ASG-FEMA pre-registration begins today for Tafuna Village only.

DON’T FORGET TO WATCH!

This morning, a Must See: The live broadcast of the 24th annual Samoa News Territorial Spelling Bee — major sponsor McDonald’s American Samoa — and the Department of Education. It will be on KVZK TV Channel 2.

There are 31 spellers this year from public and private schools vying for the chance to represent American Samoa at the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. Good Luck To All.
UPDATE GITA: ASG-FEMA pre-registration begins today for Tafuna—all its subdivisions

by Fili Sagapolutele

The pre-registration of residents' homes will be completed by Mar. 12th. Tafuna is one of the most affected areas, to be completed by Mar. 12th. Tafuna is one of the areas that was "most affected" by the storm in "terms of the number of homes" that were either destroyed or damaged.

The EOC post-storm briefing over the weekend included a map of specific areas with homes that were labeled destroyed or suffered major damage.

An incident status summary report from the briefing shows that a total of 206 individual home structures were destroyed—based on the more than 1,400 homes assessed during the first assessment, carried out two days after the storm.

After pre-registration for Tafuna, the next village will be Nu'ualu followed by other villages that have already been identified by the government, according to the EOC weekend post-storm briefing.

EOC will release the next area for pre-registration including the locations and time.

Tuimavave, who is also the director of the ASG Office of Public Information, noted that the joint preliminary assessment with the feds is already completed and a second ASG assessment carried out last week, was to be completed this week.

However, he said everyone whose homes were affected by the storm would have to register again in order to file a claim for federal assistance. And the process starts with pre-registration, where the person will be given a list of all the required documents needed when it comes time for the actual registration to file federal claims.

Also during pre-registration, a person is given a ticket number. For example—Fagaima 001—and the person needs to bring this number at the actual time of registration. EOC will announce the designated time and date of registration, there is still a chance to register at a later date.

“During pre-registration, we ask that you please use your name that’s on your identification card, don’t use a nickname, because it will be hard to trace you,” said Tuimavave, who also asked that people use a valid/ correct telephone number.

ID cards include drivers and passports.

Tuimavave, along with a FEMA official, gave a briefing of the pre-registration process and other information to village mayors during a meeting at the Office of Samoan Affairs’ conference room this past Monday.

Village mayors will be working closely with ASG task force teams assigned to each pre-registration location. They will also communicate out to villages information pertaining to pre-registration and when it’s advertised.

ASG officials are also making the rounds at broadcast stations on island to keep the public updated on post-storm activities.

“The key to success for this whole operation, is communication and that the public understands the sequence of events and how the actual implementation of the registration moves forward,” said Tuimavave.

And while the government and FEMA are collaborating to fine tune all the plans for rolling out the registration process for federal assistance, we ask the public to be patient as we roll out these plans,” he continued.

As for the private sector—local businesses and nonprofit organizations, which suffered losses due to the storm—Tuimavave said they would also be given the same opportunity to register for federal aid.

“Everyone will be afforded the same opportunity to register to be able to file a claim,” he explained.

FEMA is expected to announce in the coming days, the location of the Disaster Recovery Center, where people can begin the registration process to file their claims.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Asco Motors is a subsidiary of Toyota Tausho South Pacific Holdings and is the only authorized dealer and distributor of Toyota and Yamaha in American Samoa. When you join Asco Motors, you will become part of a global company that promotes a family friendly environment and seeks to achieve world-class standards in all areas of our business. Asco Motors markets quality products and services with franchises that include Toyota, Yamaha and Aus.

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

• Establishing and maintaining quality relationships with customers
• Demonstration of correct product knowledge to win car sales as per monthly targets
• Perform the sales process in compliance with standard operating procedures
• Deliver exceptional levels of customer service to customers
• Provide feedbacks and follow up with customers to ensure sales targets are achieved

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Previous sales experience would be an advantage
• Tertiary qualification in either sales, management or marketing is desirable
• Have a positive attitude and genuine commitment towards the role
• Works well in a fast-moving, team-based, customer focused environment
• Clean and current Driving License
• Proven capability as a team player

APPLY TODAY

Applications close on 16 March 2018

Interested persons meeting the above criteria can submit their written applications with CV via Email or visit our Asco Motors branch to apply in person.

Email: Kapil Samy <KSamy@asco.as>

Asco Motors
Pago Pago 633-4281 • Tafuna 699-4771

MEANINGLESS, FCC GRANTS LICENSE FOR HAWAII CABLE TO LAND AND OPERATE IN AM SAMOA

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoan News Correspondent

Fiji-based Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Limited (ATH), has established a U.S holding company that will take over Bluesky Communications’ assets in American Samoa, according to the company’s latest filing with the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which has yet to rule on ATH’s petition to acquire Bluesky licenses.

On the other hand, FCC has granted the license for the Hawaii Submarine Cable LP to land and operate a new undersea fiber optic in US locations, including American Samoa.

ATH AND BLUESKY

Early last year, the FCC sought public comments on the “applications filed for the transfer of control” of AST Telecom LLC dba Bluesky, American Samoa Hawaii Cable LLC (ASH-Cable), and Samoa American Samoa Cable LLC, from Spain-based Amper S.A. to ATH and requested a declaratory rule on foreign ownership. FCC online records show no public comments received during the comment period.

The applications also state that once the acquisition is completed, and approved by federal authorities, a new US holding company or U.S. HoldCo—will be formed to take over Bluesky’s assets in American Samoa.

As of yesterday morning, FCC public records show that no decision has been made on the petition. However, a Washington D.C. based law firm representing the applicants, filed last month a supplemental letter to the original petition regarding the formation of a US holding company.

According to the Feb. 8, 2018 letter, ATH has formed a wholly owned U.S.-incorporated holding company that will purchase the entire issued and outstanding member interests of AST.

The letter also confirms the FCC about a new foreign carrier affiliated with ATH, which last year acquired 100% of shares of Telecom Vanuatu Limited. Neither ATH nor Telecom Vanuatu owns or controls a cable landing station in Vanuatu.

“Upon consummation of the proposed transaction, the Bluesky Licensees will also become affiliated with Telecom Vanuatu,” the letter says.

In March, 2017, the US Department of Justice and the US Department of Homeland Security requested, and the FCC complied, to defer action on the petition, pending completion of the two agencies’ national security and law enforcement review.

As of yesterday morning, there’s been no new update from the two federal agencies on whether or not their review is completed.

(Continued on page 9)
Science Says: Arctic not so chill this record warm winter

By SETH BORENSTEIN, AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Winter at the top of the world is wimping out this year.

The Arctic just finished its warmest winter on record. And sea ice hit record lows for this time of year, with plenty of open water where ocean water normally freezes into thick sheets of ice, new U.S. weather data show.

Scientists say what’s happening is unprecedented, part of Earth’s warming and a vicious cycle that likely plays a role in strong, icy storms in Europe and the U.S. Northeast.

“It’s just crazy, crazy stuff,” said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, who has been studying the Arctic since 1982. “These heat waves, I’ve never seen anything like this.”

It’s been so unusually warm that the land weather station closest to the North Pole — at the tip of Greenland — spent more than 60 hours above freezing in February. Before this year, scientists had seen the temperature there rise above freezing in February only twice before, and only ever so briefly.

Last month’s record-hot temperatures at Cape Morris Jesup have been more like those in May, said Ruth Mottram, a climate scientist at the Danish Meteorological Institute.

But it’s more than that one place. Across the Arctic Circle...

(Continued on page 9)
Man on ‘ihad’ admits to killing 4 in cross-country binge

File - In this Jan. 20, 2016, file photo, Ali Muhammad Brown, of Seattle, appears before Superior Court Judge Ronald Wigler in Newark, N.J. The prosecutor, Assistant Essex County Prosecutor Samir Wigler in Newark, N.J., in June 2014, as Tevlin sat in his car at a traffic light in West Orange, N.J., a former Seattle resident who was the first person charged with terrorism connected to a hurricane under a New Jersey state law, pleaded guilty to multiple counts including murder, felony murder, robbery and terrorism.

By DAVID PORTER, Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A man who said he was on an “ihad” to avenge U.S. policy in the Middle East made a surprise guilty plea Tuesday to killing a college student in New Jersey and confessed to killing three other people in Washington state in a crime binge that took investigators weeks to connect.

Ali Muhammad Brown, a 34-year-old former Seattle resident admitted shooting 19-year-old Brendan Tevlin in late June 2014 as Tevlin sat at a traffic light in West Orange, N.J., a few miles from Newark.

He also took responsibility for fatally shooting Dwone Anderson-Young, 23, and Shermar Saeed, 19, late March and early April 2014 in Seattle, and a 19-year-old college student in West Orange a few weeks after he killed Tevlin.

In his statement to the court, Brown apologized to the alleged victim in this case — who was among the defendant and set aside the forfeiture of his bond. Fiaui explained that his office failed to communicate with Fiaui about his hearing — a mistake, he said, was unfair for Fiaui to be punished for the PD office’s mistake.

According to Fiaui, Deputy Public Defender, Michael White appeared on his behalf during Fiaui’s last hearing in December 2017, and that’s how the miscommunication came about.

Prosecutor Woodrow Penegi simply said the government has no objection to the defense’s requests.

Kruse had a lot of questions for the defendant.

The Chief Justice wanted to know where Fiaui lives, what he does for a living, who posted his bond, and who is the mate of his family.

Fiaui told the court he’s from Malaualii, where he was served with the bench warrant and transferred to the High Court, where he was served with the warrant and transferred to the TCP.

When his case was called on Monday, Fiaui was present in handcuffs.

His attorney, Public Defender Douglas Fiaui asked the court to quash the warrant for Fiaui, and to reinstate his posted bond.

The defendant is now ordered to appear in court when his case is set for May 4.

Eyewitnesses told police Fiaui was at a night club on the night of the Super Bowl game and at some point, there was a confrontation between Fiaui and a female — the alleged victim in this case — which caused the defendant to become angry, walk outside to his vehicle, grab a gun, and allegedly fire shots into the air.

Eyewitnesses further told police that the defendant allegedly kept firing the gun into the air from inside his vehicle as he drove off.

LAFAELE SEFO

A man who was arrested and taken into custody during the weekend after he failed to appear in court when his case was called has been given bail approved by Chief Justice Michael Kruse to comply with other conditions of his release on bond.

Lafaele Sefo, who is charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance, to wit: methamphetamine was scheduled to appear in court last Friday for a pretrial conference hearing. One of the conditions of his release on a $5,000 surety bond was to appear in court every time his case is called.

Last Friday, Sefo failed to appear in court and Kruse then ordered a bench warrant to be issued for his arrest, and he was to be remanded to custody without bail, his bond forfeited.

At around 2:00 p.m., Sefo showed up at the High Court, where he served with the bench warrant and transferred to the TCP. When his case was called on Monday, Sefo was present in handcuffs.

His attorney, Public Defender Douglas Fiaui asked the court to quash the warrant for Sefo, and to reinstate his posted bond.

The defendant is now ordered to appear in court when his case is set for May 4.

State schools Superintendent Steve Paine said in a statement he was “pleased that our students, teachers and service personnel are returning to schools this week. His preliminary conference is set for May 4.

A huge crowd of teachers packed into the Capitol, jumped up and down, chanted “We love our kids!” and sang John Denver’s “Take Me Home, Country Roads.” Teachers chanted during a striking teacher rally as hundreds of thousands of them converged on the Capitol to request a 5 percent raise, ending a nine-day strike that ended with teachers cheering, singing and wept joyfully Tuesday as striking teachers cheered, sang and danced.

The school district announced earlier this week. His preliminary conference is set for May 4.

A huge crowd of teachers packed into the Capitol, jumped up and down, chanted “We love our kids!” and sang John Denver’s “Take Me Home, Country Roads.” Teachers chanted during a striking teacher rally as hundreds of thousands of them converged on the Capitol to request a 5 percent raise, ending a nine-day strike that ended with teachers cheering, singing and wept joyfully Tuesday as striking teachers cheered, sang and danced.

The school district announced earlier this week. His preliminary conference is set for May 4.

A huge crowd of teachers packed into the Capitol, jumped up and down, chanted “We love our kids!” and sang John Denver’s “Take Me Home, Country Roads.” Teachers chanted during a striking teacher rally as hundreds of thousands of them converged on the Capitol to request a 5 percent raise, ending a nine-day strike that ended with teachers cheering, singing and wept joyfully Tuesday as striking teachers cheered, sang and danced.

The school district announced earlier this week. His preliminary conference is set for May 4.
ASCC Phi Theta Kappa inducts new members for Spring 2018

ASCC student Monalisa Afoa (center) celebrates being inducted into the ASCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society last week. Afoa is pictured with ASCC faculty member Elisaepata Faualafi Jones and Maria Perofeta.

by James Kneubuhl

ASCC Press Officer

The Alpha Epsilon Mu Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) held its spring 2018 induction ceremony on February 27th to induct 17 new members. In addition to family and friends of the new and current PTK members, ASCC administrators presented included President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi, ASCC Dean of Admissions Letupu Moananu, Dean of Student Services Galea‘i Scanlan, Dean of Academics Affairs Letupu Muananu, and Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilie Le‘ai. For each induction, the PTK invites a distinguished member of the community to give special remarks, and at this semester’s ceremony, former PTK member and current ASCC mathematics instructor Amete Mulipola-Moefiainu provided the keynote speech.

A fall 2007 graduate of ASCC, Mulipola-Moefiainu went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Texas A&M University in 2009, followed by her Masters of Education in Teaching and Learning from Argosy University, Hawaii. She joined the ASCC faculty in January 2014, and now serves as Acting Chairperson of the Mathematics Department.

Mulipola-Moefiainu reminisced about her own experiences as a PTK member, shared a number of anecdotes on the importance of leadership, and offered a quote from Pastor John Hagee, “The measure of a man’s greatness is not the number of servants he has, but the number of people he has served.” Following the keynote speech, the new inductees performed the ceremonial lighting of candles representing the mythical Greek “flame of knowledge,” following their recitation of the oath to uphold the values of the organization, PTK President Olivia Aitsano’e congratulated them on becoming fully-fledged members.

PTK recognizes and encourages excellence in scholarship among associate degree students. The Greek words Phi Theta Kappa mean wisdom (Phi), aspiration (Theta) and purity (Kappa). The society bases its programs on its four hallmarks: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. The society provides more than $35 million worth of scholarships annually to students nationwide. Each member is automatically nominated for inclusion in the prestigious National Dean’s List, and is also enrolled in the PTK Transfer Database, which links senior institutions across the nation offering scholarships to PTK members.

PTK recruiting at ASCC begins during registration week and continues into the second week of the semester, during which time applications are available to all students. Applicants who have a GPA of 3.5 or better move on to the interview process, where head advisor Kuki Tutasopo and advisor Ernie Seiuli then determine their eligibility. Once the advisors choose prospective members from among the interviewees, a formal letter is issued to each successful applicant informing them of their acceptance into the society.

The spring 2018 Inductees are Aftimusso Nimoari, Alex-andra Letuli, Casidhe Mahuka, Celine Paleatasi, Dougnelia Ah-Mai Letuli, Hillary Oliver, Jessie Veredene Halefaina, Lomalialagi Chie Tualili, Meleosauti Lualua, Miline Lolesio, Monalisa Afoa, Osuna Esickia, Puline Hardy, Precious C. Ameperosa, Quendolyun Eseroma, Taeomaitaaga Voight and Utasafia J. Tilo.

Current PTK Members include Olivia Aitsano’e (President), Vaotupu Tufele (Vice President), Anastasia Vaitele (Treasurer), Francine Iopu (Secretary), Louavisa La’ulu (PR Secretary), Faamao Asafo, Faasiu Faalata, Genesis Lagai, Veava’a Mareko, Rima Lafaele, Jinging Jiang, Anastasia Magalo, Theresa Lafaele, Loretta Liu, Kystrone Lin, Eysha Samatua, Magalita Johnson and Amy Thrain.

For more information about the nationwide activities of Phi Theta Kappa, visit their website at: www.ptk.org

ASCC student Utaifeau J. Tilo celebrates with his family after being inducted last week into the ASCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

SAMOA NEWS, Wednesday, March 7, 2018 # Page 5
Amata Chairs joint hearing examining broadband access

Washington, D.C. – Tuesday, March 6, 2018 - Chairman Aumua Amata presided over a joint hearing of both the Small Business Subcommittee on Health and Technology, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade, which is led by Chairman Rod Blum of Iowa, as Members examined broadband access in rural and remote locations.

“American Samoa needs better telecommunications and internet connectivity, and Cyclone Gita showed the serious need for better infrastructure and services,” said Aumua Amata. “Communities with smaller populations in remote areas often depend on area providers of internet services, where the major nationwide providers haven’t invested. It’s important that people have the affordable access they need to use these services. We need to take every opportunity to reduce barriers, and take steps to sustain and improve these much-needed services.”

The hearing was titled, “Disconnected: Rural Broadband and the Business Case for Small Carriers.” Specifically, the hearing examined the digital divide between urban and rural carriers, and the disparities between the large carriers and the small carriers.

“Expanding broadband access in American Samoa and the insular territories is a priority,” continued Chairman Amata. “We know that deploying broadband in rural and higher-cost areas cannot be built solely on the shoulders of small carriers, but must be a functional and bilateral partnership with large carriers and responsible regulatory bodies. As plans evolve, it is our duty to ensure that all people have access to robust, speedy wireless internet and telecommunications services at reasonable costs.”

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Erin Fitzgerald, Regulatory Counsel, for the Rural Wireless Association, Inc.; Mr. Tim Donovan, Senior Vice President, Legislative Affairs, for the Competitive Carriers Association; Mr. Paul Carliner, Co-Founder, Blosurf, LLC; and Mr. Derrick Owens, Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs, for the Rural Broadband Association.

Today’s joint hearing of the Subcommittee on Health and Technology, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade will focus on challenges facing small internet service providers deploying broadband to rural, high-cost areas. This hearing expands upon past conversations started in Committee and recently continued with a hearing led by Chairman Blum a few short weeks ago.

This topic is of particular significance to the people of American Samoa as our telecommunications and internet connectivity is severely lacking, especially in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Gita. As our world becomes increasingly dependent on a robust telecommunications service and wireless internet, the lack of it in places like American Samoa and rural America becomes even more glaring. These high-cost areas depend upon the indus- trials and commitment to deploying robust, accessible broadband by small, rural, and regional internet service providers. However, challenges facing these carriers in obtaining adequate financing and competing against large, nationwide carriers significantly impede forward progress, further exacerbating the disparities between urban and rural communities.

Having this connectivity is critical, not only to stimu- lating economic growth, but also to ensure a basic level of con- nectivity for our citizens, such as the ability to place a call to loved ones and first responders in the event of an emergency or disaster. As we begin to examine the current state of America’s infrastructure and take steps to improve our Nation’s highways and buildings, we need to ensure that broadband is at the front and center of all infrastructure discussions.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Trucks for Manu’a &amp; Aunu’u</td>
<td>$6,580.00</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagatogo Playground</td>
<td>$27,109.13</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multipurpose Trades Building</td>
<td>$1,283.66</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Acquisition HOME Partnership</td>
<td>$1,283.66</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Vans for Manu’a</td>
<td>$13,402.00</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manu’a HS Greenhouse</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matatula Greenhouse</td>
<td>$7,000.00</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pago Pago Harbor Boardwalk</td>
<td>$205,405.32</td>
<td>Existing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$500,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In accordance with the American Samoa Government citizen participation plan the public is invited to comment during normal business hours for 30-days following the date of publication at the Department of Commerce, located on the 2nd floor of the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei. Comments must be submitted in writing to Lina Petaia-Suisala, CDBG Manager. As a result of damages caused by Cyclone Gita and President Trump’s disaster declaration, ASG has requested a waiver of the 30-day comment period noted above. Should HUD approve the waiver, the comment period for this notice will be 7 days from the date of this publication. If HUD does not approve the waiver, the comment period will be the 30-day comment period noted above.

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

PERMANENT RESIDENTS TOUTED

The proposal by the government for Samoan seasonal workers to be eligible for permanent residency under the New Zealand (NZ) Seasonal Employment (SE) scheme was last week on the table for future bilateral talks.

The issue was raised by Prime Minister Apulu Mesiata and Deputy Prime Minister Vaovasa Samoana winston Peters in Apia this week.

And Prime Minister Tuilaepa today during his weekly media program with Taimi male Palaima and Talasamu.com remains confident that Wellington will consider the merits of the request from Apia.

The SE employers are singing praises for our Samoan workers.

“One worker is trustworthy, skilful, dependable and have proven themselves capable of performing up to the expectations of the SE employer,” said the Prime Minister.

“Samoa is also the first country from the 9 participating Pacific Islands in the SE program to appoint a Resident RSE Coordinator to live in Auckland.

“This is to ensure that our workers do not compromise the SE program by misbehaving and to ensure that we follow the RSE guidelines and regulations to the letter.”

On that note, Government is also playing the hands on role by initiating a pre-departure program for our workers to be well equipped when they do take upon their seasonal employment.”

The pre-departure programs include training in budgeting and wise spending of their hard earned wages.

There is also a health check requirement for all workers to undertake.

And the village councils are also playing a role through MOUs signed with government in a partnership to protect the integrity of Seasonal Workers program for their villages to obey the RSE policies and regulations.

“The RSE as I have said time and again it’s a win win situation and has contributed millions into New Zealand’s economy. And it is providing a valuable source of income for our people to build new homes, start new businesses and even purchase vehicles and other home appliances for their families.”

Some have also invested their wages in providing education for their children.

The Prime Minister also noted that the success of the NZ Seasonal Workers may have also prompted the Australians for follow suit, for example.

“And I have been assured that there will be a pay raise for SE workers including Samoans,” he added.

All in all, the Prime Minister is mindful that when it comes to the SE employment, there is a delicate and political issue but he remains optimistic that there is hope for Samoa’s request.

The SE employers agree with Prime Minister Tuilaepa that it’s not a new issue when it comes to bilateral talks between the two countries.

“It’s not a new issue,” she reported.

“We are very mindful that there are two competing interests here and we are trying to balance them.

“There is the Seasonal Works scheme very much to ensure that there is a returning work force and with the quota that is about opportunities and making sure that there are decent jobs available.

“We’re keeping those separate because we are trying to balance the two programs,” said the New Zealand Government leader.

This is the 11th year for Samoa to be included in the New Zealand Recognized Seasonal Works Employment scheme.

It provides temporary employment for Samoa’s 8 other Pacific Islanders to work in New Zealand to help with horticulture and viticulture industries.

Samoans started with a little over 600 workers in their first year.

That number has now skyrocketed to over 1,600.

(Source: Samoa Press Secretary)

VAILIMA BEER BOUND FOR UNITED STATES MARKET

Samoan Breweries Limited has announced a major breakthrough in its export effort with Vailima — the world.

Vailima Beer will soon be available in the United States.

This follows an agreement signed between the Samoa Breweries Limited and the United States based importation and distribution company, Fore Drinks L.L.C.

The “taste of Samoa” is the first of many export shipments on its way to the West Coast of the U.S.A. and will become available in Hawaii, California and Washington States.

National Sales Manager, Aumua George Avia, told reporters that this is an exciting time for the company to enter the U.S. market. “It’s all about taking the brand that belongs to Samoa which is Vailima we are going to take this to our new market, U.S.A.”

Aumua said, “The strategy behind this was to create a mechanism for our workers and we did this with humble ness and meekness as well.

“We know certainly that there’s a lot of Samoans who used to live here in Samoa and in American Samoa that have to the RSE employment, this is about taking a bit of home with you and keeping it there in the U.S. with yourself.

“In the biggest scheme, it’s been an honor and pleasure to be giving such a wonderful product to the U.S. and to indulge them as well.

“Another part of the strategy is to help grow Samoa as well.”

The initiative also prepares the local brewery for their 40th anniversary this year.

(Source: Samoa Observer MINISTER OF SAMOA AIRWAYS DENIES AIRLINE LOSS CLAIMS

The Minister of Samoa Airways, Lautafi Pio Purcell, has strongly rejected claims the national airline is already running at a loss.

A few months after the Airline was launched last year, reliable sources told the Samoa Observer that the airline was accumulating a loss that could have huge implications on its future plans.

The sources could not put a figure to the loss but they claim that it is “substantial” and “growing every month.”

When the Samoa Observer contacted the Minister for a comment, he quickly dismissed the reports. “That is not true,” he said. “Where did you get your figures from? That’s not true.”

The Minister did not elaborate.

Asked for a proper interview, Lautafi said he was not immediately available as he was tied up with meetings in relation to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s Samoa visit. It was not possible to get a comment from the Airport’s management.

The reports are about the profitability of the airline and its operational costs are not new.

Last year, the airline repeatedly refused to confirm or deny reports that it is paying US$5,000,000 (ST$1,25 million) a fortnight to lease the B767-300 aircraft from the Icelandic Air.

After referring the Samoa Observer to the airline’s management for a comment, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi later changed his tune.

“These are commercial secrets, it cannot be revealed,” he said. “These things are commercial secrets, you are quick to inquir e with any airline companies, they will never allow that to be known.”

At that point, the Samoa Observer put it to the Prime Minister.”

(Continued on page 10)
Participants of the 2018 24th Samoa News Territorial Spelling Bee — major sponsor McDonald’s American Samoa — and the Department of Education at a practice session yesterday with Mrs. Evelyn Lili’o-Satele, who has helped prepare student-spellers for the event, since the first Bee in American Samoa. There are 31 students this year vying for the opportunity to represent American Samoa in the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

[Photo: Evelyn Lili’o Satele]
in Barrow, Alaska, February was 18 degrees (10 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal and the entire winter averaged 14 degrees (7.8 degrees Celsius) above normal. Of nearly three dozen different Arctic weather stations, 15 of them were at least 10 degrees (5.6 degrees Celsius) above normal for the winter, according to data from climatologist Brian Brettschneider of the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Meteorologists consider December, January and February to be winter, and Arctic weather stations averaged 8.8 degrees (4.9 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal for the season that just ended. The air above the Chukchi and Bering seas near Alaska averaged about 20 degrees (11 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal for February, the data center reported. “The extended warmth really has kind of staggered all of us,” Mottram said.

In February, Arctic sea ice covered 5.4 million square miles (13.9 million square kilometers), about 62,000 square miles (160,000 square kilometers) smaller than last year’s record low, the ice data center said Tuesday. The difference is an area about the size of the state of Georgia. Sea ice coverage in February also was 521,000 square kilometers (1.4 million square kilometers) below the 30-year normal — an area nearly twice the size of Texas.

Sea ice is frozen ocean water that — in contrast to icebergs and glaciers — forms, grows, and melts on the ocean. It is still growing, but “whatever we grow now is going to be thin stuff” that easily melts in the summer, Serreze said.

Near Greenland, warm air moved north up over a section of the Atlantic that usually has sea ice, Mottram said. Something similar was happening in the Pacific with open water on the normally iced up Bering Sea, said data center senior scientist Walt Meier. To be happening on opposite sides of the Arctic at the same time is unusual, Meier said.

While some natural weather fronts were involved, “climate change is the overriding thing,” Meier said. “When you have warmer temperatures you are going to melt more ice and it’s going to grow more slowly.”

In the winter, sea ice “acts as a lid to keep the warmth of the water at bay” but when there is less sea ice, more heat goes into the air, Brettschneider said. “You end up with a vicious circle of warm air preventing sea ice formation and lack of sea ice allowing warmth to escape into the air.”

One scientific theory is that this is changing weather further south and plays a role with extreme events, especially in winter.

The theory is still debated but gaining acceptance. It suggests that reduced sea ice, especially in the winter, reduces the difference in atmospheric pressure between the Arctic and mid-latitudes, weakening the jet stream. The jet stream is the usually fast-moving west-east current of air that affects daily weather and moves storm fronts along. A weaker jet stream often means strange weather, leaving storms stuck in place for days on end, said one of the theory’s leading proponents, Rutgers University’s Jennifer Francis. She points to recent U.S. nor’easters and freak snowstorms in Europe.

“This is what we’ve been talking about; it couldn’t be more classic,” Francis said. “If you look at the whole picture, the whole jet stream around the northern hemisphere, it’s had these very large excursions north and south and that’s led to all of the wacky weather.”

“The underlying disease that’s causing this is getting worse,” Francis said, referring to heat-trapping gases from the burning of coal, oil and gas. “These are just the symptoms.”

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.
By JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Mayor Megan Barry, a one-time rising star in the Democratic Party with big plans to remake Nashville, resigned Tuesday after pleading guilty to cheating the city out of thousands of dollars to carry on an affair with her bodyguard.

Barry's resignation marked a time you will know.
Promoter of failed Fyre Festival pleads guilty to fraud

By LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The promoter of the failed Fyre Festival in the Bahamas — once billed as the “cultural experience of the decade” — pleaded guilty to wire fraud charges Tuesday, agreeing to serve up to a decade in prison for lying about Fyre Media’s financial condition last April to induce investors to lose over $26 million.

Billy McFarland, 26, entered the plea in Manhattan federal court after pleading guilty to wire fraud charges, Tuesday, March 6, 2018, in New York. He faces a sentence of 8 to 10 years.

Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald in Manhattan.

He said he planned to organize a “legitimate festival” when he planned the Fyre Festival as an outgrowth of a digital application he launched in May 2016 to help concert promoters and private individuals directly book musicians for concerts. “I grossly underestimated the resources that would be necessary to hold an event of this magnitude,” he said. “In an attempt to raise what I thought were needed funds, I lied to investors about various aspects of Fyre Media and my personal finances. Those lies included false documents and information.”

The festival was promoted as the “cultural experience of the decade,” an ultra-luxurious event on the Bahamas island of Exuma over two weekends last April and May. It was promoted on social media by Kendall Jenner, Bella Hadid, Emily Ratajkowski and other models and celebrities as the event organizers coerced people into buying ticket packages ranging from $1,200 to over $100,000.

Customers hoping to see Blink-182 and the hip hop act Migos arrived to realize the festival was “nothing more than a get-rich-quick scam.” It said the festival’s inadequate food, water, shelter and medical care left attendees stranded on a remote island in a “dangerous and panicked situation.”

As part of this plea, McFarland also admitted raising money for the festival by giving false information about Fyre Media’s financial condition last April to induce the vendor to pay $2 million for a block of advance tickets.

In all, prosecutors said in a release that McFarland bilked over 80 investors of more than $26 million. As part of his plea, he agreed to a forfeiture order of $26 million.”William McFarland tendered false documents to induce investors and a ticket vendor to put more than $26 million into his company and the disastrous Fyre Festival,” U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said. “He now awaits sentencing for his admitted swindle.”

McFarland and his attorney, Randall Jackson, declined comment outside court. McFarland has been free on $300,000 bail since his June arrest. Sentencing was set for June 21.

Russian plane crash in Syria kills 39 servicemen

By ZEINA KARAM and NATALIYA VASYLENKO, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Russian military cargo plane crashed near an air base in Syria on Tuesday, killing all 39 Russian servicemen on board in a blow to Russian operations in Syria. The Russian military quickly insisted the plane was not shot down and blamed the crash on a technical error.

Meanwhile, shelling near the rebel-held eastern suburbs of Damascus killed dozens of people over the past 24 hours as President Bashar Assad’s government, supported by the Russian military, pushed its assault on the capital’s rebel-held suburbs. International aid workers on a rare humanitarian mission inside the besieged area described dramatic scenes of rescuers trying to pull corpses from the rubble of buildings and children who hadn’t seen daylight in 15 days.

The mission on Monday to the area known as eastern Ghouta was cut short after the government shelling escalated while the aid workers were still inside, calling into question future aid shipments to the encircled region, the last major opposition stronghold near the capital.

Opposition activists and a war monitor said 80 people were killed Monday — the deadliest day since the U.N. Security Council demanded a 30-day cease-fire for Syria — and at least nine were killed Tuesday.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged all parties to implement a cease-fire demanded by the Security Council on Feb. 24 and allow “safe and unimpeded access” for convoys to deliver aid to hundreds of thousands of Syrians in desperate need.

Guterres described that attacks on eastern Ghouta reportedly killed more than 100 people Monday and that 14 of 46 trucks in a convoy trying to deliver supplies to Douma in eastern Ghouta weren’t able to fully unload, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Dujarric said nearly half of the food carried on the convoy could not be delivered.

“People were telling us very desperate stories. They are tired, they are angry. They don’t want aid, what they want is the shelling to stop,” Pawel Krzyzicki, head of communications for the Syrian branch of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said Tuesday.

He said thousands of families were huddled in underground shelters, reluctant to eat in front of each other because of the pervasive hunger, and children who watched as aid workers tried to pull corpses from the rubble.

“No child should be witnessing this in their very early state of development. But the children of Douma and the children of...” (Continued on page 13)
Kim Jong Un gets new image after S. Korea meeting: Statesman

By FOSTER KLEUG, Associated Press

SEOUL, North Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un grins, just on the verge of a bell’s laugh, as he grasps the hand of a visiting South Korean official. He sits at a wide conference table and beams as the envoy looks up and smiles. Finally, he smiles broadly again at dinner, his wife at his side, the South Koreans seeming to hang on his every word.

Kim is used to being the center of gravity in a country that his family has ruled with unquestioned power since 1948, but the chance to play the senior statesman on the Korean Peninsula with a meaningful visit to South Korea has afforded the autocratic leader a whole new raft of propaganda and political opportunities. He’ll get another major chance to shine next month: Seoul says that Kim has agreed to hold a summit meeting — the rivals’ third-ever — with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

The photos released by North Korean state media on Tuesday showing Kim meeting with Moon’s envoy on Monday evening are all the more remarkable coming just months after a barrage of North Korean weapons tests and threats against Seoul and Washington had many fearing war.

Kim can be seen in a North Korean TV video smiling and laughing, proposing a toast at the dinner reception, and waving as two limousines carrying the South Korean delegation left the main building of the ruling Workers’ Party. The extraordinary images spread rapidly across the southern part of the peninsula a day after the North said Kim was in an “openhearted talk” with 10 envoy’s for Moon. Kim reportedly expressed his desire to “write a new history of national reunification” during a dinner that the South Korean government said lasted about four hours.

The meeting marked the first time South Korean officials have met with the young North Korean leader in person since he took power after his dictator father’s death in late 2011. It’s the latest sign that the Koreas are trying to mend ties after one of the tenest years in a region that seems to be permanently on edge. The South Korean delegation led by presidential national security director Chung Eui-yong returned to South Korea on Tuesday and announced the Kim-Moon summit planned for next month. Chung’s trip was the first known high-level visit by South Korean officials to the North in about a decade.

North Korea hasn’t announced the summit agreement in its own media, more than a half-day after the South’s announcement.

Given the robust history of bloodshed, threats and animosity on the Korean Peninsula, it is considerable skepticism over whether the Koreas’ apparent warm relations will last to lasting peace. North Korea, some believe, is trying to use improved ties with the South to weaken U.S.-led international sanctions and pressure and to provide domestic propaganda fodder for Kim.

But each new development raises the possibility that the rivals can use the momentum from the good feelings created during North Korea’s participation in the South’s Pyeongchang Winter Olympics last month to ease a standoff over North Korea’s nuclear ambitions and restart talks between the North and the United States. Seoul said the two sides also agreed during the talks to impose a moratorium on nuclear and missile tests if Pyongyang holds talks with Washington.

The role of a confident leader welcoming visiting officials from the rival South is one Kim clearly relishes. Smiling for cameras, he posed during the meeting with the South Koreans and presided over what was described by the North’s official Korean Central News Agency as a “co-patriotic and sincere atmosphere.”

Many in Seoul and Washington will want to know if, in the rhetoric and smiling images notwithstanding, there’s any possibility Kim will negotiate over North Korea’s breakneck pursuit of an arsenal of nuclear missiles that can viably target the U.S. mainland.

The North has repeatedly and bluntly declared it will not give up its nuclear bombs. It also hates the annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises that were postponed because of the Olympics but will likely happen later this spring. And achieving its nuclear aims rests on the North resuming tests of missiles and bombs that set the region on edge.

Kim was said to have expressed at the dinner his “firm will to vigorously pursue the north-south relations and write a new history of national reunification by the concerted efforts of our nation to be proud of in the world.”

There is speculation that better inter-Korean ties could pave the way for Washington and Pyongyang to talk about the North’s nuclear weapons. The U.S. has said that it has made clear that it doesn’t want empty talks and that all options, including military measures, are on the table.

Previous warming ties between the Koreas have come to nothing amid North Korea’s repeated weapons tests and the North’s claims that the annual U.S.-South Korean war games are a rehearsal for an invasion.

Chung’s delegation included intelligence chief Suh Hoon and Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung. The South Korean presidential Blue House said the high-profile delegation was meant to reciprocate the Olympic trip by Kim Jong Un’s sister, Kim Yo Jong, who became the first member of the North’s ruling family to come to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Kim Yo Jong, who also attended Monday’s dinner, and other senior North Korean officials met with Moon during the Olympics, conveyed Kim Jong Un’s invitation to visit Pyongyang and expressed their willingness to hold talks with the United States.

Having concluded their Pyongyang trip, Chung’s delegation is scheduled to fly to the United States to brief officials about the outcome of the talks with North Korean officials.

President Donald Trump has said talks with North Korea will happen only “under the right conditions.” He was still cautious about Pyongyang news was “possible progress.”

A summit next month would the be Koreas’ third. The past two summits, one in 2000 and the other in 2007, were held between Kim’s late father, Kim Jong Il, and two liberal South Korean presidents.

South Korea’s national security director Chung Eui-yong, front, walks to board an aircraft as he leaves for Pyongyang at a military airport in Seongnam, south of Seoul, Monday, March 5, 2018. A group of high-level South Korean officials has left for North Korea for talks on North Korea’s nuclear program and ways to help resume talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

(Jong Seon je-wool Photo via AP)
Porn star sues Trump over nondisclosure agreement

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A porn star who has said she had sex with President Donald Trump filed a lawsuit Tuesday seeking to invalidate a non-disclosure agreement she signed days before the 2016 presidential election, which prevented her from discussing the alleged sexual encounters.

The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, alleges that the agreement is “null and void and of no consequence” because Trump didn’t personally sign it.

Adult film actress Stormy Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, said she wanted to go public with the details of her alleged sexual relationship with Trump in the weeks leading up to the election, according to the lawsuit. Clifford and Trump’s attorney Michael Cohen signed the non-disclosure agreement on Oct. 28, 2016.

Clifford alleges that she began an “intimate relationship” with Trump in 2006 and that it continued “well into the year 2007,” according to the lawsuit. She said the relationship included encounters in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and Beverly Hills, California.

Trump married his current wife, Melania Trump, in 2005. Clifford has claimed she had sex with Trump once and then carried on a subsequent years-long platonic relationship. She has also, through a lawyer, denied the two had an affair.

Cohen has said he paid the porn actress $130,000 out of his own pocket as part of the agreement. He has also said that “neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction with Ms. Clifford, and neither reimbursed me for the payment, either directly or indirectly.”

The lawsuit charges that the “hush agreement” is legally invalid because it was only signed by Clifford and Cohen. The agreement refers to Trump as David Dennison and Clifford as Peggy Peterson, but an attached exhibit details their true identities.

Clifford’s lawsuit also alleges that Trump and Cohen “aggressively sought to silence Ms. Clifford as part of an effort to avoid her telling the truth, thus helping to ensure he won the Presidential Election.”

“To be clear, the attempts to intimidate Ms. Clifford into silence and ‘shut her up’ in order to protect Mr. Trump continue unabated,” the lawsuit said. Clifford alleges that as recently as last week, Trump’s attorney tried to initiate an arbitration proceeding against her.

Neither Cohen nor the White House immediately responded to requests for comment Tuesday evening.

NBC News first reported the existence of the lawsuit.

Russian...

Continued from page 11

eastern Ghouta unfortunately do, and that’s what makes the situation very, very dramatic,” he said.

Monday’s aid shipment was the first to enter eastern Ghouta amid weeks of a crippling siege and a government assault that has killed some 800 civilians since Feb. 18. Aid agencies said Syrian authorities removed basic health supplies, including trauma and surgical kits and insulin, from the convoys before they set off.

The U.N. said airstrikes and shelling in eastern Ghouta continued for hours while the convoy was unloading supplies.

“After nearly nine hours inside, the decision was made to leave for security reasons and to avoid jeopardizing the safety of humanitarian teams on the ground,” said Jens Laerke, deputy spokesperson for the U.N.’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

As a result, 14 of the 46 trucks in the convoy were not able to fully offload critical humanitarian supplies.

Laerke said the team found a desperate situation for people who have endured months without access to humanitarian aid. “Food for civilians was in short supply or prohibitively expensive and high rates of acute malnutrition were observed,” he said.

We have other sizes and specials available! Please call (684) 633-5599 (Ask for Advertising Department) or 258-3208 for more information.
US greets talk of NK nuke concessions with hope, skepticism

BY ROBERT BURNS and HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump greeted North Korea’s reported willingness to negotiate away its atomic weapons with both hope and skepticism Tuesday, insisting a potential diplomatic breakthrough be tested against the North’s long history of deception and threats to target U.S. cities with nuclear missiles.

“I really believe they are sincere,” Trump said at a White House news conference, sounding more optimistic than his intelligence chief, Dan Coats, who told a Senate hearing he has “very, very low confidence” that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un intends to give up his nuclear arms.

“Maybe this is a breakthrough. I seriously doubt it,” Coats said.

A senior South Korean presidential adviser said Tuesday that Kim expressed a willingness to discuss nuclear disarmament and halt nuclear and missile tests during future talks with the United States. The North didn’t confirm those concessions, which would amount to a dramatic about-face for a nation that has frequently vowed to preserve its nuclear arsenal at any cost.

Chung Eui-yong, the South Korean official who spoke after participating in talks with Kim in Pyongyang, also said the North Korean dictator had agreed to meet with South Korea’s president at a border village in late April.

North Korea didn’t announce what South Korea on Tuesday described as agreements between the rivals. But the North’s state media earlier reported Kim had “openedhearted” talks with South Korean envoys, expressed his willingness to “vigorously advance” North-South relations and made a “satisfactory” agreement on the inter-Korean summit talks.

Trump, who last fall told Secretary of State Rex Tillerson he was “wasting his time” trying to talk with the North, tweeted Tuesday that “possible progress” had been made in North Korea’s capital and that all sides were making serious efforts. He added: “May be false hope, but the U.S. is ready to go hard in either direction!”

Later, in an Oval Office photo session with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, Trump said the North Koreans “seem to be acting positively,” but that the prospects will be clearer when diplomacy moves to the next stage.

“We have come certainly a long way, at least rhetorically, with North Korea,” Trump said. Of the possibility for peacefully resolving the nations’ deep differences, he said: “It’d be a great thing for the world, would be a great thing for North Korea, it would be a great thing for the peninsula. But we’ll see what happens.”

In Chung’s account, Kim indicated he would not need to keep nuclear weapons if military threats against North Korea were removed and his nation received a credible security guarantee. That suggests the possibility Kim will insist in any deal that the U.S. withdraws its nearly 28,000 troops from South Korea. The North sees those forces and their periodic exercises with South Korean troops as a threat to invade the North.

The White House issued a brief statement from Vice President Mike Pence suggesting nothing has changed in that area.

In this Monday, March 5, 2018 photo, provided by the North Korean government on March 6, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, front right, shakes hands with South Korean National Security Director Chung Eui-yong after Chung gave Kim the letter from South Korean President Moon Jae-in, in Pyongyang, North Korea. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: “KCNA” which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey, File)

FILE-In this Monday, Aug. 7, 2017 file photo, Nashville Mayor Megan Barry speaks during a news conference in her office, in Nashville, Tenn. Barry has resigned after admitting she had an extramarital affair with her lead baguymand shortly after pleading guilty to a felony theft charge.

Barry first admitted Jan. 31, 2018 to having an affair with Sgt. Robert Forrest, she said she planned to stay in office. But on Tuesday, March 6 she said her time in office has concluded.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey, File)

Nashville...

Continued from page 10

Vice Mayor David Briley, a fellow Democrat, was sworn in Tuesday afternoon. His first words were: “I need some coffee.” He called Barry “a friend” and said he hoped she would be able to move past “a horrible moment” in her life.

A special election to choose a new mayor will be held Aug. 2.

Barry was riding high when news broke that she had been having an affair with Forrest, whose wife filed for divorce soon after the relationship became public.

At the time, Barry apologized, denied breaking the law, rebuffed calls for her resignation, and said her husband, Bruce, remained committed to their marriage.

Barry’s admission followed the painful loss of the Barries’ only child, Max, in July after an overdose on a combination of drugs, including opioids.

“This is a very bad day. And I’m going to have several more bad days. But this is not my worst day,” Barry said in January. “And I will tell you I know the difference between a mistake — I made a serious mistake — but this is not a tragedy.”

Elected in 2015, Barry maintained a high profile in the city, appearing routinely at concerts and other events and spearheading a successful effort to bring professional soccer to Nashville. She was the point person for a $5.4 billion transit plan that Nashville voters will consider in a referendum in May.

Before becoming mayor, Barry earned an MBA from Vanderbilt University and was an ethics and compliance officer in the telecommunications and health care industries.

Forrest, who had spent more than 31 years with Metro Nashville Police and supervised the mayor’s security detail over three administrations, has retired.

Police records show Forrest’s overtime more than doubled from 2014-15 to the 2016-17 budget year.

Barry said their affair began in the spring of 2016, according to court papers. She has said the relationship is over but has not disclosed when it ended.

The new mayor, in a statement, called it “a hard day for Nashville” but said Barry’s resignation “will enable us to regain focus on the important work of our city.”

Briley promised transparency and said he will work to restore the public trust.

Fletcher

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Situation Vacant

CRANE OPERATOR

Preferred Qualifications:

• Pile Driving experience
• Proved experience in the operation of a 60t crawler crane
• Current Crane Operator certification
• Proven ability to assemble and disassemble and rigging of crane for various applications
• Experience in running vibro hammers
• Confined Space Certification
• Safety Supervisor Certification
• Workplace Environmental Certification
• Environmental management skills
• A proven experience in large scale pile driving and deep well excavation
• Proven ability to successfully work with Clients representatives

Please submit application in writing with copies of all relevant qualifications and previous job references to:

The Manager
PO Box 4179
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

Continued from page 10
What's fresh at McDonald’s? The beef in some burgers

By JOSEPH PISANI and TERESA CRAWFORD

NEW YORK (AP) — The Quarter Pounder is getting a fresh makeover.

McDonald’s said Tuesday that it is serving Quarter Pounders with fresh beef rather than frozen patties at about a quarter of its U.S. restaurants, a switch it first announced about a year ago as it works to appeal to customers who want fresher foods. It will roll out fresh beef Quarter Pounders to most of its 14,000 U.S. restaurants by May.

The fast-food giant, which has relied on frozen patties since the 1970s, said workers will cook up the fresh beef on a grill when the burger is ordered.

“McDonald’s, however, has signaled that it may use fresh beef in more burgers. Earlier this year, the Oak Brook, Ill.-based company confirmed that it was testing a fresh beef burger that used a patty that was slightly smaller than the one in the Quarter Pounder, but larger than the one its hamburgers and cheeseburgers.

The change at McDonald’s is the latest as it seeks to shed its junk food image. It has removed artificial preservatives from Chicken McNuggets, and made other tweaks, including replacing the apple juice in Happy Meals with one with less sugar.

“Fresh in the mind of the consumer really has a better-for-you connotation,” said David Henkes, a senior principal at Technomic, a food industry market research firm.

“It certainly has a perception that it’s better than frozen.”

The company tested the fresh beef Quarter Pounder for about two years in Dallas and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Eight more cities are serving it now, including some restaurants in Atlanta, Miami and Salt Lake City. It’ll come to Denver, Houston and other cities over the next month before the nationwide rollout.

McDonald’s said the switch is a major change for the company, and has said the rollout takes time because employees need to be trained to safely handle fresh beef and to cook the patties only when ordered.

By JOSEPH PISANI and TERESA CRAWFORD

NEW YORK (AP) — The Quarter Pounder is getting a fresh makeover.

McDonald’s said Tuesday that it is serving Quarter Pounders with fresh beef rather than frozen patties at about a quarter of its U.S. restaurants, a switch it first announced about a year ago as it works to appeal to customers who want fresher foods. It will roll out fresh beef Quarter Pounders to most of its 14,000 U.S. restaurants by May.

The fast-food giant, which has relied on frozen patties since the 1970s, said workers will cook up the fresh beef on a grill when the burger is ordered.

“The result is a hotter, juicier, great tasting burger,” said Chris Kempczinski, who oversees McDonald’s Corp.’s restaurants in the U.S.

Its pricier “Signature Crafted” burgers, stuffed with guacamole or bacon, will also be made with fresh beef since they use the same sized patty as the Quarter Pounder. The Big Mac and its other burgers, however, will still be made with frozen beef.

Fresh beef has always been used by rival Wendy’s, which aired a Super Bowl commercial last month criticizing the “flash frozen” beef at McDonald’s. A Wendy’s Co. representative gave a frosty response Tuesday, saying “that’s awesome” that McDonald’s “is recommitting to using frozen beef on the majority of its hamburgers.”

A U.S. official said there were no plans to scrap the war games envisioned for next month. “All options are on the table, and our posture toward the regime will not change until we see credible, verifiable and concrete steps toward denuclearization,” Pence said. Separately, highlighting a less-discussed dimension of the standoff with North Korea, the Pentagon’s military intelligence chief told a Senate hearing that Kim has taken a “far different” approach to military preparedness than his father, Kim Jong Il, by imposing greater rigor and discipline in army training. Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, called it a “big change” and implied the improvements should be taken into account in considering the prospect of war on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea’s willingness to hold a “candid dialogue” with the United States to discuss denuclearization and establish diplomatic relations follows a year of increased fears of war, with Kim and Trump exchanging fiery rhetoric and crude insults over Kim’s barrage of weapons tests. The Trump administration also pushed through some of the harshest economic sanctions any country has ever faced.

Trump said Kim’s apparent willingness to negotiate is likely due to the sanctions, and China’s role in applying them. Still, there is wide skepticism that Tuesday’s developments will bring genuine peace between the Koreans, which have a long history of failing to follow through.
Make Your House a HOME

March 2-17

15% off All Ashley Furniture!

20% off select items

Transform your home with a fresh new look for Spring!

Like & follow us on Facebook

685-9170 Open M-Thur 8 to 5 & Sat 7:30 to 2:00