, who was among the passengers on the flight, told Samoa News on Thursday afternoon that he was very concerned with the slow emergency response from the airport rescue crew, who didn't show up until later. (See last Friday's Samoa News for details).

(Continued on page 6)

LIMITED SPACE, OVERCROWDING, LEADS TO ER PATIENTS BEING SHUFFLED TO OUTSIDE TENT

This past weekend, Samoa News visited the LBJ Medical Center in Fagaalu and watched as some patients — several of them with IVs intact — were walking out of the Emergency Room, heading out to the section of the parking lot where emergency vehicles (ambulance) generally park when transporting a patient in need of immediate assistance. (The area just outside the ER side entrance).

Samoa News asked around and discovered that because there were no more beds in the ER, some patients were being moved to a white tent (pictured) outside the facility to wait until they were given the green light to go home. Waiting patients usually are on IV and it takes up to 1-2 hours to generally allow the IV to complete its drip bag.

A senior nurse indicated that the overcrowding of the ER recently — due to children being diagnosed with fever and pneumonia — has prompted hospital officials to utilize the tent as an area to house some of the patients.

Another hospital employee claimed that some of the patients in the tent were suspected of having dengue fever and therefore, they were put out there to 'isolate' them from others.

This led to one concerned parent asking, "How logical is it to have someone with dengue fever outside where mosquitoes are prone to bite them — again? Isn't that what causes dengue

fever in the first place?"

Another local resident commented, "This is very unsanitary. The tent is outside, where it is hot, humid, and can cause more damage to already sick people."

Efforts by Samoa News to obtain an official explanation from LBJ Hospital management were unsuccessful as of press time.

A senior nurse did tell Samoa News that because one of the areas near the ER is currently under construction, spaces that could be used by patients are being cordoned off, hence the limited space in the ER.

Meanwhile, caretakers at the hospital said the ER has been jam-packed for several weeks now, as many young children are coming in with symptoms of pneumonia and other ailments including vomiting, fever, and diarrhea.

One nurse told Samoa News there's nothing much they can do, as the problem goes beyond limited space. She said they are having to work 12-hour shifts because of the shortage of nurses.

Samoa News saw also saw last week the overcrowding, first hand, with several patients with IVs attached, sitting outside in the ER waiting room right along with those waiting to see a doctor.

One of the waiting people told Samoa News she had been waiting for 5 hours to see a doctor.

[photo: BC]





American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB-021-2018

Issuance Date: January 11, 2018

Closing Date: January 26, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited from qualified firms to provide **“Lawn and Groundskeeping Services for Eight (8) Public School Locations”** for the Department of Public Works.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00p.m. (local time), Friday, January 26, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on January 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours free of charge.

- 5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.
- 6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB-2461-18

Issuance Date: January 9, 2018

Closing Date: January 19, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

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

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

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

3. BID DOCUMENTS

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

4. CONDITIONS

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

Gov't priority, once again: Levy higher taxes to finance itself

PROPOSAL TO TAX BEER BY VOLUME, AGAIN ON THE TABLE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga is proposing, through legislation introduced last week in the Fono, to change how the excise tax is applied to imported beer, saying the current method “may be easily manipulated.”

It is not a new proposal, as it was initially submitted as part of a larger legislation in the last session, but vetoed by the governor due to changes made by the Fono to certain parts.

Included in that legislation was a proposal to repeal the 5% miscellaneous excise tax over a period of time; levy a new excise tax on heavy construction equipment and second hand imports; and levy a new excise tax on non-carbonated sugary drinks.

The governor vetoed the legislation due to amendments made by the Fono, especially to the 5% miscellaneous tax, which lawmakers hiked from 5% to 8%. (See Samoa News Nov. 7th edition for details on the governor’s veto.)

In the new bill, which was submitted as a ‘stand alone’ — not part of a larger legislative package — the administration is once again seeking to amend the calculation of excise tax for beer and malt extract.

According to the Administration, current excise tax on beer and malt extract, which is based on the reported value of the imported item, “may be easily manipulated... to reduce the amount of excise tax” due to ASG.

This practice deprives ASG of much needed revenues to operate and provide critical public services such as medical and police services, according to the bill’s preamble.

To avoid these issues, the excise tax on beer and malt extract is amended to provide a flat rate based on the amount or volume of the imported item

instead of its stated value.

Currently excise tax on imported beer and malt extract is 190% of the value, with 110% of revenue collected going to the ASG general fund and 80% earmarked for and dedicated to the American Samoa Economic Development Authority for repayment of its Series 2015 Bonds.

Under the Administration’s proposed amendment, the excise tax is 35-cents per 12 fluid ounces, or fraction thereof, of beer and malt container offered for sale by the importer. Twenty cents goes to the general fund while 15 cents goes to bond repayment.

The 12 fluid ounces or fraction thereof, basically means 35 cents per can.

Effective date of the proposed amendments is 60-days after the end of the session in which it is passed, according to the bill’s language.

So far the Senate has schedule a hearing on the measure for Wednesday. It wasn’t immediately clear when the House will hold its hearing.

During Senate committee hearings last September there was strong support from G.H.C Reid & Co. Ltd., saying taxing by volume is “even and fair... for all beer products” while South Pacific Distributors (SOPAC), disagreed with the new government method of calculating the beer tax.

According to GHC Reid’s testimony before the Fono, the current method of taxing imported beer “is open to manipulation.”

And by changing the calculation of tax, it aligns local tax calculation to the global community which uses a volume-based calculation and not percentage of invoice. Countries using this format include the US, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa.

Volcano in Papua New Guinea little known, hard to predict

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — People in Papua New Guinea are being warned that an eruption of a volcano in the South Pacific nation could also cause a tsunami.

The volcano on small Kadovar Island has been erupting for more than a week, forcing 700 people to leave that island and 3,000 to be evacuated from nearby Biem Island. Flights in the area have been canceled

due to the risk posed by the ash plumes.

Chris Firth, a volcano expert from the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at Australia’s Macquarie University, said Tuesday the steepness of the volcano meant an eruption may trigger landslides into the sea, which could create a tsunami. The volcano was also not well-studied so its activity would be harder to predict.





The Department of Public Safety's main central station in Fagatogo will be getting a new look soon, as the entire second floor is being gutted to make way for a new, more modern facility, although efforts will be made to preserve the historic character and properties of the structure.

The historic building, according to the head of the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office, David Herdrich, used to feature a balcony on the front side of the entire second floor.

And because restoration work is being funded in part with federal dollars, guidelines set forth in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 outlines the process that federal agencies have to follow when historic buildings and federal funds are involved.

According to Herdrich, this includes taking into account the historic properties and character of the structure during restoration work.

The second floor of the DPS building was damaged by fire late last year. The building was abandoned immediately — for health and safety reasons — and DPS operations have been temporarily relocated to the nearby Lumana'i Building, with some cops now being based at the DPS Tafuna Substation.

Herdrich said the only part of the building that is being restored is the second floor, and after searching through the archives, they were able to locate the original blueprint of the structure. A copy of the blueprint has been given to the Department of Public Works, whose crew is being tasked with the project, and it is hopeful that they will incorporate the historic features of the building when restoration work begins, said Herdrich.

[photo: BC]

The Latest: Trump promises involvement after Hawaii alert

HONOLULU (AP) — The Latest on a missile threat mistakenly sent by Hawaii officials (all times local):

President Donald Trump says the federal government will “get involved” with Hawaii following the false alarm about an incoming missile strike on the island state.

Trump says what happened Saturday “was a state thing.” He did not describe the level of federal involvement he envisions, but the Federal Communications Commission has opened an investigation.

Hawaii residents received cellphone alerts Saturday warning of an incoming ballistic missile strike. State officials later said someone doing a routine test during a shift change at the Emergency Management Agency mistakenly hit the live alert button.

Hawaii's governor has apologized.

Speaking of Hawaii officials, Trump said “I love that they took responsibility.” He said “they took full responsibility but we're going to get involved.”

Trump also said he hopes something like that doesn't happen again.

Inmate convicted of giving fatal buttocks injection dies

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A Mississippi inmate convicted of giving fatal and illicit silicone buttocks injections to a woman has died at age 58.

An autopsy is to be conducted on the remains of inmate Tracy Lynn Garner, after she died Sunday, the Mississippi Department of Corrections said in a statement Monday announcing the death. Garner had served less than 3 1/2 years of a life sentence. Garner was convicted by a jury in 2014 of

depraved heart murder in the death of Karima Gordon, a metro Atlanta resident who died eight days after receiving the injections in Jackson in 2012.

Depraved heart murder is a killing caused by reckless disregard for human life. Prosecutors said the Georgia woman was referred to Garner by Natasha Stewart, an adult entertainer known as Pebbelz Da Model. Stewart was convicted of manslaughter in Garner's death and received a seven-year sentence.

PRINTER FOR RENT!

WIRELESS / COPY / PRINTER / FAX / SCANNER
FOR FAST, UNLIMITED PRINTING, GREAT FOR COMMERCIAL USE

FREE INK

HP Officejet Pro 8610

\$70 Monthly Payment



We sell good quality printing paper.

Premium Printing Paper
Ream \$3.95
Case \$38.95

Double A Printing Paper
Ream \$4.75
Case \$43.95

O&O INC. WHOLESALE in Nu'uuli

Please contact: Jiin (258-4563) or Tafa Leaupepe
Office: (684) 699-4484 • Fax: (684) 699-2307
Email: ooeinc@gmail.com

FOR LEASE

**2,400 SF Warehouse space (new)
6,900 SF Retail/Warehouse space**

21' High ceilings with
10' wide awnings in the front

May be leased separately or together

Secure gated lot, large parking area

Conveniently located in
Tafuna Industrial Park area

For information call 252-1735

**COULD YOUR COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT
USE SOME GRANT MONEY?**

**DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION PRIMARILY
SERVE AMERICAN SAMOANS?**

ATTEND OUR FREE, 2-DAY PRE-APPLICATION TRAINING AT THE TRADEWINDS HOTEL IN PAGO PAGO, PRESENTED BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS (ANA). GRANTS AVAILABLE UP TO \$2 MILLION EACH.

TO REGISTER FOR THE JAN. 24-25 TRAINING, VISIT:

WWW.ANAPACIFICBASIN.ORG

OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT: 1-844-944-9544

Missile-alert error reveals uncertainty about how to react

HONOLULU (AP) — When Jonathan Scheuer got an alert on his phone of a ballistic missile headed for Hawaii, he and his family didn't know what to do. They went to their guest bedroom, then decided it would be safer on the ground floor of their Honolulu home.

"What do we do?" he wondered. "Where do we go?"

People should immediately seek shelter in a building "or other substantial structure," once an attack-warning siren sounds, according to guidance the state distributed previously. The state recommends having 14-day survival kit of food and water.

Residents and tourists alike remained rattled after the mistaken alert was blasted out to cellphones across the islands with a warning to seek immediate shelter and the ominous statement: "This is not a drill."

"Clearly there is a massive gap between letting people know something's coming and having something for them to do," Scheuer said Sunday. "Nobody knew what to do."

Lisa Foxen, a social worker and mother of two young children in east Honolulu, said the best thing to come out of the scare was that it pushed her family to come up with a plan if there is a real threat.

"I kind of was just almost like a deer in headlights," she said. "I knew what to do in a hurricane. I knew what to do in an earthquake. But the missile thing is new to me."

The blunder that caused more than a million people in Hawaii to fear that they were about to be struck by a nuclear missile fed skepticism about the government's ability to keep them informed in a real emergency.

"My confidence in our so-called leaders' ability to disseminate this vital information has certainly been tarnished," said Patrick Day, who sprang from bed when the alert was issued Saturday morning. "I would have to think twice before acting on any future advisory."

The erroneous warning was sent during a shift change at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency when someone doing a routine test hit the live alert button, state officials said.

That employee has been reassigned to a job without access to the warning system

amid an internal investigation, agency spokesman Richard Rapoza said Monday. No other personnel changes have been made, he said.

Officials tried to assure residents there would be no repeat false alarms. The agency changed protocols to require that two people send an alert and made it easier to cancel a false alarm — a process that took nearly 40 minutes.

The error sparked a doomsday panic across the islands known as a laid-back paradise. Parents clutched their children, huddled in bathtubs and said prayers. Students bolted across the University of Hawaii campus to take cover in buildings. Drivers abandoned cars on a highway and took shelter in a tunnel. Others resigned themselves to a fate they could not control and simply waited for the attack.

The 911 system for the island of Oahu was overwhelmed with more than 5,000 calls. There were no major emergencies during the false alarm, Mayor Kirk Caldwell said.

President Donald Trump said Sunday the federal government will "get involved," but didn't release details.

An investigation into what went wrong was underway at the Federal Communications Commission, which sets rules for wireless emergency alerts sent by local, state or federal officials to warn of the threat of hurricanes, wildfires, flash flooding and to announce searches for missing children.

The state of Hawaii "did not have reasonable safeguards or process controls in place to prevent the transmission of a false alert," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement, calling the mistake "absolutely unacceptable."

"False alerts undermine public confidence in the alerting system and thus reduce their effectiveness during real emergencies," he said.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen urged Americans not to lose faith in their government.

"I would hate for anybody not to abide by alerts and warnings coming from government systems," Nielsen said on "Fox News Sunday." "They can trust government systems. We test them every day. This is a very

unfortunate mistake, but these alerts are vital. Seconds and minutes can save lives."

With mobile phones ubiquitous, wireless alerts can quickly disseminate information to a wide number of users, but there have been concerns about creating a panic if they are sent too broadly.

Authorities were criticized for not sending an alert to mobile phones when fires ripped through Northern California in October, killing 40 people. Officials had decided not to use the system because they couldn't target them precisely enough and feared a wider broadcast would lead to mass evacuations, including people not in danger, snarling traffic that would hamper fire-fighting and rescues efforts. Saturday's mistake was not the first for the state's warning system. During a test last month, 12 of the state's 386 sirens played an ambulance siren. In the tourist hub of Waikiki, the sirens were barely audible, prompting officials to add more sirens and reposition ones already in place.

People need to step back from questioning who pushed the button and why and focus on military de-escalation, Scheuer said. The false alarm triggered a broader discussion about national security at a time when North Korea has been flexing its muscles by launching test missiles and bragging about its nuclear capability. Its leader, Kim Jong Un, has also exchanged insults on Twitter with President Donald Trump about their arsenals.

The standoff has whipped up nuclear fears on Hawaii and led the islands to revive Cold War-era siren tests that drew international attention. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a Hawaii Democrat, said officials should be held accountable for the "epic failure of leadership" behind the warning. She said the nuclear threat underscored the need for Trump to meet with Kim to work out differences without preconditions.

"The people of Hawaii are paying the price now for decades of failed leadership in this country" by setting "unrealistic preconditions," she said. "The leaders of this country need to experience that same visceral understanding of how lives are at stake."



The new director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Kenneth Soala Tupua, during his Senate confirmation hearing last Thursday morning. Tupua was confirmed by the Senate in a unanimous 14-0 vote. The House approved his nomination last Friday with a unanimous 16-0 vote.

Tupua, who served in the US Air Force for 20 years, has worked at Parks and Recreation since 2005, moving up to deputy director in 2013.

During his Senate confirmation hearing, Tupua said, "I'm thankful for this appointment" by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga and requested senators to approve his nomination. There were no questions during the less than 10-minute hearing, but Tupua was commended for his latest efforts to clean up bathrooms at public parks.

He was requested to continue the department's efforts to clean up all public parks and, if necessary, hire a private contractor to do the work while Parks and Recreation provides materials and supplies.

Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie noted that Tupua is not new to the job, and senators believe he is very capable of taking over the directorship post.

[photo: FS]

Pope Francis under pressure to confront sex abuse in Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Pope Francis will be under pressure Tuesday to confront a priest sex abuse scandal during his first full day in Chile, an Andean nation where the majority identifies as Roman Catholic but strong currents of skepticism and even contempt for the church are increasingly present.

Many Chileans are still furious over his 2015 decision to appoint a bishop close to the Rev. Fernando Karadima, a priest found guilty by the Vatican in 2011 of abusing dozens of minors over decades.

Bishop Juan Barros of the southern city of Osorno has always denied he knew what Karadima was doing when he was the priest's protege, but many Chileans have a hard time believing that.

"Sex abuse is Pope Francis' weakest spot in terms of his credibility," said Massimo Faggioli, a Vatican expert and theology professor at Villanova University in Philadelphia. "It is surprising that the pope and his entourage don't understand that they need to be more forthcoming on this issue."

The Karadima scandal and a long cover-up has caused a crisis for the church in Chile,

with a recent Latinbarometro survey saying the case was responsible for a significant drop in the number of Chileans who call themselves Catholic as well as a fall in confidence in the church as an institution.

That distrust extends to Francis, who is making his first visit as pope to this country of 17 million people. The Argentine pope is nearly a native son, having studied in Chile during his Jesuit novitiate and he knows the country well, but Chileans give him the lowest approval rating among the 18 Latin American nations in the survey.

"People are leaving the church because they don't find a protective space there," said Juan Carlos Claret, spokesman for a group of church members in Osorno that has opposed Barros' appointment as bishop. "The pastors are eating the flock."

People angry over Barros planned a protest for Tuesday, when Francis is scheduled to celebrate Mass, meet with President Michelle Bachelet and visit a female prison.

But other groups also called demonstrations against the pontiff.



Pope Francis waves as he arrives at the San Luis Beltran church on his way to the Apostolic Nunciature in Santiago, Chile, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018. Francis flew in to Chile, A&S capital Monday night for a visit expected to be met with protests over sexual abuse by priests and confronted by many Chileans deeply skeptical about the Roman Catholic Church.

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

US ARMY PVT FIRST CLASS IETI GREET'S NEW YEAR IN SONG

Many Samoans, to some degree, have reluctantly chosen to leave our homeland of American Samoa to seek a better future abroad. But no matter where we go, we always seem to find solace being in the presence of our own people. Such was the sense and the atmosphere at the Samoan Protestant Church on AMR, Oahu, Hawai'i.

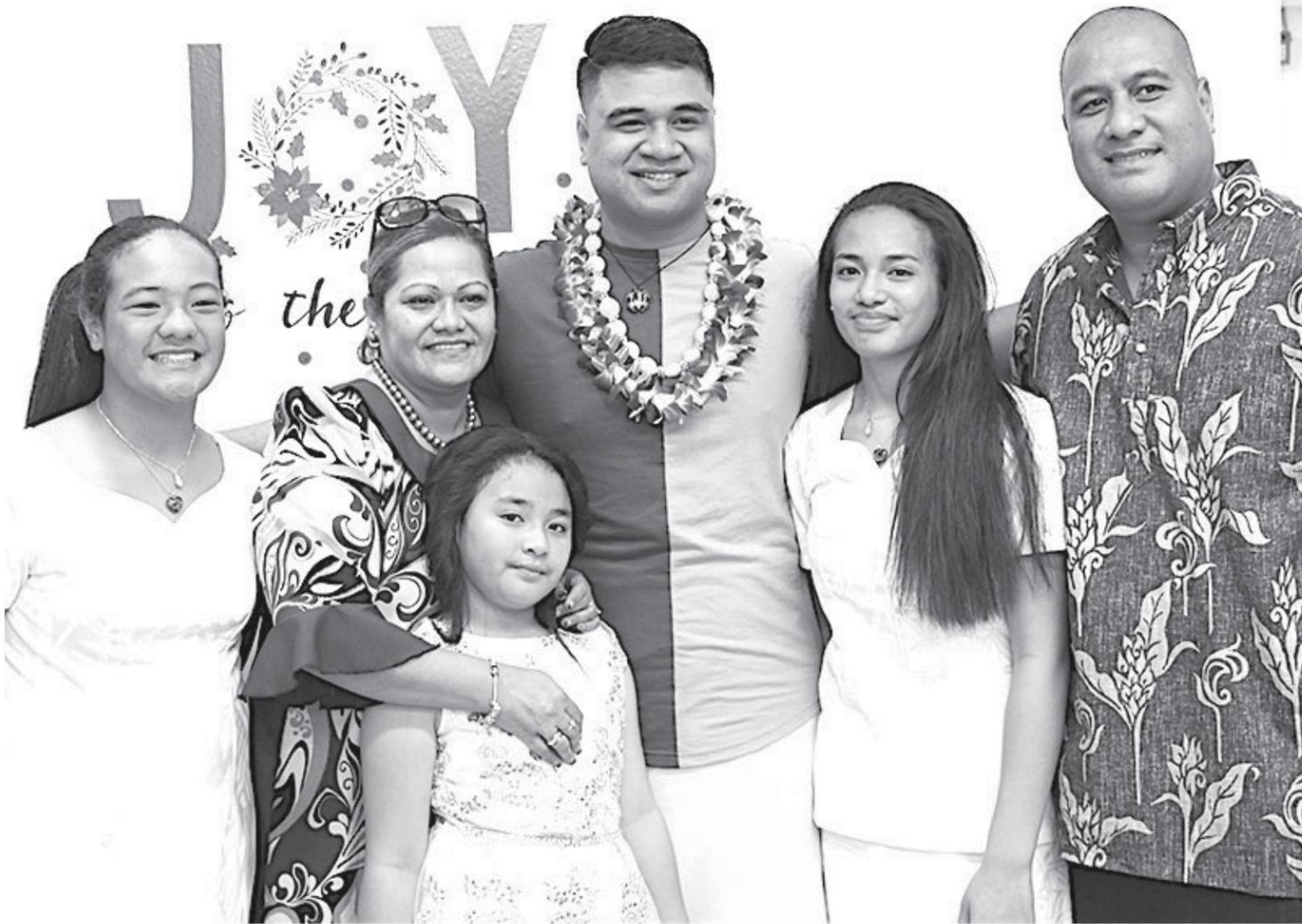
New Year's Eve service was filled with family and friends of our church members who were on island to celebrate a marriage, including a son of Samoa, a.k.a. former America's Got Talent finalist (center), Paul Ieti, a U.S. Army private first class, who vaulted to prominence in American Samoa when he was a singer act from Season 9 of AGT. He was eliminated in the Semifinals.

According to AGT's website, during a deployment in Afghanistan for nine months, Ieti's "battle buddies" would ask him to sing for them as a means of escaping temporarily from the reality of war.

As a special guest at the Samoan Protestant Church, Ieti sang, "I'd Rather Have Jesus" — a perfect ending for a long 2017 and an excellent way to usher in the New Year in the House of the Lord, a member of the church said.

Elders or Tino matutua, Mrs. Apomatagi Tuato'o and Mrs. Faapi'o Tatupu also offered words of wisdom in preparation of our journey into the year 2018, the member said, concluding that "prior to the conclusion of our New Year's Eve service, we held hands, praising God, as Ieti led us with 'Ua Tasi I Tatou Uma' — reminding us all, we will always be one in Jesus Christ."

[courtesy photo]



U Penn student reportedly stabbed more than 20 times

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A 19-year-old University of Pennsylvania student whose body was found buried in a shallow grave at a California park had been stabbed more than 20 times, according to The Orange County Register. No weapon has been found.

Carrie Braun, a public information officer for the Orange County Sheriff's Department, would not confirm to The Associated Press if Bernstein was stabbed but said "the condition of the body at the time it was discovered turned it from a missing person to a homicide immediately."

Samuel Lincoln Woodward, 20, was arrested and taken into custody Friday on suspicion of homicide after DNA evidence linked him to the death of col-

(Continued on page 7)



American Samoa Power Authority

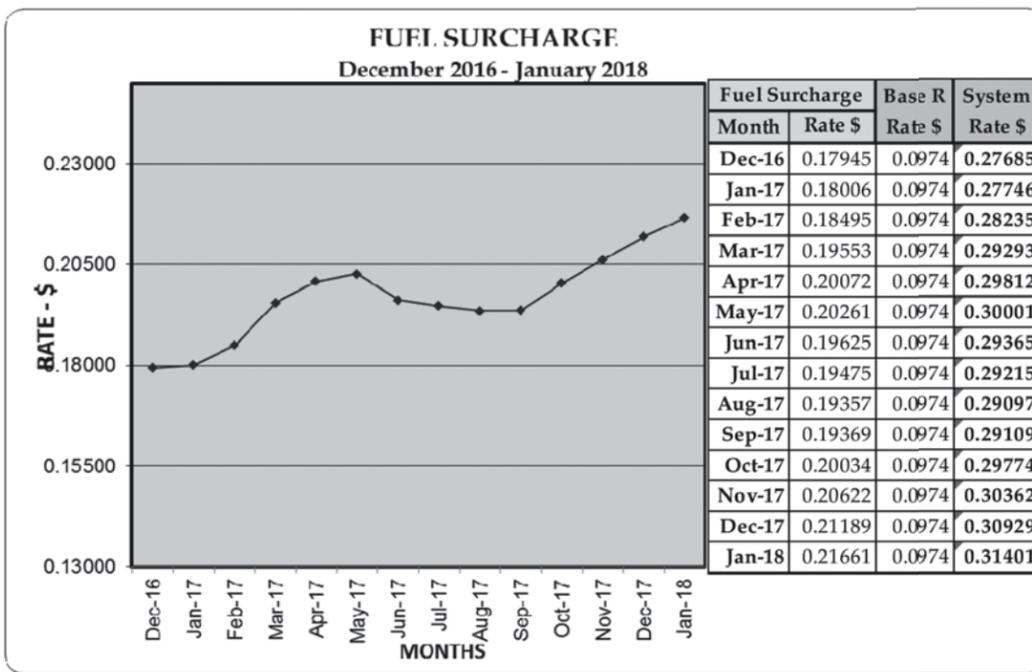
January 12, 2018

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the "base rate" and the "fuel surcharge rate."

The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA's operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a "pass-through" revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.



The fuel surcharge rate also includes the "Renewable Reduction" from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the "Renewable Reduction" savings. There are seven active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA's renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.

| Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for January 2018 | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rate - \$ | Residential | Small General | Large General |
| Calculated Fuel Surcharge | 0.22513 | 0.22513 | 0.22513 |
| Renewable Reduction | -0.00852 | -0.00852 | -0.00852 |
| Fuel Surcharge | 0.21661 | 0.21661 | 0.21661 |
| Fixed Electric Base Rate | 0.09740 | 0.10650 | 0.08960 |
| Electric System Rate (kWh) | 0.31401 | 0.32311 | 0.30621 |

There are seven active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA's renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.

AUTO NATION
 NU'UULI: (684) 699-7168 • FAX: (684) 699-7175

NEW ARRIVALS

Car Tires starting at \$109

Battery starting at \$89

Bluetooth Headphone \$9.99

Windshield Washer Fluid \$5.95

Room AC \$149

Heavy Duty Oil \$7.50

Engine Oil starting at \$4.00

Access Speaker \$49.99

We're now selling Tools, Room AC and Tires in a very low price. Please come and Join us.

Business Hours:
 Monday - Friday 7:30am - 5:00pm
 Saturday 8:00am - 1:00pm



ASHPO CALENDARS AVAILABLE AT THEIR OFFICE — THEY'RE FREE

As has been the norm in past years, the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) is distributing free calendars. All you have to do is stop by their Nu'uuli office and pick up your copy. According to Historic Preservation Officer, David Herdrich, of the total of 3,000 calendars printed, "there aren't too many left," he said over a telephone interview yesterday.

This is the time of year people generally flock to the ASHPO headquarters in Nu'uuli to pick up free calendars — one for their home, one for the office, and a few to send off island.

Herdrich said although they try to limit the calendars to 2 per person, more is given out to people who come in with the names of off island family members and friends who want copies.

Every year, there is a different theme. Historic photos from the past century - the naval administration era, village life, historic sites - grace the pages of the calendar that are sought after by people of all ages.

The black-and-white untouched photos have a way of taking people back, giving them a glimpse of island life during the time of our ancestors.

This year, Herdrich said they were fortunate enough to receive a donation of two photo albums from the family of a palagi dentist who lived and worked in the territory during the naval administration period (1938-1940).

The photos featured in the 2018 calendar were selected from the aforementioned albums.

The calendars are funded each year by a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service.

Every year, 3,000 copies are printed; and every year, they always run out.

Get your free 2018 calendar today by visiting the ASHPO main office in Nu'uuli, above the Daily Store. [photo: BC]

Neil's ACE Home Center

When it comes to being helpful, Ace is the place!

We are proud to be locally owned, serving the community for over 30 years.

Now Hiring for Full Time Position: SALES ASSOCIATE

The primary responsibilities of a Sales Associate are to maintain outstanding customer service, generate sales, merchandise product, and support the store management team.

Requirements

- Helpful Customer service skills
- Willingness to work flexible hours
- Strong verbal and written communication skills with the ability to multi-task
- Ability to lift at least 40lbs and stand for extended periods of time
- Previous retail experience a plus but will train the right candidate
- We will train you so join our Ace Team TODAY! We have a friendly atmosphere; we offer competitive wages, regular training and annual performance reviews.

Pick up an application TODAY from our Customer Service Counter, or visit our website www.neilshomecenter.com to print an employment application. Drop off, or email, completed applications to Monique@neilshomecenter.com.

ACE HARDWARE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Neil's ACE Home Center

When it comes to being helpful, Ace is the place!

We are proud to be locally owned, serving the community for over 30 years.

We are now hiring for an OFFICE CLERK

This person will be expected to handle a wide range of administrative tasks and must be able to work independently with little or no supervision. This person must be extremely well organized and be able to interact with staff at all levels, in a fast paced environment. Must be proactive, resourceful and efficient with a high level of professionalism.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS include the following:

- Must have an accounting background. A degree is a plus.
- Honest and detail oriented.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and attention to detail are very important
- Proficiency in Quickbooks, Microsoft Windows, MS Word, Excel, and other computer software is a must.
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays to meet the needs of the business.

Reports to: Bookkeeper

Consider joining our Ace team where our friendly atmosphere, competitive wages, and a positive team are just a few of the advantages we offer. This is an excellent opportunity for an organized individual who is interested in Retail and Business Administration.

Please pick up an application TODAY from our Customer Service Counter and be part of a captivating team! Or visit our website www.neilshomecenter.com and print an application.

For this position, please also include a cover letter and full resume.

Tel 699-2482, email Monique@neilshomecenter.com

ACE HARDWARE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Thursday...

Continued from page 1

Samoa News asked the FAA if the incident is considered an "emergency" and does it require — under federal regulations — a pilot to contact airport officials and for the airport rescue crew to respond.

Gregor explained, "A landing-gear collapse when an aircraft is taxiing slowly would not generally be an emergency."

He added that it is up to the pilot to declare an emergency. "A pilot is theoretically free to declare an emergency con-

cerning any event at his or her discretion."

The FAA official further noted that "FAA regulations give pilots broad discretion in how to respond to both emergencies and to occurrences such as this." He continued, "There is no requirement for a pilot to request an emergency response in occurrences such as this."

During last Friday's Senate session, Magalei voiced his concern over the slow airport emergency response and

said a committee hearing is called for Thursday this week. Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele, will be among the witnesses asked to testify.

Taimalelagi had told Samoa News last Thursday afternoon that the airport was preparing a detailed report and would be submitted to the FAA, 24 hours after any incident.

She was at the Fono testifying on Manu'a issues when the incident happened.

Oil spill from sunken tanker is expanding in East China Sea

BEIJING (AP) — Several oil slicks have been found in waters around a sunken Iranian tanker ship in the East China Sea in a spill that is growing and whose potentially major impact on the marine environment is still being assessed.

The State Oceanic Administration said late Monday oil slicks around the site of the

sunken ship were much larger than the previous day. The Sanchi sunk on Sunday after burning for more than a week following a collision with a Hong Kong-registered tanker. All 32 members of its crew — 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis — are believed dead.

The State Oceanic Administration said a 15-kilometer

(9-mile)-long oil slick was found southwest of the site of the sinking and another slick stretched 18 kilometers (11 miles) to the east. The site is about 530 kilometers (330 miles) from Shanghai and 310 kilometers (193 miles) from Naha, Japan.

The administration said two

(Continued on page 10)




ACCURACY
We make an issue of it every day.
If you want to comment about our accuracy, call Samoa News at 633-5599



compiled by Samoa News staff
PRISONS UNDER SCRUTINY OVER CONVICT'S RELEASE

The Minister of Prisons, Tialavea Tionisio Hunt, has defended the decision to release a convicted murderer to attend his matai title bestowal ceremony during the Festive Season.

The Samoa Prisons and Corrections Services (S.P.C.S.) approved the release of well-known criminal, Tagaloasa Filipaina, the Samoa Observer was told.

The release came at a time when members of the public were outraged over a prison break involving four other prisoners, which resulted in a woman and her children being attacked at Ululoloa.

One of the prisoners remains at large.

When concerns from members of the public about the Tagaloasa decision were put to the Minister, he downplayed them, saying the prisoner had shown enough proof that he has changed his ways.

"Filipaina is a low risk prisoner," he said. "We believe he has very minimal chances of re-offending."

The Samoa Observer put it to Tialavea that the Prison's

new Act, signed into law in 2016, indicates that those who are convicted of murder, manslaughter, sexual connection, rape, incest, burglary and robbery are not eligible for special release, holiday release and weekend release.

But Tialavea was adamant the prisoner in question posed no risk to the community.

"The release depends on the condition of the prisoner, good behavior and low risk (of reoffending)," he said.

"You should go and see Ulugia, he will explain to you why he was released."

The Ulugia he is referring to is Ulugia Niuia Aumua, the Assistant Commissioner of S.P.C.S.

Reminded that he was the Minister who should be questioned and that the Act clearly prohibits such a release, the Minister said there is a clause under the Prisoner's Act, which gives the S.P.C.S. the authority to release a prisoner.

"Go and read the Act," he said, adding that he was not aware of the release of Tagaloasa.

"We only release the prisoners with special conditions, meaning they are at low risk of reoffending."

"For Filipaina, he has been

before the Parole Board five times already and he will appear again next month. He is a low risk prisoner."

(Source: Samoa Observer)
TENSIONS MOUNT IN SAMOA AS FAMILY BANISHED AFTER MURDER OF BOY

The family of the suspects charged in connection with the brutal murder of a 15-year-old boy in Satapuala has been ousted by the Village Council.

And while tensions rise in the village following the killing, one of the suspects' homes was burnt to the ground. Police were called and they have launched an investigation. Arson is suspected.

In the meantime, Satapuala Village Mayor, Vaili Mimita, told the Sunday Samoan that the Village Council met on Friday after the discovery of the deceased's body.

He said they opted to give the family an ultimatum.

"They had to pay a hefty fine of \$20,000 by 4 p.m. (Saturday) or the village will demolish (mu le foaga) all their personal belongings," Vaili said.

"However, with God in

(Continued on page 13)



Neil's ACE Home Center
When it comes to being helpful, Ace is the place!
We are proud to be locally owned, serving the community for over 30 years.

WE'RE HIRING FOR FULL-TIME CASHIERS
Got a lot of energy, and strong customer service skills? Apply today!

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Handle cash transactions with customers
- Maintain clean and tidy checkout areas
- Ensure the checkout experience is fast and friendly
- Play a key role in providing legendary customer service to our customers, and building customer loyalty

REQUIREMENTS

- High School graduate with computer skills
- Willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Mature, ethical and honest

We will train you so join our Ace Team Today! We have a friendly atmosphere; we offer competitive wages, regular training and annual performance reviews.

Please pick up an application TODAY from our Customer Service Counter and be part of a captivating team! Or visit our website www.neilshomecenter.com and print an application.

For this position, please also include a cover letter and full resume.
Tel 699-2482, email Monique@neilshomecenter.com

ACE HARDWARE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

▶ **U Penn...**

Continued from page 5

lege sophomore Blaze Bernstein, Orange County Under-sheriff Don Barnes said.

Bernstein was home visiting his family in Lake Forest during winter break when Woodward picked him up on Jan. 2 and drove with him to several places before winding up at a park.

The two knew each other from high school, Barnes said.

Woodward was interviewed by investigators after Bernstein was reported missing by his parents on Jan. 3.

A sheriff's investigator wrote in court filings that Woodward appeared nervous, had scratched hands and dirt under his fingernails, and avoided touching doors with his hands while leaving the sheriff's office building.

Bernstein may have been planning to sexually pursue Woodward, according to a 16-page search warrant affidavit obtained by The Orange County Register.

Bernstein texted two female friends about a June interaction with Woodward, according to the affidavit. Bernstein wrote that Woodward was about to "hit on me" and "he made me promise not to tell anyone."

The affidavit also noted that Woodward told investigators that Bernstein kissed him on the

lips at a stop before the park, and that he pushed Bernstein away.

Investigators said in the affidavit that as he recounted that part of his story, Woodward clenched his jaw and his fists, saying "he wanted to tell Blaze to get off of him."

Woodward also told investigators that Bernstein entered the park alone and then he waited for Bernstein for an hour before driving to meet with a girlfriend, the Register reported. However, according to the affidavit, Woodward could not remember his girlfriend's last name or where she lived.

It was not immediately possible to reach Woodward in custody, where he listed his occupation as "Nerf games," according to the jail's website.

Authorities searched for Bernstein for nearly a week with assistance from drone pilots and found his body on Tuesday after recent rains partially exposed it.

The death of Bernstein rocked the community of Lake Forest, 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles. Hundreds of people held a candle-light vigil to remember him.

It was the only homicide reported in Lake Forest in at least the past four years, according to authorities.



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP-024-2018**

Issuance Date: January 16, 2018

**Date & Time Due: February 16, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)**

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:
"Development of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the American Samoa Government"

Submission

Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **"RFP-024-2018: Development of CEDS for the ASG."** Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), February 16, 2018:

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

Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened or considered and will be determined as being non-responsive.

Document

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

Review

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

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Government or the public.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



PACIFIC YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

is offering a

FREE TRAINING

For COMMUNITY & HOME-BASED

CAREGIVERS

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

Deadline to Apply: **January 26, 2018**

Excellent Learning Opportunity for anyone interested in providing Home Health Care Services.

Limited Slots Available!

PRIORITY PLACEMENT

will be given to individuals who are currently caring for an elderly or severely disabled individual in their own home

TRAINING MODULES:

Module 1: Normal Aging and Cultural Aspects of Caregiving:

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

Module 2: Gait and Transfer Training and Fall Prevention

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

Module 3: Pain and Symptom Management/Managing Difficult Behaviors

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

Module 4: Activities of Daily Living Part 1

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

Module 5: Activities of Daily Living Part 2

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

Module 6: Wound care and Bed sore Prevention/Common Medical Problems

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

Module 7: Relieving Family and Caregiver Stress

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





PACIFIC YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Program Orientation
January 31, 2018

On Site Instruction provided by University of Hawaii Medical Team (40 Hours)
February 5 to 9, 2018

On Site Practicum & Experiential Learning at Hope House Home for the Elderly (480 Hours)
February 19 to August 3, 2018

Minimum Requirements:

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

Benefits:

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



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





IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)

Reporter recounts moments after Hawaii missile alert

Publishable Editors Notes:

Associated Press correspondent Caleb Jones was with his daughter at their Honolulu home when state emergency officials mistakenly sent out a cellphone alert warning of an incoming missile heading for Hawaii. He recounts the panic that he, like other islanders, felt not knowing for several minutes if the threat was real.

HONOLULU (AP) — It was a beautiful Hawaii morning: nice breeze, blue skies, birds chirping. Then terror struck.

We were up early, my daughter and I, because this Saturday morning was her first day of ice skating lessons, a day we had been talking about and looking forward to for months.

We were also having construction done in our Honolulu apartment, which sits atop a hill overlooking the Nuuanu Valley and, in the distance, Pearl Harbor. So, I had been frantically clearing out the living room and covering our things with sheets so they wouldn't be smothered in sawdust.

We got her skating clothes on and tacked up the living room, and I was just about to hop in the shower when, around 8:07 a.m., my phone started the aggressive, long pulsating tone that normally accompanies a flash flood or other warning.

Emergency Alert: "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Associated Press correspondent Caleb Jones was with his daughter at their Honolulu home when state emergency officials mistakenly sent out a cellphone alert warning of a missile heading for Hawaii. He recounts the panic that he, like other islanders, felt not knowing for several minutes if the threat was real.

"Not a drill?" I thought.

I looked out over the valley toward Honolulu International Airport and Pearl Harbor and envisioned a nuclear blast spreading over the landscape and funneling up the Pali Highway and into my thin-walled home. It's literally a direct line to the most likely military target. There was no concrete structure, no basement, not even an interior room that would make sense to wait in. I wasn't prepared with water or food. I panicked.

As a journalist, I knew what officials recommended. I have covered the drills, the warnings, the siren tests. According to emergency officials, it could take between 12 and 15 minutes for a missile to strike. I knew more than probably most people in Hawaii: Shelter in place, take cover, tune in and await instructions.

But fight or flight kicked in. All the nuclear threat models that state officials run use Pearl Harbor and its adjoining military base as ground zero. I also knew there wouldn't be any rush hour traffic on a Saturday morning. I chose flight, which in retrospect may have been the wrong decision. But maybe not.

"We're going," I thought.

I had 12 minutes to get my daughter out of the blast zone and over the mountain range.

"Get your shoes on, we have to go," I told the 7-year-old girl who I protect and cherish with my

life. She asked why, and I first told her I wasn't quite sure but we had to go. I was watching my clock. Eleven minutes.

Around the same time I started making calls for work. After my daughter, my priority was informing the world about what was happening. Text messages started coming in from colleagues. Planning started happening. Calls were being made.

Nine minutes.

"What's happening, DaTuesday, January 16, 2018?" she asked repeatedly.

I decided to be honest and maintained a calm tone.

"I don't know yet, Honey, but you know the siren tests you had at school. It's like that, and we just need to go somewhere safe."

"There's a missile?" she asked, a question I never imagined my young daughter would have to ask.

My plan was to make it to a Target in Kailua and shelter there. Plenty of food, strong structure, far from a likely ground zero. I had my laptop and everything I needed for work and figured I would be able to do my job and hopefully protect my daughter.

We jumped in my car and drove away from Honolulu. Others had the same idea, it seemed. People were driving extremely fast away from the center of town, but traffic was still light enough that cars were flowing over the highway that connects the east side of Oahu to Honolulu.

You could see the panic on people's faces, blatantly using their cellphones while driving — something we've learned through hefty traffic fines not to do.

I got to the top of the Pali Highway and to the other side of the mountain range pretty quickly, looking in my rear-view mirror to see if there was a mushroom cloud.

By that time, one of my colleagues had gotten in touch with officials who told her it was a false alarm. She texted the news to me. Still, there was no official notice of an all-clear, and the people around me continued to panic.

Once I knew we all weren't going to die, my panic and fear for my daughter's safety turned to energy to get the story out. I turned around and returned home, making calls along the way. Some calls failed as the wireless system became overwhelmed.

We made it to her 9:30 a.m. skating lesson, in which she nailed the teacup maneuver and skated backward with her classmates. I interviewed other parents about what happened, sent in quotes and gathered some video.

After her class, for the next eight hours, my daughter and I sat in the Associated Press bureau working to get the story out. She was visibly shaken but in good spirits. She made me and my colleagues laugh throughout the afternoon, scooting around on a rolling chair and asking over and over again if we could do something more fun.

Today, as the sun rises over our view of Pearl Harbor, we feel relief that we can, indeed, do something more fun. After I write this story.



Oil...

Continued from page 6

ships and an aircraft were on the scene monitoring developments, but described no further action being taken at present.

The ship was carrying natural gas condensate, which continued to burn on the ocean surface. Condensate is highly toxic but readily evaporates or burns off in a fire.

If trapped underwater, however, it could seriously harm the marine environment.

The cause of the Jan. 6 colli-

sion between the Sanchi and the Chinese freighter CF Crystal, which was carrying grain, remains unclear.

The ship's voice data recorder was reportedly recovered Saturday, possibly helping reveal how the collision and resulting fire occurred.

Authorities need to first assess the amount of condensate leaked and the size of the area contaminated, said Paul Johnston, of Greenpeace Inter-

national's Science Unit at Britain's University of Exeter.

"Surveillance and assessment by authorities is critical to understand the extent of the potential environmental impact and for deciding on the appropriate next steps in terms of salvage and recovery of the potential condensate spill," Johnston wrote in a Greenpeace news release.



California teen leads deputies to parents' house of horrors

PERRIS, Calif. (AP) — A 17-year-old girl called police after escaping from her family's home where she and her 12 brothers and sisters were locked up in filthy conditions, some so malnourished officers at first believed all were children even though seven are adults.

The girl, who was so small officers initially believed she was only 10, called 911 and was met by police who interviewed her and then went to the family home in Perris, about 70 miles southeast of Los Angeles. They found several children shackled to their beds with chains and padlocks in dark, foul-smelling surroundings, according to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The children, ages 2 to 29, "appeared to be malnourished and very dirty," according to a press release announcing Sunday's arrest of the parents. "The victims were provided with food and beverages after they claimed to be starving."

David Allen Turpin, 57, and Louise Anna Turpin, 49, each were held on \$9 million bail and could face charges including torture and child endangerment.

It wasn't immediately known if they had attorneys.

State Department of Education records show the family home has the same address as Sandcastle Day School, where David Turpin is listed as principal. In the 2016-17 school year it had an enrollment of six with one student in each of the fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, 10th and 12th grades.

Neighbors said they were stunned by the arrests. Andrew Santillan, who lives around the corner, heard about the case from a friend.

"I had no idea this was going on," he told the Press-Enterprise of Riverside. "I didn't know there were kids in the house."

Other neighbors described

the family as intensely private.

A few years ago, Robert Perkins said he and his mother saw a few family members constructing a Nativity scene in the Turpins' front yard. Perkins said he complimented them on it.

"They didn't say a word," he said.

The Turpins filed for bankruptcy in 2011, stating in court documents they owed between \$100,000 and \$500,000, The New York Times reported. At that time, Turpin worked as an engineer at Northrop Grumman and earned \$140,000 annually and his wife was a homemaker, records showed.

Their bankruptcy lawyer, Ivan Trahan, told the Times he never met the children but the couple "spoke about them highly."

"We remember them as a very nice couple," Trahan said, adding that Louise Turpin told him the family loved Disneyland and visited often.



In this Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018 photo released by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department shows Louise Anna Turpin. Authorities say an emaciated teenager led deputies to a California home where her 12 brothers and sisters were locked up in filthy conditions, with some of them malnourished and chained to beds. Riverside County sheriff's deputies arrested the parents David Allen Turpin and Louise Anna Turpin on Sunday. The parents could face charges including torture and child endangerment.

(Riverside County Sheriff's Department via AP)

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PROBATE NO. 46-2017

In the Matter of the Estate of

TAILALO TAOTOTO

Decedent

BY: **SIALA TAOTOTO**

Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TAKE NOTICE that a petition for Letters of Administration has been filed by SIALA TAOTOTO in the High Court of American Samoa for the estate of TAILALO TAOTOTO who died on October 3, 2007 in American Samoa.

A hearing on the petition will be held on January 30, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa in the Courthouse at Fagatogo, American Samoa.

All heirs of said decedent, TAILALO TAOTOTO, and other interested parties may appear before the court on the said date and time to respond to the said petition.

Dated: 10/31/17

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 12/13/2017 & 01/16/2018

세계인과 함께 하는 **KBS WORLD** **bluesky** **moana** **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.(Jan 14 ~ 20, 2018) *

| Time of American Samoa | Sunday (1/14) | Monday (1/15) | Tuesday (1/16) | Wednesday (1/17) | Thursday (1/18) | Friday (1/19) | Saturday (1/20) | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 10 : am | K-pop World Festival Quiz on Korea 2017 (E,R) | Hello Counselor (E,R) | Dragon's Club Overgrown Bromance | The Unit Jisook's Table for O' | Happy Together (E,R) | Music Bank | Encore Drama Lovers of Music | |
| 11 : am | Music Bank (E,R) | Encore Drama Lovers of Music | | | | The Beauty | Lovers of Music (E,R) | |
| 12 NOON | Daily Drama "The Secret of My Love" (E,R) | | | | | | | |
| 1 : pm | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E,R) | | | Black Knight Wed-Thu Drama (E,R) | | K-RUSH (E,R) | |
| 2 : pm | Dragon's Club Overgrown Bromance | Hello Counselor (E,R) | Dragon's Club Overgrown Bromance | The Unit Jisook's Table for O' | Happy Together (E,R) | The Swan Club (E,R) | Music Bank | |
| 3 : pm | Encore Drama Lovers of Music (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R) | Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R) | The Unit (E,R) | My Golden Life Weekend Drama (E,R) | | |
| 4 : pm | Encore Drama Lovers of Music (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R) | Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R) | The Unit (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama | Wed-Thu Drama | |
| 5 : pm | Encore Drama Lovers of Music (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R) | Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R) | The Swan Club (E,R) | Jugglers (E,R) | Black Knight (E,R) | |
| 6 : pm | Encore Drama Lovers of Music (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R) | Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R) | Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R) | Jisook's Table for O' | Hello Counselor (E,R) | | |
| 7 : pm | Gag Concert # 6, 7, 8. | Daily Drama "The Secret of My Love" (E,R) | | | | | Hello Counselor (E,R) | |
| 8 : pm | KBS World News Today | | | | | | | |
| 9 : pm | UHD UNESCO World Heritage Special (E,R) | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | Jugglers Mon-Tue Drama (E,R) | Music Bank (Live) | Happy Together (E,R) | Battle Trip (E,R) | | |
| 10 : pm | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Hello Counselor (E,R) | The Swan Club | The Unit | K-RUSH (E,R) Please Find Her(E,R) Guerilla Date (E,R) | Gag Concert (E) | "The Return of Superman" (E) | |
| 11 : pm | Daily Drama "The Secret of My Love" (E,R) | | | | | Wook'Food Odyssey | Two Days and One Night (E) | |
| 12 : 00 | Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E) | | | | | | | |
| Next Day | KBS 9 News (Live) | | | | | | | |
| 1 : am | KBS 9 News (Live) | | | KBS 9 News (Live) | | KBS 9 News (Live) | | |
| 2 : am | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | Jugglers Mon-Tue Drama (E) | Black Knight Wed-Thu Drama (E) | | My Golden Life Weekend Drama (E) | | | |
| 3 : am | The Swan Club (E,R) | Dragon's Club Overgrown Bromance (E,R) | The Unit Jisook's Table for O' | Happy Together | Music Bank (E,R) | Mon-Tue Drama | Wed-Thu Drama | |
| 4 : am | K-pop World Festival | Encore Drama Lovers of Music (E,R) | | | The Swan Club (E,R) | Jugglers (E,R) | Black Knight (E,R) | |
| 5 : am | Heritage Tomorrow | | | | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | Gag Concert (E,R) | The Return of Superman (E,R) | |
| 6 : am | UHD UNESCO World Heritage | Quiz on Korea 2017 (E,R) | Jisook's Table for O' K-pop World Festival | The Beauty | Dragon's Club Overgrown Bromance (E,R) | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Two Days and One Night (E,R) | |
| 7 : am | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | Gag Concert (E,R) | Immortal Songs 2 (E,R) | The Swan Club (E,R) | K-pop World Festival Global Audition | My Golden Life Weekend Drama (E,R) | | |
| 8 : am | Entertainment Weekly (E,R) | Jugglers Mon-Tue Drama (E,R) | Black Knight Wed-Thu Drama (E,R) | | Lovers of Music (E,R) | The Beauty Guerilla Date (E) | | |
| 9 : am | Hello Counselor | Dragon's Club Over | The Unit | Happy Together | Music Bank | Guerilla Date (E) | | |

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

"TRUTH of DOKDO!"

<<http://www.truthofdokdo.com>>
<<http://www.forthenexgeneration.com>>



NATIONAL PACIFIC INSURANCE LIMITED
"Working with the Community"

TEL: 633-4266 • FAX: 633-2964



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Dump Truck Drivers
- Excavator Operators
- Front End Loaders

Qualifications:

- Hold a current Commercial License
- Read & Understand English
- Willing to work extended hours if needed.

Apply in person at our Fletcher Construction Office in Tafuna.
 Bring your Social Security Card, Immigration ID & Immigration authorization letter for employment, along with any references and copies of current licenses.
 NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

“We are an equal Opportunity Employer”



CORRECTS WANG'S COMPANY TO GAC ENGINEERING INSTITUTE CHINA, NOT GUANGZHOU AUTOMOBILE GROUP - Wang Qiuqing, president of GAC Engineering Institute China, is interviewed at the North American International Auto Show, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018, in Detroit. Chinese automaker GAC Motor says it's on track to enter the U.S. market in the fourth quarter of 2019.
 (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

FOR SALE

2016 TOYOTA TACOMA DOUBLE CAB

- Less than 4,000 miles
 - perfect condition
 - rear view camera
 - bluetooth
- \$28,000**
 Call 258-2100
 Email: contact@mwsrose.com



China's GAC to scrap Trump-sounding brand for US market

DETROIT (AP) — Chinese automaker GAC Motor will scrap the brand name it uses in China when it enters the U.S.

market next year because it could be confused with President Donald Trump's surname.

For the past eight years, GAC has sold cars and SUVs under the brand Trumpchi in its home market, but is now researching new names before the company's expected U.S. debut in the fourth quarter of 2019.

“We want to provide the best service for American customers, so we want to not be closely linked with politics,” Wang Qiuqing, president of GAC Engineering Institute China, said through an interpreter in an interview at the Detroit auto show. “This is the reason we want to rename the brand.”

GAC picked the Chinese name Trumpchi in 2010, well before Trump was elected. The similarity to Trump is just a coincidence, Wang added. GAC will continue to use Trumpchi in China, where the word means legend and good fortune.

GAC's first vehicle in the U.S. will be the GS8, a loaded-out full-size SUV that will cost about \$35,000. Two more vehicles are being researched for U.S. sales, but have not been selected yet.

The company showed seven different of its models on a video and unveiled two more at the Detroit show. One is a gull-wing compact electric SUV called the Enverge, which is still in the concept phase. The automaker says it will go over 370 miles on a single charge. Also unveiled was the GA4 midsize sedan that will go on sale in China later this month.

The GS8 would be comparable to a big luxury SUV, many of which go for more than

\$60,000. Wang said he didn't know what the brand's lowest-price vehicle would be in the U.S.

GAC sold just over 500,000 automobiles in China last year, up 37 percent from 2016.

The company says it is negotiating with partner Fiat Chrysler about possible distribution of vehicles. Wang said GAC is the top-ranked domestic brand for initial quality in China in J.D.Power and Associates surveys, and it ranks fourth or fifth when joint ventures with foreign automakers are included. He says the company's vehicle quality will be ready for U.S. buyers, and it will work with U.S. partners to meet stricter U.S. safety standards.

Chinese automakers are advanced and have expertise in mass production but the American market may not be ready yet to accept GAC, said Jake Fisher, Consumer Reports' director of auto testing.

Other Chinese companies showed vehicles at the CES gadget show in Las Vegas last week such as Byton, which unveiled an electric prototype that's like a Tesla Model X SUV but costs thousands less, Fisher said.

“There will be Chinese automakers at the top of the market and at the bottom of the market, and it will be very interesting to see how they are received,” he said.

GAC already has a research center in Silicon Valley and is working on another one in Detroit, as well as a Los Angeles design center. Initially it will import vehicles from China but depending on sales, plans to build a factory in the U.S.



**AMERIKA SAMOA HUMANITIES COUNCIL
 PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

Two Deadlines are scheduled for this year:

- February 2, 2018
- August 31, 2018

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

FAASILASILAGA FAALAU'ITELE

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

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

- Fepuari 2, 2018
- Aukuso 31, 2018

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

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

► Pacific...

Continued from page 7

mind, there was a change of hearts by the chiefs.”

“So we have opted to banish them instead of demolishing what this family owns, such as burning their homes and damaging everything on their family land.” Vaili said they will formalize their decision on Monday. Yesterday, the Sunday Samoan arrived at Satapuala as the Chiefs and more than 30 untitled men were coming back from the area called the Poloka, where the five suspects, who have been arrested, reside.

Vaili confirmed that one of the family homes of the suspects was burned to the ground. He assured that the Village did not have anything to do with the fire. “As you can see, we just came back from officially informing the family they will be removed from Satapuala,” Vaili said.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

PLANS TO APPEAL MALIETOA RULING IN SAMOA — ONCE AGAIN

There are plans for an appeal after the latest court ruling over who has the right to hold the high Samoan paramount title of Malietoa.

In December, Samoa’s Land and Titles court ruled in favour of the title going to Papalii Faamausili Moli, the son of the late head of state, susuga Malietoa Tanumafili II.

Our correspondent Autagavaia Tipi Autagavaia said it has now been a decade since the death of the last holder of the title because the family remains divided on who should inherit it. Autagavaia said Papalii Faamausili Moli Malietoa was humbled and pleased at the latest court ruling, but it did not look like the end of the matter.

“I heard they are going to file an appeal, but the court, the lower court, has ordered for the family to perform the traditional saofa’i, the traditional bestowal of the title.” (Source: RNZI)

MORE PACIFIC PEOPLE APPEAL TO STAY IN NZ FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

More Pacific people are appealing against deportation from New Zealand on humanitarian health grounds.

Among them are Tongans requiring life saving medical treatment like dialysis. While kidney disease is a common ailment in Tonga, treatment isn’t publicly available there.

Renal specialist in Auckland Dr Viliami Tutone said the number of non-residents from the Pacific he treats was definitely on the rise.

Dr Tutone, who is a Nephrologist, said it was a tough and sad reality. “We do have our fair share at Middlemore of non-residents,” he said. “It is sad really for someone on the frontline to look at these people, young people in terms of needing dialysis who have had to struggle and it is not just a problem with just us but also at every level in terms of preventing it and in terms of current treatment.” Dr Tutone said such patients were

often stressed out trying to meet excessive costs of treatments as well as meet immigration requirements. Immigration lawyer Richard Small said an appeal could be time consuming and took some effort to prepare, which was hard when people were unwell. “The Tribunal looks at exceptional circumstances that would make it unjust or unduly harsh to deport them,” he said. “But it’s weighed up against the public interest, and so this is like for the people who need dialysis or heart surgery.

“The heartbreaking one is dialysis, as you know it is not available in Tonga and other Pacific countries”. He said rulings could also take a toll on large island families. “The people go back quietly, humbly and effectively go back to die in some cases and this is very sad. What is the price of compassion I guess is the question I would ask. “And what are the other contributions that their Kiwi members of the family is making and what is the cost of not having their complete family here?” Meanwhile, efforts are ongoing back in Tonga to get dialysis treatment there.

The president of Tonga’s Dialysis Foundation Siosaia Moehau said they were trying to raise \$US1 million from donors to fund their efforts for a dialysis unit, but it has been tough to get government buy in.

He said they were forging ahead anyway and had started sourcing resources already.

“Well we have been struggling for help trying to establish the dialysis treatment here in Tonga and hopefully soon we should have something solid going on. We have a few machines donated already on its way from Australia that should be here by mid January or by the end of January 2018.”

Mr Moehau said they also wanted to get some land close to the main hospital next year, and hoped to set up home-based dialysis as well as attract staff from Australia and the US.

But Dr Viliami Tutone said it was a decision the Tongan government needed to consider carefully. “I think it hinges very much on the costs of setting up a dialysis unit and not only the cost in itself for getting dialysis but the cost relative to other health services they have to sacrifice to meet the costs of establishing a dialysis unit and also maintenance.”

Background Contributed By Samoa News Last year November, Medicaid Office in American Samoa announced that New Zealand was approved for off-island referral funded by Medicaid — which is part of the Off Island Medical Referral (OIMR) services. The Medicaid program is a reimbursement program and it has a fundamental requirement mandated by federal law, according to Director of the American Samoa Medicaid Office, Tofaitaufa Sandra King Young. (Source: RNZI)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
American Samoa
Department of Health

HEALTH SURVEY 2018

The Department of Human and Social Services and the Department of Health are working together to conduct a very important survey in the community. This entails surveying a selection of adults ages 18 and older from each county. Adults will be selected based upon a random sample of electric meters of households throughout the island.

Representatives in blue will be out to identify electric meters, collect vitals signs and other information that relate to general and mental health.

By taking this survey, you are helping to paint a picture of health for our people.

If you are selected to participate, please help us to address the health needs of American Samoa by consenting to take part in the survey. For more information contact DHSS at 633-1157 or DOH at 633-1602.

Surveyors will be revisiting villages throughout the island



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7. Saving Lives. Protecting People™

Good Morning!



You know it's a good morning when you wake up with everything you need. Find us at a store near you!

Young Hong Kong activists in court to appeal prison terms



Pro-democracy young activist Joshua Wong talks to reporters in front of the Court of Final Appeal in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018. Three young Hong Kong activists, Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow, are making a last-ditch attempt to overturn prison sentences for their roles in sparking 2014's massive pro-democracy protests in the semiautonomous Chinese city.

(AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

requested a sentencing review that resulted in stiffer sentences, raising concerns about rule of law and the independence of Hong Kong's judiciary.

The case underscores wider tensions over Hong Kong's increasingly tense relationship with China's communist leaders in Beijing.

"I hope that for today's verdict the Court of Final Appeal really treasures the motive of people fighting for democracy and fighting for justice as part of the consideration when making any judgments," said Law, 24, who was elected Hong Kong's youngest lawmaker following the protests but then disqualified from office in a government legal challenge.

Wong, speaking on the courthouse steps, estimated he had a 50-50 chance of going back to prison. "However I still believe that when people are united we will not be defeated."

The 21-year-old Wong made world headlines and starred in a Netflix documentary after leading the "Umbrella Movement" protests while still a teenager. The protests, which brought parts of the busy Asian financial hub to a halt over Beijing's plan to restrict elections for top leader, ended without resolution after 11 weeks.

The three were given revised sentences ranging from six to eight months of prison time in last year's ruling, which said there was a need for deterrent after they committed serious offenses by storming a courtyard at government headquarters to kick-off the protest movement in September 2014.

The trio served two months and then were released on bail when they won permission to appeal. They could be sent back to prison immediately if the judges reject their case.

Their legal teams are expected to seek clarification on how much the court should take into account the motive of civil disobedience over the need for deterrence when sentencing protesters.

Wong could end up back in prison anyway. He is due to be sentenced in a separate court case on Wednesday involving contempt charges also related to the 2014 protests.

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title FUATA of the village of AMOULI by MALE F. TIUMALU of the village of AMOULI, county of SAOLE, EASTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title FUATA shall be registered in the name of MALE F. TIUMALU in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: DECEMBER 12, 2017 thru FEBRUARY 12M 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauiina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga leni ua faasalalauina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauiina o le suafa matai o FUATA o le nu'u o AMOULI e FMALE F. TIUMALU o AMOULI faalupega o SAOLE, falelima i SASAE.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai leni fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauiina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o MALE F. TIUMALU e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

12/15/17 & 01/16/18



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2460-18

Issuance Date: January 9, 2018

Closing Date: January 19, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide Towing Vehicles "Truck II" for the Department of Port Administration (ARFF).

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

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

3. BID DOCUMENTS

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

4. CONDITIONS

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

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

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton
DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

HONG KONG (AP) — Three young Hong Kong activists, including Joshua Wong, made a last-ditch attempt Tuesday to overturn prison sentences for their roles in sparking 2014's massive pro-democracy protests in the semiautonomous Chinese city.

Lawyers for Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow were presenting arguments in an appeal hearing at Hong Kong's top court against the sentences of up to eight months.

"Laying down a heavy sentence will have a deterrent effect, but a balance has to be held between a deterrent and stifling young idealistic people," Law's lawyer, Robert Pang, told the judges.

The three were initially let off with suspended or community service sentences after they were convicted of taking part in or inciting an unlawful assembly.

But the case sparked controversy when the justice secretary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email

news.newsroom@samoatelco.com

Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599

Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864

or by Email at news@samoanews.com

Normal business hours are Mon. thru Fri. 8am to 5pm.

Permission to reproduce editorial and/or advertisements, in whole or in part, is required. Please address such requests to the Publisher at the address provided above.





FILE - This is a July 21, 2017 file photo of an Royal Air Force Typhoon fighter jet. Britain's defense ministry said Monday Jan. 15, 2018 that the Royal Air Force scrambled two fighter jets as Russian planes neared U.K. airspace another illustration of ongoing tensions. The RAF has confirmed a "quick reaction alert," deploying Typhoon aircraft from a base in Scotland, but military authorities say nothing has been intercepted.

(Owen Humphreys/PA, File via AP)

UAE says Qatar fighter jets intercept flights, Doha denies

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates claimed Qatari fighter jets intercepted two of its commercial airliners in international airspace on the way to Bahrain, allegations denied by Qatar.

The claims Monday could further escalate tensions between Qatar and the four Arab nations that have been boycotting it for months, among them the UAE, home to the world's busiest international airport. They also could affect long-haul airline travel, as the region's carriers are a crucial link between the East and West.

It follows two complaints by Qatar to the United Nations about Emirati military aircraft allegedly violating its international airspace amid the diplomatic crisis. The UAE denies the allegations. The UAE's state-run WAM news agency made the claim about the Qatari jet fighters on Monday, citing the country's General Civil Aviation Authority. WAM quoted Saif al-Suwaidi, the director-general of the GCAA, as saying the intercepts happened at 10:30 a.m. and 11:05 a.m. He said Bahraini radar, as well as crew and passengers on board, saw the military aircraft, "which constituted a clear and explicit threat to the lives of innocent civilians."

WAM did not identify the aircraft involved, nor did it elaborate on details of the purported encounters. The GCAA did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press.

Bahrain's state-run BNA news agency, citing its own civil aviation authority, identified the two flights as Dubai-based Emirates flight No. EK837, a Boeing 777, and another flown by Abu Dhabi-based Etihad. The flight number it offered for Etihad did not correspond with any scheduled flight to Bahrain.

"Qatari military fighter jets came within two miles of the Emirates aircraft, which put the lives of passengers and crew at risk," BNA said. It offered few details about the Etihad flight.

Both airlines declined to comment when reached by the AP. Qatar's Foreign Ministry called the UAE's allegations a "totally false claim" in a statement Monday night. "It seems that the UAE is trying to draw attention away from other incidents that have caused media crises," it said. That appeared to reference a video released Sunday night of an exiled Qatari ruling family member, once promoted by Saudi Arabia as an alternative to the country's ruling emir, claiming he's being held against his will in the UAE, an allegation denied by Abu Dhabi.

The video of Sheikh Abdullah bin Ali Al Thani recalled the bizarre, now-reversed resignation of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri while on a trip to Saudi Arabia, a Nov. 4 decision

that was widely seen as orchestrated by Riyadh.

Emirates flight No. EK837 was scheduled to depart Dubai at 8:20 a.m. Monday, but pushed off nearly an hour late. It flew out over international waters near the northern tip of Qatar, a peninsular nation that juts into the Persian Gulf, before arriving in the island nation of Bahrain 46 minutes after takeoff. That's been the standard route of all Emirati commercial airliners since the crisis began.

FlightRadar24, a plane-tracking website, did not show any unusual routes between the UAE and Bahrain. "There appears to be no deviation from standard routing and approach patterns in today's flights," FlightRadar24 spokesman Ian Petchenik told the AP.

U.S. Air Force Central Command, which is based at the sprawling al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, did not have any reports of incidents involving commercial aircraft in the region, said Lt. Col. Damien Pickart, an Air Force spokesman. However, Pickart cautioned that U.S. forces don't routinely monitor the flights and operations of the Qatari air force.

Qatar's stock exchange dropped some 2.5 percent in trading Monday, one of its biggest jolts since the crisis began.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE cut off Qatar's land, sea and air routes on June 5 over its alleged support of extremists and close ties with Iran.

Qatar has long denied funding extremists. It recently restored full diplomatic relations with Iran, with which it shares a massive offshore natural gas field that makes the country and its 250,000 citizens extremely wealthy.

The crisis has hurt Qatar Airways, Doha's long-haul carrier that competes with Emirates and Etihad. Qatar had complained to the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization about the boycotting nations cutting off its air routes, forcing the carrier to take longer flights through Iran and Turkey. Its regional feeder flights in Saudi Arabia and the UAE also have been cut off.

However, widening the Gulf dispute to include civilian aviation and airspace could hurt Emirati airlines already stung by President Donald Trump's travel bans, as well as last year's since-lifted ban on laptops in airplane cabins.

The White House said Trump spoke Monday with Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, saying the president reiterated his support for unity among Gulf Arab nations. Trump also thanked Sheikh Tamim for Qatar's "action to counter terrorism and extremism," the White House said.



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)





Meet A Spelling Champ!

The student at the right will represent Afonotele Elem. School in the American Samoa Spelling Bee to be held March 07, 2018. The winner of that Bee will represent American Samoa in the 90th annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held in Washington, D.C.



BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?
Wayne Arvin Aliilua
 What is your school name?
Afonotele Elementary School
 What grade are you in?
Grade 7
 Who is your English Teacher?
Mr. Setefano Umaga
 Who are your parents?
Alapepe Aliilua & Telesia Aliilua
 What village are you from?
Afonotele
 What was your winning word?
PEROXIDE

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.



Marchers take over Civic Center drive for the 12th Annual Martin Luther King Commemorative March in Victorville, Calif., Monday Jan. 15 2018.

(James Quigg/The Daily Press via AP)



On King day, Trump mentioned as much as civil rights leader

ATLANTA (AP) — They had gathered to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr., but many of those who delivered speeches on the national holiday created to honor the slain civil rights leaders focused their remarks on another man: President Donald Trump.

Two of King's children, the pastor of the Atlanta church where King once preached, and the Rev. Al Sharpton were among those on Monday who indicated that the Trump presidency was undermining efforts to ease racial tensions in the U.S. And they sharply criticized disparaging remarks about African countries and Haiti he is said to have made last week.

Trump marked his first Martin Luther King Jr. Day as president buffeted by claims that during the meeting with senators on immigration last Thursday, he questioned why the U.S. is accepting more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa, when it should be welcoming more people from nations like Norway.

Trump has denied saying "anything derogatory" about Haitians, and said he did not use the vulgar language that has been reported. And his weekly address to the nation, released Monday, was dedicated to King.

"Dr. King's dream is our dream, it is the American dream, it's the promise stitched into the fabric of our nation, etched into the hearts of our people and written into the soul of humankind," he said. "It is the dream of a world where people are judged by who they are, not how they look or where they come from."

His words appeared to do little to assuage the anger of pro-Haiti protesters who gathered down the street from the president's Florida retreat — or soften the criticism unleashed from podiums and pulpits across the nation on what would have been King's 89th birthday.

"When a president insists that our nation needs more citizens from white states like Norway, I don't even think we need to spend any time even

talking about what it says and what it is," King's eldest son, Martin Luther III, said Monday in Washington. "We got to find a way to work on this man's heart."

In Atlanta, King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, told hundreds of people who packed the pews of the Ebenezer Baptist Church where her father once preached that they "cannot allow the nations of the world to embrace the words that come from our president as a reflection of the true spirit of America."

"We are one people, one nation, one blood, one destiny. ... All of civilization and humanity originated from the soils of Africa," Bernice King said. "Our collective voice in this hour must always be louder than the one who sometimes does not reflect the legacy of my father." Church pastor the Rev. Raphael Warnock also took issue with Trump's campaign slogan to "Make America Great Again." Warnock said he thinks America "is already great ... in large measure because of Africa and African people."

Down the street Monday from Trump's Mar-a-Lago retreat in Palm Beach, Florida, Haitian protesters and Trump supporters yelled at each other from opposing corners. Trump was staying at the resort for the holiday weekend.

Video posted by WPEC-TV showed several hundred pro-Haiti demonstrators yelling from one side of the street Monday while waving Haitian flags. The Haitians and their supporters shouted "Our country is not a shithole."

The smaller pro-Trump contingent waved American flags and campaign posters and yelled "Trump is making America great again." One man could be seen telling the Haitians to leave the country. Police kept the sides apart.

In New York, the Rev. Al Sharpton and a host of Democratic politicians took aim at Trump in their comments before a crowd of 200 at the National Action Network in Harlem.



Territorial Spelling Bee

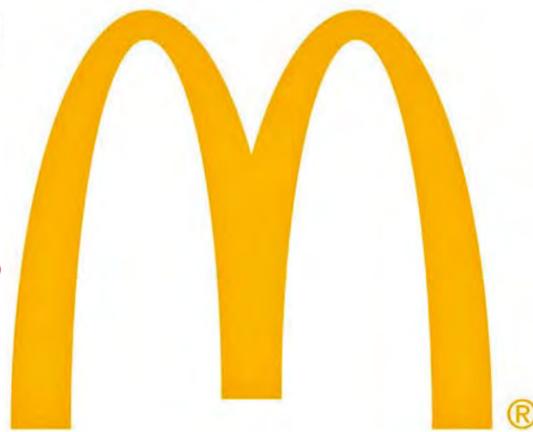
Major Sponsor

McDonald's

in conjunction with



Department of EDUCATION



American Samoa



Meet A Spelling Champ!

The student at the right will represent Alofau Elem. School in the American Samoa Spelling Bee to be held March 07, 2018. The winner of that Bee will represent American Samoa in the 90th annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held in Washington, D.C.



BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

What is your name?
Hardrian Afeleti Asofa'afetai Uili
 What is your school name?
Alofau Elementary School
 What grade are you in?
Grade 5
 Who is your English Teacher?
Crystal Simanu
 Who are your parents?
Gingerly Uili & Oregan Uili
 What village are you from?
Auto
 What was your winning word?
PESTIFEROUS

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.



Territorial Spelling Bee

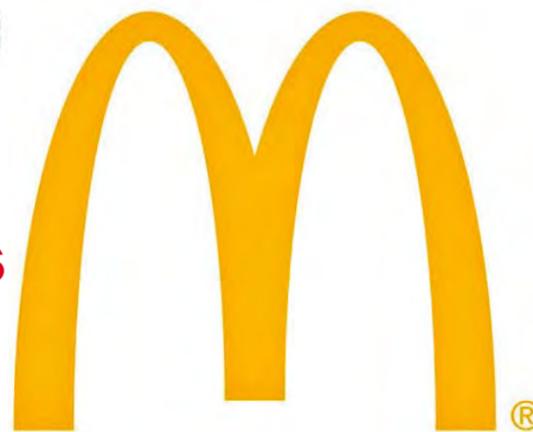
Major Sponsor

McDonald's

in conjunction with



Department of EDUCATION



American Samoa

