

American Samoa Legal Aid now accessible in Manu'a

Page - 2

Brain disease seen in most football players in large report

In Sports

Pili a le kovana e si'i ai tau o totogi i luga o le Uafu

Le Lali



The majority of participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) were all smiles yesterday when they were issued their very first paychecks. The trio pictured at far right are our very own Samoa News interns. Read story for full details. [photo: Sabrina Sinapati]

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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

WEDNESDAY JULY 26, 2017

\$1.00

The wait is over — SYEP paychecks issued

DHR: DELAY WAS DUE TO LATE SUBMISSION OF TIME CARDS

by Blue Chen-Fruen
Samoa News Correspondent

The more than 800 youth who are currently working under the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) this year did not receive paychecks this past Monday, which was government payday. Since then, Samoa News has been bombarded with phone calls and email inquiries from parents wanting to know when their kids are going to get paid.

“We need my daughter’s SYEP check so she can have bus fare and lunch money,” said one mother, who added that they live in a secluded area and her daughter walks — rain or shine — to catch the bus every morning to get to her job site.

When contacted for comments yesterday, Makerita Enesi, Deputy Director of Employment Training for the Department of Human Resources (DHR), which oversees the SYEP, said paychecks for the majority of the summer workers were released yesterday afternoon.

Samoa News understands that the few workers who did not get paid yesterday will most likely receive their checks in a supplemental run set for later this week.

A DHR official explained that the issuance of paychecks is something that they have no control over. She urged parents to be patient and understand that inputting information for 800 people is not an easy task, and there is a routing process that involves paperwork being shuffled through different government entities for review, including approval from directors whose departments employ SYEP
(Continued on page 7)

Medical expert: Public Defender’s Office never paid for her work

SHE ASSISTED IN THE DEFENSE OF A MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER OF HIS WIFE

by Rhonda Annesley, editor

It would seem the financial woes of American Samoa are pervasive — affecting all areas of government, including the Public Defender’s Office. And while a shortage of lawyers is its oft complaint, this time, a complaint is being made against the Public Defender’s Office for not paying the bill of a consultant it used to assist in the defense of a local man who was charged with the murder of his wife.

Samoa News was recently contacted by an off-island medical expert, Tara M Godoy, BSN, RN, LNC, who says the local Public Defender’s Office never paid for her work — to review and report on discovery submitted for the case of Mataupu Mamona, a father that was tried for the murder of his wife that his 9-year-old son claimed he witnessed.

Godoy is a Forensic and Legal Nurse Consultant, who met Douglas Fiaui, who is head of the local PD Office, at a conference in Las Vegas in early 2016, where she had given a presentation on strangulation. She told Samoa News her “areas of expertise include strangulation, blunt force trauma, and general medical record review and analysis.”

She said, “I followed up with Mr. Fiaui after the conference and at that time he indicated he had a case he wanted me to assist him on.

“On October 19, 2016, I was provided discovery on the case and Mr. Fiaui submitted information on my website, including checking a box that acknowledges the following

statement: ‘By checking here, you acknowledge the risks of not receiving the report and agree to pay in full as long as reasonable efforts have been made to ensure delivery.’”

Continued contact happened, Godoy says, and on Dec. 19, 2016, Fiaui requested the invoice be sent right away for payment.

She said, “I gave him my opinions on the case. He requested further work to assist him with his defense.

“On December 29th, we provided the work product he had requested.

“On January 5th, 2017, we contacted him to confirm receipt of the work product and to inquire about the unpaid invoices. He responded with:

“Hi Tara, I am in receipt of the questions. And the two invoices have been submitted.

I will be meeting with several of the doctors and nurses toward the end of next week, and will let you know how things go with the questions.

Thanks”
The Mataupu Mamona case went to trial on January 24th of this year, and according to Godoy, contact with Public Defender Fiaui has not happened since January 5, 2017, despite multiple attempts to reach him by both phone and email.

Godoy has not been paid for her work to date, and said, “We have contacted him at least once a month and at times once a week. When I called, I would reach his staff and they would indicate that they ‘told him to pay it’.”

(Continued on page 7)



Roadside fundraisers are again on the rise as school sports associations, church youth groups, and various organizations take to the roads to raise funds for different activities. These Tafuna High School students were seen in the Nu'uuli area last Saturday, holding up “Car Wash” signs.

Samoa News has received calls from irate drivers asking if this type of fundraising is against the law? It is against the law — has been for about 16 years — and the last time this issue was brought up was in the Senate in 2015, where the same concerns arose. The law prohibits fundraising by anyone standing, dancing, or sitting on the roadside. Fundraising is, however, allowed as long as it's held about 25 feet from the curbside; but there shall be no music.

[photo:THA]





PUBLIC HEARING

This is to inform the public of American Samoa that the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will exercise its powers under American Samoa Code, Sections 16.2002 (12) to implement the following new fees:

Course Administration Fee	\$25.00 per course
300/400 Level Courses	\$175 Tuition Per Credit
300/400 Level Courses	\$8 Technology Fee per credit
Lab Fees	(available at Public Hearing)

The proposed new Fees are scheduled to be implemented Fall 2017.

The proposed new Fees Public Hearing is to take place on Monday, August 7, 2017 – 4:00p.m. Local Time at the ASCC Lecture Hall.

If any organization or individual wishes to have an oral hearing in accordance to American Samoa Code 16.1005, please send your request to the American Samoa Community College President's Office by July 31, 2017:

PO Box 2609, Pago Pago AS 96799, or hand deliver it to the President's Office at American Samoa Community College campus, in the village of Mapusaga.

Respectfully,
Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato
President
American Samoa Community College (ASCC)

“Green substance” in Pago Harbor identified as dye, not toxic

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

Commander for the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Detachment Unit in Pago Pago, Lt. Tanner Stiehl confirmed to Samoa News yesterday that one of the three incidents mentioned by Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga in a July 13th letter to the USCG and AS-EPA involved a product that is not petroleum-based but consistent with dye used in the fishing industry.

Lt. Stiehl said the substance is not toxic, which is one of the concerns voiced by Lolo in his letter stating that on three separate occasions over the span of two weeks, he had seen a green substance floating in the waters of Pago Harbor.

According to the Governor,

other individuals had reported to him that they too had witnessed the same disconcerting substance. Lolo told Lt. Stiehl and AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato that he was bringing the matter to their attention, so they can investigate, “to ensure that the substance is not harmful to the environment or people.”

Lolo said he wanted both ground and marine sources to be investigated properly, and in addition, “I would like to know the source, if it is harmful, how long it lasts in the water; and if it is an approved chemical, if it is being used properly, and if there are alternatives.”

The Governor requested a report on any information on the matter, and urged that an investigation be launched immediately, if one was required.

(Continued on page 9)

American Samoa Legal Aid now accessible in the Manu'a Islands

PAGO PAGO, AS — July 24, 2017 — The American Samoa Legal Aid (ASLA) is happy to announce that it has established four ASLA stations in Faleasao, Fitiuta, Ofu and Olosega — in Manu'a — after receiving a Technology Initiative Grant from the Legal Services Corporation.

The grant funds the Manu'a Islands program — Access to Legal Aid Project — which is to aid low income Manu'a residents to access free civil legal aid services provided by the ASLA Office in Tutuila.

The Manu'a ASLA stations are located at the CCCAS Faleasao Hall (for Faleasao and Ta'u village residents), AOG Fitiuta Minister's Office, CCCAS Ofu Hall and CCCAS Olosega Minister's Office (for Olosega and Sili village residents).

Each of the four Manu'a ASLA stations has a table with chairs, landline telephone, desktop computer with internet service, printer with copier and scanner functions, and an electronic signature pad.

According to ASLA Executive Director Fainu'ulelei L.P.F. Ala'ilima-Utu, Manu'a residents who wish to obtain civil legal services from the ASLA Office at Tutuila should ask the relevant pastor at the Manu'a ASLA station for permission to use the ASLA station to discuss the applicant's civil case with the ASLA Office at Tutuila.

The applicant will sign a sign-up sheet and be required to do an intake with an ASLA paralegal to determine if appli-

cant meets the citizenship, financial and priorities eligibility criteria for ASLA's free civil legal services.

An applicant who is eligible and whose case is accepted by the ASLA Office can use the station to discuss the client's case on Skype with an ASLA attorney or paralegal and if appropriate print, sign, scan, send or receive by email, etc. the client's case documents. This will allow the ASLA client to remain in Manu'a and not be required to expend funds and time to physically travel to the ASLA Office at Tutuila for case interviews and processing of case documents.

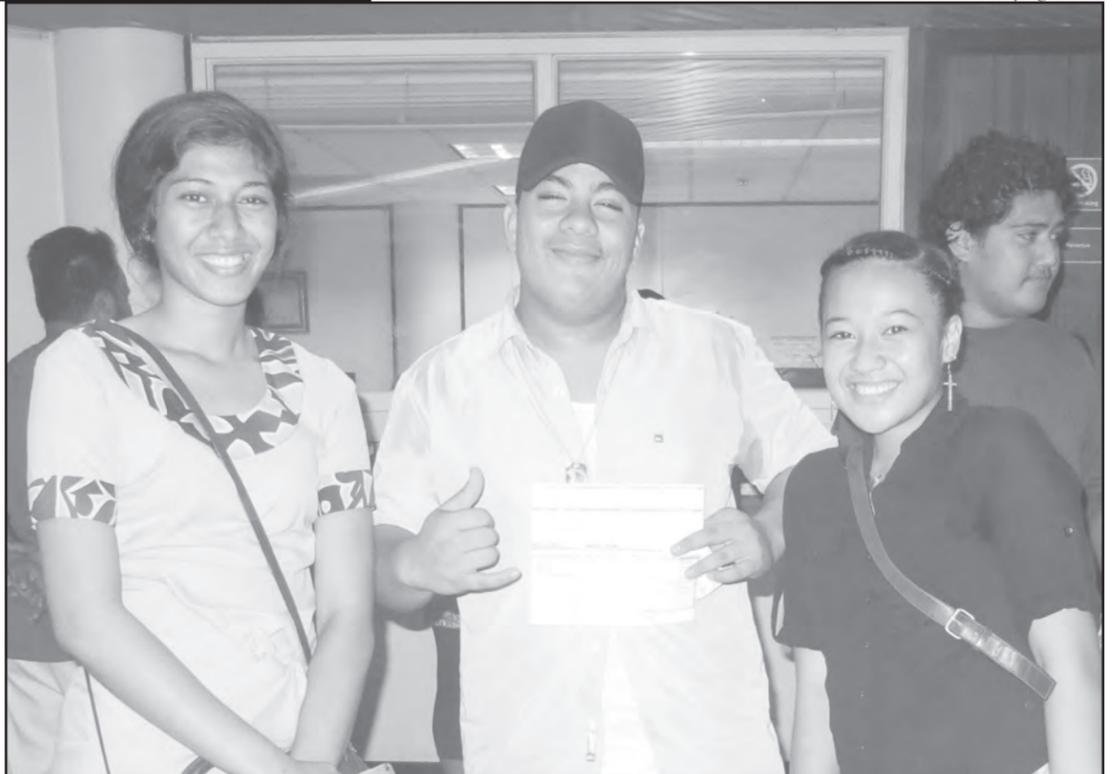
The ASLA stations may be used by Manu'a residents without regard to church affiliation and there is no user fee.

The ASLA TIG grant pays for the internet service fees, telephone service fees, equipment, office space fees, etc. during the grant period. The four pastors have kindly volunteered to oversee each of the Manu'a ASLA stations as part of their ministries.

Further information on the four Manu'a ASLA stations may be obtained from the ASLA Office (telephone no. 633-3300/3301).

On behalf of the ASLA Board of Directors, Fainu'ulelei wishes to express ASLA's gratitude to Rev. Elder Iosefa Autele of the CCCAS Faleasao, Pastor Fred Scanlan of the AOG Fitiuta, Rev. Lamese Fa'afili of the CCCAS Olosega and Rev. Elder Tootoo Seanoa of the CCCAS Ofu and their church

(Continued on page 9)



The majority of workers under the Summer Youth Employment Program were issued paychecks yesterday, while the few who didn't get paid will receive their checks through a supplemental run scheduled for later this week, according to the DHR.

[photo: Sabrina Sinapati]



It was all smiles for these girls who received their first paycheck yesterday, for work under the Summer Youth Employment Program, administered by the Department of Human Resources.

[photo: Sabrina Sinapati]



COURT REPORT...

Translated by Samoa News staff
MOI KERESETA

A 58-year-old man from Faleniu, accused by the government of breaking the glass door of a store, after the storeowner refused to sell him beer because he was already intoxicated, was among the 14 people taken into police custody over the weekend.

Moi Kereseta, aka Mr. Saleka, is charged with two counts of public peace disturbance and third degree property damage — both misdemeanor charges. He appeared Monday before District Court Judge Pro-Temp Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde for his initial appearance and was later released, to await another court hearing set for next month.

It was around 9:35p.m. last Friday that police received a call for assistance “regarding a drunken old man” identified as “Mr. Saleka” of Faleniu.

The defendant, according to court information, was allegedly making unreasonable remarks and yelling profanity towards the storeowner. He also damaged the glass door at the store entrance.

The storeowner told police that the defendant was intoxicated when he entered the store. Although the defendant continuously bothered the storeowner, she didn’t pay him any attention or give him any alcohol despite his demands. This led to Saleka allegedly breaking the glass door at the store’s main entrance, still demanding alcohol. It was a store employee who showed investigators where the defendant lives, which is a house near the store. Both the store owner and the employee know the defendant. When police went to find the defendant, unknown male individuals directed them towards a bushy area near his house, where the defendant was allegedly hiding. Once appre-

hended, court information says police officers detected a strong odor of alcohol on the defendant’s breath.

Upon arrival at the police station, the defendant “was extremely intoxicated and troublesome,” according to court information, which noted that the suspect was “uncooperative and demanded” police to take him back home, and not to prison.

ANOTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE IN COURT

A 52-year-old man, who allegedly threatened to shoot his wife, was arrested last Saturday afternoon and made his initial appearance Monday morning before District Court Judge Pro-Temp Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde, who set bail at \$300.

It’s unclear, as of yesterday, if the defendant has posted bail. If he is able to do so, the defendant — who is charged with one count of private peace disturbance by threatening to harm another person — has been ordered to find another place to live, while his case is pending in court. The defendant is prohibited from making any direct or indirect contact with his wife, or any attempts to threaten her safety. Samoa News is withholding the defendant’s name, in order to protect his wife, the victim in this case.

According to court information, it was around 5 p.m. last Saturday that police received a request for assistance, with the wife telling police that her husband had allegedly threatened to shoot her when he gets home.

Afraid for her life, the victim ran away from home and sought refuge in a church, where police found her. Investigators who approached the victim said she “was in a state of severe fear and paranoia,” and she claimed that her “husband was after her.”

Police were able to locate the

suspect not far from the church.

The husband told police the wife didn’t need to call them and “he did not do anything wrong,” according to court information.

When told to go to the police station, the suspect didn’t cooperate and stated that he needed to see his wife and police officers “don’t have to be involved in their business.”

The suspect was then apprehended and en route to the police station, he allegedly told officers that it’s possible “his wife ran away and hid because he told her that he heard rumors about her having [an] affair” with an unnamed man, according to court information.

At the police station, the victim allegedly told police that she wanted to pursue the complaint against her husband. She also told police that she would “feel unsecured” if the suspect was released to go home. The husband requested a chance to talk to his wife, who replied by saying “no more.”

According to police, the victim had gotten off from work and just arrived home when she asked her children where her husband was, and the children explained that their father left in the morning and hadn’t returned home since. The victim then called her husband and asked where he was, which angered him and resulted in his alleged threat to shoot the victim, who told her children she was leaving the house and then ran away and called police for help.

The victim allegedly told police that this is not the first time this has happened, as it has “occurred several times,” and she is aware that the husband stores a gun in the house. According to police, there was no alcohol involved.

(Original Samoan stories published in today’s Lali section of Samoa News.)



Pago Pago International Airport manager Tavita Fuimaono (left) and Airport Safety Officer, Aluese Te’i (right) taking a break from the FAA Western-Pacific Region 8th Airports Conference, Anaheim Convention Center - Anaheim, California. The conference, under the theme ‘Ascending to the Next Level of Airport Safety, Sustainability, and Efficiency’ was held June 13-17. The American Samoa delegation was led by Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele.

[photo: FAA]



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Pacific Island News in Brief



Congresswoman Amata with Secretary Price and other colleagues in American Samoa last year.

[Courtesy photo]

Compiled by Samoa News staff

AMATA ANNOUNCES CMS CHANGES TO MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

Washington, D.C. — Tuesday, July 25, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata is pleased to announce that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has changed the eligibility levels of Medicaid qualification in American Samoa from 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 400% FPL. The change will be effective on October 1, 2017.

“This is a vital step in ensuring healthcare for all American Samoans. This will allow more people to qualify for Medicaid in American Samoa. After today’s hearing on LBJ we stand committed to improving the healthcare in the Territory, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress on this issue,” stated Amata.

“I would like to thank the Governor for his work with CMS to get this change made. I would also like to thank the Department of Health and Human Services

Secretary Tom Price, and CMS Administrator Seema Verma, and her staff for working with American Samoa and making this change,” concluded Amata.

AMATA AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE HOLD HEARING ON LBJ

Washington, D.C. —Tuesday, JULY 25, 2017 —Congresswoman Aumua Amata and the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Natives held an oversight hearing on the status of LBJ hospital.

The purpose of the hearing was to examine possible avenues of improvement for both the hospital and the people of American Samoa’s access to quality healthcare. “Today’s hearing is the result of nearly two years effort which culminated in the CODEL to the Territory this past February,” stated Amata. “I have never been more encouraged about the possible opportunities before us to improve the lives of the people of American Samoa. This hearing is just the first step in what I hope will result in substantial improvements to healthcare

access on the islands,” continued the Congresswoman.

Specifically, today’s subcommittee hearing focused on numerous issues troubling the hospital including, funding, staff retention, logistics, aging equipment, water quality, and our veteran’s inability to utilize the facility. To facilitate any new hospital, renovation, or construction, the Congresswoman has introduced legislation that partners GAO with DOI, VA, and CMS to perform a feasibility study on the proposal.

Also in attendance was full committee Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah who stated, “Rep. Radewagen has been a continuous advocate for healthcare access and improving care conditions for the people of American Samoa. This important oversight hearing will help the Committee build a record for reform going forward.” “I want to thank Chairman Rob Bishop for his leadership and the members of this subcommittee for their participation in this hearing,” said Amata. “I would like to especially thank Rep. Bruce Wes-

(Continued on page 5)



This undated US Federal Aviation Administration photo shows (l-r) retired FAA Honolulu district manager Ron Simpson; ASG Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele; retired FAA Western-Pacific Region Airports Division manager and FAA Honolulu district lead program manager, Gordon Wong, during the FAA Western-Pacific Region 8th Airports Conference, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California. Taimalelagi led the Port Administration delegation to the June 13-17 conference, where they made a presentation on the local airport, the challenges it faces, and future improvement projects. Taimalelagi told Samoa News over the weekend that she was informed at the conference — themed ‘Ascending to the Next Level of Airport Safety, Sustainability, and Efficiency’ — that the FAA plans to announce in October this year, a “significant” grant funding to be awarded for airport improvements in American Samoa. FAA released last week on its website several photos of conference participants, including the local Port Administration delegation.

[photo: FAA]

► Pacific briefs...

Continued from page 5

terman who does not sit in this subcommittee but took his own time to visit the territory and participate here today.

Finally, I would like to thank Faumuina Taufete'e John Faumuina, CEO of LBJ and Tofoitaufa Sandra King Young, American Samoa Medicaid Director for making the trip to Washington to testify before the subcommittee," concluded Amata.

POLY AIR CONDUCTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL FOR FAGALII AIRPORT

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — July 25, 2017 (SAMOA TIME) — Polynesian Airlines conducted its Emergency Response Drill for Fagalii Airport early yesterday morning. According to Polynesian Airlines' Chief Executive Officer, Seiuli Tupuivao Alvin Tuala, "The whole purpose of this exercise is to gauge the readiness and preparedness of our own staff and those working at Fagalii Airport and key government agencies to respond to an emergency incident that places the lives of people at risk at Fagalii Airport.

"The drill allows us as an Airport Operator to continuously review and improve on our existing procedures and processes to ensure the respondents and support services are properly coordinated to minimize any potential loss of lives or damage to properties when an emergency incident happens inside our airport premises," he added.

The emergency response drill involved the simulation of an aircraft coming in to land at Fagalii Airport's Runway 10 at 9.45am and burst one of its tires on landing resulting in the aircraft veering off the runway and

hitting a perimeter fence causing one of the engines to catch fire on impact. The lead assessor for the Emergency Response Drill was Nanai Junior Saaga, Assistant CEO for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. "My role is to assess the overall execution of Polynesian Airlines' Airport Emergency Plan as documented in their Manual, Part 139 as they are the operator of Fagalii Airport," Nanai explained.

Other assessors included the Police Commissioner, Su'a Fuiavailili Egon Keil, CEO for Red Cross, Namulauulu Tautala Mauala and Assistant CEO for FESA, Tanuvasa Petone Mauga, who all assisted in assessing the coordination of the responses from the Fire and Emergency Services, National Health Services, Police and Red Cross. "We are extremely grateful to all the government agencies from the Police Officers, FESA Officers, Medical Doctors and Nurses from the National

Health Services and Ministry of Health, staff from MWTI and Red Cross who participated in the exercise and for making themselves available from their busy schedules to assess and share their expertise and knowledge on how we can improve our procedures and processes in order to respond effectively to emergency incidents.

"We are also grateful for the assistance and support provided by the Village of Fagalii, especially their Mayor, Samau Lokeni Ieru, the untitled men of Fagalii and the taxi drivers from Fagalii Airport Taxi Stand, employees of government agencies and other businesses working at Fagalii Airport and most importantly to our valued customers for their understanding and patience with the slight delays to their flights while Fagalii Airport was closed for aircraft operations during the exercise," Seiuli stated.

[Source: polynesianairlines.ws]



Congresswoman Amata with witnesses Tofoitaufa Sandra King Young, head of the local Medicaid office and Faumuina Taufete'e John Faumuina, CEO of LBJ Medical Center at an oversight hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Natives. Its focus: the status of the LBJ hospital. [Courtesy photo]

4-H STEM CAMP **"Learn by Doing"**



Date: August 7-10, 2017

Time: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Venue: ASCC ACNR Division

Ages: 8-12

Registration: July 26 - August 2, 2017

Contact: ASCC 4-H office (699-1575...ext 236/242)

Nellie Fuimaono (fuinellie@yahoo.com), Marcella Maugalei (daisysamoa@yahoo.com), Ali'imau Petaia (mau.petaia@gmail.com), Molly Lagai (mlagai@yahoo.com).

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

HCPR NO. 22-17

In the Matter of the Estate of SAVALI SAVALI, JR.,

By: LELEIGA E. SAVALI, Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition for letters of administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Territory of American Samoa by LELEIGA E. SAVALI for the Estate of SAVALI SAVALI JR. Who died intestate on October 15, 2016.

A hearing on this petition will be held on August 28, 2017 at 9:00am before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All heirs of SAVALI SAVALI, JR. and interested parties may appear before the court on said date to respond to the petitioner.

Dated: 7-12-17

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 7/20, 7/21, 7/28/17



A look at a fundraiser held in front of the Samoana High School gymnasium in Utulei last Saturday. Roadside fundraisers are becoming a common occurrence once again in the territory, as organizations and groups gather on the roadside to get money being thrown from passing vehicles. Concerned residents have shared their frustration with Samoa News, with some expressing worry that the practice can result in someone being seriously hurt. There is a law prohibiting anyone from standing, dancing or sitting on the roadside for fundraising. However, fundraising is permitted as long as there is no music in the background, and participants are at least 25 feet from the curbside. It should be noted that the ban is rarely enforced. [photo:THA]



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"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6





POLY AIR CONDUCTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL FOR FAGALII AIRPORT

[courtesy photo]

▶ The wait is over...

Continued from page 1

participants.

“There will be times when we encounter delays,” she said, adding that for the most part, delays come about when time cards for the SYEP workers are not received on time.

“By the time their time sheets are submitted, payroll has already been prepared and sent,” she continued.

Enesi told Samoa News that the majority of the SYEP workers were issued checks yesterday.

This includes the more than 60 SYEP participants working in Ta’u and Olosega, in the Manu’a Islands, whose checks are disbursed at the main Executive Office Building there.

The youth employment program officially opened Monday morning, June 26 and the last day for the workers is next Friday, August 4th.

Enesi said the opportunity for young workers to gain on-the-job training and skills is priceless.

She said once the program

closes, the majority of the workers will return to school in the fall, but some will have taken that first step into securing gainful employment where they are working as interns, particularly those who are interning with companies in the private sector.

“This is something that’s very good for them,” Enesi said, referring to the SYEP workers.

This year, the SYEP is employing the highest number of workers since the program was launched.

What started off as a program to help young people learn new skills in the working world has grown from 100-150 participants back in 2013, to 800 this year, in over 60 worksites within the government and the private sector in both Tutuila and the Manu’a island group.

According to the fiscal year 2017 budget, a total of \$250,000 is allocated for the SYEP, under the Special Programs budget category which is administered by the Governor’s Office.

▶ Medical expert Public...

Continued from page 1

Efforts by Samoa News to reach Fiaui for comment about the unpaid consultancy bill and the affect this has on his office’s resources have remained unsuccessful.

Samoa News should point out that the Mamona was not found guilty for the murder of his wife, however, he was convicted of first degree assault, public peace disturbance, and false reporting. He was sentenced in April of this year.

BACKGROUND

The Mamona case went to a jury trial that began on Jan. 24, 2017 on which Samoa News reported extensively. Mamona

was facing charges of second-degree murder, assault in the first degree, making false reports, and two counts of private peace disturbance.

The police initially ruled the case — the death of Mamona’s wife — an attempted suicide and the family proceeded with the funeral.

However, new information surfaced afterwards, which led to the arrest of Mamona in April of last year. The new information involved the testimony of Mamona’s nine-year old son, who said he saw his father allegedly ‘kill’ his mother, by tying a rope around her neck.



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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Division/ Department	Support Services/Procurement	Posting Date	July 21, 2017
Position Title	PROCUREMENT SUPERVISOR	Deadline	4:00PM; July 28, 2017
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation	Compensation	\$45,512 - \$49,284 per year
Reports To	Procurement Manager	Position Status	M/1/A - M/3/A; Exempt

*Note: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications & experience

Major Duties & Responsibilities

Incumbent will support the Procurement manager in the delivery of a strategy to coordinate best purchasing practices and maximize benefits to the company. Incumbent will also be assisting Procurement Manager in the oversight of the contracts & leases, right-of-way functions as well as maintaining archives. Incumbent has supervisory responsibility for the Procurement team which is to manage the allocation of duties to team members to ensure that all deadlines are met in accordance with agreed service levels. Directly reports to Procurement Manager.

Minimum Requirements

Education	Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and/or related field. ASPA reserves the right to consider years of equivalent experience in lieu of the educational requirement.
Experience	Three (3) years of relevant work experience in procurement. Minimum of three years of Supervisory experience required.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<p>Must have knowledge of procurement rules, concepts, principles and practices. Must be computer literate and competent in using standard office software; be highly organized with the ability to manage multiple demands and deliver results on time and within budget; have excellent verbal and written communication skills as well as accounting and budget control skills.</p> <p>Must be familiar with sourcing and vendor management.</p> <p>Must have an interest in market dynamics along with business sense.</p> <p>Must have a knack for negotiating and networking.</p> <p>Must have an ability to gather and analyze data and work with figures.</p> <p>Must have solid judgment with ability to make good decisions.</p> <p>Must have strong leadership abilities.</p> <p>Must be honest and follow clear procurement rules, policies and guidelines.</p> <p>To provide procurement support for all areas and specific allocated budget/commodity areas. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaking mini competitions using existing frameworks conducting low value tenders and requests for quotation taking into account whole life costing, sustainability and ethical purchasing category management contract managing existing framework including account management promote good procurement practice supporting requesters in allocated budget areas identify and deliver efficiency savings and improved contractual arrangements To supervise the purchase order processing activity: check validity of requests to purchase, obtaining any additional necessary paperwork and manage any non-compliance requests liaise with requesters/departmental contacts to ensure timely resolution of queries liaise with Accounts Payable to resolve supplier payment issues handle complaints To provide support in all Archives, Right-of-Way (ROW) as well as Contracts & Leases functions provide status reports to Procurement Manager on an agreed basis Perform other related duties as assigned by the Procurement Manager

Qualified applicants Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA Tafuna by the deadline listed above. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary. No phone inquiries accepted

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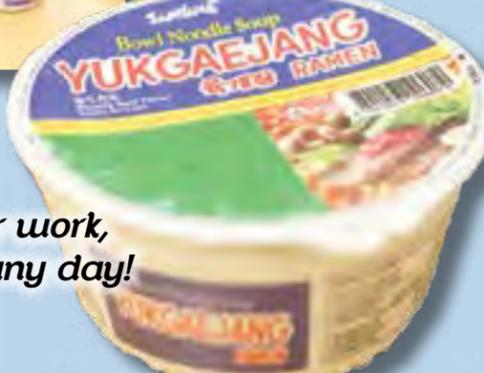
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Top Vatican official faces Australian court on sex charges

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The most senior Vatican official ever charged in the Catholic Church sex abuse crisis made his first court appearance in Australia on Wednesday in a scandal that has stunned the Holy See and threatened to tarnish the pope's image as a crusader against abusive clergy.

Cardinal George Pell, Australia's highest-ranking Catholic and Pope Francis' top financial adviser, has maintained his innocence since he was charged last month with sexually abusing multiple people years ago in his Australian home state of Victoria. The details of the allegations against the 76-year-old cardinal have yet to be released to the public, though police have described the charges as "historical" sexual assault offenses — meaning crimes that occurred years ago.

Pell entered the small courtroom dressed in a black suit,

face devoid of expression as he took a seat behind his legal team. He said nothing during the brief hearing, which dealt largely with administrative matters. Though he has not yet entered a plea, his lawyer, Robert Richter, told the court that Pell planned to formally plead not guilty at a future court date.

"For the avoidance of doubt and because of the interest, I might indicate that Cardinal Pell pleads not guilty to all charges and will maintain the presumed innocence that he has," Richter told the court.

The hearing lasted just minutes and was remarkably routine. Yet the image of one of the most powerful men in the Catholic Church standing before a cramped courtroom overflowing with journalists and spectators was anything but.

With its pedestrian setting of bland white-and-wood-paneled walls and grey carpet, the Melbourne Magistrates' Court could scarcely have been further in both geography and atmosphere from the ornate and hallowed halls of the Vatican. Though many clerics have faced allegations of sex abuse in recent years, Pell is by far the highest-ranking church official ever charged, and his case has rocked the Vatican.

Pell entered the courthouse flanked by Victoria state police, and received a smattering of applause from several members of a local parish who attended the hearing to support the cardinal. To them, Pell has been preemptively and unfairly condemned before the facts of the case are known.

"We're coming here open-minded — we'd like to hear the facts," said Trevor Atkinson, who has met Pell previously. "It's really a matter of giving him a fair go."

To others, the appearance in court of one of the church's most esteemed officials was a long overdue acknowledgement of the suffering felt by so many victims of clergy abuse.

Julie Cameron of Melbourne stood outside the courthouse holding a painting of Mary cradling an infant Jesus — an image she said was symbolic of the church's duty to protect children.

"This is where the actual Catholic Church has to go through renewal," Cameron said. "It has to acknowledge the crimes that were committed on children."

As Pell left the courthouse, a dozen officers from the Victoria state police force formed a protective circle around him, pushing their way through a media scrum as protesters and supporters shouted at the cardinal.

"We love you Cardinal Pell!" one woman yelled, while another screamed: "You were supposed to protect the children!"



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Etena Fou Church in Las Vegas, Nevada opened their very first A'oga Samoa to all the Samoans in the area, and it has been very successful. Tama Ailao and Doris Tofaeono along with Samuelu Tialavea head the program. Pictured is the church group with some of the youngsters participating in the A'oga Samoa.

[courtesy photo]

▶ AS legal aid...

Continued from page 2

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ASLA acknowledges the support of the Legal Services Corporation, Governor's Office, Hon. Misaalefua Hudson, Hon. Fetui Fetu, Hon. Faufano Autele, HC Te'i Taufasee, HTC Ale Tifi, American Samoa Telecommunications Authority, Department of Port Administration, Department of Commerce and the American Samoa Power Authority.

Finally, Fainu'ulelei credits the ASLA Board of Directors, attorneys and staff for their commitment to eliminating and reducing barriers to justice for American Samoa's residents.

▶ Green substance...

Continued from page 2

According to Lt. Stiehl, the USCG has confirmed that one of the three incidents referred to by the Governor involved a dye used for fishing, but he couldn't speak on the other two incidents, for which the AS-EPA

was taking the lead.

Samoa News understands the AS-EPA did collect water samples but no update could be obtained from them as of press time yesterday.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



Beverley Hastie, left, and Karen Baxter hold a sign supporting Cardinal George Pell outside Melbourne Magistrates' Court Wednesday, July 26, 2017. The most senior Vatican official ever charged in the Catholic Church sex abuse crisis made his first court appearance in a scandal that has stunned the Holy See and threatened to tarnish the pope's image as a crusader against abusive clergy.

(AP Photo/Kristen Gelineau)

Authorities warn virtual kidnapping scams are on the rise

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The caller who rang Valerie Sobel's cellphone had a horrifying message: "We have Simone's finger. Do you want to see the rest of her in a body bag?"

Then came the sound of her daughter, screaming in terror.

"She called me Mom (and said) 'I'm terrified, please help,'" Sobel recalled.

In the hours that followed, the kidnapers talked her into wiring \$4,000 for ransom. Only later did she find out there had been no kidnapping. It was a scam.

"I was in bad shape for days," she said.

On Tuesday, police and federal agents warned that so-called virtual kidnappings are on the rise, and dozens of people already have found themselves terrorized into giving money to con artists.

Los Angeles police alone have received more than 250 reports of such crimes in the past two years, and people have wired more than \$100,000, said Capt. William Hayes, who commands the Robbery Homicide Division.

By comparison, actual kidnappings for ransom are rare. Los Angeles police typically receive 10 to 15 cases a year, including kidnappings performed by other family members and acquaintances, Hayes said.

In the fake kidnappings, the callers demand that the victims remain on the phone so they don't have a chance to call their loved ones, officials said.

"If you get a phone call like this, immediately hang up," Hayes said. "Contact that loved one."

The FBI began investigating a spurt of cases in 2013. A multiagency probe dubbed Operation Hotel Tango identified at least 80 people in several states who had received such calls, although not all sent money, said Gene Kowel, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's criminal division in Los Angeles.

However, many of the crimes go unreported, he said. "It's fair to say there have been thousands of calls made to U.S. victims, primarily from Mexico," he said.

Last week, a Texas woman became the first person in the nation to be indicted in connection with a virtual kidnapping scheme. Yanette Rodriguez Acosta, 34, of Houston is charged with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to launder money. She is facing up to 20 years in prison for each of 10 counts if convicted.

The indictment alleges that Acosta and her partners used Mexican telephone numbers to call people in Texas, California and Idaho. They allegedly fooled people into giving them tens of thousands of dollars either through money drops or wire transfers.

In some cases, the scammers choose area codes and make cold calls, hoping to catch an unsuspecting victim, officials said. In others, the crooks may use social media to obtain names of children and other facts that can be used to frighten specific victims.

In Sobel's case, she believes the phony kidnapers obtained her daughter's voice, perhaps from her voicemail, and then altered it. "I was convinced that this was real," she said.

Fear for a child's safety can override skepticism, authorities said.

Even Los Angeles Police Department Sgt. O.C. Smith was victimized. Smith said he received a cellphone call about two years ago while driving on a freeway.

"There was a woman ... screaming 'Daddy, Daddy help me. I'm in a van being taken somewhere,'" Smith said.

Although he didn't recognize the voice, Smith said he couldn't take the risk that it was his daughter. The callers threatened to "put a bullet in the back of her head" if he didn't pay a ransom, Smith said.

He talked the phony kidnapers' ransom demands down from \$1 million to a mere \$350, although in the end he never paid. While on the phone with them, he managed to flag down Torrance, California, police officers who were able to call and verify that his children were safe at school.



Celgene Corp. to pay \$280M to settle cancer drug fraud suit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Celgene Corp. has agreed to pay \$280 million to settle a whistleblower lawsuit alleging the pharmaceutical company committed fraud promoting a drug with a notorious history that was re-purposed to treat leprosy and another therapy for unapproved cancer treatments, federal prosecutors announced Tuesday.

The agreement settled a lawsuit in Los Angeles federal court by a former Celgene saleswoman who said the New Jersey-based company submitted false claims to Medicare and health care programs in 28 states and Washington, D.C., which were all parties to the settlement.

"Patients deserve to know their doctors are prescribing drugs that are likely to provide effective treatment, rather than drugs marketed aggressively by pharmaceutical companies," said Acting U.S. Attorney Sandra R. Brown.

The lawsuit filed by Beverly Brown was brought on behalf of the U.S. government under a federal whistleblower law. She could receive as much as \$84 million as her share of the settlement.

Celgene denied wrongdoing and settled to avoid uncertainty, distraction and expensive litigation, the company said in a statement.

Brown was an "immunology specialist" trained by Celgene to promote Thalomid and Revlimid drugs for cancer treatments that had not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the lawsuit said.

Thalomid, another name for thalidomide, a drug prescribed for morning sickness in the 1950s and 1960s that caused severe birth defects, was approved by the agency in 1998 for treating leprosy.

Because Thalomid would only be useful to a fraction of the few hundred leprosy cases diagnosed in the U.S. each year, the company developed a plan to promote the drug for cancer, the lawsuit said.

Doctors can prescribe drugs for other purposes if they think they will be effective, and the company marketed the drug

directly to them to treat blood cancers and tumors, the lawsuit said.

The FDA contacted Celgene and sent letters warning about its promotional efforts and for failing to warn about potential fatal risks from the toxic drugs, the lawsuit said.

"Their use in off-label indications was tantamount to human experimentation," Brown's lawyers wrote in one court filing.

"Celgene compounded this by instructing its sales representatives to conceal the drugs' risks, including most notably the potential for lethal blood clots."

While Thalomid and Revlimid, a successor derived from thalidomide, were later approved for limited cancer treatments, their widespread promotion in advance of approvals led Celgene "from the verge of extinction to the multi-billion company it is today," the lawsuit said.

In one of its annual reports, the company said in 1999 that 90 percent of Thalomid prescriptions were for cancer and the drug earned more than \$100 million a year in sales through 2005, when it earned approximately \$389 million, the lawsuit said. Revlimid brought in more than \$1.7 billion in 2008 and 2009, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit also claimed Celgene used false and misleading statements and paid kickbacks to doctors to prescribe the drugs.

A judge threw out the kickbacks allegation last year, but allowed the lawsuit to proceed.

Under the False Claims Act, Brown can receive 25 percent to 30 percent of the settlement. She would have been eligible for a smaller share if the government had intervened to take over the case.

In 2012, a former banker earned \$104 million — the largest individual government whistleblower award — for helping expose a widespread tax evasion scheme by the Swiss banking behemoth UBS AG. For Brown, who brought the case in 2010 after leaving the company, it was a long and, at times, emotional experience, attorney Thomas Bienert said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Access to Capital Business Workshop

The Department of Commerce and Development Bank of American Samoa are co-hosting the "Access to Capital Business Workshop." The purpose of the workshop is to promote awareness of the various business financing programs available in the Territory. It will be held at the

Governor Rex E. Lee Auditorium

from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on

Thursday, July 27, 2017.

Interested entrepreneurs and existing businesses in the following sectors are encouraged to attend:

Healthcare, Manufacturing, Fisheries, Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Technology, and Tourism.

Those who do not fall within these sectors are still encouraged to attend the workshop as this will be a great opportunity to meet other like-minded entrepreneurs and business people, learn more about resources, and meet with organizations currently operating in the finance industry in the territory.



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- * High school degree; additional certification in Office Management is a plus

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US Navy fires warning shots near Iran ship in Persian Gulf

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A U.S. Navy patrol boat fired warning shots Tuesday near an Iranian vessel that American sailors said came dangerously close to them during a tense encounter in the Persian Gulf, the first such incident to happen under President Donald Trump. Iran's hard-line Revolutionary Guard later blamed the American ship for provoking the situation.

The encounter involving the USS Thunderbolt, a Cyclone-class patrol ship based in Bahrain as part of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, is the latest confrontation between Iranian vessels and American warships. It comes as Trump already has threatened to renegotiate the nuclear deal struck by his predecessor and after his administration previously put Iran "on notice" over its ballistic missile tests.

The Thunderbolt was taking part in an exercise with American and other coalition vessels in international waters when the Iranian patrol boat approached it, 5th Fleet spokesman Lt. Ian McConnaughey said. The Iranian ship did not respond to radio calls, flares and horn blasts as it came within 150 yards (137 meters) of the Thunderbolt, forcing the U.S. sailors aboard to fire the warning shots,

McConnaughey said.

"After the warning shots were fired, the Iranian vessel halted its unsafe approach," the lieutenant said in a statement, adding that the Iranian vessel created "a risk for collision." Large ships can't stop immediately on the water, meaning getting close to each other risks a collision.

Video released by the Navy included a sailor giving a position off the eastern coast of Kuwait as the Iranian vessel sat directly in front of an American warship's bow. Another video included images of the Iranian ship off the Thunderbolt as its horn blared. The sound of machine gun fire followed.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard instead blamed the Thunderbolt for the incident in a statement, saying the American vessel moved toward one of its patrol boats. It said the Thunderbolt fired into the air "with the intention to provoke and create fear."

Iran and the U.S. frequently have tense naval encounters in the Persian Gulf, nearly all involving the Revolutionary Guard, a separate force from Iran's military that answers only to the country's supreme leader. The last one to involve warning shots happened in January

near the end of then-President Barack Obama's term, when the USS Mahan fired shots toward Iranian fast attack boats as they neared the destroyer in the Strait of Hormuz.

The U.S. Navy recorded 35 instances of what it describes as "unsafe and/or unprofessional" interactions with Iranian forces in 2016, compared to 23 in 2015. Some analysts believe the incidents at sea are meant in part to squeeze moderate President Hassan Rouhani's administration after the 2015 nuclear deal, like hard-liners' arrests of dual nationals.

Of the incidents at sea last year, the worst involved Iranian forces capturing and holding overnight 10 U.S. sailors who strayed into the Islamic Republic's territorial waters. It became a propaganda coup for Iran's hard-liners, as Iranian state television repeatedly aired footage of the Americans on their knees, their hands on their heads.

Iranian forces view the American presence in the Gulf as a provocation by itself. They in turn have accused the U.S. Navy of unprofessional behavior, especially in the Strait of Hormuz, the mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a third of all oil trade by sea passes.



FILE - In this Feb. 11, 2016 file photo, members of the Iranian Basij paramilitary force reenact the January 2016 capture of U.S. sailors by the Revolutionary Guard in the Persian Gulf, in a rally commemorating the 37th anniversary of Islamic Revolution, in Tehran, Iran. Mohsen Dehnavi, an Iranian cancer researcher who was denied entry to the U.S. previously headed a student branch of a volunteer paramilitary militia, footage aired on state television Thursday, July 13, 2017, showed. In comments to the channel at the Tehran airport, he defended his travel to the United States as solely intended for science and research.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi, File)

Man accused of smuggling king cobras in potato chip cans

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man was arrested on federal smuggling charges Tuesday after customs officers intercepted a shipment with three live king cobras hidden inside potato chip canisters that were being mailed to his California home, U.S. prosecutors said.

Rodrigo Franco, 34, was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday afternoon in Los Angeles on a charge of illegally importing merchandise. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

The three king cobra snakes — each about two feet (just over half a meter) long — were found in March when Customs and Border Protection officers inspected a package that was mailed from Hong Kong, prosecutors said. There were also three albino Chinese soft-shelled turtles in the package, authorities said.

Federal agents removed the cobras but delivered the turtles to Franco's home in Monterey Park.

The agents later served a search warrant there and found tanks with a live baby Morelet's crocodile, alligator snapping turtles, a common snapping turtle, and five diamond back terrapins. Prosecutors say all of the reptiles are protected under U.S. law.

Franco admitted to an agent from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that he had previously received 20 king cobras in two other shipments, but he said they all died in transit, according to court documents.

Federal agents also searched Franco's phone and found that he exchanged messages with an individual in Asia about shipping turtles and snakes between Hong Kong and the U.S., prosecutors said. Franco said in those messages that he had previously received live cobras and planned to give five of the snakes to a relative of the contact in Virginia, court papers said.

If convicted, Franco faces up to 20 years in prison.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: August 8, 2017
Issuance Date: July 24, 2017 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

"Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling (Re-bid)"

Submission An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP NO. ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Tuesday, August 8, 2017:

Procurement Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

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 package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA's New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Power Authority 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 Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director



Kurdish official says US role essential in post-IS Syria

KOBANI, Syria (AP) — The Kurdish-led effort to secure Raqqa once it is liberated from the Islamic State group will require long-term U.S. political and financial support for the battered city’s governance and reconstruction, a senior Syrian Kurdish official said Tuesday.

In an interview with The Associated Press in the Kurdish-administered town of Kobani, Ilham Ahmed said the U.S. role in the fight against IS must not end with the liberation of the Raqqa but should continue as a guarantor of stability until a political future for the war-torn country is charted.

Ahmed is the co-president of the Syrian Democratic Council, the political wing of the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led force currently fighting to liberate the Islamic State group’s self-proclaimed capital of Raqqa from the militants. She is also a senior politician in the increasingly powerful Kurdish group that declared areas of self-administration in northern Syria last year, sparking the ire of Turkey, another U.S. ally.

Ankara considers the People’s Protection Units, or YPG, the Kurdish militia that forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces, as linked to the outlawed Kurdish insurgency in Turkey and fears their expansion along its borders.

“If the Americans want to protect the security of these areas and protect their (own) country from terrorism, they must continue until a democratic system is built in Syria,” Ahmed said. She said the U.S. should recognize that the crisis in Syria is not only about defeating IS but also about building a democratic system that protects against radical groups taking over again.

Kurdish forces have gained confidence in light of open U.S. support to their forces, particularly as the battle for Raqqa took off. Despite Turkish protests, the U.S. sent new weapons and vehicles to the YPG to enable it in the fight against IS.

The U.S. has up to 1,000 troops in Syria mostly involved in training and advising the local forces against IS. The U.S. administration has made clear it does not intend to be engaged in post-liberation governance or rebuilding. U.S. officials say once Raqqa is liberated, the SDF will hand over local governance to the Raqqa Civilian Council, a local group of pri-

marily Arab locals who will govern and administer essential services.

“Raqqa has been subjected to destruction of its infrastructure,” said Ahmed, highlighting the beating the city has taken in the effort to retake it from IS.

“There are no more institutions. (Raqqa) is destroyed. This council has to be supported to reconstruct and to secure the daily needs of its residents so they can remain in their homes without having to migrate.”

When asked when US forces currently offering advice and training to the Kurdish-led troops in the battle will leave, Ahmed said she did not know, but added that they must continue to have a role until the contours of a future Syria take shape.

She said the Kurdish-led efforts to establish civil administrations in areas liberated from IS will offer “a model” for other areas in Syria, by allowing local groups to elect civil councils to administer themselves.

Raqqa, a predominantly Sunni Arab city, was the first city in Syria to be controlled by the IS militants, who declared it their de-facto capital in 2014. The Kurdish-led effort to form a new administration could inflame tribal and Arab sensitivities.

Ahmed said the current Raqqa council will be re-formulated once the city is liberated to include tribal notables not represented yet because they are still under IS control.

Ahmed said her group’s effort needs U.S. political and financial support for the reconstruction of Raqqa but also for the legitimacy of her group’s effort in creating the new political structure.

Ahmed’s group has been campaigning for a federal system in Syria, arguing it will ensure representation and autonomy for ethnic and religious groups. She said Syria’s Kurds, long ostracized before the war, can no longer be ignored in any future serious negotiations over the country’s future.

The campaign for Raqqa city began on June 6, with swift advances from the east and west. But two weeks later, the campaign stalled amid stiff resistance from IS militants. Ahmed said it is normal for the campaign to slow down “as the battle nears its end.”



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Wild New Zealand rabbits surf on sheep to escape floodwaters

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Three wild rabbits managed to escape rising floodwaters in New Zealand by clambering aboard a flock of sheep and surfing to safety on their woolly backs.

Sixty-four-year-old Ferg Horne says he’s been farming

since he left school at age 15 and has never seen anything quite like it. He was trudging through pelting rain to rescue a neighbor’s sheep from the floodwaters on Saturday at their South Island farm near Dunedin when he spotted the bedraggled rabbits hitching a ride.

He says he herded the sheep to higher ground. The rabbits clung on for a while, but as the sheep jumped through the water, they fell off. Horne says the rabbits then managed to climb a nearby hedge to safety.

He says all the sheep — and rabbits — survived.



In this image made from July 22, 2017, video, two rabbits sit on the back of sheep as they avoid rising flood waters on a farm near Dunedin, New Zealand. Three wild rabbits managed to escape rising floodwaters in New Zealand by clambering aboard a flock of sheep and surfing to safety on their woolly backs.

(Ferg Horn via AP)



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FILE - This April 7, 1998 file photo shows capsules of the drug thalidomide at the Celgene Corp. in Warren, N.J., printed with a symbol warning pregnant or soon-to-be pregnant women against use of the drug that had caused thousands of infant deformities. Celgene has agreed to pay \$280 million to settle a federal lawsuit alleging it committed fraud by promoting a drug for leprosy and another therapy for unapproved cancer treatments, federal prosecutors announced Tuesday, July 25, 2017.

(AP Photo/Mike Derer, File)

California knocks Trump as it extends climate change effort

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Gov. Jerry Brown and his predecessor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, stood side by side Tuesday to cheer the extension of one of the most ambitious programs in the U.S. to reduce fossil fuel pollution, while condemning President Donald Trump's failure to see climate change as a deadly threat.

Schwarzenegger, a Republican, joined Brown, a Democrat, for a sunny outdoor ceremony overlooking San Francisco where the governor signed legislation to extend a program limiting emissions of climate-changing carbons that both have urged the world to emulate. Within view of the city's skyscrapers on Treasure Island, a man-made low-lying island threatened by rising seas from climate change, the signing was full of open rebukes for President Donald Trump, who withdrew the United States from the global Paris accord to cut carbon emissions.

"America is fully in the Paris agreement. There's only one man that dropped out," Schwarzenegger said of Trump on Tuesday. "America did not drop out." Schwarzenegger also pointed to the bipartisan support that lawmakers in the Democratic-dominated Legislature gave to extending the cap-and-trade program by 10 years.

"This is a very important message. A message that we have a functional government in California where Democrats and Republicans work together," he said.

The program puts a limit on carbon emissions and requires polluters to obtain permits to release greenhouse gases. It had been due to expire in 2020.

Both governors have hailed the cap and trade as a successful way to reduce emissions that hasn't taken the steam out of the economy of the nation's most populous state.

Brown repeatedly evoked the darkest of scenarios Tuesday, calling the rapidly changing climate from the pollution of coal, gas and other fossil fuels second only to nuclear programs as a

global threat.

"If we don't do something about it, it is the end of the world," Brown said.

Cap and trade "is an absolute requirement for the survival and the world," he later told reporters.

The signing follows a frenetic push by Brown and his legislative allies to craft a plan that businesses and environmentalists would find acceptable.

In the end, the extension was supported by a wide range of groups that said it's the most cost-effective way to combat climate change. But it met fierce opposition from environmental justice groups that said it's riddled with giveaways to the oil industry, including too many free pollution permits.

Some Republicans and anti-tax activists said it would lead to higher prices for food and energy. "Gov. Brown and his cadre of climate change extremists won't be happy until California leads the nation in wind, solar and poverty," Republican state Sen. Ted Gaines said in a statement Tuesday.

Brown's ceremony echoed one in the same spot 11 years ago, when Schwarzenegger signed the measure that authorized environmental regulators to create the cap-and-trade program. Schwarzenegger pointed to support from eight Republican lawmakers, saying they have shown that the GOP can get behind free-market solutions to climate change.

That measure required the state to reduce its carbon emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 — a target the state is on track to meet. Legislation approved last year set a new, much more aggressive goal to reduce emissions another 40 percent by 2030. Under the program, some permits to pollute are given away while others are auctioned, generating billions of dollars in revenue for the state.

The money is a key funding source for programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as a planned high-speed train between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

2 hurricanes roar in Pacific far off Mexico coast

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two hurricanes and a tropical storm are moving through the Pacific Ocean off Mexico late Tuesday, but forecasters say they do not pose an immediate threat to land.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center says Hurricane Hilary is a Category 2 storm with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph (165 kph). Its center is about 475 miles (765 kilo-

meters) south of the southern tip of Baja California, and it is heading west-northwest at 12 mph (19 kph).

It is expected to remain a hurricane for the next two days.

Former Tropical Storm Irwin grew into a hurricane with winds of 90 mph (150 kph). It too is headed away from land.

No coastal warnings or watches were in effect Tuesday.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2411-17

Issuance Date: July 18, 2017

Closing Date: July 27, 2017

No later than 10:00am (local time)

1. **INVITATION**

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide "SCHOOL BUSES" for the DOE-ECE.

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), **Thursday, July 27, 2017** 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

Rights groups ask Duterte to retract threat to bomb schools

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Human rights groups asked the Philippine president Wednesday to retract a threat to order airstrikes against tribal schools he accused of teaching students to become communist rebels, warning such an attack would constitute a war crime.

U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said international humanitarian law “prohibits attacks on schools and other civilian structures unless they are being used for military purposes,” adding that deliberate attacks on civilians, including students and teachers, “is also a war crime.”

Left-wing Rep. Emmi de Jesus of the Gabriela Women’s Party asked Duterte to retract the threat, saying government troops may use it as a pretext to attack indigenous, or Lumad, schools and communities in the country’s south which have come under threat from pro-military militias in recent years.

Angered by recent communist rebel attacks on government forces, including a road gunbattle last week that wounded five members of his elite presidential guards, Duterte has called off peace talks with the Maoist guerrillas and threatened their perceived sympathizers.

In a televised news conference he called late Monday shortly after delivering his annual state of the nation

address, Duterte condemned the insurgents for destroying bridges and torching schools in the countryside but said the insurgents were sparing Lumad schools which he alleged were operating under rebel control without government permits.

“Get out of there, I’m telling the Lumads now. I’ll have those bombed, including your structures,” the president said. “I will use the armed forces, the Philippine air force. I’ll really have those bombed ... because you are operating illegally and you are teaching the children to rebel against government.”

“By calling for an attack on schools, Duterte is directing the military to commit war crimes,” Carlos Conde of the Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

Conde urged Duterte to sign a 2015 international political statement, the Safe Schools Declaration, that commits government to support the protection of students, teachers and schools in times of armed conflict. Duterte ascended to the presidency last year after campaigning on his extra-tough approach on crime as a prosecutor and later as mayor of southern Davao city. He has remained popular despite thousands of deaths in his nationwide anti-drug crackdown, and his continuing popularity and the ineffective opposition have apparently emboldened him.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte poses for selfies with stock traders during his visit for the first time at the Philippine Stocks Exchange to mark the 10th anniversary of the stock listing of Phoenix Petroleum at the financial district of Makati city east of Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, July 11, 2017. Duterte said a disastrous siege by Islamic State group-aligned gunmen on a southern city of Marawi may end in 10 to 15 days but the threat posed by the brutal group will continue to plague the country. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

‘Wonder Woman 2’ sets December 2019 release date

LOS ANGELES (AP) — “Wonder Woman 2” is set to storm theaters on Dec. 13, 2019.

Warner Bros. announced the date late Tuesday.

“Wonder Woman” star Gal Gadot is set to reprise her role as Diana of Themyscira. But a director has yet to be set. Patty Jenkins is still in negotiations for the job.

Jenkins’ “Wonder Woman” is still chugging along at the box office, with over \$389.7 million from North American theaters. It recently surpassed “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” to become the top domestic earner of the summer movie season and the second-highest of the year, behind “Beauty and the Beast.”



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- KETCHUP 64oz - \$3.75/pc
- KIKKOMAN 5oz - \$1.10/bot
- KIKKOMAN 10oz - \$1.70/bot
- KIKKOMAN 15oz - \$2.35/bot
- KIKKOMAN 20oz - \$2.95/bot
- KIKKOMAN 1.25qt - \$4.60/bot
- KIKKOMAN 2qt - \$5.99/bot
- KIKKOMAN 1gal - \$11.50/bot
- KIKKOMAN 1gal - \$12.50/can
- KIKKOMAN 5gal - \$41.75/bl
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- FULL CREAM MILK - \$14.99/cs
- REAL FRESH ILK - \$16.99/cs
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The atrium area of the EOB in Utulei was jammed packed yesterday afternoon after participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program were notified that their paychecks were ready for pick-up. [photo: Sabrina Sinapati]



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Blind Aboriginal musician dies in Australia aged 46

SYDNEY (AP) — A blind Aboriginal musician renowned for singing in his native Yolngu language with a heart-rending voice and a unique guitar-playing style has died, his recording label said Wednesday. He was 46.

Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, whose is now referred to by local media as Dr. G. Yunupingu because of cultural sensitivities among northern Australian Aborigines around naming the dead, died Tuesday after a long illness in a Darwin Hospital, west of his ancestral country known as Arnhem Land, Darwin-based Skinnyfish Music said in a statement.

“Yunupingu is remembered today as one of the most important figures in Australian music history, blind from birth and emerging from the remote Galiwin’ku community on Elcho Island off the coast of Arnhem Land to sell over half a million copies of his albums across the world, singing in his native Yolngu language,” the statement said.

His debut album “Gurrumul” released in 2008 hit triple platinum in Australia, silver in Britain and topped charts in other countries.

He released another two top-five studio albums — “Rrakala” and “The Gospel Album” — and performed around the world for audiences including former President Barack Obama and Queen Elizabeth II.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull tweeted that Yunupingu was “a remarkable Australian sharing Yolngu language with the world through music.”

