



TOA o SAMOA, who graduated from Basic training at Fort Jackson Military Base, South Carolina. Fairlyn was missing from yesterday's front page photo. Left to right are: Anna Carruthers, Charlene Sooaemalelagi, Dora Ah Futu, Precious Brown, Fairlyn Kelemete, Vanessa Himphill.

Thank you very much Samoa News for printing our photos so that the parents and families of some of us who aren't able to make it here for our graduation can share in our accomplishments.

Faamanuia le Atua ia outou galuega. God Bless.

[Courtesy photo]

Talosaga Toeaina se Komiti e ta'ita'i ai afioga Afalava



Le Lali

AYFS to kick-off its 8th Football Season in the territory tomorrow morning



Inside Sports



ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM

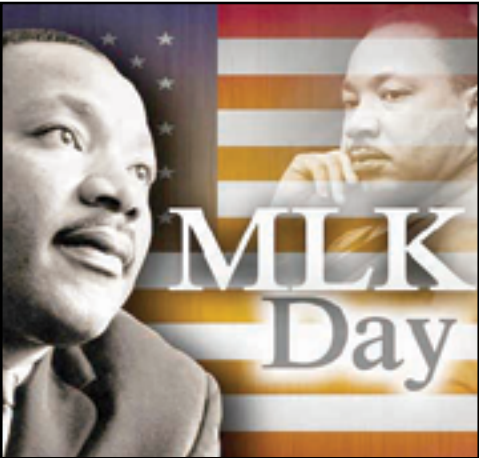
samoa news

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Faipule concerned over Rapiscan

by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

The Rapiscan for cargo and vehicle inspection is not yet operational; this is according to the

Chief of Customs, Moetulu'i Fuiava. Moetulu'i was responding to Samoa News questions following concerns raised by Rep Faimealelei Anthony Allen during the House regular session

Tuesday — seeing that it was last year October that the governor had informed the Speaker and the President of the Senate he was signing the bill.

(Continued on page 4)

Fagatogo Post Office drug bust involves postal worker

By Samoa News Staff

The latest addition to the growing list of drug busts at the Fagatogo Post Office involves a female postal worker and Samoa News understands that federal investigators have been made aware of the case.

No comment could be obtained from local Postmaster Tao Suani but Samoa News understands that since the case involves a postal worker (a federal employee), and considering the amount of drugs involved — 2lbs each of ice and marijuana — and the use of a federal service (the USPS) to smuggle the illegal substances, the feds will be involved.

In response to Samoa News inquiries, Chief of Customs Moetulu'i Sipili Fuiava confirmed that there indeed was a package that was intercepted by the Customs K9 Unit earlier this week and everything — from the drugs to the suspect and even the reports — have been turned over to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) through a 'change of custody' process.

Samoa News could not confirm whether or not the suspect is in police custody, or if any local criminal charges have been filed.



AS Baseball team with their Head Coach Leaupepe Vili Fa'apouli, Assistant Coach Marcus Langkilde and the President of the World Baseball and Softball, Mr. Riccardo Fracari before their match against their toughest opponent from Australia, on Wednesday.

U12 Amerika Samoa Baseball Team departed on Monday this week and arrived in Guam Tuesday to play in the Oceania U12 Baseball Championship. The competition is a 3-team tournament with Australia, Guam and Amerika Samoa.

There are 12 players, led by Head Coach Leaupepetele Vili Fa'apouli and Assistant Coach Marcus Langkilde.

Traveling with the team are ASBA President J. Victor Langkilde and ASBA Secretary Melissa Coulter and parents. Amerika Samoa played Australia on Wednesday, to a loss and was slated to play Guam, yesterday, Thursday. Stay tuned for updates.

A big fa'amalo and fa'afetai tele to Amerika Samoa for all the support and prayers.

[Courtesy photo]



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One of American Samoa's All-Star wide receiver, Josiah Taani out of Leone High School – throwing up a pair of “shaka” just before fielding for their first match of the classic. [courtesy photo]

Lolo Admin pro-active about 2018 min wage hike

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Lolo Administration is once again exploring the possibility of seeking financial assistance from the US government to subsidize future minimum wage increases — the next one is due in 2018 — because the American Samoa Government simply does not have resources to cover such wage hikes.

The administration first raised the proposal of a US federal government subsidy to finance minimum wage hikes in the territory in 2015, before the current hike went into affect in October of that year. The proposal went nowhere.

In October 2015, federal mandated minimum wages for all 17 different industries in American Samoa increased by 40 cents per hour and the next wage hike is set for October 2018. The current minimum wage for the government industry is \$4.81 per hour.

In his official written State of the Territory Address, through a Comprehensive Report, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga says for three years, his administration worked diligently to impede the recent increase of the federally mandated minimum wages.

Although a hike in the minimum wage tends to impact the cannery industry in the territory and the local private sector, Lolo says the administration believes the “quality and living standards and wages of the people need improvements.”

Yet, said the governor, ASG does not have the financial resources to cover an increase in wages. To anticipate this short fall, Lolo said ASG “is exploring on seeking technical and financial assistance” from the US Departments of Labor and Interior “to subsidize the additional ASG wage bill in order to maintain the costs across the board.”

Otherwise, ASG will have to reduce its workforce and implement further cost containments, Lolo said.

Additionally, ASG will continue to pursue further efforts in reviving the previous special industry committee, whose members were appointed by the US Labor Secretary, to determine local minimum wages in the near future.

The special committee had been setting minimum wages for the territory until 2007, when a federal law went into effect in which the US Con-

gress set the wages levels.

Lolo raised the special committee issue in his response to a US Government Accountability Office report released last month suggesting to the US Congress “two basic approaches” for increasing American Samoa’s minimum wages to keep pace with the cost of living in the territory and eventually equaling the federal minimum wage.

Lolo recommended an USDOL-constituted committee, which would include equal membership from both employer and employee, to review local minimum wages based on the territory’s economic conditions. (See Samoa News edition Dec. 7, 2016.)

ASG expressed to GAO concerns that continued minimum wage increases are at odds with sustainable economic development.

Not mentioned in the governor’s Comprehensive Report, is the ASG Commerce Department’s living-wage study completed in August 2015, which identifies \$5.67 as the minimum wage, needed for a family of six to afford to live in the territory.

(Continued on page 8)

Governor appoints Mafi Sione Lousiale Lotolua Kava as his Tongan Liaison Officer



The boys from American Samoa's All-Star team and posing on the sidelines of Aloha Stadium following their loss against NorCal's All-Star 28 - 6 yesterday in Hawai'i. [courtesy photo]

by Samoa News staff

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has appointed Mafi Sione Lousiale Lotolua Kava as his Tongan Liaison Officer, between ASG and the local Tongan community. It was in 2005 that the late King of Tonga, Taufa'ahau Tupou IV bestowed the High Chief title of "Mafi To 'i Amerika Samoa", to Sione Lousiale Lotolua Kava — who has been visible in Tongan community activities and has been with the ASG Office of Petroleum Management for many years

serving as the petroleum officer. Mafi's first task will be as a member of a team that will travel to Nuku'alofa, Tonga in the near future for meetings with Tonga Prime Minister Samiuela 'Akilisi Pohiva and appropriate cabinet ministers of the Tongan government concerning the American Samoa Government land lease in Tonga. "I am honored with the trust I am given by Governor Lolo," Mafi said yesterday. "I will take this opportunity to reestablish and develop a much stronger ties between the two countries.

I believe this was the vision of the late King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV who frequented American Samoa in the not so distant past." "I would start with trying to get a commitment from Tonga on what is best to do with the Kingdom of Tonga land lease in American Samoa," he said. Mafi said this important appointment would also give him the opportunity to unite the Tongan community of American Samoa, "assuring information gathering and sharing what will assist in our continued

assimilation to the culture of our adopted country." "And as the Governor mentioned in the appointment letter, the Tongan community has access to the many and various government services," said Mafi, who is a former US Marine Corps Officer. **LAND EXCHANGE** It was during the Lutali Administration in 1986 that a land exchange deal was struck between American Samoa and Tonga, with American Samoa given a three-acre land situated in Popua, Nuku'alofa, Tonga's

capital. In exchange, Tonga was given a parcel of ASG land in Tafuna that has been utilized as a market to sell their goods, including Tongan agricultural produce. Over the years, past administrations have tried to find ways to utilize the land in Tonga and the Lolo Administration has done the same, even sending a delegation to Nuku'alofa to look at possible ways to best use the land. Mafi was a member of that delegation.



DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS 2017 (First Quarter) COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF TRAINING AND EVENTS

DATE	PROJECT/ACTIVITY	DATE	PROJECT/ACTIVITY
January 23 - April 13	Culinary Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MWF Instructor: Malia Lui	January 23 to March 31	Walk and Talk Program 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm (M/W/F)
January 23 - April 13	Flower Arrangement Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) T/TH Instructor: Malia Lui	January 23 to March 31 (Tutuila) January 23 to March 31 (Manu'a)	Wrestling Program 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH) 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)
January 23 - April 13	Elei/Hand Print Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MTWTH Instructor: Tou Collins	January 23 to March 31	Gymnastics Program Kinder gym - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (M-F)
January 23 - August 25 (Tutuila)	Sewing Training 8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 1) M/W 8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 2) T/TH 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 3) M/W 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 4) T/TH	January 23 to March 31	Health and Fitness Program 5:30 am to 6:30 am (M-F) Morning Session 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm (T/TH) - Afternoon Session
September 5 - December 7 (Manu'a - Fitiuta, Ta'u, Faleasao)	Every Day Instructor: Johanna Samana	January 23 to March 31	Weightlifting/Powerlifting training 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)
January 23 - March 8	Basic Computing/Resume Preparation/Job Application/Interview Preparation Session 1 - M/W/F, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	January 23 to March 31	Volleyball training 6:30 am to 7:30 am (M-TH)
January 23 - April 13	Basic Samoan Oratory Language and Cultural Training 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm (M/W)	January 25 to March 29	College Prep for Student Athletes 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (W)
		January 23 to March 31	National Football Training 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (F)
		February 6 - 10	Coaches National Level 1 Certification Course 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm (M-F) Instructor: Ethan Lake
		February 7 - April 6	Teen Mothers and Parenting Training Session 1 10 am to 12 pm (T/TH)
		March 14	Service Providers Fair - Mulugaveve

Call 644-2835/644-2836 to register for any of the programs/courses at the Department of Youth & Women's Affairs Office in Pago Pago. Deadline for registration is Thursday, January 19, 2017 @ 4p.m. Fa'afeso'ota'i mai le matou ofisa ile 644-2835/644-2836 auā le resitara mo polokalama o lo'o fa'aapea ona faailo atu i le kalena. E tapunia le resitara o vasega ile Aso Tofi, Ianuari 19, 2017 ile 4p.m

Orientation for all programs/courses is scheduled for Friday, January 20th, 2017 at 9a.m-10a.m & 3p.m - 4p.m

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► Faipule concerned ...

Continued from page 1

Faimealelei pointed out that the governor stated in his letter that the scans “will enhance the Customs ability to quickly search incoming cargo, we expect to be able to better secure our borders, provide more efficient service to our importers, and improve customs revenue collection.”

The lawmaker further pointed out that the word “collection is the key to revenue” yet the Rapiscan has been sitting on the wharf idle for some time and they are losing money.

The lawmaker said he was informed the problem has to do with the conversion of the power in order for the scan to be operational however that has not happened.

He also noted that this Rapiscan has exceptional threat detection capabilities.

Faimealelei called on Vice Speaker Fetu Fetui Jr (who headed the session) to look into this matter, as this machine costs a lot of money, the equipment has arrived but it’s not operational.

Fetu took note of the issue and asked the Port Administration and Transportation Committee chair, Kitara Vaiau, to look into this matter and report back to the Fono as to why this has occurred.

Another concern Faimealelei raised during the session is of the radiation from the Rapiscan and its possible affect on members of the public, as well as the Customs Agents, who

work along side this machine.

The Chief Customs told Samoa News that the issue with the power has already been dealt with; however there is one more parts that they are waiting on to arrive and then the machine will be up and running.

According to Moetulu’i, the ‘rapi’-scans of cargo and vehicle inspection systems are proven in challenging applications at seaports and border crossings.

He explained that the superior images of the machine would assist to combat smuggling and find hidden contraband, including explosives, weapons, narcotics and weapons — and that is the part they are waiting on, to assist in enhancing the images.

The Customs Chief Officer told Samoa News that the scan was ordered from Europe and when it arrived there was a part missing and that’s why there is the delay.

He also said they anticipate the machine will be up and running by mid February this year.

Meanwhile he said the other scans have been operational at the airport for some time now.

There are a total of 4 scanners, which include the idle Rapiscan, 2 stationary scans — one at the airport- Customs, the other at the Post Office — and a mobile one that is used to go out to the stores when necessary — it’s inside a van.w



Ni isi o sui o le aufaipesa a le EFKAS mai Vatia sa peseina viiaga o le le sauniga e tatala aloaia ai galuega a le Fono Faitulafono i le amataga o le vaiaso nei.

[ata:FS]



by Samoa News staff CRUISE SHIPS FOR 2017 INCREASE BY ONE

American Samoa Visitors Bureau has confirmed one more cruise ship for this year, bringing the total of thirteen to the number of cruise ships scheduled to call into the Port of Pago Pago for 2017.

When the official schedule for 2017 was released late last week, there were 12 confirmed ships, but Visitors Bureau director David Vaeafe said yesterday that one more ship is added for the year and this is the “Sea Princess” — arriving April 22nd, the same day as the “Emerald Princess” — the latter is on its maiden visit to Pago Pago.

“So we are going to have two ‘Princesses’ that day that will bring a total of 8,199 passengers and crew to our shores, a record number of cruise visitors to date on one day,” Vaeafe said.

Samoa News notes that this will be the fourth time in recent memory that two cruise ships will dock at Pago Pago Harbor on the same day. The last time two ships called into the Port of Pago Pago on the same day was Oct. 14 of last year bringing 6,800 temporary visitors to the territory.

With 13 ships confirmed for 2017, the Visitors Bureau says the total number of cruise ship visitors — both passengers and crew — for this year is just over 31,000.

As previously reported by Samoa News, the first ship for 2017 is the “Sea Princess” on Jan. 19th with 3,300 passengers and crew.

Meanwhile, Gov. Lolo Matlasi Moliga notes in his written Comprehensive Report of his State of the Territory Address that the number of cruise ships visiting American Samoa increased in the last four years of the administration, with Visitors Bureau attracting a total of 20 ships from 10 cruise lines with total passengers of 31,932 in 2014 and 16 cruise ships with a total of 28,986 passengers and crew in 2015.

As more ships arrive in Pago Pago, more revenue is generated for our economy, said Lolo. According to the governor, in 2014, port side market vendors generated close to \$194,000 in revenue — compared to \$160,487 in 2013. For 2015, revenue generated by market vendors on port side dropped to \$105,339 and this denotes a 45.6% drop in revenues made in 2014, evidently due to a drop in the number of ships visiting American Samoa that year.

Samoa News should point out however that part of the drop could be due to market vendors are no longer allowed to sell their wares “on the dock”, but are instead designated stalls on the Fagatogo malae.

Not noted in the revenues either is what buses, taxis and other vendors, such as tour guide companies, local stores and restaurants are purported to make during the cruise ship visits.

LOCAL AND FEDERAL HOLIDAY ON MONDAY

Local government and federal offices will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

holiday, making it a three-day weekend. Several businesses, including the three local commercial banks, will also be closed. StarKist Co., corporate spokesperson Michelle Faist said StarKist Samoa cannery would be in production on Monday.

Also working Monday is Talofa Systems Inc., the local can manufacturing plant, which is owned by Dongwon Industries along with StarKist.

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has already declared Monday an ASG holiday and all employees required to work on the holiday will be paid wages in accordance with rules and regulations.

This holiday has also been called the Martin Luther King Day of Service where Americans come together to serve their neighbors and communities through volunteer service. More details on: www.MLKday.gov

The holiday is expected to be a quiet one for American Samoa, with no major public events this weekend, as of press time. However, police will increase patrol for the three-day weekend to ensure peace and harmony.

Samoa News should point out that anyone taken into custody over the weekend will be spending the holiday behind bars, because District Court will not open until next week Tuesday.

Samoa News will not publish a print edition on Monday, but breaking news and updates will be available on our website, www.samoanews.com. Print edition will return Tuesday.

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A.S.C.A. Title 25 Chapter 22

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i se meatotino faitele, o se fanua fa’aleaiga po’o se
meatotino tau le tagata lava ia,
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itiiti ifo ma le \$50 pe silia fo’i ma le \$1,000.



Lolo/ Lemanu cabinet shaping up, with three more appointed as “acting”

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Former director of Parks and Recreation Department, Samana Semo Ve’ave’a, has been tagged by Gov. Lolo Mat-alasi Moliga to head the local Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS) during the second four-year term of the Lolo/ Lemanu Administration.

Pending “nomination and confirmation” by the Fono, the

governor in a Jan. 10 memo designated Samana as ASDHS Acting Director and the designation was effective Jan. 11.

Two employees of ASDHS say Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga introduced Samana at a department staff meeting the morning of Jan. 11.

Samana, a military retiree and current member of the Development Bank of American Samoa board of direc-

tors, had served as Parks and Recreations director during the last four years of the Togiola Administration. He is currently a JROTC instructor with the Department of Education and he is expected to step down as a DBAS board member.

During the first four-years of the Lolo Administration, the ASDHS was headed by Iunia-solua Savusa, who is also a military retiree. Samoa News

understands that Savusa didn’t re-apply for the directorship post.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

In a Jan. 11 memo, the governor appointed Jonathan Fanene as designated acting director of the Department of Youth and Women’s Affairs and the designation was effective yesterday. Fanene, who has served as director for the department in the past four years, is subject to Fono confirmation.

Also subject to Fono confirmation is the governor’s designation of Dr. Oreta Crichton, as Acting Chief Procurement Officer that became effective Monday. Crichton — who served as senior policy advisor in the Governor’s Office during

the Togiola Administration — took over the Chief Procurement Officer post in mid 2015, after former chief procurement officer Tiotalaga John Kruse resigned before he was convicted in a fraud case at the federal court in Washington D.C.

Not subject to Fono confirmation is the governor’s re-appointment of Poumele Pete ‘Apisa’ Galeai as director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, which is an agency under the auspices of the Governor’s Office. Poumele’s reappointment became effective yesterday.

The governor is expected to release soon more cabinet appointments.



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Itele Leupena facing felony charges of burglary and stealing

by Joyetter
Feagaimaali’i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

The pretrial conference for Itele Leupena has been scheduled for February 24, 2016, and this is in connection with a burglary case in Vaitogi last month. The defendant, who is held on bail of \$10,000, is facing charges of burglary first degree and stealing, which are both felonies.

According to the government’s case on the morning of December 17, 2016 the Police received a call for assistance regarding a break in.

The complaining witness informed the police that the owner of the house is off island and he was the one overseeing the property. The owners of the residence arrived the same day and the residence was opened for police investigation.

It was then revealed that the alleged burglar broke the glass window of the house to gain access to the office.

Court filings say the accused cut himself with the broken glass when he was trying to enter and he bled on the window frame in the room.

He also walked on the bed leaving footprints on the bed-sheet, while his blood dripped on the sheet.

Later that day the police officers then contacted the Criminal Investigation Division for assistance and the case was handed over to the CID for further investigation.

The owner of the house informed the police that a total of \$5,000 was taken from his office, which was in five, ten and twenty dollar bills. CID

Detective, Savelio Vaofanua interviewed several witnesses who stated that on the night in question the defendant was playing pool and he asked one of the witnesses to borrow money.

However, not long after the defendant returned with dollar bills that were clipped together. Witnesses informed the police that the defendant played pool and was throwing bets of \$20 and \$30 the night in question.

Another witness informed the police that on the night in question the defendant was seen with an injured thumb and it appeared he was hiding the wound.

The owner of the house informed the police that the defendant was familiar with their property including the office location where the money is kept.

According to the government’s case, the defendant admitted that the bloody green lavalava that was found near the scene belonged to him.

According to the arrest warrant, the first degree burglary charge is a class B felony and is punishable between five to 15 years in jail, while the stealing count is a class D felony and is punishable up to five years imprisonment and or a fine of up to \$5,000.

The defendant was arraigned in the High Court last week, where he pleaded not guilty to the two charges. He’s represented by the Public Defender’s office while prosecuting is Robert Pickett. The defendant is scheduled to reappear in the High Court for his pretrial conference.



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i se meatotino faitele, o se fanua fa’aleaiga po’o se
meatotino tau le tagata lava ia,
po’o so’o se ogasami/vai i le Teritori.



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itiiti ifo ma le \$50 pe silia fo’i ma le \$1,000.



Australia (left) defeated American Samoa 15-0 during the opening match of the U12 Oceania Baseball Championship in Guam yesterday. According to members of the AS Baseball team in Guam, it was a tough game for our young team but the kids did their best. American Samoa played Guam in the second match of the tournament, yesterday, Thursday.

[Courtesy photo]



In Loving Memory of
MASINA TUPAI PETRI

Sunrise: May 6, 1954
Sunset: January 8, 2017



Revelation 21:4
"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017
Memorial Service 6pm • LBJ Chapel

► **Lolo Admin...**

Continued from page 2

However, GAO said in its report, the living wage exceeds the hourly minimum wage for cannery workers by \$0.51. And in February 2016, the ASG announced that the local minimum wage for government workers would rise to \$5, which is \$0.19 higher than the current federally determined minimum wage (\$4.81) for workers in this sector. (See Samoa News edition Dec. 12 for details on living wage)

BACKGROUND

In 2015, prior to the minimum wage hikes, StarKist CEO and president Andrew Choe told Governor Lolo his proposal to raise local wages only on condition the US Congress provide a federal subsidy to support the rise would most likely violate World Trade Organization rules and would possibly throw the United States immediately into proceedings under anti-dumping and free trade agreements.

StarKist's fish cannery in Pago Pago is the territory's biggest private employer.

Mr. Choe said even if it were possible, such a subsidy would require extra processes like offsetting the spending with tax increases.

He reiterated at the time that the American Samoa economy could not sustain an increase in the minimum wage at the moment.

Samoa News should point out that president-elect Trump has said he is against minimum wage hikes, saying US minimum wages are too high, in light of competing with other countries. So, it is possible that future hikes in the minimum wages of the territory would not continue under the Trump presidency.



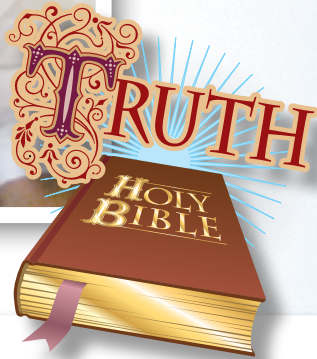


A Celebration of Life Naomi Sasa Esekia

at Kanana Fou Theological Seminary

ASO SOIFUA:
Tesema 29, 1959

ASO MALIU:
Ianuari 2, 2017



Faaaliga 14:13
Na ou faalogo foi i le leo mai le lagi, ua faapea mai ia te au, "Ia e tusi: Amuia ē ua oti, o e ua oti o i le Alii e amata i nei ona po." "O lea lava,"ua fetalai mai ai le Agaga, "ina ia latou malolo i a latou galuega tiga; auā foi o a latou galuega e mulimuli ia te i latou."



POLOKALAMA



I le āva ma le migao e tataui ai, e faasilasila atu ai le sauniga o le tinā ia **Naomi Sasa Esekia**, o le a faataunu'uina i le **Aso Sa Ianuari 15, 2017 i le itula e 4-6 (pm) i le afiafi**. O le a avēseā lona tino maliu mai le falemai I Fagaalu i le itula e 3 i le afiafi, ona molimoli atu lea o lona tino i le Laumua o le Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano i Amerika Samoa, le Aoga Faafaifeau i Kanana Fou. A mae'a lona sauniga, ona toe molimoli lea o lona tino maliu i le falemai i Fagaalu, ma sauni atu ai mo **Hawaii i le Aso Gafua, Ianuari 16, 2017**.



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Nintendo Switch general producer Yoshiaki Koizumi speaks during a presentation event of the Nintendo Switch in Tokyo, Friday, Jan. 13, 2017. The video game console will sell for 29,980 yen (about \$260) in Japan, starting March 3, the same date as its global rollout in the U.S. and Europe. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

NINTENDO: Nintendo Switch game console to launch in March

TOKYO (AP) — The Nintendo Switch video game console will sell for 29,980 yen (about \$260) in Japan, starting March 3, the same date as its global rollout in the U.S. and Europe. The Japanese company promises the device will be packed with fun features of all its past machines and more.

The Kyoto-based maker of Super Mario and Pokemon games announced details of the Switch's release Friday at the Tokyo Big Sight events hall. It said the console will sell for \$299.99 in the U.S. Customers in Europe would need to ask retailers there for prices.

Anticipation has been mounting. In teaser videos, Nintendo Co. has shown players using a handheld whose remote controller section detaches from the left and right sides of the main part of the device's display. Players can use the Switch as a regular handheld, put the display on a table, or use a TV screen as a monitor.

"Nintendo Switch is a brand-new kind of home gaming system that offers a wide variety of play modes," Nintendo's president Tatsumi Kimishima told reporters.

Nintendo needs the Switch to help it recover from disappointing sales from the Wii U and the 3DS handheld. Nintendo has been playing catch-up after consumers dumped older machines in favor of using smartphones and personal computers to play games. The company also faces powerful rival game machine offerings from Microsoft Corp. and Sony Corp.

The Switch needs to win over new, younger players, who may not be hard-core game fans and might be daunted by its hefty price tag. Many had hoped it might sell for closer to \$200.

Nintendo is promising a more immersive, interactive experience with the Switch, including online playing and using the remote controller in games that don't require players to be constantly staring at a display.

Nintendo officials demonstrated features such as using the detachable remote controllers, called "Joy-Con," to play a gun-duel game. Motion sensors enable players to feel virtual water being poured into a virtual cup.

In another game, characters' arms swirled out during combat when players punched the air while holding the controllers.

"It's a totally new kind of game," said Kouichi Kawamoto, who oversaw "1-2-Switch," a gun-duel game that requires players to look each other in the eye. "It's about having fun with communication."

Nintendo said 50 software makers, including Electronic Arts and Sega, are preparing 80 games for the Switch. It also promised in-house games such as a Legend of Zelda game, which will go on sale the same date as the Switch.

The company planned a similar presentation in the U.S. later Friday. It's also setting up places where people can try the device ahead of its launch, including cities in Europe, to woo buyers.

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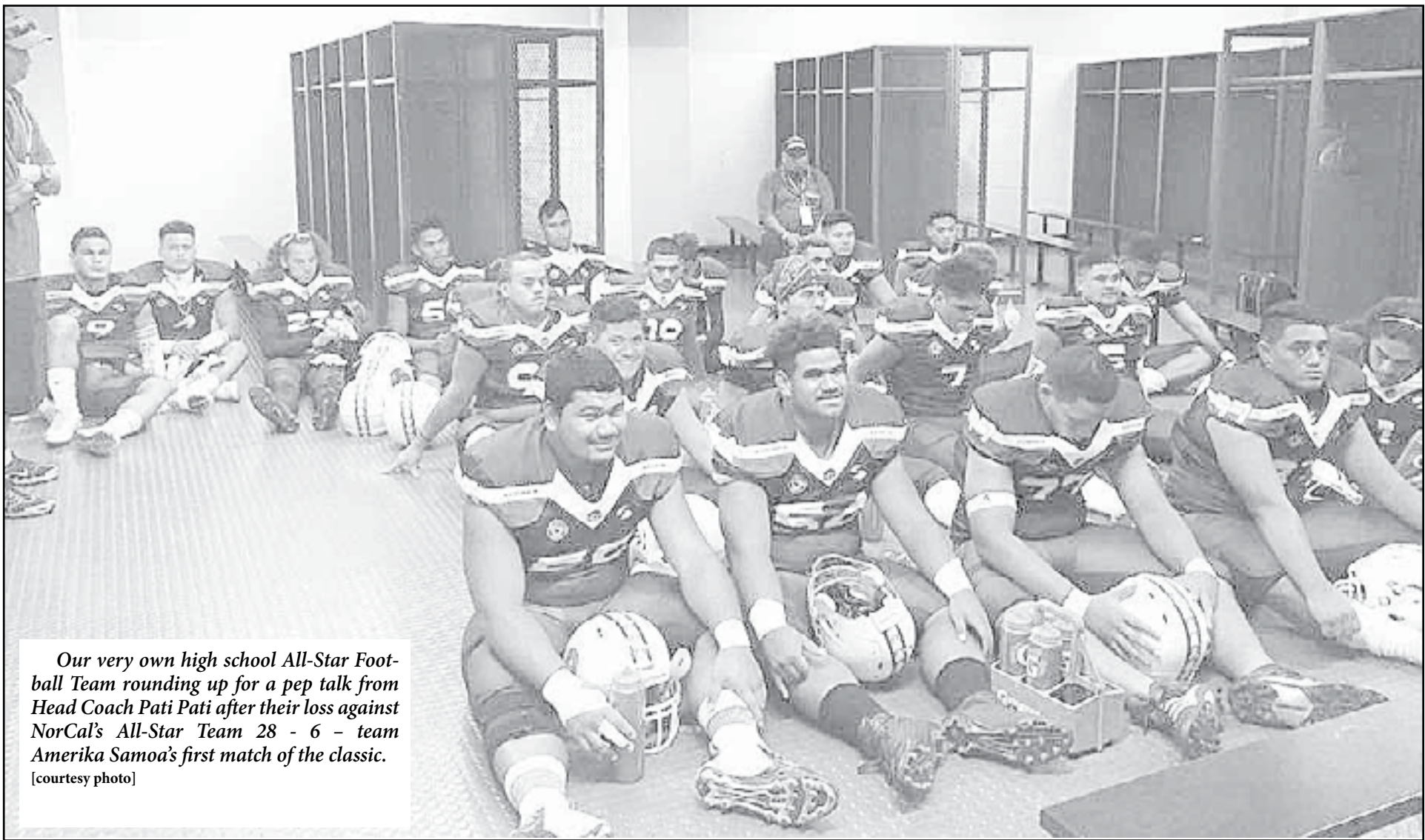


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Our very own high school All-Star Football Team rounding up for a pep talk from Head Coach Pati Pati after their loss against NorCal's All-Star Team 28 - 6 - team Amerika Samoa's first match of the classic.
[courtesy photo]

Island Air getting bigger, faster plane amid expansion

HONOLULU (AP) — Island Air plans to start flying a faster, larger plane within Hawaii, putting it in a position to grab a bigger piece of the interisland market.

The Honolulu-based company on Wednesday was scheduled to hold a blessing and naming ceremony for its first Q400, a turboprop plane made by the Canadian manufacturer Bombardier.

The Q400 seats more people -- 78 -- and is faster than Island Air's existing aircraft, the 64-passenger ATR 72. The aircraft Island Air is leasing will all be brand new, which should pose fewer maintenance problems than the airline's existing 24-year-old planes. The company aims to swap out its entire five-plane fleet by the summer. Island Air is Hawaii's second largest carrier. But it's much smaller than Hawaiian, which carries 84 percent of passengers flying between the islands. CEO David Uchiyama says Island Air had just 6 percent of the interisland market in the third quarter.

Uchiyama said Island Air doesn't aim to compete with Hawaiian. "All we're looking to do is to expand our seat inventory and be a viable alternative for affordable interisland travel," Uchiyama said in an interview. The company currently flies from Honolulu to Lihue, Kahului and Kona. Uchiyama said it aims to begin flights to Hilo this year.

Hawaii-based aviation historian Peter Forman said the interisland market has lacked a substan-

tial second carrier since Aloha Airlines went out of business in 2008.

"Hawaii's interisland market is too attractive a market to remain dominated by just one airline. Eventually a second major player will arrive," Forman said. "By upgrading to the Q400, Island Air is staking their claim to becoming that second major player in the interisland market."

Island Air's challenge will be to convince passengers to try them out, Forman said. Uchiyama said he believes Island Air's prices will attract passengers. He said news of the airline will spread by word of mouth through the "coconut wireless."

"The local community is going to see they have an option and it's a viable option," Uchiyama said. The company has pushed to improve its on-time record and reduce cancelled flights to that end. In mid-2015, the airline began flying only three of its five ATRs at a time so it would have spare planes to press into service if a maintenance problem developed that couldn't be quickly fixed.

Island Air reported 88.2 percent of its flights were on time in November, the most recent month for which data are available. Its on-time average for 2013 was 66 percent and for 2012 was 77 percent.

The Q400 is also flown by Porter Airlines, a Toronto-based regional carrier, on flights to Boston, Chicago and other locations. QantasLink, a regional subsidiary of Australia's Qantas, flies the aircraft across the country's eastern coast.



Island Air's new Bombardier Q400 airplane sits in a hangar before a blessing ceremony in Honolulu on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017. Island Air plans to start flying a faster, larger plane within Hawaii, putting it in a position to grab a bigger piece of the interisland market. (AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy)

BEACH ADVISORY

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Release Date: January 11, 2017

Contact: AS-EPA Water Program at (684) 633-2304

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on **January 10, 2017**, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

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Afono Stream Mouth

Vatia Stream Mouth

Aua-Pouesi Stream Mouth

Aua Stream Mouth

Laulii Stream Mouth

Alega Beach

Fagaitua Stream Mouth

Masefau Stream Mouth

Aoa Stream Mouth

AS-EPA beach advisories inform the public about current water conditions. When a beach advisory is issued, it is because water samples indicate that the American Samoa Water Quality Standard for Enterococci has been exceeded. This advisory is in effect until further sampling and laboratory analyses indicate that Enterococci concentrations are within acceptable water quality standards.

The presence of Enterococci in the water indicates contamination by human and/or animal wastes. Swimming in water with high levels of Enterococci may cause stomach problems, skin rashes, and ear, eye, and wound infections. To reduce your risk: avoid swallowing beach water, be sure to rinse or towel off after a swim, and shower once at home. If you are ill, or think you may be ill, AS-EPA advises that you consult a physician before making any water contact in the beaches cited above.

Note: AS-EPA monitors the water quality of 44 recreational beaches on Tutuila, the wharf in Aunu'u, and five beaches on Manu'a. Tutuila advisories are issued weekly on Wednesdays. Aunu'u and Manu'a advisories are issued monthly. Advisories are issued when bacteria concentrations exceed levels determined safe for human exposure. Should you have any questions, please contact the AS-EPA Water Program at 633-2304.





President-elect Donald Trump speaks during a news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Contents of Trump's folders spark speculation

NEW YORK (AP) — In the aftermath of President-elect Donald Trump's closely watched news conference, a burning question remains: What, exactly, was in those folders stacked on the desk next to him?

The campaign wouldn't let reporters look at them. Trump never got around to discussing the documents. Some of the folders weren't labeled.

That leaves it possible the public won't ever know precisely what the pile of papers was — other than another of Trump's stage props.

The former reality-TV star with a flair for showmanship has a clear affinity for the political prop. He's appeared with marbled steaks; one of his "Make America Great Again" hats displayed in a glass case; and a 50-foot Christmas tree, intended to underscore his vow to trade what he believed was the politically correct greeting of "Happy Holidays" for his preferred "Merry Christmas."

On Wednesday, the six stacks of manila folders were full of the documentation and agreements making official his decision to turn his sprawling business empire over to his sons, Don Jr. and Eric, Trump said. With great flourish, four young staffers carried the piles — in front of snapping cameras — and placed them on the table next to Trump's podium in the minutes before the start of the news conference, his first since July.

"These papers are just some of the many documents that I've signed turning over complete and total control to my sons," Trump said Wednesday in the lobby of Trump Tower.

But neither Trump nor his lawyer ever picked up, displayed or referenced specifically any of the documents inside. After the news conference concluded, transition staffers blocked reporters from looking at them. And some photos of the news conference show folders without labels and,

in some cases, seemingly blank pages inside, setting off a torrent of speculation on social media.

Transition officials noted that the Trump business empire was large and complicated, consisting of hundreds of entities, and that a massive amount of paperwork was required. A Trump spokeswoman on Thursday flatly denied there was anything misleading about the display.

"As Mr. Trump stated at the press conference, they were just some of the documents required to transition his assets into the trust and additional restructuring," said Hope Hicks.

But Hicks did not respond to a second request for an inspection of the documents. And materials sent to reporters about the new Trump Organization structure in the hours after the news conference totaled only six pages.

It's not the first time a Trump prop has garnered unexpected attention.

He appeared at one of his Florida golf clubs in March, after a pair of primary wins, standing between two tables filled with Trump-branded products. There were bottles of Trump red, white and rose wine, cases of Trump water and two butcher blocks heaping with stacks of giant, well-marbled "Trump Steaks."

Trump, who was fuming at the time about Mitt Romney's speech that criticized his business acumen, said he wanted to show off merchandise, touting his water company and retail line.

He then moved onto the steaks. "Trump steaks, where are the steaks? Do we have the steaks?" he said. "And by the way, you want to take one, we charge you about, what, 50 bucks a steak?"

In fact, "Trump Steaks" are no longer for sale. The venture with The Sharper Image fizzled in 2007. The labels on the steaks displayed that night appeared to match those of another company.



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Winter storm to bring crippling ice, rainfall to central US

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A winter storm that brought heavy snow and rainfall to northern California was bearing down on the southern Plains on Thursday, and forecasters said crippling ice accumulations and heavy rain could cause widespread power outages and flooding this weekend.

The National Weather Service issued an ice storm warning for northwestern Oklahoma beginning Friday morning as well as a winter storm watch for much of the rest of Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri along with parts of Illinois and Texas. Forecasters said the potential for a significant ice storm is increasing and the region could see up to 1 inch of ice. Storms are also expected Saturday and Sunday. “We could see some fairly significant ice accumulations,” said Kevin Brown, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Norman, Oklahoma. “Enough ice accumulations to cause a lot of problems with trees and power lines and power interruptions.”

In northwestern Oklahoma, where the forecast calls for up to an inch of accumulated ice, residents Thursday were snatching up flashlights, batteries and alternative energy sources in anticipation of power disruptions.

“They’re grabbing generators, and I’m sold out,” said Raymond Bopp, assistant manager of the Woodward Ace Hardware store in Woodward, Oklahoma, about 140 miles northwest of Oklahoma City. The last time the area experienced a significant ice storm was in 2001, when electrical power was interrupted for three or four days, Bopp said. Residents who recall the inconvenience were taking no chances.

“They’ve been buying a lot of flashlights,” Bopp said. Propane containers, kerosene and lamp oil also were selling well as the storm neared.

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Manage-



The Merced River flows under the Pohono Bridge in the early morning on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, in Yosemite National Park, Calif. The West Coast is dealing with the next storm, which brought the potential of a crippling ice storm to western Oregon and heavy rain to California mountains used to seeing snow this time of year.

(Silvia Flores/The Fresno Bee via AP)

ment was assembling generators and supplies for temporary shelters across northwestern and northern Oklahoma, said spokeswoman Keli Cain.

“If there’s a need for additional generators, we want them to be available,” Cain said.

In Kansas, up to 1 inch of ice was expected to fall in “multiple rounds” of freezing rain between Friday and early Monday in parts of the state, including Wichita, Kansas’ largest city. The weather service said the potential impact will be power outages, slick roads and accidents. In Missouri, forecasters were calling for up to three-quarters of an inch of freezing rain over the weekend, potentially more in the southwestern

part of the state.

Concern about the storm prompted Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens to activate the state Emergency Operations Center in Jefferson City. Greitens told reporters at the center Thursday that he called a state of emergency and said the Missouri Transportation Department had started pretreating roads and would continue to do so throughout the storm.

“We’re going to be prepared for whatever the storm brings,” Greitens said.

The new governor asked people in the storm’s path to stay off roads late Thursday and Friday, both for safety and to allow emergency responders to work. He said he might ask busi-

nesses to shorten hours Friday. More than 3,500 responders started working 12-hour shifts, and the state’s Public Safety Department preemptively placed generators across the state for use in areas hit the hardest, he said.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin declared a disaster emergency for all 77 counties in the state in advance of the storm and issued an executive order suspending size and weight regulations for oversized vehicles to expedite relief efforts. The declaration states that Oklahoma’s Emergency Operations Plan has been activated and the resources of all state departments and agencies will be available to meet the winter weather emergency.

“Emergency personnel are coordinating with state and local officials to ensure we are prepared and ready for whatever comes our way,” Fallin said in a statement.

In California, the storm brought heavy snowfall in higher elevations and led thousands of people to evacuate as rivers surged. Brown said the Pacific Ocean moisture that helped feed the storm has shifted south, creating the potential for ice and heavy rainfall in southern Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas.

“We’re still going to have plenty of moisture to deal with. We could see some pretty strong storms as well,” Brown said. He said severe storms are possible south of the Red River.

SOUTHBOUND									SOUTHBOUND					
ARRIVAL									ARRIVAL					
VESSEL	VOY	SEA	L/BEACH	OAK	PPT	NUKUALOFA	APIA	PAGO	VESSEL	VOY	PPT	N/ALOFA	APIA	PAGO
Polynesia	481	OMIT	SAILED	SAILED	01/16	01/21	01/23	01/23	Polynesia	481	01/16	01/21	01/23	01/23
Cap Taputapu	026	01/13	01/17	01/20	01/31	---	02/05	02/05	Cap Taputapu	025	01/31	---	02/05	02/05
Polynesia	482	01/27	02/03	02/05	02/15	02/20	02/22	02/22	Polynesia	482	02/15	02/20	02/22	02/22
Cap Taputapu	027	02/10	02/19	02/21	03/04	---	03/09	03/09	Cap Taputapu	025	03/04	---	03/09	03/09
Polynesia	483	03/03	03/07	03/09	03/20	03/25	03/27	03/27	Polynesia	483	03/20	03/25	03/27	03/27

Note: All Schedule dates are estimated



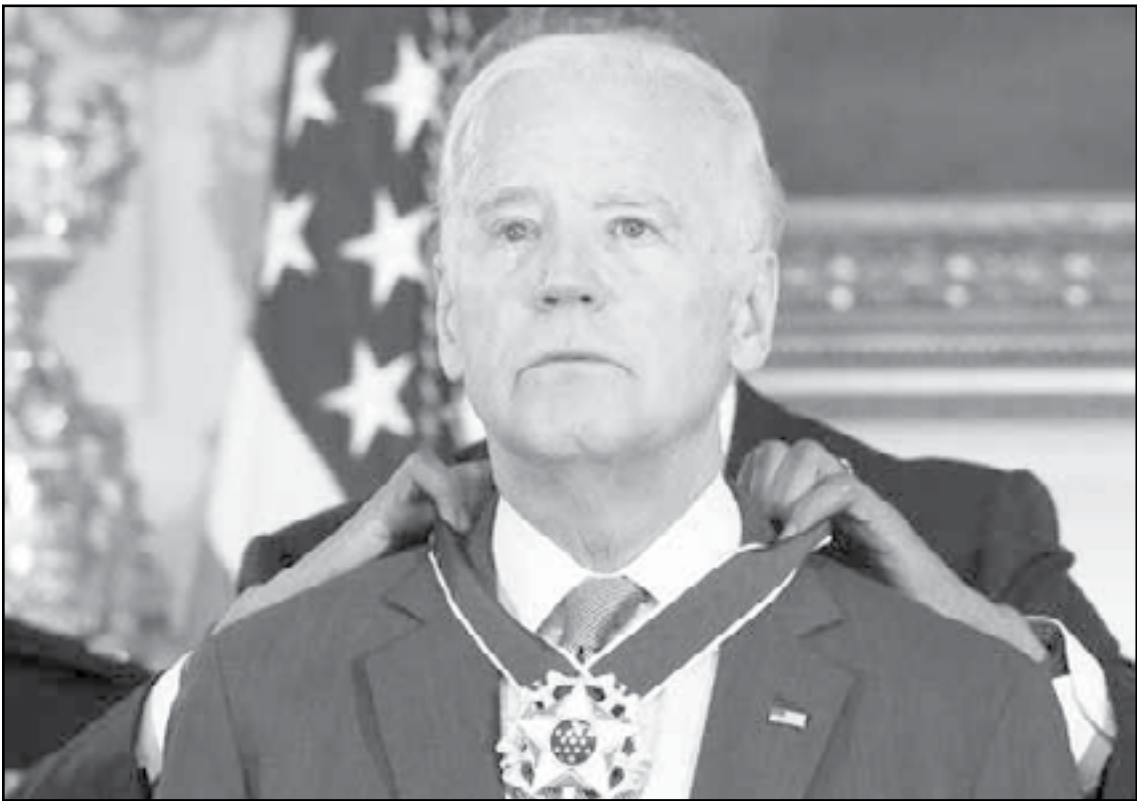
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President Barack Obama honors Vice President Joe Biden during a ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

In tearful farewell, Obama awards Biden the Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the dusk of both of their political careers, surrounded by teary friends and family, President Barack Obama on Thursday bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Joe Biden, the man he called “the finest vice president we have ever seen.”

The vice president winced in shock as Obama announced he was conferring the nation’s highest civil honor on his right-hand-man for eight years. Biden turned away from the cameras, wiped away some tears, then stood stoically as Obama draped the blue-and-white ribbon around his neck.

“I just hope that the asterisk in history that is attached to my name when they talk about this presidency is that I can say I was part of the journey of a remarkable man who did remarkable things for this country,” Biden said.

There were standing ovations — several of them — at what had been billed as a modest farewell ceremony for Biden but evolved into a surprise bestowal of the Medal of Freedom, the last time Obama will present the honor.

“I had no idea,” Biden said of the award, insisting he didn’t deserve it.

It was the only time Obama has presented the medal “with distinction,” also awarded only once by each of the previous three presidents.

One week out from the Obama administration’s end, a deep sense of nostalgia set in at the White House as longtime staffers pack up their offices, send out their last emails and bid farewell to the president they’ve served. On Tuesday, Obama returned home to Chicago to deliver his valedictory address, and next week he’ll depart Washington as ex-president just after President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in.

Obama, joined Thursday by his wife and daughters, was

effusive in his praise for the man who ran against him in 2008, then agreed to be his running mate. He said Biden had made him a better president, calling him “a lion of American history.”

“To know Joe Biden is to know love without pretense, service without self-regard and to live life fully,” Obama said.

The famously plainspoken Biden has long said he only agreed to the job after Obama agreed he would be the last person in the room before major decisions were made. Over two terms, they developed a bond that both men said transcended the office, with their wives, children and Biden’s grandchildren becoming close friends.

They disagreed, too, on occasion, including when Biden advocated against the high-stakes raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Biden’s tendency to veer off-script caused occasional headaches for the White House, such as when he unexpectedly announced support for gay marriage in advance of the 2012 re-election, forcing Obama to do the same soon after.

Yet as they gathered for a final goodbye, none of that seemed on either man’s mind.

Obama said there had been “no turf wars between our staffs,” a departure from other recent administrations. And Biden told the story of how after his son Beau Biden died in 2015, leaving behind a wife and children, Obama was distraught when Biden said he might sell his house to help support them, and offered to give them money instead.

It was a reunion for the many staffers and colleagues who worked with Biden over the years. Joining Biden’s wife, sister and children in the State Dining Room were former Sens. Chris Dodd and Ted Kaufman, former chief of staff Bruce Reed, and even Biden’s White House physician.

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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Information Systems Specialist	Posting Date	January 9, 2017
Department	ICT	Deadline	January 20, 2017 4:00 PM
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$11.87 to \$13.79 per hour
Position Type	Career Service – 12 months probation	Job Grade/Status	H/1/A-H/4/D, Non-Exempt
Reports To	ICT Manager		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

Highly responsible, professional, technical, and administrative work of considerable difficulty involving coordination of short and long range planning, analysis, report design, implementation and maintenance of mission-critical business process solutions for ASPA’s ICT department. Incumbent is responsible for maintaining the department’s information technology database and reporting needs using networked and distributed computing architectures and applications. Work is performed under the general supervision of the ICT Supervisor. Serves as administrator for the on-going maintenance of ASPA’s Information Communication Technology Departments’ information technology systems, applications and databases, as applicable. Coordinates the research, analysis, installation, maintenance and management for the department’s operating and application system software and hardware. Provides technical support to system users. Manages, monitors and analyzes system and application performance, documents problems and explores, evaluates, and recommends solutions. Coordinates the design of database structures and develops documentation standards for the effective use, control, updating, maintenance and back-up of databases. Assures integrity of database design and complimentary report software - Showcase, including database reports. Assures proper and balanced interface between specific business applications/systems and ASPA’s primary systems, as applicable. Researches, plans, develops, coordinates and performs the implementation of system/application changes, including upgrades, updates, modifications and customizations and maintains documentation for changes implemented. Researches, previews, and tests application/systems new releases, fixes, updates and expanded functional uses. Provides training and support to system users. Serves as liaison between functional users, department management and ISS technical staff. Performs related work as required. Other Important Duties keeps informed and abreast of major trends and developments in the computer field. May perform selected duties of the administrative supervisor, as necessary. Performs related work as required.

Minimum Requirements

Education	Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science or Information System Management
Experience	Three (3) years related work experience in information technology.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	Considerable knowledge of computer technology and current technical industry capabilities, standards and trends. Ability to work with both SQL (Structured Query Language) and AS400 query. Ability to conduct independent research and define results. Ability to furnish competent technical advice and recommendations on hardware capabilities, system reporting, and development, and related matters. Ability to analyze facts and exercise sound judgment in arriving at conclusions. Ability to interact effectively with functional representatives and technical co-workers one-on-one and/or in team environments. Ability to organize time and resources for maximum benefit. Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, orally, and in writing. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships as necessitated by the work. Ability to work irregular and/or additional hours. Skills to include, but not be limited to, use of the following tool sets or equivalent products: Microsoft Office 2013 desktop toolset, (Access, Word, Excel, etc), system support and/or development in client/server environment, working knowledge of an Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), database (AS400, Linux, etc.), Structured Query Language/Structured Query Reports (SQL/SQR), Windows7, and a basic understanding of networks and network design. Minimum Training and Experience Possession of a bachelor’s degree in computer science, management information systems, business administration or a related field and three years of professional and technical experience that includes experience with application systems in a client/server environment; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

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